

**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**

**February / March 2025**

Editor: Diane Schmidt, PND

Ethel Matuschka, Editor Emeritus



### *From the Desk of the Director*

Hello Jeepettes. The year 2024 is a thing of the past with memories to last a lifetime. It is my hope that things went well for everyone over the holiday season. It was a pleasure to interact with those of you who could join the virtual meeting held in October. There was a lot accomplished during that session.

It is now time to look forward to all that 2025 holds for us. We will be having additional virtual meetings over the next few months where we can make suggestions that will help all committees reach their goals. Our jobs as Jeepettes are to ensure the continuity and wellbeing of our organization. One of the key components in the development of the mission is communication. Without communication, which leads to cooperation, an organization will implode. Keep in touch with each other. Respond to emails and other types of communication. There are things to be learned and shared in the process. Action by each of us leads the way to success overall.

Speaking of action, we are increasing our drive to get things done. Currently, we should be reviewing our membership numbers, whether renewals or new membership. We are all recruiters for our Honor Society of Women Legionnaires. In an online post, "as of 2024, there are more than 2 million women veterans in the United States." Seek out these veterans in your area. First get them involved in the American Legion. Then, ask them to join our Society. It may take a few years, but working on membership now improves our numbers in the future.

It is my understanding that we will probably have a new Echelon to approve at our National Bivouac. All of the documentation needed has been gathered and will be forwarded to the NMI Georgiann Callaway, PND, who will be reviewing it with her committee for presentation at National Bivouac. I want to give accolades to all Jeepettes who had a hand in getting this done. Anything can be accomplished if we work together.

Those Echelons that are very active - keep up the good work. Getting into the community and being visible helps validate the mission of our Society. Invite the media to any functions that are being held by your Echelon or in conjunction with another organization. Don't forget to send articles to the Jeep and your local/online newspaper for recognition.

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

The Bivouac committee is working hard to get the 2025 Bivouac set up. We are still moving forward and looking forward to attending the National Bivouac in Florida. The hotel situation has been or will be resolved by August. The dinner theme is Floridian Tropical Paradise. Plan on bringing your tropical wear. Although it will be casual – no shorts or swimwear please - plan to have fun. Flyers and advertising information will be provided in the near future. Hope you will be able to join us at our National Bivouac.

Unfortunately, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington Cemetery, is not going to occur. The dates for a whole week were blacked out before and after Memorial Day, 26 May 2025. I am told by Arlington National Cemetery Public Affairs Office that getting an event scheduled is very difficult because of the number of organizations requesting to be in attendance for an event, especially on Memorial Day. Therefore, I am focusing on the Women's Military Memorial (WMSA) event in the afternoon of 26 May 2025. I have made contact the Senior Advisor to the President, once. Final arrangements still have to be made. I will keep you informed.

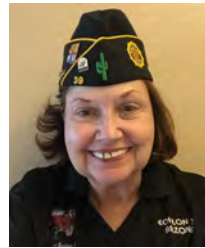
Those of you who are potentially in harms way due to weather conditions or raging fires, please know that you are not alone in your situation. If you need assistance, we as an organization may be able to help. Prayers from me and your sister Jeepettes go out to you in your time of need. If possible, keep in contact with another Jeepette outside of your distressed area. She may be able to take some immediate action through her Echelon.

A little about what I have been doing. I have been working with the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fresno, CA, helping to provide holiday activities to veterans in the area. As a member of the Fresno Veterans Home Council, I worked with them to provide holiday events there in the Home. The 14th District of the American Legion took part in a Christmas Lights parade of which I contributed. Contributing time and effort helps put smiles on needy veteran faces.

Please remember, when sending in articles for the Jeep, do not send them in a PDF format, use Word. All pictures should be sent directly to Gigi (callgeorgi@yahoo.com) to maintain photo integrity. Articles should be sent to Diane Schmidt (amagiangel@yahoo.com) for editing. You, Jeepettes, are doing a wonderful job. I loved the December Holiday Greetings that were submitted. Those of you who sent me Greeting cards, thank you.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day with family and friends Stay healthy and safe. I hope to see each of you online or in person throughout the rest of this year.

*Mildred S. Wright-Pearson*  
MILDRED S. WRIGHT-PEARSON  
National Director, VIP  
Honor Society of Women Legionnaires  
(559) 250-8247 (txt or v-msg)



**Colleen Heck,  
Senior Vice National Director**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Here are some ideas for recruiting quality new members. Visit posts around your state and speak to women legionnaires. Call and arrange a meeting time that is available and have the posts invite all there women legionnaires. Contact all Women Commanders and other state and post officers. These are the women that are already interested in the legion. Let them know our number one reason for our organization: To assist all women veterans. Let them know some of the way you and your echelon assist other women. Share some of the ideas below on how to contribute to the interests of women veterans:

Get out to your local political precincts and let them know how about women veterans issues. Look for some one that is comfortable talking to small groups of people.

Share interests that can be used to help women veterans and what they can do like: volunteering at the VA especially if they have a Women's Center. Finding other veteran groups and ask how we can assist their members. One idea is the Vietnam Veterans Association. Many of us are women and their needs for this group like rides to VA or other medical appointments. Visiting those Women Veteran's in the VA Community Center for Living. These women may have few visitors.

Ask people if they like organizing events and then find out if the VA or other organizations have baby showers for the younger members. Donate baby items and mom items. Again see if they can you assistance to appointments or maybe just baby sitters while they go to these appointments.

Ask past echelon members to return and what their reason for leaving was and see about correcting if possible. Also ask for their ideas for useful way to help Women Veterans. Contact the State Veterans' Home if they have any and see if there are Women Veterans there. As an echelon consider adopting one or two women veterans for the year and make sure they are remembered for their birthdays, service birthdays, holidays and just visiting.

Coordinate with other veterans organizations within your state government. Contact homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters. Their are often women veterans in both.

All these things are reason a women veteran already involved in the American Legion would like to join and grow our twenty and four organization.

Colleen A. Heck  
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**Millie Hampton,  
Junior Vice National Director**

[See Quilt page.](#)

This Fundraiser will be extended until August 2025 or until 250 tickets are sold.

mhwindsong52@gmail.com  
804- 347 7323

the sound of my voice as anything but part of you —  
you won't hear it in the other world, not clearly again,  
not in birdcall or human cry, not the clear sound, only  
persistent echoing in all sound that means good-bye, good-  
bye—

the one continuous line that binds us to each other.”



**Tweila-Rochelle Cauthen,  
Sky Pilot**

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*Hope you had a  
wonderful  
Valentine's Day*



*This year's Bivouac theme will be  
"Floridian Tropical Paradise".*



**Lisa Dayhoff,  
National Aide**

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*You are cordially invited to the*

*National Honor Society of Women  
Legionnaires 69th Annual Bivouac.*

*August 21-22, 2025*

*Tampa, Florida*

*... more to follow.*

End of Winter written by Louise Gluck

“Over the still world, a bird calls waking solitary among black boughs.

You wanted to be born; I let you be born. When has my grief ever gotten in the way of your pleasure?

Plunging ahead into the dark and light at the same time eager for sensation as though you were some new thing, wanting to express yourselves all brilliance, all vivacity

never thinking this would cost you anything, never imagining





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

Extended  
until  
250 tickets  
are sold or  
August  
2025.

We can do  
this!

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  
Urbanna, Va 23175

Text or call with questions to 804-347-7323

Raffle ticket will not be mailed until receipt of payment

# 69<sup>th</sup> Bivouac Program Book

*Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your Echelon, Post,  
Department, or Business featured in the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Program Book.*

**Deadline:** All entries, ads or greetings must be received by **June 30, 2025**, accompanied by payment (copy of check, etc). Please forward payment directly to Mildred S. Wright-Pearson, PO Box 233, Tranquillity, CA 93668. Make payment payable to: National 20 & 4. Entries and ads, not accompanied by payment proof will not be included in the 69<sup>th</sup> Program Booklet.

Full Page	\$300.00
Half Page	\$250.00
Quarter Page	\$150.00
Outside Back Cover	\$350.00
Inside Back Cover	\$350.00
Booster Ad (business card size)	\$10.00

**Requirements:** Submit your entry by E-mail to [mswr20&4@gmail.com](mailto:mswr20&4@gmail.com) and payment by US mail. If you are submitting a photo, please submit a camera-ready, high-quality resolution one. Entries are limited to one photo and may only be included in full- and half-page entries. Be sure to include a 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary greeting. Ads from a local business, an American Legion Post, an American Legion Department, or church are greatly appreciated!

*If you have any questions, please text me at: (559) 250-8247*



Name of Contact Person:

Organization

Telephone Number:

Email Address:



*The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires  
20&4  
69<sup>th</sup> National Bivouac  
Tampa, Florida  
August 21 -22, 2025  
Barrymore Hotel*



**Montana Echelon 9**  
Submitted by Chaya Semple, Aide

**National 20&4 Budget**  
Provided by Judi Beischel, PND, Disbursing Director

**Greetings & News from The Big Sky and Beyond**

Jeepettes Sue Davidson and Eileen Greb were on a mission of comfort for veterans at the Montana Veterans Home in Butte on 7 and 8 January. Sue, who lives in Laurel, several hours away from Butte, has spent the past year collecting, making and machine quilting patriotic quilts for the residents. Forty-three veterans received a quilt along with a face-to-face visit, snacks and other treats during the two days. Seventeen more patriotic lap quilts are still needed!

Director VIP Janice Dobb, Senior Vice Director Kim Kay McCarty Martin, CQ Carol Gruwell and Jeepette Clara Santopietro met 29 January to review, revise and update our Echelon Constitution. Due to NMI members traveling, they plan to meet again on 21 March to do the same for the Bylaws. Once accomplished, drafts of both documents will be sent to the National Judge Advocate, Diane Schmidt review before sending to the membership for comment.

Many Jeepettes were involved in Four Chaplains Services across the state of Montana!

Past Director VIP Linda Cousineau and Jen Dalrymple participated in a Four Chaplains Service in Townsend at the Trailhead Church on the morning of 1 February. Jen led the color guard while Linda, who is also commander of Post No. 42, greeted those arriving.



Senior Vice Director Kim Kay McCarty Martin organized a Four Chaplains Service held on the afternoon of 2 February at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Great Falls, supported by Director VIP Janice Dobb, Jeepette Clara Santopietro and CQ Carol Gruwell. Carol is also commander of Post No. 341.

Sky Pilot Sue Davidson served as Chaplain for the Four Chaplains Service held at the First Congregational Church of Laurel. (See photo.) She serves as Chaplain for Post No. 123 in Laurel.

Aide Chaya Semple organized and conducted a Four Chaplains Service for Lewis and Clark Post No. 2 (as Post Chaplain) held the afternoon of 1 February (during Guard Drill Weekend) at Fort Harrison in cooperation with the Montana Military Museum. The service was held in the historic WWII Chapel, built by soldiers and dedicated in August 1943 and is only one of a few remaining in the country. Senator Steve Daines' Veterans Representative, Denny Lenoir, read a meaningful statement from the Senator, whose great uncle died in the USAT Dorchester sinking.

Coming up, we are looking forward to participating in the annual Women Veterans Symposium to be held in 16-18 May at the Kleffner Ranch in East Helena. The historic and scenic ranch is a popular venue for weddings and other events. Junior Vice Director Irene Dickerson is involved, working with the Department of Montana Adjutant's Assistant in organizing the event.

May you be well!

National Twenty and Four			
Recommended Budget 2024-2025			
Revised 8/22/2024			
<b>INCOME</b>			
Ways and Means			\$2,275.00
Membership			\$5,000.00
Jeep Greetings and Christmas			\$400.00
Donations			\$100.00
Emblem Sales			\$1,000.00
Other (fines)			\$50.00
Bivouac Registration			\$1,400.00
Banquet Tickets			\$3,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$13,225.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Jeep			\$1,200.00
Insurance			\$450.00
National Aid Printing			\$200.00
Arlington-WIMSA			\$300.00
DC Visit National Director			\$300.00
National Director Incidentals			\$250.00
Awards			\$100.00
Log Director			\$25.00
Ways and Means			\$50.00
Membership Sr Vice Director			\$25.00
Echelon Development			\$200.00
Scholarship			\$1,000.00
Marketing			\$1,000.00
<b>Subtotal Expenses</b>			<b>\$5,100.00</b>
<b>BIVOUAC EXPENSES</b>			
National Director VIP			\$400.00
Sr Vice Director			\$300.00
Jr Vice Director			\$300.00
Disbursing Director			\$300.00
Emblem Sales			\$400.00
National Aide Room, Ship			\$500.00
Bivouac NMI 350/75			\$425.00
Honorarium (National Director VIP)			\$100.00
National CQ - Shipping Flags			\$75.00
National Sky Pilot Flowers			\$25.00
Bivouac Expenses			\$5,000.00
Banquet National Guest			\$300.00
			Up to six (6) tickets
<b>Subtotal Bivouac Expenses</b>			<b>\$8,125.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$13,225.00</b>

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Central: Earnestine Doubek, Angela Baskin, and Dakota Tolbert.  
Mountain: Bobbie Kimelton, Jennifer Krizyer, and Colleen Heck.  
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**Future Jeep Deadline Dates:** 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 69h ANNUAL BIVOUAC will be in Tampa Bay, Florida on August 21 – 22, 2025. This year's Bivouac theme will be "Floridian Topical Paradise".

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