



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA
DEC
COMMUNITY SERVICE
January 19th – 21st 2024

What a productive year this has been so far! Community Service is proud to announce that 20 District consisting of 158 Units have reported for Mid-Year. 1,428 members have volunteered for Community Service projects throughout this Golden State of California. The total value of donations is \$23, 262. United as One, American Legion Auxiliary members have volunteered 18, 477 ½ hours for Community Service

Units in District 2 have been working throughout their communities in libraries, museums, resource centers, their local schools, churches, fire departments, community clubs and the Chamber of Commerce. Unit 197 and 746 have dedicated a year of planning and coordinating with other organizations as they participated in a very worthy event, a Stand Down. District 2 continues to volunteer in their yearly projects such as Adopt-a-Family, Santa's shop, children's events, and food baskets.

Linda Moench, Unit 20 in District 15 organizes volunteers for a Campground in California Hot Springs. Volunteers maintaining the campground from picking up trash to cleaning restrooms. They rake and maintain safe campfires area; an ALA member also oversees the banking of the campground fees and supplies. Members also volunteer their services in other local non-profit community groups.

Units in District 16 have steadily shown their communities what the American Legion Auxiliary can do from adopt-a family to cemetery clean-up projects, food drives for local Military families, supplying donations of food, miscellaneous items and money to a program called "For the Troops" District 16 places flags throughout their community for special holiday, Unit members participate in youth activities and programs promoting patriotism, leadership, and project hero's.

District 23 Unit members work with local children, schools, churches, veterinary offices, a hospice thrift store, and other community groups. One Unit in District 23 shares their excess donations with a local thrift store that supports challenged residents. Members in District 23 help with church clean-up, cemetery clean ups and keeping the cemetery locator updated. Another Unit in District 23 supports and participates in the Halloween Children's parade from organizing, set-ups, to clean-ups. This same Unit also runs a Shave ice booth on Labor Day which helps fund their activities.

District 25 Unit 422 Melinda Breyette has been gathering items for their local Rialto Nursing home for over 10 years but when COVID struck they were prevented from going into the Nursing Home so Melinda contacted the Director of the Nursing Home and agreed that the donations would continue.

Each September Melinda begins her campaign to gather items for aging Veterans and other patients at the Rialto Nursing Home and because she doesn't want to expose the aging Veterans at the Nursing Home to illness such as colds and flu's that could come from volunteers, she leaves the items in big, beautiful boxes at the front door, and of course she contacts the Director first letting them know that Christmas items have arrived from Unit 422.

District 28 reports that Units have donated and attended a Mad Hatters Relay for Life fundraiser, members volunteer in food banks, Senior Centers, Homeless shelters, and medical clinics. Members held an Oktoberfest fundraiser and participated in recycling programs. Members also care for their Post Garden, volunteer at Community Thanksgiving dinners, and help families at Celebration of Life ceremonies.

District 28 Unit members work together in promoting the Legion Family from National Night Out, Trick or Treat pickup bags, volunteering hours at a Veteran Ranch to Veteran Cookie Drops. A member from Unit 31 and her father decided that they wanted to make a Veterans Day float for the Salinas Veteran Day parade so that older members could ride on the float and not have to walk. Members volunteered hours to decorate the float, but a sad misfortune happened, her father suddenly passed away and never was able to see the float, but the members decided to go ahead with the float in honor of him. During the parade members passed out flags to spectators and children. District 28 is also involved in a new program in their area called Hometown banners.

Even though District 30 doesn't have a structured District, Unit 138 and Unit 802 reported for Mid-Year. Units volunteer at Guardian Angel, Cody's closet, food banks, medical clinics, and women's programs. Unit 138 reported participating in the Cancer Awareness Breast Cancer trail walk. Both Units have donated financially to Breast Cancer.

I would like to thank every American Legion Auxiliary member who have so kindly and open-heartedly volunteered their time. Your willingness to give of your time and service is greatly appreciated. Your support of The American Legion Auxiliary allows us to continue to fulfill our mission, In Service, not Self.

Madam President Glenda, this concludes my platform remarks, Community Service certificates have already been passed to District's mention in my report today.

Patricia Galatioto
ALA Dept. of CA
Community Service