



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.

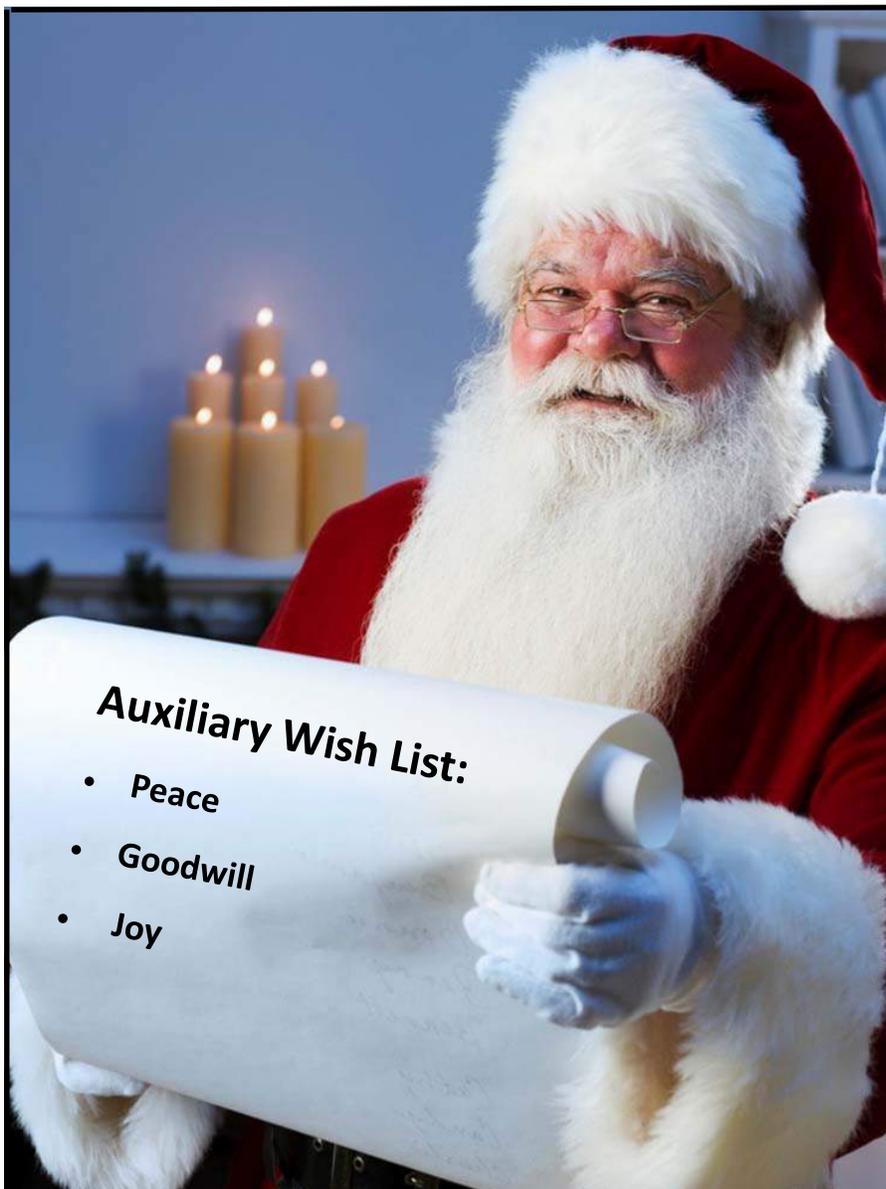
Vision Statement

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*



Happy Holidays to all of you!

Especially our Veterans who know how hard it is to be so far away from home.

***And to our deployed, thank you.
Stay safe . . . come home.***

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- President Glenda Schultz
- Vice President Linda Hayes
- Secretary Liz Doidge
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- Chaplain Patty Martinez
- Historian Erika Hernandez
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- Veterans Affairs Susan Baker
- Ways and Means Arlene Smith
- Ways and Means Com. Marcia Munroe
- Webmaster Lyle Workman

President's Message

Glenda Schultz



What a wonderful year this has been so far!

Our Past Department Presidents Mentoring Program, our Unit Revitalization Program and our bi-monthly Zoom meetings with officers and chairs have all met with a very positive response.

My official visits to your districts and units have been a heartwarming experience. Your generosity has been overwhelming.

*May you all have a blessed
 holiday season –
 Glenda*

The American Legion Auxiliary News Hub is the official publication of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California. Deadline for the February / March issue is January 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
 editor@calegionaux.org

Proper Parliamentary Procedure and Practices

Department Parliamentarian Anita Biggs helps answer your most perplexing questions



Q Can a member speak more than once on a topic?

A Yes, if during debate, usually maximum two times.



A Special Note of Appreciation from the Heart

Words are not enough.

Thank you to everyone for their donations and outpouring of love for my son-in-law Milton Bear Staton.

Anita Biggs

Zooming Versus Emailing

Questions have come up regarding using email for meetings, voting, and other official Auxiliary business. I hope this is helpful:

Question: Our organization uses Robert’s Rules, and our bylaws state that all business of the organization and of the board must be conducted during an appropriately called meeting. The bylaws further state that both the board and the organization can meet electronically, with no additional details. I think this means we can conduct business by email; another member is arguing that we can’t, that this just means we can use teleconferences.

Who is correct?

Answer: The member who stated that your organization cannot conduct business by email was correct. Under Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, the intent of allowing electronic meetings is to include the use of technology, such as teleconferencing or videoconferencing, to conduct meetings.

Utilizing this type of technology to meet maintains the characteristics of a deliberative assembly, meaning that all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate in debate without being present in the same location. It does not intend to allow the use of

email, whereby the members cannot simultaneously hear each other and participate. Unless specifically included in the organization’s bylaws, utilization of email to conduct your organization’s business would most likely be a violation of your bylaws.

It is important to understand that regardless of the technology used, the opportunity for simultaneous aural



communication is essential to the deliberative character of the meeting.

Therefore, a group that attempts to conduct the deliberative process in writing (such as by postal mail, email, “chat rooms,” or fax – which is not recommended) does not constitute a deliberative assembly. Any such effort may achieve a consultative character, but it is foreign to the deliberative process as understood under parliamentary law.

Linda Hayes, Department Vice President

Time to Recruit for Girls State

The season is upon us to turn to recruitment for the 81st Session of ALA California Girls State (ALA CAGS). The 2024 Session will be held on the campus of CSU Sacramento with staff orientation on Monday, June 24, and delegates arriving on Tuesday, June 25. Information about staff recruitment, delegate selection, fundraising, and more is now available.

If you *are not* receiving information directly in your email inbox about the ALA CAGS program please send a brief email to ALA CAGS Chairman Allyn Kau at alacagschair@gmail.com.

Remember to stay in touch with your past delegates; they are your best advocates. They can share their experiences, answer any questions, and help with Unit service projects.

Sherry Core, Girls State Assistant Director



Gold Star Mothers

ALA James V. Perneti Unit 166 accepted the call to action and sent 144 Christmas Cards to American Gold Star Mothers.

Gold Star mothers are women entitled to display a gold star on a service flag as the mother, stepmother, adoptive mother or foster mother of a United States Armed Forces member that died while engaged in action against an enemy recognized by the Secretary of Defense.

Ann Kelley, Unit 166

Auxiliary Unit 283 Gives Local Fire Station Grocery Cards

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 283 presented the two local fire stations with grocery gift cards to help pay for this year's Thanksgiving dinner.

Many may not realize that firefighters have to pay for their own meals while on duty at their station.

"While many of us are celebrating Thanksgiving with family, our firefighters are on call," said Joanna Curtis past auxiliary president. "And then I learned not only are they on call, but they have to pay for their own meals. It just didn't seem fair that they work on holidays, and then have to foot the bill on top of it."

Ever thankful for the services of the firefighters at Station 23 and Station 69 in Pacific Palisades, this is the third year that the Auxiliary has donated a grocery card to each station to help pay for the holiday dinner. The cards were presented at the stations on November 17.

"We chose the gift cards to express our gratitude to our local fire fighters and paramedics for their dedication and service to the community and to thank them for all that they do for us," said Auxiliary President Ruth Kahn.

As you celebrate this holiday, Auxiliary members ask you to remember those who

are working at various jobs, and those who are on duty, and give them special thanks.

Firefighters do have advice for residents for the November holiday: "Don't deep fry your turkey in the house."

Auxiliary members were also told, "We have many patio fires because of deep frying."

With the change of time and cooler weather, the firefighters also recommended cleaning heaters before starting them, checking smoke detectors and remembering to open the flue before building a fire in the fireplace.

Receiving the grocery card, Captain Mike McIndoe said, "This will be great for Thanksgiving, especially with the

prices now. Your support is much appreciated."



Members of the ALA Unit 283 pose with members of the Los Angeles Fire Station 69 after a gift card was presented.

Also, with December rapidly approaching, "Remember to water your Christmas trees," the firefighters said.

Auxiliary members know that many of the first responders are also veterans, so this seemed like a good way to show appreciation and express thanks for their service.

*Sue Pascoe
Editor Circling the News and
Past President Unit 283*

Auxiliary Celebrates Veterans Day 2023



Clockwise from top left: ALA District 28 Historian Rosemary Barron was interviewed on channel 8 television following the Veterans Day Parade in Salinas; ALA Unit 835 President Tami Bell's grandchildren from Legion Family 835 in the patriot spirit for Veterans Day; Palisades Auxiliary Unit 283 served 350 Veterans In-N-Out burgers (reported by Unit 283 VA&R Chair Deloris Artis); and Santa Clarita Valley Councilwoman and former Mayor Marsha McLean at AL Post 507 for the luncheon following the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Veterans Historical Plaza in Newhall.

Stay Informed on Legislation Affecting Veterans

The California State Legislature adjourned for the 2023 legislative year on September 14. No bills that were supported by the Legion were vetoed. Since 2023 is the first year of the 2023-2024 legislative session, next year will have a combination of “2-year bills” and “Second-year bills”.

□ **2-Year Bills:** Bills introduced in the first year of the session can be carried over in to the next year provided they did not fail passage in a committee. Usually, these bills were “parked” in their house of origin because it was found they needed more time for the various parties to the bill to work out the

bugs, reach agreements, work on amendments, etc. These bills need to pass out of their house of origin by January 31 of the second year. If a bill made it out of its house of origin in the first year, then was parked, it is not constrained by the January 31 deadline in the second year.

□ **Second-year Bills:** New Legislation may be introduced in the second year of the session. These bills only have that one year to move through the process. There is no 2-year option for these bills. All legislation that did not advance to the Governor by the end of the legislative year automatically dies.

Here are a few bills that were signed into law by the Governor: AB 298 Honoring Our Blind Veteran Act, AB 322 Veteran and California National Guard Supplemental Orientation Act, AB 988 Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act and AB 1350 Veterans Memorials.

To view all legislation text, amendments, analyses, votes, and status from 2000 to the present: leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml.

Donna Smith, Department Legislative Chair

VA Caregiver Support is Available

Did you know caregivers of Veterans are the heart of the Department of Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Programs? The Department of Veterans Affairs provides Caregiver Support Services (CSP) to caregivers of Veterans of all eras enrolled

Support Services is the core of the VA's Caregiver Support Program. It provides peer support mentoring, skills training, coaching, telephone support, online programs, and referrals to available resources to caregivers of Veterans. To

Are You a Caregiver? The Department of Veterans Affairs also provides a program for caregivers of Veterans called REACH (**Resources for Enhancing All Caregivers Health**). The program is designed to improve the emotional and physical well-being of caregivers while enhancing the quality of care for their loved ones. This particular program is available to caregivers of Veterans enrolled in VA care with

be eligible, the Veteran must be enrolled in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and be receiving assistance from a caregiver in order for the caregiver to participate.

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers offers enhanced

- Dementia
- Spinal cord injury/disorders (SCI/D)
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Spouses of Veterans (Post 9/11)
- Caregivers of Veterans (any condition or era)



in VA health care. CSP now offers two different Caregiver Support Programs:

- Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS), and
- Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC).

clinical support and services for caregivers of eligible Veterans who have a serious injury (or illness) and require in person personal care services among other requirements.

If you or someone you know would like more information on these two VA programs and the benefits available to caregivers of eligible veterans, please visit www.caregiver.va.gov.

For more information or to be referred to the REACH VA Caregiver Program, please contact the Caregivers Support Office at 909-825-7084, X6145.

There are some decided differences between the two. **General Caregiver**

Susan Baker, Department VA&R



ALA Unit 377 Juniors!

ALA Unit 377 juniors met on November 6 to make Veterans Day cards. Then on November 10 they all met at Scholl Canyon Estates, a retirement community. This was arranged by Cori Ramirez who also invited students from Our Lady of

Lords, the local church in the area.

The juniors handed out flags, shook hands and introduced themselves to all of the people present and then performed a song. After the performance they presented the handmade cards to the Veterans and their spouses. The juniors assisted the members with a flag pin and got some treasured time speaking to each individual. *The smiles on all the faces were worth more than words.*



Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was such a great experience for the juniors to see what an impact they can make. Can't wait to do more events like this!

Ashley Carroll, Children and Youth Chair

Community Initiative Lights Up Christmas Eve for Homeless Veterans



Paul Reyes and volunteers outside the Texas Roadhouse in 2022

A project which American Legion Post 637 members began in 2019 has come full force to ALA 383 to reach even more veterans. Recently Citrus Heights Post 637 Commander Paul Reyes contacted ALA Unit 383 in Fair Oaks along with other units to help with this year’s holiday Feed the Homeless program. The program began in 2019 before Reyes was commander, and is now feeding over 100 homeless veterans and other homeless in the Citrus Heights area.

Almost immediately following his invitation a long email chain grew with Unit 383 members excited to help, offering donations of much needed homemade beanies, clothing, travel size toiletries, pet food and more. One member has already knitted dozens of red, white and blue beanies and others are collecting additional needed items.

The first year, 2019, began with four post members and a wife, Judy Myers. Fifty pulled pork slider meals were provided by the local Texas Roadhouse for the homeless. By 2021 fifty volunteers helped serve 100 homeless with 50 volunteers.

Thanks to a couple of corporate donations small back packs filled with hygiene products, washcloths, hair items, and much more have been

purchased to be delivered with the meals. Unit 383 members have embraced this program working with Post 637.

All of this work will come to fruition on Christmas Eve. Volunteers will meet at Texas Roadhouse in Citrus Heights at 10:30 am to load up the food, water, back packs, etc. and then head out by 11 am.

To add to the holiday spirit, auxiliary helpers are encouraged to don Elf hats and other attire as they choose.

Volunteers will meet back at Texas Roadhouse no later than 3 pm for a final debriefing and a prayer of thanks.

Reyes says, “I guarantee that you will head home with a wonderful sense of accomplishment and it will make you realize just how lucky you are to have a roof over your head and a warm place to sleep.”

Judy Myers, who volunteered with her husband Ron in 2019, reflected of the day, “I have never had this much fun on a Christmas Eve as I have had today!”

Elise Spleiss



Unit 472 Teas Up a Party

A TEA-rrific idea! The George Tadlock eUnit 472 held its first virtual Tea Party which was a sipping success. Invitations with a bag of tea were mailed to all Unit members who were asked to share with prospective members, attend via Zoom, and make a donation.

Ladies attended wearing brew-tiful hats with teacups in hand! Hope it won't be oolong before they chai this party again. The fundraiser netted a good sum for the pot. Instead of 'thumbs up, ladies,' it's 'PINKIES UP!'

Peggy Toye, District 26 President

Celebrating our Dual Members



Rocio Palmero

Rocio, a dual member at American Legion Post 46, is a United States Navy veteran with 14 years of honorable service and experience working with women, marginalized populations and Veterans.



Bea Foster and co-chair Becky Mauger display some of the gifts.



Bea Foster Showers Babies with Gifts

Introducing Bea Foster, a 28-year member of the Auxiliary who is eligible through her husband Thomas Foster who served in the Marine Corps. Bea has been Children and Youth Chairperson for Unit 291 since 2012.

During that time, Bea and her helpers have sponsored over twenty-two baby showers for expecting military families E-5 and under. Most of the showers are held at Camp Pendleton but others are in conjunction with other military non-profits such as San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO). Bea and her co-chair Becky Maguer spend months planning, collecting, shopping for, and wrapping all the wonderful gifts for the expectant parents.

The gratitude felt by the parents is infectious, feeling that complete strangers would go to such lengths to help make this truly a blessed event. In between the baby showers Bea also organizes a Post Family children’s Halloween party and Christmas party both having 40 to 50 children with their families in attendance. And don’t forget April, the month of the military child. Bea works tirelessly to bring joy and happiness to military families, especially their children and embodies our motto “Service, not self.”

Cynthia Edes, Unit 291 Jr. Past President

Past Department Presidents Continuing to Serve

Department President Glenda Schultz stated it had been noticed that some chairmen were struggling with their program report and did not feel comfortable making a presentation, conducting their pre-con meeting or answering questions when asked. President Glenda did not want any chairman to feel uncomfortable or unable to present her program.

A Zoom meeting was held with this year’s Department Chairmen. It was agreed they would reach out to a Past Department President and ask if she would be willing to be a Mentor and help with their program and presentations.

Once they had spoken with a Past Department President, a list was made and the following PDPs will be mentoring chairmen this year: Melanie Taylor, Linda Workman, DeeAnn Graham, Joan Cannon, Diane DeLashmit, and Anita Biggs.

These Past Department Presidents continue to serve by being a mentor and providing a wealth of information and experience to the up-and-coming chairmen for the Department of California.

*Melanie Taylor
Department President 2004-2005*

Help Put Holiday Wreaths on Veterans' Graves

Unit 283 Purchases Wreaths

Wreaths Across America, a holiday wreath-laying ceremony on the graves of Veterans, will be held December 16.

This program was brought to the attention of Ronald Reagan Post 283 Auxiliary by Steve Chapin, who is the Interim Cubmaster of Pack 223.

“Our goal is to have the Cub Scouts place wreaths that other people purchase,” Chapin said. “I just thought it would be good for the Cub Scouts to honor those that gave their lives in protecting our country.”

The Scouts will place the wreaths on graves at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in West Los Angeles.

After hearing about the program, Auxiliary members, at their November 15 meeting, voted to purchase 10 wreaths (\$17 each).

Chapin said purchases will be tracked to see how much the group brings in but the Scouts do not receive any money for this volunteer effort.

“For every two wreaths that are purchased a third one will be donated for free,” Chapin said.

Nationwide Program

This nationwide program, which distributes holiday wreaths as a tribute to Veterans laid to rest at VA national

cemeteries and state Veterans cemeteries began in 1992.

Maine businessman Morrill Worcester (Worcester Wreath Co.) found himself with a surplus of wreaths as the end of the holiday season neared. As a boy, he had visited Arlington National Cemetery, which had left an indelible impression on him. Worcester decided he'd like the wreaths to go there to

is now observed nationwide annually on the third Saturday in December.

In 2022, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed more than 2.7 million sponsored veterans' wreaths on headstones of our nation's service members at 3,702 participating locations.

*Sue Pascoe
Editor Circling the News and
Past President Unit 283*



Unit 377 Participates in Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, December 16 at 9 am, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377 of Tujunga will once again participate in Wreaths Across America.

Auxiliary Unit 377 was successful in adding Verdugo Hills Cemetery, our pioneer cemetery in Tujunga, to the national list of participating cemeteries. There are twenty-four (confirmed) veterans buried there and each will be remembered and honored during the one hour ceremony.

Regina Clark, Unit 377

honor the veterans.

With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to go into one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

The laying of the wreaths went viral in 2005 and thousands of people from around the country wanted to do the same thing for their National and State cemeteries.

In 2007 Wreaths Across America was formed as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Its mission in laying the wreaths is “Remember, Honor, Teach.”

Since 2008 Congress has issued a proclamation recognizing “National Wreaths Across America Day,” which

Now is the Time to Apply for National Appointments

The application process for 2024-2025 national appointments is now open. The application window is November 1 to December 15.

The application is on the national website legion-aux.org.

Helping Kids Work Through the Fear and Consequences of Global Violence



I found the following (edited) on the National Personalized Education Program. With the things going on in our country, in other countries where our men and women military personnel are stationed, and the fear that our news accounts we see daily, this MCEC – Military Child Education Coalition – drew my attention. My hope is that you use this information when needed and pass it on to those you know who need it. It is not just for the military child; most of us know someone who was involved in one way or another with a school shooting and/or threat of a shooting. Linda Hayes, Department Education Chairman.

In light of recent global events, many are wondering how best to discuss these matters with children to help them work through it.

We need to acknowledge that our young people, especially our tweens and our teenagers, are going to encounter images that we won't be able to control — such as videos and vitriol on Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok — which necessitates proactively addressing the issues with our children.

The following organizations and tools are available for families, schools, and professionals to support youth communication, understanding, and behavioral health during these difficult times.

Helping Kids Work Through the Fear and Consequences of Global Violence Resources for Families, Educators, and other Professionals:

National Child Traumatic Stress Network **nctsn.org**

- » Talking to Your Children About War
- » Understanding Trauma Responses in Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and When to Seek Help

American Psychological Association **apa.org**

- » Resilience in a time of war: Tips for Parents and Teachers of Elementary School Children
- » Resilience in a time of war: Tips for Parents and Teachers of Middle School Children

Behavioral Health Resources for Families, Schools, and Professionals:

National Association of School Psychologists **nasponline.org**

- » Anxiety: Helping Handout for School and Home
- » When Grief/Loss Hits Close to Home: Tips for Caregivers
- » Supporting Children's Mental Wellness: Tips for Families and Caregivers

National Child Traumatic Stress Network **nctsn.org**

- » Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event
- » After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal

Military Child Education Coalition **militarychild.org**

- » Military Child Well-being Toolkit
- » PTSD, TBI, Invisible & Physical Injury: Overview
- » Well-being: Physical Well-being, Stress Management, & Mental Health Resources
- » Suicide Prevention & Awareness: Overview
- » Anxiety In Young Children: A Military Parents' Guide Through Transition

Additional Helpline Resources

- » **National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**
Call or text 988 (Spanish and Deaf/Hard of Hearing services available)



Blessing Wall: You tie a ribbon and say a prayer for your Veteran.

Tami Bell, President Unit 835



Fashion Icon: Ann Sanchez models the latest fashion trend featuring a likeness of Madame President.

Goodwill, Civility, Respect, and the Element of Trust

Is it just me or have you too noticed that America has entered a period of unrest and disrespect, which includes a total disregard for so many of the societal laws that have governed our nation for nearly 250 years?

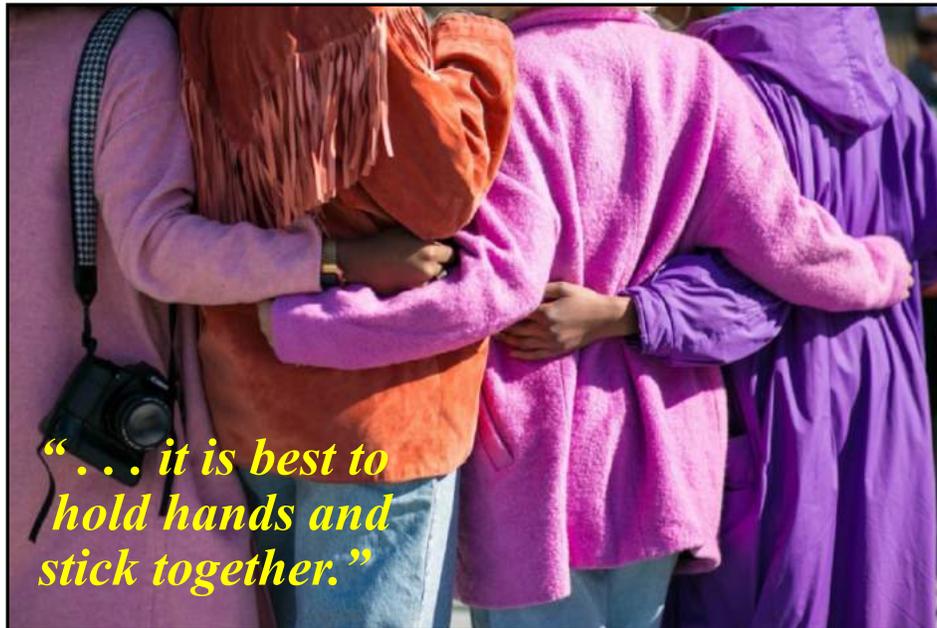
The unwillingness to comply with the rules has created chaos at all levels of society. The current prevailing attitude in our country sends the message that it is okay to be mean-spirited or hateful to one another; that blatant disregard for protocol is acceptable because no one will step forward to call you out, and you will never be held accountable for them. In today's American society consequences for bad behavior are marginal, with the miscreant receiving minimal punishment, if and when they are held accountable for the misdeed.

If we are to overcome this problem, we MUST address it head-on and in a manner that will bring about the return of civility, goodwill, and respect for everyone. Every organization has problems with civility, and the American Legion Auxiliary is not exempt. Creating and promoting goodwill must start and end with us! As Auxiliary members each of us is a leader. As leaders, we must be held accountable for our actions, not only personally, but on behalf of our organization.

What we do or say ultimately affects the Auxiliary. Therefore we must build a trusting relationship and raise that level of trust.

Trust is a two-way street. We must lead by example and practice respectful behavior to others, so others will feel valued. When

people feel valued, it takes away the need for them to act out in order to be noticed. And that is a root cause of much ill will in the Auxiliary. Trust begins with us. It doesn't matter what we say or what we believe, it only matters what we do. Our attitude, demeanor, actions and even what we say and how we say it are all under a microscope. Auxiliary members at some level, whether it be District, Department, or National, are always watching us. We



“... it is best to hold hands and stick together.”

must be the example of good leaders as trust also ends with us because all these factors trickle down to the Unit level.

Now you ask, what does that mean?

Members notice the actions and attitudes of officers and those who are in disagreement, bickering and not working together as a team. Members then become disenchanted and choose not to renew their memberships.

Violating confidentiality kills trust, which results in losing credibility. If someone betrays your confidence, then that person loses credibility with you. Betraying a confidence drives a wedge in your friendship, and you lose credibility and trustworthiness. The lesson that we 'share' means we also need to share respect for information that is shared in confidence. That is another core duty of leadership.

Badmouthing others is harmful to any organization. And what is sad is that it is often unfounded or too often embellished with things that are just not true. If we are in this for the good of the organization, then in the spirit of goodwill we must take the high road and lead by example.

Leading by example starts and ends with each one of us. The Auxiliary's future depends on our ability to engage,

communicate, and develop positive relationships with diverse people. Each of us wants to be known as kind, respectful, trustworthy, and a person of integrity. But we also know we have to earn that trust, respect, and the right to be called a person of integrity.

Remember those childhood lessons about sharing and sticking together? No matter how old we are, when

we go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together. And sticking together means as a team.

We are ALL in this together; we need to share positive attitudes and information, and we must show and share respect. Remember, there is no 'I' in team.

Please be kind to one another.

Think about what you say before speaking and imagine how you would feel if you were on the receiving end of that remark. Through the conscious practice of goodwill, civility and respect by all Auxiliary members, we will be able to keep the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary in focus.

Susan Baker

In Memoriam

Vickie Crow

Past District 16 President, Past Department Historian, and Past Department Public Relations Chairman

Valerie Hill

Department Public Relations Chairman

Auxiliary Member Honored by Veterans Commission



On November 9 the San Mateo County Veterans Commission held its 8th Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon. District 26 President Peggy Toye was named [Patriot of the Year](#).

Peggy’s Auxiliary relationship started in 2009 when her daughter’s Girl Scouts troop created holiday cards for veterans and deployed soldiers working with the USO and the VA. Her philanthropic focus emphasizes veterans and education. She marries the two by educating youths about veteran issues. She blends her various community organizations to benefit vets: Xi Pi Delta sorority in troop care box

packing event, Girls State Citizens service project benefiting veterans, her robotics team laser-cutting coasters for District 26 and Post 105, three Girl Scouts Troops donating gift bags, toiletries and cards to the VA patients, and more.

Since joining American Legion Auxiliary Unit 105, Peggy’s involvement includes publishing District 26’s website (www.tinyURL.com/AuxDistrict26), initiating the CAGS Candidate Selection Instruction guide, serving as ALA Girls State Liaison, volunteering for VA holiday ‘Adopt-a-Vet’ gift program and VA’s toy gift-wrapping events, and assisting in organizing the local 2019 Stand Down hosted by the PSI Lions Club.

Outside of ALA, Peggy has been an active Board Member of San Francisco’s George Washington High School Alumni Association since 1980, ‘Save the Murals’ team at Washington High, member of Philanthropic Educational Organization, PSI Lions Club volunteer, and San Francisco’s Guardians (local educational advocacy group) contributor.

Save the Date

December

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

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



Photo Judy Evridge

January

Legislative

- 01: New Year’s Day
- 15: Martin Luther King Day
- 19-21: Department Executive Committee Meeting