

*The American Legion
Department of Connecticut*



*51st Annual
Mid-Winter Conference*

January 30th-31st , 2026

*Trumbull Marriott
180 Hawley Lane, Trumbull, CT*

*Mike Kellest
Department Commander*

*Everett Shepard III
Director*

*Harry R Hansen Jr
Adjutant*

www.ctlegion.org

Summary of Events

Friday, January 30th - Registration (5:30 – 7:30 PM) Foyer

6:00 PM	Past Department Commander's Club Dinner	Augusta Room
6:00 PM	Liquor Commission speaker	Salon A, B, C, D
8:00 PM	Legion D.E.C Meeting	Salon A, B, C, D

Saturday, January 31st - Registration (7:45 – 8:45 AM) Foyer

9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies	Salon A, B, C, D
10:00 AM	Breakout Sessions	See Main Program
12:00 PM	Lunch Break	Lunch Buffet Available
1:30 PM	Service Officers Training	Boston Room
1:30 PM	Breakout Sessions	See Main Program
2:30 PM	SSMF Training	Boston Room
6:00 PM	Hall of Fame Dinner Social	Foyer
6:30 PM	Dinner Buffet	Ballroom A, B, C, D

Directory of Activity in the Foyer

1. Registration Table & Door Prize Ticket Sales
2. Department Awards Package Distribution
3. Auxiliary Table (Meritt Room)
4. SAL - Two tables in Foyer
5. Information Tables
 - a. Timothy Francis - Director of Community Engagement & Education for Senior Helpers
 - b. Nick Savaria - Community Relations Specialist, VA Connecticut Healthcare System (Boardroom)
 - c. Deborah Frye Mitchell - VA medical scheduling services (Boardroom)
 - d. Alan Buck - WCMOA (Western Connecticut Military Officers Association)
 - e. Walter Schuppe - Founder of "Faces of Freedom"
 - f. Christine Hart - Independent skin care consultant
 - g. Louis Small - (Amateur Radio Club)
 - h. Steven Branch - American Red Cross
 - i. Michael Rocchetti, Post 13 Commander - Hometown Heroes of the Quiet Corner Book Series
 - j. Ann Herrera - Senior Care Management (Home Instead)
 - k. John Lambo - Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans designed for veterans

**The American Legion Family, Department of Connecticut
50th Annual Mid-Winter Conference**

Friday, January 30, 2026

5:30 – 7:30 PM	Registration	Foyer
6:00 PM	Past Department Commander's Club Dinner	Augusta
6:00 PM	State of CT Liquor Commission – Richard Mindek	Salon A, B, C, D
7:00 PM	Auxiliary Department Executive Committee Meeting	Merritt Room
8:00 PM	Department Executive Committee Meeting	Salon A, B, C, D

Saturday, January 31, 2026

7:45– 8:45 AM	Registration	Foyer
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies Legion family	Salon A, B, C, D
	Presentation of Colors	Department Color Guard
	Invocation – Tom Honyotski , Dept. Chaplain	
	Pledge of Allegiance	
	Welcome Remarks:	
	Everett Shepard III , Chairman Mid-Winter Conference	
	Karen Thompson , Auxiliary Chairman Mid-Winter Conference	
	Summer Schiappacasse , Trumbull Marriott	
	Introduction of guests	
	Jay Bowen Candidate for National Commander	
	Kenneth George National Asst Judge Advocate	
	Ronald Larose National Vice Commander Remarks	
10:00 AM	My Legion Training – Sue Daigle , Membership	Salon E, F, G
10:00 AM	How to Keep a Post out of Legal Trouble National Asst Judge advocate - Ken George	Salon A, B, C, D
10:00 AM	SAL Training – Filling out forms- Steve Pintarich Fundraising- Dave Cannarell How to run a meeting- JP Licari	Boston
11:00 AM	SAL – DEC Meeting	Boston

12:00 – 1:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK

American Legion Family Breakout Sessions

1:00 PM	Auxiliary – Suicide Prevention “Why we didn’t tell you”	Merritt Room
1:30 PM	My Legion Training - Sue Daigle , Membership	Salon E, F, G
1:30 PM	How to Keep a Post out of Trouble National Asst Judge advocate - Ken George	Salon A, B, C, D
1:30 PM	How to prevent Fraud and cellular attacks- Tia AARP Rep	Providence / Montpelier
1:30 PM	Service Officer Training- K Robert Lewis	Hartford / Concord
2:30 PM	Media Relations - Phillip Kiley	Providence / Montpelier
2:30 PM	SSMF Training	Hartford / Concord
3:00 PM	Auxiliary – Honor Flight CT Presentation	Merritt Room
3:45 PM	Introduction of Candidates for Department Office	Salon A, B, C, D
4:00 PM	Commander Mike Kellet –Closing Remarks	
4:15 PM	Door Prize Drawing - Treasurer Charles Berry & Assistant Treasurer DJ Ginter	

6:00 PM

Hall of Fame Dinner Social

Foyer

6:30 PM

Hall of Fame Dinner Buffet

Ballroom ABCD

**All Inductees in The Department of Connecticut
American Legion Hall of Fame**

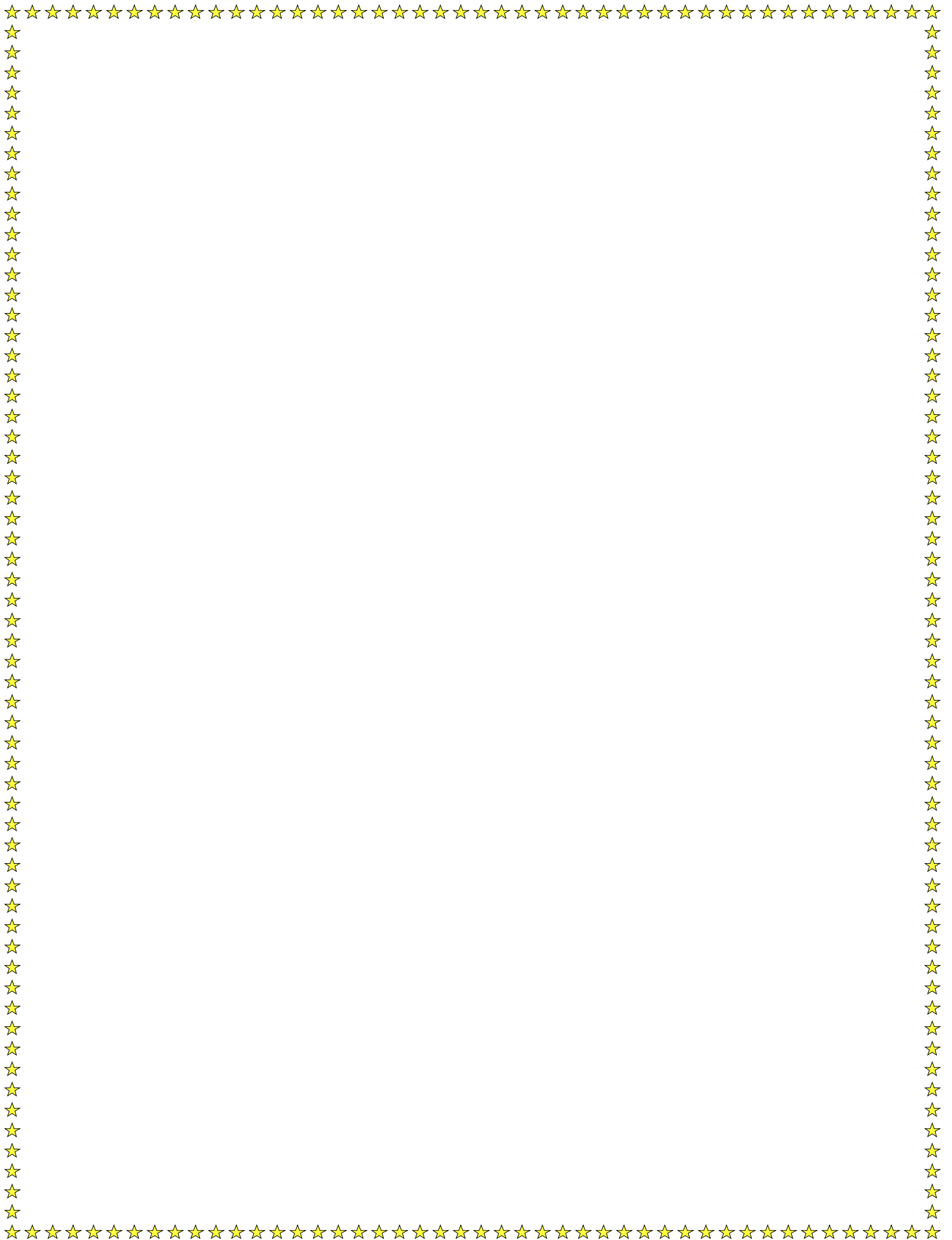
2007	Wally Bassett*	Post 76	North Haven
	Frank S. Butterworth*	Post 47	New Haven
	Arthur J. Connell*	Post 75	Middletown
	Joseph Mardu**	Post 1	Waterbury
	Donald McCarthy**	Post 132	New Haven (Fire Department)
	Francis Mullins**	Post 2	Bristol
	Alfred N. Phillips, Jr.*	Post 3	Stamford
	William Pomfret**	Post 75	Middletown
	Robert M. Robbins*	Post 67	North Grosvenordale
	Arthur St. John**	Post 44	Bantam (& Post 15)
2008	Grady Allen**	Post 28	New Hartford
	Richard F. Bergeron*	Post 56	Glastonbury
	Howard Davis**	Post 115	Noank
	James C. Hall	Post 182	Granby
	Alphonse Sabetta**	Post 16	Shelton
	Richard Snow*	Post 52	Coventry Mansfield
2009	Donald G. Beckwith**	Post 71	West Haven
	Henry S. Bialoglowy*	Post 27	Litchfield
	Neale V. Cabral*	Post 112	Montville
	Dr. James F. Gilhuly*	Post 2	Bristol
	Armur E. Houle**	Post 67	North Grosvenordale
	Franklin E. Johnson, Sr**	Post 17	Naugatuck
	John N. Roberto*	Post 12	Norwalk
	Erwin L. "Gus" Williams	Post 24	Derby
2010	James L. Bement, SR**	Post 137	Harwinton
	Hugh C. Graham*	Post 119	New Haven (NH Railroad)
	Chet D. Hirsch*	Post 26	Stafford Springs
	Joseph A. Minto**	Post 167	Bridgeport
	Joseph W. Tarrant, JR*	Post 100	Bethel
	Arthur C. Winschel**	Post 61	Deep River
	Frank J. Yasensky*	Post 187	Wallingford
2011	Edward V. Sabotka	Post 36	Windsor Locks
	Donald J. Jewell**	Post 127	Orange
	Royal R. Benedict**	Post 12	Norwalk
	Leroy B. Butler*	Post 19	Willimantic
	Richard P. Hebert**	Post 104	Taftville
	Anthony Bosko**	Post 146	Bethlehem
	(& John* & Frank*)		
	Kenneth E. Going**	Post 105	Cromwell (& Post 184)

2012	Richard J. Hennessey**	Post 96	West Hartford
	Rev. Robert G. Keating*	Post 45	Meriden
	Thomas Lopez**	Post 177	Bridgeport
	Henry Mayer*	Post 111	Woodstock
	Frederick C. Treat**	Post 9	New London
	George F. Collier*	Post 195	Oakville
	George S. Allard**	Post 113	Old Saybrook
2013	W. Frazier Brinley	Post 103	Westbrook
	Richard William Anderson*	Post 2	Bristol
	Geraldine Hinman*	Post 88	Hamden
	Elliott N. Morris*	Post 83	Branford
	Frank D'Angelo*	Post 16	Shelton
	Lewis E. Waller*	Post 140	Bridgeport
	Charles E. Haas**	Post 4	Norwich
2014	Charles J. Majewski*	Post 22	Thomaston
	Earle S. Crooks*	Post 105	Cromwell
	David Greenleaf	Post 2	Bristol
	David L. Farr	Post 36	Windsor Locks
	William J. Lucas*	Post 162	New Haven
	William Gulya*	Post 60	Danbury
	Richard Grant*	Post 95	Hebron
2015	Walter Tallman**	Post 54	Colchester
	Carl Johnson*	Post 20	Terryville
	Richard W. Anderson	Post 105	Cromwell
	Stephen Fahy	Post 2	Bristol
	Adam Raczkowski*	Post 72	Southington
	Eugene P. Armstrong*	Post 1	Waterbury
	Angelo DellaCamera**	Post 71	West haven
2016	Joseph Myjak**	Post 162	New Haven
	Gilbert Sheffield*	Post 9	New London
	Thomas Byers*	Post 22	Thomaston
	Miguel Escalera**	Post 66	Clinton
	Roger H. Anderson	Post 133	South Windsor
	Clarence Scarborough*	Post 96	West Hartford
	Fred McCarthy**	Post 88	Hamden
George E. Ducanic**	Post 3	Stamford	
	Ted C. Graziani	Post 62	Ellington
	Alvin L. Butters	Post 104	Taftville
	Donald R. Groman**	Post 28	New Hartford
	Martin Hills*	Post 113	Old Saybrook

2017	E. Guy Miller*	Post 187	Wallingford
	Victor W Yanosy	Post 176	Monroe
	Richard J Olson	Post 12	Norwalk
	Raymond K Williams**	Post 21	Danielson
	Everett G Shepard III	Post 111	Woodstock
	Joyce M Harris	Post 205	Gales Ferry
	Arthur W Melycher	Post 43	Winsted
	D. Joseph Jackson	Post 28	New Hartford
2018	Charles Berry	Post 96	West Hartford
	Wayne A Morgan	Post 71	West Haven
	David B Judson	Post 74	Fairfield
	Gerald F Dierman	Post 19	Willimantic
	Louis Ernst*	Post 128	Niantic
	Benjamin B Truskoski*	Post 20	Terryville
	James E Beardsley**	Post 61	Deep River
2019	Annette Perkins*	Post 168	Warren
	William Cancelli	Post 199	Plainville
	K. Robert Lewis	Post 128	Niantic
	Bernard Matthies*	Post 10	Seymour
	Paul Pobuda**	Post 28	New Hartford
2020	William Czmyr**	Post 15	Jewett City
	Lawrence F. Duffany*	Post 22	Thomaston
	John P. Lilley	Post 44	Bantam
	Mary-Ann Bergeron	Post 56	Glastonbury
	Jean C. Lafontaine	Post 67	Thompson
	Dana Murphy	Post 83	Branford
	James LaCoursiere	Post 91	Moosup
2021	Arnold F. Benson, Jr.	Post 113	Old Saybrook
	John H Bruno*	Post 141	Trumbull
2022	John D Monahan	Post 18	Essex
	Jacqueline Evonsion	Post 28	New Hartford
	Manuel A Rodrigues	Post 52	Coventry
	Louie C Robinson	Post 142	Hartford
2025	Kenneth Lewis	Post 133	South Windsor
	Theadore Sweeney	Post 159	Riverton
	Paul I. Spedaliere	Post 180	Lebanon
	Robert S. Murray	Post 196	Milford
2026	Thomas E. Honyotski	Post 17	Naugatuck
	Bruce H Carlson	Post 25	Beacon Falls
	Jeffrey A DeClerck	Post 91	Moosup
	Harry R "Butch" Hansen Jr	Post 165	Wolcott

* Deceased at time of induction

**Deceased after induction





Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion

For God and Country,
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:
To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our associations in the All Wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation
To the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to Posterity
The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion, Department of Connecticut



**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
EVALUATION FORM**

-TURN OVER-

What topics would you like to see covered that were not?

What topics should be dropped?

Optional - Name & Post: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!