



American Legion  
**Auxiliary**

# The Auxiliary News Hub

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

## Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

## Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

## Purposes

In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, military, and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarship and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self



## New Website Launched

**K**udos to John “Durk” Durkin for helping bring President Dee Ann Graham's vision of catching the wave to life through the newly-designed website.

The woman tasked with carrying out the details of the web design is Rebecca Glenny. Rebecca has been a member for four years and served as Chaplain, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and was recently elected as the President of Monterey Cypress Unit 694. Rebecca has also served as the Junior Activities Chairman for District 28 and was recently installed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the 2021-2022 year.

Rebecca is employed as a Division Office Manager for the Business & Technology Division at Monterey Peninsula College. Her job entails coordinating the details of the division, assisting faculty and students with campus procedures, policies, and general questions, as well as performing office management duties.

Dee Ann appointed her to the position of website manager because of her computer knowledge, attention to detail, and the enjoyment she gains from helping others. Rebecca loves a challenge and pursues it until a solution is found.

She had to resolve many complex issues involved with bringing an idea of this magnitude to fruition. Some problems include creating an easy to navigate site, ensuring links are usable and have current relevant information, and finding a solution to protect the email address of officers and chairperson from being hacked and/or receiving unwanted spam messages.

Rebecca has certainly stepped up to the task and is thrilled that the website is being well received. The website is a reflection of the Department of California and all the members. As such, she will do her very best to keep it looking great and functional so it continues to be a valuable resource for all.

If you have any suggestions or comments, you may contact her at [webmaster@calegionaux.org](mailto:webmaster@calegionaux.org).

## 2021-2022 Board Room

President	Dee Ann Graham
Vice President	Gloria Williams
Secretary	Liz Doidge
Treasurer	Susie Tozier
Chaplain	Grace Huston
Historian	Jean Cooley Demeules
Parliamentarian	Anita Biggs
Srvt-at-Arms	Karen Herrera
Asst. Srvt.	Rochelle Billet-Smith
Finance	Linda Workman
	Cathalenne McCoy
	Katherine Tellyer
NEC	Joan Cannon
NEC Alt.	Kathie Martinez
Advisory	Susie Tozier
	Loretta Marsh
	Joan Cannon

## 2021-2022 Surf City Businesses

Americanism	M. O'Brien-Sacco
Aux. Emergency	Valerie Hill
Children & Youth	Tamra Duron
Community Service	Cyd Kintzer
Constitution/Bylaws	Gloria Williams
Convention Chm	Genieca Riser
Convention Co-Chair	Gloria Sinopoli
Conv. Com. Chair	Anita Biggs
Conv. Com. 2 Year	Linda Fercho
Credentials	Debra Hurado
Distinguished Guest	Linda Fercho
Editor	Nancy Heinisch
Education	Robin Falkenburg
Elections	Kathy Newlen Quiver
Girls State Advisor	Nancy Brown-Park
Girls State Chairman	Allyn Kau
Girls State Director	Tammy Sollazo
Girls S. Asst. Director	Sherry Core
Girls State 3 Yearr	Jan Fletcher
Girls State 2 Yearr	Maggie Alherne
Girls State 1 Year	Caitlin Voss
Girls State Nurse	Elizabeth Tomlin
Girls State Pres. Alt.	Karen Herrera
Girls State VP Alt.	Kim MacKinney
Girls State Nurse	Elizabeth Tomlin
Junior Activities	Ann Philcox
Junior Conf. Director	Jackie Cleveland
Junior Conf. 2 Year	Bernice Brown
Junior Conf. 1 Year	Valerie Hill
Nurse	Ann Sanchez
Leadership	Tracey Varnell-Fercho
Legislative	Kathie Martinez
Membership	Susan Baker
Music	Donna Smith
National Security	Vicky Bean
Past Presidents	Loretta Marsh
Poppy	Linda Hayes
Pubic Relations	Patricia Galatiota
Resolutions	Cece Harvey
Rules	Sharon Moore
Veterans Affairs	Glenda Schultz
Ways and Means	Marion Rocha
Ways and Means Com.	Terry Olaray
Ways and Means Com.	Tami Wilkenburg

### President's Message Dee Ann Graham

## Long Wait is Over

The long wait is over—time to dive right into the new opportunities and experiences awaiting us! We have a new theme, motto, slogan, website, newsletter, officers and chairmen.



My special project is our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Temporary Financial Assistance fund. The goal is to assist veterans in our state who may need temporary housing, utility and food with special emphasis on giving aid to the growing homeless veteran population. Please send all donations directly to the Processing Center. Make checks payable to ALA Department of California and earmark "Department President's Special Project VA&R TFA."

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to a year filled with fun, creativity and outstanding teamwork as we continue working in service for our veterans and their families.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Past Department President's Message Kathie Martinez



## A Heartfelt Thanks for your Efforts

To the dedicated members of this Department, thank you for allowing me to be your Department President.

It has been an amazing journey that I will treasure forever. Your kindness, generosity, hospitality, and most of all your friendship will never be forgotten.

Your selfish dedication to this organization, to our Veterans, to our children and youth, and to our communities will ensure that we will be around for another 100 Years of Service and Celebrate our History and Heritage.

A big thank you to Linda Workman, Dee Ann Graham, Melanie Taylor, Diane Delashmit, Terry Mikesell and everyone else involved in putting together this year's Zoom Convention, June 24—27, 2021.

*The Auxiliary News Hub* is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California. Deadline for the October/November issue is September 15. Editor reserves the right to edit any submission for the purpose of publication. Please email all articles photos, and (gentle) criticisms to Editor Nancy Heinisch.

# Meet 1st Gopher David Graham

Army veteran David Graham officially accepted the title of First Gopher at his wife Dee Ann's installation on June 24th in Bakersfield when he received the gopher drawing from TAL Past Commander and former Gopher Dennis Fercho.

The position of Gopher in the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California is a beloved tradition.

The President often has to ask her spouse to "go for this" or "go for that" and hence the term "gopher" affectionately took its place in the jargon of the auxiliary. Generally the past gophers get together at convention for a dinner meeting where any money raised goes to the Department President's Special Project.



Tony Strauss, District 15 Commander 2019-2021, helps David Graham prepare for his first appearance as American Legion Auxiliary Department of California's 2021-2022 Gopher

District-wise, Graham has been Past California Area 3 Sergeant-at-Arms, Past District 15 Commander and Past District Chairman for Boys State. He is currently District 15 Finance Officer.

At the post level where he is a Life Member of Bakersfield Post 26, Graham has served as Boys State Program Chairman for three years, Boys Scout Program Chairman for four years, and Post Adjutant for 12 years.



Ruby Kapsalis (right) shown with Past Department President Terry Mikesell

## Ruby: Irreplaceable

There are really not enough words to describe what Ruby Kapsalis has meant to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Her outstanding dedication and accomplishments speak for themselves.

She is truly irreplaceable!



## National Headquarters is on Facebook!

"Like" us to see photos, Auxiliary event details, important updates for members, polls/questions, news about the military and more.

[www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans](http://www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans)

### Other ALA Facebook pages:

- ALA National President
- ALA Girls Nation
- ALA Girls State
- ALA Juniors



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California's 101st Convention was dedicated in loving memory to

*Harriet Clendenin*

Department President 2014-2015  
Department Secretary 2018-2020

# District 14 Helps American Legion Play Ball!



Taking on something new usually comes with a steep learning curve. District 14 is finding that out, but in an exciting way.

The American Legion Department of California has moved the State Championship Baseball Tournament to Clovis with District 14 signing on to host for at least two years.

The tournament took place July 24 – 27 at Veteran’s Memorial Stadium, Buchanan High School. The Legion asked District 14 Auxiliary members for assistance in pulling this all together.

We helped set up and serve at the Banquet Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> to welcome over 300 players and coaches. During the games we ran one of the drink and snacks booths, as well as filling in where we could to help out in the cooling area for VA veterans who attended.

We hope to take full advantage of getting our brand out there with our newly purchased banner as well as helping the baseball program by sponsoring a full-page ad, promoting membership, not only for our Units, but ALA as a whole. We look forward to working side by side with the other members of our American Legion family.

*Debbie Hurado, District 14 President*

## Fun Facts about Legion Baseball

Did you know that American Legion Baseball was first included in TAL in 1925 to help promote community service? It is the first program in the world to provide a national baseball tournament for teenagers.



There are teams in all 50 states and Canada with around 3,500 teams participating each year.

Yogi Berra, Frank Robinson, Tom Seaver & Reggie Jackson all played American Legion Baseball.

Though Babe Ruth was too old to play when it started, he spent his final years promoting the program as director of operations!

*Debbie Hurado*

## Odette Cuccaro Award: Honoring an ALA Treasure

A special tribute for an extraordinary lady, Odette Cuccaro, Department President 1971-1972.

The Odette Cuccaro Award officially recognizes a member or Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California for outstanding Public Relations efforts that contribute significantly to the positive image of the ALA.

A written entry of no more than 300 words describing the efforts of an individual or Unit that promotes the ALA and their mission from the past year must be submitted to the Department Public Relations Chairman along with their end of year report.

A \$100 check which will be the responsibility and written by the 18th District of California will be presented to the winner by a representative of District 18 at the Department Convention.



*Odette Cuccaro with Harriet Clendenin*

*Source: Department Code*

# Tech Corner



Even for Mary Hidalgo, a 101 year old, 75 year member of the American Legion Auxiliary District 13, using Zoom is not hard. Why? It's all about perspective and a can-do attitude. The same attitude that has made our organization great.

It was a little more than two years ago when our organization achieved the milestone of 100 years of service. You don't last that long if you are incapable of change. We must change to survive—survival of the fittest. How fit are you? Don't worry, we get fit gradually, with help, for long-lasting changes. Today, we are starting a tech corner in the e-news to help you and your unit get fit so that we can adapt, survive, and continue on for another 100 years. It is up to us. Let's get to it.

Simply stated, the reason we should learn to do Zoom is to increase participation of our members by making access easier. Zoom-type meetings are the best way to get that *talented* young mother, house-bound wise grandma, elder caretakers, and busy career women or men (spouses of veterans) to your meetings. There are fewer excuses *not* to attend because time and travel are no longer an issue. You can join from any "device": your computer, laptop, tablet, ipad, smart phone or landline. Meetings are also more efficient due to raised hands (real or electronic).

Follow up is immediate with information, documents, and links posted in the Zoom chat. We no longer have to wait for someone to remember to send us an email when they get a chance.

Tired of having long meetings where nothing gets done? There are a few keys. The first key is following the suggested order of business (agenda) found in the Unit Guide. The second key is using meeting protocols of waiting to be called upon to speak (by standing in person or raising your electronic hand on Zoom). One speaker at a time is another protocol, and the Zoom mute button helps your self-control. Remember, everyone talking at once creates stress and unmanageability, resulting in members not coming back to a dysfunctional meeting. Everyone is heard—one at a time. And if you're shy—put your question in the Zoom chat!

So let's get started. Please contact me for Zoom help and a practice or visit [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com). Let me help you get FIT—so we can all adapt, survive, and increase participation and ideas at our meetings.

*Cindy Newman, District 13 President*  
650-219-1041  
[cnewman419@yahoo.com](mailto:cnewman419@yahoo.com)

## Convention 2021



### Zooming Experts Made it Possible

A special note of thanks to Department Secretary Elizabeth Doidge and the Technology Team consisting of Cindy Newman and Rebecca Glenny for their expertise in hosting the Zoom convention in June.

A note of appreciation goes to Allyn Kau, Lauree Camarato, Geni Lefler and Linda Workman as well.

They surpassed all expectations!

### Special Appearance



Liberty made a special appearance at the convention to show off

her newly learned skills. Past Department President Loretta Marsh's special project raised over \$25,000 to provide service dogs and canine-assisted therapy to Warriors.

# No Touching: Legion Family Emblems

## Nothing Touching

No, I'm not referring to priceless paintings thousands of years old displayed in museums, the electric fence with its warning signs, or the tall holiday displays at department stores. I am talking about what you are not supposed to do with The American Legion emblem when you are using it in a design. ***This rule applies to all the Legion Family emblems owned by The American Legion which includes the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders and a few other program logos.***

No "touchy" is National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett's catch phrase when he gave a presentation to the 2019 National American Legion College class in November on the use of the emblem and the trademark name, The American Legion. What does it mean? It means that nothing can be touching any part of the emblem. There is no set distance away.

## New Department Image

Take the new Department of California image as an example. The California silhouette is not touching the top or bottom of The American Legion emblem. It's close enough and yet far enough to not violate the trademark and patent law. I was informed that California's new image did get approved by American Legion National Headquarters for department use. Yes, the department must also request permission to use the emblem since the design was altered.

Many American Legion Family members don't think they need to concern themselves with the dos and don'ts of using the name or emblem of The American Legion or the other Legion Family emblems. For the vast majority that may be the case, however, knowing the basic fundamentals should be part of your American Legion Family knowledge. These emblems are the organization's brands. It should be recognizable in the way most of us recognize the red wavy font of Coca Cola, lowercase font of amazon, and the child-like font of Disney. Their color,

font and design are all elements that make their symbols iconic and recognized.

## Using SONS Logo

A few months ago, I saw a group of men wearing shirts with the wrong Sons of The American Legion emblem on it. The Sons logo was in red, rather than light blue and somewhat round, rather than oval. It was obvious that they wanted to promote the organization by being noticed with their large, bright red logo. However, it clearly was not the



correct Sons logo. Instead of promoting brand awareness of the Sons of The American Legion with the correct emblem, it was damaged by the change.

According to the Name and Emblem Guide, the Sons of The American Legion emblem is an oval made up of four colors – gold, dark gold, light French blue and light brown – with the letters all capitalized.

## Professionally Printed

Another important lesson that was shared by a National Legion College student for all to learn from was when she gave her new Legion business card to Bartlett and was told in return that she couldn't pass them out anymore – and that she didn't get approval to have them printed. Flabbergasted, she asked "Why?" For starters, she didn't use the correct American Legion emblem. Oops! She downloaded a cool looking blue metallic version that's been floating on the Internet for some time now.

Secondly, they were professionally printed. She didn't print them off her printer, but through a retailer. Unbeknownst to a majority of us, how business cards are produced determines whether or not you need to request permission from National Headquarters. Basically, if you go to Office Depot, Staples, Vistaprint or any of those types of vendors where you pay for it, you need permission to reproduce The American Legion emblem as well as all the other Legion Family emblems that national owns.

However, if you print them off your printer on business card stock, you don't need permission. There was no exchange of money. But you still have to use a proper American Legion, Auxiliary or SAL emblem. To submit an American Legion emblem usage request, go to [legion.org/emblem/request](http://legion.org/emblem/request).

## Brand = Valuable Asset

It seems that this particular topic has been neglected for some time now and hasn't been enforced resulting in widespread misuses, and in a way, abuse of the brand. If you recall during the 2018 Spring meetings, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 1: Rules and Regulations Governing Use of the Name and Emblem of The American Legion to clarify the rules and regulations of its use. National continues to ensure that its brand, its most valuable asset, is properly used, marketed and promoted.

If this still doesn't make sense on how it applies to you, then think of it this way. Let's say your name is Santa Claus and you wear a red suit and have a thick white beard. You are known for bringing presents to children all over the world for Christmas. On Christmas Day, someone decides to change your name to Santa Clown, dresses up in a purple and green dotted suit with a painted face sporting a goatee and delivers used presents to children all over the world. Is that the brand image that Santa Claus is associated with? No. So let's use the emblem correctly and with proper permission.

Clara Pon  
Department of France  
China Post 1 Auxiliary

## Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

Department Parliamentarian Anita Biggs helps answer your most perplexing questions



*Parliamentarian Anita Biggs confers with California Past Department President Joan Cannon at Dee Ann Graham's installation*

Since delegates and alternates to the national convention are voted on separately at the district level, is it possible for members to decide at department convention to change from being a delegate to being an alternate?

**The delegates who were elected by their districts to be nominees at Department convention and withdraw their nomination when asked due to more delegates than positions, do not necessarily have the right as first alternate. If their district has an elected alternate as nominee, that alternate is the one who is running for that position, not the delegate who withdrew.**

Should there be a vote for national delegates at the department convention, would the members who didn't get elected automatically become alternates?

**If there is an election, those delegates who lost would not have the automatic right to replace the elected alternate nominee in their district, same as if they withdraw their nomination.**



## Surfing toward Care and Comfort for Our Veterans

**O**ut with the old, and in with the new! 2021-22 promises to bring a fresh start and a new beginning to the Department Membership Program!

The program has a wonderful team who will be working with individual Districts and Units in their respective Areas to ensure that California makes goal! Serving Area 1 is Suzanne Winters, Area 2 is Teresa Canonizado, Area 3 is Danielle White, Area 4 is Alice Coleman, Area 5 is Donna Mattox, and Area 6 is Jeri Adams. You will be hearing more about the "Big Kahunas" in the coming months as they work their magic with Membership! Our 30 District Membership Chairmen will be the "Dudes—or Duettes", and all Unit Chairmen will be the "Shapers", or producers.

This month the newsletter will spotlight Susan Baker, the Surfing Competition Commish. The next issue of the newsletter will highlight two more members of the team.

A little bit about Susan Baker: a native Californian residing in Marina, California, she spent 32 years in public service. Her work history was divided between city government and the

California Public School system. Upon retirement in 2003, she joined the Auxiliary because she wanted to get involved in volunteer work for the veteran community in her area. The male members in her family have given so much to this country through their military service that she felt it was time for her to give back to honor them. Her eligibility is through her father, a US Army veteran who served in World War II and who was a Pearl Harbor survivor. Her husband (Marine Corps), brother (Air Force) and uncle (US Navy) all served in the armed forces as well. She has been a proud member of District 28/Unit 694 for the last 17 years and has served as Unit President three times, District 28 President twice, Department Chaplain, Area 2 Membership Team, and Education Chair.

Membership is going to be a challenge. There are new things to learn, new forms to master, new rules to implement, and most importantly new members to find.

Hope you will all "Catch the Wave" and surf with the membership team to goal!

*Susan Baker  
Department Membership Chair*

# Continuing the Legacy



Have you met one of our youngest members? Ayla Nichole Race was born on April 6, 2021, and is already an ALA member. Her mom is Heather N. Race, daughter of Kathie Martinez.

Heather was active as a Junior Member in her previous Unit, Inglewood 188, and participated at all of the functions from the age of five when she would sit at the dessert table and help sell the desserts at the monthly fish fry.

As she got older she would also work in the kitchen at the monthly breakfast and Friday night B-B-Q cooking and serving hamburgers or steaks.

Heather also served as Unit 188 President in 2006 - 2007 and as District 23 President in 2009 - 2010. After her term as D23 President, Inglewood Unit 188 honored her with a Paid Up for Life Membership.

Heather has served as Unit 46 President for the past two years. If she was asked to help she was there from the beginning of the event to the end of the event and always with a smile.

We are all extremely proud of her!

*Kathie Martinez*



The American Legion Auxiliary is providing all members with the tools they need to help grow the organization as a team. The Academy courses are designed to help members learn online and at no cost to them. The ALA Academy offers two options: self-paced courses and live virtual webinars.

### ALA Academy courses include:

- ALA 101**
- ALA Branding and Why It Matters to Me**
- ALA Communication Methods**
- Establishing an ALA Culture of Goodwill**
- ALA Fundraising**
- How to Deal with Conflict**
- ALA Leadership: Living Our Motto of Service Not Self**

The Academy also has a course specifically designed for Junior Members. The ALA Juniors E-Learning Course is designed with younger members in mind. Juniors will learn about the purpose of the program, how to excel as leaders, tips for speaking to groups, and much more.

# Helping Veterans

For years Phyllis Allen has been gathering, clipping, and mailing coupons to a military base in Germany. She started doing this when she found a box of coupons in the Post office. She asked what they were for and when she learned the purpose she stepped up and assumed responsibility for the project.



Over the past years Phyllis has mailed more than \$1 million in coupon savings to troops and their families stationed overseas for use in their commissaries.

Base officials distribute the coupons to the spouses and children of troops who sometimes struggle to make ends meet on military salaries.

*Ann Philcox  
Junior Past President Unit 520*

## Downloadable Manual of Ceremonies

This manual provides examples of suggested ceremonies for Unit meetings and special occasions. The use of ceremonies in the form presented in the Manual of Ceremonies is not required by any official action of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization.

Ceremonies may be altered in accordance with the occasion; however, great care should be taken to ensure that no ceremony is objectionable to persons of any religious denomination. The manual can be found on the National website.

## ALAMIS Reminders

Remember that current year's dues (2021) have to be paid before back dues.

New members added with an effective date prior to September 1st will be billed as a new 2021 member.

# Girls State

This year's ALA California Girls State (CAGS) started out like any other – except not. In October 2020 the ALA CAGS committee decided to go virtual after receiving word that the location was not accepting any outside groups for the summer of 2021. The ALA CAGS team jumped into action and created a virtual experience unlike 2020. After much discussion, it was decided that we would hold a four day online session and create deliverables for the citizens to complete to be able to receive their certificate and pins.

## This year's theme

The ALA CAGS Leadership team created a jam-packed schedule which included general assembly with all citizens, individual city meetings, direct democracy, and legislative sessions for the citizens to complete their deliverables. The theme this year "Learn, Engage, Empower, Vote, and Pass It On" was well rounded with assemblies, Zoom sessions, and Google class time. Day 1 started with "Learning". The general assembly included our opening ceremony, along with an overview of what to expect for the week.

After the first general assembly the citizens were sent to their respective cities to meet with their counselors, City Moms, and fellow citizens to ask questions, discuss engagement options, and elect/select city and state positions. Elections and selections on the city level included councilmembers, mayor, city clerk, city manager, communications department, and city engagement department. On the state level elections included senators, assembly members, legislative clerk, sergeant at arms, recording secretary, policy directors, and marketing directors. Guided by county and city profiles provided in the ALA CAGS handbook, the citizens within their cities created a unique city seal, motto, and slogan video which included their values, patriotic activities, and future community service projects. Each city discussed the bills their citizens wrote and determined which four bills their elected legislators would carry forward to the state legislation.

Each day started with optional friendship time where the girls met to build camaraderie and solidarity. The City

Moms were given time to educate the citizens on the purpose of the ALA. The city moms created short PowerPoint presentations about the function of the ALA, the Poppy program, Community Service, and flag etiquette. Each ALA CAGS citizen was then tasked with sending a thank you card to their respective ALA CAGS chairman, the unit who or community entity who sponsored them for this experience.

## Day 2, Day 3, and Day 4

Day 2 (Engage) and 3 (Empower) ended with a general assembly of leadership speakers and daily wrap up. Day 4 (Vote) ended with each city sharing the videos they created of their city, the bill each city supported, legislative reports, results of the proposition vote, ceremonial components and then how to stay involved with their local ALA or community.

## Direct Democracy Track

A new track added this year was the Direct Democracy track. The ALA CAGS citizens were able to get more in depth with their bills, with detailed focus on current events through propositions via direct democracy and determine how to educate the other citizens through policy marketing and communication. It was very interesting to witness each city's involvement, creative process, and persuasion toward increased social engagement for communities, veterans, the environment, and women's issues.

## Girls Nation Selection

During this time, each counselor and city mom was keeping an eye out for ALA Girls Nation candidates. Out of the girls chosen and after interviews, the ALA CAGS committee chose four outstanding citizens to represent the Department of California at ALA Girls Nation.

Our two alternates, **Anika Mukker** and **Pujitha Nachuri** are from District 6 (U383) and 9 (U161) respectively. Anika played the role of Speaker of the Assembly and is passionate about mental health at the local level. Her passion at the National level is climate change and justice (long term effects and solutions). Pujitha is deeply concerned with the housing crisis locally and how climate change affects minorities. She is proud to be an American and as such



Anika

vowed to be involved and engaged. Both alternates are standing by in case one of the chosen Senators is not able to attend.



Pujitha

***Congratulations Anika and Pujitha for being chosen as alternates to ALA Girls Nation.***

Our two Senators, **Dagny Setareh** and **Nithya Medam** are from District 29 (U555) and 12 (U74) respectively. Dagny is passionate about mental health care for inmates. She competed in the National Science Bowl and was awarded as the top student in the National



Dagny

Chemistry Olympiad. She is also concerned with the privacy or lack thereof of genetic information at the national level. Nithya is very passionate about mental health and continues to advocate at the national level. At the local level, she is involved in the Personal Finance Literacy Act.



Nithya

***Congratulations to Dagny and Nithya for being chosen as Senators to represent the Department of California to ALA Girls Nation.***

In closing, being a part of the Department of California ALA Girls State team makes me realize that our state and country is creating outstanding young citizens who will change the course of history with their unique, diverse and strong ideals. Thank you to all the high schools that are and continue to be a part of this wonderful experience! Thank you to all the ALA Girls State Unit chairmen who take the time to contact, interview and choose these exceptional young ladies to participate!

And finally, thank you to the amazing ALA GS Committee and leadership team who continue to integrate and support new ideas into the program while keeping an open and honest environment for these young ladies to learn and grow!

**"Are You From Girls State?"**

Tammy J. Sollazzo  
California Girls State Director

# September is Music Month

In 1994 President Bill Clinton issued a proclamation making September Classical Music Month.

The proclamation read in part: “Classical music is a celebration of artistic excellence. . . This month we exalt the many talented composers, conductors, and musicians who bring classical music to our ears . . . Music is a unifying force in our world, bringing people together across vast cultural and geographical divisions.”

Music truly does have the power to bring people together in spite of all their differences. With music, everyone can develop just a little more empathy, understanding and patience.

With these inspiring thoughts it’s easy to see why it is important to observe and celebrate Classical Music Month.

*Donn Smith, Department Music Chairman*



Photo Judy Evridge



*Elise's articles and photos appear in the Citrus Heights Messenger as well as other publications in California*

## Talented Writer Highlights Veterans, Legion and Auxiliary

Elise Speiss is a valuable asset of the American Legion Auxiliary, calling attention to veteran issues through her writing.

She has been writing articles for Sacramento-area community newspapers covering Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Carmichael, Rancho Cordova, and Placer County, since 2011. Her favorite topics are human-interest stories, getting to the heart and

emotion of each story. One of her favorite topics are the veterans in her community. Presently Elise is a member of ALA Unit 383 in Fair Oaks serving as Unit Chaplain and Historian.

Besides covering many veteran related events within and outside the Auxiliary, she writes about her local police department, how homelessness is being addressed locally, and many local service organizations. She is also a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs where service projects and stories often overlap.

With an eye and ear for a good story, Elise’s job as a caregiver has led her to meet interesting veterans and others with compelling stories to tell.

During her 25 years with Santa Clara County Social Services, Elise created two office newspapers to keep employees connected. She also writes for her church and service organizations. When not writing, Elise is a grandmother, kitty mom, Toastmaster, and a committed volunteer, all which she finds to be rich sources for stories.

Her article “Putting Poppies to Good Use” can be found at [www.citrusheightsmessenger.com/articles/2021/0520-Putting-Poppies-to-Good-Use/index.php?ID=11245](http://www.citrusheightsmessenger.com/articles/2021/0520-Putting-Poppies-to-Good-Use/index.php?ID=11245).

The link for one of her latest articles “Back in Business for ALA 383” is at [www.americanrivermessenger.com/articles/2021/0609-Back-in-Business/index.php?ID=11427](http://www.americanrivermessenger.com/articles/2021/0609-Back-in-Business/index.php?ID=11427).

## Save the Date!

### August

- August 04: Coast Guard Birthday
- August 07: Purple Heart Day
- August 08: VJ (Victory over Japan) Day (1945)
- August 14-15: Clovis Workshop
- August 21: Southern Workshop
- August 27- September 3: National Convention
- August 29: Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

### September

#### Music Month

- September 06: Labor Day
- September 11: Patriot Day
- September 17: POW/MIA Recognition Day
- September 18: Air Force Birthday
- September 18: Northern Workshop
- September 26: Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

### October

#### Education Month

- October 10: Ms. Veteran America Pageant
- October 11: Columbus Day
- October 13: Navy Birthday
- October 26: National Day of the Deployed
- October 31: Halloween