



THE NATIONAL JEEP

The Official Publication of The National Twenty and Four
Honor Society of Women Legionnaires

JUNE 2023

www.twentyandfour.org



Marilyn Rideaux, Editor

Ethel Matuschka, Editor Emeritus

“NATIONAL BIVOUAC – 2023”

By Bobbie Kimelton, Bivouac Chair

Just a short note to bring you up to date on the 67th Annual Bivouac (I don't know if it is the 67th, but I decided to take Marilyn's word for it from last year). Fortunately, this year's Bivouac is being held at the Charlotte Convention Center in Rooms 217 and 218 on the Meeting Level, so it is convenient to other activities. I have included information about the Bivouac in this issue. Please pay attention to where to send your reservations and the options for submitting payment. In addition to accepting payment by mail, we can accept Zelle payments if that is more convenient.

Please note that you actually have four meal choices this year. Two of the choices are “meat” R choices, and two of the choices are “vegetarian.” Please select one choice for each attendee. If you are paying for more than one attendee, please list your guests' names on the form. Additionally, you will see that we will be providing a continental breakfast for participants at the meeting on August 24th and/or August 25th, please let us know if you plan on attending and if you want breakfast. I'm sure some of you are asking why we are spending money for breakfast. Ultimately it was cheaper to provide coffee, decaf, tea and water by purchasing the breakfast than paying for its ala carte. It is important that you know: **YOU MAY NOT BRING DRINK OR FOOD INTO THE CONVENTION CENTER** so this is the most cost-effective way to make sure we can provide beverage service. Presently, we are counting on 70 total attendees at Bivouac Banquet and 30 individuals for the meetings (continental breakfast). If you plan on attending, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can keep the convention center updated regarding numbers. **Don't forget the deadline for reservations is August 15, 2023.** On August 25, 2023, beginning at 5:00 p.m. there will be a NO HOST BAR in room 218 for everyone's convenience. Please don't forget to take care of your bartender.

BIVOUAC: ROOM 217 MEETING LEVEL

The Bivouac will start on-site check in and issue badges to delegates/alternate delegates, Cadre members and National Officers at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday August 24th outside of the meeting room. Please take advantage of the continental breakfast (assuming you told us you wanted breakfast). Please make sure you provide the names of any deceased members of your Echelon for the Memorial Tribute when you register.

CALL to 67th ANNUAL NATIONAL BIVOUAC

AUGUST 24 – 25, 2023

Charlotte, NC



PURPOSE

- *To elect National Officers
- *To amend the National Constitution and Bylaws if necessary
- *To transact such business as necessary
- *To meet and enjoy one another's company

REPRESENTATION

The Bivouac shall be composed of delegates from all Echelons. Each Echelon shall be entitled to five (5) delegates and five alternates, plus one additional delegate and alternate for each fifty (50) paid members. All Echelons that are in good standing by **July 15, 2023**, will be entitled to representation at the Bivouac. Members of the National Cadre from each Echelon shall be delegates to the National Bivouac with the right of the vote. This vote shall be exercised with their respective Echelons.

Echelons (all)

50 + members

76 thru 125 members

5 delegates and 5 alternates

1 additional delegate and alternate

2 additional delegates and alternates

DELEGATES

Only paid-up members for the year 2023 are entitled to be a member of the Cadre, a Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the Bivouac. A member is paid up when \$13.00 per capita for the current year has been received by the National Aide 40 days (**July 15, 2023**) prior to the National Bivouac. No per capita will be accepted for Bivouac count after that date nor will any Jeepette be listed on the Bivouac registry or receive a Bivouac badge.

CREDENTIALS

Blank forms will be furnished to all Echelon Aides. The credentials form (Delegate/Alternate Registration Form) must be returned to the National Aide by **August 7, 2023**. Accompanying the Credential form shall be a check in payment as per this schedule: \$10.00 for the Echelon and \$5.00 for each Jeepette listed on the form. If a Jeepette is deemed to be filling more than one position, do not list her twice. She is to be listed **ONLY IN THE HIGHEST POSITION**. That is: Past National Director, Current National Officer, National Cadre Member, Echelon Delegate and finally, Alternate Delegate. **ALL** positions require \$5.00 for each Jeepette listed.

Delegate/Alternate Delegate badges will be issued at the Bivouac for all Jeepettes registered. In extenuating circumstances, registration corrections may be made by the National Aide and Echelon Officers must be present. The Echelon must have been registered and fees paid **PRIOR** to arrival at Bivouac.

(National Bivouac: Kimelton – continued from Cover Page)

Please come prepared to financially support the fundraisers. If you have a 20 & 4 shirt, we want to see it. We will be taking photos on Friday so please wear your red coat/jacket or bring it with you.

HOTEL ROOMS:

Echelon members will need to make reservations at the hotel assigned to their Legion Department. Because we will be meeting at the Charlotte Convention Center, we did not reserve a block of rooms. If you have difficulty obtaining a room, please let us know and we will see if we can help you out, but you are responsible for securing your own accommodation.

COMMITTEE:

I am still looking for members to assist with registration on August 24 and 25, 2023. If you plan on attending and can assist me, please contact me at roberta1552@msn.com or call me at 623 738 9755.

Earnestine Doubek National Aide

Dear Jeepettes,



It is my pleasure to serve you and hope all are doing well. I have had some interesting questions asked of me. I hope my answers were extraordinarily satisfactory. Echelon Aides, I sent you your membership cards for 2024. Please let me know if you have not received them by the time this newsletter is out. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or text 708 691-2447, or email me at ewdoubek@yahoo.com. Also, I hope you are planning to attend the annual Bivouac in Charlotte, NC in August.

With the annual Bivouac rapidly approaching, we need to set our plans in place so things will go smoothly and seamlessly.

Echelon Aides I am asking you to submit your **Report to Annual Bivouac by July 15, 2022**. You can submit it by email or snail mail. Last year we had a fair number of Echelons who did not respond. It would be nice to have 100% participation. Also, send me your officer certification for 2023-2024. The next biggest thing is to have your Bivouac registration into me by **August 10, 2023**. It is important for these registrations to be submitted on time.

Remember, all Echelons have a minimum of 5 delegates and 5 alternates and one additional delegate and alternate for each additional 50 members. Report to Bivouac, officer certification, and registration forms was emailed to all Echelon Aides recently. They may also be found on the website, www.twentyandfour.org. If you need me to snail mail them to you, reach out to me via phone, text, or email.

MEMBERSHIP

ECHELON	2023 Goal	New Members	2023 Members	Percent
50-AL	17	4	18	100.6
29-AK	12	1	12	100
35-AZ	40	11	39	98
01-CA	44	9	50	114
05-FL		0		0
30-FL	15	0	11	73.3
08-IL	26	8	28	100.8
02-MA	13	0	8	62
09-MT	30	8	32	106.7
27-NC	30	0	0	0
31-TX	21	6	32	152.4
24-VA	12	2	19	158.3
03-WA	13	0	9	69
11-WI	9	1	6	67
TOTAL	282	51	264	92.46

Mildred S. Wright-Pearson
National Jr. Vice Director



It is my hope that all of you had a wonderful Mother's Day whether you are a mother, your mother/grandmother is still with us, or they have passed. Although I am not a mother and my mother has passed, my nephew sent me Mother's Day wishes as the "mom" of my four legged "children." They are my children!!

As National 20 & 4 Junior Vice Director, my fundraising projects are still in full swing. Remember, your help in this endeavor helps our organization to assist all women veterans in need. Please try to contribute to this worthwhile activity. If you read our Preamble, in part it states: "to promote the welfare of all women veterans in hospitals and elsewhere who are in need of assistance." That is what we, as Jeepettes, are about. Your aid is vital to ensure we take appropriate action to stand up for this membership standard – helping women veterans.

With costs rising and income at a standstill, we may see an increased need to assist those with fixed incomes. Energy bills are high – even with solar. Food costs are outrageous – look at the costs of eggs caused by the avian flu crisis. Our way to help our sisters in arms is to contribute to our fundraising activities.

I am asking that all Echelons bring a raffle/auction item to our National Bivouac. This will assist all of us in reaching the goal that supports our fundraising activities for the year. The quilt drawing will be held at our National Bivouac and some lucky individual will have a queen-sized quilt for herself (or a top hat), a raffle prize for their own drawing, or as a donation to a worthy cause. The Challenge coins are strictly for 20 & 4 and top hat members. Please see the order forms for both in this month's newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to date.

Be safe, stay healthy, and I hope to see you in August at our National Bivouac. Until then.

67th Annual Bivouac Banquet

Charlotte Convention Center/NASCAR Hall of Fame
501 South College Street | Charlotte, NC 28202
Rooms 214 Meeting Level: Meetings
Room 218 Meeting Level: Bivouac

A Bivouac Breakfast will be served on Thursday and Friday, August 24th and 25th, 2023, at the Charlotte Convention Center before the meeting at 7:30 am.

The Bivouac Banquet is also at the Convention Center on Friday evening, August 25, 2023. **ALL BANQUET RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE. NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.**



Chicken Marsala: Sauteed chicken breast, wild mushrooms, parmesan-creamed new potatoes, and seasonal vegetables

OR

Niman Ranch Pork: Bourbon-grilled pork chop, caramelized sweet potatoes, and cider-braised greens

Vegetarian:

Eggplant Parmesan: Pomodoro sauce, ricotta cannelloni on sauteed baby spinach

OR

Stuffed Sweet Pepper: Filled with brown rice, quinoa, black beans, and corn alongside roasted potatoes, grilled asparagus, spaghetti squash, and salsa verde

Dessert

Southern Pecan Cheesecake OR Chocolate Truffle Torte

**No Host Cocktail Social starting at 5:00 pm
Program and Dinner at 6:00 pm in Room 218 Meeting Level.**

Attire: After Five or Legion Equivalent

Cost: \$65.00/person

Payment Options:

Remit the section below the cutting line and your dinner fee by check, payable to the National 20/4.

Mail to:

Beth Nehring
3639 West Dailey Street
Phoenix, AZ 85615 or

Remit by Zelle to:

Roberta J. Kimelton
623 738 9755 and email RSVP to roberta1552@msn.com

**DEADLINE
AUGUST 15,
2023**

RSVP

Please reserve ____ seats for the 67th Annual Bivouac Banquet on Friday, August 25, 2023.

Chicken Marsala

Niman Ranch Pork

Eggplant Parmesan

Stuffed Sweet Pepper

Chocolate Truffle Torte

Southern Pecan Cheesecake

☐☐

Continental Breakfast

☐☐☐☐

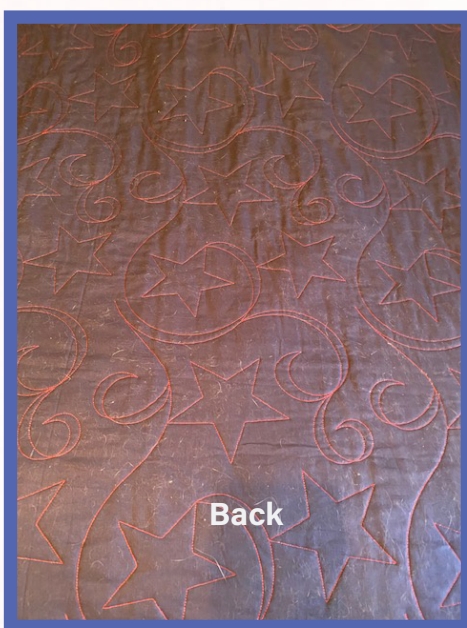
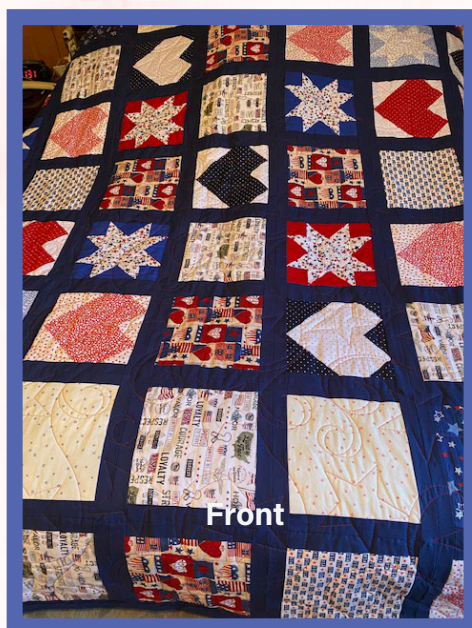
*Please provide names if you are purchasing more than one meal

Please provide your telephone and/or email address for confirmation of receipt.

☐

Twenty and Four Fundraiser Handmade Queen Size Quilt

This beautifully handmade queen-size quilt is a one of a kind. The quilter has used squares that salutes the Armed Forces, the United States, and the values of this country. It encompasses the colors symbolic of our nation as well as flags, stars, fireworks, and confetti on stars that are associated with this great nation. This is a raffle item.



Raffle tickets are
\$10.00 each
Only 250 will be sold
Drawing will be held at
the National Bivouac
August 24-25, 2023
Charlotte, NC
Winner need not be
present

Raffle Ticket Form (Please Print)

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____
Email Address _____

Number of tickets _____ \$10.00 each Total Cost _____

Make payment to: **National 20 + 4**

Mail raffle ticket request form along with check or money order to:

Mildred S. Wright-Pearson, Jr Vice Director VIP
PO Box 233
Tranquillity, CA 93668

Text or Message me at: (559) 250-8247

Cash will only be accepted in person.

Raffle Ticket(s) will not be mailed until receipt of payment

Twenty and Four Challenge Coins

Fundraiser

Limited supply

Be one of the first to own this limited supply Twenty and Four Challenge coin. It was designed to acknowledge the women who are members of the Twenty and Four, and all who sacrificed their time and lives serving honorably as members of the Armed Forces.

The front of the coin displays our organizational logo. It is inscribed with : 20 & 4 Honor Society of Women Legionnaires

The back of the coin recognizes the 15 Echelons since our organization's acknowledgement in 1949. The building depicts the Washington D.C. Women's Memorial Building, dedicated to all women veterans. Here's how to help fundraise and own one of these coins.



Front



Back

Order Form (Please Print)

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email Address _____

Number of coins _____ \$10.00 each Total Cost _____

Make payment to: **National 20 + 4**

Mail order form along with check or money order to:

Mildred S. Wright-Pearson, Jr Vice Director VIP
PO Box 233
Tranquillity, CA 93668

Text or Message me at: (559) 250-8247

Cash will only be accepted in person.

Coin will not be mailed until receipt of payment

RESOLUTION OF CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT

WHEREAS, Arizona Echelon 35 has a rich history of demonstrated leadership and outstanding representation of women veterans and women Legionnaires; and

WHEREAS, one of those outstanding Legionnaires is Judi Beischel, who has a demonstrated track record of serving veterans and the community; and

WHEREAS, Judi has been a member of the American Legion for 22 years and a member of the Honor Society of Women Legionnaires, Echelon 35 for 20 years, and

WHEREAS, Judi has served that 20 & 4 as the National Disbursing Director from 2016 to the present; Department of Arizona Commander 2013-2014, Department of Arizona Vice Commander for Area 2011-2012, Department of Arizona District 12 Commander 2009-2010 and an American Legion Auxiliary member for 44 years, and

WHEREAS, the members of Echelon 35 have affirmatively voted to support Judi's candidacy for Disbursing Director of the National 20 & 4 in belief that she will continue to make sure that all financial transactions are true, accurate and cost effective and in the best interest of our organization; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be distributed to all Echelons by way of the JEEP requesting their support and vote for this outstanding candidate, Judi Beischel, for the position of National Disbursing Director.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Nehring, Director VIP
Echelon 35, 20&4

Bobbie J. Kimelton, Aide
Echelon 35, 20&4

Endorsement for Mildred Wright Pearson, National Senior Vice Director:

Members of Echelon 1-CA hereby endorse Mildred Wright Pearson for the office of National Senior Vice Director for the year of 2023 – 2024. Mildred has been a member of Echelon 1, 20+4, for 11 years now and is a very active Legionnaire in the Department of California as well as other veteran organizations and community involvement efforts.

She is a past Director VIP of Echelon 1, served as a National Cadre Member representing Echelon 1 at the 2021 National Bivouac, and worked with the Bivouac Finance Committee to establish a Budget for the 2022 year as well. She also served as National CQ, and is currently serving as National Junior Vice Director, aggressively working to raise funds for our National organization. It is our considered opinion (s) that she will continue to serve this organization actively and represent it well.

We request that ALL Echelons consider this endorsement of Mildred Wright-Pearson, Echelon 1-CA, as a candidate for the Office of National Senior Vice Director and that the Nomination Committee advance it for consideration at the upcoming 2023 National Bivouac in Charlotte, NC.

Barbara Lombrano
Director VIP, Echelon 1 - CA

Marilyn Rideaux
Aide, Echelon 1 - CA



Arizona Echelon 35 is honored to have Marge Ahrens, USAF (l), Judi Beischel, PND Guardian (c) and Eldora Engebretson, USA (r) leaving on an Honor Flight Arizona today, 5/24/23. Marge and Eldora are Vietnam veterans and members of Echelon 35, and members of American Legion Post 62 in Peoria, Arizona. Judi is Marge's

Guardian, member of Echelon 35, and American Legion Post 58. They are to be recognized on Thursday, 5/25/23, at the Military Women's Memorial as all are Charter members. Look for an update from our members in the next issue.

Hello Sisters

As we move into Summer, it becomes a very busy time for Legionnaires. It is a time of remembrance and celebration. Poppy Days, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Fourth of July. While we celebrate our freedom, we also remember those who have paid the price for that freedom.

Arlington and other cemeteries are full of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. One cannot go to a military cemetery and not be moved. I remember laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and how it has stayed with me ever since.

But there are others who have made sacrifices. Our veterans in hospitals and nursing homes, those who are homeless need to be remembered and cared for. Please take some time and do something to help them. A visit, a card, a note would be appreciated and help them know that they have not been forgotten. A call to a sister veteran, letting her know that she is in your thoughts. Remember, BE THE ONE!

We need to recognize those family members who have made sacrifices. No one serves alone. Husbands, wives, children, parents all give something up when their service member is deployed. A simple thank you, and maybe a blue star banner is often all that is needed to let them know that they are appreciated.

On that note, if you know any of our 20 and 4 members who are ill or who have passed on to be with our Supreme Commander, please let me know. I am starting to work on our Memorial Service for the Bivouac in August. I can be reached at Jlepinski@aol.com or at 312.305.9789. If I do not answer the phone, know that since I now live in a rural area, my phone does not always ring. Leave a voicemail or send me a text and I will call you back.

As always, yours in service
Jan Lepinski
National Sky Pilot

Earnestine Doubek, National Aide
Echelon 50 – AL

Jeepette Nancy Jones of Echelon 50-AL has made history by being the first female Post Commander in 92 years at Phenix City Post 135 in Phenix City Alabama. Go Nancy!



These awards will be presented at the American Legion National Convention in North Carolina in August.

Patti has held the PAO position for about 3 years, and she also serves as the PAO for both the Post 911 Riders, and the Over The Mountain (OTM) Legion Baseball team. Her outstanding newsletters, beautiful brochures and photos, and her informative and interesting public service announcements, have brought her and Post 911 to national attention.

Jeepette Patricia Douglas, a member of Echelon 50-AL and Ryan Winslow Post 911's Public Affairs Officer (PAO) has won the prestigious American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) Award in the "PUBLICATIONS" category for the second year in a row for her Post 911 newsletter. But THIS year, in addition, she has won the national prize in the VISUAL MEDIA category. You can view some of her work here:
<https://www.facebook.com/combatmilitaryvets>



On Saturday, April 15, 2023, The American Legion Union Springs Post 2016 and Auxiliary Unit 337 kicked off its first fundraiser for 2023 at the Bullock County annual Chunnenugee Fair. Echelon 50 member, Gladys Leonard a dual member as a legionnaire and auxiliary member chaired efforts to make sure the fundraising event was a successful joint effort which would end on May 27, 2023, with an open house community event with a three-prize raffle.



Chaya Semple, Echelon 9 – MT



Echelon 9 member, Lisa Milner (Department of Oklahoma) was surprised to receive congratulations for earning the National Commander's membership V.E.T.S. pin for recruiting five new members to The American Legion. She had no idea she was getting it.

V.E.T.S. is Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola's theme and vision for the year and a recipe for operating a successful American Legion post.



Through this concept, those who served (Veterans), will train (Education) Legionnaires about our advocacy, programs and remarkable history. We will work together (Teamwork) to grow and accomplish great things, as we mentor (Sponsor) the next generation of Legionnaires.



Echelon 9 members attended and participated in the Department of Montana Women Veterans Symposium. In addition to Echelon 9, vendors included: Volunteers of America (starting a Women Veteran Moral Injury Support Group), Mending Waters (hosting a Women Veteran fishing trip), Montana VA (4 tables), Military Women's Memorial, a local yoga studio, Adaptive Performance (a veterans-only gym), National Guard Suicide Prevention, and local social service providers. Echelon 9 member, Christine Miller, served as MC.



Echelon 9 members, Denise Cook (left) and Linda Cousineau (right) view a Vietnam Veterans Day display in the Montana Capitol Rotunda prior to the start of the Welcome Home Ceremony.

Echelon 9 Director VIP Linda Cousineau carries the Air Force flag leading the Air Force Veteran contingent as part of the annual Veteran Walk prior to the laying of a wreath at the Freedom Tree on the Capitol grounds to honor the POWs and MIAs before the Welcome Home Ceremony. Several Echelon 9 members participated.





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