



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

CHATTERBOX

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Photo: Judy Evridge



America the Beautiful

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

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OFFICER REPORTS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Linda Hayes



Sources of Information for the American Legion Auxiliary

MyAuxiliary Member Portal

This portal is for current members and provides access to members-only content, such as forms, policies, and training information. Members can also use the portal to pay dues, update their contact information, and find out information about their membership.

ALA national website

The ALA national website provides access to publications and resources on ALA programs and procedures, including the Unit Guide and the ALA Department Operations Guide.

ALA blog

The ALA blog has information about the ALA, including the partnership with Wreaths Across America.

ALA webinars

Webinars can provide insights into leveraging resources for ALA programs and enhance leadership skills.

ALA e-news

A monthly e-newsletter that focuses on programs, activities and events.

Social Media

ALA facebook groups

American Legion Auxiliary Historians
ALA Chaplains
ALA Public Relations
ALA Auxiliary Emergency Fund
ALA Community Service
ALA Past Presidents Parley
ALA Children & Youth
ALA Americanism
ALA Education
ALA Leadership
ALA National Membership Group
ALA National Security
Pick Your Poppy / ALA Poppy Program

Social media hashtag groups

- **#MyAuxiliaryMagazine** Post a photo of yourself reading the latest Auxiliary magazine
- **#LegionFamily** Post a photo of your Legion Family volunteering in branded attire
- **#ALARockStars** Share FB posts, tweets, and photos of ALA members working the mission
- **#ALAJuniors** Share FB posts, tweets, and photos of ALA juniors working the mission
- **#AmericanLegionAuxiliary** Share FB posts, tweets, and photos of anything and everything related to the ALA

Live virtual webinars: these courses are free but are offered live and you will need to register in advance.

ALA Academy Live: Children & Youth: ALA Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards

Monday, November 18 at 1pm ET

Length: 30-45 minutes

This webinar is designed to teach our unit members how to successfully execute the ALA's Youth Hero and Good Deed awards program. You will learn tips and techniques to help you build a successful Youth Hero and Good Deed awards program. Upon successful completion of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Recognize the eligibility requirements for the ALA Youth Hero Award.
- Identify actions that qualify for the ALA Good Deed Award.
- Learn how to identify and select local youth who have demonstrated the requirements to receive a Youth Hero or Good Deed Award.
- Accurately complete and submit a nomination using the ALA's online awards form.
- Master techniques for effectively presenting an award to recipients.
- Build a successful Youth Hero and Good Deed awards program.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Liz Tungate



Greetings from the desk of your President!

I have started scheduling my Unit visits in November. I look forward to meeting those members that I have not yet met at a District meeting or an event at your Post.

Please remember to share your event dates with Nancy and your flyers with me or send them to the ALA Dept CA Webmaster. The more exposure our Units get for our Posts, the better we serve our veterans to keep our Posts open.

Did you know that we have fifteen American Legion Posts in District 20 and not all of them are active Posts? It's sad but true. I would like to thank all of you that belong to an Auxiliary Unit in our District. Quick fact - 1900 Units have been lost in the last ten years. That tells us that it's not an easy task to keep a Unit going and it takes a lot of hard work and dedication - I applaud you, our member volunteers! Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless - but because they are priceless.

We have been working together to finalize the **District Standing Rules**. Revisions have been made and the final version will be distributed via email.

The **meeting day / time survey** has been sent to all members that have emails in ALAMIS. We have gathered a variety of responses and those will be shared at the next District meeting on November 13. It's not too late to voice your opinion on that subject. Please check your email and share your opinion.

Several Units have not yet submitted to me their complete **Audit and Taxes** paperwork. For the checklist of items required, please visit calegionaux.org - go to Committees / Programs, pick Auditing / Finance, and scroll down to Annual Tax Requirements (it's a PDF). If you need

assistance with those items, please let me know. In order for your Unit to have a vote at the June 2025 Convention, all Units must be up-to-date with their paperwork. I hope by the time you read this that your Unit will be in compliance.

Woohoo everyone!! All Units in our District have turned in their **Poppy orders!** Congratulations!

October was Education month! What did your Unit do to work that Program? We would love to hear about your efforts, see your pictures! Remember that BoxTops for Education is still an active fundraiser for a school you or your Unit may be supporting. Please visit this link to sign up - www.boxtops4education.com

November is Membership month! How is your Unit working towards your Unit's goal? The Early Bird Citation is awarded to Units reaching their goal by Veterans Day us.

Mid-year reports are due to District Chairpersons by December 1. Even if you have nothing to report, please submit a report anyway as it makes our District look good by showing 100% reporting at the January 2025 Mid-Year DEC.

Next time you decide to not buy that Starbucks, consider donating that \$5 bill to the **Auxiliary Emergency Fund**. With 18,000+ members currently in District 20, if we each donated just \$5 to the AEF, as a group we could help out thirty Auxiliary members in their time of need.

In closing, remember to be kind and respectful to each other. Read everything available to you. The more you know, the better we serve our Mission. Don't forget - we are the American Legion Auxiliary and we make a difference! We are united by our faith in God and Country.

ASST. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Ann Philcox

As a courtesy a member should inform the District President of material that is to be handed out at a district meeting.

PDP DeeAnn Graham



CHAPLAIN

Carol McChesney

Thanksgiving is upon us this year—a time to express gratitude.

When cultivating gratitude, I notice the little things - like the warmth of the sun on my skin or the kindness of a stranger. These moments might seem insignificant, but they add up to a life filled with joy and contentment.

DAILY GRATITUDE PRACTICE

Train your mind to focus on the positive aspects of your life.

Make it a daily habit.

List 3 things big or small for which you are grateful.

EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO OTHERS

Take the time to thank the people in your life and community who support and uplift you. Expressing thankfulness strengthens relationships and reinforces your own feelings of appreciation. Sharing gratitude with others creates a positive feedback loop that enhances a sense of connection. Claiming an attitude of gratitude is a choice to focus on the good in our lives, cultivating a mindset that attracts positivity, peace, and joy, no matter what challenges you may face.

Here's wishing you, your family and friends a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Bless our troops wide and far for peace on Thanksgiving Day.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Rebecca Valdivia

To help keep order in meetings, I'd like to refresh everyone on the proper protocol for debating on proposed motions.

- One of the members is recognized and then stands to make a motion.
- The motion is seconded. (The motion has to be seconded to move forward.)
- If in order, the chair restates the motion and opens the debate.
- The debate is conducted: the maker of the motion has the right to debate the motion first.

Then, everyone must adhere to the debate rules.

These include:

- ◆ A limit on the time per speaker.
- ◆ A rule that means no one can speak a second time until everyone has spoken.
- ◆ Nobody can speak until they are recognized by the chair and have 'obtained' the floor.
- ◆ No personal attacks or personal remarks.

Once the debate has been completed and no one else claims the floor, the chair will ask "Are you ready for the question?" If no one rises to debate, then the vote can be called.

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! This is a great time to reflect on all that we're grateful for. Please remember to keep those who suffered from the hurricanes in your thoughts and prayers.



CHAIRMEN REPORTS

AEF

Bonnie Christner

Well, ladies, we are still seeing people all over our country being devastated by floods and fires. If you decide to do a fundraiser for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, please know that this money that is allocated goes directly to our members.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary are in desperate need of these funds. Sorry if I'm sounding like a broken record here ladies but being one of the lucky people who is not struggling to find food or water or somewhere to go until my home is rebuilt, I feel it is our duty as auxiliary members to do all we can to help these members in need.

Please consider making your donation today to the AEF.

From my Family to yours please have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Marlena Tungate

Please plan to support the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California's Food Drive from January 17-19, 2025, during Mid-Year DEC. No child should go hungry, and your donations can make a real difference for families in need. We are accepting non-perishable food items, including water bottles, juice, pasta and sauce, rice, canned goods, cereals, oatmeal, and peanut butter. Every contribution counts in helping ensure children have access to nutritious meals. For more details and a full list of acceptable items, please refer to the flyer on the Department website.

A reminder to those who haven't yet connected with your Education Chairman: please team up for the "Hero Backpacks" initiative. This program provides essential school supplies to children of military families, helping them start the school year prepared and confident. By working together, we can make a meaningful impact on these young students' lives, showing our support and appreciation for their families' service.

Let's ensure every child has the tools they need to succeed in school.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bonnie Christner

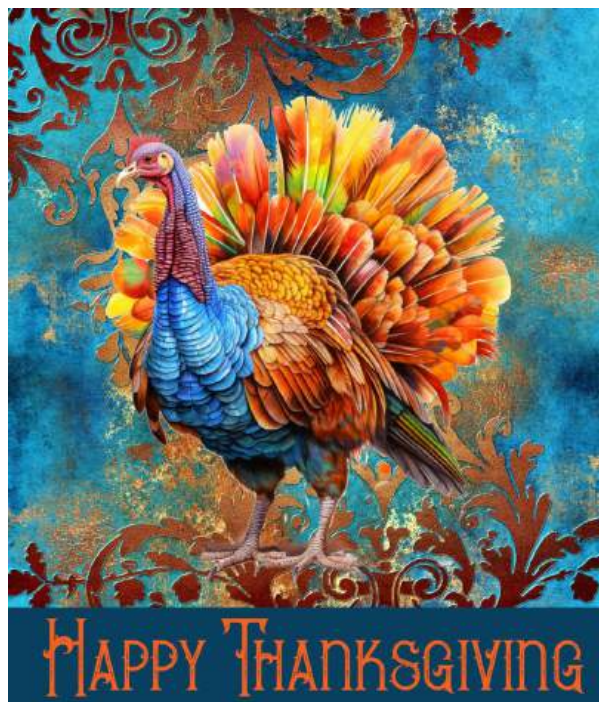
How is your program going so far? Did you participate in National Night Out? If you did, make sure to keep track of your hours and share your experiences, stories and photos with me on your mid-year report.

Veterans Day is just around the corner. Have you coordinated with your local community organizations to participate in your local Veterans Day parades? Let's come together to honor our veterans and make a meaningful impact in your communities.

There are a lot of people in need of fresh water and food and all the essentials that we take for granted in our everyday lives right now due to fires in California.

Get together with your legion post, legion riders and SAL members and see where help is needed. And most of all get your community involved with whatever project you come up with. Believe it or not people are always willing to help someone who is in need.

If you're not in an area that is affected by the fires, maybe you can consider hosting a movie night at a local veterans medical center. Contact your local VA medical center to arrange a movie night. Coordinate with volunteers to bring snacks and drinks. Sounds like fun to me!



CONSTITUTION

Ann Philcox

CONSTITUTION	BYLAWS
Constitution is a legal document that contains the fundamental principles according to which an organization is governed	Bylaws are rules an organization makes to control the actions of its members
Involve organization of company meetings, rights of shareholders and share classes, execution of company documents, appointment, powers and removal of directors and process of amending the constitution	Involve issues like the purpose of the organization, members, responsibilities of the board of directors, their election, terms of office, board and shareholder meetings, and how the board of directors functions

PAADI.com

LEADERSHIP

Ann Philcox

“If you think you are leading and turn around to see no one following you, then you are just taking a walk.”—*John C. Maxwell*

LEGISLATIVE

Kathy Faulconer

While we may think that one voice may not make a difference on its own, that one voice added to the voice of others quickly becomes a collective power of influence that can impact the decisions of our elected officials. Joining together, Auxiliary members can and do make a difference when they advocate for veterans, servicemembers and their families.

FYI there may be a slight glitch with the “grassroots” e-mails on Fridays. If you are not receiving them please sign up again, or sign up as a new supporter. This particular program may be the most effective tool to let your Reps know what our Vets need. Please participate. You can sign up at the ALA website, in Legislative and search grassroots. When you act to support a particular bill you will receive a response from your House or Senate Rep, in addition to ALA. Save those responses for your Mid and EOY reports.

Also know that in a push to improve services for Veterans, two U.S. House lawmakers have introduced a bill to permanently establish the Veterans Experience Office, VEO, within the VA, according to Stars and Stripes. Initially founded in 2015, has played a key role in gathering feedback from Veterans helping the VA identify areas for improvement, and enhancing trust between Veterans and the agency.

MEMBERSHIP

Sam Marsteller

How are males eligible for membership with the ALA?
Spouse. Must be married to a veteran.

Does the veteran need to be a member of the American Legion?
Yes.

If a veteran is deceased and you are signing up under his or her service, what documentation do you need?
His or her DD214.

Do new members need to be voted into the Unit?
Yes, by the members

Who can become Juniors?
Female children of qualified ALA members.

Can junior boys belong to the Auxiliary?
No. They would be eligible for the Sons.

Who signs the application for a new member?
The Post Adjutant. The Adjutant will be able to check membership to verify that the legion member is a current member.

As we begin this New Year let us all strive to improve our membership numbers. Remember all you need to do is ask. Reach out to your members who have not renewed. Personally contact those members.

Suzanne Winters, calegionaux.org



MUSIC

Rebecca Valdivia

Over the next few months, I thought I'd share some history about our official military songs. These songs not only promote pride, unity, and motivation amongst our citizens, but they stir patriotism and loyalty and remind service members of their duty to defend our nation. Here's a brief look at the songs for the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force.

In 1938, the Army Air Corps decided they needed an official song. Liberty Magazine sponsored a contest where 757 scores were submitted. Of those, one written by Robert Crawford was selected by a committee of Air Corps wives and it was officially introduced at the Cleveland Air Races in 1939. When the Army Air Corps became a separate branch of the military in 1947, Crawford's song changed names from "The Army Air Corps" to "The U.S. Air Force." The last line of each stanza "Nothing'll Stop the U.S. Air Force" became a motto and tradition of the USAF.

On July 30, 1971, the original first page of the sheet music was carried into space in the Apollo 15 "Falcon" as a tribute to Crawford and the USAF.

U.S. Space Force song "Semper Supra" was unveiled during the 2022 Air & Space Forces Association Air, Space and Cyber Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, on Sept. 20, 2022. "Semper Supra" was named after the USSF motto, which is Latin for "Always Above." It was created to capture the spirit of both current and future Guardians.

Listen to it here:

https://www.militarytimes.com/video/2022/09/23/hear-the-new-space-force-official-song/?utm_source=sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=navy-dnr



NATIONAL SECURITY

Mahala Beery

Oh my! We are over Halloween and now here come the holidays! Time truly flies. Right between Thanksgiving and Christmas the midyear reports are due. Units, please have your report to me by December 1st. Please let me know if you have questions. Do your reports so we can be the best District and have 100% reporting.

The National Security Midyear report wants to know what your Unit did to enhance our National Security.

- + Did you greet service members as they deployed or returned?
- + Did your Unit nominate for the "Salute to Service Woman" Award?
- + How many members remember to wear RED on Fridays (Remember Everyone Deployed)?
- + Did your unit send care packages – how many boxes how much was spent?
- + Did your unit hold fundraisers for preparing Care Packages?
- + Did you work with a local USO?
- + Any Quilts donated to Quilts of Valor Foundation?
- + Did you support Quilts of Valor Foundation in other ways?
- + Did your Unit work with a Family Readiness Group on a military installation?
- + Did you donate to Twentynine Palms YMCA food pantry or the Camp Pendleton Food Pantry or San Diego Food Pantry?
- + Were any Blue Star Banners presented?
- + Gold Star Banners?
- + Are any members trained for CERT Community Emergency Response Training?
- + Did your unit do anything special for National Preparedness Month (September).
- + Have your Unit members reviewed the ALA Military Family Support Guide?
- + Did anyone spend hours supporting POW/MIA Remembrance Events?
- + Did your Unit do anything to support Veterans Day events?

I know, so many questions!! Remember we report these things to the American Legion, they report to Congress. We make a difference. Let's let them know how much of a difference! Go ahead and be proud of all we do, tell us about it in your reports!

Midyear reports are found on the Department website calegionaux.org under Resources then click on Forms, then scroll down to the bottom of the page to see Unit Midyear Reports. Click on National Security and you can fill it in online, save it and email it to me.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carol McChesney

The American Legion Auxiliary is making a difference, but many people still don't know who we are even with newspaper articles, radio spots and television newscasts.

It's time to share again the information of benefits by building a relationship with local media personnel about veteran related events and news. That includes for our 7 units in our District 20 to send information and photos and/or flyers about your events. You might be pleasantly surprised if a network might broadcast or even show up to record your event. At that TIME, all in attendance SHOULD be ready for the camera and photos by wearing your Auxiliary branded shirts, hats, and jewelry. What a way to advertise our mission!

Be sure to order through the American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales for the shirts, hats and other items which keeps the proceeds within the American Legion family.

TO ALL OUR UNITS FROM DISTRICT 20 I wish you all the best Thanksgiving Fest and family traditions.

Gobble gobble!



Deadline for the December issue of the *Chatterbox* is November 25.

Please email articles as a word attachment and photos to

Editor Nancy Heinisch
nancyheinisch@att.net

RESOLUTIONS

Marlena Tungate



RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS I would like for everyone to participate in the upcoming Mid-Year DEC taking place in Palmdale, CA January 17-19, 2025.
- WHEREAS Remember Mid-Year DEC participants are called to DEC at the request of the Department President.
- WHEREAS All Auxiliary members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend!
- WHEREAS Past Department Presidents are always welcome to attend because we value your knowledge and would like you to share that knowledge with the membership.
- SO BE IT RESOLVED If you have any questions regarding the Mid-Year DEC, please refer to the Department Website calegionaux.org / Upcoming Events / Mid-Year DEC.
- Liz Tungate
President
- Marlena Tungate
Resolutions Chair