

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

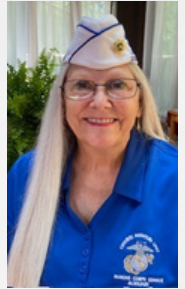


www.nationalmcla.org

Volume 7, Issue 8

April 2026

National President - Dotty Sanning



April showers may bring May flowers - but what do we make of April snow showers?

As we move into spring, please remember to check the MCLA website for any proposed changes to the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures that have been submitted to National Headquarters. Administrative Procedures may be submitted at any time, including during the National Convention. However, the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures Committee would appreciate receiving them in advance whenever possible.

During the season of Lent, I spent time reading Living Well Through Lent 2026 from Living Compass. One section that stood out to me reflected on "10 Guideposts for Wholehearted Living," including insights from Brené Brown.

Ten Things to Let Go of:

- What people think
- Perfectionism
- Numbing and powerlessness
- Scarcity and fear of the dark
- The need for certainty
- Comparison
- Exhaustion as a status symbol
- Productivity as self-worth
- Anxiety as a lifestyle, self-doubt
- Appearing "cool," and always being in control



National President (Con't)

Ten Things to Cultivate:

- Authenticity
- Self-compassion
- A resilient spirit
- Gratitude and joy
- Intuition and trusting faith
- Creativity
- Rest and play
- Calm and stillness
- Meaningful work and service
- Laughter, song, and dance

Letting go of habits that feel ingrained can be difficult but recognizing them is the first step toward change. Likewise, the qualities we hope to cultivate may sound simple, yet they often require more effort than you would think. Consider choosing one item from each list to focus on and put it into practice.

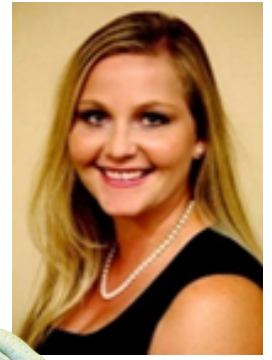
Small steps can lead to meaningful growth, not only for ourselves but for the strength of our units and the support we can offer one another.

Spring into it!

Dotty Sanning

MCLANatPres2024@gmail.com

From Ramona's Desk:



April is here, bringing fresh beginnings, warmer days, and those familiar “April showers” that remind us growth often begins with a little rain. As the season unfolds, we also take time to celebrate Easter, a time of renewal, hope, and community.

As we welcome new members, please remember that **all transmittals must include a completed membership application**. I still occasionally receive transmittals with new members listed but without the required application attached. To help us process memberships efficiently and without delay, please ensure every submission includes all necessary documentation.

Each application must include:

- Recruiter information
- New member's date of birth
- Clear, legible handwriting

April is also a meaningful time of recognition as we celebrate the **Month of the Military Child** and **National Volunteer Month**. We extend our sincere appreciation to military children for their resilience and sacrifice, and to our dedicated volunteers whose time and commitment continue to strengthen our organization and community.

As a reminder, **Volunteer Reports are due to Committee Chairs by July 1st**. Please be sure to track and submit your hours in a timely manner.

We would also love to highlight the incredible work happening across our units and departments. Please consider sharing the following, so we can feature your contributions in upcoming newsletters:

- Photos
- Event highlights
- Articles or updates.

Let's make April a month of growth, recognition, and connection.

Ramona Smith
National Secretary



The opinions offered by the unit (and the Department) Judge Advocate are but opinions. While they are offered by an Officer who is presumed to know the correct answers, those opinions are subject to ratification by the respective President and, on occasion, the convention body or Board of Trustees. The Department Judge Advocate has the additional duty of reviewing and approving all unit Bylaws.

I would recommend that all opinions be in writing and maintained in a separate Judge Advocate record that succeeding Judge Advocates may have the benefit of previous rulings. However, there seems to be no requirement that any opinion accepted by one administration is binding on another.



The governing laws for all organizations within the Marine Corps League Auxiliary (MCLA) are the National Bylaws, Policies and Administrative Procedures. The Judge Advocate should be thoroughly familiar with these documents, and those of the Department, to advise the President and unit on any questionable issues and/or problems. Assistance may be obtained from the Department and/or National Judge Advocate, when necessary.

Generally, questions in this area arise when developing and/or modifying your Unit Bylaws, policies, and administrative procedures. In addition, there can be questions regarding attendance at the Department and National meetings, processes for submitting changes to the Bylaws and policies, awards, and discussion topics for agenda items.

The Judge Advocate is the “watchdog” and “policeman” for assuring that the strict adherence to all three levels of the Bylaws and policies are followed. The purpose is to assure conformity to the letter and the spirit of accepted laws and policies of the MCLA in general, and to ensure that conditions of Charter and Incorporation are maintained. The JA should review motions and votes, eligibility of voters, and activities on a regular basis to assure compliance. Any discrepancies need to be addressed immediately with the Board of Trustees, and/or the membership.

Janice Hartley



INVITED GUESTS:

Invitations for the National President or other National Officers are always greatly appreciated! This type of camaraderie allows the Board to see how the auxiliary is continually functioning throughout the country.

Always invite your guests in writing – even though technology is proven to be faster today, it is much more personal to have a handwritten invite. My policy has always been to accept the first invitation you receive. When preparing your invite, it is important to mention the type of meeting – ex. formal, informal or social. Is there a dress code?

Explain to your guest what type of accommodations will be provided and what expenses will be covered – ex. strip ticket, hotel rooms or transportation. In most cases from past experiences, it is the duty of the guest to provide their own transportation to meeting site and home.

In some instances, a small gift or basket is placed in their room prior to their arrival. This gesture is small token of appreciation to your guest of honor. When your guest arrives, please have some auxiliary member ready to greet them and make them feel welcome. Be sure to have their correct name and title when introducing them.

Be sure to ask your guest if they would like to speak at your meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Tushy, National Chief of Staff



April News VAVS Committee Reports



Members,

It is time to start collecting the hours, miles traveled and all donations to the VA Hospitals and Clinics. Remember all the fun we have visiting with our veterans and how much they appreciate all we do. I personally love to see their smiles and enjoy listening to their stories.

The timeline for VAVS committee reports for Departments and Unit are May 1, 2025- April 30, 2026. These need to be sent no later than July one.

As a reminder VAVS Committee report should include only Service to a VA Medical Center Hospital or VA Clinic (CBOC).

VAVS Volunteer Form:

- Items provided to the VA Hospital/Clinic for veterans:
 - [List of items and their estimated values based on enclosure twelve] or actual cost.
- Total value of donated items: \$[Total Amount]

Volunteer Hours & Activities

- Hours spent at VA Hospital/Clinic: [Total Hours]
- Travel time to and from the VA Hospital/Clinic: [Total Hours]
- Miles traveled for visits: [Total Miles]
- Patient visitation: [Total Visits]
- Volunteers involved in delivering items: [Total Volunteers]

Send reports to: evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com

Note: Any donations or activities outside the VA Hospital or CBOC Clinic by your members would fall under the Rehabilitation.

Representatives and Deputies

Please remember the onboarding for VAVS Representative and /or Deputy sometimes require you to follow up with the VAVS/CDCE Chief to make sure the orientation and onboarding is scheduled. Each year we must attend Volunteer Training, usually given online, and it takes less than an hour and requires that you sign, send back, or hand deliver the completed paperwork. Please check your certification date and the date on your Badge as they may expire at different times. If you have an issue, please reach out to me. Thank you for all you do!

Semper Fidelis

Evelyn B. Joppa

National VAVS Representative



Northwest Division

The Northwest Division:

Department of Washington is scheduled to have the Staff meeting on April 18th. The Yakima Detachment and the Yakima Auxiliary Unit will be hosting. Workshops and fun activities are in the planning.

I had the opportunity to visit the Washington Yakima Unit in March. It was fun to hear about all the wonderful things they are doing and to get to know some of their members.

Front: Delva Lantrip, Sandy Falter
Back: Elsie Finley, Tammy Lopez
and Eve Joppa



The Pappy Boyington Unit, Idaho is very busy with fundraising events to be sure they have all the donations for Veterans & Community funded. The Auxiliary and the League work well together. The meetings are always well attended, and all members contribute to the action of the meetings.

Melvin M Smith Unit is busy doing BBQs for the Community Living Center at the Spokane VA Hospital and hosting a dinner and auction as a major fund raiser with the league this month.

I look forward to hosting the Division meeting by Zoom to allow more participation from units and members due to the vast distances member would have to travel to a location.

Semper Fidelis

Evelyn B Joppa

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NATIONAL CONVENTION LIAISON

The room block for the National Convention is nearing or is currently full. If you have not made a reservation and are planning to attend the convention I strongly suggest you contact the hotel directly (1-317-248-2481) to make your reservation. If you have any problems making your reservation or if the dates you need are not available, please contact me via email at natlpresmcla22@gmail.com or phone/text at 1-215-485-3095 and I will take your issues to the MCL to see what can be done to accommodate you. An overflow hotel is being looked at, however at this time I have no information on that hotel. ***If you have made a reservation and it looks as if you are not going to be attending the convention, PLEASE call the hotel and cancel so that room can be added back into the block.***

The Indiana Convention Committee continues to hold bimonthly zoom meetings. New since I submitted my midwinter report is:

- The application has been filed by the Department of Indiana Convention Committee for the Small Games of Chance License so we can conduct our raffles.
- The Convention web site **mclindy20206.com** and up and ready to take your registrations for the banquet and events. This will be a one stop/shop experience which means you can make your banquet reservation as well as registering for any of the events you may wish to attend/participate in without having to go back to the site. The total you see will include all the items you have chosen.
- Banquet seating will be done at the convention, there will be a chart in the Indiana Room for you to choose your table.
- Scooters will be available to rent for those who need a mobility device while at the convention.
- Bus transportation will be available to and from the events for a fee.
- The Convention Committee will be adding Know Before You Go Information to the web site as we get closer to the Convention.

The Convention Ad Book form can be found on the MCL Web Site (<https://www.mcleaguelibrary.org>).

The Auxiliary Convention Delegate Registration Form can be found in the Enclosures to our Bylaws and Administrative Procedures as well as in the Library on the MCLA National web site.

That's about all for now, as additional information becomes available, I will share it with everyone in future Newsletter issues.

PNP Linda S. Chamberlain
MCLA Convention Liaison
natlpresmcla22@gmail.com





Do you personally help a Veteran and/or their family which are not related to you? You can record the assistance that you give them, including your time and miles driven on the volunteer form Rehabilitation.

What type of assistance is considered reportable? Driving a Veteran and/or his/her family to doctor's office, hospital, pharmacy, or grocery store. Include personal visits to the Veterans in their homes, hospital, nursing home or state funded Veteran's Center or Soldiers & Sailors Home. (Individuals who are in VA hospitals are reported on the VAVS volunteer form.)

The key is that anything you do for a specific Veteran and their families that directly enhances their quality of life may qualify for the Rehab form. What is considered "quality of life"? Quality of life is the standard health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual or group.

Do you make Veterans day cards and distribute them to Veterans in the local nursing homes? Do you assist in a POW/MIA program at the nursing home for the Veterans? You can count that on the Rehab form. Have you escorted a Veteran on an honor flight or attended a greeting at the airport to welcome them back home after one? That can be counted on Rehab.

Have you taken a Veteran and/or family to the Vietnam Memorial Veteran's Moving Wall? Spent time with them during their visit or assisted them finding names? This can be counted as Rehab.

You are NOT able to include anything that you do or give to your personal family members. However, other members of your Unit can report time or money given to your family members.

Remember, all the things that you do can be documented on one of our Volunteer forms that we ask you to fill out each year. If you need assistance with deciding which form to use for all the great work and volunteering you do, go to the Bylaws and Enclosures and find Enclosure 11, this will explain a lot of where things will go and how to fill out these forms.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS!

Semper Fi,

Viola Trevino-Chairman

Violag.trevino@gmail.com

Mary Brief – Member

P.S. Hello Ladies, hope you all have had a great last few months. I'm adding this note to remind you to include all members of each unit, active or inactive, in your department reports.

Thank you again for all you do for our Marines and Veterans.

Programs of Pride

The Frank J. Carroll and Rocky Mountain Diamonds Auxiliary units proudly joined forces with the Foothills Young Marines to participate in the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade in Denver. Marching together in a vibrant display of community spirit and patriotism, the groups represented their shared commitment to service, youth development, and honoring military traditions. Their presence added energy and meaning to the celebration, as members connected with spectators and showcased the strong bond between Auxiliary organizations and the next generation of leaders.



Happy Birthday to our Fabulous Members with April Birthdays!

- 1-Apr Rosalie Bice
- 1-Apr Lola Cochran
- 1-Apr Rose Delancey
- 1-Apr Brittney Kean
- 1-Apr Melody Scroggins
- 2-Apr Kim Curtis
- 2-Apr Lyllian Rangel
- 2-Apr Elizabeth Rueppel
- 3-Apr Janice Chance
- 3-Apr Arlene Wright
- 4-Apr Michelle Petras
- 4-Apr Trista Sicilian
- 5-Apr Donna Lewis
- 7-Apr Yulissa Akers
- 7-Apr Trishia Fedon
- 8-Apr Pamela Beaver
- 10-Apr Patricia Johnson
- 11-Apr Charlotte Couris
- 11-Apr Teresa Flick
- 11-Apr Donna Rae Smith
- 13-Apr Melody Cook
- 14-Apr Barbara Carlson
- 14-Apr Ann Dekoschak
- 14-Apr Marilyn Wieden
- 15-Apr Ramona Smith
- 16-Apr Cheryl Bihl
- 16-Apr Lynn Ann Cortright
- 16-Apr Stephanie Jarquin-Wright
- 17-Apr Frances Blair
- 17-Apr Silvia Dolecki
- 17-Apr Kendal Munoz
- 19-Apr Joyce Burpee
- 19-Apr Kimberly Christner
- 19-Apr Loretta Hauser
- 20-Apr Lynn Merrick
- 21-Apr Sandra Beck
- 21-Apr Sirlione McElheny
- 22-Apr Drenna L Acord
- 22-Apr Sandra Berling
- 24-Apr Debra Hartle
- 24-Apr Marie Nateras
- 26-Apr Launa Maddox
- 26-Apr Pauline Wescott
- 27-Apr Doris Daly
- 28-Apr Jennifer Coolbaugh
- 28-Apr Becca Dalton
- 29-Apr Doris Castlebury
- 29-Apr Connie Riley
- 29-Apr Doris Roberts
- 30-Apr Deborah Iannicelli Ortiz

We love recognizing our member's birthdays and would never intentionally leave out a celebration! Please make sure your member profile in the MCLA database has your birthday listed by ensuring membership transmittal forms accurately include the birthdate of each member or by sending an email to MCLAHQ@nationalmcla.org with the information.



From Joan Kuhne:

I received so many Birthday wishes and wish to thank everyone who sent them. It was a great month and we had a big family gathering to celebrate. The girls, Linda, Mary, and Betty really had things planned for the day. I feel God has Blessed me and our family with many good times.



Here is a powerful moment captured of Debby Krueger generously donating platelets - an act that can make a life-saving difference for patients battling serious illnesses such as cancer. Platelet donations are critical for those undergoing treatments like chemotherapy, where the body's ability to produce healthy blood cells is compromised.

Her selfless contribution is a reminder of the impact one person can have in the fight to save lives. If you are able to give, consider doing so - your donation could be the reason someone gets a second chance.



Chaplains Corner

It was very nice to see old friends and make new ones at Mid-Winter. It was my first national as Chaplain and believe me, I learned a lot. I want to thank everyone who has helped me in this process. Madam President Dotty Sanning, Evelyn Joppa for her guidance, Angie Pitts my assistant, PNP Barb Nobile and Darlene MacCubbin for all their help, Debby Krueger, and Chrisy Ellis. Last but not least, Howard Schaeffer, MCL National Chaplain.

Precious Memories

Vivian Streete from the marine Corps League Auxiliary Unit #429 passed away February 7, 2026. Please send cards to her spouse:

Ted Streete, 4660 Seamount Ct., Port Orchard, WA 98366

Rest in Peace, Vivian

Neptune Society

OBITUARY

Vivian Ann Streete

JUNE 13, 1941 - FEBRUARY 7, 2026

Vivian Ann Streete, born on June 13, 1941, passed away on February 7, 2026, at the age of 84. Vivian was a resident of Port Orchard, Washington.

Services



Chaplains Corner Con't.

Prayers and/or cards were requested for the following:

Prayers were requested for Jr. Vice Darlene MacCubbin's father, Jack Jaxon, who passed away April 1st. Condolences and prayers may be sent to Darlene and her sister: Darlene McCubbin, 702 State Hwy T., Leopold, MO 63760 and Jennifer McBride, P.O. Box 28, Delta, MO 63744

Mary Anne Hunter of the All-Divisions Unit had heart surgery for the second time. Prayers and cards would be greatly appreciated: Mary Anne Hunter, 4430 Hillside Rd., Reading, PA 19606-8927

I received notice of the passing of Jeffery Gerard James. The Forrest G. James MCLA Unit has seven women (sisters and nieces) who are, members of his family. They are sisters: Mardi Heath of Mankato Minnesota, Kate Willaby of North Mankato Minnesota, and Mary Allbritton of Texas. Nieces from Minnesota are: Jennifer (Timothy) Lendt of Courtland, Joline (Robert) Nordlee of Lake Crystal, Kelsey Heath-Sukalski, and Carly Smith both from Mankato. This is a great example of how deep our Auxiliary and League roots are connected. Condolences to the family.

I received an update on Mike and Karen Frances. Mike had an accident when they were on their way to Mid-Winter. It was reported that he is resting at home and may require either a reverse total shoulder replacement or a different procedure. Keep this awesome couple in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: Karen and Mike Francis, 1535 Ridge Road, Jackson, MO 63755-3324

We have received a big "Thank You" from Cindy Atencio of the Rocky Mtn. Diamonds Unit and Elijah Abeyta for the many cards they have received after the passing of her father, (Elijah's grandfather). They could not believe how considerate our Auxiliary members are to those they have never met.

Thank you, ladies, for all that you do. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Blessings to All,

*Mitzy Abeyta
National Chaplain*

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Dotty Sanning	MCLANatPres2024@gmail.com
Sr. Vice President Mary Brief	marybmimcla@gmail.com
Jr. Vice President Darlene MacCubbin	darlenemaccubbin@gmail.com
Judge Advocate Janice Hartley	jghartleykdr@gmail.com
Jr. PNP Linda S. Chamberlain	ssgtnwife@verizon.net

DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS

Central Div VP	Patti Morgan	pattimorgan20@gmail.com
Mideast Div VP	VACANT	
Midwest Div VP	Jan Crowe	mwdvp2024@gmail.com
New England Div VP	VACANT	
Northeast Div VP	Karen Mastriana	mastrianiama@aol.com
Northwest Div VP	PNP Evelyn Joppa	evelyn.mrsjs@gmail.com
Rocky Mountain Div VP	Dale Wingert	DaleWingert1021@gmail.com
Southeast Div VP	Rebecca Marcel	SoutheastDivisionVP@gmail.com
Southern Div VP	Antonia Hurtado	rtaco68@aol.com
Southwest Div VP	Shannon Lopez	mclasouthwestdivision@gmail.com
National Chaplain	Mitzy Abeyta	MitzyAbeyta@gmail.com
National Regent	Lynn Cortright	lyncortright27@gmail.com
National Big Flea	Antonia Hurtado	rtaco68@aol.com
Operation Little Angel	PNP Barbara Nobile	pnpBarbMCLA@yahoo.com



Marine Corps League Auxiliary
PO Box 3038
Stafford, VA 22555-3038

Dated Material: April

Address Service Requested