



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of California
The Roarin' 20th District

CHATTERBOX

Volume 64, #1

September 2024



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 Service members.

2024—2025 DISTRICT OFFICERS

President	Liz Tungate	amlegion817@gmail.com
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Sun Valley 520	Eva Miles	evabeans@yahoo.com
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OFFICER REPORTS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Linda Hayes



Crown Thy Good with Brotherhood

Special congratulations to Linda Hayes, a long standing member of Unit 348, as our new American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California President. Woohoo! Linda's theme for this year is America the Beautiful.

Madame President's Special Project is divided between two organizations: **Veterans Peer Access Network** also known as VPAN and **Veterans Transition Center of Monterey County at Ford Ord.**

Both non-profit organizations rehouse homeless veterans and their families. Other ways they collaborate with veterans include substance abuse, mental health, healthcare, suicide prevention, and more.

Make checks payable to ALA Department of California and earmark "Dept. President's Special Project." Send donations directly to:

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California Treasurer
10400 Twin Cities Rd., Ste. 20, #107
Galt, CA 95632

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS



Krista Young (Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms) and Sam Marsteller (Department Sergeant at Arms)

DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT

Liz Tungate

Welcome to the New Year at District 20! Our District's main goal will be to honor our veterans each and every day. Our District's focal point will be the six major programs: PLACER – poppies, legislative, Americanism, children & youth, education, and VA&R. We will work together to put forth the effort and learn these programs better, giving them the attention they deserve. Planned workshops and other fun activities will be offered throughout the year, either during monthly meetings or other days of the month.



It is my hope that our District will be united by our faith in God and Country. This unity will help to strengthen our foundation and enable us to continue supporting the American Legion and our veterans. Remember the ALA mission - honor our veterans, military, and their families. Auxiliary members are always there to support veterans and their families in our Posts and throughout the community.

CHAPLAIN

Carol McChesney

What awesome start to District 2024/2025 year as it's Patriot's Day, September 11th.

Here we are in another year making plans with our District 20 new officers, Liz, President and her cabinet. Keep all of them in your prayers for much success in their leadership. Congratulations to all!

Thank the good Lord for freedom to worship in our own personal belief and so many other freedoms we hold dear and sacred. Let us all stand together with Linda Hayes, Department President's motto, Crown thy Good with Brotherhood.

Sending prayers to all our members who may not be feeling well or have been sick. Please, all units keep me informed of any member so a remembrance card can be sent from District 20. Contact me at: cmcchesney1@msn.com or cell: (818) 317-7362.

Prayers for the American Legion Auxiliary's mission statement 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 aboard. May this motto continue to remain strong and firm.



HISTORIAN

Krista Young

Prior to taking pictures of Veterans who are in medical offices or centers, you must obtain verbal consent.

Unit and Junior Historians should consider entering your Written, Picture Book, Electronic History Books for competition.

Please send pictures of activities from your post to kristayoung82@yahoo.com or text them to me at (661) 916-5126 so I can archive them in our District book. Please include flyers, names of people in the pictures and basic information about the activity or event.

Thank you and I'm looking forward to hearing from you!



PAST PRESIDENT

Carol Harville

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 and
- * 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.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Ann Philcox

A Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for maintaining order in the areas where the organization conducts business.

CHAIRMEN REPORTS

AMERICANISM

Laura Kellgreen

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 4-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into five classes. One award in each of the five classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive a prize designated by the Department Code. Each Unit can submit an essay in each class for consideration to District by March 28, 2025.

If you have any kids or schools who are interested, the details are available on the ALA website or by contacting me.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Marlena Tungate

The Children and Youth Program supports the well-being of children, especially those in military families, by providing resources and advocacy. It addresses challenges like frequent relocations and parental deployment, promoting education, health, and emotional support. By engaging with the program, units can raise awareness and provide assistance to ensure these children thrive despite their unique circumstances

CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS

Ann Philcox

The ALA District 20 eboard met on August 14, 2024. During this meeting we discussed revisions of the District 20 Standing Rules. There were some changes and as your chairman I hope you will be in attendance to vote.

So as not to hold up the meeting Roberts Rules state each person can speak twice on an issue for no more than one minute. The discussion will be after the motion. No exception to this rules. Then it will be put to the vote.

Please be in attendance. Remember this is YOUR ORGANIZATION and you all have input .



EDUCATION

Submitted by Chandra Young

When engaging with schools to introduce ALA programs, the approach matters. Start by contacting schools through the general email address listed on your local school district's website, rather than visiting in person with brochures. Request to be connected with relevant staff, such as teachers or counselors, and follow their guidance on the next steps. This initial contact helps establish a proper channel for presenting ALA initiatives effectively.

To support the American Legion Auxiliary's Give 10 to Education program, collect school supplies in multiples of ten—such as pencils, notebooks, and glue sticks. Determine specific needs by checking school websites, consulting ALA members who are teachers, or referring to the Give 10 to Education Suggested Donation Items and Tracking Sheet available on the ALA Education Committee webpage. For Veterans in Community Schools presentations, coordinate early with teachers, propose an activity plan, and prepare both veterans and students for a meaningful interaction.

Lastly, when promoting the ALA Girls State program, ensure you are familiar with its details, engage with guidance counselors well before deadlines, and utilize available funding to enhance visibility through school publications. For details on Give 10 to Education and ALA Education programs, visit the National Education Committee or email education@ALAforVeterans.org. We believe in your Unit, let's go show our youth we believe in them!

LEADERSHIP

Ann Philcox



Leadership = leading change, inspiring people, empowering people and a shared vision.

LEGISLATIVE

Kathy Falconer

On June 20th, Past National Commander Brett Reistad spoke at an AL event commemorating the 80th anniversary of the GI Bill. He asked those in attendance to remember the WWI generation, which established the Legion, for its vision in fighting for a veterans benefit and economic engine that would far outlive them. That engine of course was the Legislative program.

Glenda Schultz is our Legislative Chairman for Dept of CA 2024-2025. We will be known as “Lobbyist”, which of course we are. The first thing she ask is for you to get involved. Glenda has requested that we get ourselves familiar with the following websites: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committee/legislative>, and <https://www.legion.legion-aux.org/advocacy>. Also, www.legion.org/legislative and obtain info on legislative priorities. Then go to the “Grass Roots Action Center” and sign up for alerts and then every Friday you will receive a “Grass Roots Action Letter”. This will keep you updated with the latest priorities from the American Legion.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mahala Beery

The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary National Security Committee is to maintain and provide a strong national defense, strengthening our military families, and preparing our population for response to national and manmade disasters.

Congratulations to all the new officers and chairmen of District 20, especially our District President Liz Tungate! It will be a special year in our District with our Department President Linda Hayes being a member of District 20, Palmdale, Unit 348. Madam President Linda Hayes’ theme for the National Security Committee is AKA Strategic Planning Commission.

Every Unit should endeavor to give its members an understanding of the necessity of maintaining National Security. Please check the California Department of the ALA website (calegionaux.org) and the National ALA (legion-aux.org) website for more details and ideas.

September is National Preparedness month. Does everyone have emergency supplies and a plan, an exit strategy if you need to evacuate or other emergencies happen? Strategic planning is key. Does your Unit or Post have a plan for emergencies?

September 11th is Patriot’s Day, for those of us who are old enough, we shall never forget where we were that day in 2001. The third Friday of September is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Does your post do a ceremony does your Unit participate? September 29 is Gold Star Mother’s Day, 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.

As the year progresses, we will give more ideas on maintaining National Security, helping each unit plan strategically and more information on the ALA National Security Program.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carol Mcchesney

There are so many ways we can share public relations. One is being kind and understanding with our younger Auxiliary members. Doors have opened to new members who are getting their feet wet so to speak in their path of learning about so many things about the American Legion Auxiliary. These new members are anxious to learn all the aspects.

We have to remember to be patient with their questions, guiding them with our knowledge and for us to be as informative as we can as they navigate through the process. Be considerate, as someone may be observing your words and deeds.

The other big picture of Public Relations is sharing who we are by sending Unit flyers and Unit events to Lyle Workman, the Webmaster at webmaster@calegion.org, Facebook and Instagram.

Also, we all can be examples by wearing ALA brands to meetings and events.



RESOLUTIONS

Marlena Tungate

We encourage units to submit Resolutions highlighting their initiatives or recognizing members for their dedication and service. This is a great opportunity to showcase your unit's impact and honor those who go above and beyond in their contributions. You can find a sample Resolution online at the Department website (calegionaux.org).

VA & R

Barbara Garrison

Ways we can 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. Keep track of all your volunteer time, dollars spent and miles driven.



September is Music Month!

SEPTEMBER

National Suicide Month National Service Dog Month

- 02: Labor Day
- 11: Patriot Day
- 14: Department Northern Workshop
- 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
- 20: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 17—23: Constitution Week
- 17: POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 18: Air National Guard Birthday
- 22: First Day of Fall
- 29: Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
- 29: VFW Day

A poster for an event called "Quarter Mania!". The text on the poster includes: "QUARTER MANIA! 25¢", "AMERICAN LEGION Unit 817", "SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16th 10am - 2pm", "BRING Your PiggyBank of Quarters", "BOUTIQUE LUNCH AUCTION", "\$20 PreSale \$25 at the door extra paddles \$5 ea", "American Legion Auxiliary", "13553 KEEPLEY ST., PANORAMA CITY", and "ellePAYMENTS ACCEPTED • MORE INFO CALL 818-321-4362". The poster features a piggy bank and several quarters falling around it.

October 9: American Legion Auxiliary District 20 Meeting:

September 27: Deadline for articles and photos to the October *Chatterbox*

October 5: *Chatterbox* emailed

Please contact Madame President Liz regarding submissions to the *Chatterbox*.