



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of California

Roarin' 20th District



Volume 63, #7

CHATTERBOX

April 12, 2023

All Aboard the Friendship Train

Serving Veterans

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

- We are the American Legion Auxiliary.
- We are called to serve.
- We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.
- We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.
- We are humbled by the courage of our veterans and their families.
- We are alone, yet we stand together.
- We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.
- We are of every color. We are of every faith.
- We are of every age.
- We are anyone and everyone.
- We are common and extraordinary.
- We are citizens.
- We live in small towns.
- We live in suburbs.
- We live in cities.
- We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.
- We are a community. We help one another.
- We love our flag and all that it stands for.
- We are many. We are one.
- We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers
- Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.



\$10,000 Food Goal for "Friendship Train"

Through Train to Europe... From America's Heart

DEPOTS BEING ESTABLISHED FOR DONATIONS Suggested by Committee

Do You Know Outstanding Christian?

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support **The American Legion** and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Our Impact

We are one of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military and their families. We help to advance the mission of The American Legion. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, the nonpartisan American Legion Family is instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of the life for our nation's veterans and Servicemembers.



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Monthly Programs

July	Happy Birthday, America
August	National Convention
September	Music
October	Education
November	Membership
December	Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
January	Legislative
February	Americanism
March	Community Service
April	Children & Youth
May	Poppies and Poppy Month



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Harville

Here we are in April. This is the month that we nominate persons to hold office in both District and Units. Please think about what you can help accomplish if you were to throw your hat in the ring. This is Children and Youth month, so keep in mind what you can do for the children of veterans and those in need in your community.

End of year reports are due by both Units and District. Units are due to your District Chairmen April 15. District chairmen's reports are due to Department May 1st. You can find the official forms on the Department website at calegion-aux.org under resources/forms. Make sure you have the correct one.

If your Unit is sending items to put in the Ditty Bags for Convention in June, please see me to get the information of who and where to send them. They need 300 items.

We have lost a very dear and incredible ALA Matriarch, Odette Cuccaro. She will be greatly missed.

Thank you all in advance for all that you share and do

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Ann Philcox

While we are honoring our members that have passed on, I would like for you to remember a Past Department President from District 18. District 18 has always been referred to as our "sister district" and this member will be truly missed.

Odette Cuccaro: This wonderful lady passed away recently, she was our Department President in 1972. She passed at the ripe old age of 98. I last saw her at our DEC in Orange. Odette was a true spirit, even at her age you could ask her any question and she took the time to answer. Mind you, if you did something that she didn't approve of she was sure to let you know. Odette, you will surely be missed by members of District 20.



PARLIAMENTARIAN

Nancy Heinisch

Just a reminder that the unit has the responsibility for the discipline of its members. A member disciplined by her unit may appeal the unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee.

Disciplinary actions against members, including membership suspensions, are not appealable to the National Organization. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection.

A department may discipline a unit for failure to discipline a member.

AMERICANISM

Liz Tungate

For those of you that submitted essays for the Americanism contest, thank you! Those essays may also be eligible for the National Americanism contest. Please visit this link for details: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Complete this awards form to recognize a member, unit or department that is successfully delivering our mission. Award eligibility and certificates will be completed using the information given on the form, so please complete to the best of your ability.

Deadline: June 1, 2023

If you didn't have any Americanism essays submitted this year, please see if you can recruit your juniors to participate in next year's Americanism essay contest.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Ann Philcox

Please note the recommendations below from our Department AME Chairman

Some important items to remember:

- Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) End of the Year Reports are due to the District Chairmen from the Units on Friday April 14th
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) End of the Year Reports are due to the me from the District Chairmen on May 1st
- I'm looking forward to receiving the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) End of the Year Reports plus Supplemental Reports (first place only) from the District Chairmen
- I will be handing out certificates to the Unit and District that made the largest monetary donation to AEF

Please be sure to include all pertinent information in your reports. Remember donations are paid directly to National, but it is your responsibility to be sure to let your Department Chairman of your donations.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Ann Philcox

April has finally arrived – that special month of the year when American Legion Auxiliary members celebrate and honor our nation's children and youth, especially those of our veterans and military! The entire American Legion Family bands together in our communities to host special activities for our kids or wear our branded clothing when we join with other agencies to collaborate on community projects that honor young people. *(continued on page 4)*





CHILDREN & YOUTH (continued)
Ann Philcox

Through the Children and Youth program the Auxiliary provides direct service and cash assistance to children in need at the local, state, and national levels. April 15th is Purple Up! Day for Military Kids! Be sure to wear your purple glasses, a purple Tee or purple scarf to honor these special kids. Units and Districts in close proximity to a military installation or National Guard Reserve unit are encouraged to do something special for military children. Goodie bags and sweet treats go a long way toward making a military child feel special!

Taken from Department Chairman Susan Baker

APRIL 15TH
DAY OF THE MILITARY CHILD



COMMUNITY SERVICE
Linda Hayes

This is a perfect time for members of Units and Districts to make every effort to be visible in your communities. Be the go-to organization for the veterans living in the community. Work with other organizations on their community service projects while at the same time bringing awareness of who the American Legion Auxiliary is and our mission to support veterans, their families and the community. Don't forget to involve your Juniors and remember to wear your ALA branded attire and ALA pin.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
Bonnie Christner

Not much to report on Constitution & By-Laws. As I have said before if you are raising your dues and don't have it in your standing rules, you need to amend your dues to state your new dues amount and send the paperwork to the Department Const. & By-Laws Chairman Glenda Schultz at 108 Graeagle Ct. Roseville, CA 95678. The amendment page I

(continued to next column)

is posted on the department website, and you must have it signed and dated and send 5 copies to Glenda. Mid-Year reports are due by April 14th. If you brought your reports to the the district meeting, please give your report to Madam President Carol Harville so she can get them to me. Thank you.

EDUCATION
Hila Estrada

No news for the month of April. Please be sure to mail in your end of year report to me which are due April14, 2023.

GIRLS STATE
Nancy Heinisch

Girls State meeting resources including a Zoom recording and slide show are available on the Department website welcome page: calegionaux.org. .

HISTORIAN
Linda Hayes

Unit Historian end-or-year reports are due to Michelle Pounds by Friday, April 14.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
Hila Estrada

There will be a Junior Conference on April 22,2023, in Bakersfield At the American Legion Post 26. In case if you didn't sign up, please call Stacy Smith If there's still sitting availability to attend. Please be sure to turn in your end of year report which is due before April24,2023.





LEADERSHIP
Sam Marstellar

LEGISLATIVE
Kathy Faulconer

2022-2023 National Leadership Program Awards
Deadlines and Submission Requirements

Thank you for taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission! Your story may inspire another member into service. It also helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

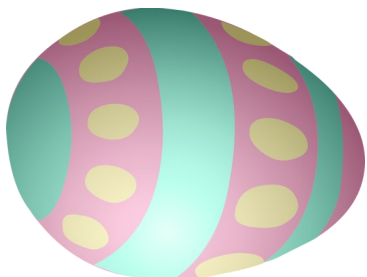
Here are the national awards for this committee:
Unit Member of the Year Award
Recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units.

- Deadline: June 1
- All department entries must be received by National Headquarters by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above.
- *Please note: Members should follow instructions from their department. Units should send their nominations to their department.*

Unit Member of the Year Award Form
Link:<https://www.legion-aux.org/Unit-Member-of-the-Year-Award-Form>
Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program (per division)
All department entries must be submitted by the department chairman via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>
Department Award: Best Department Leadership Program (per division)
All department entries must be submitted by the department chairman via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.
Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>



Ladies, the LA Times published an article from the Associated Press on 4/3/23 that truly startled me. The article refers to sailors who are having a hard time adjusting to the stresses that weigh on young adults nationwide. "Growing mental health distress in the ranks carries such grave implications that the U.S. chief of naval operations, Adm. Michael Gilday, answered "suicides" when asked this year what in the security environment kept him up at night?". We have all heard about the growing number of suicides among veterans. The Legion has two programs to help with this issue. "Be the One" and "Buddy Check Week", please familiarize yourselves with these programs, you may end up being the one who saves a life.

I am looking forward to year end reports this year. There is a new question on them. Number 7 ask, "Did you subscribe to votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home?" This question refers to the new Grassroots efforts that make it easier for the American Legion Family to respond quickly to bills that are current and/or about to be discussed on the Congress or the Senate floor. If you have not signed up yet, then please get on board. You will see how easy it is to contact your reps. It just takes a few clicks, no excuses! These alerts are sent by Katie Isaacson (Am. Leg. Coordinator) along with a PDF file for a weekly status if you wish to view. Katie sends the PDF files regularly alerts or not.

PACT ACT: Please know that: 20 is the minimum number of conditions newly presumed as service-connected under the PACT ACT. Ladies, that includes **Agent Orange** for Viet Nam Vets. Also, 450,000 is the estimated backlog of VA disability claims by October 2023! Already 300,000 claims have been filed since Pres. Biden signed the law last August. It is estimated that 3.5 million veterans were affected by toxic contamination! The VA has increased staffing to process the influx of new claims, adding nearly 1900 new authorized PACT Act positions to handle millions of new disability claims.

Hope you had a Happy Easter with Happy Trails ahead!





MEMBERSHIP

Linda Hayes

ALAMIS Numbers are as of
April 10, 2023

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0176 San Fernando	63	68	92.65%
0311 Antelope Valley	86	88	97.72%
0348 Palmdale	37	39	94.87%
0377 Sunland-Tujunga	68	59	115.25%
0507 Newhall-Saugus	52	66	78.78%
0520 Sun Valley	33	47	70.21%
0817 Panorama City	<u>53</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>112.77%</u>
TOTAL	392	414	94.86%

Wow! Look at these numbers, Ladies! We are soooo close to 100%. I know we can do it, let's GO!



MUSIC

Mahala Beery

I hope everyone had great holidays, Easter, Passover, or other holidays in March/April. The only music going through my head as I write this is ...*Here comes Peter Cottontail..hoppin' down the bunny trail, Hippy Hoppity Easter's on it's way.*

Music is always around and helps with many of life's circumstances.

We are doing our Unit Year end reports, which makes me think of "Whistle While You Work", I love the whistling part, probably because I can't whistle.

I hope your life has been filled with music and you feel it has enhanced your life this year. Keep counting those hours and money spent and make sure they are included on your reports! Convention is right around the corner, hope to see you there!

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bonnie Christener

Sending care packages to a deployed service member is not only a supreme act of kindness (especially when you do not know them personally) but is a tangible way to let them know that someone is thinking of them "back home". While they are restrictions on what you can send (see many lists available online), it's more about the idea and thought. Just imagine a service member opening up a box and finding their favorite chips. You know that's going to make that person feel better and maybe help a little with being away from home.

(Continued in the next column)

NATIONAL SECURITY *(continued)*

Bonnie Christener

In 1941, the USO was one of the first organizations to send care packages to the troops. In November of 2020, the USO officially delivered it's three millionth care package and that does not include packages sent by individuals and other organizations like the American Legion Auxiliary. Remember when sending care packages, the size of the box is very important, the bigger the box the more it costs to ship it. A company called "Shipthriftly" works with individuals to send care packages. Their website indicates that they provide free labels when sending twenty-five packages or more and have discovered different savings opportunities that can save most groups a huge amount of money. You can find more information at <http://shipthriftly.com>. Regardless of how you ship the boxes, get them sent by Thanksgiving or the end of November to allow for shipping time.

This article was sent out by our Central Division National Security Chairman Michelle Woodburn (IN) so I thought I would share the information in case any of our units might want to send out care packages.

April 22—Earth Day



PARLIAMENTARIAN

Nancy Heinisch

Members and dues:

Should you have a rule in your constitution and bylaws that requires lapsed members to pay "back dues" before reinstating into membership? The answer is no. You can't discipline a member for not paying dues. If they no longer want to pay dues and belong to the organization, that is the decision of the member. If a member wants to keep "continuous years of membership" the member may opt to pay all the back dues owed, but it's not a requirement for reinstatement.

A member must be current with dues before transferring to another unit.

Questions on Department Code:

Information on current department code can be found at <http://c alegionaux.org/programs/cb/>. If you are not sure about an issue, this is the first place to research.





PAST PRESIDENTS PARLY

Reports are due by Friday, April 14th.

POPPIES

Linda Hayes

May 1 begins Poppy Month! Are your plans in order to begin offering Poppies for donations?



Branding: As you are out and about in the public looking for donations, it's always a good idea to "brand" yourself. Check out the Emblem Sales which offers Poppy Pin to the left. There are also several other poppy items that may interest you.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Linda Hayes

The Editor of the Department's newsletter titled "The Auxiliary News Hub" is up on the website. The editor of the "Hub" is Nancy Heinisch, from our District 20. The following is from Nancy:

Please take a moment to read the latest copy of The American Legion Auxiliary News Hub which is posted on the Department website. The Hub can be found at the Editor's Desk <https://calegionaux.org/editors-desk/>. The April / May issue features an article about Kristina Steward from ALA Unit 377 who won the National Good Deed Award, a Sock Hop blurb from ALA Unit 817 President Barbara Garrison, a poppy history from ALA Unit 520 President Ann Philcox, and a comprehensive legislative report from ALA Unit 348 President Linda Hayes. Way to go, Roaring 20th District!



VA&R

Laura Kellgreen

As you know, Veteran suicide is the leading issue facing the American Legion. TAL has asked Congress to:

- ◆ Support the funding, implementation, and expansion of the VA and community-based mental health services through Veterans Centers, whole health innovations and transitional support.
- ◆ Increase access to alternative therapies by decreasing the barriers to their use.

Besides asking Congress to implement and expand services, we can help through the American Legion's "Be the One" campaign. The campaign encourages the American Legion Family to take action if we believe a veteran is at risk of committing suicide. Please:

- ◆ "Be the One" to ask veterans in your life how they are doing;
- ◆ "Be the One" to listen when a veteran needs to talk;
- ◆ "Be the One" to reach out when a veteran is struggling.

APRIL – MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Military kids are like dandelions:



they bloom where they are planted.

fb.com/themilitarywifeandmom





What's Happening In the Roarin' 20th District?

Unit 348

May 5 Pin-Ups on Tour: Operation Palmdale
Free to Veterans & Spouse
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Unit 817

April 16 Auxiliary Breakfast—9:00 to 11:00

April Birthdays



18th Hila Estrada

If your birthday isn't included, let the Editor know at:

LJeffery@aol.com
661-209-4365

April Dates to Remember

Monthly Program Focus: Children & Youth

Recognition Month: Made in America

April Fool's Day	April 1
Good Friday	April 7
Easter	April 9
Gold Star Spouses Day	April 5
Air Force Reserve Birthday	April 14
Purple Up! Day	April 15
Earth Day	April 22
Army Reserve Birthday	April 23
National Military Brats Day	April 30

5 FACTS ABOUT MILITARY BRATS

- 1) **Definition of Military Brats**—Military Brats are the kids who are, or once were, the children of members of the armed forces.
- 2) **One in every 25 American citizens**—One in every 25 American citizens is part of a military family — as per a rough estimate, as many as 15 million Americans are Military Brats.
- 3) **Military Brats change schools frequently**—Military Brats reportedly attend between four and 12 schools in their lives — the national average is six schools
- 4) **Famous Military Brats**—Amy Adams, Christina Aguilera, Jessica Alba, Chris Cooper, John Denver, Shaquille O'Neal, and Reese Witherspoon are some of the most famous Military Brats.
- 5) **Childhood memories**—Kids who've grown up on military bases may not be able to access their childhood home or other familiar places once their parents retire from active duty unless they also join the army.



From the Editor's Corner

The Earth Day 2023 Theme is 'Invest in Our Planet'

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd worldwide. Every year, the **Earth Day theme** is announced. Earth Day is a day of action and a reminder for everyone to reflect on the impact of human activity on the planet. It is also a day to celebrate our beautiful planet and take action to preserve it.

This year's Earth Day theme is designed to persuade businesses, governments, and citizens around the world of the need to invest in our planet to improve our environment and give our descendants a better and safer future.

Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970 in the United States, inspired by the devastating oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, in 1969. That year, at a UNESCO conference in San Francisco, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace, to first be observed on March 21, 1970 - the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. This day of nature's equipoise was later sanctioned in a proclamation written by McConnell and signed by Secretary-General U Thant at the United Nations.

A month later, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed the idea to hold a nationwide environmental teach-in on April 22, 1970. He hired a young activist, Denis Hayes, to be the National Coordinator. Nelson and Hayes renamed the event 'Earth Day'. Denis and his staff grew the event beyond the original idea for a teach-in to include the entire United States. More than 20 million people poured out on the streets, and the first Earth Day remains the largest single-day protest in human history. It also helped spur the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of important environmental legislation.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders approached Denis Hayes to once again organize another major campaign for the planet. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest honor given to civilians in the United States — for his role as Earth Day founder.

On Earth Day 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and 120 other countries. This signing satisfied a key requirement for the entry into force of the historic draft climate protection treaty adopted by the consensus of the 195 nations present at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

