



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of California

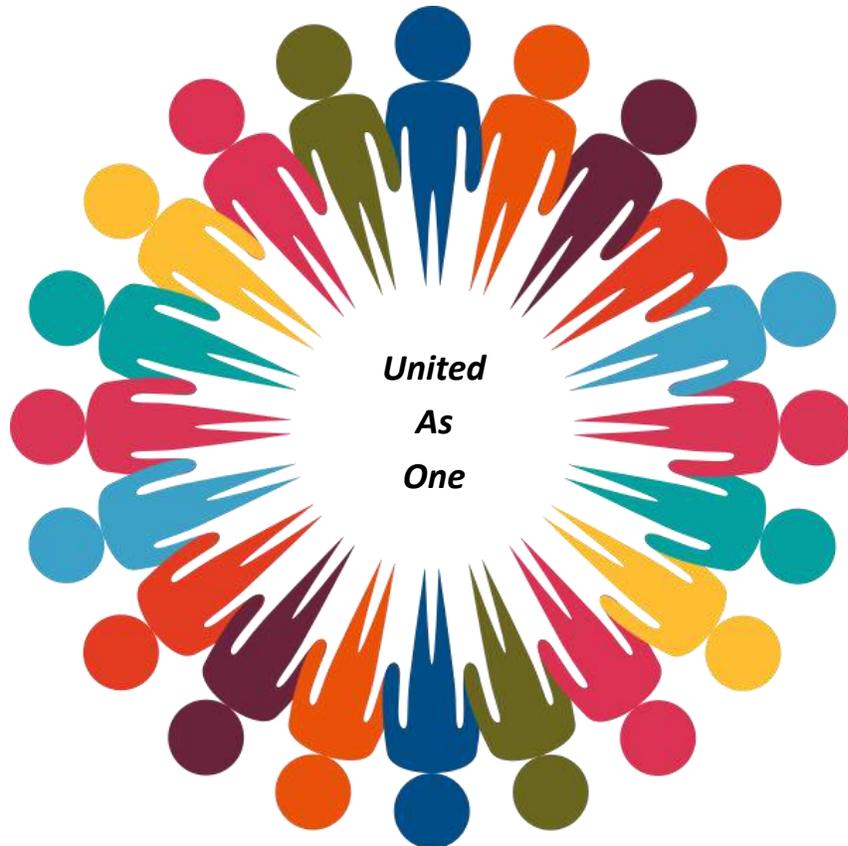
Roarin' 20th District

Volume 64, #2

CHATTERBOX

October 11, 2023

California—The Golden State



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.



Inside this issue:

District & Unit Information	2
President's Message	3
Chaplain	3
Parliamentarian	3
Americanism	3
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	3
Children & Youth	4
Community Service	4
Constitution & Bylaws	5
Education	5
Girls State	6
Historian	6
Junior Activities	6
Leadership	6
Legislative	6
Membership	6-7
Music	—
National Security	7
Past President's Parley (PPP)	7
Poppies	7
Public Relations	8
Resolutions	8
VA & R	8
December Happenings	9
Birthdays	9
Dates to Remember	9
Editors Corner	9



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2023—2024 DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

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2023—2024 UNIT PRESIDENTS

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Panorama City 817	Barbara Garrison	BGarri2445@verizon.net

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
June	Junior Activities

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Harville

Here we are in October. This is Education month so connect with your Unit Education Chairman and the District Chairman find out for ideas. You need to also connect with all your Chairman and learn what is needed to help make all our VERY important Programs a success. We all need to work hard on our membership, we want to reach goal. Please go on the website and read all the bulletins there is so much information and these Chairman work very hard to create the bulletin for us all to enjoy.



I will be making my visits Official to the Units in November. The Department President's Official visit will be December 13th. at Post 311 more information will follow.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Hila Estrada

We are in the final months towards the New Year. I know that we all get busy, but not too busy to call a friend or an acquaintance you might happen to know. Hopefully, you will not be too busy to catch up on small talk to find out how things are going. Just a few minutes of kindness can give a person a boost, feeling appreciated, or being thought off. Let's remember one another. Remember to keep communication open, that will help us all to make sure we are looking after one another. If you know of one of our members is ill, give them a call or send a card. And if a member has been lost, remember her grieving family. Send a card. As Chaplains, we are here to assist one another.



Be sure to keep me informed. Let's keep our Veteran's and community in prayer.

If you need to reach me call me at 818 - 515-3857 and leave a message, God Bless you all. UNITED AS ONE IN OUR GOLDEN STATE.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Laura Kellgreen

Hello fellow members. As you may know, the Auxiliary meetings operate using Robert's Rules of Order. This is a common set of instructions known as parliamentary procedure.



(continued in the next column)

PARLIAMENTARIAN

(continued from previous column)

The goal of the parliamentary procedure is to set forth the order of discussions and ultimately get to a place where all group members can agree on what they want to accomplish or how to move forward. By using an established set of rules and guidelines, members of the group can reach a consensus in a respectful, collegial manner.

In upcoming reports, I will detail the basic aspects of these rules to facilitate the smooth operation of your meetings.

AMERICANISM

Sam Marsteller

Department of California Americanism Chairman, Cindy Rogers, has a challenge for all units: The Unit that sends her the best patriotic Veterans Day picture, including decorations, by December 1, 2023, will receive a gift. from her. The pictures should be sent to her at cindyrogers.25dist@gmail.com

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Barbara Garrison

"Members Helping Members." Units can hold fundraisers to support this Program. Funds donated to this program will help a fellow Auxiliary member who has faced a disaster to their primary residence or has been displaced or evacuated due to a natural disaster. Donations can be made online or sent to the ALA Foundation and flagged for AEF.



October 3, Navy Day

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Bonnie Christner

Direct aid and service to children of veterans and military families:

Much of the Children and Youth work of the unit will be concerned with helping or getting help for individual families of veterans and military families who are in need. But, it has never been the intention of the C&Y program that an auxiliary unit should take over full and continuing responsibility for the financial support of dependent families. Did you know that eligibility for temporary financial assistance is limited to minor children of veterans? The parent must have served at least one day of active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. And did you also know that membership in the American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary is not required? Minor children include any unmarried child, stepchild, and adopted child 17 years or younger. Children 18 – 20 years old will be considered if a current disability requires special schooling or indefinite in-home care, or they are enrolled in an approved high school. Temporary Financial Assistance is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. In order to maintain a stable home environment for a child or children, grants are awarded to help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food, and medical expenses.



Maintenance Grants: Maintenance grants may be used to assist with basic need expenses such as shelter, food, utilities and clothing.

Medical Grants: Medical grants for a child may be used to assist with healthcare expenses such as medical care, surgery, medications, dental care, hospitalization and dietary needs. Do you as an auxiliary member or unit know of any such family that might be in need of Temporary Financial Assistance. If you do please go the Children and Youth program on the department website and look up the requirements that you need to be able to help such a family. And, make sure to follow all the rules that's very important. If I can ever be of any help to any of you ladies out there, please don't hesitate to give me a call.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mahala Beery

The Department Chairman of Community Service suggested in August that each unit/district have a sock and glove drive for homeless Veterans. It's not too late, we have a month. This project should be completed by Veterans Day, November 11th, 2023. The VA encourages donations to help homeless Veterans. The Fall and Winter Seasons are quickly approaching us so let's help those homeless Veterans in need, if at least, it's only a clean pair of warm socks and warm gloves. Call your emergency shelters in your area, donate your products to Stand Down programs or Rescue Missions for Veterans. Search your communities in where you can donate for Homeless Veterans and other Homeless and please keep a tally of what you donate for your Mid-Year report, thank you.

Let's continue to bring awareness to our communities of who we are, what we do and why we matter. Let's get involved in our community events and let's begin to prepare for Veterans Day in November. Each year there are Veterans Day parades, does your Unit participate? How do you honor Veterans on Veterans Day?

Please do your best to attend your local City Council meetings for the betterment of being United as One within our Communities.



Don't forget to check out the October/November "American Legion Auxiliary News Hub" published by our own, Nancy Heinisch. You'll find interesting articles in it and ideas that you may want to use.

Nancy invites you to send her an article about a function or event that you want to share with other ALA members.

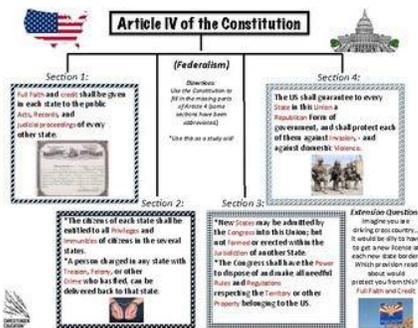
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Linda Hayes

Has your Unit gone over its Constitution and By-laws? Has your Unit read over the Standing Rules?

Those are two of the questions asked on the mid-year report. It's important to know and understand these important documents. If there were some changes made verbally but not changed in the official documents, make an amendment and send it to the Department Chairman for approval

Or you may find that something needs to be changed while the Unit is going over them. Now would be a great time to make the change and send it to the Department Chairman for approval.



EDUCATION

Hila Estrada

Please be aware that Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran. Unit chairmen are to submit the winning scholarship to their District Education Chairman by March 1st. The District Chairman is to submit the winning scholarship to the Department Chairman no later than March 15th, 2024.

CONNIE SETTLES SCHOLARSHIP

one \$5,000 scholarship is given annually and may include the cost of books.

Who is eligible to apply? Senior members or junior members who are ready to attending college.

Due to the unit chairman by March 1st; due to the Department chairmen by March 15th, 2024.

LUCILLE GANEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The applicant must attend Stephen's College in Columbus, Missouri.

This is due to the unit chairman by March 1st; due to the Department Chairman by March 15th, 2024.

PPP NURSES SCHOLARSHIP

One \$4,000 nursing scholarship annually.

Who is eligible to apply? A veteran or Veteran's wife or husband, widow or a widower, or child of a veteran. The veteran's period of service eligibility is April 16, 1917 -- Nov 11th, 1918, or ant time after December 7th, 1941, to the date cessation of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

Due to the Department PPP chairman no later than the third Friday in April.

EDUCATIONAL ASSIST GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

One \$2,000 scholarship payable at \$1,000 per year

FOUR \$1,000 scholarship payable
At 1,000 each

Three \$500 scholarship payable at \$500 each

CONTINUING /RE-ENTRY STUDENTS OR STUDENTS PURSUING HIGHER DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP

Who is eligible to apply?

Children of a veteran who was in the Armed forces of the United States during membership eligibility periods.

- * One \$1,000 Mel Foronda Memorial Scholarship
- * Two \$1,000 Scholarship
Payable at 1,000 each
- * Three \$500 Scholarship payable at \$500 each.

The following four scholarship are restricted to winning California candidates in the event there is not a winner in Western Division National Scholarship Competition, provided funds are available.

- * One \$500 Spirit of Youth for Junior Scholarship
- * One \$500 National President's Scholarship
- * One \$500 National President's Non-traditional Scholarship
- * One \$500 National Junior Member Loyalty scholarship



GIRLS STATE

Lauralee Gooch

No article submitted. Check the Department website at:

<https://calegionaux.org/resources/bulletins/23-09-girlsstate.pdf>

HISTORIAN

Krista Young

No article submitted: Check the Department website at:

<https://calegionaux.org/resources/bulletins/23-09-historian.pdf>

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Jackie Landan

Our Juniors are getting to be very busy this year. They have things planned from doing a Quartermainia to art work for the Veterans' Homes. They have a social planned for later this month and are hoping for a good turnout of our Juniors girls. They are currently selling a Star Ornament and Junior Tee shirts. You can order online or by going to the Department Chairman, Martha Romano.

LEADERSHIP

Laura Kellgreen

<https://calegionaux.org/resources/bulletins/23-08-leadership.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE

Kathy Faulconer

Purpose: The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

- Visit The American Legion's Legislative Website to keep current on legislative priorities.
- The site contains the Legion's legislative priority sheets and point papers, available for download. The priority/drop sheets outline the Legion's priorities, and you can "drop" these in your elected official's office. The point papers provide more information on the issue and the Legion's position.
- Host a Meet the Candidates Night — a question-and-answer session where all candidates for a specific election are invited to answer questions. It is not intended to be a debate. <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Legislative/How-to-Host-a-Meet-the-Candidate-Night>

- Sign up for Legislative Alerts: Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notification when they call on all Legion Family members to take immediate action on a topic <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Register>

- Contact Your Representatives: <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Address>

- Download a copy of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide and follow the suggestions it contains to help build legislative awareness in your community. [https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Guides/Advocacy Guide](https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Guides/Advocacy%20Guide).

Ladies, I hope you had the chance to respond to the Sept. 9th Alert to urge Congress to support H.R. 5641 and 'Pay Our Troops' This was introduced in order to pay all uniformed military as well as civilian support staff, in the event of a government shutdown. If you missed it, there is still time for you to contact your congressman although you will have to go through regular channels such as e-mail, letter, calls etc. the trend of CA Vets leaving the state in search of a lower cost of living.

Assembly Bill **AB2032** would establish a "Green Alert emergency system" managed by the CA Highway Patrol, or CHP, to combat veteran suicide in the state. Like exiting Amber and Silver alerts, with proper cause, the CHP would be granted the power to issue an alert to the public for a veteran thought to be at risk for suicide.

Ending veteran suicide in CA remains a top priority for policymakers. Earlier this month, the governor's office announced a proposal to establish the CA Veterans Health Initiative, or **CVHI** which would evaluate current and future state policies, research, and management of care relating to veteran suicide in the state.

Happy Trails

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

ALAMIS Numbers as of
October 10, 2023

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0176 San Fernando	31	66	46.96%
0311 Antelope Valley	33	93	35.48%
0348 Palmdale	23	41	56.10%
0377 Sunland-Tujunga	15	73	20.55%
0507 Newhall-Saugus	5	59	8.47%
0520 Sun Valley	13	38	34.22%
0817 Panorama City	<u>32</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>57.14%</u>
TOTAL	152	426	35.68%

MEMBERSHIP

Liz Tungate

How are your Unit's membership numbers "mushing" towards the goal line? Out of thirty Districts, District 20 is 6th with 32.86% of Goal as of 10/4/2023! Keep up the good work!

Important Department Award goals to remember:

- * Early Bird, 100% Unit Award by Veterans Day
- * November 11th and posted in ALAMIS by November 13th.
- * 75% by Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th.
- * 100% by DEC January 19th-21st 2024.

2024 National Awards -

100% Unit Award : Units that reach 100% of their 2024 membership goal by January 31, 2024 will receive a 100% Unit Flag Ribbon from National.

Recruit 10 : Any member who recruits ten (10) NEW Senior and/or Junior members will receive a special gift selected by the National Membership Chairman.

Try to have membership applications and a membership chairman at all functions. Remember, the Three R's are renew, recruit, retain!

Thank you and blessed day!

NATIONAL SECURITY

Kathy Faulconer

Operation Homefront (OH) was formed in February 2002 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to provide emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors.

Operation Homefront was established to support the families of deployed service members immediately following 9/11. Headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, today OH provides services to military families across the nation with 23 chapters serving 32 states. The national office provides case management services in states that do not have their own chapters. The majority of clients are the lowest-paid servicemembers; E-1 through E-6 enlisted ranks.

VISION

Through generous, widespread public support and a collaborative team of exceptional staff and volunteers, Operation Homefront aspires to become the provider of choice for emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our servicemembers and wounded warriors. Where there is a need we do not provide, Operation Homefront will partner with others for the benefit of our nation's military families.

NATIONAL SECURITY

(continued from previous column)

KEY SERVICES

Operation Homefront provides direct services to alleviate a military family's or individual's actual/complete emergency financial burden, as well as counseling and/or recovery support. Emergency financial assistance, which an applicant receives within 24 to 72 hours of request, is in the form of checks paid directly to mortgage lenders, auto mechanics, contractors, hospitals, doctors, dentists and other providers. Additional information about Operation Homefront may be found at www.OperationHomefront.net.

There are several branches of Operation Homefront right here in California: Edwards AFB, Lemoore, Los Alamitos, Travis AFB, San Diego and Twentynine Palms.

Happy Trails

POPPIES

Bonnie Christner

Well ladies here it is October 6th and I still do not have all of the unit's poppy orders. I asked very nicely in last month's chatterbox for all of the units to get their orders to me by October 1st. I didn't think I was asking too much, but apparently I was. On another note all of you ladies who did send me your poppy orders thank you so much, you've made my life easier.



The poppy program will be known as the Department of Forest Services. Our Department Chairman Robin Falkenberg has sent me a very nice packet to share with all of you. I will have it at our district meeting in October so you can go through it and see if there's anything you would like to take a look at. There's a coloring book for the younger kids that I thought was very good and I am more than willing to share it with any of you ladies.

Happy Halloween!

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLAY

Jackie Landon

There isn't much going on with Past Presidents Parlay. Please remember about the Nurse's scholarship. We can give someone up to \$5000.00 for school. Encourage someone or help them with an application. We can give scholarships at the Unit, District, Department and National.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Linda Hayes

Spread the word about the American Legion Auxiliary: *A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.*

- Maintain a social media account(s) for departments, divisions, and units.
 - Build relationships with local media.
 - Send press releases and letters to the editor to local media.
 - Contact your local government for proclamations.
 - Have an elevator speech.
 - Familiarize yourself with the PR Toolkit.
- Take the ALA Academy courses related to PR:
- o ALA Branding and Why it Matters to Me!
 - o Using Social Media to Your Unit's Advantage

Encourage ALA members to be visible in their communities through valuable, distinct branding.

- Wear branded clothing, pins, etc., at events.
 - Have visible branding at booths, tables, etc.
- Have American Legion Family brochures available at events (order through your ALA department office).

RESOLUTIONS

Ann Philcox

Ladies please find below a sample Resolution. Please go over the resolution with your unit. I would think by now your unit would have had a function that you could prepare a courtesy resolution. Remember, for mid-year your report must be in the form of a resolution. Let's practice and make sure we have 100% reporting for District 20.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, ALA Members of Unit ___ hosted the meeting for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California, District ____, this ____ day of _____, 2020 AND

WHEREAS, the accommodations and hospitality were most valuable for a productive meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for their helpfulness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a round of applause be awarded them and a copy of this resolution

RESOLUTIONS

(continued from previous column)

be presented for their records.

President Resolutions Chairman

VA&R

Marcy Velador

The 2023-24 National President, Lisa Williamson, who hails from Alaska, was installed at National Convention on August 31st. Lisa's project is "Be The One," The American Legion's initiative to increase awareness about the veteran and military suicide epidemic –be the one to save one. The American Legion Family with all three leaders – American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary will all be focusing on this issue for the 2023-24 administrative year.

This chairman is happy to report that the ALA has entered into partnerships with the following entities:

Wreaths Across America

✓Members are urged to take part in wreath placement ceremonies at local Veterans cemeteries

✓Units and Districts are encouraged to sponsor wreaths for placement through Wreaths Across America @www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

✓National Wreaths Across America Day is December 16, 2023

Honor Flight, Inc.

✓Members are encouraged to volunteer with local hubs

✓Units can utilize their Poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. For more information visit www.honorflight.org/donations.

✓Participate in Welcome Home events

✓Coordinate the delivery and creation of cards and letters to Honor Flight hubs for mail call.

You are encouraged to check out these groups to see how your units might be able to participate in and support them this year.

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

Unit 348

Sept. 17 @ 2:00 Paint Party

Unit 817

All Tuesdays are Taco Tuesday except 9/12 & 10/10

Sept. 17 Breakfast Sunday, 9 AM till 11 AM.

Sept. 24 Chili Cook-off and Car Show beginning at Noon

Oct. 7 Oktoberfest

Is there an event coming up at your Post? If so, let me know so I can post it here.

October Birthdays



Happy
Birthday,
dear friend!

10/8 Marcy Velador

If your birthday isn't included, let the Editor know at:

LJeffery@aol.com
661-209-4365

October Dates to Remember

Monthly Program Focus: Education

**Recognition Month: National Literacy Month and
National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

October 2	Child Health Day
October 8	Ms. Veterans America Pageant
October 9	Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
October 12	Hispanic Day
October 13	Navy Birthday
October 16	Boss's Day
October 26	National Day of the Deployed
October 31	Halloween

Fun October National Days

October 4	Taco Day & Name Your Car Day
October 11	Bring Your Teddy Bear to Work/School Day
October 11	Stop Bullying Day
October 15	I Love Lucy Day
October 21	Pumpkin Cheesecake Day
October 22	Mother-in-Law Day
October 31	Caramel Apple Day



From the Editor's Corner

Department President Glenda Schultz has asked each Unit to name itself using a "City Name" to go along with her theme "California—the Golden State." She also asked each District to come up with a "County Name." Since District 20 was named "Roarin' 20th District" some years ago, we will be "Roarin' 20th County" for this year. Let President Carol know what your Unit "City" name is for this year.

One of the "Perks" to being an American Legion Auxiliary member is:

Wyndham Hotel Group

Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, Wyndham Hotels & Resorts has the right hotel for you! No matter where you're headed or why you're traveling, you'll find just what you're looking for with thousands of Hotels by Wyndham across their portfolio of trusted brands including La Quinta, Days Inn, Super 8, Ramada, Baymont and many more. American Legion Auxiliary members receive up to 20% off at over 9,000 participating hotels worldwide. To take advantage of this valuable travel discount rate simply search for your dates and destination from this page, or you can call 877-670-7088 to connect with a dedicated travel expert – be sure to mention you are an American Legion Auxiliary member or tell them our organization code: 1000002807M.

Look for more benefit offers in the next issue of the Chatterbox!

Have a happy, safe, and fun Halloween!