

Hello & Aloha Western Division Leadership Chairs:

1. You should have each received a phone call and/or email from me requesting an easy-peasy bullet point update on your Department activities so far this fiscal year. Thank you to those of you who have provided that. If you haven't yet, **please do so by January 12th**. Again, we are looking for things like:
 - Has your Department been able to hold any in-person or virtual training sessions?
 - Have you been able to engage your Junior members in the leadership program?
 - Are you communicating with your Units and are you getting any feedback from Units that you want to share?
 - Is there anything I or the National organization can do to help your leadership program?
2. **Please plan to attend the Jan 23 (7:30 Eastern) Quarterly Zoom meeting.** Here's the registration link: https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/leadership_q2_2023_2024 If you cannot attend, please consider having a suitable substitute take your place. I will be following up with any Department not registered, so appreciate your attention to this registration invitation.
3. I would be happy to schedule **Western Division (only) Department Leadership Zoom sessions** if there is interest (in addition to the quarterly "All Department" sessions). Please provide your thoughts!
4. Are you and your Juniors coming to **National Mission Training in Las Vegas on Jan 27**? You could also consider Nashville or Lincoln on Feb 3!
5. And finally, in case you missed it: below are other important dates and information that are repeated from last month's newsletter:
 - **February** (or earlier!):
 - Please start encouraging your Units to submit a "Member of the Year" nomination to your department.
 - Nominations are open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
 - Units submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less about their chosen candidate to you or to whomever your department designates. The narrative should describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address.
 - Once the winning candidate is selected, you or your department's designee will submit only one entry using the online form. Please include the unit's winning narrative when submitting this form. **Entry is due June 1st** and must be entered by your department. Form and other information can be found here: <https://member.legion-aux.org/unit-member-of-the-year>
 - Please start encouraging your Units to submit a "Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program" nomination.
 - Units will submit a narrative to you or your department's designee for your evaluation.
 - Once the winning nomination is selected, department entries must be submitted by you via electronic form by 5 p.m. EST on June 1. Please include the unit's winning narrative when submitting this form.
 - You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.
 - National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>
 - Provide your Units with "Year-end reporting forms" to help you with your department reporting due to me by May 15.
 - **March:** March is Women's History month. It is a great time to celebrate the contributions women leaders have made over the course of American History.
 - **April 23:** Quarterly Leadership Zoom session---7:30 Eastern
 - **May 15:** Overall Department Year-end reporting due to me
 - **June 1:** Awards nominations due-- including Department Narrative for Best Department Leadership Program. *I hope to see an entry from every single one of you!*

Warmest regards on these short winter days!

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Marge Christianson

Western Division Leadership Chair