



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

Hear Yee, Hear Yee! Paul Revere here! How are you feeling about your programs? Great, I hope!

Hello, November and Fall is officially here. Enjoy the cooler days and nights- sweater weather! Don't let the change in daylight savings get you down. Maintain the sunshine in your step.

It's terrible the destruction the hurricanes brought to the east coast. I hope all your families who live in those areas are safe. My heart breaks when I see the stories in the news. Let's keep them in our prayers. Be careful if you are donating to help, you know the thieves are out there to prey on the generous people, be very careful. You may want to contact a Post directly.

I hope many of you attended the southern workshop held on October 12th. Sorry I had to miss it. It's important to participate when you can so that you can learn the processes of ALA. There are necessary changes that must happen to keep up with the changing times. There is a new ALA Unit Guide, revised April, 2024, for free to download. IF there is a Leadership course that becomes available in your area, be sure to sign up and take the opportunity to learn and grow.

When your Unit participates in events helping the Veterans and their families, don't forget to share on social media. It is important to the Auxiliary that we know firsthand that work is being done and we show our gratitude for their sacrifices!

November 2<sup>nd</sup> is the day of the dead (día de los Muertos). It is a Mexican holiday that can be celebrated by many cultures. This is where families welcome back the souls of their deceased loved ones for a reunion that includes a celebration with food and drinks and a dedicated altar.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. YAY! Many American Legion Posts and American Auxiliary Units will be participating in various events and activities on this very special day. Continue to promote the Auxiliary Brand as often as possible. Your local communities may also be having a celebration as well, be sure to get involved anywhere you can. Show your spirit for the living and deceased Veterans! Let's not forget the American Legion Auxiliary is not about self, it's about Veterans, Military, and their families first.

It is enjoyable when you can collaborate with other programs and get the Juniors to pitch in. It could make a big difference on how many people you can reach with a village behind you.

Remember it is about Service not self.



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California  
Public Relations – Rosemary Barron – [rosemarybarron@msn.com](mailto:rosemarybarron@msn.com)  
Bulletin on Hashtags - 11/1/24

HASHTAGS – Where have we seen these before?

You have probably heard of a hashtag (#). Some might know the hashtag as the “pound sign” on phones. I know I do LOL!

Well, hashtags have found another function in today’s social media world. Now, you can tag a social media content or flyers by using a #hashtag.

This enables other users to see a collection of related content when they click on the hashtag.

*You must be sure that this is something you want to share.*

You simply put the # sign in front of the words or topic you want to use.

For example, we use it quite often in the American Legion Auxiliary.

[#AmericanLegionAuxiliary](#)

Try using an existing hashtag or creating your own the next time you create your post on social media to help users get more content about our organization.





## *Past President's Parley November 2024*

A little history on the Past Presidents Parley committee. In 2018-2019, National abolished the PPP program for the reason to include lack of formal purpose and foundational activism. At this year's National convention, Texas proposed an amendment to reinstate the PPP program. Unfortunately, the proposed amendment was NOT adopted.

The Department of California continues to have a PPP program. The program's mission is to activism to include, but not limited to, support of national initiatives, service projects and mentoring of members at all levels.

Your Past Presidents are at your service for guidance and constructive feedback. Will you engage your Past Presidents in your events this year? PPP chairman assures that leadership remains active, engaged, and involved.

The guidelines and deadlines for the \$4000 Nursing Scholarship are on our website. At every unit/district meeting, PLEASE ask your members if they know someone entering or currently attending a nursing program.

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



***“The purpose of our lives is to be happy.” – Dalai Lama***

Mid-Year reports deadlines: District Chairman December 1, 2024

District Chairman to Department(me) December 15, 2024

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman

[grahamda65@yahoo.com](mailto:grahamda65@yahoo.com) or [ppp@calegionaux.com](mailto:ppp@calegionaux.com)

668 Via Mendoza Unit B, Laguna Woods, CA 92637



**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department of California**

**Membership**

**Bulletin 5**

**November, 2024**

November is Membership Month. First, I would like to thank each and every individual who has a part in the Membership “Chain” (EVERYONE). You are part of the Team. Kudos and thank you to you All!

Do not forget the Recruit/Rejoin 10 challenge, AKA RR/10. We already have one member who has blazed a trail. She’s just a girl and she’s on fire.

As of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, California is currently at 40.43% on membership. The first target date is December 7<sup>th</sup> for 75%. It’s time to turn up the heat. Let’s show National that our members are on FIRE!

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! AKA Mid-Year Reports.

A) Unit to District  
December 1, 2024

B) District to Department  
December 15, 2024

Remember, always have a flaming good time, and if you have any questions, I'm just here to add fuel to the flame!

Donna L. Smith

Department Membership Chair

[DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com) 858-776-5974



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA  
Chaplain  
November 2024 Bulletin**

Fall is now upon us and the Holidays will be approaching soon. This is the time to be thankful not only for our veterans but also for each other.

Let us be mindful and help our members as we get our programs underway for our veterans and communities. If your American Legion Post or Auxiliary Unit are participating in a special event for our veterans you can be prepared to offer a special prayer.

The American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain's Book contains prayers for all occasions, as well as memorial services. You may purchase one through The American Legion Emblem Sales office.

If you know of a veteran living in a nursing home or hospital, or who are shut-in at home, take the time to visit with them. Let them know they are not forgotten.

And please remember to be kind to one another.

***THANKSGIVING PRAYER***

*Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this day with its opportunities for service. We thank Thee for sustenance and Thy guiding hand – for friends, companions, and loved ones. Send Thy blessing upon our dear ones wherever they may be. To those in sorrow, reveal unto them the comfort and humaneness of Thy tender mercy. Help us to be more constant in our praise and obedience to Thee. Amen.*

**Please take the time to read this important information I am sharing with you. Thank you.**

### CHAPLAIN MONTHLY BULLETIN

Monthly bulletins will be posted to the department website. I encourage you to check them out and share these with your members in your units and districts. Go to: [www.calegionaux.org](http://www.calegionaux.org) Resources – Bulletins – scroll down to check each month for the bulletins submitted. They will be posted on the department website every month. They will be mailed to those units and districts that have signed up for bi-monthly mailing and paid the required \$50.00 fee.

### MEMBER DATA FORM

The Department Chaplain shall receive a Member Data Form from the Unit Chaplain when notified of a member's death. A courtesy Member Data Form should also be sent to the District Chaplain with the deceased member's current year information.

If you sent a Deceased Member Data Form to the previous Chaplain Patti G., please resend them to me so I don't miss them for the Department Convention Memorial Service.

### MID-YEAR UNIT AND DISTRICT REPORT FORMS

The Mid-Year Unit Chaplain Report is due to your District Chaplain no later than December 1, 2024. The District Mid-Year Chaplain Report is due to me, the Department Chaplain, no later than December 15, 2024. These are available on the Department website and secretary Liz will be mailing them out as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless,  
Melanie Taylor  
Department Chaplain  
457 Muscat Drive  
Cloverdale, CA 95425  
(707) 953-7240  
[mtaylor95425@gmail.com](mailto:mtaylor95425@gmail.com)



# American Legion Auxiliary

*The American Legion Auxiliary Recognizes*

\_\_\_\_\_

*In memory of her caring service with Unit ## and for many years of dedication to the  
Auxiliary's longstanding mission of serving veterans, the military and their families.*

*May she rest in peace.*

*On this Day,* \_\_\_\_\_

*President*

*Chaplain*



**American Legion Auxiliary**  
*Department of California*

**Member Data Form**

Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

SR		JR		PUFL		HLM
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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a copy to the Department Office for processing, Department Chaplain and your District Chaplain for their Memorial Services.

**Deceased**

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

**Corrections**

Old Information

New Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Former Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Former City \_\_\_\_\_

New City \_\_\_\_\_

Former State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New State \_\_\_\_\_ New Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Former Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

New Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Transfers**

Old Information

New Information

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Signature- Member (Required)

Signature- New Unit Officer (Required)

**Additional Information**

Continuous Years of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (Paid Years)

Comments or Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



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## INSTRUCTIONS

1. The Member Data Form should be used to report name changes, address changes, continuous year changes, Unit transfers and deceased member(s).
2. The Member ID Number, Name, and Unit Number are required for a Member Data Form to be processed by Department.

The following information pertains to transfers only:

- Transfer from one Unit to another is a privilege granted to any paid-up Auxiliary member ONLY with the approval of the Unit to which the member desires to transfer.
- TRANSFER MAY BE MADE UNDER THE REGULATIONS LISTED BELOW:
  - No transfer shall be made unless the member requesting transfer has a membership card showing that she is a member in good standing at the time transfer is requested. Members whose dues for the current calendar year are not paid by January 31st of that year are suspended, and not in good standing, and are not eligible for transfer.
  - No charge shall be made to the member for the privilege of transfer and no dues shall be transferred from one Unit to another. The accepting Unit may require payment of difference in dues on a pro-rata basis if dues are higher than transferring member's former Unit.
  - Any Auxiliary member desiring transfer of membership must first secure approval from the Unit to which transfer is desired. She may do this orally or by letter. The Secretary of the new Unit will then complete and route the parts of the form as instructed below. She will also contact the old Unit to inform them of the transfer.
  - The Department Office will carry through necessary procedures to transfer member's record to the new Unit, provided member's current record is on file and provided information on transfer certificate is complete.
  - All Member Data Forms for members transferring to another Department should be sent to the Department Office for processing.

EMAIL OR MAIL THE MEMBER DATA FORM TO:  
THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS BELOW  
(Department will forward to National when applicable)

Email to: [calegionaux@calegionaux.org](mailto:calegionaux@calegionaux.org)  
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 319, San Francisco, CA 94102-4570

## Children and Youth 2024-2025 November 2024



Hello to all the amazing wonder women

The Southern Workshop was a huge success so I thought it would be fitting to make it my bulletin for November. The national Chairman is Lisa Chaplin from the department of Virginia and the Western Division chairman is Joan Hernandez from Idaho. We had our first zoom call on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It was a very informative meeting, and they gave us some ideas of what to focus on.

1) The National Chairman Lisa has sent out the first newsletter and she has encouraged all children and youth chairman to join our ALA Children & Youth Facebook group, where you will find updates, reminders, and a place to share ideas throughout the ALA year. You can find our group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACHildrenandYouth>

2) Youth Hero and Good Deed Award. Once again, I'm going to suggest that you team up with either the Community Service Chairman or even public relations to find those outstanding youth.

The difference between Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award is:

**Youth Hero Award** -- Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor

**Good Deed Award**-- Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service and A specific deed should be present.

The forms are online and will be sent straight to nationals but please send me a copy because I would love to be able to include this in my end of year report. Would it be amazing if we were able to get at least one from each District. I think maybe we might be able have a little competition with this.

3) Nationals has put out a challenge that we collect one dollar from each member for the Child Welfare fund. If you do not know this goes straight to the American Legion to be able to fund grants that benefit children. One grant was for low-income families to be able to monitor newborn infants for Sudden infant death and they have also funded liver transplants for children and so many more. They are listed on the American Legion website. I have been talking with Madam President Linda on how to be able to track the donations better so we can make sure that we get recognized for our donation. Stay tuned.

We have exciting news, with the permission from Madam President Linda we are going to be teaming up with our National Security Chairman Linda Lara-Guzman and at the DEC we are going to be having a Canned food Drive. This will support all our local military bases and food pantries that are in need. We are asking everyone who attends DEC to bring canned foods and then we will have bags so that everyone can take what they need to support their local military bases and food pantries. This will benefit the entire state of California. The Flyer is on the department website.

I'm going to keep reminding you of Temporary Financial Aide. TFA is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. We have already had one application for this year, it has been processed and paid. I will be reporting on this at DEC, with the permission from the unit and district.

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](mailto:tvarnell2@yahoo.com) 805-233-4354 771 Brossard Drive Thousand Oaks CA 91360





**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION  
NOVEMBER 2024 BULLETIN**



November has arrived in a flurry of fall colors and early sightings of Jack Frost! It is that time of year when we begin to reflect on all the things we have accomplished in our Auxiliary work for veterans and their families. Mid-year reports should make note of any special project or event that Units and/or Districts have undertaken since July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please include with your VAR Mid-Year Report Form a brief description of what was done to make the activity so successful. Every attempt will be made to share your triumphs with the National Western Division VAR Chairman in my mid-year recap!

**Remember – Unit Mid-Year Reports are due to District Chairmen no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>, and District reports are due to Department Chairmen no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Since the ALA mission is to serve veterans and their families, each Unit and District should be reporting some activity for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation! All Mid-Year Reporting forms for VAR will be found on the Department website under VAR.

**2024 November and December Military Dates to Remember**

<b>November</b>	<b>National Veterans &amp; Military Family Month Warrior Care Month National Family Caregivers Month</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Marine Corps Day/Birthday</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>
<b>December 1</b>	<b>Civil Air Patrol Day</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>#Giving Tuesday</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>U. S. National Guard Birthday</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>National Wreaths Across America Day</b>

Wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair  
[var@calegionaux.org](mailto:var@calegionaux.org)  
831-324-0191





American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Junior Activities  
November 2024 Bulletin

**VETERANS DAY** is right around the corner calling all juniors to send the Ticket Master pictures with them helping and serving our veterans. Seniors let's help our juniors to start their can food drive for Thanksgiving. The juniors can deliver the can goods to their nearby VA Pantry or distribute the cans goods to the veterans and families at their Post.

The date to turn the essay in for the Mission Training 101 & National Junior Meeting contest has been extended to December 20th. Seniors help your juniors to submit an essay. The flyer for the contest is on the ALA website. The essays can be emailed to [huntLL577@gmail.com](mailto:huntLL577@gmail.com) or mailed to Lucy Hunt, 2111 ½ S Sycamore Ave, LA, Ca 90016.

Seniors, please submit the juniors' addresses to the Ticket Master by November 15th so we can start preparing to send the juniors' Christmas stockings to decorate, stuff and distribute to their local VA hospitals, veterans in their neighborhood or to veterans at their Post for Christmas. Juniors should keep track of their hours, send pictures and a short report when they participate in any activities to the Ticket Master so this information can be put in the report for DEC. Let us help our juniors get patches for 2024-2025. Juniors keep up the GREAT work serving our veterans, families, and communities.

Unit Mid-Year reports are due to the District Chairmen by December 1<sup>st</sup> and District reports are due to the Department Chairmen by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Let us make 100% reporting. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO YOU ALL!**

Lucy Hunt  
Junior Activities Chairmen  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
C. (213) 521-9895  
E. [huntLL577gmail.com](mailto:huntLL577gmail.com)



## National Security Bulletin 5 November 2024

Happy November to all of my Strategic Planners. I hope everyone is doing well. This is Bulletin 5. November is a busy month. We honor all Veterans on November 11, 2024. Throughout the United States there are ceremonies and parades honoring our Veterans. Make plans to attend one of these in your area. It is such an Honor to thank a Veteran and shake their hand.

In November we also celebrate Thanksgiving. There are many American Legion Posts that have dinners for their communities. Take time to help out or donate items. There are some Posts that will combine a clothing drive or canned food drive with their events.

November is also Military Family Appreciation Month. Military Family Appreciation Month was established in 1993 by the Armed Services YMCA, with the U.S. Government recognizing the occasion every year since. Each year the President signs a proclamation declaring November Military Family Month. This annual proclamation marks the beginning of a month-long celebration of the Military Family in which the Department of Defense and the nation will honor the commitment and sacrifices made by the families of the nation's service members.

November is a time, by tradition, for family celebrations. It is also a month that we set aside time to honor the military family - a time to recognize their sacrifices and celebrate their successes. During Military Family Month, we thank military families for the tremendous contribution they make in support of our service members, the military mission, and the nation. Military life imposes unique demands on them, and during these difficult times, they have exhibited exceptional sacrifice, resiliency, and courage.

Families provide our Servicemembers with invaluable encouragement and love and manage the home front while their loved ones are deployed. As we approach the winter holiday season when families across the world come together, we pay special tribute to our deployed forces and their families, who are separated this holiday season. The dedication and strength of military families during a sustained high operational tempo, increased deployment and long separations is an inspiration to us all. The nation understands that families also serve and is honored to pay tribute to them.

Just a friendly reminder that Unit Midyear reports are due to District by 12/01/24 and District reports are due to Department by 12/15/24.

Linda Lara-Guzman  
Strategic Planning Commissioner  
[linlarguzman@gmail.com](mailto:linlarguzman@gmail.com)  
(821) 229-2072



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**GIRLS STATE PROGRAM**  
**2024-2025**



**Bulletin #3**

**[www.cagirlsstate.org](http://www.cagirlsstate.org)**

**November 2024**

[2025 Reservations Form](#) - [Still Accepting Reservations](#)

Hello SCOTUS Interns,

Thank you for all your work! We have **424** Reservations submitted! We had 418 delegates for the 2024 session and hope to have 450 delegates this session. There is a second **2025** Inquiries tab on the Reservations List where you can see high schools that have asked about participation in ALA CAGS. Please email me if you would like contact information for the individual that submitted the form inquiry.

**Updates from Department Girls State Committee Meeting**

- Dates for the 2025 Session: Saturday, June 14 – Thursday, June 19. (Staff orientation will be Friday, June 13.)
- [2024-2025 Budget](#) was approved by the Committee.
- 2025 Unit Enrollment Fee will remain \$425. With the \$75 Delegate Registration Fee, the total program cost per delegate is \$500.
- The Unit Transmittal form for all fees will be available after March 1 when we can estimate transportation costs based on delegates' online application responses to transportation questions.

**Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List**

- Download the **2025 Unit Information Packet** It will be released within the next 2 weeks. The first page shows changes for 2025 and detailed instructions for how to use the packet.
  - Note that when you enter on the Delegate/Alternate Information Sheet (page 15) your District #, Unit #, and Chair Name, Phone, and Email that information will automatically fill on pages 7, 9-11.
  - The **Unit Information Packet Folder** contains individual PDFs for ease in mailing specific pages to individuals.
- Complete the [ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Instruction](#).
  - Per Department Code, prior to selecting 2025 ALA CA Girls State candidates, the Unit Girls State Chair and the Unit President must complete the [2025 ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Quiz](#).
  - This form needs to be completed every year. If the Unit Girls State Chair and/or Unit President completed the form last year, it must be repeated.
- Schedule interviews or the desired selection process with the school(s) the Unit has sponsored.
  - Use the resources in the Recruitment Flyers to publicize the program.
  - Use the resources in the [Fundraising Tool Kit](#) to increase the Unit's Girls State budget.

**Next Zoom:** Monday, November 25th at 7pm

Topic: ALA CAGS Chair Meetings

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484116950?pwd=vM1CJoMrVCAaLr69SQKy5YyqKGXbxE.1>

Meeting ID: 854 8411 6950

Passcode: ALAcags82

Dial by your location

• +1 669 444 9171 US

– Meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend.

**Links and Information from Previous Bulletins**

[2025 Reservation Form](#)

[2024-2025 Budget](#)

[Fundraising Ideas](#)

[Fundraising Tool Kit](#)

[The Structure of Girls State\\*\\*](#)

[Are You Interested Flyer](#)

[2024 ALA GS School Introductory Letter](#)

[ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Instruction.](#)

[2025 ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Quiz.](#)

Thank you for all your hard work! You are doing great....almost to goal! Keep going  
Caroline Miller, [alacagschair@gmail.com](mailto:alacagschair@gmail.com) (562) 444-8296

American Legion Auxiliary  
November Education Bulletin

American Education Week was first established by the National Education Association in 1921. It has been celebrated annually to honor the importance of education and those who contribute to the educational process.

What are your plans for American Education Week Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>? Here are a couple of ways to get involved:

**Thank an Educator:** Express your gratitude to all education professionals who have made a positive impact. A thank-you card is available on the National website.

**Schools:** Arrange a visit to local schools to learn about educational programs and initiatives in your community.

**Support Educations Initiatives:** Get involved in local education Initiatives, such as school improvement projects or literacy Programs.

Do not forget Midyear reports are due Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, to District Chairmen. District Chairmen please include totals of the “Give 10” reported to you from your Units, so I can make certificates and have them at D.E.C. I will have a special gift for the Unit Chairman with the highest total.

Thank you!

Donna Mattox

Department Education Chairman

mikeanddonnamatt@aol.com



Greeting Auxiliary Family,

Time to start thinking about ALA Unit Member of the Year. This honor is open to any Senior member who is not currently nor have ever been in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President. Forms can be found on the Department Web Page. The application you need to submit along with a narrative of 1,000 words or less to Department Linda Hayes([president@calegionaux.org](mailto:president@calegionaux.org)) and a copy to Diana Livas ([leadership@calegionaux.org](mailto:leadership@calegionaux.org)). The deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Here we are once again in November. As always, Auxiliary has big things happening this month. One of them being our Mid-Year Reports which are due in December 2024.

I am hopeful you have completed or are about to complete your mid-year reports. Time and time again I hear some of our members say reporting is not so important, or I just don't have the time. If this is you, I need for you to think about this... **Your work matters**, and the way we show it is by reporting it. You give so much of your time to this great organization and now is the time to say it loud and proud. If your struggling with reports, talk with your Unit President, if she is too busy then reach out to your district for support. You only have to ask, and we are here to help.

Now for some fun facts.

## ACRONYMS

<b>AEF</b>	Auxiliary Emergency Fund	<b>ALA</b>	American Legion Auxiliary
<b>ALCWF</b>	American Legion Child Welfare Fund	<b>ALR</b>	American Legion Riders
<b>C&amp;B</b>	Constitution & Bylaws	<b>CBOC</b>	Community Based Outpatient Clinic
<b>CFA</b>	Citizens Flag Alliance	<b>COM</b>	Cavalcade of Memories
<b>CS</b>	Community Service	<b>CWF</b>	Child Welfare Foundation
<b>DEC</b>	Department Executive Committee	<b>E-BOARD</b>	Executive Committee
<b>JROTC</b>	JR. Reserve Officer Training Course	<b>NVCAF</b>	National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
<b>NEC</b>	National Executive Committee	<b>NPSF</b>	National Presidents Scholarship Fund
<b>OMK</b>	Operations Military Kids	<b>PPP</b>	Past Presidents Parley
<b>PDP</b>	Past Department Presidents	<b>PNP</b>	Past National Presidents
<b>POW/MIA</b>	Prisoner of War/Missing in Action	<b>PR</b>	Public Relations
<b>ROTC</b>	Reserve Officer Training	<b>SAL</b>	Sons of The American Legion
<b>SOY</b>	Sprit of Youth	<b>TAL</b>	The American Legion
<b>VA&amp;R</b>	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation	<b>VAHC</b>	Veterans Administration Health Center
	<b>VAMC</b>		Veterans Administration Medical Center
	<b>VAVS</b>		Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service
	<b>VSO</b>		Veterans Service Organization



## LEGISLATIVE

November 2024

What should Units do to support the Legislative Program? When measures important to The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are before lawmaking bodies, appeals go out for support. When the appeal goes out the unit members should contact their representatives urging them to take the desired action.

What better way to do this than sign up for the Grass Roots Action Plan. I know I keep repeating this and asking for your help, but it is so easy, and it tracks your efforts for you.

**Wow!!** Where has the first half of the year gone? Now is the time to look back and report on all of the wonderful work that we have done in supporting the efforts of the American Legion in influencing legislation of benefits to Veterans. Just remember that everything we do matters. Report it.

I know that you all will make me proud and excited to share with our Western Division Legislative Chairman, Joan Cannon any projects or special events that you have done and will make California shine and be an example for others to look up to.

**Please Remember – Unit Mid-Year Reports are due to your District Chairmen no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> and District Reports are due to your Department Chairman no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Can't wait to see yours.**

Glenda Schultz

Legislative Chairman Department of California



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Community Service  
November 2024 Bulletin



Hello Fellow Village People!

As part of our Village, members have access to the **California Disaster Relief Fund**, established in 1989 to assist those affected by severe damage or personal loss. The application is available on the Department website. We encourage all Units to continue donating to keep this fund prepared for future disasters.

The year is moving quickly, and **midyear reports** will be due soon! Report forms can be found on the Department Website. Unit reports are due December 1<sup>st</sup> to District Chairman. District Chairman, your district reports are due to this chairman by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Did You Know?** Community Service connects seamlessly with other programs, including the **Be the One** initiative aimed at reducing veteran suicide. Collaborate with VA&R to highlight your activities in your reports. Community service aligns with all our programs, so when volunteering, wear your auxiliary branding with pride! Don't forget to check out the **Program Engagement Plan (PEP)** for Community Service on the National Website for more ideas.

#### Upcoming Events:

- **Veterans Day** (November 11): Invite the community to the Post for a Veterans Day Ceremony/Recognition.
- **Family Volunteer Day** (November 23): Celebrate the impact families make by supporting your community. Visit [pointsoflight.org](http://pointsoflight.org) for resources and event ideas.

**Workshop Highlights:** During our recent workshops, we created a total of 64 cards for veterans receiving services from the Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) and 11 cards thanking VPAN workers. The Northern Workshop had 41 attendees, creating 23 cards for the Monterey County Veteran Transition Center and 12 cards for Mr. Hayes, Madame President Linda's husband, when he returned from his Honor Flight. If your Unit attended either workshop, please include your participation in your midyear reports!

Remember to share your photos, stories, and successes by emailing [cs@calegionaux.org](mailto:cs@calegionaux.org) or posting on Facebook and tagging the Department of California. Joining the National Community Service Facebook page is also highly recommended.

Thank you for your dedication, and let's continue making a difference together!

In Service, Not Self,

*Rebecca Glenn*

Community Service Chairman

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**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA- POPPY PROGRAM**  
**NOVEMBER BULLETIN**

Greetings Free Spirits,

Thank you to all Units who submitted their poppy orders. I have opened all envelopes and emails sent to me. It greatly helps with knowing how many poppies we'll need for distribution. Unit orders not received are being assed \$30 for 100 poppies.

The Poppy Program guide was revised in 2024. You can download it from the National website. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the new guidebook. I have received many questions on how Poppy Funds can be used.

**How Poppy Funds can be used. Please be sure to follow the five criteria:**

1. For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917;
2. For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above named period;
3. For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals;
4. For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above named period where financial and medical need is evident or;
5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

I look forward to our Poppy Hat contest at DEC. Guidelines were put on the website last month. As the holiday season approaches, let us incorporate poppies in our decor.

Respectfully,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman, Department of California 2024-2025



# HOW POPPY FUNDS CAN & CANNOT BE USED

Per Poppy Program Guidebook revised 2024

## **The Legion set forth five criteria for the use of poppy funds:**

1. For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917;
2. For the welfare of the families of veterans of the above named period;
3. For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals;
4. For the welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above named period where financial and medical need is evident or;
5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.

Therefore, scholarships (or funds to aid with higher education) would have to be for a veteran or their immediate family member who demonstrates an immediate financial need. For example, if a unit is met with a situation in which a student meets Poppy Fund eligibility and demonstrates a financial need (e.g., delay in delivery of post 9/11 GI Bill funding impacting their academics), the unit may decide to use Poppy Funds to assist the student.

If units wish to create their own scholarship(s) as a way to use their Poppy Funds, please keep in mind the criteria that must be met by recipients in order to stay within the guidelines for proper usage.

## **Poppy Funds CANNOT be used for:**

1. Any general operating fund of a department, unit, or post.
2. Any community service project that does not strictly benefit the welfare of an individual veteran/military servicemember or the welfare of his/her family.
3. General maintenance, beautification, or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary facilities, including adding ramp(s) to a post home.
4. Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post.

- 5.** POW/MIA programs.
- 6.** Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers.
- 7.** Contributions to, or payouts from, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
- 8.** ALA Girls State/ALA Girls Nation fees.
- 9.** Flags or flagpoles.
- 10.** Scholarships which do not restrict eligibility solely to military servicemembers or their children, or where financial need is not evident.
- 11.** Mileage, travel, or lodging expenses; registration of conference fees; or costs incurred by a person – including ALA members, volunteers, and staff – to attend any meeting, conference or event, even if it is about veterans, military, or any other topic.
- 12.** Attire or uniforms used by volunteers or staff in promoting or conducting ALA program activity or business.

Use of Poppy Funds is allowable for care packages only when it is for a welfare need (such as first aid topical treatment or vital hygiene items), as opposed to a comfort need, and not comfort/leisure items (such as baked goods or books).



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Americanism Bulletin  
November 2024

Happy Fall Everyone!

I hope this finds you well. As the weather starts to get colder around our state, our work continues. The Americanism program can be worked every month. As the election season comes to a close, I hope your candidate was triumphant. If not, I hope you will continue to promote Americanism in your area. Now, more than ever, we must stay strong and carry on.

The Americanism essay contest information should have been distributed to the schools. If not, please do so very soon. Educators need time to plan and work it into their curriculums.

As with the other programs, please ensure that your Unit report is to your District counterpart by December 1<sup>st</sup>, the District reports need to be to me by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Western Division Chairman is waiting for my report as I prepare this bulletin.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions about the Americanism program. If I can't answer your question, I will look for the answer.

Yours In Service~

*Robin*

ALA Department of California  
Americanism Chairman 2024-2025  
americanism@calegionaux.org