

Twenty and Four

The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires



THE NATIONAL JEEP

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

October 2024

Editor: Diane Schmidt, PND

Ethel Matuschka, Editor Emeritus

Mildred Wright Pearson, National Director VIP



Congratulations to all members of each Echelon and your choice in leadership. I am very proud that you have placed your trust in me to lead this organization for the next year. I will not let you down while performing my duties.

What does it take to be successful? As the Director, I cannot do it alone. Success comes from the joint efforts of all membership. If we want to move this society forward, we must do it together.

When I made my speech at the National Bivouac dinner, I spoke of four things for success: Membership, Communication, Echelon Development, and Comradery.

Membership. An organization cannot survive without members. Members are the backbone of an organization. They are the worker bees that provide the ideas and methods that keep the organization appealing to others within and outside of the group. I challenge the members of each Echelon to place an emphasis on getting new members for their Echelon and retaining the current members. As with any organization, membership numbers and what is accomplished gets attention where it matters. Let's get recognized.

Communication. Without getting the message you want to all members in a positive venue, we are shouting in the dark, and possibly misunderstood in what we are attempting to say. One way I want to communicate is through the use of virtual meetings. So often Echelons don't meet or connect with each other more than once a year. Although my virtual meetings will be limited to four times during, know that the attendees will be essential to the improvement of the organization. I plan on moving the bar upward and holding Officers and Committee chairs responsible for performing their assigned duties.

Echelon Development. Although I know it will not be realized in my term of office, I want to see an Echelon formed in each state where there is an American Legion Department. If there are more than one in a state, that would be admirable. This has been a goal of each Past National Director. You can help grow this society by helping the Committee contact states within your region (or outside) to present our society to their department to start an Echelon. Please keep the Echelon Development Committee informed about what transpires.

Comradery. Nothing kills an organization faster than not having a positive atmosphere in meetings or amongst members. As an honor society, we should be respectful of others at all times. Each of us has value and insight that can be provided to help the society. No one likes everyone but respect begets respect. We are just beginning to be received and recognized as female veterans by our brother veterans and in our communities. When you are positive, it brings joy into the situation. Everyone leaves with a smile and feels good about

... Continued from front page, **Mildred Wright Pearson, National Director VIP**

belonging. Working together in harmony builds comradery. Instead of a frown, smile and give a fellow Jeepette a kind word of encouragement. It goes a long way and leaves a good impression. We are here to enjoy each other's company and learn new ways of doing things.

These are only a few ways to help keep our society moving forward and growing. Maybe you can think of a few ways to succeed for the society and work within those guidelines.

Floridian Tropical Paradise is my theme for our upcoming National Bivouac. I chose this theme from some suggestions and where we will be next year. I have already contacted my Legion Department and informed them of our meeting needs for next year. This bivouac is in the early stages. The hotel has not been identified yet. Information will be provided as things advance. There are some great Jeepettes who are working on this fun project. They will do a wonderful job.

I want to take this time to say "Thank You" to all of my new and/or returning Officers and Committee members. With the new Marketing Committee in place, the society should begin to increase its visibility. All of us working together will make this year a successful one. I look forward to working with each of you.

(559) 250-8247 (txt or v-msg)



**Colleen Heck,
Senior Vice National Director**

Our recent Bivouac was a memorable experience with a great banquet and a moving memorial. But the best part was meeting so many female legionnaires from all over at the American Legion National Convention.

It was a great opportunity to learn about others, make some new friends and tell them about The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires. We grew so much this past year and we will continue to grow with our "add two more members" task before our National Bivouac in Tampa.

To spice it up a little, the Echelon with the largest percentage increase in total numbers by June 30, 2025 will receive \$500.00 to use to help women veterans. \$500.00!!!

If you need help in achieving this goal and winning the prize or just want to share new ideas for increased membership of Quality not Quantity, please contact me.

Please be kind to yourself and each other. God bless you for all you do.

check@ionet.net
(602)290-5568



**Millie Hampton,
Junior Vice National Director**

Ways and Means

Thank you, thank you for electing me to this exciting yet challenging position. I have been a "Busy Little Beaver" working on several projects.

Fundraisers are THE way for bringing much needed revenue so that we can accomplish our goals for the coming year that we have set. We can only achieve these goals with everyone's support and working together. I truly believe that you all will really love and enjoy what we have in store for you. Please share with your Echelons and encourage everyone to participate. You do not have to be a member to get involved.

We have three fundraisers that will be of interest to all. Two are included in this JEEP in time for Christmas:

#1 is a handmade Christmas themed QUILT beautifully crafted by a wife and husband (Marine) team who have been so gracious to donate to us as a raffle for Christmas. A flier is attached.

#2 will be the 20 & 4 Challenge Coins. Who doesn't love collecting Challenge Coins? A collector's dream! Flier will come later.

#3 is a very popular item that all deserving cooks need for their kitchen: Cutlery with life time warranty. A packet of information on this great gift idea for all your friends and family will be available after the new year.

Other ideas are in the works and, of course, if you have something specific you would like to see offered or want to donate, PLEASE let me know at mhwindson52@gmail.com or 804- 347 7323. Communication is important. I am not a mind reader even though others think so.

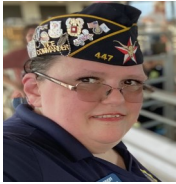
I am here to serve you.

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Respectfully submitted by

**Judi Beischel,
Disbursing Director**

2023/24 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking beginning balance (8-1-23) - \$12,015.86
Checking ending balance (7-31-24) - \$17,043.30
\$ 5,027.44 Increase

Savings beginning balance (8-1-23) - \$57,517.29
Savings ending balance (7-31-24) - \$59,535.83
\$ 2,018.54 Increase

(Interest Earned)

Year end taxes have been filed.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Beischel, Disbursing Director



ARIZONA ECHELON 35

Resolution No. 6

Condolences Related to the Passing of Roena Bayes,
Origin: Echelon 35, Department of Arizona, Twenty and
Four

Submitted by: Echelon 35, Department of Arizona,
Twenty and Four

Date: September 20, 2024

WHEREAS, With feelings of deepest regret, Echelon 35,
Department of Arizona, Twenty and Four, must record
the passing of a friend and associate, Roena Bayes, who
transitioned to Post Everlasting on September 18, 2024,
in Ohio, and

WHEREAS, Roena had a rich and honored career
beginning in 1943 serving in the United States Women’s
Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), and

WHEREAS, Roena served in California, Scotland, England,
and Nazi occupied Oise north of Paris France, and

WHEREAS, Roena returned to Bryan, Ohio and American
Legion Post 137 where she resumed her previous career
as a teacher until 1949, when she relocated to the
National Institute of Health as a medical technician in
Washington D.C., and

WHEREAS, Roena transferred her Legion membership to
historic USS Jacob Jones Post 2 in Washington DC where
she served as Quartermaster, Historian, Chaplain,
Finance Officer, Adjutant, Jr. Vice Commander, Senior
Vice Commander and multiple years as Post Commander
(1960, 1966, 1978, 1979, 1990-201 and was responsible
for this historic post; the first post to allow women
membership, to keep from being shuttered, and

WHEREAS, Roena paid memberships for all but seven
members to maintain the Post 2 legacy, and extended
this financial sacrifice for nearly thirty years, and

WHEREAS, Roena also served the Department of DC as
the Chair of the Americanism Committee, Ways and
Means Committee, Children and Youth Committee and
Veterans Service Committee, and

WHEREAS, Roena was a member of the historic all
female Color and Honor Guard in the Department of DC
and served many years performing ceremonies at
Arlington National Cemetery from the 1950’s through
the 1970’s, and

WHEREAS, The Department of DC elected Roena as the
first female Department Commander from 1988-1989,
blazing the trail for females in The American Legion as
only the third female ever to be elected Department
Commander, and

WHEREAS, Roena served as a member of the Daughters
of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 and
served as National President from 1999-2000, and

WHEREAS, Roena was a member of the Honor Society of
Women Legionnaires as a member of Arizona Echelon
35, as well as a charter member of the Women in
Military Service for America, and

WHEREAS, as the consummate historian, Roena provided
a living history of women serving in the military,
providing multiple displays of women veterans and
historical artifacts to include a fully dressed mannequin
Yeomanette, and

WHEREAS, Roena maintained a valid driver’s license and
continued to drive almost to the end, be it therefore

RESOLVED, By Echelon 35, Department of Arizona,
Twenty and Four in a special vote, on September 20,
2024, that we enter into the records of this Echelon a
tribute to the memory of one who was held in the
highest esteem and respected by all of her associates,
and who, because of her kindness, courtesy, and
integrity, exemplified to the highest degree the teaching
of our Society; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Roena Bayes has answered the final roll
call and marched on to the final salute, and be it finally
resolved

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted
to the family of our deceased Jeepette, together with the
assurance of our sincerest sympathy.

May the Heavenly Father console them in their present
sorrow, and may these words of appreciation and high regard
be solace in the years to come.

Bobbie J. Kimelton
Bobbie J. Kimelton
Aide
Echelon 35

Colleen Heck
Colleen Heck
Director VIP
Echelon 35

Eastern Region Echelon Development

Submitted by Millie J Hamilton

Let's Get It On!! As you prepare for your travels throughout Eastern USA, remember that we are looking to start Echelons in that area so let me know so I can send you membership packets. Female Veterans need to know they are not alone. Plus letting female Legionnaires know about joining our wonderful organization is important. BE THE ONE TO JUST ASK.

So, let's get it on! I am just a phone call or email away:
mhwindsong52@gmail.com
804 347-7323.
MillieJ Hampton Eastern Region Echelon Development

Addressing Conflict in National Twenty and Four

Submitted by Bobbie J Kimelton
Echelon 35 Aide

Dear Jeepettes,

As we continue to strive for excellence within our National Honor Society and as women leaders within The American Legion, it is essential to address a pressing issue that has been affecting our organization: conflict among our members. It is important to recognize many of our Jeepettes are women leaders who are highly driven, Type A personalities, which can sometimes lead to clashes and misunderstandings. Unfortunately, these conflicts have caused some members to feel uncomfortable and even consider not returning.

Understanding the Issue

Type A leaders are often characterized by their ambition, competitiveness, and high levels of organization. While these traits can be incredibly beneficial for leadership, they can also lead to conflicts when not managed properly. It's important to recognize that conflict is a natural part of any organization, but how we handle it can make all the difference.

The Impact of Conflict

Unresolved conflicts can lead to a toxic environment, decreased morale, and a decline in membership. When members feel that their concerns are not being addressed or that the leadership is not cohesive, they may choose to leave the organization. This is a loss not only for the individuals but for the entire community.

Strategies for Conflict Resolution

1. Open Communication: Encourage open and honest communication among leaders and members. Create a safe space where everyone feels comfortable expressing their concerns and opinions. When it becomes necessary to address deficiencies among our membership, often this is better handled in private. Embarrassing another Jeepette during the business meeting is unnecessary and inappropriate. Although many of these issues need to be addressed, focus on the issue not the person.

2. Active Listening: Practice active listening by truly hearing what others are saying without interrupting or immediately formulating a response. This shows respect and can help de-escalate tensions.

3. Conflict Resolution Training: Most of us have attended conflict resolution training during our tenures in the military or civilian world. Perhaps we should consider a refresher for the benefit of our organization.

4. Focus on Common Goals: Remind everyone of the shared goals and values of the National Honor Society of Women Legionnaires. Focusing on what unites us can

help bridge divides and foster a sense of camaraderie. When individuals leave Bivouac feeling like they don't want to return because of our collective behavior, we are doing something wrong.

5. Mediation: When conflicts arise, consider bringing in a neutral third party to mediate. This can help ensure that all sides are heard and that a fair resolution is reached. These efforts should take place outside of the business meeting.

Regular Check-Ins: Schedule regular check-ins with leadership to discuss any ongoing issues and to ensure that conflicts are being addressed promptly.

Moving Forward

By implementing these strategies, we can create a more harmonious and productive environment for all members. It is crucial that we work together to resolve conflicts and support one another in our shared mission. Let us embrace our differences and use them to strengthen our organization.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Twenty and Four. Together, we can overcome these challenges and continue to thrive.

Sincerely,
Bobbie J Kimelton

Montana Echelon

Submitted by Chaya Semple, Aide, MT 9

Greetings from Montana!

We held elections at our Echelon Bivouac in June and have many new officers!

Past Director VIP Linda Cousineau attended National Bivouac in New Orleans and worked the registration table the entire Bivouac! She was invited to participate on the National Twenty and Four Finance Committee next year. Thank you, Linda, for stepping up! She will also be announcing at the Department of Montana Fall Conference that she is running for Vice Commander for the Department of Montana!

Top Hat Larry Dobb and Director VIP Janice Dobb continue to serve on the National American Legion National Security Committee. A large focus of the committee's energy this year was invested in how to address the very porous Southern Border.

Jeepette Jennifer Dalrymple is working closely with a female Navy Veteran on hospice to assist her in getting her affairs in order and supporting her while she resides in a care facility. Another Jeepette took flowers to cheer her during a recent visit.

Denise Cook and Chaya Semple participated in the 43rd Annual POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on 20 September. The names of Montana POW/MIAs from World War II to the present were read aloud, along with where they disappeared and the date.



Jeepette Sue Davidson recently had spinal surgery. Please pray for her speedy and complete recovery.

Finally, we will be gathering for another Echelon 9 Bivouac on 26 October following the close of the Department Executive Board meeting. There will be door prizes!

May all reading this be well!

HONOR SOCIETY OF WOMEN LEGIONNAIRS

TWENTY AND FOUR

**HANDMADE FULL SIZE QUILT
FUNDRAISER**

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS! Here is Santa checking his "Naughty or Nice" list. Is your name on the "Nice" list? Santa is framed with the list and a red border. This quilt is donated by Darrell and Elizabeth Ehler, a Marine Veteran and his wife that quilt together.



Raffle tickets are:
\$10 Each
Only 250 will be sold
Drawing will be held
at
special Echelon24
Meeting in December
in time for Christmas
mailing

Raffle Ticket Form, please print

Name: _____
Address: City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

of Tickets _____ \$10 each Total Cost _____

Mail Raffle Ticket request form along with check or money order to:

Millie J Hampton Jr Vice Director VIP
261 Pine Tree Dr
Lynchburg, Va 23175

Text or call with questions to 804-347-7323

Raffle ticket will not be mailed until receipt of payment

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Future Jeep Deadline Dates: Future Jeep Deadline Dates: November 20, 2024, for December issue "Holiday Greetings". January 20, 2025, for February's issue. March 20, 2025, for April's issue. May 20, 2025, for June's issue "Proud to be an American". July 20, 2025, for Pre-Bivouac issue. The 69th ANNUAL BIVOUAC and American Legion National Convention will be in Tampa Bay, Florida on August 21 – 28, 2025. This year's Bivouac theme will be "Floridian Topical Paradise".

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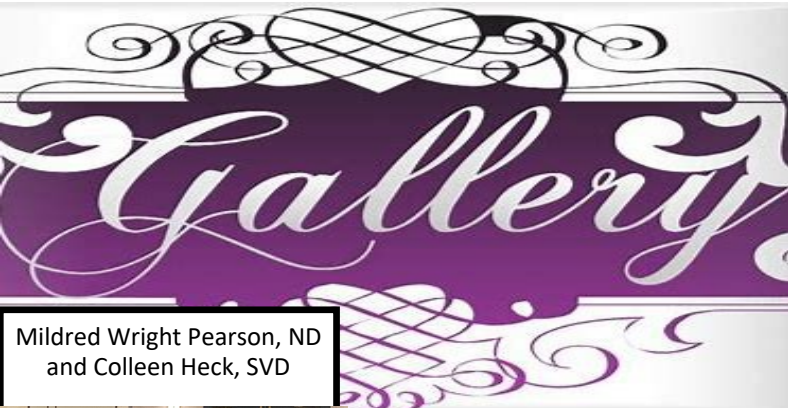
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Mildred Wright Pearson, ND
and Colleen Heck, SVD



Top right: Attendees. Top bottom: Linda (MT) and
Linda (TX).

Middle right: Top Hat Kendal and banquet
attendees. Middle right bottom: Mandy, Edna and
PND Cheri.

Bottom center: Circle of Friendship at Bivouac 2024.





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