



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Historian  
“Smithsonian”  
April 2025 Bulletin



Salute Archivist and Curators!

*A fun fact.*

When people gather to charter a new unit, these members send forms to the Department.

The Department ensures all is accurate and meets the requirements to charter a new unit. The Department then sends the requests for new charters to National Headquarters.

National Headquarters ensures all is accurate and meets the requirements for a new charter. The new charter is issued to Departments with the sitting National President and sitting National Secretary signatures. This is how National Headquarters knows what year each unit is chartered. National Headquarters then sends the new charter to Department for completion.

The Department receives the new charters and obtains signatures of the sitting Department President and sitting Department Secretary.

During DEC (Department Executive Committee) or Department Convention new charters are presented and recognized by the Department body.

National Headquarters do not have copies of Charters with National and Department signatures.

National President Trish Ward has stated she is a “History Buff,” and has respectfully requested a “snapshot,” or photocopy of charters as a fun History project.

It would be greatly appreciated for units to send “snapshots,” or photocopies of their charters to their District Historian.

The deadlines being simultaneous with End of Year Reports.

**Unit to the District by April 11, 2025.**

**District to the Department by May 1, 2025.**

Happy Archiving!!

For God and Country  
Erika Hernandez  
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831-821-2257  
Proverbs 16:3



*Past President's Parley*

*April 2025*

UNITS: Deadline All student Nurses' application  
due on Friday, April 4, 2025

ALL completed and signed Nurses' applications to  
PPP Department Chairman by Friday, April 18, 2025

Estimates show California faces a shortage of about 36,000 licensed nurses, according to the UC San Francisco Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care. (Jul 31, 2023)

Forecasts of the Registered Nurse Workforce in California (As Reported in UC San Francisco by Joanne Spetz, Lela Chu, and Lisel Blash (August 2022)

This study used data from two surveys conducted in California and other data sources to assess the current and future supply and demand of RNs. We find that RN employment rates have remained steady over the past four years, but many older RNs have left nursing.

In addition, a large proportion of older RN intends to retire or quit within the next two years. Many RNs report that childcare and school closures have made it difficult to work during the pandemic and reported they feel unsupported by their employers. The supply and demand projections estimate that a shortage of RNs now exists but will diminish as RN education enrollments return to and surpass pre pandemic levels.

Still looking for that special person to receive the  
\$4000 Nurse's Scholarship?

**Don't forget your PPP lunch reservations Deadline is June 6, 2025.**

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)

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American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Constitution & Bylaws

April /May

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.

Reports and Supplementals DEADLINE is May 1, 2025. I hope to have 100 percent reporting from all District chairmen.

It is important to submit them in a timely manner. This allows the chairman time to review your supplementals and reports, when selecting our award winners.

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.

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 myself.

### **Good Luck Ladies**

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

Phone: 310 748-2335



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

Hear Yee, Hear Yee! Paul Revere here!

To all the Public Relations Chairs, I hope you are enjoying this appointment! It has been a much-needed learning experience for me, and I am honored.

April is the month that we promote the “Children and Youth Program”. Boy there is so much that can be done here. Be sure to have fun with it!

In April we wear purple to honor the military children. Idea, you can get members to wear purple at meetings then post pictures!

With the recent fires in LA, why not honor the children with making them the focus of an event!

How about a baby shower, where supplies are collected and taken to a women’s shelter.

I have seen in the past where a unit adopted a school and raised funds for an item(s) that the after school program was lacking.

Take this opportunity to get out of your post and into your communities and give back.

These are just a few ideas. I can’t wait to see what you all come up with for this special month.

REMEMBER wear your apparel when spreading joy!

Maintain that positive attitude on social media as well. We should be consistently sharing information pertaining to our programs and units’ accomplishments. Stay clear of politics and religion. What we say and how we say it, is important to protect the ALA brand.

Tick-tock - Dates to remember – End of year reports due dates

Units: 4/11/25

Districts: 5/1/25

“Love yourself first and everything falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world!” -Lucille Ball-

**Continue spreading the word about the American Legion Auxiliary!**

Remember it is about Service not self.

**#americanlegionauxiliary**



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
Community Service  
April 2025 Bulletin



Greetings, Village People!

Spring is here, and with it comes a time of reflection, celebration, and preparation. April is a crucial month for Community Service, as we begin wrapping up another impactful year and look ahead to future opportunities. Your dedication has been the driving force behind countless acts of kindness, and now it's time to document those efforts while continuing our work!

It's reporting season, but the year isn't over yet! We need to ensure that all of our amazing community service efforts are properly recorded and recognized. **Unit reports to District are due by April 11th, and District reports to this chairman are due by May 1st.** These reports allow us to showcase the true impact of the Village and ensure that every act of service is accounted for. Please take the time to compile your activities and submit them on time. Your work matters, and sharing your successes helps inspire others!

The countdown is on! **American Legion Family Day is just around the corner on Saturday, April 26th.** This is our biggest Community Service event of the year and a fantastic opportunity to highlight all that the Village does.

Make sure you are working alongside The Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders to open your doors to the community. Plan an event that engages, educates, and celebrates our mission. Whether it's an open house, service project, or recognition ceremony, let's show our communities the power of the American Legion Auxiliary!

Let's continue to inspire and support one another! Please share your completed projects and Family Day plans with this chairman. Your stories and photos help energize the Village and create a lasting impact. Don't forget to post your activities on social media and join the ALA Community Service Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACommunityService>.

While we are entering the final months of the program year, there is still more to do! The May bulletin will bring more updates and inspiration to finish the year strong. Let's keep the momentum going and continue making a difference in our communities!

In Service, Not Self,

*Rebecca Glenny*

Community Service Chairman

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

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Cell – 717-810-7321



**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department of California**

**Membership**

**Bulletin 9**

**April 2025**

Everyone must be so lit, to see the membership program growing strong as our Department Convention is fast approaching.

As we approach the end of year, it's crucial that we receive your membership reports to ensure the continued growth and success of the ALA. These reports are essential in helping us understand the impact of our efforts and make informed decisions for the future. I kindly request that you submit your reports by the deadline to ensure they are included in my year-end report.

So, let's keep up the fantastic work!!! Let's push together to cross that 95% threshold and make it official. I have no doubt that together we can do it.

"Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is progress. Working together is success."- attributed to Steve Jobs.

Still to come:

95% Department Award Deadline – May 23, 2025

Recruit/Rejoin 10 Award Deadline – June 1, 2025

100% Department Award Deadline – July 4, 2025

102% Department Award Deadline – July 26, 2025

She just a girl and she's on fire!!!

Donna L. Smith ALA DOC Membership Chair

E: DonnaLSmith1919@gmail.com



**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION  
APRIL 2025 BULLETIN**



**All About the Fisher House Foundation, Inc.**

Since its inception in the early 1990's the Fisher House Foundation has provided lodging to some 500,000 military families and families of veterans receiving medical care at VA facilities. These homes away from home offer free accommodations to the families, allowing them to be close to their loved one during a medical crisis and focus on the healing process. Today, there are 101 Fisher Houses' located in the U.S., Germany, and the United Kingdom. California is currently home to six Fisher Houses':

- Travis Air Force Base Fisher House, David Grant USAFMC, Travis AFB, Travis, CA
- Los Angeles Fisher House, Greater Los Angeles VAHCS, Los Angeles, CA
- Long Beach Fisher House, Long Beach VAHCS, Long Beach, CA
- Camp Pendleton Fisher House, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, CA
- Palo Alto Fisher House, Palo Alto VAHCS, Palo Alto, CA
- San Diego Fisher House, San Diego VAHCS, San Diego, CA

In the last 35 years more than 12 million lodging nights have been offered to these families at a savings of approximately \$610 million in transportation and lodging fees.

The Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members, as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled veterans.

To learn more about this amazing organization, their dedicated mission to assist military and veteran families and other services they provide, visit [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org).

**Year-End Reporting Deadlines**

- **Friday, April 11, 2025 – Unit Report to District Chairman**
- **Thursday, May 1, 2025 – District Chairman Report to Department Chairman**
- **Thursday, May 15 – Department Chairman Report to Western Division Chair AND National Chairman**

**PLEASE RESPECT THESE DEADLINES.**

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



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



Bulletin #8

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

April 2025

[2025 Unit Transmittal Form](#) Due April 15

Hello SCOTUS Interns,

We currently have, as of this date, 3/24/2025, 392 Delegates signed, sealed and ready to go to Girls State. There should be more by next month's Bulletin. Please make sure your girls get their applications and Parent/Guardian Packets in. If they need help, please have them contact me.

We have many drops but will still probably have more Delegates this year than last. The reasons that many have dropped are mainly because of school disinterest, not responding to Unit inquiry, and school districts choosing not to participate. There were a few for lack of funding. The applications will remain open for students that do not need the Bus. The Buses are full; however, there is a waiting list and our Allyn can work miracles!

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

- ☐ Submit the [2025 Unit Transmittal Form](#) and fees by April 15th.
  - Use the [Reservation List](#) Column N To verify the Delegate's transportation needs.
  - Email a copy of the form to [alacagsassistdir@gmail.com](mailto:alacagsassistdir@gmail.com) and [alacagsSherryCore@gmail.com](mailto:alacagsSherryCore@gmail.com)
  - Mail the form and check to the Department Treasurer's address in Galt on the form.
  - Track whether forms and fees have been received on the Reservation List, Columns Q–X.
  
- ☐ Track whether Delegates and Alternates have completed their online applications.
  - On the [Website Reservation list](#), a red box signifies that the student has not completed the electronic signature form. It is also marked as "waiting" on your biweekly personal Unit Report from Deana. Thank you Deana for the personalized report forms!
  - Notify me if there are any changes to your Unit's selected candidates.
  - If a delegate can no longer attend, email me the change and I will move the Alternate's application to the Delegate list. The Alternate does not need to fill out a second online application.



- If a Delegate can no longer attend, and the unit does not have any selected Alternates, contact me after April 2nd to request details about the “2025 Department Alternate Applications” for students who were unable to find an ALA Unit to sponsor their school.

- ☐ Contact your District Girls State Chairperson for Girls State Tea/Orientation information..
- ☐ Remind eligible students to begin the [Samsung Scholarship](#) application process early. These forms will be easier to complete while school is still in session.
- ☐ Submit the Girls State Unit End of the Year Report form by **April 12** to your District Girls State Chair. [2025 Unit End of Year Report Form](#) - [2025 District End of Year Report Form](#)  
[How to write a Supplemental Report.](#)      [Narrative Report Cover Sheet](#)

**Next Zoom: Monday April 14th at 7:00 pm**

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

Meeting ID: 816 8567 8139

Passcode: 807459

The meeting will be recorded for those unable to attend.

#### **Important Upcoming Events:**

- Monday, May 12th at 7:00pm
- Pre Convention Girls State Zoom Meeting - Tuesday, June 10th 6:30-8:00pm

[GS 2024-2025 Links](#)

Thank you for all you do and for all your work for Girls State! I appreciate you!

Caroline Miller, [alacagschair@gmail.com](mailto:alacagschair@gmail.com), 562-444-8296



# Children and Youth

Hello to all the amazing Wonder Women

APRIL 2025

April is here and what a great month because it is the month of The Military Child, and it is time to put on our purple and support our military children. As we talked about last month, wear purple to one of your unit meetings or even at your district meeting and take lots of pictures. Set up a Military Child table, the instructions are on the department website and if you have Juniors get them involved. You could also have a dinner in honor of those Military Children.

To date in April, we have had Four Temporary Financial Assistance Applications but with two of them we took \$1000.00 each out of CA Fire Fund and then the balance was taken out of TFA. The reason for this was because of the CA fires is why the assistance was needed. We are going to need to make more donations to the TFA fund in the upcoming years, with the economy the way it is, the need has never been greater.

Regarding the Youth Hero and Good Deed Hero award. A big shout out to Cindy Rogers of the 25<sup>th</sup> district who has submitted a Good Deed award to national. If you have that special youth within your communities, please submit them and send me a copy so I can make sure the members, unit and district get the recognition that is so deserving.

Even though the fire threat is over, the after mass is still very much alive. I would like to thank District 17, District 24 and all the units and districts for all the hard work they have done to help the veterans and families within their community. The need for us to assist them is not over, it may take years to help them rebuild.

April 11<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner, and it is very important to do those end of year reports and get them to your Districts Chairman. District chairman please reach out to your units and offer them some assistance if they need it to get them completed on time. I'm really looking forward to seeing the reports and reading all the supplementals this year. All the forms are on the Department Website but please let me know if you need help.

The Child Well-being fund. Thank you to all the units and districts that have submitted your donations and sending me a copy. It is apart of you end of year reporting and be sure that you add any donations so that the district chairman can report.

The last thing is that I have had the privilege of being asked to present at the Jr Conference this year (and cook pancakes lol) I will be having a project for the Jr's to do and stay tuned for next month's bulletin for an update.

Please let me know if you have any questions or some new ideas.

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



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

Education April Bulletin

Happy Spring Ann Sullivans,

I am so excited to see spring in the air, and with spring brings our year end reports. Please follow the dates, Units to District reports are due April 11, 2025. Districts to Department are due by May 1, 2025. Let us know what your units have done for the year.

When submitting your supplementals let us know what you have done for "Give 10 to Education", Scholarships given out, Poppy seals purchased and how you use them, Teacher appreciation week and American Education week.

Don't forget April is Month of the Military Child and Purple-up Day is April 15, 2025. Let us know what you are planning. Here are some simple ideas for you. Sponsor a Purple-up Day by providing purple items for students to wear. Present the Military Child Table at your school, Unit meeting, or at your Post. Sponsor a party for the military children in your school.

Now is the perfect time to start planning for Teacher Appreciation Week which is May 5, 2025 to May 9, 2025. Have fun with it and let our teachers know we appreciate them.

As always if you have any questions please call or e-mail me.

Donna Mattox

909-521-6848      mikeanddonnamatt@aol.com

Dept. Education Chairman



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

Happy Spring! Junior Conference (April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>) and Purple Up for Military Children (April 15<sup>th</sup>) is just right around the corner. Seniors let us encourage our juniors to participate in these important dates.

Here are some ideas that we can do for Purple Up for Military Children.

- Make stuff teddy bears or bracelets for military children whose parents are deployed
- Have an event for the military children and the community at your Post
- Encourage their classmates, parent's jobs, and community to wear purple
- Make cards, care packages or Easter baskets to give to the military children
- Remember to take lots of pictures

Junior Conference registration will be on April 11<sup>th</sup> 3pm-5pm at Camp Arnaz. The juniors will be learning about the several core Auxiliary programs and having lots of fun doing different activities. Seniors, please make sure that our juniors have these items listed below. The forecast for the weekend is mostly sunny 80 in the day and low 58 at night.

- Jr membership card
- Shampoo, bath soap
- Camera
- Pajamas
- Dress for installation
- Toothbrush/paste
- Warm jacket/coat
- Medication(s)
- Working flashlight
- Hairbrush/comb
- Money (not to exceed \$15.00)
- Comfortable shoes
- Sleeping bags
- Pillow

Seniors also please encourage our juniors to participate in the Patch Program. These are the programs they can do to earn patches.

- Americanism
- Community & Family Safety
- Community Service
- Digital Media
- Education
- Leadership
- Membership
- Physical Fitness
- Poppy
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

**Unit EOY Reports are due by April 11<sup>th</sup> to your District. Let us make 100% reporting.**

Happy Easter to you and your families.

Lucy Hunt  
Junior Activities Chairman  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
C. (213) 521-9895

## Leadership – April 2025

Yes, it's that time of year.... Reports are due and we look forward to reading them.

I encourage everyone to submit their nomination for UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR. This is the time to recognize that special someone who has shown us what "Service not Self" is.

All forms are available online at:

<https://calegionaux.org/sources/forms/#yearend>,

For Unit member of the year, you will be required to submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to Department President @ [president@calegionaux.org](mailto:president@calegionaux.org) and a copy to [leadership@calegionaux.org](mailto:leadership@calegionaux.org) Our Department President will choose the winner.

I am looking for most outstanding leadership program in your District.

Thank you



**National Security Bulletin 10**  
**April 2025**

Hello to all of my Strategic Planners. Happy April to everyone! I know everyone is looking forward to Easter this month, and we should also be looking forward to celebrating Month of the Military Child. How does your Unit incorporate these special dates? Here is a list of additional important dates:

- Gold Star Spouses Day – April 5
- Air Force Reserve 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday – April 14
- Purple Up Day – April 15
- Army Reserve 117 Birthday – April 23
- National Military Brats Day – April 30

I know everyone has probably heard this in the past few weeks but just in case you haven't heard this I will repeat it. Did you know that anyone can submit the American Legion Auxiliary's Salute to Servicemembers 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 worth of this award. For example, all recipients of last year's Salute to Servicemembers Award are tremendous assets to their military community, thriving in their professional careers with awards and decorations to prove it, but all demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism.

At the very least, the goal is to have at least one submission from every Department and ensure that every branch of the military is represented – Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard. Space Force and the National Guard/Reserve. With our military installations, big and small, throughout the country, we have a huge number of service members to choose from. Let's remember our Mission to support our military and enter those service members that are so deserving.

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>.

I would also like to remind everyone that District End of Year Reports are due to this Chairman by May 1, 2025. Have a wonderful Easter everyone!

Linda Lara-Guzman  
Strategic Planning Commissioner  
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