



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of California

*The Roarin' 20th District*

Volume 64, #5

CHATTERBOX

February 14, 2024

*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:

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



Legion Family

## 2023-2024 DISTRICT OFFICERS

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## 2023-2024 DISTRICT CHAORMEN

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## 2023-2024 Unit Presidents

San Fernando 176	Hila Estrada	<a href="mailto:hila.estrada7@gmail.com">hila.estrada7@gmail.com</a>
Antelope Valley 311	Pat Frisan	<a href="mailto:frizgang47@netzero.com">frizgang47@netzero.com</a>
Palmdale 348	Marcy Velador	<a href="mailto:marsea18@msn.com">marsea18@msn.com</a>
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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
June	Junior Activities



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Carol Harville*

February is here. "Happy Valentines Day" to all. The Department Executive Committee meeting was enjoyable. I reported that all District 20 Units are working hard on membership and other programs and are reaching out to those who may need more mentoring. There were four Units represented, 176 - 1, 311 - 1, 348 - 2, 377 - 3. The baby shower was a big success.

February Activities is Americanism and March will be Community Service. Don't forget to keep track of your mileage, donations and time for your Individual Member Impact Reports that need to be turned in to your Unit that will create a Unit Impact Report and then turn in to District that then create a District Impact Report, that will be sent to Department.

As always feel free to reach out if there is anything that I can help you with or point you in the right direction.

**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE**

*Hila Estrada*

Here we are in February. Hope everyone has had a safe month. Please be sure to keep me notified of illnesses, and send a copy of any death notices to me as well.(818-515-3857).



I hope everyone is staying well and that all of you have a safe month. Since Valentines Day is approaching, I wish you all a Happy Valentines

Day. ❤️

My prayers go out to all of you for good health and a prosperous year. We still have our Auxiliary work to continue with!

**AMERICANISM**

*Sam Marsteller*

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness.

The fundamental value of the American Legion Auxiliary is showing respect for our country and our nation's flag. This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information and promote the love of our country. link to Americanism Facebook page

[American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Program/Facebook](#)

**AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND**

*Barbara Garrison*

The National Executive Committee (NEC) approved an increase for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) grants in February. The updated grant award is \$3,000 for ALA members who have been affected by a natural disaster or other crisis and need urgent financial assistance.

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.

If you find yourself in a situation where you are unable to pay for housing, utilities, or food, please apply for an AEF hardship grant. If you have been affected by a natural disaster and need financial assistance, please apply for an AEF disaster grant. For more information or to apply for one of these grants, visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org/aef](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/aef).

HAVE A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

*Bonnie Christner*

So, I want to give a big shout out to Units 176, 311, and 348 for sending baby supplies to DEC for the baby shower that our department chairman put on. From what I understand by reading The Auxiliary News Hub they raised over 10,000 dollars in donations that will be sent to the Travis Air Force Base. Way to go ladies, you ROCK!

On another note, Unit 311 is donating Teddy Bears to the Antelope Valley Hospital for the children who have to be there for a procedure or just to be in the ER, as you can see by our historian's report in this chatterbox. We found the bears on amazon for \$48.99 a dozen. The bears come in three colors, light brown, white and dark brown with a bow around the neck. They are 12 inches tall, and the kids absolutely love them. If any of the units out there would like to donate to this very worthwhile project, please let me know. You can get as many dozen as you like, you do not have to buy three dozen like we did. And you can report it on your children and youth end of year report. Thank you.





## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Mahala Beery

We are back from the DEC meeting in January. We learned about many things. One of the things we learned is that the American Legion National Executive Committee unanimously passed Resolution 7: American Legion Family Day at its meeting October 12-13, 2022, in Indianapolis. It establishes American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April. It encourages posts to open their doors to members of their community for a day and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary members. Among the goals is education.

It is recommended we get proclamations from our cities to declare the last Saturday in April as American Legion Family Day. The American Legion is encouraging all posts to open their doors to their communities for a day to celebrate the Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion. They are also encouraging including the program, "Be The One," for suicide prevention.



I have a sample letter to go to the city leader in your area, let me know if you would like a copy sent to you.

Holding an event on American Legion Family Day can go across many of our programs but can be a great way to do community service in bringing various community leaders together.

I am looking forward to hearing how all the Posts in District 20 do their American Legion Family Day. A great opportunity to come together as a community at your post.

## **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

Linda Hayes

I am happy to report that all units are up to date on their Constitution and Bylaws and no re-writes are needed. However, I haven't seen any amendments to your C&Bs regarding the dues increase that began July 1, 2023. If a dues increase is not included in your Standing Rules, your Unit needs to make an amendment. Send five copies of your amendment page to her for her signature after your Unit has a first and second reading. This year's Department Chairman is Sharon Moore.

I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!

## **EDUCATION**

Hila Estrada

National Scholarships can be found on the National website and are to be submitted online no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>. The four scholarships offered by National are:

### **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship**

Three \$5,000 scholarships are awarded annually per geographic division, for a total of 15 scholarships. These scholarships are for undergraduate study only at an accredited college or university, and may be used for tuition, books, fees, room, and board.

### **Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**

One \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually per Auxiliary geographic division. Applicants may be pursuing training in a certified, trade, professional, or technical program, or a two-year or four-year degree program.

### **Spirit of Youth Scholarship**

The Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund is an umbrella that supports three separate scholarship opportunities for participants in American Legion Auxiliary programs. One is for American Legion Auxiliary Junior members, another for the Junior Members of the Year, and one is for participants in the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program.

### **Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship**

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to current college students. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant, not a loan.





## **GIRLS STATE**

*Liz Tungate for Louralee Gouch*

ALA District 20 Units participating in Girls State, thank you and Welcome back!  
Proposed dates of June 25-30, 2024 at California State University Sacramento. The Girls State calendar of recommendations for January/February is as follows:

### **January**

- Review any additional candidate requirements from Department (i.e. vaccination).
- Ask school staff to provide five candidates for Unit to interview.
- Conduct candidate interviews, abiding by anti-discrimination laws and Girls State Code.
- Remind candidates that, if chosen, the student
- must attend the ENTIRE session of ALA Girls State.
- They cannot arrive late or leave early. There is no time during the session to complete summer school homework, AP tests, interviews, virtual meetings, or any other responsibility. They may not leave the session for any reason and return.
- Notify school(s) of selection of delegate and 2 alternates. ALWAYS choose 2 alternates and keep contact information for any interested student. (If a delegate drops and there is no alternate, Unit will not receive a refund from Department.)

### **February**

- Provide delegate(s), alternates and school(s) with online delegate/alternate application.
- Emphasize March 15 deadline for submission of online delegate/alternate application.
- Remind alternates to reserve June 26-July 1 (with time for transportation to and from Sacramento). We will contact alternates as soon as we hear a delegate will not attend, even as late as the morning of June 26.
- Read GS bulletin at <https://calegionaux.org/sources/bulletins/>.



## **HISTORIAN**

*Krista Young*



Department President Glenda Schultz made her official visit to District 20 on December 13, 2023. The event was hosted by Unit 311. The evening started out with a visit and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Soups in sourdough bread bowls were served for dinner. Unit Presidents presented their special project donations to Department President Glenda for her Be the One, veteran suicide prevention, campaign. A raffle was held by Tina's Be the One project and proceeds were given to President Glenda's special project. Several visitors from other districts were in attendance

### **Auxiliary News Hub**

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

## **JUNIOR ACTIVITIES**

*Jackie Landan*

There is a lot going on with Junior Activities, however there is nothing posted on the Department website's Bulletin page.

Junior Conference will be in Bakersfield again this year, sometime in April. If you have a junior member who is interested, contact Department Junior Activities Chairman Martha Romano.





**LEADERSHIP**

Linda Hayes for Laura Kellgreen

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

**ALAMIS** Numbers as of  
December 12, 2023

A Leadership Workshop is coming! And you are invited! It is Saturday, March 16 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Lunch cost is \$5.00. RSVP by March 11 by calling or emailing Donna Maddox: 909-521-6848 or [mikeanddonnamatt@aol.com](mailto:mikeanddonnamatt@aol.com). If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Linda Hayes by March 10. She's looking forward to a good turn out by District 20.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0176 San Fernando	53	66	80.30%
0311 Antelope Valley	73	93	78.49%
0348 Palmdale	44	41	107.32%
0377 Sunland-Tujunga	86	73	117.80%
0507 Newhall-Saugus	50	59	84.75%
0520 Sun Valley	22	38	57.89%
0817 Panorama City	<u>59</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>105.36%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>90.85%</b>

**LEGISLATIVE**

Kathy Faulconer

**MEMBERSHIP**

Liz Tungate

Every registered voter in CA will receive a vote-by-mail ballot, by Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, one can vote and return ballot as soon as received. Last date to register to vote is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. In person voting will be available in all counties on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. However same day voter registration is available at your county elections office or your voting location up to and including Election Day. 'Get out the votes ladies!'

Congratulations on rallying together to bring District 20 to 90.85% and 4th place out of all 30 districts in the ALA Department of California! Three units have exceeded goal as follows:

Some bills that Gov. Newsom has signed into law are: AB 298 Honoring our Blind Veterans;



AB 988 Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act, designates the 3-digit telephone number "988" as the universal number within the U.S. for purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

AB 1745; Public postsecondary education: veteran's waiver of mandatory systemwide tuition and fees. To view all legislative text, amendments, analyses, votes, and statutes from year 2000- to the present see: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClint.xhtml>.

American legion leadership; will gather in Washington DC Feb 25-28 to meet with reps and watch National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer testify before Congress on Legion legislative priorities. Please visit [legion.org/washingtonconference](http://legion.org/washingtonconference).

Did you respond to the last Grass Roots appeal on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>? It was a request from the Legion for all members to support the Afgan Allies Amendment. Senators were scheduled to review it. If you have not signed up for alerts please do so now and start responding to them. Sign up at <https://voterveice.net/>  
*AmericanLegionRegister*

Hugs and Kisses, Happy Valentines Day

- 1st place 377 Sunland Tujunga with 117.81%
- 2nd place 348 Palmdale with 107.32%
- 3rd place 817 Panorama City with 105.36%

It's time to send out your membership renewal letters. If you need any assistance, please let me know. I'm happy to help! Also, email

me [amlegion817@gmail.com](mailto:amlegion817@gmail.com) if you would like this letter template.

Fact #1- the ALA membership year is from January 1st through December 31st. Members whose dues are unpaid after December 31 have EXPIRED memberships. In such cases, These members lose all rights and privileges of membership.

Fact #2- Members who are not in "Good Standing" (are not current members) are ineligible to apply for any benefits of membership, have no right to vote on motions at meetings, will not receive recognitions that are due members.

Members need to be informed and comprehend that during a period of non-membership, all rights, privileges, emergency assistance, memorials, and support services would not be provided to them, as non-members.

Sharing these facts with members helps us to help them, thereby strengthening our organization. Let's work to communicate this information clearly to all members, remembering to thank them for their loyalty in supporting our mission, and programs.



## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

*Kathy Faulconer*

A Key statement of the ALA National Security program is to maintain and promote a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military servicemembers and their families.

May I suggest, that now is the time to review your year- end reports and find something that you can do to participate in this program (if you haven't already). Your report will ask: Are you signed up for Legion Legislative Action Alerts? I love this one, because as you know, I work that program too, in Legislative. How about Military Care Packages to Troops? Have you assisted service members and families in your community?

Also, the "**Salute to Servicemembers Award**" is available through N.S. It was established in 2003. It has evolved from honoring women veterans to honoring active-duty women to honoring all enlisted personnel who are currently serving our country in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and the National Guard.

One enlisted servicemember from each branch of service as well as the National Guard Reserve will be recognized at the American Legion Auxiliary Dept of CA and National Conventions. Recipients will attend the Dept. of CA Convention and National Convention as guest of the Auxiliary. Applications and Nomination Requirements should be submitted to Dept. Nat Sec Chairman by May 15, 2024. One Dept winner per military branch will then be forwarded to the Nat Sec Chairman. Please see National Security Bulletin November 2023 for more details and information.

It has been suggested that we collaborate with other organizations. Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) supports food pantries for servicemembers and their families. Blue Star Families touch more than 1.5 million military families. USO has 250 locations, and Quilts of Valor Foundation wraps active duty and veterans in a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor.

Do not forget our Buddy Checks and Be the One programs. Suicide among veterans is one of the most devastating issues our Vets face today, memorize the 988 telephone number that has been activated to support those who are having suicidal thoughts and anyone with emotional or mental issues.

Happy Trails



## **PAST PRESIDENTS PARLAY**

There is one scholarship awarded to someone who will be going to nursing school. The \$4000.00 scholarship is awarded each year to a veteran or a veteran's wife or husband, widow or widower or a child of a veteran of the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam Conflict, Grenada / Lebanon, Panama and / or Persian Gulf. There are many nursing students out there that could use our help. The applications can be found online to be completed by interested students then submitted to an American Legion Auxiliary Unit for sponsorship. Applications may be submitted beginning September 1, 2023 but no later than April 5, 2024. All Applicants MUST follow the rules as outlined on the application, failure to do so will result in the disqualification of the applicant.

The District PPP Luncheon for our past and present District President's will be coming up soon. Watch for more information.



### **POPPIES**

*Bonnie Christner*

There are 2 categories for the Miss Poppy Contest. Little Miss Poppy ages 6 – 12 and Miss Poppy ages 13 – 18 and they must be a junior member of the auxiliary. Promotional activity of the Poppy Story must be through the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the community. The selection of Miss Poppy and Little Miss Poppy is at the discretion of the unit. A narrative report, not to exceed 100 words, on the Memorial Poppy must be submitted. Entrants must submit a scrapbook 8 1/2 x11 inches containing photos and clippings of her activities promoting the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program. The department winning entrants will be invited to attend the next Department American Legion Auxiliary convention in June to be presented to the delegation, and to bring greetings to the delegation. The rules for judging Miss Poppy Scrapbook entries are on the department website. Do you have a junior member that might qualify to be Miss Poppy for the auxiliary year 2023-2024? I can tell you from experience that these girls are very special and very hard workers. So, please go to the department website if you have a junior member that might be interested in this program. Happy Valentines Day!





## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Linda Hayes

**Be the One.** As mentioned in our ALA magazine, **Be the One** is not a phrase to be used with recruiting, for your programs. It is what we as an American Legion Family do each and every day to bring awareness, to destigmatize suicide. There are many ways in which you can work to promote **Be the One** in your unit, post and communities. Valentine's Day is a great time to make gifts, invite veterans to your post for dinner. Reach out to veterans who may be alone, talk to them, interact with them. **Be the One** to reach out to them so they know that it's ok to not be ok, and that you are there. – from <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPublicRelations>

## **VA & R**

Marcy Velador

February 14th is nearly here but it's never too late to show our veterans some love! There is still time to purchase Valentine cards to give to our heroes who reside in assisted living facilities, CalVet homes, and those who are patients in VA hospitals. Set aside some time in the next couple of weeks to visit with veterans in a facility located near you. A kind word and a few minutes of your time can be so heartwarming for a lonely veteran. Be sure to check with the facility you plan to visit beforehand, to see whether you can give sweet treats or baked goods to the patients/residents there. Many VA facilities no longer allow candy and baked goods to be given to their patients – it's a health and dietary thing.



## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Linda Hayes, Department Education Chairman

**Unit chairmen are to submit the winning scholarship to their District Education Chairman by March 1. The District Chairman is to submit the winning scholarship to the Department Chairman no later than March 15.**

## **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 already attending college.

Due to the unit chairman by March 1; due to the Department chairman by March 15.

## **LUCILLE GANEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The applicant must attend Stephens College in Columbus, Missouri.

Due to the unit chairman by March 1; due to the Department chairman by March 15.

## **PPP NURSES SCHOLARSHIP**

One \$4,000 nursing scholarship annually.

*Who is eligible to apply?* A veteran or a veteran's wife or husband, widow or widower, or child of a veteran. The veteran's period of service eligibility is April 16, 1917 - November 11, 1918, or any time after December 7, 1941, to the date of 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 ASSISTANCE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

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

Four \$1,000 scholarships payable at \$1,000 each

Three \$500 scholarships payable at \$500 each

## **CONTINUING/RE-ENTRY STUDENTS OR STUDENTS PURSUING HIGHER DEGREE SCHOLARSHIPS**

*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 Scholarships payable at \$1,000 each

Three \$500 Scholarships payable at \$500 each

*The following four scholarships 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 Juniors Scholarship*

*One \$500 National President's Scholarship*

*One \$500 National President Non-Traditional Scholarship*

*One \$500 National Junior member Loyalty Scholarship*





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

### District 20

Coming in April—1st Round of Nominations

### Unit 817

Taco Tuesday every week

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



## February Birthdays

Feb. 22— Laura Kellgreen

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

## February Dates to Remember

**Monthly Program Focus: Americanism**  
**Recognition Month: Black History Month**

- Feb. 3 Four Chaplains Day**
- Feb. 4 World Cancer Day**
- Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday**
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday**
- Feb. 17 Act of Kindness Day**
- Feb. 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday**
- Feb. 19 President's Day**
- Feb. 22 Washington's Birthday**



# Happy Valentines



## From the Editor's Corner

### February 17th is National Act of Kindness Day

Do these little (but powerful) acts of kindness to bring light and love to your loved ones, your community, and the world.

*Sharing a compliment* or letting someone go ahead of you in line may seem like a small thing at the moment, but these little random acts of kindness can really add up and make the world feel like a nicer, safer place.

#### *Give someone a "just because" gift*

Presents on your birthday or at the holidays are awesome but they're also expected. But a surprise gift can feel even more meaningful.

#### *Share a happy thought on social media*

There is a lot of negativity online these days but it's just as easy to post something positive as it is to be angry or mean. Spread a **little bit of joy** by posting a happy picture, a **funny meme**, or a sweet thought.

#### *Do the dishes*

A sink full of dirty dishes can make everything feel more overwhelming and depressing. Instead of worrying about whose night it is, take the initiative and get those dishes washed.

#### *Refill the coffee pot*

Whether you're at home or the office, if you see an empty coffee pot take a few seconds to refill it so it will be ready for the next person. You could also refill an empty snack basket, fruit bowl, or candy bowl.

#### *Ask your great aunt to tell you a story*

Chances are that your family is chock full of exciting, interesting, funny, dramatic, or entertaining stories. Ask an older relative to share some of their favorite family stories with you.

#### *Make a list of things you love about your partner*

Living with someone can drain the romance out of even the best relationships. (Especially once you've seen the barbaric way they squeeze the toothpaste from the middle!) As a counterpoint to life's daily annoyances, make a list of things you love about your partner and share it with them.

#### *Go for a walk with a friend*

Enlist a friend as a walking buddy—it will brighten their day and yours.

#### *Ask your spouse on a date*

Sometimes it seems like the ones closest to us get the least of our attention. Show your spouse some kindness by planning a simple date night and asking them out.

Partial list from [rd.com](http://rd.com)

