

What is the Twenty & Four?

It is the Honor Society of Women members of *The American Legion*. Our members are active and productive Legionnaires who strive earnestly to uphold the principles, aims, purposes and programs of *The American Legion*.

Membership Eligibility

A woman member of *The American Legion* who has, in the judgment of the Echelon, rendered outstanding service through active leadership as a Post officer, a committee chairman or other service in the programs of *The American Legion*. She must be in good standing for a continuous period of at least twelve months immediately prior to the date of her application and whose Legion dues are paid for the current year.

Membership is solely by invitation and the Echelon will be the judge of nominees subject to the restrictions of the Bylaws of the Echelon and the National Constitution and Bylaws.

What is the Purpose of the Twenty & Four?

Our charter is to aid women veterans wherever they may be and in whatever way they need. Since our members are all members of *The American Legion*, we also support the activities of the Legion. These good works are ongoing and conducted by our members nationwide in Service to God and Country.

A primary goal is to assist disabled and needy women veterans and women in the U.S. Armed Forces. We contact these women through VA outreach and programs in the community and through referrals.

We provide assistance with VA disability claims, referrals to community programs, employment, housing, clothing and personal care items, and financial assistance.

We provide referrals and emotional support for victims of sexual assault.

We send care packages to active duty women overseas as well as support through letters and E-mail.

We provide assistance and comfort to women veterans in hospitals and nursing homes. We visit and call, providing personal care items as needed and loving friendship.



We carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of women veterans who were pioneers in non-traditional career fields and who blazed the way for equality for women in the Armed Forces. We do this to educate young people about the hardships that women encountered in earlier days. We make speeches and set up displays for Women's History Month and Veterans Day celebrations at military bases, schools, and other venues when available.

We promote the programs of *The American Legion*, supporting aid to veterans and active duty service members, their families and the community. We do this through fundraising, recruiting and participating in local post and community activities.

Why Was It Organized?

The **Twenty & Four** was started as an Honor Society to recognize in a special way the achievements of the women members of *The American Legion*. These women, in increasing numbers, through their contributions of work, time, and talent have won election to various offices in Post, County, District, Area and Department levels. They are also visible in National offices and committees.

The Name

There were twenty women present at the first meeting of Echelon No. 1 in California and that number could be seated comfortably in four jeeps. Hence the organization became the Twenty (women) and Four (jeeps). The famous World War II Jeep became our emblem since it was universally known and used by all services.



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Who are the Top Hats?

The Top Hats are the Auxiliary of the **Twenty & Four**. Legionnaires, and in some states members of the *American Legion Auxiliary* and *Sons of The American Legion* are eligible to join. They receive a membership card and a Top Hat Pin.

We provide social activities for the Top Hats mainly with banquets and entertainment at Department Conventions.



Scholarships

The National Society offers a \$1,000 scholarship each year to a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member of the **Twenty & Four** or to a current member who wishes to return to the workplace and needs further education to do so.

More details of the requirements for the scholarship can be obtained from a local Echelon member.



National Twenty & Four The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires

