



10th District Newsletter



December 2021 Serving Nassau/Queens/Suffolk Inquiries: 10thdistrictala@gmail.com

Department of New York: www.deptny.org National: [Members \(legion-aux.org\)](http://Members(legion-aux.org))

2021 A Year in Review

It's difficult to believe that we are at the close of another year, but here we are again. Even through a limited amount of gathering and fundraisers, our members remembered the mission of our organization; to serve and honor our veterans, our military and their families.

Members had to get creative about how we reached out. We learned a new format for communicating with members, the Zoom meeting. For many units, this was a fabulous way to have meetings and just little chats with members. For everyone, including myself, there was a learning curve, but we did it!

Here are some highlights from our County Presidents

Suffolk County Committee

100% Reporting Award Ribbons from the Past Presidents were issued to 8 units for their reporting: 100% membership, as well as reporting on Americanism, Poppies, Children and Youth and VA&R/Service to Veterans. 10 units received 100% Membership ribbons, Suffolk County received Four (4) Department Awards: Past Presidents Parlay, Leadership, VA&R/Service to Veterans and Warrior Family Assistance. Since our year started Suffolk County has continued to Support our veterans, active service members, our community and our youth. Our juniors have made coaster tiles for veterans, and they painted pillow cases to be sent to active-duty service men and women overseas. Riley Meckley, NY State Junior President and ALA Junior Member of the year was the keynote speaker at the Long Island National Cemetery Veterans Day ceremony on November 7th, where she received a standing ovation. SCALA members attended and helped host the October 16th Legislative breakfast where the candidates discussed their work and accomplishments for veterans. Suffolk County is continuing to raise funds for the purchase of UBER cards, gift cards, VET'S DOGS and Kids Need More. Suffolk County has achieved its goal of 23 citizens to attend Empire Girls State.

Nassau County Committee

Our members have been very busy during the first part of this year. Our Units have continued to collect for, and donate to, many different areas of the Northport VA Medical Center, including the Women's Wellness Center, Secret Soldier Santa, Hero Hungry Help, Uber Transportation Cards, which we are proud to say that the NCC started in 2018, and have been supporting ever since.

Our Units have been involved in the Education Challenge by collecting school supplies for McGuire AFB, the Marine Base in Garden City, Community Outreach Programs, and schools in lower income neighborhoods. We have embraced the Department President's Project – America's Vet Dogs, and Paws of War.

The majority of our Units support the twice yearly Stand Downs, where we reach out to homeless and struggling female veterans by creating large bags filled with needed, seasonal, items.

Due to the ever-increasing problem of Veteran Food Insecurity, especially in the downstate region, many of our Units/members donate food to the VetCenter, a Veteran Food Pantry sponsored by the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency.

I am proud of our members for everything that they have accomplished thus far in the year, and I am certain that we will continue to brighten the lives of our Veterans and their families!

Queens County Committee

Due to many restrictions imposed on New York city due to COVID Queens county was not able to do a lot of in person activities to assist our Veterans and families in the beginning of 2021. As restrictions were slowly lifted Queens County was able to start holding functions again. In July 2021 we celebrated one of our own County members who was elected to, high office of Department of New York President. We are so excited for President Mary Farley and wish good fortune during her year of Presidency. On September 19th Queens County hosted a 100th Anniversary Dinner for the American Legion Auxiliary. Queens County received a Proclamation from Mayor DeBlasio declaring the date for Queens County. We also received a citation from the Gold Star Mothers thanking us for our service. October 2021 our county attended the Queens County Legislative breakfast where we meet with local and state officials to discuss issues of Veterans and their families. November 11th, Veterans Day, many Queens's county members attended ceremonies honoring those who served and are still serving today.

Membership 2022

As we look forward to the opening of another year, please remember that your annual dues are being collected.

The 10th District is currently in third place within the Department of New York.

Paid Membership 10th District 2022 DISTRICT OBJECTIVE AS OF 11/24/2021

DISTRICT	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
10	2576	129	1604	1733	67.27%

The ALA Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship



is now an online form. Applications will come to ALA National Headquarters and then be distributed to departments (states) for the first round of judging.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors this scholarship to support the children of our warriors. These scholarships are awarded to 15 students annually who excel in academics and volunteer in their communities.

[The scholarship deadline is March 1, 2022.](#)



Riley
Meckley



Riley has been an American Legion Auxiliary member for four years at Wilson Ritch Unit 432. From the time she first joined the unit, Riley has hit the ground running attending meetings and completing Junior activities. Riley utilized the ALA website to learn about how as a Junior, she could make a difference. During her tenure as a junior member some of her accomplishments are:

- * Coupons for military bases overseas – clipping, sorting and sending out over \$20,000 worth of coupons
- * Operation Paperback – collected and distributed over 300 used books to Veterans and Senior Centers
- * National Good Deed Award recipient
- * Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Fourth of July – participant in programs
- * Empire Girls State Delegate - Suffolk County
- * Girls Nation Delegate for the Department of New York, American Legion Auxiliary
- * American Legion Oratorical Contest - 1st place (Suffolk County), New York State Finalist (2 years)
- * National ALA, “Junior Member of the Year,” recipient 2021. Speaker at the National Convention
- * Honorary Junior. President, Department of New York
- * Eastern Division Honorary Junior. President
- * Long Island National Cemetery keynote speaker at the Veterans Day Service

Riley is the current Student Government and Patriot League President at Ward Melville High School. She competes in two varsity sports as well as being a participant in National Speech Contests. Riley is a member of her schools Faith Club. She maintains a 97 unweighted average in all honors and Advanced Placement courses. Next year, when Riley attends college, she plans to continue her involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary as a senior member.

Riley is a true representation of what is good about our youth. We look forward to all her endeavors in the future.

Honor our youth caregivers with this ALA award



In honor of National President Kathy Daudistel’s caregiver focus, the national Children & Youth Committee is launching a new youth appreciation opportunity. The ALA Youth Caregiver Award will recognize youth who have provided care, comfort, and support to loved ones and family members, without being paid.



Peace of The Season

*As we bow our head in our own faith,
let us be mindful of the many blessings
in our lives*

*The most precious gift we can share is
kindness, understanding and love.*

*Wishing all of you the very best,
The 10th District Officers*

The 10th District Newsletter Winter Recess

Our next addition of the District Newsletter will be the
February edition.

We look forward to the Mid-Winter Conference in January where we
can share some new ideas.

May the New Year find you in good health