

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Membership

Bulletin 3

September 2024

Department Awards:

- 1. Early Bird Citation. Awarded to Units equaling or exceeding their membership of the previous year's actual membership at close of books (not goal) by 11/13/2004 and verified by ALAMIS.
- 2. Department Citation. Award to Units attaining goal into the Department Office by date set by Department Chairman.
- 3. Ethel Flynn Award. A citation presented each year to the Unit with the greatest numerical gain over goal as of close of books.
- 4. Estella Hannell Memorial Award. A citation presented each year to the District with the largest numerical increase from the previous year's close of books to the Book of Reports for the current year.
- 5. The Josie Melgard Award. A special lapel pin will be presented to each Unit President whose Unit attains its membership goal plus two members on or before Department close of books.

National Awards:

1. Copies of National Membership Awards (i.e. Silver Brigade, Recruit Ten) will be forwarded to Department Membership Chairman as necessary from Department office.

Member Award: Recruit/Rejoin 10

- Award: Special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman
- Presented to: Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 Senior and/or Junior members. Rejoined members must not have renewed since 2021 or earlier.
- Deadline: Members must be entered and paid in ALAMIS member database by June 1, 2025. Forms must be received at National HQ by June 6, 2025.
- Materials and guidelines: Form can be printed from the ALA national Membership Committee page
- of the national website <u>www.ALAforVeterans.org</u>. You must be logged in to the MyAuxiliary area to access the page
- One entry per recruiter.

Unit Award: 100% Unit Award

- Award: 100% Unit Flag Ribbon
- Presented to: Units that reach 100% of their 2025 membership goal by January 31, 2025.
- Deadline: January 31, 2025
- Material and guidelines: This award will be based on units that reach 100% of their reported goals by January 31, 2025 as verified by ALAMIS.

Unit Award: New Unit Award:

- Award: Unit Guidebook and ALA National Constitution & Bylaws from Emblem Sales.
- Presented to: New units chartered between September 1, 2024 and July 31, 2025.
- Deadline: July 31, 2025
- Materials and guidelines: This award is automatically presented upon receipt and processing of new unit charter applications at National Headquarters.

Donna L. Smith

Department Membership Chair

E: membership@calegionaux.org 858-776-5974



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Historian "Smithsonian" September 2024 Bulletin



Congratulations to American Legion Auxiliary Department of California President Linda Hayes, who will also to be known as "Lady Liberty," Congratulations to American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Vice President, Susan Baker, who will also be known as "Lady Justice" and Congratulations to all American Legion Auxiliary Department of California, Department, District, Area and Unit Prestigious Positions!

Madam President Linda Hayes, "Lady Liberty," Thank you for this appointment as American Legion Auxiliary Department Historian, also known as the "Smithsonian Institute." At the Smithsonian, we are referred to as "Archivist" and "Curators."

Lady Liberty has shared that this years' theme is "America the Beautiful," with her motto being, "Crown thy Good with Brotherhood," and her colors being red, white and blue. Lady Libertys special project will be divided between two organizations.

- 1. Veterans Peer Access Network VPAN https://homeless.lacounty.gov/news/resources-for-veterans/
- 2. Veterans Transition Center of Monterey County at Fort Ord. <u>https://www.transitionalhousing.org/li/veterans_transition_center_of_monterey_county_9</u> <u>3933</u>

These organizations collaborate with Veterans in need of support in substance abuse, mental health, health care, suicide prevention and more. Checks can be made payable to "ALA Department of California," and earmarked "Dept Presidents Special Project." Donations can be sent to the following address.

ALA Dept of CA Treasurer 10400 Twin Cities Rd Ste 20 #17 Galt, CA 95632

Happy Archiving!

For God and Country Erika Hernandez Department of California <u>E.Hernandez.ALA302@gmail.com</u> <u>Historian@calegionaux.org</u> 831-821-2257



Past President's Parley

September 2024

Let's start the year by recognizing Past Presidents in your Units and Districts.

DID YOU KNOW!

A PPP chairperson plays an important part in the mentoring of current members to develop knowledgeable leadership within your Unit and/or District.

A PPP Chairperson can support and assist in recruitment efforts for new members.

PPPs should make themselves available to current officers. Your guidance and constructive feedback should help the Units and/or Districts maintain continuity and good cooperation.

Continue to be involved: You are a valuable member.

Please read the guidelines and deadlines for the \$4000 Nursing Scholarship. Start looking NOW or asking members if they know someone entering or currently attending a nursing program.

 \sim

"Success isn't Always about Greatness. It's about Consistency "

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson adds that "Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come." Sometimes even consistency itself is the greatest success and what people remember. Dream big, start doing the small stuff well. Repeat every day.

Deadline for Scholarship Applications is the First Friday in April... (April 4, 2025)

Mid-Year reports deadlines:

District Chairman December 1, 2024

District to Department(me) December 15, 2024

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman grahamda65@yahoo.com or ppp@calegionaux.com 668 Via Mendoza Laguna Woods, CA 92637



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Junior Activities August/September 2024 Bulletin

Greeting from the Ticket Master. Congratulations to all the District and Unit Chairs on your appointment! This year is going to be an AWESOME year for our juniors. We are asking all juniors to please start using their ALA Junior Volunteer Log. Let us show our veterans and their families how much we honor and care for them. If you need help, I will always be available. You can contact me via email <u>huntll577@gmail.com</u> or cell phone (213) 521-9895.

Our first junior meeting will be held via zoom on August 20th @ 6pm, Meeting ID 673 779 4042, Passcode Ou23xs. We are requesting all juniors email and cell phone information, as well as parent/guardian contact information. Please email or text me your contact information as soon as possible. Your ideas are very important. We will discuss 1) National Junior/Mission Training which will be held on February 1, 2025, in Las Vegas, Nevada 2) Junior Handbook/Patch Program/Scholarships 3) Fundraising 4) Giving or sending cards to our veterans for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Please remind the senior members of your units to help your juniors participate and connect to their scheduled meetings. Also, please include your juniors in your local activities by allowing them to participate in meetings, and any other activities as appropriate.

We will post flyers on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California website <u>https://calegionaux.org</u> under Local Unit & District Events with any upcoming events for our juniors.

"OUR JUNIORS ARE ON THE MOVE"

Lucy Hunt Department Junior Activities Chair American Legion Auxiliary huntll577@gmail.com/213-521-9895



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California Public Relations – Rosemary Barron – rosemarybarron@msn.com September 2024, Bulletin

The Clovis, CA Workshop was so exciting and full of energy! This Chairperson's battery is full! Now it is time to get to work!

Madam President, Linda Hayes, Lady Liberty has shared that this years' theme is "America the Beautiful," with her motto being, "Crown thy Good with Brotherhood," and her colors being red, white and blue. So much can be done to promote this motto!

Please get to work on your to-do lists:

Aux Magazine Subscription

Subscribe to eNews

VOTE and encourage your Units and Districts to do the same, lead by example. This can be done without supporting a particular candidate (follow the ALA Guidelines).

In your computers or phones, mark your favorites:

Welcome (calegionaux.org)

National Headquarters Divisions (legion-aux.org)

PR Toolkit (legion-aux.org)

You can help your districts and units by staying up to date on information being shared on the Department website <u>www.calegionaux.org</u>

Flags and Emblem has a variety of t-shirts and supplies available to you. You can lead by example by wearing the American Legion Auxiliary brand to meetings, events, etc. <u>https://emblem.legion.org</u>

Important dates to remember:

September 14 – Northern Workshop October 12 – Southern Workshop January 17 – 19 – Mid-Year, Palmdale, CA

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts." Eleanor Roosevelt For God and our Country.



Children and Youth 2024-2025 September

Hello to all the Wonder Woman's

I will tell you I really enjoyed the workshop in Clovis, it was a lot of fun and a great workshop, no matter how many times I have gone I always learn something new. A big shout out to Past department presidents DeeAnn Graham and Kathie Martinez for a great workshop they did the Chairman, and they did amazing job. If you have never been, I would highly recommend it.

At Clovis I handed out packets with the following information:

- 1) Explanation of the Children and Youth program and its purpose
- 2) TFA Instructions
- 3) Military Childs Table Setting Ceremony

4) The Youth Hero and Good Deed award- Which you will have to go online to fill out and I hope every unit has at least one.

5) I'm a hero buttons which you can go onto the national website to get more copies.

6) The official flower of the Military child is the dandelion; I have the explanation in the packets but once you read it you will never forget the meaning of what it means to be a military child.

Please let me know if you would like me to email you a copy.

This month I would like to talk about Hero Back Packs. I know that school has already started but it is never too late to get our Military Children the supplies they need. I would partner with your Education Chairman because we know they are working on the give 10 right now and if they have an in within the schools you can work together to accomplish both missions. Please remember the I'm a Hero 2 stickers. These are stickers or you can make buttons to give to the Military Children of deployed parents. You can go onto the national website to get your copies, or you can just email me as well.

Please this year take a lot of pictures, and I know I get confused also with JPEG, but I know one thing, please do not put pictures into the body of your email, please send the pictures separately.

This year I want to showcase just how many areas of Children and youth we can cover, and this will be easy since we have 28 districts. Like I said in last month's bulletin, please find what works for you and your units and make it happen, remember we are Wonder Woman.

To Quote Wonder woman: We Will Fight for Those Who Cannot Fight for Themselves.

If you have any questions, I'm just a phone call, text message or email away.

For God and Country

Tracy Varnell Fercho tvarnell2@yahoo.com 805-233-4354

771 Brossard Drive Thousand Oaks CA 91360





American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Community Service September 2024 Bulletin



Hello Fellow Village People!

How is your program going so far? Did you participate in National Night Out? Did you make your pledge to volunteer on the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance? If so, remember to track those hours and share your experiences, stories, and photos with us! Reflecting on these activities helps us learn and grow as a community.

Planning Ahead: Veterans Day and Beyond

Last month, we encouraged you to brainstorm community service ideas for the first half of the year. With Veterans Day fast approaching, now is a great time to start coordinating with local community organizations and planning to participate in parades or community events. Let's come together to honor our veterans and make a meaningful impact in our communities. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Organize a Family Resources Picnic for Military Families: Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to sponsor food and activities. Use this opportunity to provide information about community resources available to military families.
- **Prepare and Deliver Warm Meals to Homeless or Homebound Veterans:** Work with local shelters and food banks to identify veterans who would benefit from a hot meal. Gather a team of volunteers to cook and deliver meals, ensuring to follow any necessary safety protocols.
- Host a Movie Night at a Local Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Contact your local VA medical center to arrange a movie night. Coordinate with volunteers to bring snacks, set up a projector, and ensure a welcoming atmosphere for the veterans.
- Organize a Furniture Donation Drive for Veterans Transitioning into Housing: Reach out to community members to donate gently used furniture and household items. Partner with local moving companies or volunteers with trucks to collect and deliver donations.
- **Restock the USO Hospitality Room at the Airport:** Coordinate with your local USO chapter to find out what supplies are needed. Organize a collection drive for snacks, toiletries, and reading materials, and arrange a group trip to deliver them.
- Start a Monthly Visit to Veterans at a Local Senior Center: Contact local senior centers to schedule regular visits. Plan activities like games, crafts, or just a friendly chat. Bring hygiene supplies, clothes, and other needed items.

Tips for Success:

- **Start Small:** Begin with manageable projects and gradually take on more as you gain experience.
- **Collaborate with Others:** Partner with your American Legion Family, community organizations, and other Auxiliary units to share resources and amplify your impact.
- Plan Ahead: Create a timeline and assign tasks to ensure everything runs smoothly.
- **Reflect and Share:** After completing a project, gather your team to discuss what worked well and what could be improved. Share your successes and lessons learned with the rest of The Village.

Remember our theme, "The Village," symbolizes the strength we have when we work together. Let's continue building our village by supporting one another and taking action to improve our communities.

Together, we make a difference. Together, we are "The Village."

In Service, Not Self,

Rebecca Glenny Community Service Chairman cs@calegionaux.org Home - 831-272-2249 Cell - 717-810-7321



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION SEPTEMBER 2024 BULLETIN



Hello Gunnery Sergeants, Staff Sergeants, and Interested Readers!

As we begin the 2024-25 Auxiliary year we need to review the components of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program for a better understanding of the opportunities available to ALA members in order to effectively work this program.

When speaking about VA&R the question is often asked, what can members do to better serve our veterans? One of the main components of VA&R is **Service to Veterans (Outside of VA Facilities).** The following information is taken from the ALA National Program Engagement Plan for VA&R and offers many ideas on how the reader can get involved and better serve our national heroes.

- Support veteran caregivers, family members, and survivors in your local community.
 - ✓ Provide a spa day or caregiver day out for community veteran caregivers.
 - ✓ Connect caregivers with outside organizations that offer support, such as the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network.
 - ✓ Offer to sit with a veteran while the caregiver runs errands.
 - ✓ Offer to run errands for a caregiver.
 - ✓ Prepare information for units concerning the needs of caregiver support.
 - ✓ Offer to provide meals, or arrange a meal train for the families of hospitalized or recently deceased veterans.
 - ✓ Connect the families of recently deceased veterans to outside resources to ensure they get the support they need. For example, TAPS or the local service officers.
 - ✓ Contact an American Legion Service Officer at your post and offer to be on the list of people to call when a veteran's family needs help.
- Look for ways in your community to ensure the ever-changing demographics of veterans and their families are supported.
 - ✓ If your area has many working-age veterans or veterans with families:
 - ✓ Take part in a veteran job fair by organizing or working at an informational table.
 - Promote local veteran-centric job fairs in your community. Support The American Legion by helping host a local job fair at your post home or community center.
 - ✓ Buy school supplies, host a baby shower, or send care packages to veterans' children who are headed to college.
- If your area has older or homebound veterans:

- ✓ Adopt a local veteran find a veteran in your community who faces loneliness and isolation. Offer care and support, such as morale phone calls, running errands, and ensuring they are receiving proper nutrition.
- ✓ Transportation of veterans to appointments or running errands.
- ✓ Look for Community Veteran Engagement Boards in your area (CVEBs) and provide support in the form of information, donations, or volunteers to the events in your area.
- ✓ Become the catalyst to find needs and encourage members to help veterans in their community.
- ✓ Promote volunteer opportunities in veteran-centric activities in community settings.
- ✓ Utilize websites, newsletters, and other media to promote your events and gain community support.
- ✓ Report your ALA Service to Veterans hours to your unit.

The Auxiliary has many members who are already engaging in one or more of the above suggested tasks but are not reporting the activity to their Unit/ District VA&R Chairmen. **Please remember that ALL of the activities noted above are reportable under this program,** so kindly keep track of your volunteer time, dollars spent, and miles driven, and share them with your Unit/District Chairmen for inclusion in their mid-year and year-end reports.

Other components of the VA&R program will be addressed in future bulletins.

2024 September and October Military Dates to Remember

National Suicide Prevention Month
National Service Dog Month
Labor Day
V-J Day (Victory over Japan)
Patriot Day
United States Air Force Birthday
Air National Guard Birthday
National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Gold Star Mother's Day
VFW Day

October 13United States Navy BirthdayOctober 26Day of the DeployedOctober 27Navy Day

Oorah! Master Sergeant Susan Baker, VA&R Chair <u>var@calegionaux.org</u>

831-324-0191





National Security Bulletin 3 September 2024

Hello to all of my Strategic Planning Commissioners. I hope everyone is doing well. This is bulletin #3.

September is National Preparedness Month. It is observed each September to raise awareness about steps individuals, families and communities can take to be ready for disaster and emergencies that could happen at any time. This year's National Preparedness Month theme is Prepare to Protect and highlights how preparing for disaster helps protect everyone you love.

Does your Unit discuss how to prepare for any type of emergencies? We should all be reminded of the little things we take for granted. Check your flashlights and make sure you have an extra set of batteries, have candles in case you have no electricity, update your 1st Aid kit to have plenty of band aids and other medical supplies, have some canned goods to eat in case stores are not available and don't forget to put in a can opener, have enough water available to last at least a week and lastly have an emergency plan to meet somewhere in case you get separated.

Another important date in September is Sunday, September 29, 2024. This is Gold Star Mother's Day. It is intended to recognize and honor those Mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the Service of the U.S. Armed Forces. A Gold Star represents a son or daughter who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

If you know a Gold Star Mother, let her know you are thinking of her by sending her a card or flowers.

As I discussed in a prior bulletin, Friday, September 20, 2024, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Make time to attend the ceremony.

Linda Lara-Guzman Strategic Planning Commissioner <u>linlarguzman@gmail.com</u> (821) 229-2072



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPT. OF CA Chaplain September 2024 Bulletin

September is a time of meditation, repentance and seeking forgiveness. September is about refocusing, reflecting and re-evaluating our plans.

The National Convention is over and now our new Auxiliary year of 2024-25 begins. "Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths"

Chaplains, I'll be contacting you and will also ask you to provide me with Unit Chaplains emails so that we can invite all Chaplains to our Zoom meetings.

Gold Star Mother's Day is intended to recognize and honor those mothers who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Gold Star Mother's Day is remembered on the last Sunday in September each year, which will be Sunday Sept. 29th, 2024. Each year there are open events to express love, sorrow and reverence toward Gold Star mothers and their families. As Auxiliary members let's try to find a Gold Star Mother's Day event and attend branded as the American Legion

Auxiliary.

Below are some of September religious or Spiritual Holidays

Dates: September 9th September 15-16 September 21-29 September 22nd September 22-24 September 27-28 September 30th Holiday: Tzom Gedaliah Yon Kipper Mabon Autumn Equinox Rosh Hashanah Arba'een St. Jerome Feast

Religion: Judaism Judaism Pagan/Wiccan All Faith's Judaism Islam Catholics/Christian

Service to God and Country, Patricia Galatioto, Chaplain ALA Dept of CA 909-680-5251 trishasupaux@msn.com



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Bulletin #2 September 2024

Calling all Clara Bartons to help keep American Beautiful!

Yes, if you are an Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Chairman you are now one of the very special Clara Bartons. I am not sure how many of you know that Clara Barton founded the Red Cross. It is so apropos that we will be known as the Clara Bartons of the Auxiliary. It will be our job this year to ensure that **ALL** our members know about the AEF program.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a national grant assistance program. A member is eligible if they have been a member in good standing for three years – the past two AND the current year. A member can receive up to \$3,000 in assistance if they have been the victim of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

You MUST apply for this grant on-line from National at <u>www.ALAforveterans.org/AEF</u>.

Unfortunately, California is known for its devastating fires, torrential rain, floods and mud slides. How can Auxiliary members help? **Members help members** by sending their donations directly to National. There is a beautiful pin available to members who donate \$100.00 or more. You can find the donation form online.

I love the American Legion Auxiliary, and this is the reason I hope I DO NOT hear from you this year regarding the need for AEF assistance.

May God blesses all of you, and may God Bless the U.S.A.

In Service Not Self,

Suzanne Winters, Chairman Auxiliary Emergency Fund ALA Department of California <u>ovsuz@comcast.net</u> (916) 768-6679



As we are now underway with this year's programs, I want you to think on how we can better our units. Many times, we believe that our ideas are what is needed in our organization. It's great to have an open mind, but remember, the Auxiliary has Codes for each program. The Code we follow has been approved by the body of this department. DO NOT make changes to your unit, based off your beliefs, we the Auxiliary follow the process that is detailed in the CODE for each Committee/Program.

Therefore, If you are in the mindset of making changes to any of our Codes, ask questions and at the end of the year attend convention specifically the Committee/Program you want to change and address it there. This is how Auxiliary grows and adapts to keep up with today's world.

District Presidents, I left a package along with a "New Member Kit", this kit gives a basic duty for Unit officers and Committees and Programs. It is essential that we all become familiar with our programs and encourage our membership to get involved. Remember we hope each unit will support all our committees. This sometimes is not possible; we can only do our best to try and work all our programs.

Tidbits on our Pillers...

Each of these programs are donations made directly to The Department of California and are reported annualy in the "**Book Of Reports**" at convention.

AEF - (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) This fund is strictly for Auxiliary members with two years paid dues.

AMERICANISM –Includes all activities that strengthen American ideals and uphold the principles of democracy

EDUCAITON – Promote quality education for Children and Adults through literacy programs, scholarships, and support education beyond high school. Familiarize yourself with our scholarships

CHILDREN & YOUTH – To promote programs that protect, care and support Children & Youth, especially those of our military and Veterans families.

NATIONAL SECURITY – Raise awareness of POW/MIA, while supporting our military service members and their families.

POPPY –This is a restricted fund and can only be used for Veterans, Monies raised from Poppy funds go directly to our Veterans,

VA&R – To help improve the quality for all Veterans. Get involved with your local VA Hospital.

Yours in Service -

Diana Livas ALA Department of California Leadership Chairman leadership@calegionaux.org American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Constitution& Bylaws September & October Bulletin

Congratulations to those Constitution Bylaws Chairman in your District and Units for 2024-2025 that have sent in their ten rewrites/ amendments.

Let us continue to encourage the Units to complete them by the deadline dates of the letters enclosed in your packets.

As we know the Constitution & Bylaws is the governing document for the District and Units. Current copies should be available to all members when completed. Standing Rules are the policies and should be shared with all members on a regular basis, and whenever changes are made.

REMEMBER: Units **MUST** use Model Bylaws provided by the Department Office for rewrites. This document can be found on the website at Committe Programs / Constitution & Bylaws.

All District and Unit Presidents are encouraged to keep copies.

Keep up the Good Work!

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions or require information about rewrites or updates to your Bylaws.

Cassandra Brown (Constitution & Bylaws Chairman)

837 E. Cyrene St.

Carson, California 90746



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Editor Bulletin # 2 September 2024

Thank you to those that sent in articles and photos for the September / October issue of The Hub.

Please remember the following when submitting articles and photos:

Use highest resolutions for pictures Identify subjects in the pictures, but limit the number of group pictures Do not imbed photos in the articles or in the email; email them as attached jpg format files A signed photo release form is required for minors in the photo Articles should be attached as a Word document. No scanned documents are allowed Keep articles short as space may be limited Printed material from another source must have written use permission or they cannot be used

The next issue for *The Hub* will be **November / December** and the deadline to submit articles is **October 15, 2024**. Articles and photos may be submitted anytime but will not be accepted after October 15th. Pease be sure to get your articles and photos in by the deadline. Articles may be edited or shortened depending on space availability for the issue.

Thank you to Glenda Schultz and Samantha Valine for offering to proofread. If anyone else would like to help, please contact me. The more eyes, the better!

Barb Toth Editor editor@calegionaux.org 909-544-1637 Hi Chairman,

Below you will find the links that you need to get our Girls State year started. We have included several that should be helpful for our new Chairman and your new schools.

I thank you for your patience while I get the forms updated for you. Please continue to update your Contact Information.

You will receive the September/October Bulletin in a couple of weeks. Remember, our monthly Zoom meetings will be held the 4th Monday of the month for the remainder of 2024.

Please note, the <u>2025 Reservation Form</u> link is active if you are ready to submit them.

Included links: Youth Programs Brochure The Structure of Girls State Counselor Flyer 8/26 Zoom Recording - Password - F1iKMRQ+ Awards and State Offices 2024

Thank you, Caroline Miller 2024-2025 American Legion Auxiliary CA Department Girls State Chairman