



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Membership

Bulletin 6

January, 2025

Happy Membership Year!

I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you for your exceptional work on our mid-year reports for membership! Your dedication to delivering high-quality reports has truly fired up our momentum, and I'm thrilled to see the impact it's having on our progress.

Target Dates:

100% Unit Awards Deadline January 31, 2025

85% Department Award Deadline March 15th, 2025

95% Department Deadline May 23, 2025

Recruit/Rejoin 10 Award Deadline June 1st, 2025

100% Department Award Deadline July 4th, 2025

102% Department Award Deadline July 26th, 2025

I look forward to seeing you at our Membership party at DEC. It's going to be lit!

Donna L. Smith Department Membership Chair

E: DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com 858-776-5974



Past President's Parley January 2025

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

Do you know SOMEONE who would greatly benefit from our Nurses' Scholarship.

Applications and guidelines are available on our website.

Remember: a Grandchild are now eligible per the PPP Code. (2024)

Who can be Parley Chairman? Any member who has served as a Unit President is eligible for appointment as the Unit or District Past Presidents Parley Chairman. Each may sponsor special projects for their Parley. As a PPP chairman you should plan an event to support the Nursing Scholarship!

End of Year reports deadlines: District Chairman – May 1, 2025

District Chairman to Department Chairman (me) – May 25, 2025

**Original "*Florence Nightingale Pledge*": *Vanderbilt School of Nursing*
1893**

*I solemnly pledge myself before God and
in the presence of this assembly
to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully.
I shall abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous,
and shall not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.*

*"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen,
others make it happen."* Michael Jordan

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman

grahamda65@yahoo.com or ppp@calegionaux.com

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American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California
Public Relations – Rosemary Barron – rosemarybarron@msn.com
January 2025, Bulletin

Hear Yee, Hear Yee! Paul Revere here! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope your holidays were filled with gratitude and joy! Let's all wake up from the food coma and re-energize for the new year! The success of our programs is due to you and the volunteerism of our members.

Remember the purpose of the Public Relation Committee is to establish and maintain a positive and highly visible presence in the hopes of attracting new members and to keep our existing members encouraged.

Continue spreading the word about the American Legion Auxiliary!

Keep up the good work:

Maintain a social media account for department, districts, and units. BE SURE to stay active on the social media accounts. Post quality content on a consistent basis. The community needs to know who you are and what you do and most important WHY. Encourage your followers to comment, ask for ideas, and communicate back positively.

When posting photos, try to only use good quality pics. No one wants to see a blurry photo.

Build a relationship with local media.

ALWAYS wear branding apparel at events and community events.

Keep your units active within your post and the community.

I hope to see you all at DEC in January 17 – 19, 2025. Be sure to spread the word and make it a fun road trip for all!

Remember it is about Service not self.

Value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect. "Michelle Obama"

#americanlegionauxiliary



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION
JANUARY 2025 BULLETIN



Happy New Year!

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) began in 1981 as two separate competitions through the Department of Veterans Affairs – the Music Festival and VET ARTs. The two programs merged in 1989 and became the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. In 2000 the American Legion Auxiliary joined with the Department of Veterans Affairs to co-present the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Today, across the country VA medical facilities utilize the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities.

The Festival is the culmination of VA facility competitions in art, creative writing, dance, drama and music for veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs national healthcare system. Annual local competitions at VA facilities are generally held between May and August and national winners are announced in January of the following year – so the 2024 winners will be announced in January 2025.

The top winning entries at each local creative arts competition advance to a national judging process and first, second, and third place entries are selected at the national level. The first place Veterans' entries are then invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival hosted by a different VA facility each year. All veterans invited to participate at the national level are selected winners of the national competition in which thousands of veterans enter from VA medical facilities across the nation. The 44th National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 11-18, 2025.

Many VA facilities are unable to participate in the Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF) because of budget and staffing shortages. This is where the American Legion Auxiliary can help! Through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation qualifying Units can partner with a VA facility to obtain funding for a local creative arts festival! The Foundation has established criteria for granting VCAF awards to local creative arts festivals. These grants may only be awarded to an ALA tax exempt entity that is in good standing with both the IRS non-profit tax guidelines and ALA compliance standards. Up to \$2,500 in grant money can be awarded by the Foundation for a project period not to exceed twelve months.

The ALA Foundation's VCAF grants **cannot** fund:

- Reimbursements for completed projects.
- Refreshments and/or food items.

- Any VCAF event not affiliated with or partnering with a VA facility participating in the NVCAF
- Any NVCAF expenses.
- Maintenance or construction costs to Festival venue.

For further information on VCAF grants, please visit the Foundation at www.ALAFoundation.org/grants/VCAFgrants. There you will be able to download a sample application and instructions for submission.

Obtaining a VCAF grant for your local VA medical facility would be a most rewarding way to assist veterans in their recovery from physical and emotional trauma.

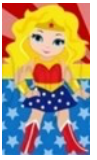
If you are interested in volunteering for a local VCAF please check with your local VA facility Director to see if the program is offered at their facility. Your call could be the start of a very rewarding partnership!

In closing, a big thank you to the district VAR chairmen who submitted mid-year reports. Your time and effort are very much appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at DEC in Palmdale!

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





Children and Youth 2024-2025 January 2025

Hello to all the amazing wonder women

First off I would like to say Happy new Year to everyone, and I hope everyone had an amazing Holiday season.

I was so proud of the Midyear reports that I had received. I will be sharing some of the great things each unit and district has done in my report at DEC and also giving an outline of things we might want to focus on until we meet again in June. Speaking of DEC I hope you are all trying to be able to attend. If not for the entire weekend just try to come for at least one day, to hear all about each program and what other units and districts are doing, just maybe you can get some new ideas to take back with you.

As we had talked about last month, we did have our Zoom Call with National for children and youth program. The first thing is that they have changed the name of The American Legion Child welfare fund to The American Legion Child well being fund. They did talk a lot about donations to this fund and I think a good challenge for us would be if every member could donate just 1 dollar, we would have over \$18,000 from California. You could do it by unit strength or by district. I know it is hard because we do ask so much of our units to donate here and there, and it adds up but please let me know when you donate because at convention, I do plan on have a special prize for that unit and/or districts that were able to meet the challenge. They also spoke about Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards. Many other states are leaps and bounds ahead of us with submitting for these awards. I know we have those amazing youths out there and with the holidays just passing I'm sure we can find them. Please reference last month's bulletin regarding the difference between the two awards. Also once again please send a copy if you submit a youth for either award.

DEC (Department Executive Committee) is here, and we are only 17 days away, I'm so excited to be able to see everyone and hear all the accomplishments so far. Please do not forget about the can- food drive we are having, there will be a table set up just for the can- food drive and there also will be someone there to except items. Please remember on Sunday or even on Saturday after session you can start taking items that you need to fill your Military Bases or Community pantries because no Child should go Hungry. (Please bring bags)

The last thing is I would like to know if you would like to have a Children and Youth Zoom Call after DEC. I think it might be a good idea for those who could not make DEC and even those members who did. The reason I ask is because I know that there are so many Zoom calls, and I just do not want to overload anyone. Please email me so I can ask Madam President if this would be okay, and I could set it up maybe for the last week in January 2025.

Please let me know if I can be of help with anything. I'm only a phone call, text or email away.

To Quote Wonder woman: We Will Fight for Those Who Cannot Fight for Themselves.

For God and Country

Tracy Varnell Fercho tvarnell2@yahoo.com 805-233-4354

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LEGISLATIVE

January 2025

Hello and Happy New Year to all of you. I have some exciting news from Sally Rossman, our National Legislative Chair. We have a National Legislative Committee Challenge. This challenge is for Departments and Divisions to increase participation in corresponding with our Legislators through the Action Alerts. The challenge is for each Department and Division to have the highest percentage of correspondence numbers based on paid membership each quarter in response to the Legion's Action Alert.

Challenge Guidelines

- Start date was November 10, 2024
- The Legion's quarterly report and Auxiliary's membership report date will be used to calculate percentages.
- Correspondence. The email/letters sent to legislators when a member goes through the Action Alert located in the Grassroots Center.
- Correspondence Number: Each time a member sends email/letter on specific alert request will count as 1 for the Department.
- Department Membership: The number of 2025 paid members at the end of the quarter.
- The quarterly Department and Division winners will be determined by highest percentage calculated by Correspondence number divided by Department membership.
- Year end Department and Division winners will be calculated by combining the total Department correspondence numbers for the year divided by membership entered in ALAMIS by July 26, 2025.

The Department winner will receive a \$20 donation in their name to the Nationals President's project from the National Chair each quarter. The year-end Department and Division winner will receive a \$50 donation to the National President's project.

Let's make California Proud.

Glenda Schultz

Legislative Chairman Department of California



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



Bulletin #5

www.cagirlsstate.org

January 2025

Happy New Year!

Happy 2025!

I'm hoping you all had a very happy holiday and are ready for the upcoming *Girls State Adventures*. Put it in 1st gear. Hang on. Here we go!

We currently have 443 Reservations with some that have yet to be updated. Our original goal was 440. We made it! Maybe we will make it to 450! I'm so excited by our progress. Thank you for all your work!! [2025 Reservation Form](#) (if you have not already submitted your schools). If you have submitted one or more schools already, please send me an email with the School Name, City and if the School is Public or Private. We will enter those schools in the computer.

Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:

- Contact your schools when they open with a Welcome Back, Happy 2025! note. All of us are on different pages with our programs. Some of you are ready for interviews and others are just getting your list from the schools. My advice is to work at your own pace. Don't worry if another Unit is ahead of you or your planning.
- Review the [Reservation List](#) for accuracy. Send email to alacagschair@gmail.com to correct or add to the list.
- Continue reviewing the Candidate Selection slides. Both you and your Unit President must take the Candidate Selection Quiz before selecting Candidates. The quiz is not graded and will not disqualify you if you miss some answers, but we need to have record that you have taken it in order to be in compliance with our Girls State Code. [2025 Candidate Selection Quiz](#).
- Download, review and start filling in the [2025 Unit Information Packet](#) so that you will have it ready before you select the Delegates.
- Once you have the names of the Candidates, let the school know your interview plan or schedule.
- When interviewing, ALWAYS explain to the Candidates that they cannot arrive late or leave early from the 2025 Girls State Session. They must attend the **ENTIRE** session. There is no time for other school work, interviews, virtual meetings or any responsibility. **If they do not attend the ENTIRE session (including leaving for illness), they do not**

get credit for having attended Girls State. **No awards, Certificates, or pin.**

- Always select a Delegate and Two Alternates. If a Delegate drops and there is no alternate, your Unit will not receive a refund from Department.
- Initiate a [Interview Tally U105.pdf](#) Remember to ask each Candidate **the same questions.**
- Review the “to do list” for January on [2024-2025 Suggested Calendar for Girls State Chairs](#). If you are further ahead of the others or just want to start planning, check the February To Do List.

We will be using a new Zoom Link for our Monthly Zoom Recordings. Hopefully we will have more success. Please contact me if you missed a zoom meeting. I will go over what we discussed. Additionally, If you have questions that have not been answered or you need help, call me at the number below.

Next Zoom: Monday, January 13th at 7:00 pm

Topic: ALA Girls State Chair Zoom

Time: Jan 13, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7142722021?pwd=TERIN2pxd3VDeVNIQytSSStWTWw2Zz09&omn=81225214451>

Meeting ID: 714 272 2021

Passcode: GZv6QD

Links and Information from Previous Bulletins

[GS 2024-2025 Links](#)

[2025 ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Quiz](#)

[Unit Information Packet](#)

[Website 2025 Reservations List](#) (Responses)

[Reservation Form](#)

[2024-2025 Suggested Calendar for Girls State Chairs](#)

[Interview Tally U105.pdf](#)

Thanks for all your work. Your work for this program changes lives.

Caroline Miller

alacagschair@gmail.com

(562) 444-8296



**National Security Bulletin 7
January 2025**

Happy New Year to all of my Strategic Planners. I hope everyone is doing well. This is Bulletin 7. This is a time that everyone makes those New Years resolutions. What are your resolutions? One of my resolutions as an Auxiliary member is to step it up a notch and volunteer more with our Veteran's organizations. I am currently involved with a couple of organizations, but I want to make a difference in how I do that. Let us not forget why we belong to the Auxiliary and who gave us that privilege to belong.

How have you supported the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, or transitioning service members and their families? For those living near a Military base, have you assisted with information for military spouse job fairs? I know there are some units and districts that are close to Military bases and do participate in their homecomings. Please continue to participate and show them what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about.

As a Military Mom, I belong to 2 groups that provide birthday hugs to servicemembers that are living far away from their families and stationed at Defense Language Institute in Monterey. The Mom will contact me, and we organize a time to have their son or daughter meet me at the gate. I will then give them a cake, cookies, meal or whatever the Mom asks for. I then give them a hug from their Mom. It is a very emotional time but very rewarding. I was able to ask for a hug for my son's birthday when he was stationed at Camp Pendleton. The person who gave him a hug happened to be a retired Navy Veteran and also a Legionnaire. This makes this Mom's heart melt each and every time. So, this may not be a homecoming but it sure is a way to assist our service members.

DEC is just 2 weeks away. National Security and Children and Youth Chairman have teamed up to have one of the largest 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.

I look forward to seeing you at DEC.

Linda Lara-Guzman
Strategic Planning Commissioner
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(821) 229-2072



We are Auxiliary Strong – 2025

First, I would like to thank the many Districts who submitted you Mid-Year reports, together we are Auxiliary strong! I look forward to seeing you at our next DEC just a few weeks.

As a reminder, Leadership chairmen are committed to training all members at all levels with the following:

- Each District and/or Unit should host a workshop during the administrative year.
- Our purpose is to train Auxiliary with the basic requirements of our programs.
- Provide general understanding of our Constitution and Bylaws along with the rights of members and benefits available.
- We give basic protocol and the importance of proper reporting.
- All members should understand the history of the Auxiliary.
- Basic protocols of the Auxiliary.
- Mentoring is key to our success.

Anyone interested in having me give a leadership class, please reach out to me. I would love the opportunity.

Learning is something that never ends and is a big part of us growing.

“I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.”

Maya Angelou

In Service, Not Self

Diana Livas



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Junior Activities
January 2025 Bulletin**

Happy New Year!

I would like to first start off by saying thank you to the Districts who submitted their Mid-Year reports. Seniors let us keep mentoring our juniors. Our juniors are on the move. The juniors across California have been busy delivering can goods to their local pantries, having carwashes to raise funds to support variety programs, helping at their Post, attending events for Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America. Juniors are also participating in many programs such as Working Dogs for Warriors. Our juniors delivered Christmas stockings to the VA Hospitals, veterans and their families during the holiday.

Seniors if you have not registered your juniors for the National Junior Meeting to be held on February 1, 2025, in Las Vegas, NV, please do so as soon as possible. As of January 7th, we only have two juniors from California, one junior from Arizona and one junior from Texas. Per Jeanne Haas, National Juniors Activities Chairman if there is not at least six junior members or young sons registered by Friday, January 17, 2025, 5pm EST we will be forced to cancel the National Junior Meeting in the Western Division. Unfortunately, we did not receive any essays for the contest.

Seniors the clock is ticking let us get our juniors registered for the Junior Conference which will be held on April 11th-13th, 2025 at Camp Arnaz, Ventura, Ca. You can find the information for the Junior Conference under Junior Activities. If you have any questions, contact Martha Romano, Junior Conference Director, email calegionfirstlady@gmail.com.

Let us keep track of all the great work our juniors are doing so that they can receive patches for their hard work.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the DEC January 17-19, 2025.

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
Auxiliary Emergency Fund
January bulleting**

It is with a heavy heart that I write this bulletin.

Well, here we go again, it seems like California cannot catch a break. My husband just came in to tell me that the Santa Anna winds have kicked up another fire storm in Pacific Palisades. I am praying for all my sisters and brother down south. There are now 5 reported fires that are threatening our families of the ALA. Some of our families have lost their homes and many more have been evacuated and displaced. Please keep all our members in your thoughts and prayers.

I encourage all of you to donate to the AEF program. This truly is a program that is geared toward members helping members.

If you need assistance remember that this is a national program, and you will need to get the application online at www/ALAforveterans.org/AEF. The forms are also available on the department website under AEF.

You can also donate to the California disaster fund which is on the California donation form. Find this for under the audit/finance program. Applications for California disaster assistance can be found in the community service program.

Be safe.

I hope to see many of you in a few weeks at DEC.

Save travels.

May God bless all of you.

In Service Not Self,

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





American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
Community Service
January 2025 Bulletin



Happy New Year, Village People!

While the new year is often a time for fresh starts and hope, January has brought unimaginable challenges for many of our members in Southern California. The recent fires have left a devastating impact—some of our own have lost their homes and everything they own, while others are still displaced, waiting for news on when they can safely return. We are a community that thrives on service and support, and now is the time to extend that support to our fellow members.

The California Disaster Relief Fund

The CA Disaster Relief Fund is available to provide immediate assistance to those affected. If you or someone you know in our Auxiliary family has been impacted, please reach out to access these crucial resources. Together, we can ease the burden and help each other rebuild.

"CA Fires" Relief Donations

The Department of California is actively collecting donations for "CA Fires" relief. Every dollar donated will go directly to helping our members recover and regain stability. These funds will be distributed through several of our key programs:

- **Children and Youth:** Supporting for children affected by the fires.
- **Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF):** Offering financial assistance to members facing extreme hardships.
- **Community Service:** Providing relief through the CA Disaster Fund.
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R):** Supporting veterans affected by the fires.

How You Can Help

- **Donate:** Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference. Send donations marked "CA Fires" to:
ALA, Department of California Treasurer
10400 Twin Cities Rd., Ste 20, #107
Galt, CA 95632
- **Contribute to the collection we will do at DEC.**
- **Volunteer:** Reach out to your local community service chair to find out how you can assist with relief efforts.
- **Spread the Word:** Share this bulletin and encourage others to support our efforts.

As we reflect on the challenges faced by our members, let us also be reminded of the strength and resilience of our Auxiliary family. Together, we can face these trials and come out stronger. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our mission. Let's continue to show the power of community by standing with our fellow members during this difficult time.

In Service, Not Self,

Rebecca Glenn

Community Service Chairman

cs@calegionaux.org

Home - 831-272-2249

Cell – 717-810-7321



January Education Bulletin

Happy New Year Anne Sullivan's,

I hope everyone had a very joyous Holiday Season. Now it is time for all of us to get back to work on Education. Thank you to all the districts that sent in your Mid-year report. As I went through the reports I had to stop and give a big shout-out to California for the Give 10 program. We had a total of \$39,646.16 that we donated in supplies to our schools. Fantastic job for our Units and members.

Now that schools are coming back into session, we need to check back in on the scholarships. Do they need any help or have questions? Remind the counselors of the March 1, 2025 deadline. I would hate for a student to miss the opportunity due to a late application.

Two important dates to look forward to

Purple Up! Day for Military Children—April 15, 2025

Teacher Appreciation Week—May 5-9, 2025

If I can be of any help, please call or email. See you in Palmdale at DEC.

Donna Mattox

Dept. Education Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA- POPPY PROGRAM
JANUARY 2025 BULLETIN

Happy New Year Free Spirits,

Thank you to all Units who submitted their Mid-Year Reports. I enjoyed reading what your units have done with the poppies so far. Thank you for submitting photos! I received photos of christmas wreathes with poppies and ornaments filled with poppies. I have been sharing them Jammie Phillips, the National Vice Chairman, Poppy Committee.

A big thank you to our Poppy Productions places who have been working hard to insure poppies will be ready for National Poppy Day. The first wave of district orders have gone out and another wave will go out soon.

Now is the perfect time to start preparing for National Poppy Day.

- Inquire with local libraries and schools about doing a story time and craft lesson for the Poppy. The Poppy Lady by Barbara Elizabeth Walsh is the perfect book to read.
- Share information with local schools for the Poppy Poster Contest. Poppy Posters are due to Units by April 14th by 5pm. ***Unit first place winners are due to Districts by May 1st by 5pm. District first place winners are due to Department chairman by May 16th by 5pm.***
- Miss Poppy Contest. Talk to your Unit Juniors about becoming the next Little Miss Poppy. The guidelines for this year can be found on the department and National Website

See you at DEC,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman, Department of California 2024-2025

(626)261-2375

Gabriella.aux@gmail.com