



# Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

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## MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

To: All Members of the Auxiliary  
From: Caroline Ruhmshottel, National President

**Happy Mothers' Day!** In Europe in centuries past motherhood and womanhood were honored on Mothering Day, Mother was the guest of honor at a family feast and was presented with cakes and flowers. In the United States President Woodrow Wilson signed the remembrance into a national observance in 1914, declaring the second Sunday in May as Mothers' Day.

Our Marine Corps League Auxiliary also honors motherhood and womanhood. Major General Lejeune honored the sacrifices and contributions of mothers and women-loved-ones-in-the-lives-of-Marines by inspiring our organization and by authorizing the honor of wearing the blood stripe on the skirt of our uniform. May you realize the joy of being honored.

I was honored to represent you at the Central Division Conference in Neenah, Wisconsin in April. What wonderful hosts you are! In May I will be representing you at the Department of Montana Convention in Billings, MT, and the reunion of the NW Chapter Second Marine Division Association in Hood River, OR. Also in May, PNP Ruth Moyses will be representing you at the Department of Maryland Convention, Rosemary Bressler at the annual VAVS National Conference in Houston, TX, as acting VAVS Representative, and Gerri Tuohy, our National Junior Vice President, along with our National Color Guard, at the National Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington.

Included in this month's newsletter is the Call to Convention for Rochester, MN, important information on our forms for reporting activities, and the list of National Committee Chairs with addresses for sending your 2008-2009 total hours, miles, and donations. Remember to mail your Department cover sheets before July 1 so your totals can be added to the national total of all of your dedicated volunteer work. I will be reporting your totals to the League at the National Convention as well as to other groups as I explain our work and mission to many during the year. You contributed 1,346,581 hours serving our beloved Marines and Veterans in 2007-2008.

Many of you have received our Spring Fundraiser letter. We realize that some of you have schedules or circumstances that prevent attendance to meetings where the seasonal fundraisers are announced, thus each member received a letter to give you an opportunity to contribute to the success of our National Headquarters and the many crucial programs and services that benefit our Marines, veterans, and their families. If you did not receive the letter please check with your Unit Treasurer to update your address and update your contact information at National Headquarters with an email to Pat at [MCLAHQ@aol.com](mailto:MCLAHQ@aol.com) or phone 703-207-0626. Let Pat know that you did not receive it and we will make sure that you get one.

Safe travels for all who are attending meetings and conferences. May your devoted service reach further and touch more.

Semper Fidelis,

*Caroline S. Ruhmshottel*

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National Web site: <http://www.nationalmcla.org/>



# Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

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To: All Members of the Auxiliary  
From: Caroline Ruhmshottel, National President  
Subject: Call to 2009 National Convention

In accordance with the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary and by the authority vested in me as National President, I, Caroline Ruhmshottel, do hereby issue the Call for the National Assembly. This event will be held August 3-7, 2009, at the Kahler Grand Hotel – Rochester, Minnesota, 20 2nd Ave Sw, Rochester, MN 55902

Please see event details in the next issue of Semper Fi magazine or go to the MCL web page at [www.mcleague.org](http://www.mcleague.org) and click on 86<sup>th</sup> National Convention.

**Purpose:** To transact such business as may properly come before the National Assembly; to present resolutions; to receive reports of the National Board of Trustees, Department Officers, and Committee Chairs, both Administrative and Standing; to elect National Officers.

**Representation:** Please reproduce the National Credential/Delegate form as needed, fill out the form completely, and deliver it to National Headquarters, 8626 Lee Highway, Suite 207, Fairfax, VA 22031-2135 by July 1, 2009. Every member is entitled to her vote and need not have a credential form on file at HQ, but must present a current membership card to receive convention credentials.

**Registration:** All members, delegates, alternates, officers, and guests must register to receive an admission badge/convention credentials. Badges must be visible for the National Guard when entering the meeting room for sessions. All members entering a session for the first time must sign in to receive a registration number to be used for the duration of the convention.

**Meetings:** All National Officers, Committee Chairs, and Delegates should make every effort to attend all scheduled meetings and general sessions.

**Committees:** All members of administrative and standing meetings should attend meetings called by their respective Chairs prior to the Thursday morning general session.

**Caucuses:** Division Caucuses, if needed, should be held prior to the Thursday morning general session.

Expenses: National Headquarters assumes no liability for expenses of any Delegate, Alternate, Committee Chair, or Officer, except as provided by the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures.

Parade of Colors: Colors should be registered with the National Color Bearer using the form provided in the April Newsletter. All Departments and Units are invited to bring banners and flag poles for display in the meeting room, and all who do so will receive a citation and streamer.

Amendments: The Marine Corps League Auxiliary considers changes to its Bylaws on a triennial basis, the next opportunity to be at the 2011 National Assembly. As you plan ahead please see the National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures for information and instructions for submitting amendments to National Administrative Procedures. Any member in good standing may offer such an amendment for consideration by the body.

Resolutions: This Assembly will consider a resolution to amend our Articles of Incorporation to add Aunts of a Marine or qualified FMF Corpsman to our regular membership eligibility as published in the April 2009 National MCLA newsletter. Any member in good standing of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary may offer a resolution for consideration by the National Assembly. Please see Administrative Procedures Chapter 10, Section 1010, Resolutions, Submitting and Processing for information and instructions.

Semper Fidelis

*Caroline S. Ruhmshottel*

Caroline S. Ruhmshottel  
National President

*Patricia A. Hess*

Patricia A. Hess  
National Executive Secretary

May 2009

To: All Members of the Auxiliary  
From: Caroline Ruhmshottel, National President  
Regarding: Forms for Reporting Volunteer Activity Totals

Many members and units have requested simplified activities report forms. The Forms Committee has responded with ideas to smooth and condense the process of reporting volunteer activity totals. The activity report forms are part of our Administrative Procedures thus concepts for change and example forms when possible need to be presented to you for approval. Because the hundreds of thousands of hours volunteered across the nation by MCLA members are the backbone of our mission and are one way to showcase our dedication to service we will dedicate considerable time at the National Convention to address the reporting forms before the body of the convention. Your input is crucial.

**Three important changes to reporting volunteer activity numbers were approved at the 2008 National Convention in Orlando:**

- 1) **A new Department report cover sheet**
- 2) **Departments no longer need to send copies of unit reports to the National Chairmen.**
- 3) **Units need only to report total numbers. No names need to be included.**

Only the total hours, times volunteered, miles, and donations need to be communicated to the Department so they can record them on the Department cover sheet. Some units have created their own worksheets for recording volunteer activity numbers. Feel free to use whatever is easiest for you. The old reporting forms and some interim forms may serve as worksheets and are on the Web site to help you with this transition.

If your unit or department gives awards for stellar programs and service you have the option to add descriptions of programs and those participating, however **these sections no longer need to be sent to the national activities committee chairmen.** Feel free to send to me suggested simplified worksheets that you have created. Note: Margaret Haas, National Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representative, has requested that you send names and hours of those volunteering for VAVS to her for this year.

Departments and units with no departments, the addresses of the National Chairmen for each Committee are listed below. Please send a copy of the appropriate cover sheet to each chairman.

<b>National Activities Chairmen</b>				
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Americanism	Karen Bressler	6500 South Dayton St Apt # F107, Centennial CO 80111	303-249-9026	k kb1959@aol.com
Child Welfare	Rosemary Foster	629 Hall Road, Silverlake, WA 98645-9792	360.274.6488	refostermcla@hotmail.com
Civics	Janice McLuskie	7614 Dennon Hills Drive, Charlotte, NC 28212-6580	704.566.8812	mcluskie@bellsouth.net
Girl Scouts	Sydney Minchin	304 Sarhelm Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112-3342	717.526.6180	kneedeep@paonline.com
Rehabilitation	Pat Bulger	77 Fifth Avenue, Fayetteville, PA 17222-1450	717.352.7446	patrod@embarqmail.com
VAVS	Margaret Haas	71 South 17th St., Richmond, IN 47374-5646	765-962-6729	N/A



Marine Corps League Auxiliary  
Southern Division

*Reaching even further*

The Southern Division of the MCLA has been participating in numerous programs and services that promote the interests of the U.S. Marine Corps, the Marine Corps League, and the welfare of Marines and their dependants.

Our Auxiliary members are heavily involved in their respective communities. They spend countless hours providing service at hospitals, nursing homes, and participating in child welfare and youth programs. Their hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed. Below is a brief glimpse of the activities that some of our units have participated in thus far.

### **Alamo Unit**

Members of the Alamo Unit attended a ground breaking ceremony on Oct. 28, which officially began the construction of a new 5,000 square-foot annex for wounded Marines at Brooke Army Medical Center. The annex is located near the Marine and Navy Reserve Center in San Antonio, TX.

Attended the Bronze Star Medal award ceremony for Sergeant Major/retired USMC, Hector Cerda, at BAMC auditorium.

Once a month, members Nelly Rodriguez and Diana Figueroa visit the Warrior and Family Service Center at the Brooke Army Medical Center, where they setup a food table and serve various Mexican cuisines to our Marines and their family.

The Alamo Unit celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Christmas Party. The unit provided hot dogs, chips, fruit, juice, and homemade cookies for 250 children and their families. Toys were donated by Toys for Tots, as well as from Alamo League members and the Alamo Unit auxiliary members.

### **River Valley MCLA**

I would like to recognize the efforts of a new unit that was chartered in June 2008. The Claude Rogers-River Valley MCLA has been actively taking part in many veteran and marine related events; that include attendance at: the Veterans Parade, Marine Corps Ball, Toys for Tots, and the laying of wreaths and Memorial Services. They also assist their local VFW with care packages for the troops in Iraq.

### **Williamson County/Cen-Tex Unit**

The Cen-Tex Unit has been very busy making scarves for Marines at Ft. Hood and making blankets that they donate to the Brooke Army Medical Center. They also prepare goodie bags for patients at the VA hospital in Temple, TX. Members donate items for Operation Care and

Operation Little Angel to the Annunciation Maternity Home and to Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center. The Cen-Tex unit raised over \$500 for Operation Little Angel and has sent care packages for Operation Care to orphanages in Bagram, located in Afghanistan. A scholarship fund has also been created for the ROTC at Round Rock High School.

## Heart of Texas

The Heart of Texas Unit has a name that is truly fitting. They make handmade cards and write letters daily for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. They attend Friday night dinners for local veterans and families in their community, attend a monthly dinner for blind veterans, they visit with military wives and assist them with babysitting or delivering groceries. Members also attend “ship” days to answer questions and support families who have loved ones leaving for boot camp from RSS Waco.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Major Pat Crawford (CO of the 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Recruiting District) presented Reba Webster Hollingsworth (pictured below) with a letter of recognition and commandant’s coin from General James T. Conway, 34<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, for her patriotism and support of the Marines and their families at RSS Waco.



## Many Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Auxiliary.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the detachments in Texas who have sent monetary donations to Antonia Hurtado, the Division President, to help recover after a devastating house fire. I would also like to thank the divisions for sending me “get well” and inspirational cards, after I was diagnosed with cancer. A special thank you goes to Marie Williams, past Southern Division Vice President, for filling in during my absence and to my assistant Dorcas Simpson for all her hard work.

Belinda F. Rischner  
SO Div VP

## DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- UP TO 37% OF ALL WOMEN EXPERIENCE BATTERING. THIS IS AN ESTIMATED 566,000 WOMEN IN MINNESTOTA ALONE.
- BATTERING OFTEN OCCURS DURING PREGNANCY. ONE STUDY FOUND THAT 37% OF PREGNANT WOMEN, ACROSS ALL CLASS, RACE, AND EDUCATIONAL LINES, WERE ABUSED DURING PREGNANCY.
- 60% OF ALL BATTERED WOMEN ARE BEATEN WHILE PREGNANT.
- MORE THAN 50% OF CHILD ABDUCTIONS RESULT FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
- IN HOMES WHERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURS, CHILDREN ARE ABUSED AT A RATE 1,500 % HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.
- 50% OF HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE U.S. ARE FLEEING ABUSE.
- THE AMOUNT SPENT TO SHELTER ANIMALS IS THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT SPENT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SHELTER TO WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE SITUATIONS.

### **I LEARNED WHILE RESEARCHING MY MASTERS IN THE EARLY 90'S, THAT THERE WERE LAWS PROTECTING THE ABUSE OF ANIMALS IN HISTORY LONG BEFORE WE WORRIED ABOUT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

Armed with this knowledge, there is something we can do. After my visit to the Brodie House in Rochester, I was able to see first hand the types of facilities that we have chosen for this year's donation. This year, we will be donating to four different buildings. One of these homes is for the short term, while they go through the legal process to see what is best for them. The second home is for women of other cultures who are in the same situation. These two separate homes allow them to live and cook as they would, were they in their own culture.

The third building is where Mom and children live for a longer time, (sometimes up to 2 years). The fourth house was used as a school building. What I liked about this was the fact that the children have hands on in all aspects of the education. They help with the lunch preparation, according to age of course, buttering the bread, setting the table, for ex. It was very helpful to have the opportunity to see where our guests lived and what their needs REALLY were.

As a child enters the shelter, they are given a little bag with crayons, color book and other items to keep and make them feel welcome. It is something of their own they can hold on to as they start this very unfamiliar process. Things like color books and activity books would be most welcome. (We can do this).

Below are the suggestions I would make, based on what I was able to see. Please note that I was not allowed in the actual sleeping rooms. But I did have the time to meet some of the ladies and their children. I saw all the other rooms in all 4 houses. The outsides are very well maintained, and were you to drive by; you would not know which was a normal family dwelling and which was the shelter. In the backyard of the one home is a large fenced in yard with large play gym area for the kids. At the time of my visit, the gym sat on lots and lots of mud. It is my understanding that the gals in Minnesota will take care of making sure that playground has rubber mulch for the kids by summer.

Shopping suggestions: Because the children will attend a variety of different schools in the Rochester area, the requirements are different for needs, therefore, they ask for **1.** scientific calculators **2.** Zipper binders (think about the different ages) **3.** Backpacks **4.** Glue sticks. (We can do this).

Keep in mind when you flee a home, you have nothing but what is on your back at the time. The children would need socks and underwear for boys and girls. Diapers in the sizes of 4,5,6 and pull-ups for larger sizes. With the stress of what is happening in their lives, training will be an issue. Wipes are necessary also.

One story that was told me sticks in my mind. It had been the plan of the home to launder the bedding after each mom left and perhaps use it again. That quickly became an issue. The mom's had not, in many cases, ever had nice new sheets or comforters and now are allowed to take them with them when they leave. So, I am asking for sheets,

blankets, and comforters for both Mom and child in twin size, Pillows and mattress pads are needed also. Along that line, towels and wash clothes are needed too. (We can do this).

The teens are often forgotten. Music is a great healer. A wonderful gift for the older kids would be the hand held CD players.

One of the things I noticed was the condition of the rugs on the floor. You can imagine with so many people walking around that they do not last. I would suggest the small area rugs, some larger ones, those types of things wear out so fast with the traffic on them in these houses. The committee is going to purchase a rug for the schoolroom that is used in preschools. They are bright and cheery and allow the kids to play on the floor with more fun.

They use throws on the furniture, which in most cases in the homes, seemed to be futons. Large throws for that use would be welcome. (We can do this).

Minnesota gets very chilly in the winter. Jackets, coats and sweaters would be most welcome. **Gift cards from Target and Wall-mart would be great.**

The ultimate goal is to get this woman a job and into her own apartment or home. When that happens, they try to give her the basics to set up housekeeping. To that end they would like sets of dishes, pots and pans: the usual household items we all use on a daily basis. Furniture is welcome; if you call they can get it picked up.

*If your unit wanted to choose a theme for shopping, I would suggest all cleaning items, all paper products, personal hygiene items and first aid items.*

I will conclude by sharing that the advocate who took me around on my Monday morning visit, was just excellent in taking her time to show me what the Brodie

House is all about. The security in the homes is wonderful and necessary. I look forward to your meeting the Ladies from the Shelters this summer.

I know that times are difficult, so I ask that your Unit and Dept give what you can.

Love from the Kids and committee: Happy Shopping

National Chair, PNP Barbara Nobile

Committee: PNC Helen Hicks, Tracey Killinger, Pat Engel, Geri Tuohy, Lora Woods, Janet Voltaggio

If you have questions contact me at [pnpbarbmcla@yahoo.com](mailto:pnpbarbmcla@yahoo.com)

Or call 515-537-2136



# Marine Corps League Auxiliary, Inc.

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## FINAL ROLL MAY 2009

Gayle Louise Gordon \* 2/6/09  
Torrington Memorial Unit, Torrington, CT  
Condolences to: Patrick Gordon, 57 Town Street, Cornwall, CT. 06753

Mildred Cady \* 2/14/09  
SSgt. Karl G. Taylor Sr. Unit, Elkridge, MD.  
Condolences to: Elizabeth Webb, Columbus, MD

Vivian Wood \* 3/20/09  
South Suburban Chicago Unit, Homewood, Ill.  
Condolences to" Kathy Simpson, 30 South Julian Street, Naperville, Ill, 60540

Geraldine E. Bender \* 4/07/08  
Keystone Headquarters Unit, PA  
Condolences to: Paul Waselewski, 116 E. Linden Street, Robeson, PA. 19551-1314

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Condolences to our National Convention secretary and her husband , Chuck and Lynn LaBerge who lost their son,  
Gary, as a result of injuries he sustained in a car accident earlier this year.

Condolences are sent to Christine Smolinsky on the death of her husband Stan. Sharon is a member of the Spring Hill Florida unit. It is reported that although very ill, he still worked for is detachment.

PNP Margaret Haas had placed her beloved husband Harlow in a care facility in Indiana. Harlow now resides in Arbor Trace, 3701 Hodgin Road, Richmond, IN. 47374, if you wish to send him greetings. Margaret may be making a move of her own soon, so keep her in your prayers.

PNP Nancy Galvin, Dept of New York, sends her sincere thank you for well wishes she received after her health issues. She was overwhelmed to get so many greetings from members who do not know her. Nancy has not been among us for some time, but in true MCLA fashion she is not forgotten.

National Jr. Vice President Geri Tuohy will be taking care of her Marine Jim Tuohy as he recovers from a knee surgery. Keep both of these dear friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Karen Bressler of Colorado is healing after her knee surgery. We received kind words from Marine Dave Pavey and his wife Sharon for cards and prayers following his knee surgery.

Prayers are still needed for those who continue to suffer or are in pain due to chemo treatments of other health issues. Those are: Southern Division VP, Belinda Rischner, Phyllis Tustin, All Division Unit in PA who had a blood infection, Audrey Roiger, Forrest G. James Unit in Minnesota who had a heart attack, Jean Tanner, Diana Jude, Spring Hill Unit in Florida for back problems, JoAnn della Badia, North Shore Queens Unit, NY for injuries from a car accident.

We received prayers calls for some of our Marines and those were sent out to members via email.

We ask for your prayers for the mother of PNP Karen Washabaugh, Lea, as she deals with some serious health issues.

Prayers for successful Department conventions are offered up for all of you.

I have listed my address and email below. Some of you still are sending paperwork to the wrong address or send notes to others that you do not know how to contact me. I would again ask that you send me an email as soon as a member passes away so I can get that information out to our members. I can wait for the paperwork to come in the mail.

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As we prepare for another month, the month of May, many of you will be involved in a great many activities. One of the issues I have seen through the years is how self-less many of you are. Putting your own needs and wants above those of others. I think you will enjoy this story... it is about all of you.

TRUE BEAUTY- For Mother's Day, a daughter had put considerable effort and planning into buying something very special for her mother. She had carefully put together an image consulting gift certificate. On the appointed day, this young daughter and her shy, plain mother went into the studio.

During the color draping and makeover, the mother confessed that she had concentrated on her family for years and ignored herself. Consequently she had ever even considered what clothes looked good on her or how to apply her makeup.

As pretty colors were placed close to her face, she began to blossom, though she did not seem to realize it. After applying the finishing touches of blush and lipstick to enhance her coloring, she was asked to view herself in the huge mirror. She took a long look, as if she were surveying a stranger. She then edged closer and closer to her image. Finally, open-mouthed, she touched the mirror and asked her daughter to come near. Drawing her daughter to her, she pointed to her image in the mirror and said, daughter, Look at me, I'm beautiful.

The young daughter smiled at her older mother with tears in her eyes, "Yes, Mother, You have always been---beautiful.

Remember that my dear friends, you are all beautiful in so many ways, always have been, always will be. Yes it would be nice to be told once in a while, but the Lord made you beautiful. Know that in your heart.

Respectfully Submitted,

National Chaplain, PNP Barbara Nobile

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**MAY 2009**



Memorial Day  
May 25th

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FOR YOUR UNIT MEMBERS**

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