



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*



Pictured: D26's (L-R): Chaplain Janice (President, U238 Pacifica), 2nd VP Marci (President, U585 San Carlos), Peggy (President, D26 & U105 Redwood City), Bonnie (1st VP, D26 & U585 San Carlos), Cindy (D26 Treasurer & U105 Secretary), Arlene (VA&R Deputy), and Susan (Secretary & U474 1st VP). Photography Credit: William Jackson, Jr.



District 26's fiscal year started out with a car wash, our meeting, and a banger breakfast! Members arrived at Post 105 Redwood City to a fundraiser car wash for the USMC 23d Regiment. Regiment members and their families did a superb job of caring for our cars while D26 kicked off its first meeting of the year. Later, all D26 members headed to the Post Hall to enjoy a special SOS Breakfast prepared by 2nd Vice Commander Leo and his wife, Carol, (U105 Co-Chaplain). The Italian sausage gravy, toast & eggs hit the spot.

Peggy Toye President District 26

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
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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



Linda Hayes
American Legion Auxiliary Department of
California President 2024 - 2025

Department President Linda Hayes theme is “America the Beautiful” and her motto is “Crown Thy Good With Brotherhood”.

Madame President’s Special Project is divided between two organizations: Veterans Peer Access Network: Also known as VPAN and Veterans Transition Center of Monterey County at Ford Ord. Both non-profit organizations rehouse homeless veterans and their families. Other ways they collaborate with veterans include substance abuse, mental health, healthcare, suicide prevention, and more.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 574 Hosts Heartwarming Summer Luau for Displaced Veterans

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 574, teaming up with the ALR Riders Chapter 574, brought the spirit of the islands to U.S. VETS in Moreno Valley with a vibrant Summer Luau event, creating a memorable and joyous day for displaced veterans. The event, held on July 13, 2024, was a great success, offering a blend of fun, fellowship, and appreciation for those who have served our country.

The Summer Luau featured an array of festivities, including a delicious spread of foods, and engaging games. Veterans were greeted with leis upon arrival, setting the tone for a day filled with warmth and camaraderie. The event also included a heartfelt ceremony honoring the veterans, recognizing their sacrifices and contributions to the nation.

“We wanted to create a special day for our veterans, to show them how much we appreciate their service and to bring some joy into their lives”, said Auxiliary President, Jana Akers. “Seeing the smiles on their faces and the sense of community this event fostered was truly rewarding for all of us”.

The Summer Luau not only provided a day of enjoyment but also reinforced the ongoing support and appreciation for veterans within the community. U.S. VETS, a leading organization dedicated to ending veteran homelessness, was thrilled to collaborate with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 574 in bringing this event to life. The partnership with U.S. VETS is invaluable. Events like these remind our veterans that they are not forgotten and that their community stands with them.

Jim Vass
Unit 574, District 21



ALA Unit 574 Moreno Valley, District 21, Hosts Summer Luau

2 Units in District 28 Hold Fundraisers for the American Cancer Society



On Sunday, August 11, 2024, Auxiliary Unit 589, District 28 held a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. 100% of the proceeds went to A.C.S. Community Service Chairperson of Unit 589, Rosemary Barron, the Unit 589 Officers and members all participated in making this event a success! There was great food, dancing, photo ops, speakers, raffles and even hula lessons. All involved donated their time, including the Salinas American Legion Post 31. Unit 589 takes pride in their community and continues to help whenever they can!



On Sunday, August 25, 2024, Auxiliary Unit 31, District 28 held a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Their annual event was themed "Mad Hatter Tea Party". 100% of the proceeds went to A.C.S. Community Service Chairperson of Unit 31 and members Gloria Galli, Gloria Dela Rosa, Lupe Hernandez, and Unit 31 members all participated in making this event a success! There was great food and desserts, photo booth, beautiful Tea Pots, raffles and lots of hats!

Both Articles Submitted By:
 Rosemary Barron
 District 28 Historian

CALIFORNIA GIRLS STATE 2024

Democracy in Action at 2024 ALA California Girls State

For a week in June, 425 rising senior high school girls from around the state gathered to build a fully functioning government at the local, regional, and state level. They campaigned, ran for office, developed party platforms, brought forth legislation, debated, and adjudicated the laws they passed. And they did it without division, rancor, or bitterness. The 2024 81st ALA California Girls State was a breathtaking example of how our future leaders can be: collegial, bipartisan, and respectful. How does ALA CAGS do it?



Party Platforms

The girls are randomly sorted into two parties. Each party determines the priority planks of their platform – such as education, environment, healthcare – and develop the positions the partisan office-seekers will run on. There's intensive debate among the girls and it's a microcosm of how to collegially hammer out differences to come together as a group.



Legislation

Prior to attending ALA CAGS, delegates submit a piece of legislation as a researched bill for something they would like to see changed at the state level. Once the Assembly and Senate are elected, they begin to comb through the submitted bills to determine which bills should come to the floor to be debated, amended, and ultimately voted on. Girls learn the art of compromise and how bipartisanship can get things done to make a positive difference.



City, County, and State Elections

Girls see very quickly how elections at all levels of government are necessary to “get the work done.” Girls must file, campaign, fund-raise, and make speeches for every elected office. Running for office is not easy! The girls learn how to pick themselves up after a loss and ask the question, “What’s next?” as they contemplate another position to run for. The confidence building is remarkable and will help build grit and resilience in the girls.

The Bottom Line

ALA California Girls State develops and flexes the all important muscle of DEMOCRACY as these future leaders discover the world doesn't have to be a ladder but can be a lattice where we all climb together to achieve a better world. They see that passionate leaders are needed at all levels of government. The girls find “their people” as they make lasting friendship connections with an extraordinary group of tomorrow's leaders

JUNIORS ROCK



In the middle of contested elections and after some contentious resolution votes, Department Adjutant Sam Flores made an announcement. He held up a small bag/purse and announced that one like it was lost and if anyone knew where it was or found it, it would be appreciated if it was returned to the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors.

It then became known that the tiny bag was holding about \$343.00. The American Legion Auxiliary Juniors had raised the money by making bracelets for one of their programs.

The chants of "pass the hat" started and money was filling those Legion covers with enthusiasm. It was a showing of unity, mutual helpfulness, and group empathy that I think is unmatched by any group other than those who took the oath and served. The Legionnaires were all in!

After all was said and done, that approximate \$350.00 loss turned into well over \$2,000.00 in donations. The number \$2,650.00 is popping into my head, but I don't know for certain if that's the number.

What I do know, is that I was proud of the Legionnaires.

I'm also super happy for the Juniors and their program.

Erika Hernandez,
Department Historian

"I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people."

Mahatma Gandhi

ALA Unit 383 Fair Oaks Honors Its Dual Members During Military Women's Month

On March 26, 2024, ALA Unit 383 in Fair Oaks surprised their four dual members: members of VFW Post 6158 and American Legion Auxiliary 383 with a celebration to acknowledge and honor them for their service to their country and their continued work in Unit 383. Former unit president Sandy Sedden-Rice and member Judy Long worked hard to put together this 'impromptu' ceremony for the members. Member Catherine (Cat) Graham (daughter of Susan Baker, CA Depart. VP), helped with the ceremony.

Members Tish Lovisone – U.S. Marines; Christine McGlasson - Air Force and Navy; Julie Nattkemper – U.S. Army; and Marge Waggoner – U.S. Navy, were called forward and recognized them for their service to their country and unit.

Unit Historian, and local reporter Elise Spleiss delivered a ***"History of Women in the Military"*** brief review from the U.S. Revolutionary War to WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Several of our members were WAVES, Women Accepted for Voluntary Enlistment Services. At the same time, in WWII women were accepted into the Navy in non-combat roles. Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) was created in WWII. The need for women in the military was waning until the Korean and Vietnam wars brought them back to again work in only non-combat roles.

In 1973 the military draft ended and transitioned to an all-volunteer force where women could serve in more capacities. In 1976 the first group of women was admitted to the US Military Academy at West Point. 1978 the Women's Army Corps was disbanded as women were fully integrated into the Army. In 1990, the creation of Combat Aviation opened support roles for women. In 2013 the Dept. of Defense finally lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles opening up thousands of additional positions to female service members. Today women are serving in combat roles in all branches of the military on missions throughout the world.

Each honoree was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a bright bouquet of yellow daffodils symbolizing strength and resilience. Each lady then shared about their job in the service or other information. Marge told about an experience when she was young.



"Since I was with the Marines there two Marines who wanted to go out to dinner. They asked if I would like to go with them. I said, 'I'd love to so, here these guys showed up in their dress blues. We went to Waikiki for dinner and I'm telling you, everybody was looking and admiring, and I was really thrilled that I had two Marines in dress blues on each side of me!' Moments to remember! Tish said "I did maintenance management. I made sure the equipment was ready to go to war. I did reports, I was an analyst; the same kind work I do today. I built reports, statistics and spreadsheets back in the 80's before we even had Windows and a mouse". Christine told of an interesting day with an awkward ending, "I was a producer and a writer and announcer at a local television station. We went all over the world taping. At that time, it was two-inch videotape we transferred to film. We were at an Air Force base; they got some local talent and we did a 'Laugh In' spoof on the assembly of the B-52. We used women in the sketches to keep the pilot's (all men) interest." It had been a long day and Christine missed leaving with the other ladies. This brought her to a "men only" facility for a few hours which led to an amusing dilemma but gave her a good story to tell. Julia was working at the end of the Cold War. She could not share a lot about what she did but did mention she spoke Russian saying, "If you think about satellites and things like that then you have an idea what I did" Anyway, on one of those jobs, "if I told you more" she made it clear she just couldn't!

This was a fun but short time, and we found out a lot about our dual veteran members, realizing we did not really know them. It gave us a new appreciation for what they had done in their time in the service making them the women they are today, still working hard to make a difference in wherever their lives take them. We are proud they were brought to us at ALA Unit 383.

Elise Spleiss
Unit 383

PROGRAM FOCUS:

Education



Welcome to the Education Program 2024-2025. As we go through this year, we need to encourage students to plan for college and apply for scholarship opportunities early in their senior year.

October is Education Month, let us get our Veterans into the classrooms. Also keep in mind “Give 10 to Education”. Our classrooms and teachers can use supplies throughout the year.

November 18-22, 2024, is American Education week, this is the time to recognize school staff with special treats. I look forward to hearing all your accomplishments and reading your reports. If you have any questions, I am just an email away.

Donna Mattox

Education Chairman

education@calegionaux.org

The 1st of Each Month is “Be the One Day!”



Did you know that a resolution passed by the National Executive Committee during the American Legion’s Spring Meetings in May that calls on Legion Family members to gear up and bring awareness to the Legion’s Be the One veteran suicide prevention initiative on the first day of every month.

Resolution 13 urges Legion Family members to wear a Be the One item on the first day of every month to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and service members. The other goal is to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Legion posts should also promote Be the One on the first day of every month.

How are your District and Units gearing up and spreading awareness for “Be The One?” Share your gear and support on the “Be The One” Day. Submit your stories and photos showing your support for **BE THE ONE!**

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of CA Website



Save the Date

September

Program Focus: Music
National Service Dog
Month



- 2 Labor Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 14 No CA Dept Workshop
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- 20 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 24 Gold Star Mother's & Family's Day

October

Program Focus: Education

- 12 So CA Dept Workshop
- 13 Navy Birthday
- 14 Columbus Day
- 15 Hub Article Submissions Due
- 24 United Nations Day
- 31 Halloween



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. So please submit your articles, funny stories, pictures, etc.

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

Deadline for the November/December issue is **October 15, 2024.**

Email articles, photos and positive suggestions to:

Editor Barb Toth

editor@calegionaux.org