

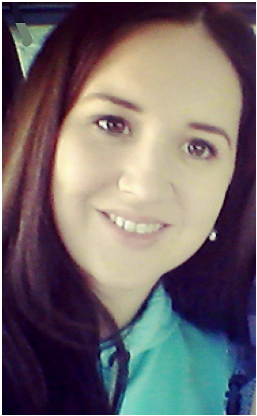
AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

Sunland-Tujunga Unit 377 News in a Flash

September — October 2023

President's Message



Dear Ladies,

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the hard work and dedication you have shown towards our mission. It is because of each and every one of you that our group has hit the ground running this month, and for that, I am extremely proud.

Losing a loved one is an extremely difficult and emotionally challenging time, and your support has not gone unnoticed. We recently lost one of our own, Bud Fales. Thank you Sharon and Mel, at Rise 'n Shine Cafe, the meals you provided relieved some of the burden on Amber. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are truly heartwarming. I would also like to mention Wendy and Bonnie, who went above and beyond by staying overnight with Amber to keep her company. Their presence and support during this difficult period have been invaluable to her, providing comfort. Additionally, I would like

to express my gratitude towards Sam, Judy, Peggy, and Rebecca for their assistance. Your willingness to check in on Amber and ensure the delivery of food and water at such short notice has been remarkable. Our Post Service Officer David is such a blessing. He too checked in on Amber and provided the correct steps to take with DAV paperwork, etc. Your efforts have shown a genuine concern for her well-being, and I cannot thank you all enough.

I want to extend a special thanks to the ladies who graciously set up and hosted our very successful surprise *Veteran Appreciation Dinner*. God recently showed us that some of our local veterans were in dire need to have rest. We have had this surprise event, in hopes to renew their energy and acknowledge that they are not alone. The Auxiliary hopes to show our deepest respect and appreciation in our partnership together. Kudos to Chef Peggy, Sous Chef Tina, Sous Chef Beverly, our Chaplain Laura (La-La), Judy, Olga, Elliott (Olga's son), Secretary Sally, Past President Rebecca, Sergeant of Arms Nicole, Linda, Wendy, Christina, and Rachel. To all the Auxiliary ladies who were unable to attend or anyone who was unable to be reached via phone, we truly missed you all. We look forward to planning another dinner like this with you all. Also thank you to Jon and Robert for helping throughout the night. **Scripture reading of the evening by Chaplin La-La came from Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

We have an exciting lineup of fundraisers and events ahead, and I wanted to personally thank Nicole for organizing the upcoming paint night on September 29th from 5:30 to 9 PM. I know it will be a fantastic evening filled with creativity and fun.

We are organizing several Restaurant Day Fundraisers. Joselitos has us scheduled for September 21st. Please make sure to take a paper or digital copy of the flyer with you if you dine-in or carry out. We will keep you updated on the details of future venues and dates. Please tell your friends and neighbors! For real time updates on events please follow our American Legion Post 377 Facebook page.

Our juniors have already started their first fundraiser, selling adorable earrings. Ashley, thank you for taking the lead on this activity. Furthermore, I want to extend my appreciation to Cory and Peggy for organizing the juniors in creating our new auxiliary desk. Your dedication and teamwork are exemplary, and I am confident this

new addition will greatly benefit our operations. The juniors truly enjoyed this project.

As a reminder, we have our handmade American gnomes on sale. Please be sure to check them out and see the bartender for more information. This is a wonderful opportunity for a joint fundraiser with our Post Veterans, and I encourage everyone to support this initiative.

I am pleased to announce that Rebecca, our Past President, has been appointed as our new function liaison for the Post. Before planning any events, please consult with Rebecca so she can coordinate with the Legionnaires. I have the utmost confidence in her capabilities, and I know she will do an excellent job in this role.

Finally, I want to express how honored and proud I am to stand alongside each and every one of you. Your dedication and passion inspire me, and I am grateful to have such an incredible group of women fighting for our cause. Remember, new ideas are always welcome, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need anything. I am always just a phone call, email, or text away. chandra.renee.young@gmail.com or (818) 983-8062. Thank you again for your unwavering commitment.

For God and Country,

Chandra Young

President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377

Saddles for Soldiers



On June 14th and again on June 28th, members of the Auxiliary visited the *Saddles for Soldiers* program at the *Shadow Hills Riding Club* (SHRC). This program, under the supervision of SHRC volunteers, teaches disabled veterans how to work with horses and eventually how to ride. SHRC has many programs available for those with mental and/or physical disabilities; participants work at their own pace and are always supervised. A licensed therapist is on-site to assist if/when necessary. It is a beautiful facility right in our own backyard.

4th of July Parade



The American Legion, the Auxiliary and the Juniors, once again, participated in the 4th of July Parade. It seemed like the whole town turned out for the parade with nearly every spot along Foothill Boulevard filled with enthusiastic community members. We are proud Americans and the parade is just one more way for us to let it show. "God Bless America, land that I love..."



Installation of District 20 Officers

On July 22nd, our unit hosted the District 20 Installation of Officers. There were over 50 attendees from the various posts and units in the district. Many awards were given out at this event. Unit 377, by far, received the most awards in many various categories. Rebecca Valdivia was asked to just remain up front to receive them all so she would not have to keep getting up and down.



National Night Out

The American Legion and the Auxiliary participated in National Night Out on August 1st at Little Landers Park. As a result, nine new member applications were handed out and we are hopeful all will become new members of either the American Legion or the Auxiliary.

Kristina Seward

She's in the news again! Junior member, Kristina Seward, turned eighteen years of age in August and could no longer be considered a "junior" member. At our August meeting, the prescribed installation ceremony was performed with nearly all members present that day taking a part in the ceremony. Kristina is the newest and youngest member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377. Welcome and congratulations Kristina.



Keeley Young

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 377 Juniors have another rising star. Keeley, age 14, received the District 20 Outstanding Americanism Essay Contest's first place award for her thousand word essay entitled *What Veterans Day Means to Me*. Keeley gave us the pleasure of reading her inspiring essay on July 22nd as part of the District 20 installation meeting. This award is given annually. We look forward to Keeley's future success.



Surprise Dinner for the Legionaires!



An "emergency meeting" was called for all the Legion members on 31 August, 1730 hours — but it really wasn't a meeting. President Chandra, along with the talented and enthusiastic ladies of the Auxiliary, planned a lovely dinner for the Legion members complete with Caesar salad, roasted pork loin, garlic mashed potatoes and green beans with bacon and onions, and several different pies for dessert. The ladies from the Auxiliary did all the work. It was truly delicious and very well-received!



Upcoming Events and Fundraisers



Restaurant Day

Thursday, September 21st, 2023
11:00 AM to 9:30 PM
Joselito's Mexican Restaurant
7308 Foothill Boulevard in Tujunga
Dine In — or — Take Out

Joselito's Tujunga will generously donate **20%** of sales generated with the use of the paper or digital flyer. Flyers available at the display in the bar area or go paperless and scan the QR code.



All you have to do is go out to eat!



Friday, September 29th
5:30 to 9:00 PM
American Legion Hall
10039 Pinewood Avenue
Tujunga
\$40 per person (non-refundable)
Includes 16 x 20 canvas, paint, brushes, potato bar and one drink.
Cash bar available
Adults 21 + only
Bring a friend!

Instructor: Nicole White

Pre-Pay through Zelle, Venmo, or PayPal @ 760-554-9632 Nicole White (notate your name for the reservation).

— or —

Pay cash at the door, but RSVP by text to 760-554-9632 or e-mail to NicoleWhite2044@gmail.com

Reservations must be received by September 23rd.



Handmade American Gnomes

Good luck, protection, nature, fertility, abundance.... What could they do for you? *American* gnomes are better than any other gnomes, especially when they are handmade by our very own American Legion and Auxiliary members. See them in person because each one is unique. They are waiting to go home with you for **\$25 each or two for \$45**. The bartender has all the details and can help you entice one (or more!) to go home with you. Great gift idea too!

Of Special Note....

Post 377 Legionaires have given the Auxiliary a space in the hall to be used as our office. Every office needs a desk and the Juniors found one for us. This desk was used but still had a lot of life left in it. They stripped and sanded it then decoratively painted it. It now sits happily in our upstairs office space. This was another project to help the juniors earn their badges.

