



*Past President's Parley February 2025*

**FOR UNITS: Deadline for Scholarship Applications**

**All student Nurses' application to UNITS due by the first Friday in April**

**April 4, 2025**

**ALL completed and signed Nurses' applications to**

**PPP Department Chairman by the third Friday in April**

**April 18, 2025**

Time flies...April will be here before we know it. Please keep asking our members at your unit and district meetings – Do you know someone who is either entering the nursing profession or wants to continue their nursing education in a specific field. Are you prepared to have the guidelines and applications available for inquiring members?

The PPP lunch flyer is on the website –

Deadline for lunch reservation is June 6, 2025.

*Always desire to learn something else - Sophocles*



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

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

Dee Ann Graham, PPP Dept Chairman

[grahamda65@yahoo.com](mailto:grahamda65@yahoo.com) or [ppp@calegionaux.com](mailto:ppp@calegionaux.com)

668 Via Mendoza Unit B, Laguna Woods, CA 92637



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

Hear Yee, Hear Yee! Paul Revere here!

This month let's focus on good habits to have for the role of Public Relations:

When I wake up in the morning- Cafecito first, then time to check my social media for updates, comments, posts to share etc. Be sure to respond to questions quickly even if you do not have an answer, a quick "let me look into this for you" is usually appreciated.

Do a google search of "American Legion" and "American Legion Auxiliary" look for important subjects to share also look for success stories for sharing. This is to include patriotic holidays and special Legion and Auxiliary days.

Check in with your new members, what are they in need of, information, contacts, dates, etc. Take time to encourage new members to get involved in some small way to start.

Now get out your calendar- what needs reminders, what needs a follow up, etc.

I hope this inspires you to create GOOD habits!

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!**

Thank you to all that were able to donate in some way to assist the many people affected by the CA wildfires. More than 120 Legion members homes were destroyed. They have a long road ahead of them, so let's continue making an impact. A gift to the AEF will provide immediate financial support. But also look within your districts, units and communities for ways to help. God bless us.

Remember it is about Service not self.

History has shown that us with courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.

"Michelle Obama"

**#americanlegionauxiliary**



**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department of California**

**Membership**

**Bulletin 7**

**February, 2025**

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to inform you that some of the certificates were unintentionally left off during our Membership Payoff party. Please see the list below of those who will be receiving their certificates soon:

- 82,106,108,112,146,132,166,179,184,218,222,240,261,280,293,328,348
- 421,434,507,519,522,574,578,589,803,820,830

It was a wonderful time at the DEC, and I am very grateful for that opportunity to connect with such an inspiring group.

California, we are currently at 80.42% WOW!!!! Western Division is now in FIRST PLACE!

Department Award: 85% Award Presented to Department reaching 85% of their 2025 department membership goal. Deadline TAL Birthday, March 1. WE GOT THIS!

Look at California! Special thanks to all the Area Membership support, and all of you!

Happy Valentine's Day to all our wonderful members! Your support and dedication are the heart of our organization and we are so grateful to have you as part of our membership family. Keep up the good work!

THIS GIRL IS ON FIRE!

Donna L. Smith, Membership Chair ALA DOC E: DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA  
Chaplain  
February 2025 Bulletin**

**Draping the Charter**

I have been asked when and why we drape our Unit Charter. The answer is simple.

When a unit has lost one of its members due to death, it is customary to drape the unit charter with a black crepe during the period of mourning. There is no set time for how long the mourning period should be or how long the charter is draped.

I have provided here a suggested ceremony for draping the charter.

Unit President: We have assembled here at the call of our maker who has taken from us one of our beloved leaders. We have come to give, by a simple token, our official expression of the grief of Unit (unit name). Let us first bow our heads in prayer.

(Chaplain will offer a brief prayer.)

Unit President: We stand before the document which gave our unit life and being. Under its authority, years of devoted service were given by (name of deceased member). He/she contributed to its significance. His/her service is ended, but the results of his/her loyal efforts will go on and on for our American Legion Auxiliary and for God and country which the Auxiliary serves.

It is therefore fitting that on our charter, we should drape this black crepe, an expression of the sorrow in our hearts and of the mourning of (unit's name) over its great loss.

(Unit president then drapes the charter.)

Unit President: Now we ask God's blessing for our departed friend and co-worker, then go silently to carry forward the tasks to which he/she was giving so much when called away.

(Chaplain gives a brief concluding prayer.)

#### MEMBER DATA FORM

The Department Chaplain shall receive a Member Data Form from the Unit Chaplain when notified of a member's death. This notification will provide me with the auxiliary member's name, so she will be remembered at the Department Convention Memorial Service.

A courtesy Member Data Form should also be sent to the District Chaplain with the deceased member's current year information, so again she will be remembered at the district meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless,  
Melanie Taylor  
Department Chaplain  
457 Muscat Drive  
Cloverdale, CA 95425  
(707) 953-7240  
mtaylor95425@gmail.com



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Community Service  
February 2025 Bulletin



Greetings, Village People!

February is upon us, and it's the perfect time to start planning for our largest Community Service event of the year—**American Legion Family Day!** Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 26th**, the last Saturday in April. This is an incredible opportunity to bring the community together at your Legion Family Home and showcase what the Legion Family does while recognizing the contributions of our family members.

Work with The Legion, Sons of The Legion, and Riders to make this a truly memorable event! From showcasing your programs to highlighting volunteer opportunities, let's make this day a shining example of service and unity.

Don't keep all your great ideas to yourself. Let's inspire one another! Units and District Chairmen, please share your plans for American Legion Family Day with me. Your creativity and dedication spark great ideas for others. Don't forget to post your plans and highlights on social media and join the ALA Community Service Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService>.

It was wonderful to see everyone who was able to attend DEC in Palmdale. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Jeopardy game at the DEC featuring Community Service, National Security, and Children & Youth programs. If you missed it or want to play again, you can find the game here: <https://www.playfactile.com/jeopardy-game/ala2025dec>. Share it with your Units for some educational and entertaining program engagement.

Last but not least, this chairman is here to support you! Remember we are a Village. Let's make this year one of engagement and community impact. Share your success stories and photos, as these moments will help inspire and energize others while creating lasting memories.

Together, we will continue to make a difference and strengthen our communities. Let's work hard, share proudly, and shine brightly as a united Legion Family.

In Service, Not Self,

*Rebecca Glenny*

Community Service Chairman

[cs@calegionaux.org](mailto:cs@calegionaux.org)

Home - 831-272-2249

Cell – 717-810-7321



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION  
FEBRUARY 2025 BULLETIN



Thank you District VA&R chairmen for your mid-year reports. Your input enabled me to create a recap for both the Western Division and National Chairs.

The following is a statistical summary of the work completed by members, units, and districts in the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program during the first half of the 2024-25 year. While some of the numbers seem low, we must remember that only twenty one Districts prepared mid-year reports, and of those, only ten submitted supplemental reports for VA&R.

**Wreaths Across America**

Number of Districts Participating:	21
Number of Units Participating	51
Total Number of Wreaths Purchased	230
Total Cost of Wreaths Purchased	\$3,910.00
Number of Volunteers placing wreaths on 12/14/24	150
Total Volunteer Hours spent placing wreaths	300

**Honor Flight, Inc.**

Number of Units Participating:	22
Total Volunteer Hours	540
Total Dollars Spent for Donations	\$5,895.00

**Military and Veteran Caregiver Network**

Number of Units Participating	21
Number of Members Participating	56
Total Volunteer Hours served	4,521
Total Dollars Spent on Related Costs	\$8,497.00

**Service for Veterans**

Number of Districts Participating	15
Total Hours Volunteered by members	9,822
Total Value of In-kind Donations Received	\$121,324
Total Cost of In-kind Donations Given	\$19,890.00
Total Number of Veterans In Community School Presentations	91

**National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**

Number of Units Participating	14
Number of Unit Donations	6
Total Amount of Unit Donations	\$1,945.00

### **VA CDCE Recruitment**

Number of Units Reporting Active Recruitment	11
Number of Hospital Reps/Deps Added	3

It is hoped that with one hundred percent year-end reporting by all Districts many of these numbers will increase significantly.

### **Veteran and Military Observances**

#### **February 2025**

<b>3</b>	<b>Four Chaplains Day</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>USO Birthday</b>
<b>9-15</b>	<b>National Salute to Veteran Patients</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Coast Guard Reserve Birthday</b>

*February 14<sup>th</sup> is  
Valentine's Day*



*Hug a Veteran!*

Susan Baker, VA&R Chair  
[var@calegionaux.org](mailto:var@calegionaux.org) [Tel:831-324-0191](tel:831-324-0191)



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA- POPPY PROGRAM**  
**FEBRUARY BULLETIN 2025**

Greetings Free Spirits,

Thank you to all who participated in our Poppy Hat Contest at DEC. The entries were phenomenal and I'm glad I didn't have to choose. Thank you to my judges. We'll have another Poppy Hat contest at convention.

Have you visited Flag & Emblems sales website lately? In Fall of 2024, new Poppy items became available! By wearing and using Auxiliary and Poppy branding, it is a great conversation starter on sharing about our wonderful organization and Poppy Program. Over the years, I've met many people who didn't know Poppy Story. A copy can be found on our website. Please use and share with others.

In a past bulletin, I shared how Poppy Funds can be used per the new 2024 Poppy Guide. Our organization also uses Poppy Funds to support mission outreach activities, such as: National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, -Armed Services YMCA food pantry locations, and to Support Honor Flights. At DEC, we witnessed a beautiful presentation about the Honor Flights Program. Below is how Poppy Funds can be used to support the mission of Honor Flights. Hope your Unit can support a Veteran or Guardian on a future Honor Flight trip.

**Honor Flights**

***For the veterans:***

- Food and nutrition
- Oxygen
- Wheelchairs
- Medical teams on each flight (one medic per bus — and there are sometimes up to six medics per flight — funds cover the medic's food, identifying apparel, medical supplies, travel expenses, and hotel)
- Wheelchair-accessible buses

***For the guardian (companion/caregiver who attends with the veteran)***

- Airfare to accompany veteran on the trip
- Food and nutrition
- Hotel accommodations to remain with veteran during the trip
- Guardian training and associated needs to execute necessary tasks — food, room rental, medical training, and identifying articles of clothing
- When required — transportation to the airport with veteran
- When required — hotel for the night before the flight with veteran

Our first Department Poppy Party was a success, and another one has been scheduled. Poppy Making Party on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at Lakewood Post 496 in Long Beach from 2:30pm-5pm. All are invited! All skill levels are invited!! Please RSVP with me or PPM Debbie Butler at (213) 200-0477.

We're only 3 months away from National Poppy Day. I hope your units are getting ready!

Blessings,

Gabriella Ramos

Poppy Chairman, Department of California 2024-2025

(626)261-2375

Gabriella.aux@gmail.com



## **American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Leadership Report**

Greeting Auxiliary Leaders,

Leadership plays a big role in our organization, we promote participation in the American Legion Auxiliary Academy, while enhancing your knowledge with our history, programs and organization. For this program to be effective, we need you the member, to help get those less involved, become more involved in our activities.

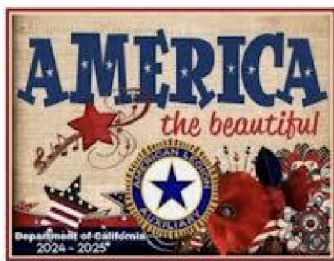
Did you know... The American Legion Auxiliary offers the “MyAuxiliary” member portal at [www.ALforVeterans.org](http://www.ALforVeterans.org) here you can select from the many courses available that will help build your knowledge making you a stronger leader in your community. These online courses are at no cost to you. In this online leadership certificate programs, you can: Share ideas, attend a mock meeting, all of this will help you gain experience in leading a your meeting.

Other ways to build stronger leaders in your community is to attend your District and Department training sessions and workshops. Participate in a mission training event.

Let’s encourage our membership, promote our programs, while building unity and have some fun!

In Service Not Self,

Diana Livas



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



Bulletin #6


[www.cagirlsstate.org](http://www.cagirlsstate.org)

February 2025

Hello SCOTUS Interns,

Things are moving more quickly now. Before we know it, it will be June. We currently have 471 Reservations with a few additions and subtractions pending. I will get it updated before our Zoom on February 10th. You should be scheduling and holding interviews this month. The 2025 CAGS Application will be up and running by the 10th. The deadline for submission by the girls will be March 15th.

**Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:**

- ☐ Check the [2024-25 District and Unit GS Chairs](#) to ensure your Unit has completed the Department code requirement. This should be completed before you hold interviews.
  - An X in Column H signifies the Unit Girls State Chair has completed the Quiz.
  - A name in Column I signifies the Unit President has completed the Quiz.
  - A pink box means the [Candidate Selection Instruction Quiz](#) needs to be completed.
  - Additional submitters are listed in Column J.
- ☐ Check the [2025 Reservation List](#) for accuracy. Send any corrections in an email to [alacagschair@gmail.com](mailto:alacagschair@gmail.com).
- ☐ Download and start filling in the  [Full 2025 ALA GS Unit Information Packet.pdf](#) or [Individual Pages](#). **YOU MUST DOWNLOAD THE FORM FIRST BEFORE YOU CAN USE THE AUTOMATIC FILL-IN SECTION.** It does work when you download the document first.
- ☐ When interviewing, ALWAYS explain to the Candidates that delegates cannot arrive late or leave early from the 2025 Girls State Session. They must attend the ENTIRE session. They cannot leave early for any reason **including illness** or they will not qualify for Citizenship, awards or pins. **AND** there is no time for other schoolwork, interviews or virtual meetings.

- ☐ Father's Day is on June 15th and we are in session on that day. Remind Delegates to tell their dads they will celebrate when they get home.
- ☐ Always select a Delegate and two Alternates. If there is not an Alternate, and if your Delegate does not attend, you will not receive a refund from Department.
- ☐ When scoring candidates, initiate a [Tally](#) system. It can help to break ties, and you can verify that your selection was not discriminatory.
- ☐ This is the site where you, Unit Chairs, should direct Delegates and Alternates to complete the online application. [cagirlsstate.org/delegates-alternates](https://cagirlsstate.org/delegates-alternates). At the webpage the students then click START HERE for step-by-step instructions. Please to remind your applicants to **go line by line.... Do Not Skip Around**.

Next Zoom Meeting will be Monday, February 10th at 7:00 pm.

**Topic: Girls State Unit Chair Monthly Zoom**

**Time: Feb 10, 2025, 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**Every month on the Second Mon, until Jul 14, 2025, 6 occurrence(s)**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81685678139?pwd=c7NDkdB0taDdXBZVrXntMYbXDEklga.1>

Meeting ID: 816 8567 8139

Passcode: 807459

### **Links and Information from Previous Bulletins**

[2025 GS Link List](#)

Thank you for all you are doing. I know you wear many hats.

Caroline Miller

Department of CA

2024-2025 ALA CAGS Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Constitution & Bylaws

February/March

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 and complete report at Convention.

Chairman, please remember that 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.

I received amendments and re-writes and reports from most all Districts that received letters to update their bylaws. Some Units submitted supplementals that were a great read. It is my hope to receive just as many at the end of year reporting.

Ladies, please remember to follow the guidelines. Failure to do so will delay the turnaround time of your Bylaws and amendments. Your bylaws are reviewed by the Department President and me.

**Keep up the Good Work!**

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

Cassandra Brown (Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

837 E. Cyrene St.

Carson, California 90746



**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Auxiliary Emergency Fund  
February**

Calling all Clara Bartons to help keep America Beautiful!  
It was so great to see so many of you in Palmdale.

This is such a tragic time for Southern California.  
The last I heard, 120 Legion families had lost their home to the fires.  
There are resources out there for you to apply for.

There is up to \$3,000 disaster assistance you can apply for through the AEF. This is a national program.  
One of the questions I get is what is the stipulation for is applying? You **MUST** be a member in good standing (dues) paid, for three consecutive years.  
The application process is online. You can find the link on the Department website. (Under AEF)

You **MUST** apply for this grant online from *National* at [www.ALForVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALForVeterans.org/AEF).  
**REMEMBER AEF IS A NATIONAL PROGRAM**

\*\*\*If you want to donate to the California Fire disaster, earmark your donation checks Calif Fire:  
send your checks to:  
Department Treasure  
ALA Department of California  
10400 Twin Cities Rd.  
Galt Ca. 95632

This is truly a time we need to stand together as members of The American Legion Family and help.  
**DONATE!**

May God bless all of you, and may God Bless the U.S.A.

In Service Not Self,

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

# **IMPORTANT**



# **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Hub Article Submission Date Is Quickly  
Approaching!**

**Make sure to get your articles and pictures  
in before February 15, 2025.**



**National Security Bulletin 8  
February 2025**

Hello to all of my Strategic Planners. Did you know that the DoD POLICY ALLOWS VETERAN AND MILITARY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS GREATER ACCESS Helping servicemembers transition from the military world to civilian life is among the top priorities of The American Legion Family.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has made access to troops and their families easier than ever. At the urging of The American Legion and other organizations, DoD approved two policy memoranda that direct military services to allow veteran and military service organizations (VSOs/MSOs) greater and more standardized access to installations, their troops, and families. The American Legion worked with DoD staff to shape the policy to increase the presence of service officers at installations and to create greater troop and military family awareness of American Legion support programs, such as Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW), transition assistance, career support and more.

American Legion Family departments, districts and posts/units are encouraged to use this publication as a resource for working with military installations to help troops ease the transition from military to civilian life.

Now is the time to submit the American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Servicemembers Award. This year it is much easier to submit for this award. An ALA member/entity simply makes the nomination, rather than the servicemember, to effectively tell the story of why they feel this person is head and shoulders above their peers and worthy of this award.

A simple narrative of no more than 1000 words, a picture of the servicemember (preferably official Department of Defense photo) and the endorsement from their command group are the only requirements. The deadline is June 1, 2025, but it is better to submit now. The nomination form is live now. Simply click <https://www.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicewomen-Award> with the nomination form at <https://member.legion-aux.org/Salute-to-Servicemembers>.

As we all know, the fires in Southern California have claimed lives and many people have lost their homes and businesses. As of DEC reporting, there were over 100 Legion Family members who lost their homes or businesses. Please continue to donate money and items. Get with your Posts and have a joint fundraiser to raise funds for our Legion Family members.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day!

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