



THE NOISETTE

JANUARY 2025

From the Desk of Madam President

ISABEL GALLARDO



Happy New Year!

It's time to unstress, let go of past issues we didn't resolve and start off this New Year with a positive outlook . As we enter the new year let us focus on the reason why we joined the American Legion Auxiliary.

OUR 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.

Let us keep this going, most all of our units did amazing job keeping true to the mission statement and I thank you for all your hard work and dedication to veterans and their families.

Did you all know that the 1st of every month is **BE THE ONE DAY**. Our initiative encourages American Legion family members, veterans, service members and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide. Let us all wear a be the one shirt, show we care .

By now you all should have completed and turned in the necessary reports and audit information. Thank you to all the units that worked getting those in on time.

There is a unit I would like to recognize for all their hard work and effort they put into getting there unit up to par, they did such an amazing job getting all their proper paper work in and I know this was not easy for them but they did it, so proud of Hawthorne Unit 314, you did it. Hope to see you at our monthly District 19 meeting.

Have a Blessed New Year

MEMBERSHIP MONTH

American Legion Auxiliary

2025

MEMBERSHIP CARD

CA		
DEPARTMENT	UNIT NUMBER	MEMBER NUMBER

THE ABOVE MEMBER HAS PAID DUES IN THE UNIT INDICATED

MEMBER SINCE	CA

NOT VALID WITHOUT MEMBER'S SIGNATURE	AUTHORIZED OFFICER
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Is your Membership current?



DISTRICT MEETING

JANUARY 15

7:00 PM

PARAMOUNT POST 134

7550 Somerset Blvd.



**2ND VICE PRESIDENT
DEBBIE BUTLER**

Dear American Legion Family, 

A friendly reminder, if you have not paid your dues, you are late. Please contact your Unit First Vice for payment. Please continue to support Veterans, Active Duty, and their families.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday, and New Year. Time to get back to what the Auxiliary does. First, supports Veterans, Active Duty, and families.

I've heard several people say, "wish we could have helped veterans, active duty and their families, but we gave all to our community programs." Wow!!! Yes, it's important to recognize our community programs but NOT first. Think about it.

I would like to thank everyone who has taken positions in the Units and our District. Please don't give up. If something doesn't work out in that position, take another where you will shine. It's not one fits all. Everyone has something to offer. Maybe shadow someone and eventually take over that position. You'll never see me as Secretary or Treasurer!!! Come and be active with the District. Bring your questions and most of all listen and carry back correct information to share. Everyone learns this way.

I know some Units are working at getting their EIN numbers in order, etc., you can do it. People will actually help. No one wants a unit to fail. Don't listen to those who say that person doesn't know anything or don't talk to them. Get out of the box.

Learn, read the handbook. It's a guide. Go online and view Department and National Websites. Just like any organization, depending on where you are, one item could be handled a little differently. But is it in keeping with what is set forth by National. The comment "we always do it that way" is an excuse that needs to be broken.

Ask your President, has your Unit paid all the taxes, Pillars (ask), are you in good standing with the IRS, Department and National? If not, ask how and what needs to be done. Jump in, it's your Unit, organization too.

Let's all remember we support the American Legion. The AL is the only organization that is under Congress that stands for our Veterans, Active Duty, and families. That's who YOU support first.

In closing, some people can do more than others, but we can all do at least one thing for Veterans, Active Duty, and families first. Keep that in mind first.

DEC is January 16-19th in Palmdale. Anyone can go.

Thank you!

**CHAPLAIN
KATHLEEN ANDREWS**

I hope everyone is well and I hope you are having a safe new year. Please notify me of any illnesses and send me a copy of your MDF if you have any deceased to report.

My prayers go out to everyone, and I hope each of you has a prosperous and healthy new year.

Unit 272 — Arnita (Mousey) Sotello passed in December.

Unit 341 — Bernice Cegarra had abdominal surgery.

Unit 496 — Gloria Dorsey passed February of 2024.

In fraternal love

**AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND
DIANA LIVAS**

Greetings Auxiliary,

As we start the new year, I would like to thank those who turned in your mid-year reports. As we begin to navigate into our new year, I would like to remind you of our Auxiliary Emergency Fund. This program is for every eligible member in good standing for three years, if needed, you can receive up to \$3,000 in assistance (fires, floods are a few examples). To apply for this grant on-line, go to National at www.ALAforveterans.org/AEF.

Donations are also a big part of AEF, with your generous donations we the Auxiliary can continue to help those who need it, please consider donating what you can to help those who need aid. Remember anyone who donates \$100.00 or more will receive a Members Help members pin.

In Service Not Self

**EDUCATION
GAYLE STEWART**

Isn't it nice that mid-year reports are done and over. The holidays have come and gone, and we can slow down a little again. Welcome 2025!!



The kids are back in school and it's time to remember that we can be out there promoting the Education Scholarships the Auxiliary has to offer. All information on these scholarships can be found on the Department website under resources at calegionaux.org. Some of the scholarships have a filing date of March 1st. Please take a look at them and maybe one of them would benefit a child in your local schools, a grandchild or someone you know.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY LINDA FARISS

Our next dinner meeting will be Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 6:00 pm at Fiesta Martin, 1330 N. La Brea, Inglewood, CA. Please let me know if you are attending. Call or text me: 310-245-3041 or email: lindafariss@yahoo.com.

Happy New Year

PUBLIC RELATIONS LORRIE LEWELLYAN

Happy New Year Everyone,

Information regarding ALA social media is available on the national website, <https://www.legion-aux.org/Social-Media>.

It can be overwhelming searching for "Auxiliary" on social media, if you want to be clear as to what group you want to follow, you can check the web page out and click on the URLs, to get to where you want to be. Scroll about halfway down the page to review the list.

The national policy regarding social media is located on this page as well and this policy references the American Legion Auxiliary Branding Guide <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Guides/Branding-Guide>.

Gentle reminder, if you want your unit or post events posted on the District 19 Facebook page, you may share your event on our page or you can send the flyer to Debbie or myself. I share what I bump into, I may not grab it all, we all have the duty of sharing information. Plus side, your event may be picked up by the Department.

Cheers to a great second half!

VA&R VAVS LBVA LBVA POPPY MANAGER DEBBIE BUTLER

Hello American Legion Family,

Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday and joyful New Year. Happy 2025 to all of you. I believe 2025 will be a great year for our Veterans and their families because of the American Legion Auxiliary, YOU.

Thanks to all who participated in events to bring smiles and happiness to Veterans especially those who do not have families or their family is far away.

Seeing pictures and reading your reports support the ALA, District 19 is very active in reaching our goals to serve Veterans. I know for many you may not be able to do a lot of events but everything you do if only one thing for a Veteran or their family means a lot to that Veteran.

In keeping with the goals for the ALA, I want to remind everyone that Veterans, Active Duty, and their families come first in our organization. I know many help the community and that is a great endeavor, however, we are about Military first. Please be sure you serve them first and community second.

These past few months several Units have brought supplies to both the Food Pantry at **Volunteer Services** and provided many items to **PIER** at LBVA, please continue. Remember they only meet goals to provide for Veterans because of organizations like the ALA.

Units brought gift bags to **LBVA** patients during the Holidays in December. If you have ever visited with these Veterans your thoughtfulness brings great smiles and joy. Let's do it throughout the year. Any little item is appreciated during the year even just a card. They want to be remembered.

The **Blind Unit** patients, some were able to add a check to one of their Wishlist items. They went rock climbing at SenderOne in Lakewood. They had a blast. Liz Greco rec therapist; and Lakewood CCTV were present to film. Big thanks to Bill Grady of Lakewood for helping attain these goals for the Veterans. Things like this are so joyful to see their smiles and the fun they feel from doing it. Yes, they are fully blind or partially blind.

CLC was able to get a new electronic Bingo set up. You can take prizes, patriot books and sugar free Root Beer floats or ask Jessica and Khervimm what you can bring as a snack. Their phone number is 562-583-6818.

Blind Unit also likes activities such as music, karaoke, and games. Contact Vineece Whitener 562-583-6765. Liz Greco retired this month!!!



SCI also has requested to play Bingo. Please call the recreation therapist Selena 562-826-8000 and ask for her in the Recreation Department in SCI.

Several people put up Christmas trees in mid-December throughout the hospital. ALA has been doing this for years. A lot of thanks from Veterans and staff.

Remember **Volunteer Services** needs volunteers throughout the Hospital. Call VS 562-826-5715. You will need to fill out paperwork, fingerprint and get a badge eventually. There is something for everyone to do, you'd be surprised. **Veterans Resource Center** can always use people to help in the lobby.

So far, there is no news about **L1/M1** psych wards for Bingo. I hope they've given up trying to get everyone to complete a VA program. I'll be working on what can be done to avoid.

I hope you are able to come to the **Poppy Making** party on January 12th.

DISTRICT 19 CALENDAR

Every 1st **Friday** evening, Steak/Fish Fry at **Post 314**

Every 2nd **Sunday** morning, Breakfast at **Post 314**

Every **Sunday** morning, Breakfast at **Post 359**

Every 2nd **Sunday** morning, Breakfast at **Post 411**

Every **Friday** evening, Dinner & Music at **Post 411**

Every **Friday** evening, Dinner & Music at **Post 496**

Last **Friday** of the month, Veteran Social Connection at **LBVA**

Looking for a way to help fire victims?

Contact Duane Stoakes Assistant Director of VS if you would like to have parties on holidays for CLC or other locations. Phone number 562-832-8842.

The Lady Veterans table improves each month with more women attending. This is at the **Social Connection**, the last Friday each month from 8:30-10:30 am. All Veterans are invited. They generally have breakfast for the Veterans. Please come and be a part of our table. If you have new items for Ladies you'd like to donate, drop on by and help out. We are thinking about having a Woman Social Connection each quarter or 2-3 times per year, we are looking into it. Of course, everyone's help, and donations will be needed.

Please review the Mid-year and End of year report forms on the Department Website to see the new line items. Pick one or many, whatever will satisfy our goal to serve Veterans. There is always at least one thing.

Thank you!

Upcoming

January 12 – Poppy Party at Post 496

January 12 – Unit 341 Bingo at Post 341

January 17-19 – DEC (Depart. Exec. Com.) in Palmdale

January 19 – District 19 Breakfast at Post 359

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2025 CALIFORNIA FIRES

In the aftermath of devastating fires, our members are left in need of urgent assistance

How You Can Help

Donate
Every dollar donated goes to help our fellow Auxiliary members and Veterans who are impacted by the fires.

Share
Spread the word. The more who donate the more relief we can provide.

YOUR SUPPORT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE
We're calling on you to lend a hand and bring hope back to those affected.

Donations should be earmarked "CA Fires" and sent to:
ALA, Department of California Treasurer
10400 Twin Cities Rd., Ste 20, #107, Galt, CA 95632
www.calegionaux.org

It takes a Village. We help our ALA Family Members.



DISTRICT 19 LEADERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICERS

President	Isabel Gallardo	562-841-4451	camram62@yahoo.com	411
1 st Vice President	April Agent	626-393-3080	apriljoeagent@gmail.com	411
2 nd Vice President	Debbie Butler	213-200-0477	dbutler49@verizon.net	496
Secretary	Linda Fariss	310-245-3041	lindafariss@yahoo.com	170
Treasurer				

CHAIRPERSONS

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Asst. Sgt. at Arms	Betty Aguayo	909-379-4796	aguayobetty12@yahoo.com	411
VA&R	Debbie Butler	213-200-0477	dbutler49@verizon.net	496

ADVISORY BOARD

Diana Livas	323-893-0732
C.J. Reyes	562-972-1443

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Diana Livas	323-893-0732
C.J. Reyes	562-972-1443
Gayle Stewart	562-634-3929

BUDGET COMMITTEE

April Agent	626-393-3080
Diana Livas	323-893-0732