



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of California

The Roarin' 20th District

Welcomes Department President Glenda Schultz

Volume 64, #4

CHATTERBOX

December 13, 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.



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2023—2024 DISTRICT OFFICERS

President	Carol Harville	bcountry_47@yahoo.com
1st Vice President	Liz Tungate	amlegion817@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	Sam Marsteller	Marstellersandra@gmail.com
Secretary	Mahala Beery	mahala.beery@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bonnie Christner	bchristner@twc.com
Chaplain	Hila Estrada	Ehila636@gmail.com
Historian	Krista Young	Kristayoung82@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian	Laura Kellgreen	laurakellgreen@gmail.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Kathy Gosling	kathygosling8@gmail.com
Asst. Sgt-At-Arms	Annette Sevigny	annettesevigny3751@gmail.com

2023—2024 DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

Americanism	Sam Marsteller	marstellersandra@gmail.com
AEF	Barbara Garrison	BGarri2445@verizon.net
Children and Youth	Bonnie Christner	bchristner@twc.com
Community Service	Mahala Beery	mahala.beery@gmail.com
Constitution & Bylaws	Linda Hayes	LJeffery@aol.com
Distinguished Guests	Jackie Landon	sec.dmrpc@yahoo.com
Editor	Linda Hayes	LJeffery@aol.com
Education	Hila Estrada	hila.estrada7@gmail.com
Girls State	Lauralee Gooch	laleego@gmail.com
Junior Activities	Jackie Landon	sec.dmrpc@yahoo.com
Leadership	Laura Kellgreen	laurakellgreen@gmail.com
Legislative	Kathy Faulconer	kfaulco102@aol.com
Membership	Liz Tungate	amlegion817@gmail.com
Music	Mahala Beery	mahala.beery@gmail.com
National Security	Kathy Faulconer	kfaulco102@aol.com
PPP	Jackie Landon	sec.dmrpc@yahoo.com
Poppies	Bonnie Christner	bchristner@twc.com
Public Relations	Linda Hayes	LJeffery@aol.com
Resolutions	Vacant	
VA & R	Marcy Velador	marsea18@msn.com

2023—2024 UNIT PRESIDENTS

San Fernando 176	Hila Estrada	hila.estrada7@gmail.com
Antelope Valley 311	Pat Frisan	frizgang47@netzero.com
Palmdale 348	Marcy Velador	marsea18@msn.com
Sunland-Tujunga 377	Chandra Young	alauxiliary377sunlandtunga@gmail.com
Newhall-Saugus 507	Christie Marks	xiemarks@earthlink.net
Sun Valley 520	Ann Philcox	edelksnannphilcox@gmail.com
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



With all the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holiday, I have faith that we are all keeping our Veterans at the forefront as this is not an easy time for them.

We need to keep pushing forward with our membership drive and prepare for our upcoming Poppy program. Please share your ideas and buddy up with another Unit to hold a fundraiser and share the proceeds.



I am looking forward to our Department Presidents visit and the DEC (Department Executive Committee meeting) in January. I hope to see you there. Remember we are dark in January but will resume on February 14, 2024, with Unit 507 Hosting. The program will be Americanism.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Hila Estrada



We are now coming to the close of this great year and soon will be starting 2024. Let us be reminded of our dear friends that passed away and continue the dedicated work they pledged to help our great veterans. Let's make 2024 the greatest!

Many blessings to our Veteran's, our Country and to all of us. God Bless America!

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Laura Kellgreen

Currently the Dept. of California is exploring ways for members to attend and hold meetings, wholly or in part, by electronic means such as videoconferencing. If this is something that your unit has considered, here are some things to be aware of before you proceed.



Rules Governing Electronic Meetings

Electronic participation in official meetings must be authorized in the bylaws to transact business.

Meetings must provide conditions that allow all participating members to see, hear, and speak to each other at the same time, equivalent to those of meetings held in one room.

Continued in the next column

PARLIAMENTARIAN

(continued from previous column)

Notice of electronic meetings must include an adequate description of how to participate in them.

Provide contingencies for technical difficulties or malfunctions.

Methods for determining the presence of a quorum.

Methods for seeking recognition and obtaining the floor.

Methods for taking and verifying votes.

Provisions for ensuring that non-members cannot participate in meetings (unless properly invited to do so.)

These are only meant to be guidelines. There are complete 'sample rules' in Robert's Rules of Order 12th Edition.



AMERICANISM

Sam Marsteller

The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship. Below are the dates for the National Essay Contest and program deadlines.

- Winning essays are due to national division chairman by April 15.
- Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program (per division) — submitted by 5 p.m. ET on June 1.
- Department Award: Best Department Americanism Program (per division) — submitted by 5 p.m. ET on June 1.

HUB Editor Nancy Heinisch

Please remember to read *The Auxiliary News Hub* found on the welcome page of the ALA Department website: calegionaux.org. Deadline for the February/March issue is January 24 but submissions may be sent at any time.





AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Barbara Garrison

Holiday time can be stressful for some and a financial hardship can amplify that stress. Although we think of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund being made available for emergencies during disasters, funds may be available to members at times of personal financial crisis. A change in marital status or their housing options could leave a member without resources to pay rent/mortgage and/or utilities, and no other source of aid is readily available.

Please reach out to any member that you may be aware of that could be in that situation. The application, instructions and common questions can be found on the National website (alaforveterans.org).



Members of the American Legion Auxiliary whose dues are current and who have maintained annual membership for three consecutive years (the current year in which the application is submitted and immediate past two years) and have not been awarded an AEF grant (disaster or hardship) in the previous twelve months are eligible to apply for a grant.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Bonnie Christner

What a wonderful time of year for our Children & Youth program. There are so many things we can do for the children around Christmas time. Of course, there's the Christmas parties, and how about a place where the kids can come and decorate gingerbread houses and wreaths and make something for their parents or siblings for Christmas. Or maybe your unit might want to adopt a family for Christmas. We all know times are hard for military families, maybe adopt a family of active-duty military. If you don't have a military base around, then adopt any family that needs help at Christmas. Whatever you decide to do make sure you keep track of it so you can report it on your year-end report.

Thank you for your mid-year reports, we made 100 %.



I'm sorry to report that we haven't gotten any response to the baby shower idea at Edwards Air Force Base, but Unit 311 is helping to adopt a family for Christmas, so if any of the

Continued in the next column

CHILDREN & YOUTH

(continued from previous column)

units want to participate in that please let me know. So, I guess we will just concentrate on the baby shower that will be held at DEC in January. If you choose to participate, please bring baby items with you to Mid-Year.

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and a Safe and Blessed New Year.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mahala Beery

Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope you are enjoying the season. The mid-year reports are in. Our District stays busy. We provide Community Service in many ways. We have participated in Fourth of July community celebrations, Patriot Day (911), Labor Day, Halloween, Veterans Day, the Marine Corp Birthday and Thanksgiving. We help with Toys for Tots in many of our posts and other fundraisers during the holidays. We invite the communities into our posts for socializing and fellowship and sometimes even music and dancing. We attend concerts and performances supporting veterans and community members.

We donate to the California Disaster Fund, donate and work at food banks, help with Women's Programs, volunteer in museums, recycling, blood donations and cancer awareness. I know even more will be reported at year end.

The holidays bring special opportunities, and we do a great job of serving others all while celebrating with our own families and friends.

The Department Chairman, Patti G had the following to say about December, some of the dates are past but can be incorporated into your programs for next year:

"Has any of our Auxiliary members ever been affiliated with "Operation Help a Hero" in their communities? Their annual project is Operation Christmas Spirit which supports military families and single Service members during the Holiday season. This would be a perfect opportunity to team-up with another organization to spread the Spirit and Joy of the Holiday season to our Military and their families. For Veterans in our communities and in your Post homes besides your regular activities that you have continued to do for our Veterans maybe try a new project during this Season called "Holiday Stockings for Hero's"



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COMMUNITY SERVICE

(continued from page 4)

that we can pass out to Post Veterans or Veterans in our communities. As Community Service Chairman serving the American Legion Auxiliary December has so many opportunities for us to get our District and Unit's involved in:

R.E.D. Friday - Wear RED every Friday to Remember Everyone Deployed December

December 1st, 2023 – Civil Air Patrol Birthday (USAF Auxiliary)

December 7th, 2023 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7th – 15th 2023, Hanukkah Begins December 13th, 2023, - U.S. National Guard Birthday

December 16th, 2023, - National Wreaths Across America

December 20, 2023 – Space Force Birthday

December 25th, 2023 – Christmas Day

December 26th – January 1st, 2024 – Kwanza"

Hope you have the happiest holidays ever!



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Linda Hayes

I want to thank each unit for sending in your mid-year report—we made 100%!

Constitution/Bylaws - provide the governance structure for the organization and how it will function. It includes the basic rules that are so important that they cannot be changed without prior notice. A Unit, County, District, or Department constitution/bylaws may be patterned after and cannot conflict with the American Legion Auxiliary's National Constitution & Bylaws. These should be reviewed regularly but changed infrequently. These are the basic sections of an organization's bylaws:

- Name of the organization
- Purpose
- Membership
- Officers
- Meetings
- Governing Board
- Committees
- Subsidiary Organizations
- Parliamentary Authority

Happy Holidays to each of you!

EDUCATION

Hila Estrada

Scholarships

Please check all educational scholarships which are now available on the Department website. To find the applications, click on "Resources" on the blue banner at the top of the home page. Then scroll down to "Scholarships". Once your cursor is on Scholarships, a choice between "Education " and "Nursing" pops up -click on "Education". Under each scholarship title, you will see the scholarship rules. Each title has a blue link to take you to the application. Please share this information with schools, students, and parents. Please help get the word out!

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

Are you aware of the Military Child Education Coalition? There is some excellent information that applies to not only Military children, but also every child. There are some information I attached, so download, Helping kids Through the Fear and Consequences of Global Violence, from the website.

Please check <https://www.militarychild.org/>.

You will also find some useful information that can help you with your Educational mission.

Upcoming Education Programs Dates

- March 1: National Scholarship Applications due
- April 15: Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 6-10, 2024: Teacher Appreciate Week

Please note that our Board of Education meeting will be at the DEC in January. If you have any questions , please contact Linda Hayes (661- 209-4365). She's here to help.

Thank you ladies for all you do for Education. Have a very Happy and Prosperous Holiday Season.





GIRLS STATE
Linda Hayes

Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List

- ⇒ Download the 2024 Unit Information Packet.
 - The first page shows changes for 2024 and detailed instructions for how to use the packet
 - Note that when you enter on the Delegate/Alternate Information Sheet (page 15) your District #, Unit #, and Chair Name, Phone, and Email that information will automatically fill on pages 7, 9-11.
 - The Unit Information Packet Folder contains individual PDFs for ease in mailing specific pages to individuals.
- ⇒ Complete the ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Instruction.
 - Per Department Code, prior to selecting 2024 ALA CA Girls State candidates, the Unit Girls State Chair and the Unit President must complete the 2024 ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Instruction Form.
 - This form needs to be completed every year. If the Unit Girls State Chair and/or Unit President completed the form last year, it must be repeated.
- ⇒ Schedule interviews or the desired selection process with the school(s) the Unit has sponsored.
 - Use the resources in the Candidate Recruitment folder to publicize the program.
 - Use the resources in the Fundraising folder to increase the Unit's Girls State budget



HISTORIAN
Krista Young

A great time was had by all at the Pete Knight Veterans Home in Lancaster on December 3rd. District 20 hosted a Christmas party for the residents which included Santa, gifts and of course, cookies. Nine American Legion Auxiliary members from Palmdale, Lancaster and Sunland/Tujunga attended and served as Santa's elves, delivering gifts to the 47 residents, while Mrs. Claus served cookies. The Veterans looked to have enjoyed the day!



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
Jackie Landan

I would like to say that I had 100% reporting for Junior Activities. I'm sorry more units don't have an active Junior Program. It seems that Unit 311 is the only one with a Junior that is participating in the Unit's Junior Activities program.

Our Juniors are very busy in Department. They are having bake sales to raise money for their projects. They are giving cards to veterans for Veterans Day and are now collecting Christmas Cards for Veterans.



The Junior patch program is something that our Juniors can do by collecting patches for their work. Check it out online. There is a new patch that is available from National. It is the National Children of Warrior's patch and Scholarship. Juniors are being asked to submit a donation of \$5.00 each year of their age to this program. The money goes to the National ALA Headquarters for the Junior Program. They hope to give scholarships for children of service personnel. There is more information on the Junior Activities Website.

LEADERSHIP
Laura Kellgreen

Would you like to learn more about working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary? Would you like to network with national leaders and other members in your district who share your passion and enthusiasm for helping our veterans? During this 1-day conference, you'll be inspired while learning more about working the ALA's core programs in an interactive and fun environment. Many of the American Legion Auxiliary Mission Outreach programs will be covered during this conference. Department website.

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LEADERSHIP
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Is Mission Training Right for you?

- Yes - if you are interested in meeting members and national leaders outside of your local area who share your passion for helping veterans!
- Yes - if you want to share great ideas with other members across the country or renew your enthusiasm for our mission!
- Yes - if you find yourself growing more involved and you don't know where to turn for the information you need, or you have been doing the same activities for years and you want a fresh approach!

Make your reservation now for the Western Division Date!

1/27/2024

Las Vegas, NV

Tuscany Suites & Casino



LEGISLATIVE

Kathy Faulconer

The American Legion Grassroots Action Center provides a quick, efficient, way to deliver support for our veterans. You can send your support for a particular bill (federal) by signing up. Once you are signed up, you will receive e-mails from Katherine Ryan, 'Legislative Coordinator, Wash DC'. Within these e-mails are links where you can respond to your senator or congressman to support a particular bill that is being considered and on the docket for review in congress/senate in the very new future. So, one must respond to the messages as soon as possible. It's quite simple, the message is already written out for you if you are signed up. All that's left is to click away! Sign up at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Register>

Currently there are four bills coming up soon in congress that we ladies need to support. These bills are a priority for the American Legion:

"Pay our Troops" **H.R. 5641** and "Keep Our Border Agents Paid" **S.2999**. These bills will keep our troops paid in the event of a government shutdown. **"Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act 2023."** The Coast Guard unlike other branches, fall under the Dept of Homeland Security and its personnel go unpaid during prolonged shutdowns. And lastly the "Afghan Adjustment Act" **S.2327/H.R. 4627** which expands SIV eligibility for Afghans who served alongside U.S. Forces.

To date, nearly 100,000 claimants have filed administrative claims related to the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA). If you have any questions about filing a claim, contact Elizabeth Hartman, Bergmann & Moore's CLJA liaison with The American Legion, at (202) 497-7255 or Ihartman@vetlawyers.com

LEGISLATIVE

(continued from the previous column)

Under the Pact Act and as of Sept 10th earned benefits paid have amounted to more than \$2.2billion, with 4.4 million vets having received toxic exposure screenings from V.A. care. And 1.98 million claims processed by August of this year.

As legislative issues arise, contact your legislators to share the Legion's Family's point of view. It is the responsibility of the ALA advocates to represent the position of The American Legion.

A Blessed and Peaceful Year to All

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

ALAMIS Numbers as of
December 12, 2023

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0176 San Fernando	49	66	74.74%
0311 Antelope Valley	69	93	74.19%
0348 Palmdale	37	41	90.24%
0377 Sunland-Tujunga	84	73	115.06%
0507 Newhall-Saugus	42	59	71.19%
0520 Sun Valley	19	38	50.00%
0817 Panorama City	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
TOTAL	356	426	83.57%

MUSIC

Mahala Beery

Music motivates, can inspire you or set the mood and can suggest all sorts of emotions. I hope you are all attending some sort of Holiday program with holiday music or are performing in one. OK, maybe not, but you can sing at your meetings, maybe a patriotic song and then a cheerful holiday song. You say you can't sing? Bring a recording.



Seriously, for the holidays you can invite the Scouts, a children or adult choir into your post to sing for the veterans. Maybe you could do a sing along.

On the first Sunday of December, a few members from Unit 377 attend Tuba Christmas where there are 100 Tubas of varying sizes and purposes playing holidays songs. The Tuba players are school children and Master musicians all together on stage. Some of the masters have travelled the world with various orchestras and played in movies for most of their careers, the attendees sing along. Imagine being a child tuba player

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MUSIC

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with the opportunity to play with Masters! It is a great way to kick off the holiday season and is a national event in major cities across the United States.

Music is not just for the holidays, remember to incorporate it in your meetings. Watch out! Warm fuzzy feelings might abound!

I hope your holidays are filled with joyous sounds.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Kathy Faulconer

BE THE ONE. It has been said that the most important issue facing National Security is suicides. Suicides have skyrocketed in the last few years among veterans. Be the One is a goal that will help destigmatize those asking for mental health support and creating opportunities to speak freely and get the support our veterans need. To get more info go to <https://www.legion.org/betheone>. **BUDDY CHECKS** can also tie in with Be the One's goal. Go visit those veterans, not only during Veterans Week but year-round, see <https://www.legion.org/buddycheck>. The Veterans Crisis Line, dial 988 then press 1. The Crisis Line provides 24/7, --365 days a year support for all veterans and their loved ones. Please try to memorize this number. For more info see <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>.



- The Blue Star Families was founded by military spouses in 2009 to empower these families to thrive as they serve. They are committed to strengthening military families by connecting them with their neighbors. For more info see <https://bluestarfam.org/>
- Quilts of Valor Foundation's mission is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting quilts. The quilt says unequivocally "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation. See <https://www.govf.org/>
- Purple Bag Project: Crown Royal is a proud supporter of Packages from Home, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization whose mission is to send care packages to deployed American military heroes stationed in active duty around the world. Go to <https://pack.crownroyal.com/?fbclid=IwAR3Ntm5YLeYXZ1LztxOhZb7znkjooDE4-Xm6dtxXiLE2xGQWgzYbSEdmvE>

For those of us fortunate enough to receive The

American Legion Magazine, there was an excellent article written about Artificial Intelligence (AI). I have tried to summarize it to the best of my understanding. It explains that The National Security Commission on AI (NSCAI) issued a report in late 2021, a report that was really about waking America from its slumber. We are fortunate that the AI revolution is not a strategic surprise. It is not a Pearl Harbor. We are experiencing its impact in our daily lives now and can anticipate how research progress will translate into real-world applications before we must confront the full national security ramifications. NSCAI wants to build a national security apparatus that takes us into the future, but with a new mindset, like the earliest days of the nuclear era. The problems are coming at us at light speed, 186,000 miles per second. We need a national security system that can move at that speed too.

Happy Holidays and
Run Run Rudolph!



PAST PRESIDENTS PARLAY

Jackie Landon

I would like to thank all the units for their hard work in getting their mid-year paperwork out to me at this time. It gave us a 100% reporting even if you had nothing to report.

Remember that all District Past President are considered mentors for any units that have questions or need help.

Don't forget about the PPP Scholarship. Check out the Dept website for more information.

POPPIES

Bonnie Christner

Not a lot to report on for poppies this month. Thank you to all the units who sent me their mid-year reports we made 100%. This time of year is when we put on our Christmas party for the Pete Knight Veterans home. I'm sure our Representative Linda Hayes is very thankful for all of the donations she received from all the units. Just think if the veterans didn't make the poppies for us to distribute, we wouldn't have that money to give to Linda for the Christmas party. So we help the veterans and they help us win win situation. If anyone asks why we work the poppy program



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POPPIES

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you can tell them, for the veterans. So, keep up the good work ladies and keep ordering your poppies every year. Don't forget those little red poppies make great Christmas decorations for your tables.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Linda Hayes

OUR EMBLEM Our emblem is the main identifier of the American Legion Auxiliary, and it's one of our most valuable assets. Over the course of our 100 years of history, our emblem has remained unchanged.

OUR NAME For the same reasons we treat our emblem with respect and avoid the misuse of it, we should not misuse our name. Always use our full, proper, and trademarked name in communications.

CORPORATE AND TRADE NAMES The corporate name is the official legal designation of a company or organization. Corporate names should be spelled out in full. The following are correct and incorrect usages of corporate names:

Correct:

THE AMERICAN LEGION
American Legion Auxiliary

Incorrect:

the American Legion
THE AMERICAN LEGION Auxiliary

A trade name is the name under which an organization promotes itself to its members and the public and under which it conducts business. In some cases, the trade name may be the same as the corporate name.

Correct:

The American Legion
THE AMERICAN LEGION
American Legion Auxiliary
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Incorrect (to external non-member audiences):

the Legion
the AL
the Auxiliary
the ALA



VA & R

Marcy Velador

The VA has many programs that you can volunteer your time with, such as becoming a Volunteer Transportation Network Driver, greeting Veterans at the main entrance as a Red Coat Ambassador, or becoming part of the Compassionate Contact Corps by contacting socially isolated Veterans through phone calls. Your time commitment is up to you. **If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at one of VA's medical centers or national cemeteries, you can easily connect to the local office by clicking on the following link:**

<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/directory/index.asp>

Application Process: Contact the local Center for Development and Civic Engagement Dept. (formerly Volunteer Service) to obtain an application form. After filling out and returning the form, schedule an appointment for an interview with the Specialist. After the interview, prospective volunteers must attend an orientation and complete the onboarding process. Tell their staff of your interest in becoming a VA Volunteer. The staff will take care of everything else including your interview, orientation, and assignment.

Volunteer Benefits: Volunteers will receive free parking, identification badge, jacket/vests, initial tuberculin testing, and annual flu vaccinations. Volunteers are honored with award ceremonies and special activities. Respect and admiration abound from serving those who served.

Volunteer Programs:

- The Adopt-a-Holiday Program furnishes tray covers and napkins for patients' dinner trays on special holidays.
- The Clothes Closet Program furnishes needy veterans with clean, used clothing and new underwear.
- Health and Occupations Careers Program provides underprivileged youth an opportunity to learn about jobs, careers, and social interaction.
- Mobile Coffee Cart Program provides free coffee to Veterans and their families in the various waiting rooms throughout the hospital.

These are just a few of the programs volunteers can sign up for.

Wishing each of you a joyous holiday season and many blessings in the new year. Until next time, we remain United as One.





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

District 20

January's meeting is dark. Please join us at the DEC January 19-21, 2024.

Unit 348

Watch for the Re-Opening Celebration Coming Soon

Unit 817

All Tuesdays are Taco Tuesday

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

December & January Birthdays



Dec. 10—Mahala Beery
Dec. 19—Chandra Young
Jan. 18—Barbara Garrison
Jan. 26—Annette Secigny
Jan. 28—Pat Frisan

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

December Dates to Remember

Monthly Program Focus: VA & R

Recognition Month: National Human Rights and National Santa Paws Month

Dec. 1—Civil Air Patrol Birthday (USAF Auxiliary)
Dec. 7—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec. 7—15th 2023, Hanukkah Begins
Dec. 13—U.S. National Guard Birthday
Dec. 16—National Wreaths Across America
Dec. 20—Space Force Birthday
Dec. 25—Christmas Day
Dec. 26—January 1st, 2024 – Kwanza"
Dec. 3—New Years Eve
Jan. 1—NEW YEARS DAY—ring in 2024 responsibly!

Have a safe and Happy New Year!



From the Editor's Corner

How to Make a Sleeping Mat for Homeless Veterans

Each 6-foot-by-2½-foot mat is made from 600 to 700 recycled plastic grocery bags. The mats are lightweight, waterproof, and help keep plastic bags out of oceans and landfills. Each mat takes about 50 hours to make.

Here are step-by-step directions on how to make a plastic bag sleeping mat:

- **Be a collector** – Collect clean plastic bags from the grocery store and other places. The bags should be in good shape and not full of holes.
- **Be a folder** – Return the bags in their original shape.
- **Be a cutter** – Cut off the bag's handles, as well as an inch from the bottom of the bag. Then cut the bag into 2½-inch loops.
- **Be a "plarn" maker** – Link the loops to form plarn (plastic yarn) and roll them into balls like you would with a ball of yarn.



• Crochet or knit the rows:

1. **Crochet** the mat into a 6-foot-by-3-foot mat. It is a single crochet with a size P or Q hook.

Make a chain 36 inches long, which is about 66 chains. Make the loops loose with a little space between each one.

Make an extra loop at the end to use as your turning point.

Start at the third loop to make your second row.

Continue until the mat is 6 feet long

Crochet from front to back so that it does not pucker up.

Crochet two rows of a single crochet to form a tie that is 80 inches long. Connect the tie to the mat so the mat can be rolled up and carried like a sleeping bag.



2. **Knit** the mat using size 19 knitting needles. Knit approximately 50 stitches until it reaches about 2½ feet wide. Keep knitting until it reaches 6 feet long. Cast off, and you're done!

