



## *Past President's Parley      October 2024*

A little history on the Past Presidents Parley committee, In 2018-2019, National abolished the PPP program for the reason to include lack of formal purpose and foundational activism. At this year's National convention, Texas proposed an amendment to reinstate the PPP program. Unfortunately, the proposed amendment was NOT adopted.

The Department of California continues to have a PPP program. The program's mission is to activism to include, but not limited to, support of national initiatives, service projects and mentoring of members at all levels.

Your PPPs are at your service for guidance and constructive feedback. Will you engage your Past Presidents in your events this year? PPP chairman assures that leadership remains active, engaged, and involved.

The guidelines and deadlines for the \$4000 Nursing Scholarship see our website. At every unit/district meeting, PLEASE ask your members if they know someone entering or currently attending a nursing program.

**Deadline for Scholarship Applications is the First Friday in April... (April 4, 2025)**



***"The purpose of our lives is to be happy."*** – Dalai Lama

Mid-Year reports deadlines: District Chairman December 1, 2024

District Chairman to Department(me) December 15, 2024

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman

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668 Via Mendoza Unit B, Laguna Woods, CA 92637



American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California  
Public Relations – Rosemary Barron – rosemarybarron@msn.com  
October 2024, Bulletin

October is here and it is officially FALL! Halloween preparations have started, so much can be done there. Be sure to share your activities with the NewsHub by emailing: [editor@calegionaux.org](mailto:editor@calegionaux.org) and copy; babstothaux@yahoo.com. You get recognition for that.

Mid-Year is coming up in January (17-19), which will take us to Palmdale, CA. It is always exciting and full of anticipation of seeing everyone again! I sure hope you can make the trip.

Remember: OUR JUNIORS ARE ON THE MOVE! Be sure to include them in your events and meetings. The meetings, because it is training for them.

November 5, 2024 - Get out there and vote it is your right. You must not support any specific candidate or issue when you are wearing branding items of the ALA. When you are not identifying yourself as a member of the ALA, that is a different story (follow the ALA Guidelines).

PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE – this is a daily and yearlong strategy!

Brochures are a great way to get the word out. They can be downloaded for free from this link:

<http://www.legion-aux.org/brochures>

Print out and distribute at your community events, have them handy at your meetings and posts, and add to your websites for easy access for all members.

You can help your units by staying up to date on information being shared on the Department website [www.calegionaux.org](http://www.calegionaux.org).

Flags and Emblem has a variety of t-shirts and supplies available to you. You can lead by example by wearing the American Legion Auxiliary brand to meetings, events, etc.

<https://emblem.legion.org>

**Important dates to remember:**

Mid-Year reports deadlines: District Chairman December 1, 2024

District to Department: December 15, 2024

“Success isn’t Always about Greatness. It’s about Consistency “

Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson adds that “Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come.” Sometimes even consistency itself is the greatest success and what people remember. Dream big, start doing the small stuff well. Repeat every day.

For God and our Country.



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



**BULLETIN #2**

**OCTOBER 2024**

**Due October 1st - [2025 Reservation Form](#)**

Hello Girls State Chairman,

**Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:**

- Complete the [2025 Reservation Form](#).

Deadline is October 1 to help us plan and know which schools Units plan to sponsor. The Reservation Form will remain open after the October 1 deadline. Units can continue to submit reservations after the deadline.

Once an initial Reservation Form is submitted, a Unit can email [alacagschair@gmail.com](mailto:alacagschair@gmail.com) the name and city of the high school, type of school, and whether the school participates in TAL CABS to add or change schools.

- Download the [2024 ALA GS School Introductory Letter](#) (with FAQs) and fill in the five blanks at the bottom of page 1 to distribute to school personnel.
- If you are having difficulty reaching personnel at the high school the Unit would like to sponsor and would like assistance, please complete the [2024 ALA CAGS Assistance Contacting Schools request form](#).
- After you contact the school and reserve them, follow up with information that will be helpful to the Counselor. If new, for example, download the [Structure of ALA Girls State](#) and the [Letter to High School Principal or Counselor/FAQs](#).

**Next Zoom: Monday, September 23rd at 7:00pm**

Topic: ALA CAGS Chair Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484116950?pwd=vM1CJoMrVCAaLr69SQKy5YyqKGXbxE.1>

Meeting ID: 854 8411 6950

Passcode: ALAcags82

The meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend.

## **Links and Information from Previous Bulletins**

[District and Unit GS Chair list](#)

[Bulletin #1](#)

[Youth Program Brochure\\*\\*](#)

[What is ALA Girls State/What is Auxiliary\\*\\*](#)

[findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov) - (website)

[Counselor flyer form.pdf](#)

[Fundraising Ideas](#)

[Fundraising Tool Kit](#)

[The Structure of Girls State\\*\\*](#)

[Suggested Calendar Final](#)

\*\*Indicates documents that will be helpful to new Counselors and Chairs. Thank you for

everything you do! I know most of you wear more than 1 hat. You all amaze me. Caroline Miller,

[alacagschair@gmail.com](mailto:alacagschair@gmail.com) (562)444-8296



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
POPPY PROGRAM  
OCTOBER BULLETIN**

Greetings Free Spirits,

Thank you to all Units who have submitted their poppy orders. I have opened all envelopes and email sent to me. It greatly helps with knowing how many poppies we'll need for distribution. Unit orders not received by October 31<sup>st</sup> will be assed \$30 for 100 poppies.

Poppies are the legion family's memorial flower. Poppies be worn to remember our loved ones who have past and those we remember on Memorial Day. When a member of the legion family has passed, with the approval of the family, poppies can be given during the funeral/celebration of life to our deceased loved one. In the ALA's Manual of Ceremonies, there is prayer that goes along with the poppy.

Our biggest day of the year is National Poppy Day is the Friday before Memorial Day. Now is the time to discuss with our units, district, posts and squadrons on how we will share the message of the Poppy this year. Poppy parties can be scheduled throughout the year to ensure that all are ready for National Poppy Day at the end of May.

Kindly,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman

Department of California 2024-2025



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
 VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION  
 OCTOBER 2024 BULLETIN



Hello Everyone!

This month members, Units, and Districts should be promoting and preparing for the **National Wreaths Across America Day, on Saturday, December 14, 2024.**

- Now is the time to register to take part in wreath placement ceremonies at local Veteran cemeteries.
- Everyone is encouraged to sponsor wreaths for placement with Wreaths Across America at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).
- Check out the ALA Academy tutorial on how you can fundraise and be involved in this ALA sponsored partnership at [www.alaforveterans.org/ALAAcademy](http://www.alaforveterans.org/ALAAcademy). It contains valuable information on how Units and Districts can honor our national treasurers – our veterans.

Members are also encouraged to contribute their efforts to **Honor Flight, Inc.**, another ALA sponsored partnership within the VA&R program.

- Volunteer at and participate in send-offs and Welcome Home events at local hubs.
- Utilize Poppy funds to support important aspects of Honor Flight activities. More information on this will be found at [www.honorflight.org/donations](http://www.honorflight.org/donations).
- Have Juniors create cards and letters for participating veterans during Mail Call upon arrival home.

**2024 October and November Military Dates to Remember**

<b>October 13</b>	<b>United States Navy Birthday</b>
<b>October 26</b>	<b>Day of the Deployed</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Navy Day</b>
<b>October 29- November 2</b>	<b>National Veterans Small Business Week</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>National Veterans &amp; Military Family Month</b>
	<b>Warrior Care Month</b>
	<b>National Family Caregivers Month</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Marine Corps Day/Birthday</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair  
[var@calegionaux.org](mailto:var@calegionaux.org)  
 831-324-0191





**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department of California**

**Membership**

**Bulletin 4**

**October, 2024**

Achieving membership goals can be a daunting task. It requires thinking creatively, pushing boundaries, and exploring unconventional methods to stand out and attract new members. That is why sometimes we must think outside the box to retain and attract members.

Benefits of Thinking Outside the Box:

1. Increased visibility, such as wearing ALA brands. Unconventional approaches can generate buzz and get the ALA noticed by potential members.
2. Differentiation: Thinking outside the box helps us to establish a unique identity.
3. Improved Engagement: Higher engagement will encourage members to participate and contribute.

Tick, tock, tick, tock yes, it's that time National will be issuing renewal notices so please process membership as soon as you receive them. If your unit is not currently processing membership through ALAMIS and you wish to have some training please let me know.

Achieving membership goals requires a willingness to think outside the box and explore innovative strategies that resonate with today's diverse people. By embracing unconventional approaches, we can increase visibility, differentiation, and engagement, ultimately driving membership growth and success.

I want to personally thank you for your outstanding contributions to our membership growth. Your passion and dedication are inspiring!

THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE!

Donna L. Smith, Department Membership Chair E: [DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com)





## Children and Youth 2024-2025      October 2024

Hello to all the Wonder Women of California

I have heard from nationals and the national Chairman is Lisa Chaplin from the department of Virginia and the Western Division chairman is Joan Hernandez from Idaho. We will be having our first zoom call September 30<sup>th</sup>, stay tuned for all the great upcoming events. At this time the National Chairman Lisa has sent out the first newsletter and she has encouraged all children and youth chairman to join our ALA Children & Youth Facebook group, where you will find updates, reminders, and a place to share ideas throughout the ALA year. You can find our group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACHildrenandYouth>

Also, the National President Trish Ward is doing the ALA Challenge Deck, you can discover ways to get involved in your community and make a real difference in the lives of local veterans. Your efforts, big or small, contribute to a brighter future for those who served. With your commitment to donate \$35 to the Veteran Projects Fund, you will support projects serving veterans in local communities and have also found a meaningful way to engage with the mission of the ALA. Take the challenge and lead the way. If you would like more information, please let me know.

We have exciting news, with the permission from Madam President Linda we are going to be teaming up with our National Security Chairman Linda Lara-Guzman and at the DEC we are going to be having a Canned food Drive. This will support all our local military bases and food pantries that are in need. We are asking everyone who attends DEC to bring canned foods and then we will have bags so that everyone can take what they need to support their local military bases and food pantries. This will benefit the entire state of California. The Flyer will be on the department website.

October is here and I know we are planning parties for Halloween and getting ready to hand out goodies and treats but we do have Children and Youth Coloring books so if you would like the link, please let me know.

I'm going to keep reminding you of Temporary Financial Aide. TFA is specifically designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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

If you have any questions, I'm just a phone call, text message or email away.

For God and Country

Tracy Varnell Fercho [tvarnell2@yahoo.com](mailto:tvarnell2@yahoo.com) 805-233-4354

771 Brossard Drive Thousand Oaks CA 91360





American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Junior Activities  
October 2024 Bulletin

Greetings from the Ticket Master time is flying by so fast we are already in October. This month is Education month. Seniors, please let you juniors be a part of any events you may have for Education month and remember to keep track of your hours, money spent and take lots of pictures. Juniors should also keep track of their hours. These are memories you will never want to forget. Our juniors are our future.

I would like to thank all units who have sold their Junior Conference tickets so far. If you have not mailed your stubs and checks in yet, please send all Junior Conference ticket stubs and check to **ALA, Department of CA, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 319, San Francisco, CA 94102-4570, Make check payable to ALA Dept of CA, Include Unit and/or District number on all checks.** If you have any questions or need more tickets, please feel free to contact me.

Mid-Year is right around the corner. The Mid-Year report has been updated and is available online under Junior Activities. Let us make 100% reporting.

Seniors continue mentoring our juniors. Here are a few things that we can share with our juniors.

- Learning about patriotism and how to show respect for the American Flag
- Teacher them the correct way to set-up and have a meeting
- Helping Military families such as mowing yards and helping military kids become acclimated at a new school.
- Distributing poppies especially on Veteran Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, so our veterans know we care about them.
- Earning service patches while learning about ALA programs
- Demonstrating responsibility for future scholarships, college, or military service applications
- Encourage the juniors to participate in essay contests. The information for these essays can be found on the District and ALA National website.
  - Department of CA Junior Activities Essay for Mission Training due November 4, 2024
  - Americanism Essay due by April 15, 2025

Last but not least let us give the juniors a big **CONGRATULATIONS** for all their hard work for serving our Veterans and their families. Keep up the great work.

**“OUR JUNIORS ARE ON THE MOVE”**

Lucy Hunt  
Department Junior Activities Chair  
American Legion Auxiliary  
[huntll577@gmail.com](mailto:huntll577@gmail.com)/213-521-9895



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPT. OF CA  
Chaplain  
October 2024 Bulletin**

Hello Unit and District Chaplains. I would like to begin by letting you know that Patti Galatioto has resigned her position as Department Chaplain effective September.

Department President Linda Hayes asked that I step in and finish out this term as Department Chaplain. I was Patti's Mentor and struggled with her resignation. She has done an outstanding job as our Chaplain, and I now vow to do the same.

Let me introduce myself, I am Melanie Taylor, a Past Department President (2004-2005), and a National Program Chairman for the past 12 years. I am a member of The United Methodist Church. I am also a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and just recently joined my local Kiwanis Club.

**DUTIES OF THE CHAPLAIN**

The Chaplain will express, by word and action, our founding principle of service to God and Country.

- The chaplain will encourage the unit and district to celebrate the diversity amongst its members and their faiths.
- The chaplain will provide spiritual and emotional guidance to members and their families, as needed while maintaining confidentiality.
- The chaplain is responsible for presenting the invocation and benediction at Auxiliary meetings.
- The chaplain will participate as needed in installations; initiations of new members; dedication of halls, monuments, or colors; Four Chaplains services; POW/MIA recognition programs; and the memorial service of a member, always lending dignity and respect to the occasion.
- The chaplain should stay in close contact with the president and other officers of the unit and district and should attend all regular meetings and Executive Committee meetings.

## MONTHLY BULLETINS

Monthly bulletins will be posted to the department website. I encourage you to check them out and share these with your members in your units and districts. [www.calegionaux.org](http://www.calegionaux.org)  
Resources – Bulletins – scroll down to check each month for the bulletins submitted.

## MID-YEAR UNIT AND DISTRICT REPORT FORMS

The Department Secretary Liz will be sending out the Mid-Year Unit and District Report Forms soon. Please keep an eye out for them. They will be posted on the Department website and mailed to those units and districts that have signed up for bi-monthly mailing and paid the required fee.

I would like to finish this bulletin with a prayer. Our department is struggling with turmoil and animosity and we need the Lord's help.

Lord, as we work in our great organization, help us look beyond outward appearances to the person underneath. Teach us to love and accept them. Forgive our critical thoughts and harsh words; replace our impatience with Your love and forgiveness.

Open our eyes to the needs of the world and fill our hearts with love. O God, help us to recognize and grasp the opportunities for service that each one of us might make a difference.

Let us reach out and touch someone with a helping hand. Help us to never lose sight of Your continual guidance in our lives as we work for our fellowman. Amen.

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



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Auxiliary Emergency Fund  
Bulletin # 3 October**

Calling all Clara Bartons to help keep American Beautiful!

The East Coast has just experienced a catastrophic event. Helene has caused wide spread devastation. There are over 200 people who have lost their lives and still many missing. Homes and lives destroyed; whole towns swiped off the map. How can we help? Go to the AEF forms on the California web-site and pull up the AEF Donation form. **DONATE!!** There are over 18,000 ALA members in California. If each of us donated \$5.00 that would raise over \$9,000 by donating \$10.00, \$20.00 do the math. There are other organizations you can donate to. Clara Barton was the founder of the Red Cross. My only request is don't wait to donate. **HELP**

I realize that here in California we have our own destruction with fire season. If you need assistance, go to the web-site that I have provided and fill out the paper work for a grant.

You **MUST** apply for this grant on-line from National at [www.ALForveterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALForveterans.org/AEF).

You will not find AEF donations on the California Donation/Payment Transmittal Form. Remember this is a national grant program and you **MUST** go through National.

I pray that you all stay safe and find it in your hearts to help our sisters and brothers on the East Coast. United as One.

May God blesses all of you, and may God Bless the U.S.A.

In Service Not Self,

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





American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Americanism Bulletin  
October 2024

Members~

As we move into the fall months, how are you planning to work on the Americanism program. Have you reached out to your local schools and planned to provide them with the essay contest information?

Americanism is a key component in our mission to serve our Veterans, our communities and our youth. There are several parts of the program that I would like us to focus on. They include:

- Getting out the vote. Now, more than ever, with election season upon us, we need to have our voices heard. Please remember while wearing ALA branded clothing/accessories, you may not support any specific candidate or issue, unless it is supported by the American Legion.
- The Pocket Flag program. Please consider partnering with a Blue Star Mothers Chapter in your area to add these to the care packages they may be sending for the holidays.
- Promoting Americanism in schools, such as assisting the students to learn the Pledge of Allegiance or flag etiquette.

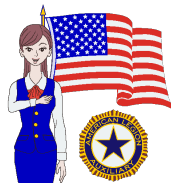
Veterans Day is just around the corner. Have you made plans yet? Now is the time to put a plan together.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Yours in Service~

*Robin Falkenberg*

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Americanism Chairman 2024-2025 (AKA Betsy Ross)  
[americanism@calegionaux.org](mailto:americanism@calegionaux.org)



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Workshop Remarks  
Americanism Program  
2024-2025

Hello Members!

Welcome to your workshop. Whether you are in the north or the south, I hope your day is filled with lots of information, ideas, and above all, lots of fun.

I have a few questions for you:

- Did anyone observe 9/11 Patriots Day?
- Did anyone observe Constitution Day, September 17<sup>th</sup>?

If you did, please remember to report these in your mid-year report, which is coming out soon.

If you have not already done so, please review the Americanism program code on the department website. This might spark some ideas on something you can do under this program. The National website provides information from the National committee. You might even find some ideas from around the country.

Besides participating in patriotic holidays in your communities, handing out flag etiquette books or cards to businesses with tattered flags, there is also the pocket flag program. You can work in partnership with your local Blue Star Moms and provide flags for the care packages.

When it is time to submit entries for the various essay contests or Best Program, please make sure you follow the rules and include the proper cover page. Entries will be disqualified without it. Please don't let that happen.

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

Yours in Service~

*Robin*

Robin Falkenberg  
ALA DOC Americanism Chairman 2024-2025  
[americanism@calegionaux.org](mailto:americanism@calegionaux.org)

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
October Education Bulletin

Welcome Anne Sullivans,

Gosh it is October already. Education Month, have you started getting scholarships out to your schools? How about our “Give 10” to education? Have you approached the schools to have a Veteran in the classroom?

Our education program has so many layers, don’t feel you need to work all aspects. For our smaller Units, working one or two part is great, just pick the areas your Unit feels most passionate about. Veterans in the classroom, not only helps our Veterans to explain their experiences, but it lets the students know more about our military and what our Veterans experienced in different countries. Give 10 to Education is another way for our smaller Units and Districts to support this very important program.

Did you know that our Department scholarships are not just for our members, but for any Veteran, their spouse, or their children? This is the time to reach out to your local high schools and talk to them about the scholarships. Take the time to print them off the website and deliver them to your schools. You will be surprised by the number of Veterans’ children that are out there. You can also direct the school to the National website, and the students can fill out the application online and submit them. I am looking forward to reading all the scholarships we receive.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call, or e-mail me and we will get them answered.

Donna Mattox

Dept. Education Chair

(909) 521-6848





## National Security Bulletin 4 October 2024

Hello to all of my Strategic Planning Commissioners. I hope everyone is doing well. This is bulletin #4.

As Strategic Planning Commissioners our focus should be on how we are helping with the Natural Disasters that have happened in the last couple of weeks. Do we know of any National Guard Units in our areas being Deployed to help in the hurricane areas? What about the fires happening in our State and other states?

On the recent National Security zoom meeting, we are encouraged to focus on quality of life for our Military and their families. This means we give encouragement to the families that have loved ones who are deployed to these areas.

Reach out and find out how their children and spouses are doing. Do they need assistance with a local food pantry? Do the kids need some fun things to do to ease their anxiety? Something as simple as some coloring books, crayons or word find books which are not expensive can give a child some comfort.

Your area may not have a local National Guard Unit, but don't let that keep you from assisting. I would like to encourage the areas with Guard Units to please email this Chairmen your information so I can provide your information to other Auxiliary Units that would like to help out.

This is another reason to be prepared for emergencies. Log on to the National Auxiliary website and get trained. Please visit Community Emergency Readiness Training at <https://www.ready.gov/>. There is information on:

- Make a plan Form
- FEMA Mobile App
- Emergency Alerts
- Power Outages
- Severe Weather
- Flooding
- Build a Kit
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes

Thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin. If you have any suggestions for other Nation Security topics please reach out to me.

Linda Lara-Guzman  
Strategic Planning Commissioner  
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