

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Constitution & Bylaws

December

Bulletin

We are nearing the end of the year to the District and Unit Presidents let's continue to complete re-writes and amendments for the year 2024- 25. I am looking forward to giving an excellent report at DEC in January.

As reminder District chairman that your Mid-year reports are due December 15, 2024, your Constitution & Bylaws are the governing documents for the District and Units. Current copies should be available to all members when completed. Standing Rules are the policies and should be shared with all members on a regular basis, and whenever changes are made.

Units **MUST** use Model Bylaws provided by the Department Office for rewrites. This document can be found on the Department website under Committee Programs / Constitution & Bylaws.

All District and Unit Presidents are encouraged to keep copies. It has been my pleasure to aid those who have reached out for help.

Keep up the Good Work!

Please contact me should you have questions or require information about rewrites or updates to your Bylaws.

Cassandra Brown (Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

837 E. Cyrene St.

Carson, California 90746

American Legion Auxiliary

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837 E. Cyrene St.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA- POPPY PROGRAM
DECEMBER BULLETIN

Seasons Greetings Free Spirits,

Thank you to all Units who submitted their Mid-Year Reports. District Mid-Year Reports are due by December 15th. I look forward to reading what Units and Districts have done to promote the Poppy Program. Being able to pass out Poppies all year round has increased awareness about this Program.

I am eager to see everyone's Poppy Hats at our Poppy Hat contest at DEC. Guidelines are on the department website.

To ensure there are enough Poppies for all Units. We will be having a Poppy Making Party on Sunday, January 26th, 2025 at Lakewood Post 496 in Long Beach from 2:30pm-5pm. All are invited! Whether you're a pro at poppy making or a first timer, like me, you are invited!! Please RSVP with me or PPM Debbie Butler at (213) 200-0477.

During this holiday season, please take a moment to remember our nation's heroes and remember why we wear the red poppy. May you have a great month spending time with those near to your heart. Please take and send me photos if you have added poppies to your holiday decor.

Happy Holidays,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman, Department of California 2024-2025

(626)261-2375

Gabriella.aux@gmail.com



Past President's Parley December 2024

What a wonderful gift for anyone seeking to continue their nursing skills or a steppingstone for anyone entering the nursing field. I hope our members are seeking out that special person to receive our \$4000 PPP Nursing Scholarship award.



Deadline for Scholarship Applications is the First Friday in April... (April 4, 2025)

Nurses serve their communities in many ways and have essential roles in healthcare. Nurses promote healthy lifestyles, advocate for patients, provide health education, and directly care for many patients. The exact functions of nurses have changed somewhat over the years; however, their importance in healthcare remains evident.

Since the advent of modern medicine, nurses' role has shifted from being comforters to modern healthcare professionals who provide evidence-based treatment and wellness education. Nurses have a multifaceted role as holistic caregivers, patient advocates, specialists, and researchers.

Mid-Year reports deadlines: District Chairman - December 1, 2024

District Chairman to Department Chairman (me) - December 15, 2024



Happy Holidays

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman

grahamda65@yahoo.com or ppp@calegionaux.com

668 Via Mendoza Unit B, Laguna Woods, CA 92637



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
DECEMBER 2024 BULLETIN



Happy Holidays to One and All!

As we take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments for veterans so far this year let's make note of some things that the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program can focus on in the coming year to ensure that California has the volunteer resources needed for a successful program.

Auxiliary members can volunteer in many different ways in any of the various committees within the ALA organization. The VA&R program governs two categories of Auxiliary volunteers: Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers and Service to Veterans volunteers. While the goal of both programs remains the same, there are many differences in how those goals are reached. The most significant difference between the two programs pertains to where the service takes place, and how volunteers are recognized for that service.

The biggest challenge the Auxiliary faces is our approach to meeting the needs of a multigenerational volunteer force. Think about how we appeal to several generations of potential volunteers and how each of those generations with their own mindset and value system can be embraced in volunteer service.

- Be welcoming to all, regardless of the volunteer's American Legion Auxiliary membership status.
- Look for opportunities to mentor other volunteers - all of us have unique talents and skills that can be successfully utilized.
- Pair personal and professional talents with interesting volunteer opportunities.
- Provide opportunities where volunteers can grow personally and professionally.
- Identify challenging assignments where volunteers can see quick results.
- Make use of technology whenever possible and ask for help if you need it.

The Department of California Auxiliary needs volunteers for both VAVS and Service to Veterans. Interested members should contact me for information on how and where you can volunteer.

In closing, remember that **all District mid-year reports are due to Department Chairmen no later than December 15th**. The VA&R District Mid-Year Report form will be found on the Department website under VA&R.

2024 December Military Dates to Remember

December 1	Civil Air Patrol Day
December 3	#Giving Tuesday
December 7	National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
December 13	U. S. National Guard Birthday
December 14	National Wreaths Across America Day

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair
var@calegionaux.org Tel:831-324-0191



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Editor
Bulletin # 3
December 2024**

Thank you to those that sent in articles and photos for the November / December issue of *The Hub*.

Did your Unit or District have a lunch or dinner to recognize Girls State Delegates, or Veteran's Day? Did your Unit host a Thanksgiving Day Dinner for Veterans or your community? We want to hear about it!!! We want to read about and see all the amazing things you are doing.

The Auxiliary Emphasis for January is Legislative / National Security and February is Americanism. It would be really nice to have those Programs highlighted in the next *Hub* issue.

Do you have a program or information you would like to have highlighted in *The Hub*? Please let me know and you may see it in the upcoming issues.

A few things to remember when submitting articles:

Do not imbed photos in the articles or in the email; email them as attached jpg format files.

Articles should be attached as a Word document. No scanned documents or articles written as an email.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season; however you and your family celebrate.

The next issue for *The Hub* will be **January / February** and the deadline to submit articles is **December 15, 2024**. Articles and photos may be submitted anytime but will not be accepted after December 15th. Please be sure to get your articles and photos in by the deadline. And remember, articles may be edited or shortened depending on space availability for the issue. If you submit an article, and you do not receive a reply email that I received it, please contact me. Sometimes the emails with the articles end up in Spam.

Barb Toth
Editor
editor@calegionaux.org
909-544-1637



**National Security Bulletin 6
December 2024**

Happy Holidays to all of my Strategic Planners. I hope everyone is doing well. This is Bulletin 6. December has arrived and we are getting ready to say goodbye to 2024 and welcome 2025. December tends to be a busy month for all.

For most of us, it will be a happy time of celebrating with our friends and family. Not everyone will be enjoying this time of year. There are many Veterans who may feel depressed or alone. We must check in with our members if we have not heard from them.

Please share the Veteran's Crisis Line information. The Veterans Crisis Line provide 24/7 confidential crisis support for all veterans and their loved ones. **Dial 988 and then press 1.**

- 24/7 Support- Access free, confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Live Connection- Connect with a real person qualified to support Veterans.
- Serves Veterans, Their Families, and Friends- The Veterans Crisis Line serves Veterans, service members, National Guard, and Reserve members and those who support them. More info can be found: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

As members, please keep on the lookout for any service member that you feel is deserving of this recognition. And the SUBMIT him/her for the Salute to Servicemember Award. Information can be found at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award> with the nomination form at: <https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers>. And even better news - you don't have to wait all year to make a nomination. The form is active NOW! Submit anytime from NOW until the deadline of June 1, 2025!

DEC is just a little over a month away. This will be an exciting, busy, and fun-filled weekend. National Security and Children and Youth Chairman have teamed up to have one of the best canned food drives benefiting our Military Children. Start collecting your canned foods and bring them with you to DEC. We will have bags available for you, fill the bags and take back with you whatever you can fit in your vehicle and donate to your local Military or Veteran food bank.

Just a friendly reminder, District reports are due to Department by 12/15/24. Thank you for all you do for your Units and Districts. Wishing everyone a Joyous Holiday season.

Linda Lara-Guzman
Strategic Planning Commissioner
linlarguzman@gmail.com
(821) 229-2072

Children and Youth 2024-2025 December 2024



Hello to all the amazing wonder women

I know everyone is getting ready or has already sent in in your mid-year reports. This is such an exciting time of year for me, the year is halfway over, and I get to see all the amazing things each unit and Districts are doing.

We will be having our next western division National children and youth call on December 9th, please be on the lookout for some new information along with new ideas to finish out the year with a bang.

I wanted to recap the Good Deed and the Youth Hero awards. The awards can be given to non-members of American Legion Auxiliary, the Legion or the Sons. I had a request sent from National of an excellent candidate and I passed it on to the correct district, please if you have an amazing youth within your community, please reach out to them. I know it can be hard with privacy and all, but let's work together and see what we can come up with to make sure we honor those amazing youths. Also please do not forget to send me a copy.

DEC (Department Executive Committee) is right around the corner, and I hope I will see you all there, it is going to be a lot of fun and full of great information. Please do not forget about the can- food drive we are having; with the holidays we all get caught up with giving but then it seems to calm down. In January would be a great time to let our Military Bases and the Communities, know that they have not been forgotten. I have had a lot of questions about bringing canned foods to the DEC and I know some of you are flying but no worries please just donate to your local Military Bases and/or Communities pantries and report, report, report. For those who do want to bring cans we will have a table set up to drop off your Donations. Then on Sunday before we go home, we will have bags so that everyone can take what they need back to their own Military Bases and/or Communities pantries. This is a great way for the entire state of California to be involved to benefit all those in need because no Child should go hungry.

Two more things. One TFA we talk about this all the time, but I want you to keep in the back of your mind when your units and districts are sending in those donations. TFA is such a big part of what we do as an organization, helping veterans and their families and we cannot do this without every one of you. The number of Veterans and their families living on the streets is growing year after year and with your donations we can get them off the streets and in a safe environment, but we need your help.

Last thing is the American Legion Child welfare fund, this donation goes straight to national to help support grants for different causes. If you do and I hope you do donate, please make sure you send me a copy. I would love to be able to track the amount of how much the California American Legion Auxiliary has contributed.

To Quote Wonder woman: We Will Fight for Those Who Cannot Fight for Themselves. If you have any questions, I'm just a phone call, text message or email away.

For God and Country

Tracy Varnell Fercho

tvarnell2@yahoo.com 805-233-4354

771 Brossard Drive Thousand Oaks CA 91360





**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Junior Activities
December 2024 Bulletin**

Season Greetings!

As we come to the end of the year let us give praises for allowing us to see another year. Seniors you are doing an amazing job with our juniors. The juniors are on the move across California. They have had car washes, bake sales and donating food to their local pantries. The fundraisers will help support variety programs. The juniors will be decorating and giving out Christmas stockings to our veterans and families for Christmas. Seniors if you have not emailed me your mailing address to send the Christmas stockings please do so as soon as possible.

Seniors let us not forget that all Mid-Year reports are due now so let us make 100% reporting. All reports can be emailed to Lucy Hunt, huntLL577@gmail.com or mailed to 2111 ½ S Sycamore Ave, LA, Ca 90016. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me via email or cellphone. Seniors let us encourage our juniors to participate in Wreaths Across America and the Americanism Essay. Seniors, please keep track of the juniors' hours and time so they can receive patches for their hard work.

Madam President has asked that we do a skit or play a game at DEC for Junior Activities. If you have any ideas and would like to participate, please email me. Also, if you have not booked your room for DEC do so as soon as possible. Seniors do not forget to bring cash to DEC to support Children and Youth Food Drive.

We are still looking for a winner for the Junior Activities Essay contest to attend the National Junior Meeting/Mission Training 101 2024-2025, February 1st in Las Vegas, NV. The flyer is on the website. Seniors let us help the juniors write this essay. We will be announcing the winner at DEC. Also, let us get our juniors registered for the Junior Conference which will be held at Camp Arnaz, April 11th-April 13th, 2025. The Junior Conference information is located under Junior Activities. If you have any questions regarding the Junior Conference contact Martha Romano, Junior Conference Director.

Juniors keep up the GREAT work. Happy Holidays to You All!

Lucy Hunt
Junior Activities Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
C. (213) 521-9895
E. huntLL577@gmail.com



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Membership

Bulletin 5

December, 2024

I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude for all your hard work and dedication to the ALA. Your passion and commitment to the ALA is what makes our organization thrive.

The numbers are in and as follows: We are currently (California) at 63.68%, second in the Western Division.

☀️ **Northwestern Division - Energy 63.90%**, up from 60.88%

☁️ **Central Division - Air - 61.77%**, up from 58.94%

🔥 **Western Division Fire - 59.87%** up from 57.06%

🌍 **Southern Division - Earth - 59.77%** up from 57.35%

💧 **Eastern Division Water 55.16%**, up from 52.30%

As the year comes to a close, let's take this window of opportunity and contact our members who have not renewed their membership. Remember their timely payment helps us continue providing valuable services to our veterans and the community. Thank you again for all that you do, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

“May your holidays be filled with warmth and fire!”

Donna L. Smith

Department Membership Chair E: DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com 858 776-5974



As we come to the mid-way point of our year, it's time to start thinking about

Unit Member of the Year.

The Unit Member of the Year award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units.

ALA Unit Member of the Year award criteria and selection process

- Nominees must be an adult American Legion Auxiliary unit member not in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
- A narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities must be submitted by a unit to its department (state) Leadership Committee chairman.
- **Units:** Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
- Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to Department President Linda Hayes at president@calegionaux.org and a copy to Diana Livas at leadership@calegionaux.org. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address. The submission deadline is May 1st.
- The Department President will choose the winner and then forward that information to the Department Leadership Chairman for submission to National by June 1st.

Please keep a copy of your narrative and application.

With all our mid-year reports now due to department, I am excited to read about all the wonderful events our Auxiliary is doing. Thank you to Kathy Martinez for your invitation

Happy Holidays, I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Diana Livas



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Bulletin #4 December**

Holiday greetings

I hope this finds you all well.

I would like to thank all of you who donated to the AEF fund.

You can still donate to the AEF fund. It is easy to donate. Go to the Department website/ National Donation AEF fill out the form and send it in.

If you have experienced a disaster, again go to the Department website or www.ALAforveterans.org/AEF. There will be an online application.

REMEMBER AEF is a national program all applications for assistance and donations are on line.

Members helping members.

Hope to see you at DEC in January

Happy Holidays,

Suzanne Winters, Chairman
Auxiliary Emergency Fund
ALA Department of California
ovsuz@comcast.net
(916) 768-6679





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
GIRLS STATE PROGRAM
2024-2025



Bulletin #4

www.cagirlsstate.org

December 2024

Happy Holidays SCOTUS Interns,

We are doing great with Reservations! Keep them coming! We currently have 433 schools reserved. We do have some schools that would like to participate and girls that have inquired about their school not being sponsored. Hopefully, your fundraising is going well and you will consider adding another school. Remember, there are [Grants available from the Alumna Foundation](#) to help cover some of the fees.

I am looking for a Chairperson who can guide a Unit that would like to add Girls State to their Mission and do not have a Chairperson. If you are willing to share your experience and time, please contact me at my email or cell number below so that I can fill you in.

To-Do List for Chairpersons

- ☐ Download the [2025 Unit Information Packet](#). The first page shows detailed instructions for how to use the packet.
 - Please note, on the second page of the "How To Use" pages, there is a section that will autofill the form in several areas for you. Please review it. A big thank you to our computer techies, Deana and Allyn, for their time and efforts on the Unit Packet.
 - **Do not submit fees at this time.** Transportation costs are yet to be determined.
- ☐ Unit President and Chairperson complete [2024 ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Quiz](#) before selecting Girls State Candidates.
- ☐ Check the new link list: [GS 2024-2025 Links](#) for Access to many forms.
- ☐ Verify the [Reservation List](#) for accuracy. If you would like to pick up another school, please check the tab at the bottom of the list marked 2024 Participating Schools. The last column on the right shows if that school has been reserved yet this year.
- ☐ Contact schools to follow up with selection of interview candidates. (those involved with students in ASB, service organizations, debate, U.S. Government teachers).
 - Establish a point tally system for the interview committee. [Tally System Sample](#) in Resource folder under Candidate Selection.

Next Zoom: Monday, December 16th @ 7:00pm

Topic: ALA CAGS Chair Meetings

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484116950?pwd=vM1CJoMrVCAaLr69SQKy5YyqKGXbxE.1>

Meeting ID: 854 8411 6950

Passcode: alaCAGS2009

Dial by your location

• +1 669 444 9171 US

The meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend.

Links and Information from Previous Bulletins

[GS 2024-2025 Links](#) (you can find the links to most documents there)

[Unit Information Packet](#)

[Grant Application](#)

[ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Quiz](#)

[Reservation List](#)

[Reservation Form](#)

We are doing great toward our goal! Thank you for your hard work for the students! They are our future.

Please share your ideas, successes, and forms that are working well for your program. They might be helpful to others. I appreciate your input. Send them to my email.

Caroline Miller

alacagschair@gmail.com

(562) 444-8296