

The logo for the American Legion Auxiliary. It features the word "AMERICAN" in a smaller font above "LEGION" in a larger, bold font. Below "LEGION" is the word "AUXILIARY" in a smaller font. There are horizontal lines above "AMERICAN" and below "LEGION".

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
National Security
Mid-Year Report
2023-2024

Elizabeth Doidge- Chairman

I'd like to start by thanking the twenty-five district chairmen who put together their mid-year reports. Units have spent thousands of hours and over \$10,000 supporting our Military Service members and their families, they have continued to support active duty military families, and raised awareness of POW/MIA's.

Units have been at the airport 32 times so far this year to greet returning soldiers or to see them off. Members have embraced R.E.D. Remember Everyone Deployed and 582 members have committed to wearing red every Friday until they all come home. Units have held 9 fundraisers so far this year in support of preparing Care Packages. Members have spent \$12,008 to send out 7, 234 care packages to our soldiers. I'm sure there are some very grateful soldiers for the ALA Department of California. ALA Unit 299 Juniors sent over 800 Christmas Cards to Service Members and Veterans. Some cards went to the Readiness Department at the Navy Medical Readiness and Training Unit at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan. District 19 brought together ten Auxiliary and one additional volunteer to stuff Stockings to send to Active Military overseas for Christmas. The stockings contained peanuts, chewing gum, coffee, and handwritten cards from children wishing them warm wishes during the holidays. The soldiers from Camp Pendleton were on hand to help pack the boxes and ship them out to various areas around the world. Overall, District 19 stuffed 1,000 of the 5,000 stockings delivered through this adventure.

Members have donated \$4,570 to the Armed Services YMCA Twentynine Palms, Camp Pendleton, and the San Diego Food Pantry. Units have been holding baby showers throughout the state in support of our military families. They've been supporting mom's through the Blue and Gold Star program. Mom's have received 34 flags so far. Let's pray their soldiers come home safe. We have eight members that are Cert trained, Community Emergency Response Trained. We have 6 Units that participated in National Preparedness Month in September.

The High Tech Regional Training Site is located in Sacramento, a full time training school that is run by the Department of the Army who trains Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard soldiers in their Army Signal Military Specialty (MOS). One member from Unit 233 volunteers at the High Tech Regional Training Site as part of their Soldier Family Readiness Group. She helps plan their Christmas Party and as Unit President enlists her Unit's help with volunteering for the event. The Christmas party included a catered dinner made by their local Lions club, a visit from Santa who gave each child 3 gifts and opportunity drawings for the families. They also had a DJ with a photo booth, and a 100 year old sleigh for photos. The AL 233 Family, ALA Unit 383, and various VFW groups donated funds to help purchase gifts for the children of the school. A party for 80 family members, including spouses, and 25 children was planned by members of the Auxiliary. Ten ALA members and two AL members volunteered the night of the event including the Post Commander of AL Post 233, and the District 6 ALA President. The volunteers went shopping prior to the event for Santa's gifts for all 25 children, helped wrap the gifts and during the event they sold the opportunity drawing tickets.

Supporting families for soldiers still missing is a very important goal of the members of the Auxiliary. Units spent over 283 hours and spent \$1,001 in remembrance events of POW/MIAs in their community. It looks like more and more communities are recognizing our Veterans through parades or other events. Members spent 1,933 hours and spent \$7,644 in support Veteran Day Events in their communities. Congratulations to Unit 835 for receiving the 1st Place in Theme Award for the Rancho Cucamonga parade.