



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California
Public Relations – Rosemary Barron – rosemarybarron@msn.com
March 2025, Bulletin

Hear Yee, Hear Yee! Paul Revere here!

Branding

Branding involves not only proper use of our emblem and trademarks but also living our brand promise to deliver our mission in a positive way. Also, how the public experiences us constitutes how they view the ALA as a brand. Be on the lookout for ALA members working the mission and sharing about it. Be sure to give them a high-five!

Your image is important as the branding. The public does pay attention to what we are wearing and our attitude. Have a nice and kind attitude is always the best practice. It is simple- we want our communities to see us at our best while serving.

How many times have we heard of a member quitting or transferring due to the attitude of another member? What a shame when this happens. By always having a good attitude increases the chances that members will stick around AND get involved. You know what they say, “you attract more bees with honey than vinegar”. What you say and do must match up in a positive manner.

Maintain that positive attitude on social media as well. We should be consistently sharing information pertaining to our programs and units’ accomplishments. Stay clear of politics and religion. What we say and how we say it, is important to protect the ALA brand.

Dates to remember – End of year reports due dates

Units: 4/11/25

Districts: 5/1/25

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will **never** forget how you made them feel”. Maya Angelou

Continue spreading the word about the American Legion Auxiliary!

Remember it is about Service not self.

#americanlegionauxiliary



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

You're a Grand Old Flag Challenge

February 06, 1906 You're a Grand Old Flag was written by George Cohan, one of the most popular patriotic song.

Here is your "CHALLENGE"

The best overall creative video will receive a certificate from your National Americanism Committee Team and a special gift from your Chairman.

One winner from each Division

Deadline to submit Video March 20, 2025

Include your - Name, Unit Number, Division, Department

All videos will be posted when received

Divisional Chairman will pick the "Best Overall Video" in their Division

Winners will be announced March 30, 2025

Visual quality

"Make sure your video is clean" means to ensure that your video footage is visually clear, with no unnecessary distractions or blemishes, including things like background clutter, shaky camera movements, poor lighting, audio noise, or any visual elements that might detract from the main focus of the video

Sharp focus: Ensure your subject is in focus throughout the video.

Proper lighting: Use adequate lighting to avoid excessive shadows or blown-out highlights.

Steady camera: Minimize camera shake by using a tripod or stabilization techniques.

Clean background: Keep the background clutter-free and relevant to the content.

Audio quality

Clear sound: Record audio with minimal background noise.

Proper microphone placement: Position the microphone close to the sound source for optimal audio capture.

Examples

Involve your Unit, District, Division, County, Department, The American Legion, SAL, Juniors, your local elementary (make sure you get permission from the parents to share the video) "Think out of the box".

Be Creative

2024 - 2025

Americanism Committee



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Membership

Bulletin 8

March 2025

I wanted to take another moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your hard work and dedication. We've reached an incredible 85% membership target date, and I'm thrilled to celebrate this achievement together.

As we shift our focus towards the next goal, I'm confident that with our combined efforts, we'll slash and burn the 95% target date, Poppy Day, May 23, 2025, as well. Let's keep the momentum going and make it happen.

Thank you again for your contribution, I'm honored to be part of this team.

END OF YEAR REPORTING DATES:

Unit to District

04/11/2025

District to Department

05/01/2025.

THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE!

Donna L. Smith

Membership Chair ALA DOC E: DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Community Service
March 2025 Bulletin



Greetings, Village People!

March is **Community Service Month** for the American Legion Auxiliary, and there is no better time to roll up our sleeves, step into our communities, and show the world what the Village can do! This is our month to shine, to serve, and to spread the spirit of "In Service, Not Self."

Our Village has been incredible so far, going above and beyond to support those impacted by the California fires. Thanks to your generosity, grants are being awarded to help our fellow members recover, and donations are still welcomed to continue providing relief. Your kindness and dedication are making a real difference in the lives of those in need.

Need some inspiration to keep going? Here are some great ways to make an impact in March:

- Support Local Food Banks: Organize a food drive, volunteer at a distribution site, or donate essential pantry items.
- Beautify Your Community: Plan a park cleanup, plant flowers, or work on a local community garden.
- Lend a Helping Hand: Assist a senior neighbor, provide meals for families in need, or volunteer at a shelter.

Every act of service strengthens the Village and makes a lasting impact on those around us.

As we power through March, let's keep our eyes on the horizon—**American Legion Family Day is coming up on Saturday, April 26th!** This is our biggest Community Service event of the year and a perfect chance to showcase who we are and what we do. Make plans to work with The Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders to invite the community into your Legion Family Home. Use this day to share our mission, recognize outstanding volunteers, and encourage new members to join our efforts. Whether you host an open house, a service project, or a celebration, let's make this a day to remember!

Don't forget.. We want to hear from YOU! Share your March projects and Family Day plans with this chairman so we can inspire others across the state. Don't forget to post your activities and highlights on social media and join the ALA Community Service Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService>.

Village People, you are the heart of this program. Your dedication, passion, and kindness make a difference every single day. Let's use this month to show our communities the strength and impact.

Thank you for all you do. Keep working the program, keep sharing the mission, and keep building the Village!

In Service, Not Self,

Rebecca Glenny

Community Service Chairman

cs@calegionaux.org

Home - 831-272-2249

Cell – 717-810-7321



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
MARCH 2025 BULLETIN



About the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF)

In the spring of each year veterans enrolled at VA health care facilities have an opportunity to showcase their talents in local creative arts competitions. It is an chance for veterans to step outside their comfort zones and express themselves through visual and performing arts, music, dance, and creative writing. For many veterans, the NVCAF provides a form of rehabilitative treatment and a second chance at life. Through a national judging process, first, second, and third place entries in each category are determined at local competitions, and first place winners are invited to participate in the annual National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This year the NVCAF will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 11-18, 2025.

Learn more about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival at
<https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>

Auxiliary Involvement

Since 2000, the Auxiliary has co-presented NVCAF, alongside the Department of Veterans Affairs. Carrying out the Auxiliary's mission of Service Not Self, members, units, and departments make generous monetary donations to help support this event. Best of all, Auxiliary members have had the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with these heroes who participate, leading to a life-changing experience for many. To donate online visit www.donate.legion-aux.org.

Funding for Local Veterans Creative Arts Festivals

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation also supports the Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF) through grants which aid in the well-being of veterans by introducing them to art therapy through a local Veterans Creative Arts Festival or offers art therapy courses that feed into the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival events.

If you are interested in learning more about applying for an ALA Foundation Grant for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival please visit www.ALAFoundation.org.

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair
var@calegionaux.org Tel: 831-324-0191





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



Bulletin #7

www.cagirlsstate.org

March 2025

Delegate and Alternate Online Applications Due March 15

Hello Interns!

Last year Allyn wrote, "This is the exciting part of the year for me as online applications from the students selected to attend 2024 American Legion Auxiliary CA Girls State are submitted!"

Well, she was right, and I would like to add, the busiest! The application process is in full swing and now the plans for Session are beginning too. It's going to be tons of fun!

Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:

- Do not send fees now. Wait for the final Unit Transmittal Form to be emailed to you.
 - Fees will be due April 15th.
 - The bussing contract has been signed. Fees are: **\$170** if more than four hours from Sacramento and **\$150** if less than four hours. No bus is available for those that live two hours or less from Sacramento State University.
 - Follow all instructions on the final Unit Transmittal Form carefully, including sending the form and check to the Department Treasurer in Galt.
- Check the [2024-2025 District and Unit GS Chairs](#) spreadsheet to ensure your Unit has complied with the Department Code Requirement by taking the Candidate Selection Quiz.
 - An "x" in Column H signifies the Unit Girls State Chair has completed the quiz.
 - A name in Column I signifies the Unit President has completed the Quiz.
 - A pink box means the [Candidate Selection Instruction Quiz](#) needs to be completed.
 - Additional submitters are listed in Column J.
- Track whether Delegates and Alternates have completed their online applications.
 - On the [2025 Reservation List](#) Columns F–H will show the date candidates completed the online application.
 - Use the second tab "2025" Inquiries" to fill any school vacancies the Unit may have.
 - Notify me if there are any changes to your Unit's reservations or selected candidates. Corrections or additions are easy.
- Contact your District Girls State Chairperson for Girls State Orientation information.
- Remind eligible students to begin the [Samsung Scholarship](#) application process early. There are forms that will be easier to complete while school is still in session.
- Begin preparations to submit the Girls State [Unit End of the Year Report](#) form by April 11th to your District Girls State Chair.

Reminder: Your Delegates will get their first email from the Girls State Chief Counselor on April 13th.

Next Zoom: Monday, March 10th, at 7:00pm

Topic: Girls State Unit Chair Monthly Zoom

Invite Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81685678139?pwd=c7NDkdB0taDdXBZVrXntMYbXDEklga.1>

Meeting ID: 816 8567 8139

Passcode: 807459

Important links are located in the: [2025 GS link list](#)

Thank you for all your hard work!

Caroline Miller, alacagschair@gmail.com 562-444-8296



Past President's Parley

March 2025

Who do see before and after your doctor's appointment?

Who is the first one you see when you are admitted to and out and
of the hospital? A NURSE!

From ensuring the most accurate diagnoses to the ongoing education of the public about critical health issues; nurses are indispensable in safeguarding public health.

Nursing can be described as both an art and a science, a heart and a mind.

Are you still looking for that special person to receive our
\$4000 Nurse's Scholarship?

Do forget your PPP lunch reservations Deadline is June 6, 2025.

End of Year reports deadlines: District Chairman – May 1, 2025

District Chairman to Department Chairman (me) – May 25, 2025

FOR UNITS: Deadline for Scholarship Applications

All student Nurses' application to UNITS

due on Friday on April 4, 2025

ALL completed and signed Nurses' applications to

PPP Department Chairman by the third Friday in April

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman

grahamda65@yahoo.com or ppp@calegionaux.com

668 Via Mendoza Unit B, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

March Education Bulletin

Happy March Anne Sullivan's,

Wow can you believe it only 4 more months and this year will be over. Thank you all for all your hard work and dedication to the Education Program.

By now the Units should have received the scholarship applications from the students. Please go through and choose one applicant from each type of scholarship and forward to District chairmen no later than March 15th. District chairmen please forward to Dept. chairman no later than April 1st.

And now you think, relax time before End of Year reports. Don't forget April 15th is Purple Up Day. Let's start talking to our local schools and see what we can do together to bring awareness to our Military Children.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or need some help, please contact me anytime. Until next Month, Happy scholarship reading.

Donna Mattox

909-521-6848

mikeanddonnamatt@aol.com



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Historian
“Smithsonian”
March 2025 Bulletin



Salute Archivist and Curators!

March is Women’s History Month! Do you have a mentor that you would like to have highlighted on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Facebook page? How about someone that holds dual membership as Legionnaire and Auxiliary member. Someone who has or is serving the Unit, District or Department and perhaps served as a National Chairman or National Officer? Do you have Junior Members that are now Senior members and are making a name for themselves? Send an article and some photos this archivist would love to highlight one person every day, if possible.

Please note the Deadline for End of Year Reports:

Unit to the District by April 11, 2025.

District to the Department by May 1, 2025.

To the many people who are new to holding this chairmanship, please take into consideration, when sending your reports via “snail mail,” please send your reports a few days prior to April 11, 2025, and May 1, 2025. This is to ensure the recipient receives the report on time.

There will be a zoom meeting for District Historians **March 12, 2025, at 6pm.** Please RSVP via email and the link will be provided to you.

Lastly, our National President Trish Ward is respectfully requesting “snapshots,” or photocopies of Charters. Please forward copies of your Unit Charters to the District Historian (or District President Delegate.) The District Historian (or District President Delegate) can forward “snapshots,” or photocopies of all Unit Charters in their District to the email listed below. These “snapshots” or photocopies can be sent with the End of Year Reports.

If there are any questions or clarifications, please feel free to contact this archivist via the forms listed below.

Happy Archiving!!

For God and Country
Erika Hernandez
E.Hernandez.ALA302@gmail.com
831-821-2257
Proverbs 16:3



Hello to all the amazing Wonder Women

March 2025

It is so hard to believe that we are already in March of 2025. I do have to take a moment and apologize that I did not get a bulletin out in February but unfortunately the month of January just got away from me.

To date in March, we have had Two Temporary Financial Assistance Applications but one of them it was decided to be paid out of the CA Fire Fund. In getting the word out regarding the Temporary Financial Assistance. I have found out that units are not aware of this fund. Please get the word out.

April will be here before you know it and that is the month of the military Child, and we get to wear purple to show our support. A great idea is to wear purple to your unit or District meetings and take pictures.

You could also do a military child table setting at one of your meetings even if you do not have a active Juniors group it is a fun thing and I know the senior members enjoy it just as much.

One thing that we are continuously talking about is the Youth Hero and Good Deed Hero award. I think the one question that keeps coming up is whether the youth have to be a member, and the answer is no. Once again, I know that this award goes straight to National but please keep me in the loop, so I can report at convention.

With all the fires within our own backyard I would like to thank everyone who participated in the can food drive. Which turned into donations drop off. We did have a group of Legionnaires to help, big shout out to Commander Nick Rosa, Mike Smith, Jeri Romano and David Graham for helping load up all the donations to take down to Southern California. Please make sure that you keep your eyes and ears open to members that are in need because this is going to be years before they can get back on their feet.

Do not forget to get started on those end-of-year reports. I know we have a little time, but it is never too early to start. Please keep the dates in the back of your mind.

The last thing is the Child Well being fund. I was going to ask each unit to donate \$1.00 PER membership strength, for example 151 total members for unit and or District same example would \$151.00 being sent into national American Legion but please send me a quick note to let me know the amount that was sent. I will be having a special little something at the convention.

Please let me know if you have any questions or some new ideas.

To Quote Wonder woman: We Will Fight for Those Who Cannot Fight for Themselves

For God and Country

Tracy Varnell Fercho tvarnell2@yahoo.com 805-233-4354



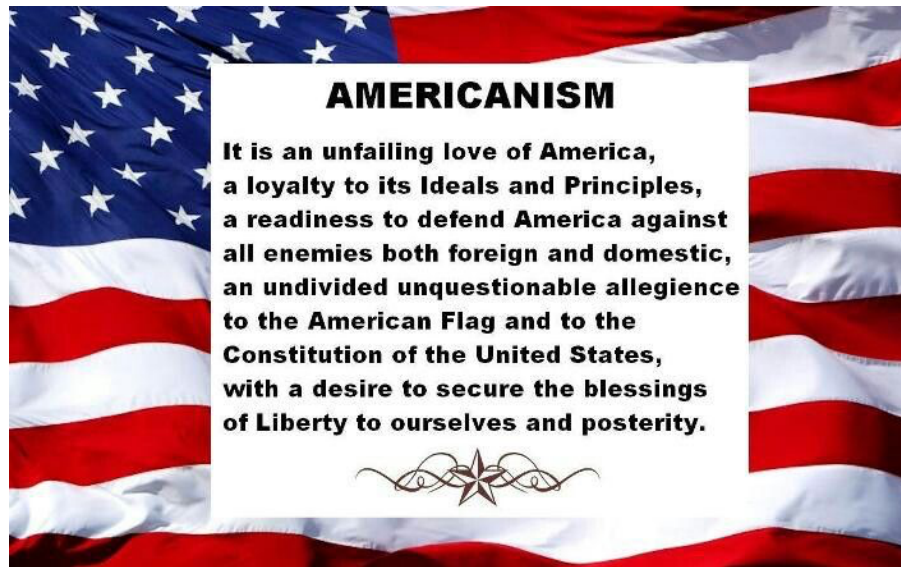
**Department of California
American Legion Auxiliary
March Finance Bulletin**

Finance

- Taxes. We would like everyone to be able to be current with all tax filings. We are coming up on our fiscal year end, June 30, 2025. Make sure all prior tax filings are completed and a copy sent to Liz to have on file.
- Make sure you are looking toward your audit of your treasurer's book and statements. A copy of your audit is also needed to be sent to Liz.
- Please do not hold onto checks issued by the Department. Please cash as soon as possible.
- All members who are entitled to travel reimbursement, please send the Mileage Reimbursement form (found in the Dept. website under "forms") to Kathy Tellyer, Treasurer, and for chairmen and District Presidents receiving stipends, please fill out and send the Expense/Income Report.



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Americanism Program
March 2025 Bulletin



Does this ring true for you?

As we inch closer to the end of our Auxiliary year, please hold these words close to you. We are all in this together.

Reminder: The Department of California Americanism essay contest deadline is this month and next. If you have not reviewed the dates, here they are for you:

1 st Friday in March	Units pick up essays from schools
4 th Friday in March	Units forward winners only in each group to District Chairman
3 rd Friday in April	District Chairman forward winners only in each group to the Department Chairman

There is a rubric for judging on the Americanism page of the calegionaux.org website. Please feel free to use it. If your Unit or District is participating in the National Essay contest, please review the guidelines on the National website.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



Thank you~ Robin Falkenberg, ALA DOC Americanism Chairman 2024-2025



LEGISLATIVE

MARCH 2025

Greetings everyone, I hope this finds all of you well, happy and supporting our Veterans.

The winner of the National Legislative Committee Challenge for the First Quarter is the District of Columbia. Their percentage of correspondence to paid 2025 membership was 1.35%. California was 0.27%. As of 01/29/25 we had 15,284 paid members and only 41 responses to the American Legion Action Alerts. Come on California please get signed up we have a lot of work to do. These are your Veteran's benefits that you are supporting when you vote. So, once again I am going to share the website for The American Legion Legislative Action Center. votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home. It is so easy to sign up, receive the alerts, and vote. The system automatically keeps track of your responses making it so easy for end of the year reporting.

More websites with Legislative Planning Information:

The American Legion Auxiliary Legislative website –

member.legionaux.org/membership/committees/legislative

Legislative Advocacy Guide –

The American Legion Dispatch –

If you have not already joined the Legislative Facebook page, please join now at **ALA Legislative**. This is a closed group, so you must request permission to join. You must then answer all questions to be approved. It is a method to share updates, discuss national legislation, and stay connected with other members.

I sincerely appreciate all that you do and would love it if we all could give just a little more and sign up for these alerts.

Glenda Schultz Legislative Chairman Department of California



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Leadership Report

Mentoring is the focus this month, Utilizing our mentors from our Unit, District and Department will help us grow. The best attributes that make a strong mentor are.

- Relevant experience, expertise, and knowledge
- Enthusiasm for sharing your experience.
- A respectful and positive attitude
- Having the willingness to believe in others, taking an interest in their growth and success
- Having the ability to give honest and direct feedback while being positive and nurturing
- Being observant and a good listener, able to see and hear what others need.
- Being open-minded to innovative ideas and able to encourage others to develop their ideas.

Past Presidents provide a great source of knowledge and are always willing to help, all you need to do is tap into that resource. Remember we may not have all the answers and that's okay, all you have to say is, "I don't know, "follow up with " I will find out and get back to you"

Unit Member of the Year Award Form Link: <https://host.calegionaux.org/programs/leadership>

- Select Unit Member of the Year Application.
- Fill out and return by noted deadline.
- Remember to do the supplemental.

This year, I am looking for the "Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program" in your Unit and District. I look forward to reading all about it in your reports.

The word of the month is "**Positivity.**" Positivity is **thinking in an optimistic way**, looking for solutions, and expecting good results. Learn how to cultivate positivity, avoid negativity, and improve your life.

Be positive when talking with your members. Even when a situation looks bad and daunting, turn toward the positive. Everything has an up and a down. Your attitude helps you and others deal with tough issues and problems. Being positive is beneficial to all.

If anyone is interested in hosting a leadership course, please reach out to me, I can come to any unit and/or District in California.

For God and Country,
Diana Livas



National Security Bulletin 9

March 2025

Hello to all of my Strategic Planners. Happy March to everyone! This month most will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to share with your local Military families.

This month Past National President Lisa Williamson is asking for our help. This is a great opportunity to get members involved in working the mission of **National Security**, especially those members who may be homebound. Below are some helpful tips and the contact information on where to send the coupons:

1. Only Manufacturer's Coupons may be used. This can include coupons for food, non-food items like hygiene or cleaning supplies, baby items such as diapers, and pet supplies. The commissary is unable to accept store coupons, restaurant coupons or internet coupons.
2. Cut out the coupons. Please do not send sheets of unclipped coupons.
3. Overseas Commissaries are permitted to accept expired manufacturer coupons up to 6 months past the expiration date. Be sure to consider the time it will take to mail the coupons and for the commissary to sort.
4. Try and sort the coupons before mailing: separate the expired (or soon to expire) from the non-expired. Then separate and group together by type: Food, Non-food, baby & children, and pets.
5. Send the coupons to the below listed address:

Yokosuka Commissary
Attn: Mr. Sun T. Park
PSC 473 Box 33
FPO AP 96349

As a reminder, now is the time to submit the American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Servicemembers Award. This year it is much easier to submit for this award. An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination, rather than the servicemember, to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is head and shoulders above their peers and worthy of this award.

A simple narrative of no more than 1000 words, a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photo) and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements. The deadline is June 1, 2025, but it is better to submit now. The nomination form is live now. Simply click <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award> with the nomination form at <https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers>.

Linda Lara-Guzman
Strategic Planning Commissioner
linlarguzman@gmail.com
(821) 229-2072



Department of California

National Security

Washington DC Report 2025

Our first meeting of the day was led by Derck Blumke, the Grunt Style Foundation's Veteran Impact Fellow. His focus is on overprescribing of medications to veterans and harm reduction. He stated all medications have some kind of side effects including suicide. 70 percent are treated at the VA.

The suggested actions to end the Prescribed Suicide Crisis:

- Retrain all VA prescribers and mental health clinicians
- Signatory informed consent
- Reform VA de-prescribing guidelines – implement Maudsley De-Prescribing guidelines
- Establish Red Alert Pharmacy system
- Differential Diagnosis – Identify Cause
- Publicly release all VA collected data on Veteran Suicides and medications

The problem is the suicide rates continue to increase despite increased spending and access to VA and Non-VA mental health. There is a documentary called Medicating Normal. Everyone was encouraged to watch it.

Akathisia Acute Psychotropic Drug side effects of: Delirium – skin crawling to tingling, insomnia, new or worsening agitation or anxiety and suicidal thoughts or actions. Objective symptoms of Akathisia may include inability or difficulty staying still. The data that has been put together is not being shared by the VA.

Our next speaker was Ivan E. Denton of the Senior Executive Service within the Department of labor, Veterans' Employment & Training Service. He oversees the VETS Program office that administer five congressionally mandated programs that serve over 430,000 military members, Veterans, and employers.

Mr. Denton gave us information to the DOD Skillbridge Program. The program is an opportunity for service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service. It connects transitioning service members with industry partners in real-world job experiences. Additional information can be found through the Office of Small Business Programs Department of Defense website.

There is also Off Base Transition Training available with workshops that you can sign up for. You select what you would like to view and what day and time. There are 14 states that have it. The latest trends are that 30 percent of Federal Employees are Veterans.

It is important for Veterans to know who their state USERRA is. USERRA is Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Another site to visit is the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E).

Next on the schedule was Brigadier General David “Mac” MacEwen, U.S. Army, Retired. He is with the Veterans Justice Commission. There are 3 sections of work:

- Transition for Military Service
- Arrest through sentencing
- Corrections & Re-entry

We need to get back to allowing Veterans to get benefits they have earned. Arrest through Sentencing recommendation: Define and identify Veterans in the Criminal Justice System.

Housing – they saw a 7% decrease in Veterans homelessness. 96% remained housed. It is important to look for opportunities to find full-time jobs for older veterans.

Sarah Bierman was the next person to speak to us. She is the Deputy Director for Grants and Training in the Office of National Programs (ONP) with the U.S. Department of Labor's Veteran's Employment and Training Services (VETS). She is from South Dakota Army National Guard and served for 17 years that included 16 months of active duty in Kuwait/Iraq.

Bierman said programs work but the grants fund for specific things. What can we do in our communities? We need to reach out to providers and ask what they need.

There are various housing programs:

- Emergency – Shelter
- Transitional
- Permanent – has a lease
- In the meantime, could be living in an RV

Advocacy – affordable housing is a crisis, and we need more affordable housing. A suggestion would be to have HUD also have a percentage put aside for Veteran Housing.

Workforce Development – there are a lot of different opportunities out there. The person needs to be assessed and see where they get placed.

Next, we had Tammy Barlet, Vice President of Government Affairs, Student Veterans of America (SVA). She recommends these improvements be made:

- If a Veteran passes away and has dependents, their benefits be transferred to the dependents.
- G.I. Bill focus is on State School
- Support increase of book stipend
- The window for the G.I. Bill should be when you actually start school – look at elimination date.
- What is the Yellow Ribbon Program the extension of Chapter 33?

After lunch we heard from Service to Small Business Administration. The speakers were:

- Donnell E. Johns Sr., Command Sergeant Major U.S. Army Retired, Founder of Veterans Growing America.
- Hyacinth Tucker, Army Veteran, and owner of The Laundry Basket LLC
- Michael D. Thornton, Sr. Chief Operating Officer and co-owner of Visionary Consulting Partners, LLC

All three recommended the Small Business Association. Go to the people who know the programs out there to get started. They also recommended:

- Boots to Business Reboot
- Pathway to Business Military Spouse
- Find a community of entrepreneurs
- Make sure you get your credit right
- Have some thick skin, resilience
- Look at skills sets you already have
- Don't do it for the money – you must be passionate about it
- Network – don't try to do it alone.

After our workshops, we went in to the Commanders Call from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. We heard from National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr.

I then went to meet with National Executive Committee Members Jere Romano, Harley Santos, Scott Wagenseller, and some of the other Legionnaires from California to map out our plan for our walk on the Hill on Tuesday. I am so grateful to the California Legionnaires for their expertise and their kindness to include me in their visits as well as going to my visit. I also had the privilege of having Past National Auxiliary President Nancy Brown-Park walk the hill with us.

I went to the Longworth House Building to meet with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren from District 18 that is from Monterey County. She was not available, and I dropped off a pamphlet along with my business card. I have never received an email to let me know she received it.

We then went to the Rayburn Building and visited with the assistant to Dereck T. Tran, the assistant to Julia Brownley, and the assistant to J. Luis Correa.

This trip was an amazing experience, and I am so grateful for the opportunity. I knew our Legion Family was huge but didn't realize how large and powerful we are. This trip gave me a new respect for our Legionnaires. I learned how important it is to network with other Legion Family members.

Linda Lara-Guzman

Department of California National Security Chairman

linlarguzman@gmail.com



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA
Chaplain
March/April 2025 Bulletin**

As chaplain, the most important thing you must remember is that the American Legion Auxiliary does not promote any one religion. Therefore, we must not offend anyone by promoting our own religion.

As we enter March and look forward to April, we can be thankful for the Spring weather and look forward to warmer days ahead. I wasn't too pleased with losing 1 hour of sleep in March, but I do look forward to the holy days coming in April.

Passover begins April 12th and ends April 20th, and overlaps with Palm Sunday April 13th, Good Friday April 18th and Easter April 20th.

April also brings with it, the End of Year Reports. All Unit Chaplains are to submit their Unit End of Year Report to their District Chaplain no later than April 11th. The District Chaplains are to submit their District End of Year Report to the Department Chaplain no later than May 1st.

In previous bulletins, I provided you with instructions for the Chaplain's Prayer Book. The unit chaplain does not make a unit prayer book alone, it takes a village. Ask your members to help you with it. I've included it once again with this bulletin. Please take a look and start working on your Chaplain's Prayer Book that you could present to your Unit President, District President or compete in the Department Convention Prayer Book contest.

I am also asking you to please send me Verses, Poems, Quotations and/or your favorite Scriptures to include in President Linda's Prayer Book. I will choose my favorite prayer and submit it to the National Chaplain Monique for National President Trish.

Also, please don't forget to send me the Member Data Form when notified of a member's death.

MEMBER DATA FORM

The Department Chaplain shall receive a Member Data Form from the Unit Chaplain when notified of a member's death. This notification will provide me with the auxiliary member's name, so she will be remembered at the Department Convention Memorial Service.

A courtesy Member Data Form should also be sent to the District Chaplain with the deceased member's current year information, so again she will be remembered at the district meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless,
Melanie Taylor
Department Chaplain
457 Muscat Drive
Cloverdale, CA 95425
(707) 953-7240
mtaylor95425@gmail.com



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Bulletin March 2024**

Calling all Clara Bartons to help keep American Beautiful!

This year it seems that from sea to shining sea, has been one disaster after another. Starting with the horrific hurricanes in the east, the devastating fires in the west, and now the fires in the Carolines. All of these disasters will take years to rebuild homes, schools, and businesses. So many families have been affected. **What we can do** is to keep donating to the AEF fund.

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a national grant assistance program. A member is eligible if they have been a member in good standing for three years – the past two AND the current year. A member can receive up to \$3,000 in assistance if they have been the victim of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

You **MUST** apply for this grant online from National at www.ALAforveterans.org/AEF.

PLEASE remember to get your end-of year report in to your district AEF chairman by April 15, 2025.

May God shed his grace on thee.

In Service Not Self,

Suzanne Winters, Chairman
Auxiliary Emergency Fund
ALA Department of California
ovsuz@comcast.net
(916) 768-6679





**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Junior Activities
March 2025 Bulletin**

Junior Conference is right around the corner April 11th-13th, 2025 at Camp Arnaz. Seniors if you have not registered and paid for your juniors to attend Junior Conference please do so by March 28th, 2025. All the forms are under Junior Activities/Junior Conference. If you have any questions, please contact Martha Romano, Junior Conference Director, email calegionfirstlady@gmail.com.

All checks/money orders with tickets stubs for Junior Conference should be mailed ALA, Department of CA, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 319, San Francisco, CA 94102-4570. Make check payable to ALA Dept of CA, include Unit and/or District number on all checks/money order.

Seniors let us keep mentoring our juniors allowing them to attend your meetings and helping at your Post. Here are some key things we should be teaching our juniors.

- How to conduct a meeting
- Flag Etiquette
- Poppy Program
- Candle Ceremony
- Patch Program
- Learn what TAPS, Blue Star Banners, POW/MIA, etc., means.

If you have any juniors who are eligible to receive patches, please email me their names as soon as possible. My email address is huntLL577@gmail.com.

2024-2025 National Junior Activities Program Awards deadline is June 1st, 2025, by 5pm EST, <https://www.legion-aux.org> search Junior Activities. These are the awards.

- Department Award Best Department Junior Activities Program
- Junior Member of the Year
- Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program

Let us keep up the great work with our juniors. **"Our Juniors are Our Future"**

Lucy Hunt
Junior Activities Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
C. (213) 521-9895