



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

CHATTERBOX

Volume 64, #6

March 2025



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.

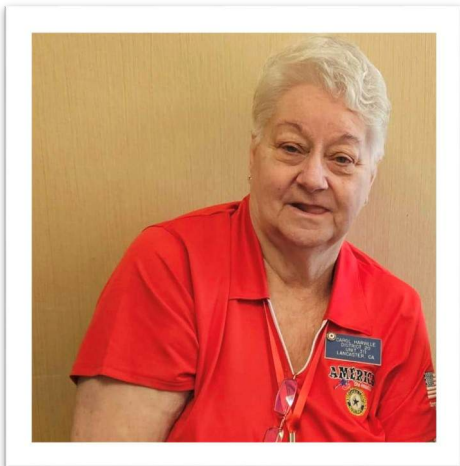
Our Impact

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

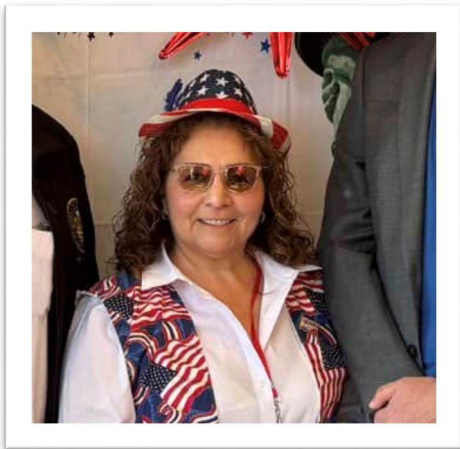


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From top: Jackie Landan, Carol Harville, and Marcy Velador

2024—2025 UNIT PRESIDENTS

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* = vacant

OFFICER REPORTS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Linda Hayes



Follow American Legion Auxiliary Department of California President Linda Hayes on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Facebook page.

Her adventures can also be found on the American Legion Auxiliary website at calegionaux.org.



The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is looking for talented and passionate individuals to serve for a three-year term on its board of directors .

This group builds, promotes, and sustains the ALA Foundation by connecting with supporters and volunteers, all while raising funds to support the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary .

Apply to the board by March 15. Applications may be found on the national website legion-aux.org.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Liz Tungate

Greetings from the desk of your president!



Thank you to those of you that were able to attend the February District Meeting. We had some very good discussions about our programs, especially Legislative. Be sure to register for GrassRoots Action Alerts today at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Register>

March is Women's History Month. Who will your Unit (or you) be honoring this month?

ALA National Scholarship Applications are due March 1, and March 8 is being recognized by the ALA Foundation as a day to celebrate Women of Service. Does your Unit have any woman service members that you will be recognizing in the month of March?

Remember: March 15 is the 106th birthday of the American Legion and March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Day.

April is the Month of the Military Child and Carol McChesney will be presenting our Memorial Service. Please be sure that you have given Carol any Unit members that may have passed since April 2024.

June will be here before you know it! Together as a District (actually, every District) we will be competing for the best District decorated Pole at the Convention. Please give it some thought between now and April so that we can get together and create a fun winning theme for our District! Remember, we are the State of South Dakota - the Friendly State.

In closing : don't forget, we are the American Legion Auxiliary and we make a difference! We are united by our faith in God and Country.

ALA District 20 (Area 6)		
Membership 2/12/25		
Unit #	Unit Name	Members
176	San Fernando	66
311	Antelope Valley	80
348	Palmdale	44
377	Sunland-Tujunga	40
507	Newhall-Saugus	59
520	Sun Valley	17
817	Panorama City	60
Total		366

CHAPLAIN

Carol McChesney



Wishing you all good health, good fortune and blessings this month of March and the days ahead as Spring is approaching.

I want to talk somewhat about an important form, the Member Data Form. I'm pretty sure that all of our units are familiar with the form. The form is important, especially for me as Chaplain to have any record of a passing of one of our members.

Not only to be aware of the Auxiliary member's passing but the other pertinent information of the date of the passing plus the Continuous Years of Membership. At the bottom of the form under Comments or Notes it would be of value to mention something about the lady. Maybe something special about her. Example, did she hold any office in your unit; or she was a great member offering help when needed.

Wearing white for the Memorial Service is appropriate attire such as white dress, white blouse/top, white skirt/slacks and if possible white shoes. Not only for the Auxiliary member representing their Unit but for all District 20 members for this memorial.

Next month, April 9th is our Memorial Service and in order to present the names of the deceased member I must have all forms either sent to me at me email cmcchesney1@msn.com or give me a phone call at (818) 317-7362. Your Unit is advised to keep a copy for your records and I also send a copy to our Department Chaplain.

CHAIRMEN REPORTS

AEF

Bonnie Christner

Did you know that the National Organization will grant up to \$3000 to a family who has suffered from the California fires? That's right, but in order for anyone to receive those funds you have to go to the National website and fill out the application. Is it hard? Maybe a little, but it's definitely worth it if a member can get the help they need.

I personally have done one of these applications for my stepdaughter, who couldn't work because of long COVID and if I can do it so can you.

If anyone in our district needs any help with it, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 661-202-5830 and I will be glad to help. This is truly a time we need to stand together as members of the American Legion Family and help others. Also, they still need donations from those of us who haven't been devastated by the fires. Remember, members helping members. Service not self!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bonnie Christner

March is here, and now it's time to start planning for **American Legion Family Day!** Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26th, the last Saturday in April.

This is an incredible opportunity to bring the community together at your Legion Family Home and show the community how much we do for them and our veterans. Get everyone in your post involved, SAL, ALR, Legionnaires and of course the auxiliary. Maybe put on a BBQ and have it a potluck. Play some horseshoes, and maybe some games for the kids and grandkids. The sky is the limit. And, as always don't forget to report it on your year end reports.



Let's make this year one of engagement and community impact. Share your success stories and photos, as these moments will help inspire and energize others while creating lasting memories. And above all, **HAVE FUN!**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Marlena Tungate

April is the Month of the Military Child. The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

Now is the time to start preparing your Month of the Military Child Proclamation.

Here is a sample:

Whereas, the Department of Defense has consistently acknowledged the vital role of military children and youth; and

Whereas, these resilient young individuals demonstrate unwavering commitment, adaptability, and courage in the face of unique challenges; and

Whereas, military children contribute significantly to the strength and resilience of our military families and communities; and

Whereas, their sacrifices often go unnoticed, yet they play an essential role in supporting the Army's mission; and

Whereas, the Month of the Military Child provides an opportunity to celebrate their achievements, honor their past, cherish the present, and shape a brighter future; and

Therefore, let it be known that we recognize and appreciate the contributions of military children and youth, and we commit to providing them with quality care and positive youth development, and

Be It Resolved: That the _____ (Official's title) of the Town/City Council of _____ does hereby declare April 202_ as Month of the Military Child and calls upon the individual citizens, government agencies, churches and civic organizations, in _____ Town/City of _____ to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities as a way to bring our mission and vision into reality.

Name _____

Title _____

EDITOR

Nancy Heinisch

Need some help with your proof reading? Check out goodhousekeeping.com/life/g63569781/grammar-mistakes-you-are-making/ for some suggestions.

LEGISLATIVE

Kathy Faulconer



Appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins directly addressed concerns circulating about potential cuts to Veterans benefits. He firmly denies any cuts to Veterans benefits, asserting "I'm the Secretary of VA, I'm gonna tell you right now, that's not happening. Reality is, Veterans' benefits aren't getting cut. In fact, we are actually giving and improving services in our Veterans Benefits Administration." He also addresses rumors about the DOGE reassuring those in attendance, that its representatives are not compromising Veterans' personal data.

The following are the 2025 Legislative Point Papers:

- * Improving the Quality of VA C&P Exams
- * Improving access to Community Care
- * Ending Veteran Homelessness
- * Improving the Lethality of our Armed Forces
- * Modernizing the Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
- * Winning the War Within-Veteran Suicide Prevention

The following are the 2025 Legislative Priorities:

- * Accelerate Military Quality of Life Improvements
- * Border Security
- * Advance Lethality of the Armed Services
- * Funding a Robust State Dept. and Foreign Operations Budget
- * Protect Coast Guard Pay and Entitlements
- * Full Accountability of our POW/MIA Service Members

Also, if you have not signed up for Grassroots, please do so now at votervoices.net/AmericanLegion/Register. Don't forget we are in a National Legislative contest between Departments and Divisions. The goal is to have the most responses to the grassroots alerts, which we should be seeing more of soon in our E-mail every Friday. Year end Department and Division winners will be calculated by combining the total Department correspondence numbers for the year divided by membership entered in ALAMIS July 26, 2025.

Happy Trails

GIRLS STATE

Submitted by Patricia Ramsey

Christine Chung: A Rising Star with a Vision for Excellence

Christine Chung is not your average high school student. At just 16 years old, she has already proven herself to be an outstanding scholar, athlete, and leader. With a strong passion for service and a clear vision for her future, Christine aspires to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point and ultimately pursue a career in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Christine's journey has been one of hard work and determination. As a dedicated student, she maintains a stellar academic record with a 4.0 unweighted GPA and 4.375 weighted GPA, ranking at the top of her class. She challenges herself with a rigorous course load, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses in subjects like Psychology, U.S. History, Biology, and Calculus. Her academic prowess is complemented by her recognition in various competitions, including winning 1st place in the Regional Journalism Writing Competition and earning 3rd place in the Next Generation Scientist competition at UC Irvine.

But Christine's achievements go far beyond the classroom. A committed athlete, she has served as the captain of her high school swim and water polo teams since her sophomore year. Her leadership extends to numerous clubs and organizations, including National Honor Society (NHS), California Scholarship Federation (CSF), and Best Buddies, where she works closely with peers and mentors students, demonstrating her teamwork, communication, and organizational skills. Christine's passion for service is also evident through her involvement in extracurricular activities like the American Legion Auxiliary, Boy Scouts, and Taekwondo, where she earned a black belt. As an Eagle Scout and a Brotherhood

member of the Order of the Arrow, Christine has displayed unwavering commitment to helping others and making a positive impact on her community.

Her leadership abilities are further showcased through her role in student government, where Christine has contributed to District 12 Student Council and the Schmelerson Student Advisory Council. She also finds time to tutor elementary school students and support special needs students, showing a compassionate side that complements her academic and athletic pursuits.

Christine's dream of attending West Point is not just about academics or athletics—it's about her dedication to service, leadership, and making a difference. Her journey has been one of purpose and perseverance, and she is determined to continue her path of excellence in all aspects of life.



The Junior members of ALA Unit 377, District 20, are proud to sponsor Ms. Chung as she embarks on a trip of a lifetime to the ALA California Girls State Convention. It is an experience that will only further fuel her drive to achieve her goals and inspire others to follow in her footsteps. With her vision, ambition, and unwavering work ethic, there's no doubt that Christine will make a lasting impact wherever she goes.

MEMBERSHIP

Sam Marsteller



Unfortunately there have been issues with new member applications not being completed correctly and unqualified members being processed into

ALA MIS by units. As a result department is returning to its' previous policy of having applications approved by department before the unit processes a new member into ALA MIS.

The fastest way to get a new member application approved by department is to e-mail it to alacaapplications@gmail.com. Department will then respond with any questions or give approval, typically in 48 hours or less.

Remember all new member applications need:

1) The top portion of the app properly completed: The following fields must be filled: First Name, Last Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Date of Birth (for Junior Members), Have you been a member previously?, Member Signature, and Date

2) Veteran Information: Name of the Veteran, If Living: American Legion #, Post #, Post City, Post State, If Deceased check the box, Veteran Served, Applicant's relationship to Veteran

3) Signed properly: Apps are required to be verified by the American Legion. The Legion Adjutant/Officer is required to sign off on applications and to verify that the Veteran is an eligible source for the applicant.



NATIONAL SECURITY

Mahala Beery

Linda Lara-Guzman, Department of California National Security Chairman wrote a great Bulletin this month so I am repeating most of it.

Did you know that the DoD POLICY ALLOWS VETERAN AND MILITARY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS GREATER ACCESS? Helping servicemembers transition from the military world to civilian life is among the top priorities of The American Legion Family.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has made access to troops and their families easier than ever. At the urging of The American Legion and other organizations, DoD approved two policy memoranda that direct military services



to allow veteran and military service organizations (VSOs/MSOs) greater and more standardized access to installations, their troops, and families. The American Legion worked with DoD staff to shape the policy to increase the presence of service officers at installations and to create greater troop and military family awareness of

American Legion support programs, such as Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), transition assistance, career support and more.

American Legion Family departments, districts and posts/units are encouraged to use this publication as a resource for working with military installations to help troops ease the transition from military to civilian life.

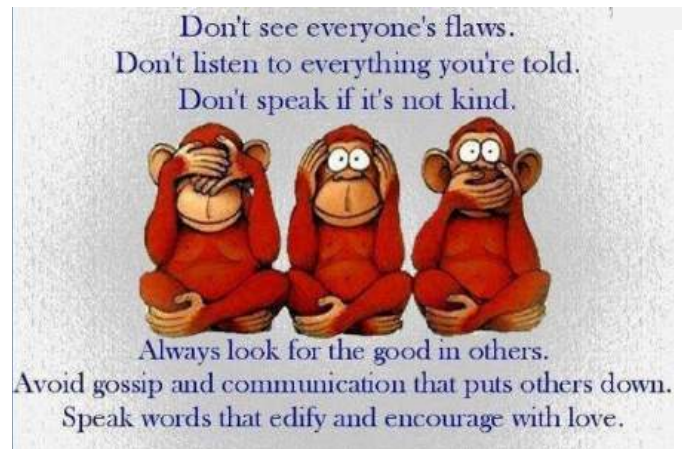
Now is the time to submit the American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Servicemembers Award. This year it is much easier to submit for this award. An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination, rather than the servicemember, to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is head and shoulders above their peers and worthy of this award. A simple narrative of no more than 1000 words, a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photo) and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements. The deadline is June 1, 2025, but it is better to submit now. The nomination form is live now. Simply click [.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award](https://legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award) with the nomination form at member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers.

As we all know, the fires in Southern California have claimed lives and many people have lost their homes and businesses. Please continue to donate money and items. Get with your Posts and have a joint fundraiser to raise funds for our Legion Family members.

Don't forget to Spring forward on March 9, 2025 one hour to Daylight Saving time!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Carol McChesney



ohlegionaux.org

Here's some reasons to promote your growth within the American Legion Auxiliary and family.

Send all your Unit's flyers on events promoting your drawing the community to the event. Lyle Workman Webmaster at webmaster@calegion.org.

Stay up-to-date sharing and getting information on the Department website calegionaux.org.

Flags and Emblems offers many items not only for your self, your Unit but so many beautiful items make a very special gift to a special member or loved one. emblem.legion.org.

Stay Active - Why? Its's encouraging giving and receiving ideas on promoting the American Legion Members and community with positive information. Here's some reasons to promote your growth within the American Legion Auxiliary and family.

