



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of California

Roarin' 20th District



Volume 63, #6

CHATTERBOX

March 8, 2023

All Aboard the Friendship Train

Serving Veterans

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

- We are the American Legion Auxiliary.
- We are called to serve.
- We respect our country and the service of those who defend our freedoms.
- We are loyal to our United States Constitution and to those who protect it.
- We are humbled by the courage of our veterans and their families.
- We are alone, yet we stand together.
- We are daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. We are family.
- We are of every color. We are of every faith.
- We are of every age.
- We are anyone and everyone.
- We are common and extraordinary.
- We are citizens.
- We live in small towns.
- We live in suburbs.
- We live in cities.
- We work in fields, in factories, warehouses, offices, at home.
- We are a community. We help one another.
- We love our flag and all that it stands for.
- We are many. We are one.
- We are the American Legion Auxiliary. A Community of Volunteers
- Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.



Ames Daily Tribune
UNIVERSAL IN THE AMES TERRITORY
AMES, IOWA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1947

\$10,000 Food Goal for "Friendship Train"

Through Train to Europe... From America's Heart

In its 13-day transcontinental haul from Los Angeles to New York the Friendship Train, sponsored by Citizens Food Council, hopes to collect 100,000 pounds of food voluntarily donated from happy motorists across the nation.

Good-will contributions of grain and perishable foods aboard the special train will be used in Europe and help to feed hungry European children, says Chairman Charles Erickson of the Citizens Food Council.

Reduction in Individual Income Taxes 'For All' Is Goal for Donations Suggested by Committee

Do You Know Outstanding Christian?

Record Price Paid for Bonds

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 Servicemembers.



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Monthly Programs

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| July | Happy Birthday, America |
| August | National Convention |
| September | Music |
| October | Education |
| November | Membership |
| December | Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation |
| January | Legislative |
| February | Americanism |
| March | Community Service |
| April | Children & Youth |
| May | Poppies and Poppy Month |



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Harville

We are now in the month of March, the activity is Community Service. We all should be reaching out to the different areas that need assistance. You should all be keeping track of your time and donations. Keep in mind that end of year reports are right around the corner, check the Department website for the forms needed to make your reports and remember some do change slightly each year. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Ann Philcox

Nothing to report this month.



AMERICANISM

Liz Tungate

American essay contestant due dates:

- March 6th : Unit Chairmen pick up your essays from the schools
- March 20th : Units forward winners only to the District chairman
- April 10th : District chairmen forward winner only to the Department Chairman

Don't forget to keep track of what your Unit is doing for the Americanism program! End of year reports are due May 1st!

Dates to remember:

- March 3rd celebrates the day our nation adopted "The Star Spangled Banner" as our National Anthem
- March 15th is the American Legion Birthday
- March 29th is Vietnam Veterans day – this was the day on March 29, 1973, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam.
- April 5th is Gold Star Spouses day - It is a day to remember and pay respect to the surviving husbands and wives of the Fallen of the U.S. Armed Forces and thank them for all they've given. Remember the spouses of the fallen by sending a card, making a phone call or visiting them in person.
- Last Friday in April is Arbor Day – some schools take children on field trips to plant trees. They place American flags beside each tree as a living memorial to deceased veterans that served our great country with honor and valor.

Remember to fly your flag proudly and illuminate your flag if flying after sunset. God bless.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Ann Philcox

I have nothing to report this month.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Ann Philcox

Important Dates:

- ◆ Purple Up! Day for Military Kids is April 15.
- ◆ Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program
- ◆ Best Department Children & Youth Program
- ◆ Youth Hero and Good Deed Award .



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Linda Hayes

March is Community Service Month. This is a perfect time for members of Units and Districts to make every effort to be visible in your communities. Be the go-to organization for the veterans living in the community. Work with other organizations on their community service projects while at the same time bringing awareness of who the American Legion Auxiliary is and our mission to support veterans, their families and the community. Don't forget to involve your Juniors and remember to wear your ALA branded attire and ALA pin.

Other upcoming events and opportunities to promote the Community Service Program include:

- Easter (April 9, 2023)
- Month of the Military Child (April)
- National Volunteer Week (April 17-21, 2023)

Awards - Unit Award:

- Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program Certificate and Gift
- District Award: Most Outstanding District Community Service Program Certificate and Gift

First place winners will be submitted to National.

Winner for Unit in each Division will receive a Plaque and a \$25 Gift Certificate for Emblem Sales.

Winner for Department will receive a Plaque and a \$50 Gift Certificate for Emblem Sales.





CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Bonnie Christner

Just a reminder, National dues will increase in 2024. Are your by-laws ready to make the change in your dues? Hopefully Department will be able to get the forms up and running before this so the transition will be easy.

EDUCATION

Hila Estrada

Applications for scholarships were due to the districts by due March 1st. If you look online at the National website, it does say units have to have them by March 1st but that is because not all states have districts. Districts that have to send them to the Department chairman by the 15th.

The Certified department entry is due to western division chairman April 1st. Then onto National Headquarters May 1st.

The Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship should have been sent directly to National by March 1st. You will have to go onto National website to apply: www.ALAforVeterans.org. National will notify the Department Secretary if we are chosen.



GIRLS STATE

Nancy Heinisch

It is not too late to sponsor a candidate for ALA Girls State. Information is available at <http://calegionaux.org/programs/girls-state/>.

Department

Just a reminder that District 20 has three members serving as Department Chairmen: Mahala Beery (Ways and Means), Linda Hayes (VA & R) and Nancy Heinisch (Editor). They are willing to answer your questions and address your concerns.

HISTORIAN

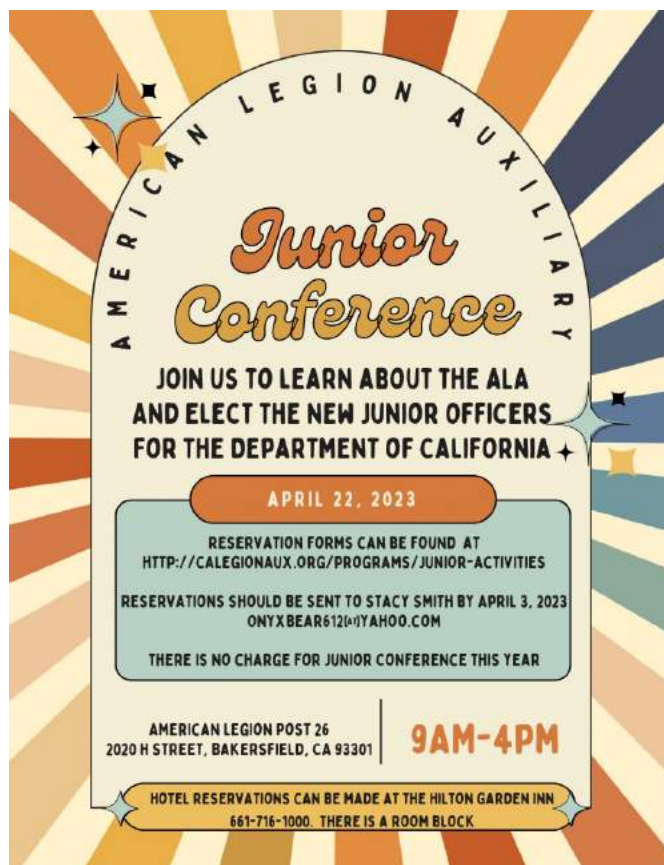
Linda Hayes

Many historians firmly believe that a true understanding of the past is one of the most powerful tools we have for shaping the future. It can instill a sense of identity and purpose as well as suggest goals that will resonate. Therefore, it is important for every unit to have a yearly history written. Here are some tips:

- Write the history in a third-person narrative. Your job is that of an intermediary – someone who witnessed the events and then describes them for the reader. Do not include your thoughts or comments on the events – only the occasion, the people involved, and what occurred.
- Be sure to start recording events as soon as the unit president is sworn in at your unit installation. Include the Department's theme for the year and how it relates to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Include current events that impact the American Legion Auxiliary. These events have a cause and effect on the Auxiliary, resulting in new or resurrected projects and programs.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Hila Estrada





LEADERSHIP
Linda Hayes

LEGISLATIVE
Kathy Faulconer

How do you mentor without bullying?

If our organization wants to maintain a culture of goodwill, then we must take a look at ourselves and ensure that we, as individuals, are doing our best to make sure all members are given the respect they deserve. On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you rate yourself on the kindness level? Do you treat those around you with respect and fairness? Are you doing your part to make this world a better place?

If we are going to mentor, or give advice, we must ensure that we are doing it in a way that is without humiliation and is presented in a positive manner. Mentoring is not trying to persuade others to your way of thinking. This is bullying. Mentoring is creating a connection of camaraderie to help build and strengthen our organization and ourselves to accomplish the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. This can also apply to your daily life and your interaction with family, friends, and strangers.

Doug Lawrence, founder of TalentC, a human resources solution provider and an international certified mentor facilitator (ICMF) with over 30 years of mentoring and leadership experience, stated in a recent article that "the impact on the people and the organization are severe if not addressed."

*When it is not addressed, the organization can see a drop in productivity, (**decline in working our programs**), negativity in the workplace (**units**), high turnover rates (**no longer willing to serve in a leadership role**), and dissatisfied customers (**loss of members**) to name but a few."*

How can I help promote an Internal Culture of Goodwill?

- ◆ A leader leads by example. A bully dominates and intimidates others and says, 'do as I say or else you will never get anywhere in this organization.'
- ◆ A leader shows empathy for others and motivates. A bully lacks empathy for others, ridicules, and demotivates.
- ◆ A leader can communicate with all levels and understand their motivations. A bully surrounds herself only with people who agree with her.
- ◆ A leader believes in the abilities of all people and has faith they will do well. A bully thinks everyone else is below them in knowledge and ability and cannot think for themselves.
- ◆ A leader willingly shares information and is transparent as to its source. A bully withholds information and uses it as a weapon when she wants to show everyone how much she knows.
- ◆ A leader is assertive when necessary. A bully is aggressive and uses her power to get her way.
- ◆ A leader is emotionally mature. A bully is emotionally immature.

Commander Troiola has spoken and the 118th Congress has begun. PLEASE support veterans by joining the "Grassroots Action Center". When a particular bill is being considered in Congress the Action Center will notify you when your support is needed. It's just a few clicks away. We can make a difference ladies.

The following are priorities currently in congress:

- Protect our Camp Lejeune Vets from predatory lawyers
- Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act
- Support Disabled Vets by passing Major Richard Star Act
- Demand GI Bill for the Reserve and National Guard
- Pact Act Implementation and Oversight
- Military Quality of Life
- Modernization of VA Health Care
- GI Bill for Honorable Service
- Protect American Flag

For more information on National Commander Troiola's address to the 118th Congress check out this website: <https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference>

The leading issues the Veteran Community is facing are mental health and suicide prevention. Veterans rarely advertise their personal crises. We must destigmatize the act of asking for help. Annually 6,000 Veterans commit suicide! The Legionnaires' program "**Be the One**" addresses this issue. Please familiarize yourself with it.

'The Wearin'

*When law can stop the blades of grass from growing as they grow,
And when the leaves in summertime their colors dare not show,
Then I will change the colour, too. I wear in my caubeen,
But till that day prase be, I'll stick to wearin 'o' the green.*

Happy St. Patty's Day





MEMBERSHIP

Linda Hayes

ALAMIS Numbers are as of
March 6, 2023

| <u>Unit</u> | <u>Current</u> | <u>Goal</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| 0176 San Fernando | 62 | 68 | 91.18% |
| 0311 Antelope Valley | 85 | 88 | 96.59% |
| 0348 Palmdale | 37 | 39 | 94.87% |
| 0377 Sunland-Tujunga | 61 | 59 | 103.39% |
| 0507 Newhall-Saugus | 51 | 66 | 77.27% |
| 0520 Sun Valley | 28 | 47 | 59.57% |
| 0817 Panorama City | <u>52</u> | <u>47</u> | <u>110.64%</u> |
| TOTAL | 376 | 414 | 90.82% |

**We are looking GOOD!
Congratulations to Units
377 and 817 for hitting
100% ! And look at the
District—over 90% ! Woo
Hoo ladies, let's keep up
the momentum.**



MUSIC

Mahala Beery

Music – does it bring you down, agitate, motivate, soothe, or uplift you? It can do it all. You ever notice the music in movies affects how excited, happy, or sad we get? It's no wonder it is used for therapy with veterans.

I hope you are all considering how music can affect your meetings. I bet if we could get in the habit of singing just one stanza of any song in a meeting we might all feel closer but especially patriotic songs.

I'm sure I will hear a few patriotic songs while attending an Army Officer promotion ceremony the first week of March.

Wow! It's already March 2023. April is right around the corner when end of year reports are due. Start gathering all your info now. Thinking of reports, do you whistle or hum or play music in the background while you work? All of those things can help the work be more pleasant and go faster.



Just whistle while you work
 And cheerfully together we can tidy up the place
 So hum a merry tune
 It won't take long when there's a song to help you set the pace
 And as you sweep the room
 Imagine that the broom is someone that you love
 And soon you'll find you're dancing to the tune
 When hearts are high the time will fly so whistle while you work
 So whistle while you work.

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com)

Songwriters: Philip Kelsall / Frank E Churchill

NATIONAL SECURITY

Bonnie Christener

National Security is very important to all of us. READY is a government-sponsored website of information on what to do to prepare you and your family in the event of an emergency. It can best be stated by utilizing the phrasing straight from their website. Launched in February 2003, Ready is a National public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies and disasters. There are 4 key areas in the Ready Program. Stay informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses. Make a family emergency plan. Build an emergency supply kit. Get involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies. You can learn more about this program by visiting their website www.ready.gov. You will find various disaster types and information to successfully navigate and prepare for your type of disaster.



PARLIAMENTARIAN

Nancy Heinisch

Members and dues:

Should you have a rule in your constitution and bylaws that requires lapsed members to pay "back dues" before reinstating into membership? The answer is no. You can't discipline a member for not paying dues. If they no longer want to pay dues and belong to the organization, that is the decision of the member. If a member wants to keep "continuous years of membership" the member may opt to pay all the back dues owed, but it's not a requirement for reinstatement.

A member must be current with dues before transferring to another unit.

Questions on Department Code:

Information on current department code can be found at <http://calegionaux.org/programs/cb/>. If you are not sure about an issue, this is the first place to research.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLAY

If you are planning to go to the convention in June, you can find a reservation form for the PPP Luncheon on the Department website.





POPPIES

Linda Hayes

You can start planning for Poppy Month now, with some activities and using the resources provided in the Poppy Toolkit:

1. Send a Press or Media Release to your local newspaper or television stations.
2. Request a local government Poppy Proclamation for National Poppy Day



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Linda Hayes

The ALA Brand

- “Branding” is more than the proper use of our emblem and logos. It is our reputation based on our behavior while serving our mission.
- Branding is about the opinion people form based on the experience they have when interacting with you.
- When people enjoy their experience interacting with you, they want to join or support the ALA. That is building brand loyalty.
- While we don’t have millions of dollars to raise awareness about the ALA brand, we do have countless opportunities for word-of-mouth awareness. Every day, hundreds of thousands of Auxiliary members across the country represent the ALA brand by how they look and act.
- How we behave every day, good or bad, reflects on our brand—it has a lasting impact and affects how others perceive us
- Prioritize and strongly support ALA mission services: veterans and military family support, poppies, ALA Girls State. These build brand awareness and brand loyalty when properly executed consistently.

VA&R

Laura Kellgreen

We hear in the news nearly every day about the large number of homeless veterans. What can you do to raise awareness of this continuing epidemic? This article will present several ideas and resources to help you formulate a plan of action.

You can utilize social media and newsletters to share information about facilities that provide support for homeless veterans, such as homeless shelters and local food banks. Many of these facilities as well as U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical centers (VAMCs) offer programs for homeless veterans and are regularly in need of supplies and monetary donations. Organizing a community fundraiser that focuses on a common cause not only helps the veterans, but also raises awareness of the daily needs of the homeless. Community members can be encouraged to participate in stand downs and health fairs sponsored by the local VAMC, which provides personal contact with homeless veterans. You can publicize suicide prevention and homeless veteran hotlines and the resources available through the VA. There are many great resources on its homeless veterans’ page at va.gov/homeless. Take several minutes to watch the video *How to Help Homeless Veterans* and refer to the other useful FAQs and resources on that page. Some of this material would be great to present during a meeting or as part of a public forum.

There are many facts to share about veteran homelessness through information and statistics provided on the website of the [National Coalition for Homeless Veterans](http://NationalCoalitionforHomelessVeterans.org). Some of the latest information indicates about 11% of the adult homeless population are veterans, roughly 40,000 on any given night.

Most importantly, work with your American Legion Family and local media to get the word out in your community through fundraisers and community awareness events. If possible, work with a homeless shelter or transitional housing unit to connect directly with the homeless veterans in your area.

Submitted by Barbara Washburn, Nat’l VA & R Committee NW Division Chair





What's Happening In the Roarin' 20th District?

Unit 520

March 25th Spring Boutique and Garage Sale
10:00 am until 3:00 pm

Unit 817

March 14 **National President Vickie Koutz Visits District 20!**
Taco Truck serving tacos, rice, beans, salad, dessert, and drink for \$15 or \$20 at the door

March 17th **St. Patrick's Day** dinner / dance with live Music. Advance tickets \$15 pp or \$30 per couple

March Birthdays



Happy Birthday, dear friend!

13th Kathy Gosling
25th Kathy Faulconer

If your birthday isn't included, let the Editor know at:
LJeffery@aol.com
661-209-4365

March Holidays

- March 3 – National Anthem Day
- March 3 – Navy Reserves Birthday
- March 4 – Hug a GI Day
- March 5 – U.S. Navy Seabee Birthday
- March 13 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 13 – National K-9 Veterans Day
- March 15 – American Legion Birthday
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- March 21 – Rosie the Riveter Day
- March 25 – National Medal of Honor Day
- March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day



From the Editor's Corner

International Women's Day March 8, 2023

History bursts with important events that have made the world a better place. Women have always played essential roles in the movements for voting rights, civil rights, LGBTQ+ rights, labor rights, children's rights, and much more. They've also accomplished great things in every field, including medicine, science, literature, and politics. Because women have been so influential throughout history, on March 8, the world recognizes International Women's Day as a celebration of the accomplishments of women in areas like culture, politics, economics, and society at large.

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

Who Was Rosie the Riveter?

The true identity of Rosie the Riveter has been the subject of considerable debate. For years, the inspiration for the woman in the Westinghouse poster was believed to be Geraldine Hoff Doyle of Michigan, who worked in a Navy machine shop during World War II.

Other sources claim that Rosie was actually Rose Will Monroe, who worked as a riveter at the Willow Run Bomber Plant near Detroit. Monroe also was featured in a promotional film for war bonds.

And Rosalind P. Walter from Long Island, New York, is known to be the Rosie from the popular song by Evans and Loeb. Walter was, in fact, a riveter on Corsair fighter planes.

But the most credible claim on Rosie's legacy came from Naomi Parker Fraley, who was photographed working in the machine shop at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California. In the 1942 photo she is sporting a telltale polka-dotted bandana. Fraley passed away in January 2018.

Celebrate Rosie the Riveter Day on March 21st! Let us know what your Unit decides to do!

