



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 scholarships 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 increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through *Service, Not Self*



Hallmark 2015 Military Mail Call Keepsake Ornament

When you are sending holiday cards this year, remember to send one to:

**A Recovering American Soldier
CO Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
8901 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20889**

2022-2023 Officers

- President Gloria Williams
- Vice President Glenda Schultz
- Secretary Liz Doidge
- Treasurer Susie Tozier
- Chaplain Grace Huston
- Historian Valerie Hill
- Parliamentarian Anita Biggs
- Srgt-at-Arms Phyllis Meyi
- Asst. Srgt. Alberta Cummings
- Finance Linda Workman
- Katherine Tellyer
- Teresa Lugo-Nunez
- Joan Cannon
- Kathie Martinez
- Diane DeLashmit
- Ruby Kapsalis
- Madeline Lee
- NEC
- NEC Alt.
- Advisory

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- Americanism Suzanne Winters
- Aux. Emergency Marion Rocha
- Children & Youth Susan Baker
- Community Service Sharon Moore
- Constitution/Bylaws Glenda Schultz
- Convention Chm. Debbie Hurado
- Convention Co-Chair Gloria Jean Sinopoli
- Conv. Com. Chair Anita Biggs
- Conv. Com. 2 Year Linda Fercho
- Conv. Com 1 Year Gloria Jean Sinopli
- Credentials Patricia Galatioto
- Distinguished Guest Linda Workman
- Editor Nancy Heinisch
- Education Tracey Varnell Fercho
- Elections Donna Scott
- Girls State Advisor Nancy Brown-Park
- Girls State Chairman Allyn Kau
- Girls State Director Tammy Sollazzo
- Girls S. Asst. Director Sherry Core
- Girls State 3 Year Leslie Vondra
- Girls State 2 Year Jan Fletcher
- Girls State 1 Year Kimberly MacKinney
- Girls State Nurse Elizabeth Tomlin
- Girls State Pres. Alt. Patricia Patrick
- Girls State VP Alt. Jean McGinnis
- GS Chief Counsel Kimberly MacKinney
- Junior Activities Jackie Cleveland
- Junior Conf. Director Stacey Jones
- Junior Conf. 2 Year Deloris Artis
- Junior Conf. 1 Year Lela Dooley
- Junior Conf. Nurse Ann Sanchez
- Leadership Robin Falkenberg
- Legislative Dee Ann Graham
- Membership Maureen O'Brien-Sacco
- Music Yve Evans-Hanna
- National Security Joyce Henderson McLeod
- Past Presidents Parley Joan Cannon
- Poppy Martha Romano
- Public Relations Donna Smith
- Resolutions Linda Fercho
- Rules Linda Diebel
- Veterans Affairs Linda Hayes
- Ways and Means Mahala Beery
- Ways and Means Com. Marsha Munroe
- Webmaster Rebecca Glenn

President's Message

Gloria Williams



Thank you for the kind hospitality and generosity you have shown me during my official visits!

It has been heartwarming to hear of your accomplishments and successes. This has been a banner year for the Department of California!

I am so blessed to have each and every one of you in my life and I look forward to my remaining visits and sharing the Friendship Train ride with all of you.

Gloria

Pictured above: President Gloria and Department Membership Chair Maureen O'Brien-Sacco at District 18 visitation

December 15 is Deadline for ALA National Committee Application

It's time now to apply to serve on a 2023-2024 national committee. You do not need to have served as an officer in your district or department to be eligible for an appointment.

Any member 18 or older is welcome to apply.

Visit alaforveterans.org and search National Committee Appointment Application.



The Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California.

Deadline for the February / March issue is January 25

Editor reserves the right to edit any submission for the purpose of publication. Please email all articles, photos, suggestions and (gentle) criticisms to Editor Nancy Heinisch editor@calegionaux.org

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices



Department Parliamentarian
Anita Biggs helps answer
your most perplexing questions

When attending meetings you should have a copy of your unit/district bylaws and standing rules with you, along with the most recent edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Your District and Unit President should provide you with their respective documents.

There may be Standing Rule(s) that members may question. Any member has the right to recommend changes to Standing Rules and Bylaws.

Standing Rules require approval by 2/3 vote of the members in attendance at a meeting or majority vote approval may be obtained with prior notice to the members.

However, changes/additions to the Constitution and Bylaws require approval by 2/3 of the members, with prior notice and readings at two separate meetings.



Sitting in front of my fireplace, basking in its warm glow gives me time to reflect upon the sacrifices that it has taken for me to enjoy the security of a good home, in a safe environment.

I can hear the soft whisper of the snow as it caresses my window and covers the ground outside in a scintillating display of sparkling lights under the full moon. How many times have our service men and women watched this same scene from a foxhole, or camped in some remote part of the world? Thankful for the silence of that moment, knowing it won't last long.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He/she dresses in fatigues and patrols the world restlessly, ensuring that we can have this peaceful night. Every day they give us the gift of this lifestyle that we enjoy, and every night they watch over us. They are warriors, angels, guardians, friends, brothers, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, forming a family that stretches back to the beginning of the country. So tonight when you go to bed say a prayer that God watch over those who watch over us, and thank them for their sacrifices, on and off the battlefield. Pray that they have a peaceful night, and will be home soon with their families who also share their burden. Without them we would not have this moment.

N. Leckman

How to Make a Holiday Poppy Corsage



The red poppy has been associated with The American Legion Family since the 1920s. This flower serves as a visual reminder of the sacrifice of service made by our veterans.

ALA member Betty Zoller of Terre Haute, Indiana, has created a poppy corsage that members across the country have fallen in love with.

Visit legion-aux.org/blog/learn-how-to-make-a-poppy-corsage for instructions on how to make it.

Meet Department Secretary Elizabeth (Liz) Doidge

Whose is the first voice you hear when you call the Department of California Auxiliary office in San Francisco?

Meet the person behind the voice: Elizabeth Norton Doidge.



At the age of 12 Liz (now 39) became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 in Monterey through her grandfather, who served in the Marines for over 20 years. She has been an active participant in auxiliary life of one kind or another ever since, enjoying every minute.

Liz comes from a long line of family members who have served their country. Her grandfather, father and aunt all served in the Army during Vietnam. Three of her grandparents served during Korea. She has generations of members of her family who served in the military dating back to the Revolutionary War.

Born and raised on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, Liz grew up playing softball and basketball. Her mom, Gretchen Norton, was an avid dart player who played at American Legion Posts around the community. Eventually Gretchen decided to join the auxiliary and signed up her children when Liz was in middle school.

Liz has two brothers. One is an older half-brother who was born and raised in Germany. When her father was serving in Germany he married and had his first son. Liz met him for the first time in 2000 when she was a Junior. When her father returned to the states he remarried and had Liz and her second brother.

Through Monterey Unit 41 Liz enjoyed volunteering at Halloween and Christmas parties at the Legion post. On weekends she spent much of her time in the post kitchen and wandering the hills of Monterey. Unit 41 closed in 1999 when Liz was 16 and her membership was transferred to Prunedale Unit 593 near Salinas. There Liz began attending regular meetings during high school because there were no official junior programs). She served as District 28 Sergeant-at-Arms from 2000-2001, and Marshall as a Junior Member.

When Liz graduated college in 2006 with a BA in Liberal Studies, she wasn't yet active in the regular Auxiliary. She started participating here and there as she could. She says, "In 2009 my mom passed away and I got really active with the Auxiliary. I'll forever be grateful for the ladies of the Auxiliary who supported me so strongly following the loss of my mom."

Now active as an adult member for 16 years from 2006 to the present, Liz has been busy. She served as Unit President for four terms and District 28 President for two terms. She was also 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Junior Past President. She has chaired Children in Youth, Constitution and Bylaws, Education, Junior Activities, Leadership, Music, Poppy and Past President's Parley for Unit 593. She has also served as Americanism Chair, Community Service Chair, Past President's Parley, Musician, and Junior Activities for District 28.

Liz has been married to her amazing husband and high school sweetheart Robert for 14 years. Robert is a member of the Sons of the American Legion through his father who served in the Coast Guard during Vietnam. They are raising two daughters, Hailey, 9, and Mckayla, 7. Both girls have been members of the Auxiliary since birth and have been learning about the organization ever since. Both have been active in events at Unit 593 and District 28. They also served as Convention Pages for Convention last year and hope to attend the National Junior Training this coming year.

The Doidge family relocated to Alameda in 2019, which put Liz in a position to further help the Department of California. After serving as Membership Clerk in San Francisco for a year and a half, Liz was elected Department Secretary. She has also been the Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Sergeant-at-Arms, Credentials Chairman, and Musician.

Liz credits who she is today and overcoming difficult times to her auxiliary family. She said in an email, "The Auxiliary has been an essential part of my life since 1995. Whether it was helping out at a yard sale at the post, making pancakes every Sunday for



breakfast all summer, hosting kids parties, or chatting after meetings, the friends and family I've gained through my membership and work for the Auxiliary means the world to me. I used the Auxiliary as a way to stay connected to something my mom was super passionate about. I'll forever be grateful for the ladies of the Auxiliary. I know I wouldn't have the great job I have without the Auxiliary, but I also wouldn't be who I am today."

Elise Spleiss

Newport Harbor Members Ship over 1100 Boxes!



Since 2018 ALA Unit 291 Newport Harbor members Lily Romanow and Janice Flanagan have been serving our active deployed military by coordinating troop shipping events twice a year in the fall and spring. The boxes contain personal hygiene items, snacks, hot sauce, knitted beanies, cards, puzzles and hand written greeting cards from local school children. The majority of items are donated by legion family members and the local community. The rest is personally shopped for by Lily and Janice.

It takes months of planning for each event. The packing of the boxes is a family affair with a host of legion family members aided by local Boy Scout Troop 1931. In all, these two ladies estimate they have shipped over 1110 boxes overseas.

*Cynthia Edes
ALA Unit 291 President*

What is the Military Care Package Mailing Kit?

Since Priority Mail® service supplies are the packaging of choice for families preparing care packages for service members overseas, the USPS has created a "Mili-kit" based on the items most frequently requested by the military families.

The kit contains:

- Two each of the Priority Mail large flat rate box MIL-FRB (APO/FPO Flat Rate Box - America Supports You) (12" x 12" x 5-1/2")
- Two each of the Priority Mail medium flat rate boxes O-FRB1 (11" x 8-1/2" x 5-1/2") and O-FRB2 (13-5/8" x 11-7/8" x 3-3/8")
- One roll of Priority Mail tape
- Priority Mail address labels - Label # 228: six each
- Customs FORM 2976-A: six each
- Customs FORM Envelope 2976-E: six each

Customers requesting the kit should be transferred to the **Supply Center at 1-800-610-8734**; say "supplies" or select option 1 to be transferred to a fulfillment agent during business hours.

Note: These are free supplies, postage must be affixed.

Additionally, you can find guidelines for packing, addressing, and shipping items to U.S. troops at usps.com/ship/apo-fpo-dpo.htm.

Military and Diplomatic Mail: Special APO/FPO/DPO Supplies, Boxes, and Forms

You can ship care packages to military addresses at domestic prices, even if you're sending mail overseas. USPS® provides free military shipping kits, help with customs forms, military address tips, shipping restriction lists by country, and free package pickup when your shipment is ready to go.

2022 Holiday Shipping Dates for Military Mail

Information can be found at usps.com/holiday/holiday-shipping-dates.htm.



Visit ShipThrifty.com to learn about the new member benefits provider Shipthrifty that is focused on shipping military care packages.



A Little Background on the American Legion Legislation Program

August 9, 1921: The American Legion Legislation begins. The Legion's efforts result in the creation of the US Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. Today the Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding to cover medical, disability, education and other benefits for veterans.

June 15, 1923: The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington. Congress adopts the code in 1942. Today the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the US flag from physical desecration.

December 15, 1943: Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write the first draft of what will later become the "GI Bill of Rights", considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.

August 10, 2022: President Joe Biden signed the PACT Act into law, cementing into VA healthcare presumption for ailments caused by toxic air exposure.

The most effective way to support The American Legion's legislative agenda is communication. Emails, telephone calls, Legislative Alerts, fax messages and personal letters from constituents have a powerful influence on members of Congress.

One final thought: The US Constitution was crafted with the intent of including every citizen in the legislative process. From electing members of Congress to oversight of their work, every citizen has a stake in our government. Good government is the result of engaged citizens.

Don't get left at the station platform. Hop on board and make a difference in our veterans' lives. It's not too late to subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notifications when they call on us to take immediate action.

*Dee Ann Graham
Department Legislative Chair*

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington

Military Family Readiness Guide

It can be difficult for anyone to keep track of all the agencies, organizations, programs and services that help service members and their families. This guide helps Auxiliary units and members match military community members in need to resources designed to ease those needs.

The guide can be found on the My Auxiliary Member Portal at the national website.

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

Mission in Action Grants

The ALA Foundation wants to help members brand their programs so that the ALA is recognizable in the community for all of their good works. Whether it's storage totes to transport items to a local food pantry, a branded vehicle or trailer to deliver meals to homeless veterans, or signage and banners for your department's ALA Girls State program, the Mission in Action grant will help you work the mission while promoting the organization behind it all.

Qualifications

- The applicant must be an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) entity – unit, district/county, or department.
- The proposal must address a specific ALA branding need that will help members with mission delivery and be recognizable in the community.
- Grants are awarded up to \$5,000.
- One grant per grantee in a 12 month period will be awarded.
- Funds may not be used to reimburse expenses paid prior to grant approval.
- The ALA entity must provide a 20% match of the granted amount.

Highlighting District 26's Superb Website



Peggy Toye

American Legion Auxiliary District 26 comprises six Units: Redwood City, Half Moon Bay,

Pacifica, San Carlos, San Mateo, and a virtual e-Unit.

Kudos to District 26 President Peggy Toye who currently manages the website for the Units. The website is easy to navigate and contains a wealth of information.

The site is sites.google.com/view/ala-unit-82/home.

Outstanding Junior Earns First Place



Rebeka Avila was awarded First Place, Class III, in the 2022 Poppy Poster Contest!

She is a Junior Auxiliary member of Elmer C. Jertberg Unit 299 where she earned many patches. You may recognize her for her smiling face and her willingness to help out at various Unit, District and Department activities and meetings. She was one of the Junior pages at the June Convention.

She's well on her way to becoming a great future ALA leader!

*Linda Hayes
Past Department Poppy Chair*

Social Media Relies on Relationships

Social media can be confusing and intimidating. There's always a new company starting and a new trend to acclimate yourself to. But success in social media really boils down to one thing: relationships.

Our world is built on trust. Trust is built through relationships. Relationships happen on the Web through social media. Information is being shared like it always has been; we're just using new tools to make it easier to share and spread your message to the large circle of influence.

Build trust and relationships for your ALA unit by embracing the social media platform that works best for your audience needs.

Donna Smith, Department Public Relations Chair

Celebrating our Dual Members: Janice Somers



Janice is a member of District 16 and has held many leadership positions in both the Legion and the Auxiliary. She served as Legion District 16 Commander and Auxiliary District 16 President.

The photo above was taken when Janice attended the Clovis Workshop.



In Memoriam

Tammy Sollazzo

November 23, 1957—November 23, 2022

ALA California Girls State Director and Past District 19 President

Easy Fundraising Ideas:

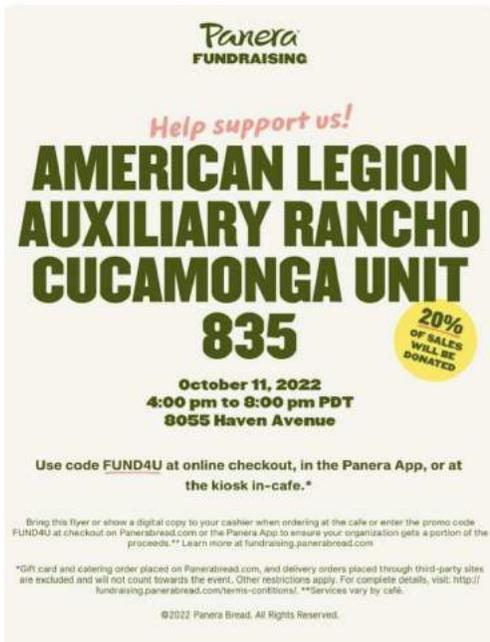
Fill Your Jewelry Box Fundraiser

Ask for donations of unwanted jewelry items. Then invite members and guests to fill their own jewelry box with new-to-you items from pre-priced tables (\$1 to \$10) as well as special prices for special pieces.



Local Restaurant Fundraisers

Meet with local restaurants who offer to donate a portion of their proceeds, create a flyer and spread the word!



We acknowledge the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, and transitioning military service members and their families.

Department President Gloria Williams’ special project is PTSD. One of the challenges of diagnosing and treating complex injuries like post traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury is the sheer number of qualified medical personnel needed who can recognize the often subtle signs of trauma. Joining Forces (whitehouse.gov/joiningforces) is a White House initiative to support military families which includes families of service members and veterans, caregivers and survivors. It recently celebrated its one-year anniversary and is looking to train a corps of nurses which will immediately impact the care of Veterans in the coming years.

Here are some ideas:

- Wear **RED** on Fridays to remember everyone deployed and help make our troops know we are thinking of their well-being.
- Display the Blue and Gold Star banners in your community and businesses.
- Provide more information to the Units on these programs and recognize members who do outstanding work with certification awards.
- Read *America’s White Table* by Margot Theis Raven.
- Detail your activities on your Unit and District reports so that they can be shared at mid-year DEC.

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices.

Joyce Henderson McLeod
Department National Security Chair



Congratulations to Navy Petty Officer Adia Tapia, a member of District 17 Allied Unit 302, who was recently promoted to Chief. After the ceremony, she expressed sincere appreciation to ALA members Susie Morgan and Rodi Andresscu for their continual support.

Photography Guidelines When Posting Holiday Photos

Selecting Photographs

- Does the photo illustrate the mission?
- Is what's happening in the picture authentic and positive?
- Are the subjects being genuine?
- Can our audience and/or the public relate to the picture quickly and with ease?
- **Is the photo free of inappropriate items such as alcoholic beverages or political signs?**

What Not to Do

- Don't force interactions, emotions, reactions, settings, or smiles.
- Don't cut people off at the edge of a photo.
- Ensure good lighting. Do not use photos that are too dark.
- **Don't include tobacco, alcohol, obscene gestures, or brand names/logos/emojis.**
- Don't make relationships between subjects appear ambiguous.

ALA Branding Guide

Veterans Display at Manteca Library



Pictured left to right: Unit 1st Vice and VA&R Chair Grace Huston, Unit Treasurer and Historian Alice Smith, Veteran Ralph Smith, and Unit Chaplain Pearl Smith.

Every year for the months of November and May, ALA Unit 249 teams up with their local Manteca Library to create a display of Veteran photos and souvenirs. They receive lots of memorabilia from our veterans and their families.

The local librarian reports that patrons of all ages enjoy looking at the items on display.

*Grace Huston
Department Chaplain*

How to Obtain a Veterans Creative Arts Festival Grant



I would like to share the following Veterans Creative Arts Festival grant information with you in the hope that your Unit can take advantage of it.

An American Legion Auxiliary Foundation (ALAF) Veterans Creative Arts Festival (VCAF) grant can enhance the art therapy programs at your local VA Medical Center (VAMC).

Up to \$2,500 is available for:

- * *art supplies (including, but not limited to, paint brushes, easels, markers, canvas, calligraphy pens, guitar picks)*
- * *awards/medals/recognition items for the participants*
- * *transportation for veterans to and from the local VCAF*
- * *festival venue fees, if any*
- * *photography/videography*
- * *promotion of event (i.e., advertising, posters, printed materials)*

The grant must be requested by an ALA entity – usually a Unit or Department – which is in good standing with the IRS (has an EIN and has regularly filed 990, 990-N, or 990-EZ forms).

Up to \$2,500 may be requested for each year's program. There is no requirement that the ALA entity provide additional funds for the program, although they certainly can! Funds cannot be used to reimburse expenses paid prior to the grant approval, so plan ahead!

Super easy to do:

1. *Ask your Unit to sponsor the grant application – it's only a 3-page form!*
2. *Contact the individual at your local VAMC who is responsible for art therapy or the local VAMC and explain the grant availability.*
3. *What's worked for previous applications: ask your VAMC contact to create a wish list on Amazon, an Art supply store, or other vendor; that list will provide details for your application. Simply enter "as per the attached list," the total requested, and attach a copy of the list!*
4. *Go to alafoundation.org, click on Grants, then on VCAF Grants, then on the application— you may complete it online or download it, print it, and complete it.*
5. *Submit your application - either online or (if you've printed it) by mail.*

Grant applications will be considered by the ALAF Board of Directors at their next meeting on January 25, 2023. Please submit your application no later than January 6, 2023 (earlier is always welcome).

Need more information? Visit alafoundation.org where you can find more ideas for grant-eligible items or contact the staff for assistance in completing the application.

Wishing you a very happy Holiday Season! Hope to see you at DEC.

*Linda Hayes
Department VA&R Chairman*

ALA Working Together with the Chamber of Commerce

As a District President it is a given responsibility along with your officers and chairman to bring in new members on a regular basis. As we all know it is easier said than done.

the other cars. You have passenger cars, flat cars, baggage cars, observation cars, freight cars and even some stock cars. Let us not leave out the superliner cars. As I was saying we can not do this alone.

Family without being asked to do so. In my search our Unit and Post joined our Town Chamber of Commerce.

Since February of this year 2022 we have added 17 new members just from going to business mixers, ribbon cuttings and Chamber meetings. We now have an ad in the Chamber magazine promoting membership. Networking works!

This coming year The Legion Family will be promoted in most of the Chamber events such as job fairs, non-profit fundraisers, and non-profit membership drives. This not only helps our unit but will help all the units in our district.

District Leaders: I strongly suggest you join your local Chamber of Commerce. Yes, most ALA and Post have Facebook and websites, but we need to grab a larger part of the audience. Your community goes to the Chamber to see what is going on in your town. Your community is who makes up your membership.



“... we can not do this alone.”

What I have learned in these last two years is that not any one unit can do it alone.

There are many organizations that are willing to help with a cause but most of them do not promote it. They only give when asked.

Time to think outside the box car!

Like a train you need to have the locomotive that leads and the caboose that follows. And in between you have all

I wanted to work with an organization that would promote The American Legion

*Elizabeth Estavillo
ALA District 12 President*

L	O	C	O	M	O	T	I	V	E	D
B	P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	O
A	H	B	O	X	C	A	R	Y	A	M
G	I	O	D	I	N	I	N	G	C	E
G	H	O	P	P	E	R	E	E	K	C
A	L	S	H	O	N	A	O	V	N	A
G	K	E	S	T	O	C	K	C	A	R
E	Z	Q	W	J	O	T	E	E	T	B
O	B	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N
S	U	P	P	E	R	L	I	N	E	R
G	U	X	I	P	Q	F	H	O	O	P

Gloria's Friendship Train Word Search

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| Boxcar | Passenger | Caboose |
| Dining | Stock Car | Dome Car |
| Hopper | Tank Car | Flat Car |
| Locomotive | Superliner | |
| Observation | Baggage | |

*Elizabeth Estavillo
ALA District 12 President*



Veterans Day

Palisades Auxiliary Unit 283 provided Double Double Burgers from In-n-Out along with a bag of chips and a soda to 313 Veterans. The Legionnaires from Post 283 played music for them as they ate their burgers.

Deloris Artis



Ditty Bag Details

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In late October I sent out a message to all District Presidents to ask for assistance with filling the Convention 2023 “ditty” bags. It had been suggested that we up the ante a bit and add more pizzazz to the bags. The responses are coming in, and though most who have reached out are still deciding what they would like to do, I am grateful for the responses and support from Districts and Units that want to contribute. You are awesome!

I am asking that you let me know what you’d like to contribute so that we don’t have duplicates of items. One district is already into the ordering stage. I am excited to see what everyone comes up with.

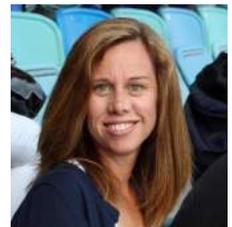
If you are still in the process of getting your members approvals and deciding what to do, that’s fine. But if you have it all together before DEC, our team can start collecting things there. We are planning to make up 300 bags. Remember you can also buddy up with another District and co-sponsor a gift. It’s never too late to jump onboard for this project.

Until we meet at DEC, keep chugging along!

*Debbie Hurado
Department Convention Chairman*

Auxiliary Member is Now City Council Member

Unit 105's member Stacy Jimenez was elected in November to the City Council of Foster City.



Stacy serves on U105's Girls State interview panel.

Scholarship Winner

Naomi Porter from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in District 19 has won the regional \$10,000 Samsung American Legion Auxiliary National Scholarship.

She was sponsored by Unit 314 ALA Girls State Chair Jean Cooley.

Congratulations!

District 2 Debuts New Veterans Assistance Mobile Unit



Pictured left to right on top photo: District 2 Commander Vern Sutton, Post 197 Commander Jess Hoopes, Unit 197 VA&R Chair Pam Woolbert, Unit 197 President Anne Marie Fuller, Past Department of California Commander Autrey James, Past Post 197 Commander Richard Baker, and District 2 Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Henderson

September was National Preparedness Month! American Legion Auxiliary Unit 197 and American Legion Post 197 debuted a new resource dubbed the Veterans Assistance Mobile Unit. The goal of this mobile unit is to provide services and support where needed to our veterans, military members and their families serving throughout District 2 and beyond.

The ribbon cutting included several officers within District 2 and Past Department of California Commander Autrey James. Some of the items the Veterans Assistance Mobile Unit will carry include personal care kits stocked with hygiene projects, pet food, writing materials, bottled water and comfort items.

We are excited to have this opportunity to better serve our veterans.

*Anne Marie Fuller
ALA Unit 197 President*

ALA Academy Live

The ALA Academy has been expanded to include live virtual webinars. Visit legion-aux.org/ala-academy for complete details.

Here are a few of the new webinars:

VAVS (VA Voluntary Service) Department Orientation 2022

In this webinar, you will learn the processes and procedures for volunteering within the VA. Also covered is a variety of topics including how to choose a valuable rep or dep, the certification process, VA roles and expectations, the structure of VA Voluntary Service (VAVS), and much more.

Mission Delivery through Caregiver Support

In this 30-minute webinar participants will learn more about caregivers and possibly themselves.

Mastering Military Shipping with Shiphtrifty

The American Legion Auxiliary introduces new member-benefits provider Shiphtrifty to members in an informational webinar focused on shipping military care packages.

Using Social Media to your Unit's Advantage

American Legion Auxiliary units are always looking for more ways to get the word out. The easiest and cheapest way to do just that is through social media. In this webinar, ALA National Headquarters staff will provide you with guidance on the best ways to promote your unit activities — whether they're mission outreach or not — as well as other helpful information.

Compliance Matters

Watch the Compliance Matters virtual session to learn about state and federal filing requirements, how to become tax exempt and stay exempt, and general compliance knowledge to keep your organization running smoothly.

Chaplain's Corner

*Blessings and greetings
for however you personally
celebrate the holiday*

To all our ALA members this Holiday season in 2022 . . . let's acknowledge these are certainly trying times. But we are strong, resourceful, determined, resilient and dedicated members of an organization, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), whose purpose for over 100 years has been to serve our Veterans and active duty military as well as their families.

Around the world through every conflict we have been there. At every Veterans' hospital, clinic and rehabilitation center we have been there. In communities, units and posts we are busy providing support through every ALA program from Community Service to VA&R.

We have all been blessed beyond measure . . . living in this country, our freedoms, our way of life, our opportunities to grow and help others . . . these are gifts to be opened and shared. Be grateful, be thankful, and continue to be of service to those who have served on our behalf.

Thank a Veteran for that GIFT!

*Grace Huston
Department Chaplain*

Save the Date December

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

- December 01: Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- December 07: Pearl Harbor Day
- December 13: National Guard Birthday
- December 18: First Day of Hanukkah
- December 18: National Wreaths Across America
- December 20: Space Force Birthday
- December 21: First Day of Winter
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 26: Kwanzaa
- December 26: Last Day of Hanukkah
- December 28: Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant/Religious Affairs Specialist
- December 31: New Year's Eve

January

Legislative

- January 01: New Year's Day
- January 15-18: Department Executive Committee Meeting
- January 16: Martin Luther King Jr Day

*Happy Holidays to all of you.
Especially to our Veterans who
know how it is to be so far away
from home and to our Deployed.
Thank you! Stay safe . . .
Come Home.*



Photo: Judy Evridge