



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 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 increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through *Service, Not Self*



November is National Veterans and Military Family Month

November is a month of gratitude and reflection, and it holds a very special place in the hearts of many Americans. November is Military Family Month, also known as Military Family Appreciation Month. It also intersects with National Veterans and Military Family Month. All three essentially have the same goal...to honor and appreciate the sacrifices that service members and military families make every single day.

You ask why National Veterans and Military Family Month is important?

During this time we acknowledge the sacrifices made by military families every day, which include enduring long separations, frequent moves, and the emotional toil of having a loved one in a dangerous line of work.

November serves as a rallying point for communities to show their support for military families.

It brings into focus the policies affecting military families and encourages lawmakers to consider their unique needs.

And finally, the month-long observance can serve as a morale booster for both service members and their families.

Auxiliary members are encouraged to participate in Legion Family and/or community-wide events that honor military families. You can also offer your time to outside organizations that support military families. Consider financial donations to reputable organizations that focus on the support of military families.

You can also post on social media, using the hashtag #Military Family Month to spread awareness and showcase the special activities that the American Legion Family hosts to honor military families during the month.

We look forward to learning about the Auxiliary's wonderful accomplishments on behalf of our military families.

Submitted by:
Susan Baker, Chairman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

2024-2025 Officers

President	Linda Hayes
Vice President	Susan Baker
Secretary	Liz Doidge
Treasurer	Katherine Tellyer
Chaplain	Patricia Galatioto
Historian	Erika Hernandez
Parliamentarian	Anita Biggs
Sgt-at-Arms	Sam Marsteller
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Krista Young
Finance Chair	Teresa Lugo-Nunez
Finance Sr	Ann Sanchez
Finance Jr	Sharon Moore
NEC	Kathie Martinez
NEC Alt.	Dee Ann Graham
Advisory	Dee Ann Graham
	Kathie Martinez
	Glenda Schultz

2024-2025 Chairmen and Committees

Americanism	Robin Falkenberg
Aux. Emergency Fund	Suzanne Winters
Children and Youth	Tracy Varnell-Fercho
Community Service	Rebecca Glenn
Constitution/Bylaws	Cassandra Brown
Convention Chm.	Linda Fercho
Convention Co-Chair	Terry Oclaray
Conv. Com Chair	Anita Biggs
Credentials	Madeleine Reed
Distinguished Guest	Linda Workman
Editor	Barb Toth
Education	Donna Mattox
Elections	Linda Karnstedt
Girls State Advisor	Nancy Brown-Park
Girls State Chairman	Caroline Miller
Junior Activities	Lucy Hunt
Junior Conf. Director	Martha Romano
Leadership	Diana Livas
Legislative	Glenda Schultz
Membership	Donna Smith
Music	Yve Evans-Hanna
National Security	Linda Lara-Guzman
Past Presidents Parley	DeeAnn Graham
Poppy	Gabriella Ramos
Public Relations	Rosemary Barron
Resolutions	Linda Fercho
UD&R North	Joan Cannon
UD&R South	Kathie Martinez
Veterans Affairs	Susan Baker
Ways & Means Chair	Marcia Monroe
Webmaster	Lyle Workman



A Message from Department President Linda.....

Unfortunately, there are times when members have a disagreement within their unit or district. Do you know the proper procedure to follow if it seems impossible to resolve the issue? The proper procedure is as follows:

Member goes to Unit President

Unit President goes to District President

District President goes to Department President/Unit Development and Revitalization Chairman

National does not handle unit and district problems. They will return the complaint to the Department, expecting each of us to take care of our own business. Remember, we are the American Legion **Family**, and *families work together to find resolution.*

The Unit Guide Book from Emblem Sales is a helpful resource for conflict resolution. It can be downloaded from the National website at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/guides/unit-guide-book>, see "Chapter 8: Resolving Conflict".

Another source to check out is the ALA Academy which offers self-training courses on several topics. "Introduction to Conflict Resolution" is a very helpful resource. Once you sign on to the National website, you will find the course at <https://alaacademy.alaforveterans.org/topclass/login.do>.

It is my hope that you are all planning to come to the DEC on January 17-19. The location of the Hilton Garden Inn is at the Antelope Valley Mall in Palmdale. The weather in January is typically in the mid 50's during the day and in the 30's at night.

I wish each and everyone of you a very **Happy Holiday Season!** As always, be safe and stay healthy.

For God and Country,

Linda Hayes
Department President





November is Membership Month

Do you have a welcoming unit, or do you treat potential members as invaders?

Welcome your new American Legion Auxiliary members and give them a sense that they belong. Here are a few things you and your fellow America Legion Auxiliary members can do to help assure new members that they are part of an amazing, worthwhile mission.

Listen more than you speak. Be attentive and really clue into your new members' interests and what ignites their passions.

Invite, invite, invite. Take every opportunity to invite and include your new members in what you are doing.

Be considerate. Always cultivate and maintain a spirit of goodwill.

Maintain a good reputation. Every person and organization have a history. Make sure the story you are sharing about others and your ALA unit/department is a positive one.

Extend grace and forgiveness when others miss the mark. Heaven knows we all need it reciprocated at one time or another.

Adhere to the American Legion Auxiliary's strong values, for God and country.

Keep confidences. As you get to know a new member, he or she may confide in you. Do not share their business.

As far as our membership numbers look, we are gracefully moving. Fantastic work to everyone! Membership is the WORK for everyone.

Keep this in the back of your mind as you chase the 1st benchmark of 75% by Pearl Harbor Day (December 7, 2024). Set simple goals such as (maybe) a 50% goal for Veterans Day or the Firecrackers (40%) by Columbus Day (October 14th). Just an idea...

When people work together effectively, organizational culture is a powerful force, influencing the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of others. Lack of engagement and goodwill are key reasons why new members do not renew at the same rate as other members. Take advantage of your window of opportunity. Engage your new members early and engage them for life!

Keep up the GREAT work and remember while working the program and mission, to have fun doing it.



Donna L. Smith

Department Membership Chair

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THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE!





Public Relations

Rosemary Barron, Chairperson

HOW DO I START




- Who: Who are you trying to reach? Donors? Volunteers?
- What: What do you want your target audience to do when they hear, see or read your message?
- Where: Where is the best place to reach your target audience? Are they radio listeners or are they more likely to read the newspaper? or are they digital readers?
- Why: Why should your target audience care about your cause?
- How: How do you want your target audience to take action after hearing or reading your message? Purpose!



NOVEMBER

AUX Membership Month

11/1 - Vet Volunteer of the year
 11/3 - Daylight savings ends
 11/5 - ELECTION DAY
 11/11 - VETERANS DAY
 11/13 - Caregiver's appreciation day
 11/13 - World kindness day
 11/28 - Thanksgiving day
 11/30 - Small business day

HOW TO PROMOTE


Make fun videos

Social Media is the biggest best way to get the word out about anything!

Establish that on-line presence

Create content

Work with other officers and chairpersons on combo projects



HEAR YEE HEAR YEE

Developing flyers for social media is a great way to draw attention to your Unit.

Not only can they be shared on social media, they can be printed and posted and distributed among the community.

I personally use Canva, but there are so many resources out there, pick one, learn it, own it.

Above are some examples for Veteran's Day.

There are so many possibilities that can be explored here such as, adding your unit #, add a photo of a Vet that you want to give special thanks and attention to, date and time of an event, etc.

Rosemary Barron
Public Relations, Dept of CA

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Have You Seen The Latest Edition of The American Legion Auxiliary Magazine?



Department of California's very own Jackie Robinson Unit 252 Color Guard made the cover! Way to go!

5 Tips to Make Male Spouses Feel

Welcome in the Auxiliary

With more male spouses joining the Auxiliary, here a few tips to make the feel welcome and part of the family:

- Engage in Outreach: Always ask the spouse (regardless of gender) if they would like to join the Auxiliary.
- Remember Your Shared Goal: "Auxiliary members - no matter what gender - share a passion for honoring their family members' military service and supporting those in the community." Appeal to that common bond, invite them to sit with you at an event, and invite them to the next function or next Unit meeting.
- Use Inclusive Language: "Slowly integrate the male perspective into everything you do." Instead of saying "Hello, ladies" try saying "Hello, everyone".
- Encourage Members to Participate: Make everyone feel welcome and make them feel like an outsider.
- Don't Overdo the Recognition: Be welcoming to male members but be cautious about singling them out. Treat them equally, don't relegate them to just "men's" work.

Borrowed from American Legion Auxiliary Magazine, page 42 of the November 2024 issue.

There was an article in the November 2024 issue of the American Legion Auxiliary Magazine that everyone attending virtual meetings should read.

The article is titled "KEEPING UP APPEARANCES: HOW TO PRESENT YOURSELF IN VIRTUAL MEETINGS" and is on page 17. Most of us attend virtual meetings nowadays. Here a few good tip to remember and implement when attending your next virtual meeting:

- * Prepare for your online meetings just as you would for an in-person meeting
- * Ditch the pajamas (at least from the waist up)
- * Check your background: What are people going to see around you? (You can download ALA branded virtual meeting backgrounds at www.alaforveterans.org.)
- * Watch for people and pets: Is something (or someone) in the background distracting other members on the virtual meeting?
- * Be mindful of swivel and rocking chairs, and walking around: Moving around in a rocking or swivel chair or walking around (moving the camera) can be very distracting to other participants.
- * Save your dinner and wine for after the meeting: Don't eat, drink alcohol, or smoke on camera. If you really need to eat, drink alcohol or smoke during the meeting, turn your camera and audio off.
- * What's that look for? Be mindful of facial expressions.
- * Turn your audio off when not speaking: Background noise is very distracting.



Juniors on the Move

Auxiliary and SAL Juniors from District 29, Unit 716 in Los Alamitos, which included Honorary Department President Olivia Thuney and Honorary Department Chaplain Laura Landis, joined together and rolled up their sleeves hosting a carwash fundraiser on October 13, 2024. They had a consistent line up of customers for four hours and received shining reviews for their work. Funds raised will help support a variety of programs such as Wreaths Across America, Veteran Memorial Camp Hamilton in Bakersfield, local VA donations, and many others. These amazing up and coming youth then celebrated their hard work with a little water play and celebratory ice cream.



Submitted by:
Kristin Landis
ALA Unit 716 President
District 29 Americanism Chairman
Department 1st Year Junior Conference



The American Legion Auxiliary has designated December as Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Month. Members at all levels are encouraged to showcase and promote the VAR program during the month. This can be accomplished through news articles, social media posts, public speaking engagements, and one-on-one conversations with veterans, military families, citizens in the community, and the American Legion Family.

December is a time for giving back to our veterans, wherever they may be. Ask your Junior members to create holiday cards to distribute to vets in assisted living facilities, VA hospitals and CalVet Homes; set aside a day to visit those same veterans, listen to their stories and honor their service. You'll be very glad you did! Ask your Hospital Representative or Deputy if they have Wish Lists for their respective VA medical centers and CalVet homes, and encourage members to donate items from those lists. Doing so will put a smile on the lonely veteran's face.

One of the things that makes the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program successful is volunteerism. VA Medical facilities depend on the goodwill and

By volunteering your time or making a donation, you can give something back to Veterans who have given so much to our country.

I often ask myself why I volunteer and am always reminded that volunteers provide many important functions throughout the VA Medical Centers and help make our patients' stay more enjoyable. Volunteers can perform a number of services, and a volunteer's talents are closely matched with one of many assignments.

Our organization depends on people with purpose. ALA members are a community of solvers representing different races, ethnicities, genders, backgrounds, religions and beliefs. But together, we're one organization united by our purpose and values. If you ask any of us what our purpose is, the answer is always the same: *"Service Not Self"*. By doing this, we aim to make a meaningful difference in the world.

So, during the month of December please make time to honor veterans in your community through volunteer service for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Submitted by:
Susan Baker, Chairman
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

The National Historian is respectfully requesting Mid-Year Summary Reports be submitted to her by Department Historians no later than Dec 1.

To comply with this deadline, Unit Historians should submit their reports to the District Historians by November 1, District Historians should submit their reports to the Department Historian by November 15.

The National Historian is respectfully requesting supplemental End of Year reports be submitted to her by Department Historians no later than May 15th .

To comply with this deadline, Unit Historians should submit their reports to the District Historians by April 15th. District Historians should submit their reports to the Department Historian by May 1st.

Are You From Girls State?



2024 Girls State Citizens. Pictured from left to right are Sienna Villalobos, Montclair High School, Simar Kaur, Etiwanda High School, Elena Gill Auxiliary Unit 835 President and Girls State Chairman, Nathalie Dawoud, Rancho Cucamonga High School, Tanya Saleem, Los Osos High School. Not pictured is Carimel Valenzuela-Ibarra, International Polytechnic High School



Frank Villalobos, a Marine Veteran, presenting the stole to his daughter Sienna

Rancho Cucamonga Unit 835 held an awards luncheon for their 2024 Girls State Citizens and their families. A taco buffet was served, along with desserts. Dignitaries included Prince Ogidikpe, from Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes' office and Neha Upadhyaya from Senator Susan Rubio's office and presented certificates to the Citizens. Certificates from Rancho Cucamonga and Montclair City Mayor's offices were given. ALA District 25 President Barb Toth and Post 835 Commander Neal Hughes were also in attendance.

Each Citizen gave a report on their Girls State experience and were presented with a Girl State Citizen Certificate. Unit 835 provided graduation stoles for each girl and the parents came up and placed them on their daughters. It was a touching moment. Our unit also recognized the 1st and 2nd Delegates with certificates.

Unit 835 received a grant from the ALA Girls State Alumnae Foundation, which enabled our unit to go from 2 delegates in 2023 to 5 delegates in 2024. It is Unit 835's goal to sponsor as many schools as possible. Chairman Elena Gill would like to thank the members of the unit for their support and helping with interviews. 2025 here we come!

Submitted by:

Elena Gill

Unit 835 Rancho Cucamonga

Girls State Chairman



Save

the Date

November

Program Focus: Membership

- 5 Election Day
- 10 Marine Corp Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Early Bird Membership
- 28 Thanksgiving

December

Program Focus: Veterans Affairs & Rehab Month

- 1 Mid Year Unit Reports due to District
- 1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF Aux) Birthday
- 13 National Guard Birthday
- 15 Hub Article Submissions Due
- 15 Mid Year District Reports due to Department
- 18 1st Day of Hanukkah
- 20 Space Force Birthday
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanza
- 26 Last Day of Hanukkah
- 28 Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant/Religious Affairs Specialists
- 31 New Years Eve



Note from the Gazette:

The Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California. The success of the Hub depends on your submissions. Any member can make a submission. So please submit your articles, funny stories, pictures, etc. Submissions are to be in a Word Document and pictures are to be submitted as a jpeg file.

Editor reserves the right to edit any submissions. Please keep articles short as space may be limited.

Deadline for the January/ February issue is December 15, 2024.

Email articles, photos and positive suggestions to:

Editor Barb Toth

editor@calegionaux.org

babstothaux@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays