

DECEMBER 2023

From the Desk of Madam President **DIANA LIVAS**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

I want to thank the membership for supporting our Veterans. This year has been a challenge in getting back to the basics. We support our Veterans and their families. Because of your hard work and dedication, we, the Auxiliary have been able to give generously to our programs.

Most of our Units have filed the 990N, 199N, RRF1 and CT1. I have sent emails to all the Unit Presidents asking for an update on your CT1 and RRF1 form for the State of California, this is a MUST and should be completed now. Once you complete your RRF1 and CT1, I will need a copy sent to me please.

For the Units who supported Operation Santa, thank you. There are several families needing aid as of this reading. If you and/or your Unit can pick up one more family, please reach out to me ASAP.

With the holidays in full swing, remember to keep your eyes open for those who are alone, you might see someone having a tough time, talk to that person. Make it a point to call your members, do a buddy check. You never know you might just make the difference in someone's life.

Once again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

DECEMBER IS VA&R MONTH



DISTRICT 19 MEETING DECEMBER 20 7:00 PM NORWALK POST #359



EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT

Debbie Butler from Unit 496, District 2nd Vice and VA&R Chairperson, was honored with the United States Lifetime Achievement Award from the White House and signed by President Joe Biden for all her years of volunteer service she has provided for our veterans and their families.



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT DEBBIE BUTLER

Hello Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Here we are approaching the end of 2023.

Remember if you have not paid your dues by 12/31/23 you will be late so get them in please.

Thank you to everyone who comes to District meetings. Everyone is invited to all meetings. Got a question or comment bring it to the meeting. No one knows everything.

You are a very important person to this organization. We do not exist without your participation, but most important is without the Veteran no one exists.

Remember the American Legion is about Veterans so come to your meetings and show them our respect and to honor them. We need your participation in ALA. One hour or so a month isn't much to ask. Help out sometimes, it's a great honor to belong to the ALA. You can make a difference, and you could be the difference to one Veteran.

Let us all "Be the One" to reach out, listen and show care to Veterans.

AMERICANISM LINDA DIEBEL

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving, I know I did!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each of you and your family.

I have completed the mid-year report for Americanism. I am sorry to say we did not get 100% reporting this year, but hopefully we will get it for year-end. For those Units that did send in a report, Thank you.

I know that everyone raised their flags for December 7th, in honor of Pearl Harbor and the men and women who gave they full measure for our country. Please remember ALL our men and women who are currently serving our country both in the states and out of country. keep them in your prayers.

Also, I want to say thank you to Norwalk Unit 359, Hollydale Unit 723 and the Bellflower Moose Chapter 789 for the donations of toys for the children at Camp Pendleton. These items are greatly appreciated.

Again, I wish everyone a wonderful, happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

For God and Country

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND DIANE AGUAYO

If you find yourself in a financial crisis or need help paying for shelter and utilities, funds are available to help. You will need to first start with your Unit, fill out the forms, and remember you are not alone.

CHAPLAN DAWN BROWN

Dear Members,

I wish everyone a blessed holiday. Jean Cooley fell and hurt her elbow and skinned her knee. Unit 341 lost member Ynes Elias, her volunteer service included Unit Chaplain, the Pico Rivera Veteran's Council, and wife of past Post Commander Jesse. Services are on 12/28/23 with a reception at Post 341.

If you know of anyone who is ill or has passed away, I can be reached by phone or email.

CHILDREN & YOUTH BECKY BULLARD

This is a magical time of the year for children, Santa, Christmas baking and activities for them to enjoy. Make sure you make memories with them that are special for both of you because it is assured, they will never forget. Merry Christmas to All

COMMUNITY SERVICE NORA RAMIREZ

Please keep track of all your volunteer hours. We see you actively busy serving our veterans and communities.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST BECKY BULLARD

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

This time of year, we have unexpected guests to our Unit and sometime District meetings, please be cordial and acknowledge them always. Since you are the first smiling face, they should see you put on a big one and make sure they feel more than special especially for the holiday season.

I look forward to seeing all of you after the New Year. Have a wonderful Christmas with Family and Friends.



EDUCATION GAYLE STEWART

Scholarships

All educational scholarships are now available on the Department website. To find the applications, click on "Resources" on the blue banner at the top of the home page. Scroll down to "Scholarships." Once your cursor is on Scholarships," a choice between "Education" and "Nursing" scholarships pops up – click on "Education." Under each scholarship title, you will see the scholarship rules. Each title has a blue link to take you to the application. Please share this information with schools, students, and parents. Let's get the word out!

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)

There is some excellent information that applies to not only military children, but also every child. The Military Child Education Coalition supports all military-connected children, youth, and teens by educating, advocating, and collaborating to resolve education challenges associated with the military lifestyle. MCEC offers programs, initiatives, and resources to both military families and educators.

Please check out this website:

<u>https://www.militarychild.org</u>. You will find some useful information that can help you with your educational mission.

GIRLS STATE BECKY BULLARD

Did you contact any schools? Now is the time, there is still room if anyone would like to take a school this year, we have some that are open in the area.

Interviews start next month, be ready for these wonderful young ladies, smart and refreshing. Make sure you find out if there is a Veteran in the family to qualify for the Samsung Scholarship.

If you don't want to tackle a school, you can always help one of the Units doing the program, we have many Units that do that.

Merry Christmas and I hope to see you all next year.

HISTORIAN DEE DEE BRICE

History is such an important part of the Auxiliary, as you have been so busy supporting our Veterans, it's hard to keep track of all the events you and your Units are holding. Please keep a notepad with you (or use your phone) so you can record and send to me your activities. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

BECKY BULLARD

This is a good time to get your juniors involved with Post and Unit activities, it's a fun time of the year and make the most of it with them. Junior conference will be coming up in April so keep it in mind in case you have any that would like to attend. Information will be available in January.

LEADERSHIP

LINDA FARISS

Thank you to all who sent in a report for mid-year. Remember a leader is someone others want to follow. This is where to go and subscribe to specific newsletters: https://www.legion.org/newsletters

MEMBERSHIP

Hello fellow Auxiliary members, I'd like to thank all of you for hard work with the units' membership. Early bird has come and gone and the 2023 year is almost over. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an even Happier New Year for 2024. Enjoy your time with family and friends and be safe.

Below I have posted the most recent membership numbers. Congratulations to all the units who have exceeded their membership goals.

Unit	Paid to Date	Goal	Percent
170 Bert Crossland	18	33	54.55%
184 South Bay	105	151	69.54%
272 Montebello	82	`114	71.93%
314 Hawthorne	35	71	40.30%
341 Leland A Cupp	32	55	58.00%
359 Norwalk	80	142	56.34%
411 Rivera	22	55	40.00%
465 Clyde F Hagar	5	12	41.67%
496 Lakewood	200	250	80.00%
729 Hollydale	3	25	12.00%
833 Lincoln Village	20	26	76.92%
TOTAL	600	934	64.24%



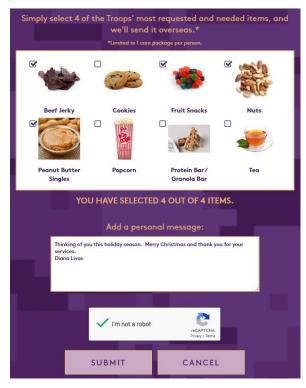
NATIONAL SECURITY DIANA LIVAS

Veteran's Crisis Line – Dial 988 then PRESS 1, open 24/7 with live connections to help support all Veterans and their families and friends.

Since the holidays are now here, remember this is the time when our community needs us the most. BUDDY CHECK'S, please pay attention to those around you, you might just be the one person who can make a difference in someone's life.

Crown Royal is sending packages from home. The purpose is to provide food, personal care, and recreational items to deployed American servicemen and women. It only takes a quick minute of your time, <u>Send Free Military Care</u> <u>Package for Our Troops | Crown Royal</u> select pack a bag online, select 4 items and write a message. A simple way to support our Active Military.

Merry Christmas



Past President's Parlay LINDA FARISS

Thank you to all who sent a report to me. There is still time, please mail or email ASAP so we can let the Department know all the important work that we do. There is no PPP dinner-meeting this month. Our next get together is Tuesday, January 30th at Hof's Hut on Bellflower Blvd. in Long Beach. More information is to come in next month's Newsletter.

POPPY ISABEL GALLARDO

No updates on poppies. Sending wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone and have a blessed time with family and friends.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Many activities were held in November as well as this month. Loads of pictures, check out your Unit and District's Facebook pages. The mid-year report was submitted to the Department with 54.55% reporting, 6 out of 11 units supplied information. Thank you for all that you do. Remember branding is important to publicize what we do, keep it going!

I hope you enjoy pleasant holidays and pray for peace.

SECRETARY LINDA FARISS

Please continue to give me your meeting reports in writing so that they may be as accurate as possible. Happy Holidays to all.

VA&R DEBBIE BUTLER

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Thank you everyone for helping with the LBVA families. I know they are all grateful. There is nothing better than to give from the heart.

All year we are here for Veterans and their families. Your dedication to our Veterans is one of the greatest gifts to give all year long.

Thank you for sending in your mid-year VA&R reports to me. It's simple to do just one thing for a Veteran and report.

That is why you belong...to honor a Veteran.

I wish you a very happy and merry Christmas. A wonderful 2024. To all Units thank you for all you do.

Keep in your hearts those in Israel and their families.



DATES TO CALENDAR

Every 1st **Friday** evening, Steak/Fish Fry at **Post 314** Every 3rd **Sunday** morning, Breakfast at **Post 314** Every **Sunday** morning, Breakfast at **Post 359** Every **Friday** evening, Dinner & Music at **Post 496 DEPARTMENT COURTESY VISIT** February 7, 2024 at Post 496

Recent pics from our District and the Good Work









DISTRICT 19 LEADERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

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