



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 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 empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service, Not Self



Today is Memorial Day, when we recall all those who gave everything in the darkness of war so we could stand here in the glory of spring.

Barack Obama

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
Srgt-at-Arms	Karen Herrera
Asst. Srgt.	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 Years	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 Sollazzo
Girls S. Asst. Director	Sherry Core
Girls State 3 Year	Jan Fletcher
Girls State 2 Year	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
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
Public 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
Webmaster	Rebecca Glenn

President's Corner

Share your Best Practices!



Got a great idea?

Let other ALA members know!

Best practices are simply the best way to do things that have been developed through trial and error.

Sharing these best practices will give members the opportunity to learn creative and innovative ideas that have proven to be both successful and time saving.

Please send your best practices to Madame President Dee Ann grahamda65@yahoo.com with "Best Practices" in the subject line.

As many as possible will be posted on the department website under the resources tab.

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

Deadline for the June / July issue is May 24.

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 nancyheinisch@att.net.

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

Department Parliamentarian Anita Biggs helps answer your most perplexing questions



What is the process to get something introduced on the floor at the convention?

If the member is a delegate to the convention, a question or statement may be introduced on the floor after being recognized by the Chair.

If the member is not a delegate, he or she must pass on his or her question/statement to a delegate for introduction to the floor. The member may also attend the appropriate pre-convention committee meeting and discuss with the chairman and/or the committee. The chairman in turn could conceivably introduce a concern after discussion with the Chair.

Should Units follow National and eliminate their Past Presidents Parley (PPP)?

Units must follow Department, not National. PPP is not required in Units.



Unit Reports due Friday, April 8, 2022

District Reports due Sunday May 1, 2022



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF

Alcoholic Beverage Control

abc.ca.gov/education/rbs

Responsible Beverage Service (RBS) Training

Responsible Beverage Service training educates persons seeking employment or who are currently employed as servers of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption. It aims to provide servers the necessary skills to responsibly serve alcoholic beverages and mitigate alcohol-related harm in California communities.

What is the RBS Training Program?

Passage of Assembly Bill 1221 in 2017 created the Responsible Beverage Service Training Act. The bill required the Alcoholic Beverage Control to create the Responsible Beverage Service Training Program (RBSTP) to ensure servers and their managers of alcoholic beverages are educated on the dangers of serving alcohol to minors and over-serving alcohol to patrons with the intention of reducing alcohol-related harm to local communities. The new mandate creates a new training requirement for an estimated 1,000,000 on-premises alcohol servers, their managers, and licensees beginning in 2021. The passing of [Assembly Bill 82](#), on June 29, 2020, has extended the date in which this requirement is enacted to beginning in 2022. This change was made to alleviate the financial strain on the hospitality industry caused by the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Beginning July 1, 2022, any alcohol server and their manager must have a valid RBS certification from an ABC accredited RBS training provider and pass an online ABC administered RBS exam within 60 calendar days from the first date of employment.

State of California Department of Justice

Attorney General

Rob Bonta

Nonprofit Raffles Information

In California charities and certain other private nonprofit organizations may conduct raffles to raise funds for beneficial or charitable purposes in the state. This exception to the general constitutional prohibition against lotteries requires that at least 90 percent of the gross receipts from these raffles go directly to beneficial or charitable purposes in California. Penal Code section 320.5 governs which organizations qualify and how the raffles must be conducted.

Unless specifically exempted, a nonprofit organization must register with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts before the raffle and must also file an aggregate financial disclosure report for all raffles held during the reporting year.

For up-to-date information visit oag.ca.gov/charities and search for nonprofit raffles.

“Are YOU from Girls State?” Meet our Exemplary Staff

Maggie Taylor Aherne is currently a member of the ALA California Girls State Committee and serves on the ALA CAGS counseling staff and planning committee. She is currently Director of Operations for the tech company, KickFire, an International Data Group Company in San Jose, California.



Maggie earned her BA in Political Science with a minor in Japanese

from San Jose State University. Originally from Chino Hills, California, Maggie was the first ALA CAGS delegate from Chino Hills High School for the 2004 session, was honored to be a Junior Counselor for the 2005 session, and has been a part of the counseling team for over 15 years.

After moving to the Bay Area she became actively involved in ALA Santa Clara Unit 419 and has held the positions of Unit President, First Vice, Secretary, and is currently Unit Treasurer. She also is the Unit 419 and District 13 Girls State chairs. Her ALA membership is through her father (Navy - Vietnam), paternal grandfather (Navy - WWII and Korea), and maternal grandfather (Navy - WWII).

Caitlin Voss attended California Girls State in 2008 and has since served on ALA CA Girls State staff all but one year.

She has a BA in Human Development from UC Davis where she was a student athlete playing on the softball team. Caitlin also has her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Cal Poly SLO.

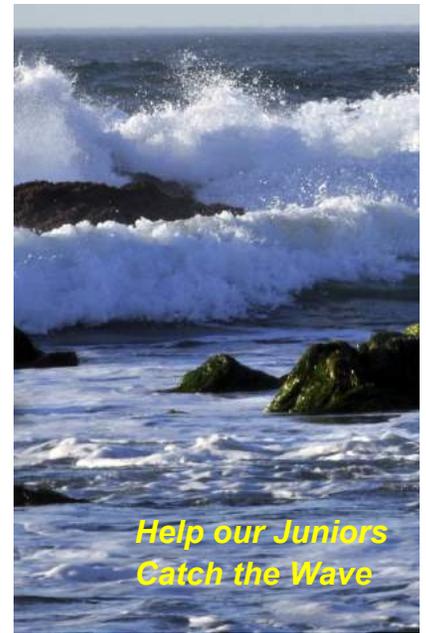


Since attending ALA CA Girls State in 2008, the Girls State program has held a special place in Caitlin’s heart. Caitlin began on the California Girls State committee in 2019 as a 3-year member and has served on the committee since.

She is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 472, eligible via both her maternal and paternal grandfathers.

Caitlin lives in Santa Maria with her dog Wyatt and is an elementary school physical education teacher.

Tammy Sollazzo, Girls State Director



Juniors Update

We are very sorry to inform you that unfortunately we have had to cancel this year’s program at Wonder Valley.

We are considering having a Junior Conference Workshop at our annual convention. The plan is to do this workshop immediately following the Memorial Service on Thursday. In order for this to happen we need to know how many Juniors would like to participate by May 1.

Juniors may also act as pages at the convention. This also requires a count of Juniors so we can provide numbers to the convention committee.

Any Junior who would like to act as a page must adhere to a dress code. Madame President has requested that they wear capris and a beach-themed t-shirt.

Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Ann Philcox
Department Junior Activities Chair*

Military Brats Day Observed Saturday, April 30

The phrase “military brat” is one long associated with the family members of those in uniform. It can be used in a derogatory sense, but in recent decades the phrase has been used more to self-identify as being part of a military family.

The connotations of being a military brat include the expectation that military families move often, may have difficulty setting down roots in any one area because of duty requirements, and the potential for extended stays overseas for the same reason. Military brats experience frequent school changes, make friends and acquaintances all over the world, and experience regular major life changes due to the shifting nature of military life.

Source: militarybenefits.info/benefits



Presentation of the wreath by the American Legion Auxiliary District 14 President Debbie Hurado and First Vice Elva Stith

District 14 Assists with Four Chaplains Ceremony

The Four Chaplains Day Inter-Faith Service was held at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Sanger on February 12.

Thanks to Debbie Hurado, Gloria Jean Sinopoli, Elva Stith, Sandy Dowell, Margene Conway, Mary King, Connie Garcia, Jackie McDonald, and all the Auxiliary members for hosting the reception.

A special thank you to ALA Unit 3 and Geni Leffler for the beautiful table decorations.

Upcoming Poppy Due Dates

Poppy End of Year Reports are due to the District chairmen by April 8. District EOY reports are due to the Department of California Poppy Chairman by May 1.

Miss Poppy and Little Miss Poppy scrapbook first place winners are due to the Department Chairman by **May 1**. After judging at the Department level, the finalist will be forwarded to National prior to the June 1 deadline.

Poppy Posters: District first place winners in each group shall be forwarded to the Department Chairman for competition by **May 12**. After judging at the Department level, the finalists in each category will be forwarded to National prior to June 1.

Linda Hayes, Department Poppy Chair

Poppy Distribution Information

We are now ready to get started with our distribution. As you sit at your table or stand by the walkway, you need to think about what you will say.

First, you want to identify yourself. Put on your friendliest, warmest smile. Your neat, branded apparel will identify the organization, so you need to include your name and unit. Let the people know that you are local. People like to help on a local level more than on a national level. Fortunately, we do both. You have a hook if you can make a personal connection by complimenting their scarf or something.

Next, think about your "elevator speech." People are only going to give you a minute or so to catch their attention. One way to jump in is to offer the poppy while saying that we are raising money for veterans, especially those hospitalized with military-related injuries or illnesses. "We use the poppy as a symbol of remembrance for the men and women who fought and often died to give us our freedoms. I, particularly, raise funds to honor" (This is where you add your own "why")

Encourage your local politicians to wear a poppy too. If they say they have no change, remind them that there is no set donation amount, and they may have a poppy without a donation. If they are reluctant, you may suggest that they could make a donation later to the Post family. This should not be a pressure situation. The more people that wear the poppy, the more we get the word out that we are here for veterans.

Once they have donated, make sure to thank them. If possible, take this time to talk about Auxiliary programs and ask if they are eligible to join. (Be sure that you have applications with local contact information on them. If you can get them to fill it out there, you stand a better chance of getting them actually to join.)

We want them to feel energized about our organization and suggest they tell their friends about our collection days and times if this is more than a short, one-day effort. We want to get the word out as far as possible with the warmest, most sincere attitude that we can muster. Remember what a worthwhile project this is and place the Auxiliary's mission in the forefront. Telling your "Why" you are an Auxiliary member is one of the best ways to grow membership.

Marie Mock, Eastern Division Poppy Chairman



Computer Questions?

Email Cindy Newman cnewman419@yahoo.com and she will be glad to help.

What does Community Service Look Like in your Community?

The purpose of Community Service is to enhance the community we live in, make it a better place to live, and help those in need. Every community is different due to so many variables. Do your best to identify the greatest needs in your community and volunteer to help in any way you can.

You will find a list below of just a few ideas that could be included in your Community Service reports. Some Units will do a few projects, and some may only do one. Just remember **all** of your Unit's efforts count. No matter how many projects you do, your projects count and need to be reported.

- Begin to prepare for **National Volunteer Week** which is always the third week of April. However, a day of service can be held on **any** day of the year and as many times during the year that works for your volunteers.
- Initiate or promote an **emergency preparedness program** for your family, neighborhood, and community. Make it specific to the disasters you might encounter in your area.
- Organize or promote a **first aid training or CPR training** open to the public in your area. Local EMT's and Hospital staff are happy to help if time is available. (COVID has made this sometimes difficult but getting back to our new normal is important for the community.)
- The communities are always in need of **blood drives**. Contact your local Red Cross and see if there is a way to help, either by hosting a Blood Drive or volunteering at one in your area.
- Donating or assisting **local food banks** to help those with food insecurity has become a huge need in most communities. Know where the food banks are located and what they need.
- **Child safety programs** are often needed in the community and the best place to start is by asking your local law enforcement officers to help with the program. Many have their own safety programs they can present if you just offer to host the event.
- Contact your local elected officials to see if there is a service you can provide to **enhance the well-being of the community**. There are many projects that need volunteers or someone to be chairman of a project. Always remember to be branded when you are out working in the community.
- Sometimes a **community partner** such as the American Legion Family or outside partners like the Eagles, Moose, Elks, Rotary Club, VFW, or other service organizations will make your resources stretch much farther.
- Don't forget to thank those in your community such as the police, fire, first responders, nurses, etc., who like our military, keep us safe and well. **Certificates of Appreciation** for individuals or groups are always a great tool to let the community know how much we appreciate them.
- Check out the **Unit Community Service Caregiver Appreciation Award** honoring those who serve others. The certificate and criteria for this award can be found on the national website under Community Service.

As we enter the reporting time of our American Legion Auxiliary program year, reflect on what you have done so far. Have you promoted the American Legion Auxiliary in a positive way? Were you smiling and representing our organization well when you were wearing your ALA branding? Are you supporting the community through your efforts as an ALA member? These are just a few of the things that we need to be aware of to attract new members and get them excited about our mission. Inviting someone to help with a project even before they are a member will help them realize who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Membership is a part of every program.

You will find that with Community Service, many of your efforts can be reported in more than one program. Choose the program report that best describes your efforts and then **report, report, report!**



Allied Unit # 302, District 17 taking care of homeless veterans above the 101 Freeway

For more information please check out our ALA National website at alaforveterans.org. ALA Programs each have a Facebook page where ideas and events are shared. Facebook pages can be found by using ALA followed by the program name ALA Community Service, ALA Education, etc. Please feel free to share your successes and ideas so others may benefit to enhance their programs. The Facebook page is also a suitable place to ask a question and get answers from around the country.

I'm looking forward to hearing about all the amazing things everyone did in their communities this past year. Please remember to also include pictures.

You just might see yourself on the big screen at National Convention in Milwaukee this August!

GOOD LUCK AND HAPPY REPORTING!

Denise Conrad, ALA National Community Service Chair

Chaplain's Corner

Remember to be vigilant prayer warriors during this horrific time.

Consider "For Prayers":

- I'm praying "for peace".
- I'm praying "for tolerance".
- I'm praying "for forgiveness".
- I'm praying "for healing" (physical and emotional).
- I'm praying "for families to be reunited".
- I'm praying "for our leaders".
- I'm praying "for our military".
- I'm praying "for their families".
- I'm praying "for our veterans".
- I'm praying "for their families".
- I'm praying "for caregivers".
- I'm praying "for us... the small us and the big US".

Whoever you pray to, however you pray, just pray!

Grace Huston, Department Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary Branding Guide

Refer to this guide when producing any American Legion Auxiliary-related materials. Let this guide be your reference in all steps of production; it contains small details such as size and color of documents and larger concerns such as how the Auxiliary's mission should be reflected in its branding efforts

You can download it from the national website legion-aux.org after logging into the member portal.

Celebrating our Dual Members



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 502 member Barbara Lombrano is currently the liaison between the Auxiliary and the Legion. She is also the President of the Past Commander's Club and serves as the American Legion Department of California Adjutant.

Introducing Ava Brown: Representative of the ALA's Future

As a member of Unit 383 in Fair Oaks I want to say it has been our pleasure to work with Ava throughout these past years. She is a leader who has been a joy to work with. Our relationship with all our Girls State girls gives us hope for the future of our community, our country and our world. They are incredible young women. We are proud to have been a part of their lives during this time.

Elise Spleiss, Unit 383 Chaplain and Public Relations Chair

Hello, my name is Ava Brown and I am a senior at Folsom High School in Folsom, California. I was selected as the Folsom High School Girls State Delegate in 2020, and have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 383 ever since!

Joining Unit 383 has been one the most rewarding aspects of my high school experience.

In the midst of a pandemic the ALA provided a support network and a way to get involved in my community. My favorite project undertaken with my unit was organizing a veterans' book drive as my Girls State service project. In a matter of 10 days, we were able to collect over 500 books to send to deployed

troops through Move America Forward. I found it especially rewarding to donate all of the children's books we received to the Mather Veterans Hospital for the children of deployed and deceased soldiers.

Working with the auxiliary has empowered me to make a difference in my community, and I am so thankful for the friends I have made along the way! My goals for the future are to go to business school and work on Wall Street at a major investment bank, but at the moment I am enjoying my last semester of high school and looking forward to an amazing four years at Stanford.

The Auxiliary has helped me grow as a person and a citizen over the past two

years. My time at Girls State and working with my community has taught me that good leaders advocate for everyone not just those they agree with. I have taken that message to heart and am prepared to be a better leader and an ally for my broader community.

I am so thankful for my time with Unit 383 and going forward I can't wait to make you all proud!





Photo Judy Evridge

Happy Mother's Day

Uses and Types of Resolutions

A resolution has three main uses: (1) to conduct the internal business on one or both houses of the legislature (2) to express policy or opinions in a nonbinding way, and (3) to propose or ratify Constitutional Amendments.

There are five different types of resolutions: congratulatory, simple, concurrent, memorial and joint.

A debate resolution is one in which the statement is debated in a policy debate. A law resolution is a written motion adopted by a deliberately body. A New Year's Resolution is a commitment that an individual makes on New Year's Day. A dispute resolution is the settlement of a disagreement.

Cece Harvey



Cece Harvey at the January DEC

Cherishing an American Veteran

Recently my father-in-law, Leland J. Rice, passed away February 21, 2022.

He was 100 years old. On Lee's birthday, the American Legion Riders Chapter 383 rode to his home to wish him happy 100th birthday. He was a bit bewildered, but enjoyed the roar of the motorcycles.

Lee served in WWII as a US Merchant Marine under the direction of the US



Coast Guard. Years went by before his service as a Merchant Marine was recognized by the US. On January 18, 1988, veteran status was given to those who served in the Merchant Marines.

Lee Rice served his country under combat situations for three years. He was present

during the invasion of Sicily. The ship carried supplies to the troops. Lee helped to reload 20mm anti-aircraft guns.

After Lee was commissioned, he piloted the ship through dangerous waters. His ship was nearly torpedoed two times and his life was spared. Thousands of Merchant Marines were not as lucky.

Following Lee's service, he served eight years as a LAPD Motor Officer. When he lived in Rancho Tehama, he was a volunteer firefighter. Lee joined the American Legion and he served as a Legionnaire for 32 years as well as the VFW.

Decades later I would meet his son, Mark L. Rice. Two years later Mark and I married. At that point, I grew to love Lee as a father figure. For the past two and a half years, I grew closer to him and got to know his witty sense of humor.

I will cherish the time that Lee was in my life. He told numerous stories of his adventures throughout his life. Lee will be forever missed by those who know him.

Sandy Seddon-Rice, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 383 Sgt-at Arms

First Bingo Fundraiser at Los Alamitos Unit 716

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 716 Secretary and Education Chairman Desiree Black hosted this event to raise money for school supplies for children in the community who are in need.

Participants attending included members of ALA Unit 716, TAL Post 716, SAL Squadron 716, ALA Cypress Unit 295 and six participants from the nearby Community Senior Center.

The next ALA Unit 716 Bingo Fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, June 5, from 2pm to 4pm, and we're hoping to raise additional money for the Education Program.

Photos are by ALA Unit 716 member Teri Estes.



*Kelly Huff, ALA Unit 716 President
ALA District 29 Second Vice*

Post 105 Legion Family Works Together

Tonga Relief Donation

On January 15 a devastating undersea volcanic eruption occurred near Tonga. A U.N. official says 80% of Tonga's 105,000 people were affected by the undersea volcanic eruption and ensuing tsunami that lashed the Pacific island nation.

American Legion Post 507 Commander Smith began soliciting monetary relief donations from our 'extended' Post Family organizations. On March 7 Commander Smith presented an \$800 check to Tonga Consul General Sela Tukia.

Below are Post 105 members representing extended veteran organizations who greeted the Tonga Consul General, the Honorable Sela Tukia.



Front row L to R: San Mateo County Blue Star Moms Chapter CA 15 President Amy Walsh, American Veterans Post 53 President Michael Cooney, AL Post 105 3rd Vice Commander William Jackson, Jr., Tonga Consul General the Honorable Sela Tukia, AL Chapter 105 Alvin Pacheco, ALA District 26 President Peggy Toye

Back row L to R: ALA Unit 105 President Carol Rael, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 464 President Gary Higgins, AL Riders Chapter 105 Sgt-at-Arms Ken Pearson, US Volunteers-America CA State Commander Leo McArdle, AL Post 105 Commander George Smith, Commander SAL Squadron Post 105/AL Riders Chapter 105 Director Andrew Trapani, AL Post 105 Adjutant John Robinson

Got Rice?

American Legion Post 105's family showed up in force to assist the Bay Area Global Outreach Lions Club (BAGOLC).

The challenge was to measure and weigh rice or spices, bag and seal them, label the bags, and pack the boxes.



food was distributed to needy families.

It was a 'rice' to the finish but we got it done in two hours—Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Riders, BAGOLC, Rise Against Hunger,

San Mateo Lions, Xi Pi Delta sorority, et al. The Post family manned the final leg of the assembly line labeling the bags before packing them into boxes.

At first we were surprised when the 20-something instructor thought our family needed "younger" assistance due to the speed needed and lifting of boxes. We took that with a 'grain' of salt; our Family kept up just fine. We labeled and boxed 15,000 packs of rice meals in two hours.

The rice was donated by BAGOLC and Skylawn Memorial Park. A fun time was had by all.

Rice-a-packing -- a San Mateo Treat!

Peggy Toye, ALA District 26 President

Music Keeps Us Connected

Music has the ability to move us—our memories and our imaginations.

How many times have you heard a song on the radio, on a commercial, during a movie, or on your Smartphone and found yourself transported to another place and time? The lyrics and the melody remind us of a moment we've experienced or a memory we haven't recalled for ages, and we feel everything that we felt back then.

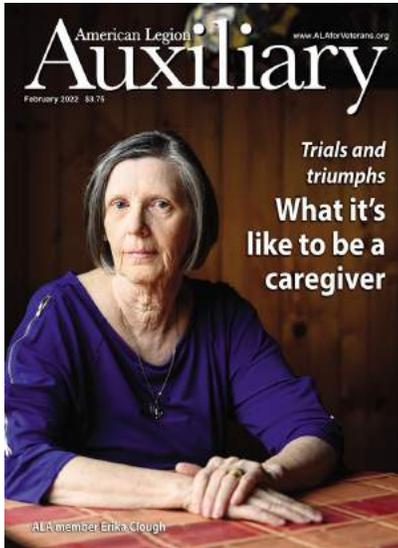
Listening to and performing music reactivates areas of the brain associated with memory, reasoning, speech, emotion, and reward. Two recent studies—one in the United States and the other in Japan—found that music doesn't only just help us retrieve stored memories, it also helps us lay down new ones.

So the next time an oldie but goodie comes on the radio, stop and think; those oldies but goodies remind you of who, what, and where?

Donna Smith, Department Music Chair



What better day than 2-22-22 to have a tutu party! ALA Unit 507 member Chrisa Moore made tutu head bands for everyone at American Legion Post 507.



Unit 252 Spotlited

Members of ALA Jackie Robinson Unit 252 Color Guard Renee Alexander, Anita Biggs, Sharon Moore, Cheryl Jefferson, Shirley Jones and Donna Grayson are highlighted in the February issue of *The Auxiliary Magazine*. Read all about them by downloading a copy at legion-aux.org/Magazine.

Community Unit 46 Initiates Members

After many years of inactivity, Community Unit 46 is now more active than ever.

On January 8, 2022, the Unit was honored to have four of its many new members initiated in a very moving ceremony. The American Legion Emblem was front and center as we described the four principles on which our organization was founded: justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty. The candles were lit and poppies were distributed along with our constitution, bylaws, standing rules, flags, and flag etiquette information.



L to R: District President Martha Romano, Initiation Officer Kathie Martinez, initiate Arelen Matteson, initiating Sgt-At-Arms Marie Whighan, initiate Martha Zaragota and initiate Zoe Snoxell

Following the wonderful initiation ceremony our newly initiated District President Martha Romano brought greetings on behalf of the Department of California as she made her official visit to Unit 46. Community Unit 46 is looking forward to once again being an active and productive unit for District 24.

Kathie Martinez, ALA Unit 46 Secretary / Treasurer

In Memoriam: Yoko Parsons-Crooks

Yoko Parsons-Crooks was 71 years old when she passed away in December at her home in Fountain Valley surrounded by her family and caregivers.

Yoko became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and became aware that there was no 17th District in the Auxiliary. Through her collaboration with Department President Anita Biggs and others, she was instrumental in reinstating the District and starting Chinatown Unit 628. She became the District's first President. She served numerous positions and was available as a mentor to others as she continued her work in the Auxiliary. She was honored to be asked to be a charter member of Unit 309 when it was formed.



When Yoko's husband Hugh became the Commander of the State of California for the American Legion, Yoko became the Legion's First Lady and the first Asian Lady from California in the history of the American Legion.

Yoko worked for Los Angeles County for 23 years as a Department of Children and Family Services Social Worker maintaining positions in Adoptions, Training, Emergency Response, and finally as a Supervisor in the Asian Pacific Unit.

She freely gave to others. Whoever encountered her would remark about her charm, intelligence and honesty. She was loved, and she will be missed.



Kim Vincent Featured in Valley Women

Read the heart-warming story of Kim Vincent.

This veterans' advocate may have moved to Oklahoma, but in many ways, the Imperial Valley remains her adopted home.

Read this article as well as many others by entering "Kim Vincent" into the search box at ivpressonline.com/valleywomen.

For your Consideration: PUFL Membership



PUFL — or “puffle” as it’s commonly pronounced in The American Legion Family — is a membership opportunity that demonstrates your lifelong commitment to the American Legion Auxiliary, allowing us to serve veterans, military, and their families well into the future. Many of our members consider their support of the ALA mission lasting a lifetime, so it makes sense that they also make a long-term financial commitment when paying their dues. They understand that this model allows the Auxiliary to count on a certain amount of revenue, making it possible to continue the mission and related programs. Instead of projecting one-year dues revenue, the ALA can project long-range revenue that makes critical financial planning a bit easier.

Auxiliary members are generally aware that National will in all probability, approve a dues increase (\$6 minimum) for 2022-23 at the National Convention in August.. This will have a ‘trickle-down’ effect on Departments and Units who will ultimately need to increase their dues, as well. Now is the time for members to seriously consider PUFL membership. If you are planning to apply for PUFL membership you should do so **before** June 30, as the fee is based on your current year Unit dues.

In addition to showing a commitment to the ALA and the mission, there are several other benefits to becoming a PUFL member:

- * Pay once and never be concerned about your dues again. You won’t have to worry about forgetting to renew your membership.
- * A rate change in dues won’t affect you. The PUFL rate is calculated based on the current dues rate.
- * The honor of being committed to the American Legion Auxiliary for a lifetime!
- * Lifetime subscription to *Auxiliary Magazine*

The cost of a PUFL membership is based upon two factors – the member’s age at the time of application/purchase and the total dues of the Unit at the time the application is processed. Generally speaking, the best time to apply for PUFL status is when the member turns 60 years of age. The application must be completed and signed by the Unit secretary before it is submitted to National with payment.

Consider the honor you can bestow on a fellow member or someone looking to join our organization. A PUFL membership makes a great gift any time of year. Families can get involved by purchasing memberships for multiple generations — think birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, or just because!

PUFL Trivia – 2021

The following PUFL data for 2021 was provided by ALA National:

Total American Legion Auxiliary PUFLs: 16,832
 + Male spouse PUFLs: 5
 + Number of new PUFL members for 2021 membership year (Sept. 1, 2020 – 12/31/2021): 566
 + Youngest PUFL: 1½ years old
 + Number of PUFLs over 100 years old: 304

For more information go to the Department website; the PUFL Membership Form and Fee Rate Chart are available for download under Membership Applications.

Susan Baker
Department Membership Chair

Important Information for Convention 2022

Convention June 23– 26

Pre-Convention DEC (8 am)	June 23
Pre-Convention Committee Meetings (9am-12pm)	June 23
Resolutions Pertaining to Constitution and Bylaws (75 Days Prior to Convention)	April 9
Resolutions Pertaining to finance (60 Days Prior to Convention)	April 24
Resolutions Pertaining to Other Matters (45 Days Prior to Convention)	May 9
Close of Books	May 9
Unit Department Obligations	June 1



**Save the Date!
April**

Children and Youth

- April 01: April Fool's Day
- April 02: Ramadan (beings) ends May 2
- April 05: Gold Star Spouse's Day
- April 09: National Former POW Recognition Day
- April 14: Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 15—April 23: Passover
- April 17: Easter
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 23: Army Reserve Birthday
- April 30: National Military Brats Day

May

Poppy

- May 01: Public Service Week
- May 01: Silver Star Banner Day
- May 05: National Day of Prayer
- May 05: Cinco de Mayo
- May 06: National Nurses Day
Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 08: V8 Day
- May 08: Mother's Day
- May 13: Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- May 15: Peace Officers Memorial Day
- May 21: Armed Forces Day
- May 27: National Poppy Day
- May 30: Memorial Day



St. Patrick's Day Fun

ALA Unit 257 President Pat Burr displays St. Patrick's Day sign she received from ALA District 29 President Carol Borgman.

The photo was taken by ALA District 29 Public Relations Chair Desiree Black at the District 29 monthly meeting and leadership training in March.

*Kelly Huff
ALA Unit 716 President
ALA District 29 Second Vice*

**Military Spouse
Appreciation Day
2022**

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day is a presidentially-approved holiday and is celebrated on the Friday before Mother's Day in May. This year it will be observed on Friday, May 6, 2022.

On Military Spouse Appreciation Day we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset.

In celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, the armed forces have special events and programs to inform, honor, and recognize military spouses around the world. Events range from spouse appreciation luncheons to educational workshops, and spouse employment fairs that pay tribute to military spouses.

Source: militarybenefits.info/benefits