



American Legion
Auxiliary

The Auxiliary News Hub

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

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.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

Purposes

In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, military, and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarship and promote quality education and literacy
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service, Not Self



*Valentine's Day is the
perfect time to show thanks and appreciation
to former and current service
members*

2021-2022 Board Room

President	Dee Ann Graham
Vice President	Gloria Williams
Secretary	Liz Doidge
Treasurer	Susie Tozier
Chaplain	Grace Huston
Historian	Jean Cooley Demeules
Parliamentarian	Anita Biggs
Srgt-at-Arms	Karen Herrera
Asst. Srgt.	Rochelle Billet-Smith
Finance	Linda Workman
	Cathalenne McCoy
	Katherine Tellyer
NEC	Joan Cannon
NEC Alt.	Kathie Martinez
Advisory	Susie Tozier
	Loretta Marsh
	Joan Cannon

2021-2022 Surf City Businesses

Americanism	M. O'Brien-Sacco
Aux. Emergency	Valerie Hill
Children & Youth	Tamra Duron
Community Service	Cyd Kintzer
Constitution/Bylaws	Gloria Williams
Convention Chm.	Genieca Riser
Convention Co-Chair	Gloria Sinopoli
Conv. Com. Chair	Anita Biggs
Conv. Com. 2 Years	Linda Fercho
Credentials	Debra Hurado
Distinguished Guest	Linda Fercho
Editor	Nancy Heinisch
Education	Robin Falkenburg
Elections	Kathy Newlen Quiver
Girls State Advisor	Nancy Brown-Park
Girls State Chairman	Allyn Kau
Girls State Director	Tammy Sollazzo
Girls S. Asst. Director	Sherry Core
Girls State 3 Year	Jan Fletcher
Girls State 2 Year	Maggie Alherne
Girls State 1 Year	Caitlin Voss
Girls State Nurse	Elizabeth Tomlin
Girls State Pres. Alt.	Karen Herrera
Girls State VP Alt.	Kim MacKinney
Junior Activities	Ann Philcox
Junior Conf. Director	Jackie Cleveland
Junior Conf. 2 Year	Bernice Brown
Junior Conf. 1 Year	Valerie Hill
Nurse	Ann Sanchez
Leadership	Tracey Varnell-Fercho
Legislative	Kathie Martinez
Membership	Susan Baker
Music	Donna Smith
National Security	Vicky Bean
Past Presidents	Loretta Marsh
Poppy	Linda Hayes
Public Relations	Patricia Galatiota
Resolutions	Cece Harvey
Rules	Sharon Moore
Veterans Affairs	Glenda Schultz
Ways and Means	Marion Rocha
Ways and Means Com.	Terry Olaray
Ways and Means Com.	Tami Wilkenburg
Webmaster	Rebecca Glennly

President's Corner Special Tribute to Madame President

When Madame President made her official visit to Districts 6 and 7, Donna Mattson presented her with an original masterpiece:



Our Wave of Hope and Love

by Donna Mattson

can be sung to "Chill Factor" by Merle Haggard

*LET OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS ... AS WE TRAVEL THROUGH LIFE
HELP OUR FELLOW MAN ... THROUGH THEIR TROUBLE AND STRIFE
BE GUIDED BY THE BEACON ... THAT SHINES FROM ABOVE
TO LEAD OUR WAY FORWARD ...*

ON THE TENDER WAVE OF LOVE (REPEAT)

*WHEN TROUBLE SURROUNDS YOU ... WE'LL OFFER A HAND
AS A WAVE GREETES THE SEASHORE ... AND CLEANSSES THE SAND
WHEN STORM CLOUDS GATHER ... AND COVER THE SHORE
OUR WAVE OF JUSTICE ...*

WILL COME WITH A ROAR (REPEAT)

*TO CHASE ... AWAY ALL THE DARKNESS AND GLOOM
AND LEAVE QUIET WATERS ... ON A TROUBLED LAGOON
OUR BEACON LIGHT ... ALWAYS SHOWS A CLEAR WAY*

OF PEACE HOPE AND PROMISE ...

FOR EACH HEALING WAVE (REPEAT)

Donna Smith, Department Music Chair

The Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California.

Deadline for the April / May issue is March 24.

Editor reserves the right to edit any submission for the purpose of publication. Please email all articles, photos, suggestions and (gentle) criticisms to Editor Nancy Heinisch nancyheinisch@att.net.

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

Department Parliamentarian Anita Biggs helps answer your most perplexing questions



The 2022-2023 National Appointment Application was online. Is there a similar process for members who are interested in becoming department president, officers or chairmen?

There is not a similar process to apply for a department position. It is solely the responsibility of the incoming department president to select her/his cabinet. Advisors can be consulted and there is a spreadsheet that a PDP has compiled to assist with selection. Recommendations can be made to the incoming department president.



Time to Sharpen your Pencils and Begin Writing a Grant Proposal

ALA Foundation Provides Grants

As you consider what you want to accomplish for vets and their families over the coming year, don't forget that the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation provides grants for several different purposes:

- Supporting projects that feed into the Veterans Creative Arts Festival;
- Supporting projects that provide a long term benefit to veterans, such as providing needed equipment or furnishings to a veteran home;
- Funding ALA branding, such as tents and banners; and
- Serving as a 501(c)(3) intermediary for institutional donors.

The Foundation relies on Auxiliary units, districts and departments to identify needs in their local communities and apply for grants. As an Auxiliary member, you have an important role in that. To learn more about the kinds of grants that the Foundation provides, and how to apply for them, please visit alafoundation.org/grants.

*Lauralee Gooch
American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board Member*



Register Now for Junior Conference!

Junior Conference at Wonder Valley is three months away. The committee is working hard so that the juniors will have a wonderful experience.

The registration form is on the website. Please ask your juniors to join us. **Reservations are due by March 15, 2022.**

This year we will be bringing the program into the 21st century. There will no longer be a Junior Store. We would prefer that you donate gift certificates for the juniors so that they may purchase items that they would wish to enjoy.

Remember, these young ladies are our future!

Ann Philcox, Department Junior Activities Chairman

Department of California – You Have Been Challenged!

The Poppy Challenge: Place a Poppy and Sign in the Window of Each Veteran



The ALA National Poppy Chairman, Sallie Rossman, has issued the challenge to units throughout the country. Members are asked to place a poppy in the window of each Veteran in their community. This will help citizens to recognize the sacrifice of Veterans and their family.

Legion Family members are encouraged to place a poppy in the window of each Veteran in their communities. Signs (samples at left) provided by the Auxiliary may be used along with a note thanking Veterans for their service.

You can start today by placing one or both signs in your window. Take the signs to your Post and hand them out to your veterans to take home to place in their windows. More information can be found at facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy.

You can get as creative as you want to be! Be sure to take pictures. And lastly, include your participation in your end-of-year reporting. Let's see poppies in windows wherever we look and make this a successful challenge for California.

Linda Hayes, Department Poppy Chair

No More Ladies Auxiliary

We are not the Ladies Auxiliary, the Auxiliary Women of any Post, or members of any Post.

The exception is a dual member: a woman veteran belonging to both the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.



We are members of a Unit. We are the American Legion Auxiliary and therefore a part of the American Legion Family. We are

a separately chartered organization. If the American Legion Post to whom we are attached by name and number surrenders their charter, it does not mean that the American Legion Auxiliary also surrenders their charter; they become a widow unit. There can only be one Unit carrying the name and number of a Post.

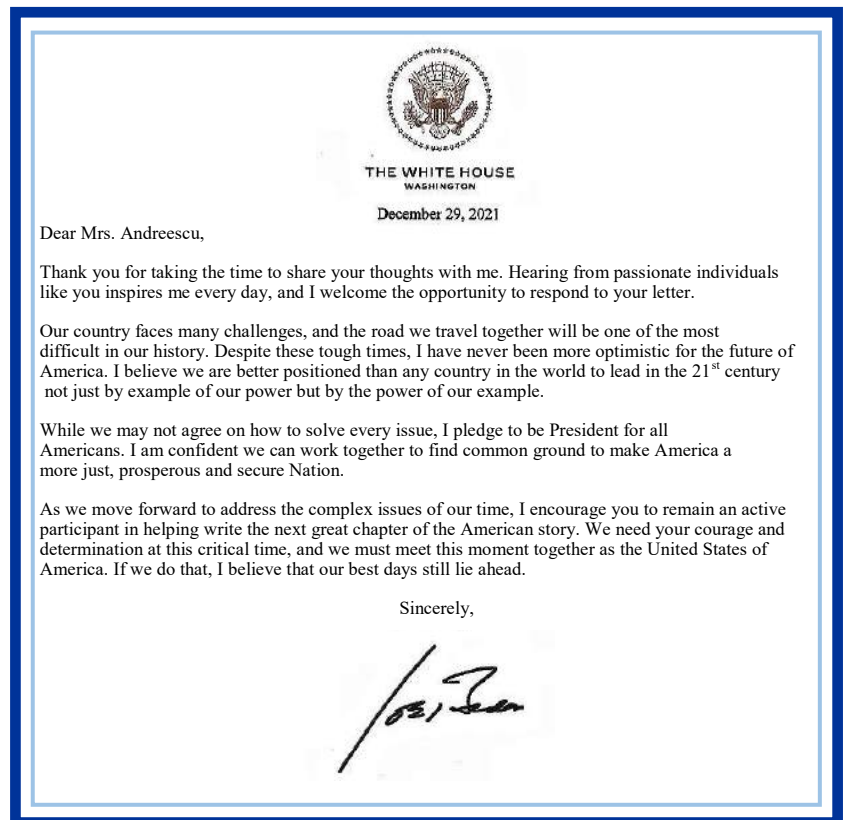
The Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders are both programs of the American Legion and therefore, would disband in the event the American Legion Post turns in their charter.

When we use the name and number of the American Legion Auxiliary, it encompasses every member of the Unit. No one member or group of members has the right to use the name of the organization without permission of the body; any proposal must be brought up at a meeting, discussed and then voted on as it is a reflection of the entire membership.

Diane DeLashmit, Past Department President

Direct from the White House

Congratulations to Rodica Andreescu (D 17, Unit 302) who received the following from The White House:



Teresa Nunez, District 17 President

“Are YOU from Girls State?”

Meet some of our talented members who work behind the scenes to ensure that all Girls State participants have an inspirational, educational and life-changing experience.



Dr. Allyn Kau **Girls State Chairperson**

Dr. Allyn Kau attended ALA California Girls State in 1991 where she was



selected as the session’s Outstanding Citizen and a Girls Nation Senator. She returned as a Junior Counselor the following year and has served as either Assistant to the Chief Counselor,

Assistant Counselor, City Counselor or County Counselor for over twenty sessions. She is Vice President of ALA Unit 472.

Allyn was born and raised in San Jose. She received her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from Brigham Young University and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Creighton University. She worked at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, a Los Angeles County facility, fulltime for over ten years and part-time for the last ten years, to focus on raising her two young children with her husband Steve. Allyn volunteers in the elementary school classrooms, with the PTA, School Community Council, and the school’s reading program; in the community she volunteers as a youth soccer coach, American Red Cross blood donor, and United Way Promise Partnership Regional Council member. She enjoys playing pickleball and other sports.

Dr. Kimberly MacKinney **Chief Counselor**

Dr. Kimberly MacKinney earned her Bachelors in History from Long Beach State, her Masters in Educational Administration from California State University, San Bernardino, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership from USC. Dr.



MacKinney has a history of supporting and empowering student voices, including serving as a high

school ASB Director, creating California’s first high school-level Women’s Studies course, chairing a Students’ Bill of Rights work group, and working with students and faculty to ensure a diverse and inclusive curriculum. She is committed to developing leaders at all levels as reflected by her work as the ACSA Region 12 Women’s Leadership Network lead, mentoring educators through USC, Long Beach State, and Riverside County Office of Education. Dr. MacKinney’s ALA membership is through her grandmother’s service in the Army during WW2. She is the Secretary for Unit 472.

When not volunteering her time, she is the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for Oro Grande School District, and lives in Riverside with her partner Daniel and their two goldendoodles, Colonel Sanders and Mashed Potatoes.

Tammy Sollazzo **Girls State Director**

Tammy Sollazzo worked 20 years in accounting for several companies in Southern California. After retiring from



Sprint at a young age, she attended college in Virginia where she received her Associates Degree in Hospitality Management.

She joined the ALA in 2005 at

Lakewood Unit 496 and is a PUFL member. Within a few years, she became President of her Unit and then ALA District 19th President.

During this time she found that she loved working with Juniors and attended many junior conferences. She volunteered to be a City Mom in 2015 and has not looked back. She fell in love with the girls who attended and how they soaked up everything they were taught.

She and her husband live full time in their RV, along with their 15 year old kitty Sox. They love it and hope to head east after this year’s session. Their five kids and families are all over the United States and they always put them high on their list to visit.



Caring

Our focus this year will be on our American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel’s Special Program: Caring for Those that Care for Others.

Hours Bars - Caregivers can now be awarded “Service to Veterans” hours that can be included for hour bars for time spent providing care and assistance to Veterans within their families that do not receive professional compensation. If the caregiver lives with the Veteran, they may be awarded ten hours a week. If they do not live with the Veteran, they may be awarded five hours a week. The caregiver will need to report their hours through their Unit.

Compassionate Contact Corps (CCC) – In response to the pandemic, the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service created a new service for Veterans, caregivers and volunteers alike. To help combat loneliness and isolation during the pandemic, Veterans and caregivers are provided tele-support through the CCC program.

Volunteer in-Home Visitor Program (VIVP) - Also created due to the pandemic, VIVP is geared toward the Volunteer who wishes to work in his/her local community to visit with Veterans in their home.

Information about these two new programs can be obtained at your local VA or at volunteer.va.gov.

Glenda Schultz, Department VA & R Chair

The Power of Hydration

Dinking enough water daily is crucial for many reasons. It regulates body temperature, lubricates joints, prevents infections, delivers nutrients to cells and keep organs functioning properly. Being well-hydrated also improves sleep quality, cognition and mood.

Your skin will thank you. Without increased water consumption, skin appears duller, and wrinkles and pores more prominent. Proper hydration helps retain moisture and improves its elasticity. This means it is less likely to crack and have irritations and blemishes.



Increase brain power. It’s well know that water is essential for survival. Now research shows the role of water in the maintenance of brain function, suggesting that particular cognitive abilities and mood states are positively influenced by water consumption. The effect of dehydration on cognition and mood is particularly relevant for those with poor fluid regulation, such as the elderly and children.

Tips to improve consumption. Dehydration is often accidental. Most often, we just forget. Keep a large water bottle with you and refill it throughout the day; the visual cue will be a reminder to drink water. If that still isn’t helping, set a reminder alarm on your phone.

Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master’s degree in nutrition education. She is a dual member at Post 34 and American Legion District 24 Commander. Reprinted with permission The American Legion Magazine

Chaplain’s Corner

All our Units and Districts continue to work through the difficulties and losses we have experienced in the last two years. Please continue to pray and serve as best you can under these difficult circumstances.



We are grateful for our Veterans and the sacrifices they and their families make every day.

Grace Huston, Department Chaplain

Hats On!



From top: Linda Hayes, Madame President, Ann Philcox, Joanna Capazzi, Judie Tabacchi

Resolution

American Legion Auxiliary Department of California

*Department Executive Meeting
January 14-16, 2022*

Whereas the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California Madame President Dee Ann Graham has demonstrated her capability on leadership as she represents our organization both nationally and throughout the great state of California; and

Whereas her theme Catch the Waves celebrating veterans and their families has made members proud to be a part of this great organization; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that members and guest present at this DEC meeting express their sincere thanks and appreciation to our President Dee Ann Graham for her dedication and service to the American Legion Auxiliary with a standing ovation.

*Cece Harvey
Department Resolutions Chair*

The Four Chaplains Service Scheduled

The Four Chaplains, also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains", were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship USAT *Dorchester* sank on February 3, 1943, during World War II.

They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

A service will be held at Saint Mary's Catholic Church (12050 E. North Ave., Sanger, CA 93657) in honor of The Four Chaplains on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 12:30 P.M. Reception will follow with light refreshments.

March 13: K9 Veterans Day

While this is an unofficial holiday, March 13 is **K9 Veterans Day**, the day when all military dogs should be commemorated.

The United States K9 Corps was created on March 13, 1942. Since then the dogs officially became the part of military service. Border Patrol K9s, Customs K9s, PoliceK9s, Secret Service K9s, Airport Service K9s and FBI K9s daily work to save and protect the Americans and the homeland. Military dogs have always been a part of American military efforts. They continue to serve on the borders on land and sea everyday. The dogs are trained to provide numerous functions, including search, rescue, explosives detection, scout, patrol and enemy subdue.

K9 Veterans Day was created by Joe White of Jacksonville, Florida. He was a Vietnam War veteran, K9 handler and trainer. Joe White died on October 24, 2009, and since then his wife continued the effort to get nationwide recognition for this holiday.

source: anydayguide.com/calendar/448

Tech Corner Goes Low Tech, Old School!

Congratulations to Ruby Kapsalis. She read the last Tech Corner newsletter and entered the drawing for a \$25 donation to her favorite charity.

This issue's column is about Little Free Library for your Post and Books for the Military. We may live in a "digital high tech" world, but old school or low tech is still valuable for CONNECTION with your members and our Veterans.

Low Tech: Meeting, Talking, Writing

Email and texting are great for communicating quickly within our membership, but don't forget the value of old school connection. The good news is warmer weather is coming, and outdoor patios can be warm, welcoming and safer for meetings. Members who are fragile or far away can be looped into the meeting by phone or zoom on a laptop. Send a note, newsletter or minutes to keep communication open and members interested. Pick up a telephone and *talk* with a member.

Send Books to Military Units

Many used book stores have programs to send new or used books to military units. One is the family-owned Crawford's Books in Sacramento. Go to Crawfordbooks.net, then scroll to Books to Military. You can send boxes of books to a military unit or a COVID quarantined unit. Military units can sign up to request them. They understand the "power of books to heal, encourage, entertain, and provide escape." In the store, books can be purchased and given to the cause. Trade credit can be used for one-half of the purchase price. A military pack of

books can also be purchased online. They box and ship the books for you! Let your members know if the book stores in your community have a military book program. Stay connected!

Little Free Library

Consider a low-tech or old school method of communication.

Consider a Little Free Library in front of your Post or Veterans Memorial building. Take a book, leave a book, hard-cover or soft-cover.

Inside the library, stock a few AL and ALA applications and business cards. Have a mix of fiction and non-fiction. Besides the usual military books about history, generals, and veterans experiences, it is important to include fiction and children's books. Include books that help children understand mom and dad in the military. Include soft-bound books and pamphlets about patriotism, citizenship, flag etiquette, Boys and Girls State, etc. Include mementos like challenge coins, small flags, program pins, patriotic holiday ornaments. If you have someone who is involved in estate sales, many unwanted old letters and cards to or from soldiers, sailors, and airmen are very interesting to read.

Since last September the Little Free Library installed in front of Los Altos Post 558 in District 13 has been going strong. We cleaned out our Post and homes and started putting books in the

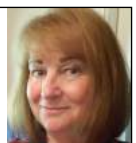


Los Altos Little Free Library

Little Free Library. As the community passed by our plaza and memorial benches, books came and went! Visit littlefreelibrary.org. If your Post has a little library, send me a picture and be entered in another drawing of \$25 for your favorite Auxiliary program!

All events for National President Kathy Daudistel's visit to California will be listed separately on the Department website to RSVP

If you have questions on technical subjects, please email our resident Tech Guru Cindy Newman cnewman419@yahoo.com or call 650-219-1041.



A Snapshot of the Department Executive (DEC) Meeting 2022

Walking into the Long Beach Marriot was a bit like coming home. It seemed like it wasn't that long ago (in reality two years) that we were just there. It was special to be back while seeing old friends for the first time in a long time.

Some of you might be asking, what is DEC? I know I did when I became an active member again a few years ago. This was the first time I was called to come as a District President, but I have been to many in the past. I will say I was skeptical at first when I was asked if I was going. Why," I questioned, "I'm just a unit member. Why would I go to a Department Executive Committee meeting?" With some pushing and prodding, I went and did find it helpful and useful in understanding the ALA organization a little better. Plus you can't beat the one-on-one connections you make.

Friday

Friday is a travel day for lots of the participants, but V A& R Reps and Deps have a half day meeting to network about things concerning their programs.

In the afternoon, as people keep arriving, there was a Surf City Program Fair in the spirit of President Dee Ann's "Catch the Wave." You were able to go from table to table to learn some things and talk with the Department Chairmen about our various programs. Putting faces to names helps form a bond that makes it easier to reach out if you need help or ideas. Our finance committee and an MPMC rep were there to help. It was worth my time, as I was able to get an answer for one of my Units that that needed a problem resolved.

My roommate and I took advantage of the local Post 496 offer of dinner and entertainment that night. Too soon we found ourselves with Madame President and others, "hitting the road, ol' Jack", hustling back for the Membership Awards Party. While there we celebrated the Units that had made some or all of their membership goals so far. More than one Unit went from nearly surrendering

their charter to having over 100% in membership. I know that gave me lots of hope for some of the challenges my district is facing. That's the thing about DEC: it gives you hope and that "Can Do" spirit.

Saturday

Saturday started off with our general sessions. Western Division Vice President Toni Gimbell was with us for the entire conference. We heard from other Legion family dignitaries, our National officers, and the status of our districts, units, and our chairmen. Before our lunch break, we were able to celebrate Past Department President Odette Cuccarro's 97th birthday. That was special to me, as she and my mom, Josie Melgard, served together in this organization for most of my life. As much fun as we had so far, the showstopper of the weekend was the Banquet. Unit 23 deserves applause for preparing our banquet decor and Linda Fercho for providing hilarious entertainment. There were bikinis, tiny bubbles, kung fu fighting, and the gracious Legion members who donned hula skirts. It was side-splitting entertainment!

Sunday

Regrouping on Sunday morning, we finished the rest of the reports. Everything moved along quickly and the session ended before noon. Listening to the reports made the importance of getting your reports and membership in on time more relevant. The connections between Units-Districts-Department made more sense, and you got more of a feel of what we should be doing.

I hope we can get to a better place through these COVID times, and that more of you will experience our June Convention as well as the next DEC in person!

Debbie Hurado, District 14 President

DEC Banquet Saturday Night



Membership: Celebrating Goal Units

The Department of California is very proud of the thirty-four units to make goal or better by December 31, 2021. At the mid-year DEC Membership Party, held at the Long Beach Marriott Hotel on January 14, 2022, the following units were recognized:

Commissioner's Award for Excellence



Three units received a special Commissioner's Award for Excellence to celebrate their making Goal (or better) by October 31st. These wonderful units are:

- Benecia Unit 101 – 130.00%
- Merle Reed Unit 124 – 109.80%
- Monterey Park Unit 397 – 114.29%

Early Bird Award



The Early Bird Award was given to those Units that made Goal (or better) by November 11, 2021, and include:

- Community Unit 46 – 131.71%
- James E. Fowler Unit 264 – 100.00%
- Sunland-Tujunga Unit 372 – 108.57%
- Dorie Miller Unit 639 – 100.00%
- Rancho Cucamonga Unit 835 – 128.57%

Perfect 10 Award



Also receiving recognition with a Perfect Ten Award were the units that attained Goal by December 31st:

- Walker Baily Unit 205 – 125.00%
- Fair Oaks Unit 383 – 103.51%
- James E. Fowler Unit 264 – 100.00%
- Amador Unit 108 – 104.35%
- James V. Perneti Unit 166 – 104.17%
- Gilroy Unit 217 – 104.00%
- Porterville Unit 20 – 100.00%
- Leslie L. Robinson Unit 213 – 100.00%
- Orcutt Unit 534 – 108.33%
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Star Unit 309 – 106.45%
- Chinatown Unit 628 – 106.33%
- Alhambra Unit 139 – 100.00%
- Canyon City Unit 180 – 100.00%
- Sunland-Tujunga Unit 377 – 114.29%
- Panorama City Unit 817 – 100.00%
- Dewitt C. Mitchell Unit 201 – 100.00%
- Benj J. Bowie Unit 228 – 100.00%
- Chappie James Unit 578 – 101.23%
- Dorie Miller Unit 639 – 108.20%
- Community Unit 46 – 134.15%
- San Bernardino Unit 14 – 102.38%
- Rancho Cucamonga Unit 835 – 128.57%
- George E. Tadlock E Unit – 102.70%
- Monterey Peninsula Unit 41 – 100.00%
- Orange Unit 132 – 102.61%
- Raber Del-Toro Unit 717 – 118.18%

And kudos to District 17, the only district to make goal by December 31st, with 103.05%

On behalf of the "Surfing Competition Commissioner" please accept hearty congratulations for a job well done! These units should be very proud of their outstanding accomplishment, for as we know, reaching Membership goal can be most challenging. Again, congratulations for a job well done!

Susan Baker, Department Membership Chair

Past Department President Linda Fercho Continues to Serve

Linda Fercho is one of the most active and fun-loving members in the California ALA.

Her Auxiliary adventures began as a Junior member way back when; her eligibility is through her father, who was a Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy for 23 years. When she turned 18, Linda left the Auxiliary to follow other paths. The Auxiliary beckoned Linda back when she was 48 and she has been a very involved member ever since.

Linda will tell you that when she was six years old her family home burned to the ground and The American Legion took the family under its wing, providing them with food, clothing, and shelter until they were able to recover from the loss of house and home. Linda remembers with fondness all of the kindness bestowed on her family by the Legion, and her mission as a Senior



member has always been to try and repay that kindness by doing for others.

Linda is married to husband Dennis, a Past Department Commander. Their blended family consists of four children and a grandchild. Linda is an avid fan of the Los Angeles Chargers and the LA Dodgers.

Linda has served as a Unit, District, and Department President, held a myriad of chairmanships through the years, and several ALA National Western Division appointments. She currently serves as the Department Distinguished Guest Chairman, District Parliamentarian, and Camarillo Unit 741 President.

When Linda's good friend Jeri Adams unexpectedly passed away last summer, Linda stepped right up and filled the District 16 Membership Chair and Area 6 Membership Team Representative positions which had been held by Jeri.

Linda is always happy to provide assistance with Membership questions and Area 6 members are encouraged to contact her for help in resolving any Membership issues that may arise.

Susan Baker, Department Membership Chair

Unit 377 Provides Support



Unit 377 donated a Christmas tree, ornaments and over \$500 in toys and candy to the Wolf Team's Friends and Families Group holiday party held at the US Army Training Center at Fort Irwin in San Bernadino County.

Mahala Beery, Sam Marsteller, and Laura Kellgreen were the behind-the-scenes elves who made the party a success with their generosity and dedication.

Lt. Colonel Derek R. Baird, Senior Fire Support Combat Trainer, personally delivered thank-you plaques to the American Legion Post 377 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377.

He emphasized how important support is for the troops and their families.

Mahala Beery, District 20 Secretary

Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day: March 29

Vietnam Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families and is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home more than 40 years ago.

The [Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act](#), signed into law in 2017, designates March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Most states celebrate "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" on March 29 or 30 of each year. Though there is some debate, March 29 is generally viewed as a more appropriate date. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. It is also the date President Nixon chose for the first Vietnam Veterans Day in 1974.

California designates March 30 of each year as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Source ncsl.org/research/military-and-veterans-affairs/vietnam-veterans-day-1-legislation-and-statutes.aspx



Photo Jan Eagleson

February is Americanism Month

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of California has been showing our patriotism in so many ways this year. The best part of Americanism is that it is unique and infectious to others.

We have passed out citizenship information to schools, flag etiquette

lives with the exiting of Afghanistan. Members lined the streets when the local fallen made their final route home.

Our award-winning honor guard presented the colors on national television wearing their ALA gear proudly. What an honor for all of us.



Maureen O'Brien-Sacco's Americanism Booth at DEC

information, helped with the American Legion Oratorical contests, and of course our school essay contests.

Members reported more than 78 hours supporting the "Get out the Vote" campaigns. These are the proud ways we promote patriotism as well as supporting our veterans within our ALA activities.

This year has found some extra exciting ways that the ALA is really putting our best foot forward. Members placed flags honoring the 13 service members that lost their

Over 3,800 flags were placed on veteran's graves as part of our Flying Flags for Heroes (FFFH) project. FFFH's is an approved program from our Department President Dee Ann to help California's own Michael Fox's project as the National Sons of the Legion Commander. This chairman raffled off a patriotic wreath for all the ALA members that participated. Lucky Esmeralda Gadut from Star Unit 309 in District 17 won the first wreath. Anyone who participates, sends in the information to the FFFH and notifies this chairman will be in a second drawing at Department Convention.

As a member of the ALA we understand everyday is a day to remember our fallen heroes. Please think of what Americanism means to you. Take a moment and share with others. We can do so much more together - we can move mountains - we can make a true difference when we work together.

Maureen O'Brien-Sacco
Department Americanism Chair



Photo Judy Evridge

Save the Date!

February

Americanism

- February 01: Chinese New Year
- February 02: Groundhog Day
- February 03: Four Chaplains Day
- February 04: USO Birthday
- Week of February 14: National Salute to Veteran Patients
- February 13: Super Bowl
- February 14: Valentine's Day
- February 19: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- February 21: Presidents' Day

March

Community Service

- March 01: Mardi Gras Carnival
- March 03: Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 04: National Hug a GI Day
- March 05: Seabee Birthday
- March 13: K9 Veterans Day Daylight Savings
- March 15: American Legion Birthday
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 19: National Day of Honor
- March 20: First day of Spring
- March 29: National Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day
- March 30: California Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

Apply for Position on ALA Foundation Board

Do you have a passion for service, as well as leadership, business, and fundraising experience? The ALA Foundation Board of Directors is looking for talented, forward-thinking candidates to join them to make a better future for our veterans. Apply by April 1. The application is on the national website.