

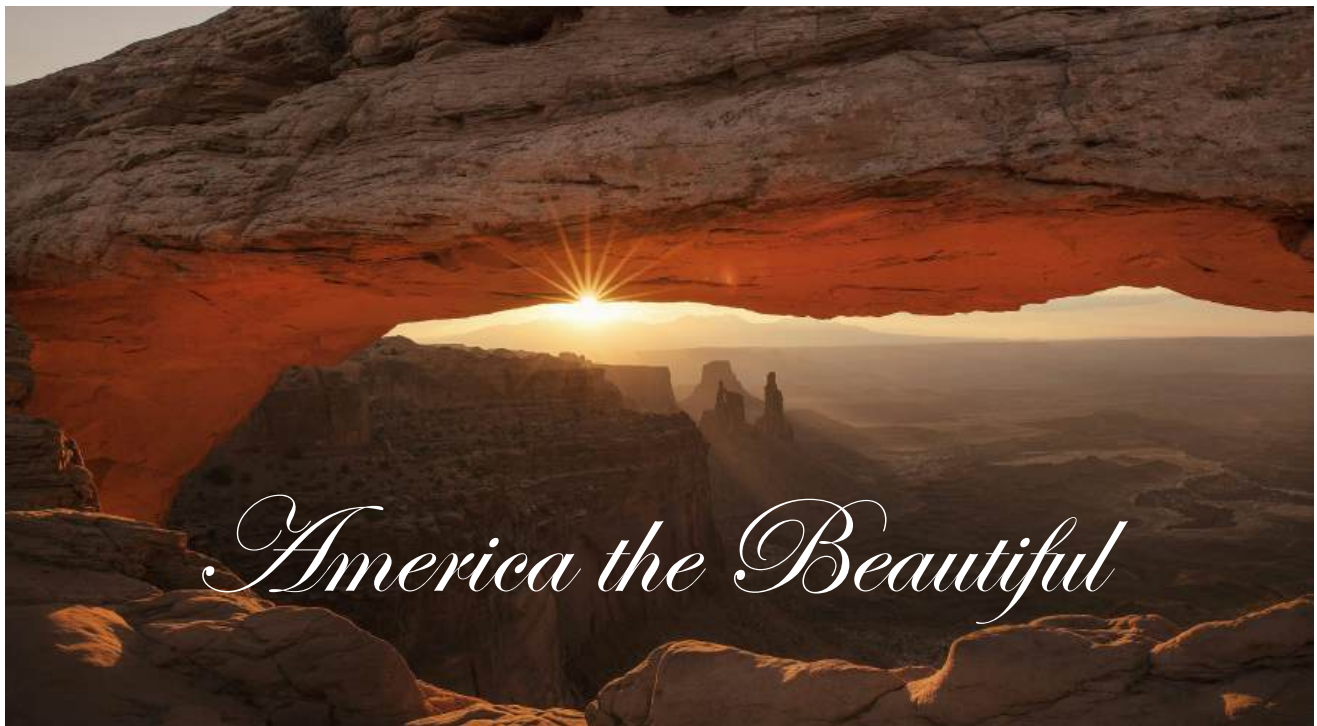


**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**Department of California**  
**The Roarin' 20th District**

# CHATTERBOX

Volume 64, #2

October 2024



## **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.



## 2024—2025 DISTRICT OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Liz Tungate	<a href="mailto:ALA.deptca.district20@gmail.com">ALA.deptca.district20@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Jr. Past President</b>	Carol Harville	<a href="mailto:bcountry_47@yahoo.com">bcountry_47@yahoo.com</a>

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## 2024—2025 DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

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<b>VA &amp; R</b>	Barbara Garrison	<a href="mailto:Bgarri2445@verizon.net">Bgarri2445@verizon.net</a>

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## 2024—2025 UNIT PRESIDENTS

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<b>Panorama City 817</b>	Barbara Garrison	<a href="mailto:Bgarri2445@verizon.net">Bgarri2445@verizon.net</a>

# OFFICER REPORTS

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

*Linda Hayes*



## ALA Academy Live: So... You're a Department Chair

On Thursday, October 17, at noon Eastern time, the American Legion Auxiliary is holding an informative webinar for department (state) chairs. Whether you're new to your leadership role or a seasoned leader, you'll gain insights into leveraging resources available for your ALA program. This webinar will provide strategies to help you excel in your role and enhance your leadership skills. After attending this webinar, attendees should be able to:

- \* Recognize effective strategies to maximize communication with committee members.
- \* Apply available resources to ensure success in your ALA leadership role.
- \* Know the correct process of completing year-end reporting and award submissions.

Watch our [social media](#) @ALAforVeterans for registration information

*ALA enews*



## DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT

*Liz Tungate*

Greetings from the desk of your president! It's been a fun month for me! The month began with a visit to Post 520 to attend Unit 520's installation, dinner and karaoke.

Congratulations Eva Miles and her officers for stepping up to get Unit 520 back on firm ground.

The national website ALA for Veterans has a wealth of materials you can download such as program guides, handbooks, toolkits, manuals, bylaws, standing rules, and more. If you don't already have an Auxiliary account at [member.legion-aux.org](http://member.legion-aux.org) - please create one. Your account will give you access to all kinds of information, including the ALA Academy. The first class I'd recommend would be ALA 101. That class is a very informative look at the ALA with an event timeline. I found it very interesting. The Academy offers online classes for such things as National Poppy Day, and Using Social Media to your Unit's Advantage. Does your Unit have a Facebook page? Please let us know so we can promote your Unit activities on our District Facebook page.

We are updating the District Standing Rules so please keep an eye on your email for a copy of the proposed updated Standing Rules. Your feedback and suggestions are very important to us.

Also, we are looking for ways to increase attendance at the monthly District meetings. We will be reaching out to you via email about a good day / time when it would be more convenient for you to attend the monthly District meetings.

Remember the District goal for this year is to work and learn more about the six Major programs - Poppy, Legislative, Americanism, Children & Youth, Education, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

Please note our membership goals:

ALA District 20 (Area 6)		
Membership Goals 2024/2025		
Unit #	Unit Name	Goal
176	San Fernando	59
311	Antelope Valley	95
348	Palmdale	49
377	Sunland-Tujunga	96
507	Newhall-Saugus	61
520	Sun Valley	27
817	Panorama City	65
Total		452

In closing, please remember we are the American Legion Auxiliary and we make a difference! We are united by our faith in God and Country.

## CHAPLAIN

*Carol McChesney*

### *CAST All Your Cares*

The core of the gospel is that we have nothing, contribute nothing, bring nothing to God. Prayer, which is made possible by the gospel and shaped by the gospel, works the same way. God gives to us; we don't give to God. We ask; he gives. Prayer depends on what he has done in us and for us, and on what he will do in US and for us.

There are times when our prayers are unanswered only because they are delayed. God is simply waiting until the time is right. God means to bless each one of us, his children, failing to wait for his timing to be right and his answer to be perfect. Our task is to trust him - in what he will grant in a moment and what he will grant only in time. Our task is to pray and wait, pray and trust, pray and watch for exceedingly and abundantly things to unfold beyond all we can ask or even imagine.



God is never going to give you anything that is hurtful or bad for you. After all, if even imperfect parents know how to give good gifts to their kids, wouldn't God, who is good and perfect, do even more for you?

Thank you for reaching out in reading my thoughts. Remember, all may not agree, but some will and some will understand or give it some thought.

One card was mailed out on behalf of District 20 to Glenda Schultz in Rosevale, California. Glenda is a Past Department President that fell breaking her arm and shoulder on her way back home after attending the National Convention in New Orleans. We wished her well and a speed recovery.

I remain your District 20 Heart Polisher .



## PAST PRESIDENT

*Carol Harville*

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)**

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

District Chairman to Department - December 15, 2024

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## SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

*Ann Philcox*

The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the advancement and retirement of the unit colors and their proper care..

# CHAIRMEN REPORTS

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*Marlena Tungate*

Even though school has already started, it is never too late to get our Military Children the supplies they need in a "Hero Backpack". It is suggested that you partner with your Education Chairman because we know they are working on the Give 10 right now. They might have a teacher within a nearby school and you can work together to accomplish both missions. There are also "I'm a Hero 2" stickers available on the National website.

If you have access to a button maker, you can also make buttons to give to the Military Children of deployed parents. When you give a military child a button or sticker, thank them for their service too. For other great ideas on how to distribute stickers or buttons, read the How to Conduct a "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2" Program guide in the Children & Youth Plan of Action. If you have questions or cannot locate these stickers, please let me know as I've downloaded the printable file with instructions.



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## CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS

*Ann Philcox*

Remember to read your bylaws and standing rules. Be sure all members are provided a copy.

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**EDUCATION**  
*October is Education Month!*

## LEADERSHIP

*Ann Philcox*

*The measure of a leader is  
NOT who you knock down.  
The true measure of a  
leader is who you lift UP.*

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## LEGISLATIVE

*Kathy Falconer*

Its Election time! Here is a website that is very informative: [vote411.org](http://vote411.org). You can plug in your address and find your polling place, what is on the ballot and, one can register to vote at this site.

**Registration deadlines:** Online October 21, 2024, by mail October 21, 2024, in person November 5, 2024. Ballots are mailed 29 days before election.

**Return ballots** by mail postmarked no later than election date, no stamp required. Or you may return in person at any voting location in your county, Also, secure ballot drop-off locations by 8 pm. **Let's get out the vote ladies, and remember the ALA is nonpartisan.**

For the time being, Veterans benefit payments have been secured until after the election Nov 5th. A short-term budget was agreed upon by congressional lawmakers. The budget issue will come up again and, you will probably see another request from our grass-roots team to respond. As a lobbyist you may see the same bill come up for a vote several times. The bills go through several different committees and certain parts of said bill may be added or subtracted by members of congress. If you have not done so already, please sign up to be the lobbyist that our vets need us to be at:

[legion.org/legislative](http://legion.org/legislative) .

Watch out for the goblins!!



## MEMBERSHIP

*Sam Marstellar*

Department Membership Chair Donna Smith has some timely advice given that National will be sending out renewal notices soon. She reminds us that 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 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.



## MUSIC

*Rebecca Valdivia*

### Recognizing the Power of Music as a Tool for Positive Change

For thousands of years, music has been a medium for healing purposes. Mothers sing their colicky babies to sleep with music; we attend concerts and other musical events for pure enjoyment; and people who are stressed turn to their favorite songs for relaxation.

Music can be a portal. It can rekindle memories and make new ones. It can create a point of focus that, in effect, lifts a person into another way of seeing and experiencing life and the world around them. It can help manage pain and ease fear. It can help one process and navigate heartbreak, grief, and other complex emotions. It can lift spirits and can be a profound avenue for creativity and self-expression.

Music is a place to go when our world presents overwhelming challenges. It is where we can escape to when we don't have answers. Can you imagine a wedding, funeral, festival, mixer, or a church service without music? Music is a "lifeline," per se, for many of us. B.B. King said, "Even in your darkest moments, music is a rope to grab onto, something to pull you through."



It's almost impossible to find someone who doesn't feel a strong connection to music. Even if you can't carry a tune or play an instrument, you can probably reel off a list of songs that evoke happy memories and raise your spirits. Music helps us connect. Whether it's expressing yourself by writing, or playing a song, or simply sharing your love of a particular band, music creates strong social bonds.

Music has been an integral part of the U.S. Armed Forces and has been used ceremonially, on the battlefield, and in music therapy practices across military and VA hospitals.

For Veterans, music can be a powerful form of therapy to help successfully transition between the stages of military service, discharge, and the integration into civilian life. Vets don't always have the words for what they need to say. That's where music comes in because music is what feelings sound like. They call it the universal language "where words fail, music speaks."

Music can become one's legacy.

## NATIONAL SECURITY

*Mahala Beery*

*Mahala serves on the Department Military Support Committee tasked with preparing an Auxiliary Contingency Plan in the event of war*



The American Legion Auxiliary National Security Committee helps to maintain and provide a strong national defense, strengthening our military families, and preparing our population for response to national and manmade disasters.

One of the best organizations to provide emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors is Operation Homefront (OH) formed in February 2002 and is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Operation Homefront will partner with others for the benefit of our nation's military families.

The national office provides case management services in states that do not have their own chapters. Most clients are the lowest paid service members; E-1 through E-6 enlisted ranks. To learn more about Operation Homefront please go to [OperationHomefront.net](http://OperationHomefront.net). They provide direct services to alleviate a military family's or individual's actual/complete emergency financial burden, as well as counseling and/or recovery support. This is an important resource; please do not overlook it. Our military deserve our best let's help Operation Homefront by doing what we can, spread the word and donate if your can.

Let's not let our active duty down in their time of need. As the year progresses, we will give more ideas on maintaining National Security, helping each unit plan strategically and more information on the ALA National Security Program.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

*Carol McChesney*

Be respectful while representing The American Legion Auxiliary Family. If you are wearing anything that shows The American Legion, the emblem, or even clothing representing our organization, please be careful what you say, as your words may inadvertently make an eligible member and any member feel uncomfortable.

Always be sure to be decked out in your ALA attire for your photo opportunities. Show your pride for the organization by wearing your shirts, hats, car decals, jewelry. Be sure to check out American Legion Flag & Emblem for items, which keeps proceeds within The American Legion Family.

With elections coming up in the next couple of months, let's be aware that our organization is nonpartisan and that we do not side with a political party or take a stand on anything political. We do pay attention to which politicians are supportive of our causes. With that in mind, be more conscientious of what we post on social media, the emails we send, AND the words we speak. We may not all agree on certain things, but yes, we all can work towards common goals.

HAPPY 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday American Legion in November. My, how time flies. It just seems like the year 1919 was like yesterday. 🐱🐱.

**HALLOWEEN** as well, don't eat leftovers on November 1st.



Available at American Legion Flag & Emblem



## RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS I wish for everyone to have a productive new year.
- WHEREAS Remember resolutions are not only written as a way to say thank you for a job well done, but also to report the activities of your Unit/District and can be written to make changes.
- WHEREAS Anyone can write a resolution and if you are not sure, but have an idea of something you would like to change or recognize, feel free to get in touch with me.
- WHEREAS On the website is an Official Resolution Form for you to fill in and there is a place for the body of your resolution. You can also prepare it on a separate sheet and attach it. Just be sure and include all the information they are requesting. Also be sure and make a note of the deadlines for submitting your resolution.
- SO BE IT RESOLVED If you have any questions regarding writing a resolution or you just need to run your idea past someone, please get in touch with me.

Liz Tungate  
President

Marlena Tungate  
Resolutions Chair

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**VA&R**  
*Barbara Garrison*

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 [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org).

## LETTER TO MADAME PRESIDENT REGARDING THE *CHATTERBOX*

Thank you for sending the current issue of the *Chatterbox* with the page noting the Current Officers, Chairmen and Presidents with their emails. That list will come in handy.

I do take exception with one thing (and this has really bugged me since I became a member). Who in their right mind would name an informative newsletter *Chatterbox*? Merriam Webster's definition of chatterbox is "one who engages in much idle talk."

The synonyms listed include: babbler, blabber, blabbermouth, blowhard, cackler, chatterer, conversation alist, gabbler, gasbag, jabberer, jay, magpie, motor mouth, prattler, talker, windbag. I especially like gasbag.

I think the ladies of the Auxiliary are being done a disservice with the use of "Chatterbox". There may be some blabbermouths and blowhards and even a few windbags in District 20 but we should strive to do better. Under your leadership, is it possible to change the name to something a bit more dignified? What is the history behind that name? Is it something to be revered – is there a back-story?

Thank you for listening.

Regina Clark  
Unit 377

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Deadline for the November issue of the *Chatterbox* is October 25.

Please email articles and photos to  
Editor Nancy Heinisch  
[nancyheinisch@att.net](mailto:nancyheinisch@att.net)

