

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
HISTORIAN**

Bulletin #3 - January

Happy New Year's to everyone. Looking forward to the new year 2022, hopefully a much healthier and productive year. I would like to thank the Districts and Units who sent me their Mid-Year Reports. All that was reported was totally awesome, job well done. Please keep those notes for the upcoming six months so they can assist you in completing your End of Year Reports. We all are keeping our fingers crossed that we could meet in person for convention, that way all of your talented Historians can bring your Picture/Memory Books and also those Written Histories too. I know I love looking at each of them and actually seeing what I have read about in your reports.

This year we truly need to involve our Junior members in all of our activities so they can feel like part of the family too. In fact, there are instructions & rules for Juniors Only for Written and Picture Book Histories at the Unit, District and Department level. These will also be judged at Convention in their own category. While they do these Histories, they can also be earning the "History Patch". This is a great opportunity for Senior members to "Mentor" the Junior members while learn about the American Legion Auxiliary.

A couple of projects that the National Historian has asked for the participation:

The first is the "Member Remember" History Project, and secondly the Veterans History Project. This will require a Senior & Junior TEAM because this is a TWO-person project.

For the "Member Remember", seek out a long-time member, so you can highlight their years in the Auxiliary. Ask them to share their stories of being an Auxiliary member, find out what was the if there are one of the original charter members of that Unit. If they are, ask about their experience in starting up their unit. Ask about their "eligibility"

person, find out how many generations of their family have been members of the American Legion Family. Make a Video of the interview and also take plenty of pictures while interviewing.

The second project is the Veterans History Project. I have attached one of the flyers for this project for your convenience. For the complete Kit that is required to complete this project is on their website – <http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html> to download and save. All forms are “fillable” so all you will need to do is type in your report, save a copy and then print it out. It’s a great time for a Junior to interview a Veteran and have them share their stories about their service. All of this information will be collected and mailed to Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress, Washington DC.

There is no reason why you shouldn’t be able to take that important, impromptu or crazy picture. We all have phones that have cameras and we usually are never without them. Be sure to remember to get your Junior Historians involved too. This year there will be simpler instructions for everyone to be able to make up a Picture History Book and Written History too. They all will be loaded on the Website soon so you all can take a look and start those Written & Picture Books.

Just remember,

History is very important, without history, then the ones coming up or just joining our Organization won’t know what we have done in the past.

Keep your Camera’s/Phones handy at all time you never know when you might just get that perfect picture. And also have a small note pad to write down – Who was in the pictures, what were they doing, where was it taken and the event it was at.

Please remember – No Alcohol in any pictures.

Jean A Cooley-Desmeules, Dept. Historian
20600 Main St. #40, Carson, CA 90745
jeancooley45@gmail.com
1-310-871-9375