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# LEGIONETTE – A STORY TO SHARE

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Photo taken at the 06 2022 Department Convention

Laurie Diefenbach was elected Chaplain for the ALA Department of Nevada at the June 2021 Department Convention to a two-year term. Below is her first article for the Legionette

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:** by: Laurie Diefenbach  
**STRENGTH**

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nevada, has been blessed with many strong women. We would not have come as far as we have without them. For us to be successful in the future, we will continue to need strong women (and now, men, too!), as leaders.

G-d wants us to be strong. In the Bible, it is written: "Be strong and resolute; do not be terrified or

dismayed, for the Lord your G-d is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).

But sometimes strong women (OK, better said as women with strong personalities) seem to clash with each other. So how do we prevent that from happening?

At the 2021 Department Convention in Elko, we had a workshop about leadership. What characteristics should a leader have? One suggestion was humility; we can still be strong but understand that we do not know it all. How do leaders foster a culture of good will in their organizations? A suggestion was to be inclusive; ask for input. Mentor others. Institutional knowledge is

a good thing, but we still need to be open to hear new ideas. Another suggestion was to be positive and supportive of each other.

Lord, we pray for strength for our journey, tempered with an understanding nature.

Amen.

**DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA CHILDREN AND YOUTH,  
NICKY FLORES-NINMER ([alalvunit51@yahoo.com](mailto:alalvunit51@yahoo.com))  
(702) 540-6696**

**Key Program Statements**

- The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.
- To recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth, the American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.
- Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KD2) is an initiative honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to a war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment.
- The American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth program strives to support and promote the [Children & Youth program](#) of The American Legion.

**Looking for Ideas?**

ALA Committee Facebook Groups are spaces on the social media network for ALA members to discuss or share about broad or narrow topics related to each committee. Groups provide an arena for organic discussion about your local programs or services and present the opportunity to cultivate brand awareness. This is a place to share activities and events, ask questions, obtain information and promote Children & Youth Activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAChildrenandYouth/>

**Important Dates:**

Purple Up! Day for Military Kids is April 15.

**Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program (per division) Send to national division chairman postmarked/mailed by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.  
**Department Award:** Best Department Children & Youth Program (per division) Send to national division chairman postmarked/mailed by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.



By: Laurie Diefenbach:

Unit 51 participated in North Las Vegas's annual Military Veterans and First Responders Appreciation Day at Craig Ranch Regional Park in North Las Vegas. This year's event was held on a very windy day (when other events were being cancelled!) on October 22, 2022, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. The wind did shut the event down early.

Unit 51 shared a booth with Post 51, as the enclosed photo shows. We handed out coloring books and crayons, and pencils, all with patriotic themes, to children coming by. The Post handed out playing cards, and distributed Post 51 t-shirts to adults for a \$15.00 donation.

Despite the weather, there was a steady stream of veterans, veterans families, and first responders at our booth. We attribute the heightened visits to the event's Treasure Hunt, where each honored guest (veteran, family of veteran, and first responder) was given a card with the names of the exhibitors and were told to visit each booth and get the card stamped, then turn in a completed card for a prize.

Unit 51 has been participating in this event, along with the Post, for several years, and looks forward to doing so again next year.

DEPT OF NEVADA JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:  
 NICKY FLORES-NINMER ([alalvunit51@yahoo.com](mailto:alalvunit51@yahoo.com))  
 (702) 540-6696

## National Junior Meetings 2022-2023

If your Junior is 8 years old or older, we want to see them at a national Junior meeting! We are going to meet new friends, do a service project for caregivers, and have tons of fun! The meetings are on a Saturday, one in each ALA division. We cannot wait to see your Junior there!

Is the Junior meeting right for your Junior?

- Yes - if they are interested in meeting other Junior members and national leaders outside of their local area who share their passion for helping veterans!
- Yes - if they want to share great ideas with other Junior members across the country and learn more about what it means to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary!

Five ALA Mission Trainings and national Junior meetings are planned for 2022-2023. They will be held at the same time and locations throughout the winter and spring.

**Las Vegas, Nevada:**

Saturday, February 4, 2023

**Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino**

3555 S. Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Go to ALA to register today to attend the National Junior Meeting



DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA POPPY

CHAIRMAN: JUDY COBB

[cobbjim67@gmail.com](mailto:cobbjim67@gmail.com)

702-

612- 8982

As Poppy Chairman, I have chosen my project is to encourage Units to embrace the Miss Poppy Program. There are three age groups: Tiny Tot Miss Poppy, Little Miss Poppy and Miss Poppy. If you do not have a Junior, welcome eligible veterans who have daughters or granddaughters or your own family members to join your Legion family. This will increase your membership and educate both our youth and ourselves on the many ALA Programs. Read below the message from our National Poppy Chairman:

### Little Miss Poppy Contest...Unit to Unity

One of the under-appreciated aspects of the Little Miss Poppy contest is the way it can bring a Unit together to support the ALA mission. When you consider all the ALA programs that Little Miss Poppy can support, you realize that with the help of her Unit, she can be a shining example of how much we can do when we work together!

## NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETINGS

- **Poppy Program:** An effective Little Miss Poppy supports the Poppy program by promoting the Poppy story through the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the community.
- **Junior Activities Program:** Little Miss Poppy is a Junior member in good standing aged six to 12.
- **Americanism Program:** She supports Americanism by distributing poppies on patriotic holidays wearing her patriotic costume.
- **Public Relations:** Little Miss Poppy is an ambassador for the ALA and her appearance in public with poppies is a great way to tell the ALA story!
- **Education Program:** As a youth member, Little Miss Poppy can open doors to bring veterans into the classroom to discuss patriotism and the meaning of poppies. She may even find military children in her class to recognize with poppies.
- **Community Service:** Little Miss Poppy can attend Unit-organized days of service such as the 9/11 Day of Service or Martin Luther King Day.
- **VA&R:** She can support rehabilitation and healing of veterans through poppy arts, crafts, and hobbies. With acts of kindness, like joyful poppy arrangements, she can also support veteran caregivers, family members and survivors.
- **Leadership:** Not only does she embrace leadership by promoting the vision of our organization through her poppy activities, but she also invites mentorship!

Is your Unit ready to come together to support a Little Miss Poppy candidate for the *National* Little Miss Poppy title?

For consideration as the National Little Miss Poppy, the participant must submit a Little Miss Poppy scrapbook (8½" x11") containing photographs and clippings illustrating how she promoted the American Legion Auxiliary poppy in her department.

Little Miss Poppy Scrapbook criteria:

- Costume (there is no specific dress code or dress color for Miss Poppy).
- Promotion of the Poppy program: What did you share and do?
- Publicity of poppy activities (social media, newspapers, radio/TV, etc.).
- Narrative report on "What I Have Learned Being Little Miss Poppy."
- Essay on "Memorial Poppy" not to exceed 100 words.
- The memorial poppy must be visible in all promotion and publicity submitted.
- Neatness and creativity.

Websites to Know:

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Awards/Little-Miss-Poppy-Contest>  
[National Poppy Poster Contest \(legion-aux.org\)](https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Awards/Little-Miss-Poppy-Contest)

## NEWS FROM UNIT 14

**LD LOCKHART** by Rose Cirac



LD Lockhart, as a Unit, has kept busy since last administrative year's reports. During the month of May they presented JROTC awards to Clark High cadets. They

distributed poppies to customers at a local Walmart Neighborhood Market. Members attended the Lakes, City of Las Vegas/Legion Family 76 Memorial Day Ceremony and the Ceremony at Palm Mortuary sponsored by Legion Family #8. In June they were a community partner in the National Guard Family Picnic, where they three dozen raffle gifts for military kids. In June members attended the Department Convention. In July, they helped Operation HomeFront with the prep and event distribution of backpacks to military family, and those families with children with disabilities. In August members took part in Zoom Pre-Convention meetings. In September, a donation was made in their name to NV PEP for the anti-bullying campaign – where ALA #14 was listed as a Community Partner on PEPs website. In September as a Legion Family both the Post and Auxiliary donated money towards the Suicide Prevention event held at Nellis Airforce base. This went for food for up to 900 airmen at the dorms PLUS Nellis Fire Station and Security Forces – this also fit perfectly with showing support for Nellis' First Responders. Each month, the auxiliary has an ongoing project. They volunteer with Veteran's Reporter News to mail out subscription. In October they awarded their 1st Children and Youth Good Deed award. Plus, they donated gift cards to the National Guard Support Group for food during sessions. THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT MENTION WHAT INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS EACH MEMBER DOES ON THEIR OWN.



**NEWS FROM JUNIOR UNIT 14  
LD LOCKHART by Judy Cobb**



The beginning of each Administrative year, the LD Lockhart Unit #14 Junior create their own Junior gear. This year they voted to go with a red t-shirt (to also wear on RED SHIRT FRIDAY). They then picked out the fabric to use forming ALA. They also attached an ALA emblem, backed with a magnet, which can be taken off and used on other clothing if needed. The t-shirts were first washed/dried. A pattern was made. The applique was created once bonding material was ironed on to the fabric. The pattern was used to cut out the letters. Letters were then ironed onto the t-shirt. Viola! A colorful, unique, t-shirt that the Juniors can use throughout this administrative year. What makes this even better is once we get new recruits, they too can have the same Junior gear.

**DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA VA&R CHAIRMAN:  
MARIA MOSS ([menarik@earthlink.net](mailto:menarik@earthlink.net)) (702) -835-2982**

Hello Auxiliary Unit VA&R Chairman,  
My name is Mari a Moss, ALA Department of Nevada VA&R Chairman 2022-2023. I hope everyone is doing well during this difficult pandemic time. It is time for all of you to send me your VA&R Unit report 2022-2023. I cannot wait to see what you all done in your unit to support the VA&R program. If you have some pictures, you can email me as attachment, send it to me included your report, really appreciate.  
But I am sure we all can do it together, the best we can do to get our job done to support our veterans, the troops, their families, and to the community as well. With that I am going to challenge you and honor to have your Unit to do the best you can work with me in the interest of your Unit to support the VA&R program. I really appreciate if you can send me your VA&R report

to me via email: [menarik@earthlink.net](mailto:menarik@earthlink.net) The VA&R report due date, April 5th, 2023.

For more information about the Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation (VA&R) program 2022. Here is the link that you can find out the VA&R plan 2022 [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)

I look forward working with you all keep your great job, stay healthy and safe.

Thank You!

**VETERANS DAY EVENTS TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE SILVER STATE by NDVA**

>**Las Vegas** – Veterans Day Parade 11/11/22 at 10 a.m. Gass and 4th street. Veterans’ Day Ceremony 1:30 p.m. . Grant sawyer building  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-las-vegas-veterans-day-ceremony-tickets-443443319907>  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/nevada-department-of-veterans-services-16682660858>

>**Henderson** – Veterans Day Parade, 11/5/22, at 10:00 a.m. at the water street plaza amphitheater

>**Reno** – Veterans Day Parade, 11/11/22. Staging begins @9:00 a.m. with the parade starting @11:11 a.m.

>**Carson City** – rsvp will host its 2nd annual veterans day pancake breakfast at the CARSON CITY ELKS LODGE on 11/11/22, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

>**Virginia City** – Veterans Day Parade, 11/11/22 at 11:00 a.m. on c street.

>**Mesquite** – Veterans Day Program And Parade – 11/5/22, starting at 8:00 a.m. with the parade beginning at 10:00 a.m.

>**Elko** – Veterans Day Parade, 11/11/22, beginning at 11:00 a.m. along the standard parade route.

>**Tonopah** – Veterans Day Events, 11/11/22, beginning at noon.

No matter where or how you choose to honor and celebrate this veterans day, please make sure you do it safely!

