



OCTOBER 2024

Unit 72 Anaheim
Unity 131 Santa Ana
Unit 133 Huntington Beach
Unit 132 Orange
Unit 222 Laguna Beach
Unit 257 Laguna Hills
Unit 277 Placentia
Unit 281 South Orange County
Unit 295 Cypress
Unit 291 Newport Beach
Unit 327 Leisure World
Unit 354 Buena Park
Unit 555 Albert Schwab
Unit 679 Richard Nixon
Unit 716 Los Alamitos
Unit 721 San Juan Capistrano

ATTENTION

UNITS!

HAVE YOU:

- Turned in your **POPPY ORDER** to District Chair
- Turned in your **GIRLS STATE RESERVATION FORM**
- Turned in your **AUDIT FORM** (that your books have been audited)
- PAID YOUR TAXES** and turned in form to district and Department
- Signed Up and started using **ALAMIS**



NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT—

Hello to all Unit members of our great state of Texas! Yes, I know we are not in Texas, but that is our name for this year to Department. Our 1 st Lady is Laura Bush. I really do like the suggestions that some of you submitted for possible names for our District but we had to follow rules from the Dept. Pres., Linda, so this is what we have now! You may see some of the Unit Presidents wearing their “deputy” cowboy hats!

Thank you to all of our District chairmen for the excellent work done for our September meeting. IF you attended, and still have questions about a certain program, please be sure to send questions or call the chairman if there is something you don't understand.

We are still trying to get the new La Habra Unit started but apparently there is paperwork that they are not able to complete without more help! Of course, we will not leave them stranded and we WILL be sure they get Auxiliary information and NOT send things to National as a Legionnaire asked a Unit to do. We have several long-term members who are able and willing to help a Unit with any of their problems, this should only be taken up with District officers or chairs PRIOR to your Unit officers or members contacting Department or National! Methinks several ALA members are under the impression that the Legion controls them! THIS IS JUST NOT SO!!! IF you or your Unit find yourself having problems with Legionnaires or Sons or Riders, please vet it out with one of us at the District level first! We will try to help THEN, if the problem cannot be resolved, we will steer you to the correct Department officer or chairmen (or maybe both). Our Department Unit Development & Revitalization chair is a friend of mine, Kathy Martinez. Both of our daughters attended Junior Conference together and we have remained friends for a VERY long time. She will be able to get things on track for any Unit that may need more help than we can give you!

Am hoping to make more Unit visits as the weather cools down and my car lets me use it! Should your Unit need a specific date & time for the District visit, please let me know ASAP. Should your Unit need help with a particular problem BEFORE we make a visit, please be sure you've discussed it with our District chairperson first. If that chairman cannot help or doesn't have the answer, then you'll need to ask one of our District officers.

Hope to see you all soon!

Pat

D29 President,
Email: ed50pat49@yahoo.com or cell: (714) 342-4173



DISTRICT PRESIDENT VISITS TO UNITS

Throughout the fiscal year, each unit is required to be visited at least one time by the district president. If you have not already been scheduled, please take the time to invite Madam President Pat Alvarez to your unit meeting. Other members of the district may accompany her, but she is the distinguished guest of the evening.

PROTOCOL FOR DISTINGUISHED GUEST VISITS

Advancement of Guests

The Distinguished Guests chair (usually the Sergeant-at-Arms) should meet the guest at the door of the meeting room. The guest is then escorted down the aisle on the chairman's right upon receiving a signal from the chair. The guest should have been notified in advance regarding whether the meeting is formal or informal, the time and place of the meeting, and the amount of time given for speeches/presentations.

Seating of Guests The guest of honor is always seated at the right of the presiding officer; the second most important guest is placed at left of the presiding officer.



Our Department of California President, Linda Hayes, will visit District 29 at the January 11, 2025 meeting to be held at the Anaheim Unit/Post.



District 29 Officers and Chairs

- President, Pat Alvarez 714-342-4173
ed50pat49@yahoo.com
- Vice President I, Cindy Mayfield 714-308-2862
samramay@yahoo.com
- Vice President II, Cindy Edes 714-906-6021
cindyedes@gmail.com
- Secretary, Noella Passarelli 714-756-0236
n.passarelli83@gmail.com
- Treasurer, Kim Thompson 714-713-1052
kt040495@yahoo.com
- Chaplain, Gail Spitzform 626-506-0366
spitz316@aol.com
- Historian, Pat Burr 949-633-1848
pat949@comline.com
- Sergeant-at-Arms, Yoli Gonzalez 909-730-9212
yoligz@yahoo.com
- Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms, Janet De Monceau Bergendal
949-887-8945 rjdumon@yahoo.com
- Americanism, Kristin Landis 562-964-9020
klandis515@yahoo.com
- Aux. Emergency Fund, Nancy Hall, 714-504-8433
nancytchs@aol.com
- Children and Youth, Dar Phillips 714-293-6157
justdardar@gmail.com
- Community Service, Stacey Smith 714-273-8111
Onyxbear612@yahoo.com
- Constitution & By-Laws, Cindy Edes See VP II
- Education, Wendy Hart Hagen 714-448-0254
wendyhart.oc@gmail.com
- Girls's State, Noella Passarelli See Secretary
- Junior Activities, Joanna Garcia 562-225-8411
jgarcia90815@yahoo.com
- Leadership, Cindy Edes See VP II
- Legislative, Leisha Fauth 714-469-1825
lfauth36@gmail.com
- National Security, Yoli Gonzalez See Sergeant-at-Arms
- Past President's Parley, Pat Burr See Historian
- Poppy,
@yahoo.com**
- Public Relations, Wendy Hart Hagen See Education
- Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Cindy Mayfield
See VPI
- National Security, Yoli Gonzles 909-730-9212
yoligz@yahoo.com



GIRLS STATE

A letter from Unit 679 Yorba Linda's Delegate

Report on the 81st Session of the American Legion Auxiliary California Girls State

Hello! I sincerely apologize for how late this report is. I have been on a long trip ever since I returned from Girls State, and I wanted time to properly report back on the phenomenal experience that I had. I could not even put into words just how wonderful and eye-opening the experience was. It was, without a single doubt in my mind, the best week of my life. Just like a tale old as time, there were absolutely challenges when I first arrived, but the experience became more and more rewarding with the more obstacles that I managed to tackle.

When I started packing a few nights before my departure, I was nervous. I was completely overcome with anxiety about so many fickle details and most of all, I did not want to disappoint the wonderful unit that had sponsored me for this once in a lifetime opportunity. I kept thinking over and over again. If I didn't enjoy my experience at Girls State, then how could I face the wonderful people that have gotten me to this point? I kept thinking and thinking. I was in over my head just trying to figure out what I would say to the other girls and how they would perceive me.

Then, before I knew it, the day arrived. We pulled up to the parking lot of the Target and even picked up some last-minute essentials. I was getting jittery and freaking out every minute that we were waiting for the bus. Eventually, I saw a group of girls crowded near the back, and I knew that I had to go up and introduce myself right away. I learned and connected with a few, even finding out that many of us actually have mutual friends. Then as the bus arrived, I said my final goodbyes to my parents as they saw me go into the bus that would take me to an unforgettable place that would unknowingly change my perspectives and mindsets forever.

The bus was absolutely FREEZING. I didn't get a single second of sleep in anticipation for my first day of Girls State, but I found that the sleep was nearly impossible within the bus. It was practically Antarctica there. I was constantly warned about the heat of Sacramento, so I had dressed very light, not knowing that the inside of the bus that I would be taking for the next 12 hours would be like a fridge. I was shivering and trying my hardest to warm myself in any way possible throughout the entire ride. Not only that, but nearly every 2 hours a bright light would blast into my corneas and disturb any semblance of sleep that I had. It was definitely not a promising start.

When the bus finally arrived at the beautiful Sacramento State University campus, I was so so ready to escape the frigid cold. But, that sentiment did not last for very long as the waves of dry heat began to creep in, and I was immediately wishing for the airconditioning of the bus. As I checked in, I found that I would be in the first floor dorm. I was thanking lady luck as there was absolutely no chance that I would be able to lug my huge suitcase all the way up the stairs. As I met with my city, I was immediately welcomed in by the girls. Slowly but surely, my nervousness began to melt away. It was incredible to see girls that were so intelligent and held so many similar values as me. Topics that I was usually told by others to keep quiet about could be discussed without any worry. But, just as fast as I was settling in, I was suddenly met with an overwhelming turnover time as the elections for city level positions already started to take place.

When I was told at orientation that losing would be one of the most important things that happens

Continued Next Page...

at Girls State, I was very doubtful. I'm not the kind of person to be able to pick myself back up from losses at a very quick rate, and Girls State would fly by before my eyes. Before I knew it I had lost my election for the Board of Education on the city level. I was pretty upset to say the least. I had barely gotten any sleep on the bus, almost collapsed from the heat, and now I had lost my very first election. I was already ready to go home. I desperately wanted to call my parents to come pick me up out of embarrassment and just how stressful the first day had been. Yet, I endured and pushed on. I told myself to at least go through the first day without backing out. As we reached the end of the day, there was one last orientation. When I heard the story of executive director Darcy Totten, I was close to shedding tears. Her story had resonated with me so much, and her speech motivated me to make the most out of Girls State. I grew a new mindset that there is no one who has managed to be successful without going through losses of their own, but what they did differently was that they grew from their experiences.

When the next morning arrived, I picked myself back up and told myself that I will get through this week feeling proud of what I had accomplished. Despite me losing my first election, I immediately jumped at the next opportunity for a position and ran at the county level. I was successfully able to be elected as the county recorder/auditor! I was incredibly proud and especially thankful for the girls that had encouraged me to run for another position even though I had lost my first time around. In fact, I am so incredibly thankful that I lost my first election at the city level. Now, I was given a new opportunity to pursue a topic that I was more interested in, finance management, and I was able to have a deeper connection with fellow girls that had lost on the city level as well. I grew so many new connections and friends that had uplifted me to be courageous and brave because of the fact that I had faced that loss. It really shed light on the fact that one thing that goes awry isn't the end of the world. I'm someone who usually finds myself feeling very discouraged and quitting when things don't seem to go as I had tried for accordingly. I know that it's an awful mindset to have, but I couldn't help myself from the overwhelming feeling of shame from being a loser. But, I learned during this experience at Girls State that being a "loser" is what it takes to grow and learn from your mistakes. I am ever grateful for having very much failed at my first attempt at running for a position.

On the side, I pursued Press Corps whenever I had the spare time. Me and my group of friends all went in together and made the voting guides for the state positions. This experience at Press Corps taught me leadership and taking charge when things seem to go awry. For the voting guides, we were supposed to interview each candidate and take a photo of them. However, this went horribly offtrack. There was not any time to interview any of the candidates as time was tight, and there was most definitely no time to get a proper photo of them. As the team was panicking, I suggested we make a google form instead and share the qr codes with each of the candidates. Surely enough, this was our saving grace. I created the google form and had everyone in the group go around and share the link. At the end of the day, we raced against time and made the voting guide just in the nick of time. This experience taught me to keep level headed and innovate when there doesn't seem to be any way out of a situation.

But most of all, one of the most important moments that happened at Girls State was when I was helping my friend file and run for the position of Lieutenant Governor. She had lost all of her previous election and was pretty much on her last leg. Her last option now was to run at the state level, but she kept doubting herself over and over again on if she should even do it. As state filing began, I finally managed to convince her to go for it, and I ran around everywhere trying to get the sufficient signatures. With 1 minute left, we managed to turn in the proper papers and she officially became a nominee. I was so proud of her for even going through with it in the first place. We shared a long hug and a sweet conversation. It completely filled my heart

Continued Next Page...

with joy. I learned that I felt the most happiness when I was helping others, just like the motto of the American Legion Auxiliary "service, not self." Furthermore, she managed to win the position at party level and made it all the way to the final state debates. Unfortunately, she was defeated at the state level, but none of that mattered because she told me that she was thankful and grew the most from this experience. In the end, losing ends up teaching you most in the long run.

Before I knew it, the days were flying by. Just a few days ago, I so desperately wanted to go back home. Now, those sentiments were long gone and I wanted to stay forever. I couldn't even bear the thought of leaving the girls that I had bonded with and learned from. We grew to become sisters and I adored our city of Earhart. The girls truly put the "heart" into Earhart. It was just too overwhelming to suddenly leave an incredible place that had changed my mindset forever. I learned the importance of companionship and collaboration. I learned more lessons than I could've asked for. We laughed, we cried, and most importantly we had all come together as a wonderful city that would always be there for one another. I loved the friends that I made, and I still keep in contact with them to this day. They were so bright, and I could right away tell them that these would be the girls that would be the future leaders of our nation. I could not have asked for any other experience.

By the last ceremony, I became a mess of tears as I said my last goodbyes to the girls that had changed my life in the span of such a few days. It was such a bittersweet moment, but I couldn't help but be happy that I even had the chance to meet these wonderful wonderful people. I am ever so thankful for this amazing experience at Girls State. I would not be the same person without that week of collaboration and learning. I will be sure to keep these moments close to my heart and become the best version of me that I could possibly be. I learned the beauty of passing on what you have learned first hand, and will share this lesson with others that I will face in my life. I learned to greet everyone with a smile and to encourage others in their moments of doubt like how the other girls had done for me. I will always always support those who face challenges, and I will, without a doubt, change the world with small acts of service everyday. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity, and I hope to stay in touch.

Sincerely,
Lucien Jeon





GIRLS STATE



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



Bulletin #1

www.cagirlsstate.org

August 2024

Hello Girls State Chairman ,

Thank you for serving as an ALA CA Girls State Chairperson! This is always a true team effort, so do not hesitate to give input or ask questions. We need each one of you to make our 2025 session a success!

Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:

- If you have not done so already, update your information on the [District and Unit GS Chair list](#).
 - If you have other volunteers assisting with Girls State and would like to receive email updates, please add their contact information on the second tab, “Other Interested Volunteers”.

Refer to the [2024-25 Suggested Calendar for Unit GS Chairs](#) and bulletins each month.

Identify a contact at each school sponsored (counselor, teacher for government, debate, leadership) to assist with identifying interested students and passing along information.

- Consider sharing the [Youth Programs Brochure](#) and/or [What is ALA Girls State](#).
- Provide the proposed session dates and location: June 14 – June 19, 2025 at Sacramento State. Contact me if you have not received reports from any 2024 delegates sponsored by the Unit. Request certificates from State Senators and Assemblymembers for 2024 ALA CAGS participants.
- Verify on the [Reservation list](#), Column E that the delegate attended the entire session.
- Find the names and contact information for the representative by entering the home address of the Girls State citizen at the findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov.
- Contact the representatives’ offices to explain the ALA CA Girls State program and request a letter of recognition. Invite the representatives to attend your recognition event and personally present the certificate. Provide the official with the name of the citizen, the name of the program, the location of the program, and the completion date (July 1, 2024).

- Sample text for certificate:

Name

To acknowledge your outstanding achievement and representation of your community as a Citizen of the 80th Session of American Legion Auxiliary California Girls State at California State University, Sacramento.

I commend your commitment to service, leadership development, and learning the importance of meaningful participation in all levels of government.

July 1, 2024

Determine how the Unit will pay for the 2025 Unit Enrollment Fee (estimated to be \$425).

- See [Fundraising folder](#) for ideas.

Begin thinking about how to identify interested students. See [Candidate Recruitment folder](#).

Remember to track ALA CAGS volunteer hours from Unit members from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. This number will be asked on the end of the year report.

Next Zoom: Monday, August 26 at 6pm for 1st-year Chairs and 7pm for all Chairs

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

Meeting ID: 854 8411 6950

Passcode: ALAcags82

At the 6pm meeting we will give a brief overview of the program and review the suggested calendar



GIRLS STATE

for Unit GS Chairs. All are welcome to attend, even if you are not a 1st year Chair.

- At the 7pm meeting we will review new resources created by our Candidate Recruitment and Fundraising Leadership Teams and answer questions.
- Both meetings will be recorded for those unable to attend.

NEW address for all Girls State Donations and Fees

- Any donations earmarked for Girls State should be mailed directly to the Department Treasurer:
Kathy Tellyer
American Legion Auxiliary
10400 Twin Cities Rd
Suite 20 #107
Galt, CA 95632
- You may use this [Donation Transmittal form](#).

Resources for Unit and District Girls State Chairpersons:

- [Shared Google Drive folder](#)

Future ALA CAGS Session Dates Proposed to CSU Sacramento:

- Saturday, June 14-Thursday, June 19, 2025
- Monday, June 22-Saturday, June 27, 2026

National ALA Girls State Leadership Conference: 2025 ALA CAGS Director Allyn Kau and Chairman Caroline Miller will be attending in Indianapolis September 2024.

2024 ALA CAGS Session

- All 418 delegates arrived to the session.
- 411 delegates finished the session. 7 delegates left the session - 4 delegates left early due to physical illness, 2 for Mental illness, 1 for a family emergency.
- Compared to 2023 session – 454 delegates registered, 4 left early due to anxiety, 3 due to illness, 3 for behavior issues, 1 for family emergency, 11 left during the session, 443 delegates finished.

Thank you for all your work!

Caroline Miller, alacagschair@gmail.com,
949-233-7438



GIRLS STATE



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



BULLETIN #2

OCTOBER 2024

Due October 1st - [2025 Reservation Form](#)

Hello Girls State Chairman,

Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:

- Complete the [2025 Reservation Form](#).

Deadline is October 1 to help us plan and know which schools Units plan to sponsor. The Reservation Form will remain open after the October 1 deadline. Units can continue to submit reservations after the deadline.

Once an initial Reservation Form is submitted, a Unit can email alacagschair@gmail.com the name and city of the high school, type of school, and whether the school participates in TAL CABS to add or change schools.

- Download the [2024 ALA GS School Introductory Letter](#) (with FAQs) and fill in the five blanks at the bottom of page 1 to distribute to school personnel.
- If you are having difficulty reaching personnel at the high school the Unit would like to sponsor and would like assistance, please complete the [2024 ALA CAGS Assistance Contacting Schools request form](#).
- After you contact the school and reserve them, follow up with information that will be helpful to the Counselor. If new, for example, download the [Structure of ALA Girls State](#) and the [Letter to High School Principal or Counselor/FAQs](#).

Next Zoom: Monday, September 23rd at 7:00pm

Topic: ALA CAGS Chair Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 854 8411 6950

Passcode: ALAcags82

The meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend.



GIRLS STATE

Links and Information from Previous Bulletins

- [District and Unit GS Chair list](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dUChZKtPIUNJHohLFUYP4BnX1-zMRbo091dpCA_FB_4/edit?gid=0#gid=0)
[Bulletin #1](#)
- [Youth Program Brochure**](https://www.legion-aux.org/brochures/youth-programs-brochure)
- [What is ALA Girls State/What is Auxiliary**](#)
- [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov - \(website\)](https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/)
- [Counselor flyer form.pdf](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15pQXxEL6ormzMOLXrnpeoBYhkbkgC9Cc/view)
- [Fundraising Ideas](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WXLOJ0hoyCH7IX8CgtMjM5vOraN5Y-1WAGdYU6IK4MA/edit?gid=0#gid=0)
- [Fundraising Tool Kit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qPOHpQHdLHGKiJTY08ssJzRgyk2UPRwA/edit)
- [The Structure of Girls State**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CGvsWM0GK6RfNMabeBJCeKP7eUKYgF7/view)
- [Suggested Calendar Final](#)

**Indicates documents that will be helpful to new Counselors and Chairs. Thank you for everything you do! I know most of you wear more than 1 hat. You all amaze me. Caroline Miller, alacagschair@gmail.com (562)444-8296





VA&R

Hello to all!

This year, as VA&R chairmans, we will be called **MASTER SERGEANTS!** Our job is to recruit volunteers for our veterans. We have lots of possibilities with reaching out to our veterans.

SERVICE TO VETERANS: This is service to outside of Veterans facilities. Adopt a veteran, do they face loneliness or are they isolated. Offer care and support, phone calls, running errands, or providing transportation. Check your local senior homes for veterans. Will have more information about volunteer and VA resource at December's meeting.

At the September District meeting, we covered **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA.** We can purchase wreaths for local cemeteries or participate with laying of wreaths. Go on the website. Flyer available last month newsletter, check it out. www.wreathscrossameric.org Schedule day is December 14. Look at the website for your unit, there are many options for participation. Connect with your Post and see what they have planned and make this a Legion Family function. Plan now, it will be December before you know it. Theme this year is **"LIVE WITH A PURPOSE."**

OCTOBER IS CANCER MONTH; October 3rd is focused on Veterans Hospital cancer program. Donations are appreciated. I had flyer available at last months newsletter for any information needed. **THERE IS A NEEDS LIST.**

PLEASE! DONATIONS ARE IN NEED AT PEIR GROUP AND OUR FOOD PANTRY. I sent flyers out last months newsletter. Remember the VA does not supply food for both facilities. They exist because of you with your kind donations.

We have our **BINGO** ready for October. Unit 716 and Unit 131 are scheduled for October 6 @ 2pm. Your District supplies canteen books and raffle gifts. Units can supply gift bags. Gift bags for about 30 vets with one female. **NO FOOD.** Bingo gift ideas:

- ★ Write a thank you card, telling our vet how much we appreciate them.
- ★ \$10 dollar phone charger or chords. Everyone needs a phone charger
- ★ Lotion, shampoos, hair conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs, deodorant and soaps. (Men love old spice and Axe).
- ★ Crossword puzzles, word games.
- ★ Sweatpants or sweatshirts size XL-3XL
- ★ If hooded sweatshirts remove cord
- ★ Size XI-3x
- ★ Underwear L-3XL
- ★ Men's shoes



VA&R

To all units who have questions about VA&R PROGRAM, I plan on having a special meeting after our district meeting DECEMBER 7. Mark down this date and be ready for lots of information. We can take our time and have a question and answer session.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH REPORTS FOR VA&R. Let's make it easy for everyone!

- What is a CBOC, PEIR, VRC, CDCF (formally know as VAVs)
- Honor Flight
- Be The One

I encourage all units to have a member visit us at this meeting. Thanks again ladies, if any questions give me a call. 714-308-2862

Cynthia Mayfield
VA&R District Chairman



BINGO games are set for 2PM on Sundays except for Valentine's Day (02/14/25). It will be on Friday on this day. Should you have any questions, please contact Cindy Mayfield at SAMRAMAY@yahoo.com or by cell at 714-308-2862.

10/06/24 Los Alamitos U 716 and Santa Ana U 131

11/03/24 Newport Harbor U 291

NO BINGO IN DECEMBER



Remember!

SPECIAL VA&R
MEETING AFTER
DECEMBER DISTRICT
MEETING

THANK YOU
VETERANS



VA&R

OCTOBER 3, 2024
THURSDAY 10 AM - 2 PM

TIBOR RUBIN VA MEDICAL CENTER
5901 E. 7TH ST., LONG BEACH, CA 90822
THE LEARNING CENTER BLDG. 165



VA LONG BEACH 2ND ANNUAL BREAST CANCER RISK REDUCTION & SCREENING EVENT

GIFTS FOR ALL VETERANS ATTENDING

SAME DAY MAMMOGRAMS AVAILABLE OR
SCHEDULE A FUTURE APPOINTMENT

LEARN ABOUT RISK REDUCTION

LEARN ABOUT RISK FACTORS

LISTEN TO SURVIVOR STORIES

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

PLEASE NOTE: OUTDOOR EVENT



Albertsons Vons Pavilions, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 295,
The Women's Club of Cypress, Fountain Valley Woman's Club,
BOMBAS, Orange County Trial Lawyers Association,
Veterans Employment Committee of Orange County,
and Operation Gratitude.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
VA Long Beach Healthcare System



AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY VA LONG BEACH WOMEN 'S HEALTH AND CANCER PROGRAM



VA&R

VA Long Beach Healthcare System Fisher House Because a Family's Love is Good Medicine

VA Long Beach Healthcare System Fisher House Wish List

The Fisher House operates on donated funds. Items on the VA Long Beach Healthcare System Fisher House Wish List reflect items that are either one-time needs or on-going needs of running the house. Every donation helps make the Fisher House a home for our veteran's families.

Donations accepted Tuesday and Thursday between noon and 2:00 p.m. Please call the Fisher House to arrange to drop off donations at (562) 826-5916. Without donations from the community, the Fisher House would not be a success. Our Veteran's families appreciate all donations.

We do not accept "cash" contributions. Checks should be payable to VA Long Beach Healthcare System with the memo section of the check indicating: Fisher House. Gift Cards allow ease in picking up items needed for the Fisher House. For the Fisher House consider Wal-Mart, Vons, Ralphs, Target, Kohl's, Home Depot, Lowes, or general VISA or MasterCard gift cards.

Items the Fisher House can use:

For the Pantry:

Meat (chicken, beef, bacon, etc.)
Packaged lunchmeat
Breads
Assorted dry goods (individual cereals, muffin or cake mixes)
Assorted can goods (chicken, tuna, assorted soups)
Frozen entrees, pasta, mac & cheese
Juices, yogurt, cheese sticks, butter
Coffee supplies – sugar, creamer, stir sticks
Coffee k-cups
Tea, Honey
Candy
Fruit

For the Kitchen:

Kitchen Towels and Washcloths
Kitchen Sponges
Liquid dish Soap, Dishwasher tablets



Please

**keep this list!
We always seem
to forget
our Fisher House!**



PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY



PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Financial assistance to California residents who are veterans or members of their families and interested in studying nursing at a school in the state of California. Apply starting September 1 and no later than the 1st Friday in April.

For more information:

<chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcgclcfindmkaj/https://host.calegionaux.org/resource/s/scholarships/scholar-ppp-scholarship-2022-2023.pdf>

**PASS THIS FLYER
AROUND TO ALL
YOUR
LEGION FAMILY
MEMBERS**



JUNIORS



JUNIOR CONFERENCE
Camp Arnaz

APRIL 11 - 13, 2025
155 Sulphur Mountain Rd, Ventura, CA 93001

PROGRAMS **SERVICE** **LEADERSHIP**

For more info: calegionaux.org | calegionfirstlady@gmail.com

HIKING
PICNIC AREA
BONFIRE
TRAILS
SHOWERS

For More information ----

<https://calegionaux.org/mark-your-calendar/junior-conference/>



**American Legion Auxiliary
Junior Conference**

1st Prize: \$200.00
2nd Prize: \$100.00
3rd Prize: \$50.00

\$1.00/ticket
\$10.00/book of 11

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
District _____
Unit _____

**Proceeds from the Raffle
support our Juniors for
JUNIOR CONFERENCE!**



JUNIORS

ALA JUNIORS MEETING

Please contact Lucy Hunt by
September 16th with your email
or cellphone number
(213) 521-9895

**CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

VIA ZOOM



EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY: September 1, 2024 to March 26, 2025

JAMES H PARKS SCHOLARSHIP

Each Veterans Affairs medical center may nominate one Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Student Volunteer to be considered for this scholarship. The nominee must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS during a calendar year prior to September 1. **LAST DAY TO APPLY DEC. 31.**

<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp>

LUCILLE GANEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran.

Applicants for any Department of California Scholarship must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall.

(Exception: Lucille Ganey Scholarship.)

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/scholarships/scholar-e21g-lucille-ganey-memorial-scholarship.pdf>

Continuing/Re-entry Students or students pursuing a higher degree Scholarship

Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran.

Applicants for any Department of California Scholarship must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall. (Exception: Lucille Ganey Scholarship.)

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/scholarships/scholar-ca-E21c-app-for-ed-assist-for-continuing-or-reentry.pdf>

Educational Assistance General Scholarship

Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran.

Applicants for any Department of California Scholarship must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall. (Exception: Lucille Ganey Scholarship.)

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/scholarships/scholar-ca-e21-application-for-ed-funds.pdf>



MEMBERSHIP

Hello to all Unit Membership Chairpersons!

This year we will be called **"FIRE COMPANY"**

We start all over again with membership, it's a new year! I passed out paperwork at our district meeting with our new membership goals. I know we can do it.

We are the biggest and best district as far as membership goals that have been met. We will reach it again this year.

Attached will be a flyer and questions/answer flyer, I hope this is helpful.

I encourage all units to use ALAMIS. Makes life so much easier.

THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE!

Cynthia Mayfield

District memberships

ALAMIS TRAINING MATERIALS: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/membership/alamis-training-manual.pdf>

NEW ALAMIS FEES = \$25.00

ALAMIS ACCESS FORM: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/membership/alamis-access.pdf>


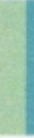


ALAMIS:
American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System

District 29 (Area 5)

Unit #	Unit Name	New	Jrs	Srs	PUFL	Paid Online	Paid to Unit	Total Members	Goal	%	Unit Standing
72	Anaheim	0	0	3	1	3	0	3	37	8.11%	14
131	Santa Ana	0	0	4	4	2	0	4	25	16.00%	11
132	Orange	6	1	31	0	18	14	32	189	16.93%	9
133	Hungtington Beach	7	3	67	1	39	30	70	229	30.57%	4
222	Laguna Beach	0	2	5	4	4	0	7	86	8.14%	13
257	Laguna Hills	1	0	27	2	10	15	27	51	52.94%	1
277	Placentia	1	0	29	3	3	23	29	155	18.71%	7
281	Laguna Niguel	4	0	27	0	6	21	27	85	31.76%	3
291	Newport Harbor	8	10	349	3	322	34	359	1957	18.34%	8
295	Cypress	0	0	32	2	1	29	32	94	34.04%	2
327	Leisure World	2	0	15	4	1	10	15	74	20.27%	6
354	Buena Park	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	85	1.18%	15
555	Albert E Schwab	5	0	23	0	3	20	23	93	24.73%	5
679	Richard M Nixon	0	0	4	0	4	0	4	24	16.67%	10
716	Los Alamitos	0	3	30	4	9	20	33	265	12.45%	12
721	San Juan Capistrano	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.00%	16
Total		34	19	647	31	426	216	666	3467	19.21%	

District 30 (Area 5)

Unit #	Unit Name	New	Jrs	Srs	PUFL	Paid Online	Paid to Unit	Total Members	Goal	%	Unit Standing
24	Frank Luke	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	36	2.78%	2
25	Boyce Aten	0	0	1	4	1	0	1	37	2.70%	3
60	Brawley	0	0	3	2	3	0	3	70	4.29%	1
135	Calipatria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0.00%	4
138	Bradley Keffer	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	100	0.00%	4
802	Quenchan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0.00%	4
Total		0	0	5	8	5	0	5	297	1.68%	

 No Membership Transmitted to Department
 Units that have hit the next Goal Target
 Units that have hit 100% Goal
 Units with less than 10 members or at 0%



American Legion Auxiliary Membership 101 & FAQ

Membership Eligibility 101:

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

- (1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and
- (2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
- (3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and
- (4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Other factors to consider when determining membership eligibility:

- When a request for ALA membership is based on the military service of a family member who is still living, that family member must be a current member of The American Legion before the female relative or spouse may join.
- When a request for ALA membership is based on a deceased veteran the prospective member will be asked to provide verifying documentation that proves his/her eligibility (see acceptable documentation below).
- When a female veteran applies to join the ALA without being a member of The American Legion, she is eligible to join if her service dates fall within one (1) of the eligible service periods as described in the National Constitution. However, should her family members (including spouse) wish to join the ALA or the Sons of The American Legion through her service, she must first become a member of The American Legion.

The following documents are acceptable to verify membership eligibility in the ALA:

1. DD214 discharge papers (not issued until after the Korean War)
2. Official military orders
3. Official military service citations/awards
4. Letters related to the veteran's military service. Must be on official government letterhead.
5. Certificate from the VA records center in St. Louis
6. Data from the back of older discharges



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Eligibility Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is there any circumstance where a person could join the ALA without having a relative as a current member of The American Legion?

A: There are two circumstances when a person can become a member without having a relative as a current member of The American Legion.

- 1) When a woman has served in the military during the requisite dates. She may join the ALA without being a member of The American Legion.
- 2) When a person's membership is based on a deceased veteran the prospective member will be required to provide verifying documentation of the deceased relative's service dates to prove their eligibility.

Q: Is verification of veteran eligibility required by the Post Officer?

A: The signature of the Post Officer should be on every application of those applying for membership. If the Post Officer's signature cannot be obtained after a reasonable effort, a letter from the Department Adjutant will be accepted in lieu of the Post Officer's statement.

The only exception is if the applicant is eligible in her own right, then the Unit Secretary signs and dates the application upon verification of that female veteran's military record.

Q: In a female same-gender marriage, if the female spouse wartime veteran is a member or eligible to be a member of The American Legion, is the female wife eligible for membership in the Auxiliary?

A: On June 26, 2015, the United States Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in the case of Obergefell v. Hodges. The Court's ruling requires a State to license a marriage between two (2) people of the same sex and to recognize a marriage between two (2) people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-State. This decision requires all states to recognize same-gender marriages. The Legion and the ALA will continue to accept into membership those individuals who meet membership eligibility criteria regardless of the gender of their spouses.

Q: Are stepchildren eligible to become members?

A: No, IRS regulation for 501(c)19 organizations do not include stepchildren in their definition of an auxiliary organization.

Q: Are men now eligible to join the Auxiliary?

A: Male spouses of current members of The American Legion are eligible to join the Auxiliary. Male spouses of all men and women who served in the eligible periods (April 6, 1917-November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941) and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge are eligible to join the Auxiliary.

Grandfathers, Fathers, Uncles, Brothers or other male descendants are not eligible to join the Auxiliary.



MEMBERSHIP

Q: Are husbands of Auxiliary members able to now join the Auxiliary?

A: Husbands of American Legion Auxiliary members are only eligible to join the Auxiliary if their spouse is also a current member of The American Legion. Husbands would be eligible due to their spouse's membership in The American Legion and not through their spouse's membership in the Auxiliary.

Q: Is a person eligible through the war service of divorced spouse?

A: A divorced man or woman does not occupy the status of spouse and, therefore, has no eligibility. But the fact that a member of the Auxiliary has become divorced from whom they gained their eligibility does not force them to surrender their Auxiliary membership, even though they may be married to another person. However, if they become delinquent in their ALA dues, they may reinstate their membership only by payment of back dues for all years of delinquency.

Q: Are relatives of members of the Sons of The American Legion eligible for membership in the Auxiliary?

A: Only if the member of the Sons of The American Legion is also a member of The American Legion. If the SAL member is not eligible for membership in The American Legion, the applicant must secure eligibility through the service of an eligible veteran.

Q: Must a potential member join the Unit of the Post of which their service relative is a member?

A: No, the potential member is eligible for membership in any Auxiliary Unit.

Q: Is the spouse of a non-veteran eligible for membership on the war service of a former spouse who died either during the war or following discharge?

A: The fact that the widow of a veteran remarried does not deprive them of their right to belong to the Auxiliary. Under these circumstances the spouse of a non-veteran is eligible for membership in the Auxiliary if their former spouse was a veteran and died either during the war or following their discharge.

Q: Why is membership limited to two degrees of consanguinity (relation)?

A: The IRS regulation concerning auxiliaries to veteran service organizations states in part: "At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships)."

This means that no great or great-great-granddaughters can join the Auxiliary. Current members whose eligibility relationship is great-granddaughter, great-great-granddaughter or direct descendent can continue being a member, as long as their dues are kept current.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Processing Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Does a TAL Post have authority over a Unit's membership or money?

A: Besides verifying the eligibility of a potential Auxiliary member, no TAL Post has the authority to determine the membership of a unit or dictate what a Unit does with their finances.

Q: Can staff at ALA NHQ transfer a member to another unit at the request of the member?

A: No, units have final authority over their own membership. Units must accept the new members transfer and then submit a form to their department for processing.

Q: How long must units retain membership applications?

A: The American Legion National Judge Advocate/ALA Counsel General advises that since eligibility for membership can be challenged at any time during the life of the member, eligibility information should be retained indefinitely, as long as the member is alive. Only the eligibility information needs to be securely retained, and records can be digitized to save space and provide a more convenient way to retain the information. Units are advised to have access to a locked file cabinet in the post or other secure place for record retention and to redact any personally identifying information such as birthdate and social security number in order to secure information from identity theft. Counsel General notes that in the past four years, the IRS has been more stringent about demanding to see eligibility records when they are doing field audits of posts, units and departments. The fact that the IRS has escalated its audits of Legion and ALA entities in recent years may lead to confusion about the length of time for retaining IRS records versus the length of time for retaining eligibility verification records. Counsel General has advised that tax returns need be kept for only seven (7) years, but eligibility records should be retained for the life of the member.

Q: How does the Auxiliary update/correct a members' join date?

A: Members are required to provide proof of original join date, if proof cannot be provided, the member must pay necessary back dues to reinstate continuous membership.

Q: How does a unit request ALA MIS access?

A: All requests for ALA MIS access must be submitted to their department for approval and submission of request.



PUBLIC RELATIONS



HOW TO BEST RESPOND TO A NEWCOMER AT YOUR POST HOME

Read all about it Here:

https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/How-to-best-respond-to-a-newcomer-at-your-post-home?fbclid=IwY2xjawFRelleHRuA2FibQbxMAABHTikHa6QdIlu85FTFVreGWEs-gYrcpl9Gfp42GfddUDtjkPnoddCoVraa9w_aem_tGbWZIMumMcqvINxi8D4OA



So many interesting and helpful articles in the American Legion Auxiliary Blog.



AMERICANISM

District 29 Unit Presidents:

We are off to a fast and wonderful start, and know you have all already been hard at work and busy infusing **Americanism** into your Unit practices and outreach. Please make sure you are tracking, and respectively asking members to track, all the hours flying flags, observing/celebrating National Holidays, educating our youth, and more (you can use last year's Mid/Year End Report as reference guide). Americanism is at the core of our organization's mission and naturally part of almost everything we do in our Units/community so keep up the great work! Days of observance have also been forwarded and listed for your convenience in the district 29 newsletter.

Annual Essay contest topics/titles are now posted, and we encourage all Units to work with local schools, youth groups, Junior members, and even Unit member eligible family members. There are again two contests this year, one for National (same topic for each age group) and one for Department (different topic for each age group). Let's keep up the wonderful success and streak of District prize/scholarship winners from the last two years and would love to see us have submissions in each age group (including special needs) for both contests. I will be discussing this more at the September district meeting and will have additional details and deadlines which will be around end of February or early March. I have attached copies of each essay contest cover sheet so you can see the titles and potential prize levels for your reference and convenience. Additional resources and rule sheets for each group are available on the Dept Americanism Program website at: <https://calegionaux.org/programs/americanism>

National is offering **ALA Challenge Decks** to assist Units in discovering ways to get involved. Units can submit a reservation for their own deck online at: https://legion-aux.formstack.com/.../np_trish_ward... Each deck will cost \$35 with the donation going to the Veteran Projects Fund (National President Trish's special project). Orders will be filled if 2,000 commitments can be received by October 31st. I've attached a flyer with QR code you can share and a preview of the Americanism program cards that would be included in each deck.

Star Spangled Kids is again a focus for this year with encouragement to create and distribute kits to youth. With the Holidays approaching, consider how you can incorporate patriotic items (stickers, keychains, stick flags, bookmarks, etc.) into gift bags or provide ALA coloring books (like the Halloween coloring book that can be printed for free or ordered on emblem sales) at your events, to local schools or youth groups. Link to available printable books is: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Coloring-Books> Additional ideas and kit resources will be shared throughout the year, but please ensure you track how many kits you distribute for Mid/Year end reporting. September 17th is also Constitution Day and there are some great online and printable resources you can share with your Units, Junior coordinators, and local educators (reference sheet attached).

Continued next page....



AMERICANISM

Please reach out should you have any questions and respectively share your success stories, event pictures (social media/FB or email) and ideas. We are a stronger District together and collaborating/sharing ideas both amongst our area Units and working with other focus program chairman.

Sincerely,

Kristin Landis

D29 Americanism Chairman
Unit 716 Los Alamitos
(562) 964-9020
klandis515@yahoo.com

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Take the Challenge **LEAD THE WAY**

When your unit participates in the ALA Challenge Deck, you can discover ways to get involved in your community and make a real difference in the lives of local veterans. Your efforts, big or small, contribute to a brighter future for those who served. With your commitment to donate \$35 to the Veteran Projects Fund, you will support projects serving veterans in local communities and have also found a meaningful way to engage with the mission of the ALA.

Scan the
QR Code
to commit your
donation



Americanism Key Resources Available online www.legion-aux.org

- Americanism Essay Contest Cover Sheet
- Americanism Essay Contest Deadline Flow Chart
- How to Promote Star Spangled Kids
- Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette
- The American Legion's Flag Advocacy
- Citizens Flag Alliance
- The American Legion's Action Programs of Americanism
- ALA's Americanism Facebook Group
- Wreaths Across America Educational Resources
- Much more Available

Americanism Essay Contest

Help increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.

The Americanism Essay Contest topic for 2024-2025:

"What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me (regarding veterans and our military)?"

- Encourage Junior members and family members to participate in the essay contest.
- Work with school administrations to identify guidance counselors, and English and History teachers whose students would be interested in participating.
- Contact youth organizations to identify potential youth for participation in the contest.
- Provide all interested students with information packets explaining contest rules, deadlines, topics, and award opportunities.
- For details on the Americanism Essay Contest, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/americanism-essay-contest>.



Mission Training

2024 – 2025 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

- Nashville – November 16, 2024
- Denver – November 16, 2024
- Des Moines – January 25, 2025
- Las Vegas – February 1, 2025
- Boston – February 1, 2025

ALA Challenge Cards

The deck is a 44-card deck of cards sharing great projects and ideas to work the ALA programs. Our members, units, departments WIN when they play cards AND the Veterans Project experience through the ALA Foundation WINS TOO...as all proceeds benefit the fund...this is our National President Trish Ward's special fundraising project for the year. What a fantastic way to support our National President's special project, the Veterans Project while having FUN and learning all in ONE swoop. Grab and reserve your Deck of Cards today before it's too late!!! Attached is the flyer communicating about the deck, please share. The link to commitment Decks is here: ALA Challenge Card https://legion-aux.formstack.com/./np_trish_ward.. Please communicate throughout about the decks and encourage ALL to share on Facebook groups and to print the flyer.





**AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST
2025 Cover Sheet**

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Essay Title: *"What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement*
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

Essay Checklist:

- Class competing in _____
- Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class
- Completed essay coversheet as first page of essay
- Word count of essay _____
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2025



AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

2024-2025

Cover Sheet

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California (ALA) 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.

Group #	Grades	Essay Title
Group 1	4 th & 5 th Grades	"Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag?"
Group 2	6 th & 7 th Grades	What does it mean to be an American to me?"
Group 3	8 th & 9 th Grades	"Why do we have the Constitution of the United States?"
Group 4	10 th -12 th Grades	What does the Bill of Rights mean to me?"
Group 5	Special Needs	"What does it mean to me to fly the American Flag?"

Essay Contest:

- Group # competing _____
- Sponsoring ALA Unit _____
- Typed or neatly written essay
- Completed essay cover sheet as first page of essay
- Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State and Zip): _____

Email Address: _____ Phone # _____

School City/State _____

Teacher Name and Signature _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered).

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____ Dist. # _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department Awards and Citations

Group I:	4th and 5th Grades	Prizes:	First - \$100,	Second - \$50
Group II:	6th and 7th Grades	Prizes:	First - \$100,	Second - \$50
Group III:	8TH and 9th Grades	Prizes:	First - \$200,	Second - \$100
Group IV:	10th, 11th, and 12th Grades	Prizes:	First - \$2,500 Educational Grant Second - \$1,500 Educational Grant Third - \$1,000 Educational Grant	
Group V:	Children with special needs.	Prizes:	Ages 11 to 14 years, First - \$200 Second - \$100 Ages 15 years to 20 years, First - \$200 Second - \$100	



Star Spangled Kids: Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.



- In conjunction with local schools, create a Unit Citizenship Award for children and youth who have demonstrated the ideals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Team with the Education chairman to bring veterans or service members into the classroom to talk about what their service means to defend the ideals of the Constitution.
- Share "Fascinating Facts about the U.S. Constitution" monthly in the department or unit bulletin, in tweets, or a newspaper editorial.
- List important constitutional dates in chronological order or by month.
- Encourage students to test their knowledge of the Constitution.
- Distribute patriotic coloring book pages for children in primary grades.
- Celebrate Constitution Day (also known as Citizenship Day) **on September 17**, the day set aside each year to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.
- Celebrate during September's Junior meeting with a cake or cupcakes.
- Let Juniors report on different sections of the Bill of Rights.
- Print and distribute pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution for school children and/or Juniors.
- Put on a skit or musical about the Constitution and the signers.
- Hold a scavenger hunt at the post where children find information relating to the Constitution.
- Have members dress up as signers of the Constitution and describe their character's role in the Constitution's writing and signing.
- Encourage high school-aged students to use their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution by participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Resources:

- www.constitutionfacts.com
- Constitution Day Resources:
<http://ca3rsproject.org/pages/ConstitutionDayResources.html>

Department Code**Americanism**

1. The allowance for the Department Americanism Chairman shall be as adopted in the annual budget. The chairman shall submit an end-of-year statement of the expenses incurred and proposed recommendations affecting the program budget for the next year to the Finance Committee by May 1st.
2. The Chairman shall encourage participation of the program and projects stressed by the National Americanism Chairman.
3. The Chairman shall ensure that information pertaining to National awards have been forwarded to Units including rules and deadline dates. A list of materials available for promotion of the program shall be provided to the Units.
4. The Department shall sponsor an Americanism Essay Contest. Competition to be in the indicated box below with prizes and citations for first and second place winners in Group I, II, III, and V, and first, second, and third place education grant winners in Group IV. The amount of prize money may be adjusted if funds are not available. The prize for Group IV shall be financed by voluntary contributions from the Units. (2019)

Group I	4 th and 5 th Grades	Prizes:	First: \$100 Second \$50 (2007)
Group II	6 th and 7 th Grades	Prizes:	First: \$100 Second \$50 (2007)
Group III	8 th and 9 th Grades	Prizes:	First: \$200 Second \$100 (2007)
Group IV	10 th , 11 th , and 12 th Grades	Prizes:	First: \$2,500 Educational Grant Second: \$1,500 Educational Grant Third \$1,000 Education Grant (2007)
Group V	Children with Special Needs	Prizes:	Ages 11 to 14 Years First: \$200 Second \$100 Ages 15 to 20 Years First \$200 Second \$100 (2014)

The rules governing these contests for each group shall be made available to the Units by September 1. (2019)

Group V shall be classified as Children with Special Needs. (2019)

Children with Special Needs are defined as:

- Those in special education classes.
- A student recommended for special education classes, but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
- A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities, identification contingent upon discretion of school officials. (2021)

5. The prizes for group IV will be distributed as follows: (2018)
 - a. The \$2,500.00 Educational Grant will be awarded \$500.00 at the time of winning Essay Contest and the balance of \$2,000.00 not used by the student shall be returned to the Department of California and credited to

Americanism

Honoring *You're a Grand Old Flag* (Song) - February 6, 1906

- Contact your local elementary school and ask if there is an opportunity for your unit to do a presentation on or near February 6. The school secretary can help direct you to the appropriate teachers.
- Research the origin of *You're a Grand Old Flag*, one of the most popular patriotic songs (Library of Congress).
- Tell the story of why George M. Cohan wrote *You're a Grand Old Flag*.
- Bring small American flags and show children how to properly fold a flag. Explain the purpose of the small, folded flag.
 - Option 1: Contact your local Family Touchdown Group or USO to locate servicemembers to give the flags.
 - Option 2: Have students give them to a family member who is a veteran.
 - Option 3: Let students keep them as a gift. It always helps Old Glory.
- Bonus question: Name the most popular patriotic songs.

Resources:

- Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/item/bsas.200000026/
- The American Legion: www.legion.org

Support activity:

- Have members who are unable to attend bake cupcakes and decorate in red, white, and blue for the students.
- Bring the song lyrics and pass them out to students to sing as a group.
- Bring age-appropriate patriotic coloring pages for students to color. Once finished, give them to your local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facility to give to veterans.
- Acknowledge the classroom with a certificate of participation.

Get Involved:

Amerianism@ALAForVeterans.org



Americanism

Promote the ALA Americanism Essay Contest

- Know the current year's Americanism Essay Contest theme.
- Promote the Essay Contest in your local schools. The school secretary can help direct you to the appropriate teachers.
- Create information packets for teachers that explain the Americanism Essay Contest rules.
- Recognize your local Americanism Essay Contest winners. Invite them to a unit meeting to read their essay and present them with an award.
- Contact your local news source to attend the award ceremony. The parents/guardians must sign a media release if pictures are taken.
- Bonus question: Who originally wrote *America the Beautiful*?

Resources:

- www.ALAForVeterans.org

Support activity:

- Have members who are unable to attend bake cupcakes and decorate them for the reading of the winning Americanism essays held at your unit.
- Ask your members to share what *America the Beautiful* means to them.
- Have your Junior members participate in the Americanism Essay Contest. Give them a special award at a unit meeting.
- Acknowledge all students who participated in the Americanism Essay contest with a certificate of participation.

Get Involved:

Amerianism@ALAForVeterans.org



Americanism

Proclaim Red, White, and Blue Day

- Independence Day (July 4) is not the only day to honor our nation's colors. Other special days remind us that red, white, and blue are always in style and can bring attention to your unit.
- Decide on a date to proclaim Red, White, and Blue Day (e.g., when your unit was chartered, Flag Day, Hug a GI Day, National Poppy Day*), and make it an annual event.
- Draft a proclamation and submit it to your city council for acknowledgment.
- Plan an activity to be visible in your community wearing red, white, and blue. Involve your American Legion Family, local schools, businesses, and citizens in your community.
- Contact your local schools and ask about planning a Red, White, and Blue Day. Give an award or certificate to the best red, white, and blue classroom. Distribute handheld American flags to all students.

Resources:

- Google: Proclamation templates

Support activity:

- Have members bake red, white, and blue cookies to give to students.
- Host a red, white, and blue-themed bake sale with proceeds to benefit an American Legion Auxiliary program.

Get Involved:

Amerianism@ALAForVeterans.org





WHAT'S HAPPENING

4th Annual **COMING SOON** **HAUNTED MAZE** **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

6 ROOMS **October** **6PM - 10PM**

\$5.00 Entry Fee
All proceeds go towards helping Veterans and Families...

OPEN TO PUBLIC

25th **26th** **31st**

FRIDAY **SATURDAY** **HALLOWEEN NIGHT**

AMERICAN LEGION POST #72 936 N Lemon Street, Anaheim, CA 92805

59th ANNUAL PLACENTIA HERITAGE PARADE

HONOR CONVOY

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 19TH • 2024 PLACENTIA, CA



FOR MORE INFO:

<https://prismmoderndesigns.my.canva.site/honorc>

kbinnings@perimeterprotectionusa.com
657-444-SAFE

20K ATTENDEES	65 VETERANS	30 CLASSIC CARS	1500 AMERICAN FLAGS DISTRIBUTED	11 VIETNAM ERA CELEBRITIES	100 STUDENT CRAFTED POSTERS
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**Cypress American Legion
Auxiliary Unit 295**



QUARTERMANIA

**\$20
Pre-sale
\$25 at the
door**



**Snacks
provided
for
players**

**Saturday, November 9th
Doors Open 1:30 - First Bid 2 pm**

**Cypress American Legion
5646 Corporate Ave. 90630**

**Shopping, Drawings, Bids and More!
But you got to be in it to win it!**

**Tickets
Cypress American Legion - 714-821-0910**



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY





HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE



FREE ADMISSION

CRAFTS, FOOD, JEWELRY, HOME
DECOR, VINTAGE CLOTHES, AND
SO MUCH MORE!



10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sat. November 2nd





American Legion Post 716
3252 Florista St,
Los Alamitos, CA 90720



FIND OUT MORE AT

WWW.LOSALAMITOSUNIT716.ORG

(UNDER CURRENT PROJECTS)





ALA Unit 716 Holiday Boutique
2024 Vendor Application
Saturday, November 2, 2024
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Type of Craft or Vendor (*brief description of what you will be selling at show*):

Only one type of vendor will be allowed to register (ex: Scentsy, Pampered Chef ...)

Check if you Require an Outlet/Plug Check if you would be open to an outdoor space

\$25 Donation to Reserve Your Space

501(C)3 Non-Profit Organization Tax ID# 95-6026515

**PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION NO LATER THAN
OCTOBER 25, 2024**

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 716
Attn: Holiday Boutique
3252 Florista St.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Email: unit716losalamitos@gmail.com

(*Checks should be made payable to: ALA Unit 716)

Setup, Breakdown & Boutique Policies:

- The Unit will provide one 6-foot table and chair for each paid vendor space
- No canopies are allowed inside the Hall; outside vendors must provide their own canopy
- Spaces are limited: You will receive a confirmation once your application & payment has been received (applications can be mailed or dropped off in person at Post 716)
- The event will take place rain or shine
- This is a Auxiliary Unit fundraiser: there are no refunds once your payment has been processed
- Earliest setup time is 8:00 am on the day of the event
- Please do not breakdown your space until the end of the event at 3pm
- Additional questions contact unit716losalamitos@gmail.com or call Kristin at (562) 964-9020



In Partnership with



ART OF VALOR OUR STORY ART SHOW



ART SHOW

Join us for an Art Exhibit for veterans & military families to view art created during a 4-week transformational art therapy & creative expression program with Partners4Wellness & Richard Nixon Presidential Museum.



Contact Information:

VPOP@USVETS.ORG



November 1, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**American Legion
Post 291**

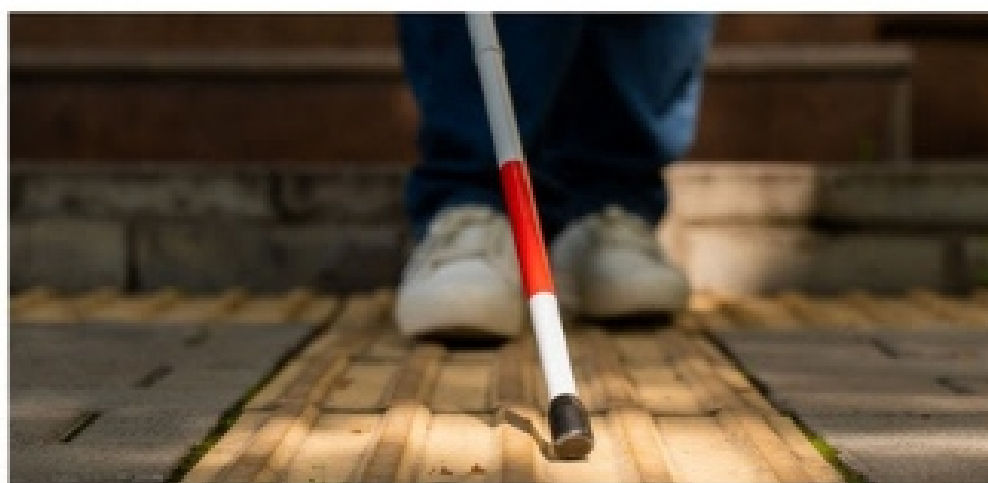
215 15th St.
Newport Beach, CA
92663

Funded by OC Health Care Agency (HCA) through Mental Health Services Act

White Cane Safety Day - October 15

BLIND AMERICANS EQUALITY DAY

and
 WHITE CANE
SAFETY DAY



Join the Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr. O.D. Blind Rehabilitation Center in celebrating these two annual events to honor the contributions of our Veterans with vision loss and highlight the importance of the white cane.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024

STARS & STRIPES PLAZA

10:30 AM SOCIAL

11:15 AM CEREMONY

12:15 PM MARCH



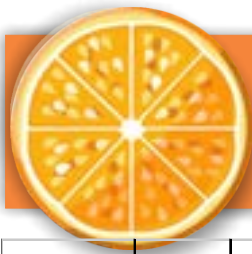
VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health
Administration
VA Long Beach
Healthcare System

Please join us for the 11th annual White Cane Safety Day celebration in Stars and Stripes Plaza.

White Cane obstacle course, food and beverages beginning at 10:30 a.m. in Stars and Stripes Plaza. Ceremony begins at 11:15 a.m. with a White Cane campus march to follow!



DISTRICT MEETING CALENDAR

REVISED

DATE	UNIT	TIME	CITY	ADDRESS / LOCATION
10-Aug	716	1PM	LOS ALAMITOS	DONE and thank you Kristin and all the members of 716!
14-Sep	721	10AM	SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO	DONE and thank you Laura and all the members of 721!
12-Oct	679	10:30AM	YORBA LINDA	18001 Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 Doors open 10AM CABINET ROOM
9-Nov	291	9AM	NEWPORT HARBOR	215 15th St, Newport Beach, CA 92663
7-Dec	131	10AM	Santa Ana	1404 N Grand Ave, Santa Ana, CA
11-Jan	72	10AM	ANAHEIM PRESIDENT LINDA HAYES VISIT TO D29	936 N Lemon St, Anaheim, CA 92805
8-Feb	295	9AM	CYPRESS	5646 Corporate Ave, Cypress, CA 90630
8-Mar	281	9AM	SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY	Sea Country Community Center, 24602 Aliso Creek Rd, Laguna Niguel 92677
12-Apr	133	9AM	HUNTINGTON BEACH	Memorial Hall - 1718 Orange Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648
10-May	327	9AM	LEISURE WORLD	1353 Seal Beach Blvd, Seal Beach CLUBHOUSE MEETING LOCATION TBA
14-Jun	555	10AM	MIDWAY CITY	14582 Beach Blvd, Midway City, CA 92655
JULY	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING

LET US CELEBRATE



Linda Hayes
Department President
2024-2025

AMERICAN LEGION POST 496
5938 E PARKCREST ST.
LONG BEACH, CA 90808

Debbie Butler - Southern California Workshop contact &
Diana Livas - Auxiliary Department Leadership

Please RSVP to Debbie Butler
Email: DButler@verizon.net or 213-200-0477

**Southern California
Dept Workshop &
Dept Leadership
Workshop
October 12, 2024**

Coffee and Pastries 8 am
Workshops 9am to 3pm
Lunch will be available for
\$5.00 donation

RECOMMENDED

for all new members and especially new officers and units.

You will learn so much information, meet other unit members and get a treasure trove of new ideas.

This is on the same day as our October District Meeting, so please let Noella know that you will be attending the Dept. Leadership Workshop instead. She will mark you as excused.



DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S VISIT



UNIT 721 - SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit's Relationship with the Post:

The American Legion Auxiliary was provided for by the first National Convention of The American Legion in 1919 as a SEPARATE corporation with no oversight or monetary ties to The American Legion at any level of the organization. The relationship between the two organizations is one of COOPERATION rather than REGULATION. The American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units are related, but independent organizations each with separate EIN's, financial records, Bylaws, etc.

The National Judge Advocate of The American Legion has issued the following ruling: "It is crystal clear that The American Legion Post has no authority to control the Unit related to it. The Post may not revoke nor threaten revocation of its Unit's charter. The Unit should regard its connection with the Post as a distinct honor. It should strive unceasingly to carry out the National Constitution's pledge to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion."

Can the eligibility of a member be questioned or challenged?

RESPONSE: Any member can challenge the membership eligibility of another member by presenting the challenge to the unit to whom the member being challenged belongs or to whom the person's membership application is being presented for consideration.

The unit has the responsibility for responding to the challenge of membership ineligibility according to national eligibility requirements/governing documents. If the unit determines that the member is not eligible, the member may appeal to the department. If the unit determines that the member is eligible, the person challenging that member's eligibility may appeal to the department. The department is the final authority on determining an individual's membership eligibility. Also note that a unit's or department's decision regarding an individual's membership eligibility is not appealable to the national organization. The national organization has no authority to consider eligibility or discipline appeals from members. The department is the final authority on eligibility and discipline.



DISTRICT 29 OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/d29ala/>

DISTRICT 29 RESOURCES & IDEAS

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/d29resourcesandideas>

Send your photos & articles to be included in our newsletter

A SLICE OF ORANGE COUNTY is a regular publication of the American Legion Auxiliary District 29, Department of California. Please send all submissions to:
wendyhart.oc@gmail.com