

American Legion Auxiliary Department of California District 28 Juniors Activities

September 2023

Madame President Rebecca Glenny, Officers, and Members of the Auxiliary,

The many daughters of American Legion members are an important part of our Units. "Junior members are defined in the National Constitution as follows: Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into active membership with full privileges. 'The voting age of eighteen years for members of the American Legion Auxiliary' was adopted at the National Convention in Boston in October, 1930." This is a quote directly taken from our Department Chair, Martha Romano, on the American Legion Auxiliary website for Junior Activities. Junior Activities may not seem to be the most important Program for the American Legion Auxiliary but it is certainly the future of our Auxiliary.

The significance of Junior Activities is in the young ladies of our units. A simple reminder of this is highlighted from convention, in which the membership goals of Department were a few hundred members away. In a last-ditch effort by the Membership Chair, the audience was asked to donate what they could to pay for a number of Juniors at the last minute. Membership was able to raise enough money to make goal for Department, simply by paying for enough juniors. The Juniors may be small, but they are mighty.

Do not keep the Junior members from our organization. They are willing to learn and should be given a program within the scope of their years and understanding. Senior and Junior memberships are treated equally within the organization; all are counted in Department membership, as reminded above. Please think of Junior membership is the training ground for active Auxiliary membership. For example; our powerful and all-knowing member, Liz Doidge.

Please guide our Juniors to the best of your knowledge, and accept their input into how they might want to change and/or improve our units. The Junior officers shall be known as Honorary Junior officers. Coordinate their work with the Unit's work, meetings, and activities. They should always feel a part of the Auxiliary. Even our smallest members, the Tiny Tots, who are the Junior members under the age of 6. They may not have too much to say, but they are always welcome.

"Junior Activities, properly carried out, can also be an important step in teaching the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy to these young people as well." Department Chair, Martha Romano



For Junior Activities events, please see the Department Website. There is a Local Unit & District Events page, https://calegionaux.org/mark-your-calendar/local-unit-district-events/. There are fliers included the Unit packs a couple of these events; The Mission Training in Las Vegas, January 27, 2024 and the ALA Membership and Juniors Shirts for purchase.

Lastly, the Junior Conference Tickets are available for each unit. Unit Presidents and/or representatives, sometime during the breaks of this meeting please collect your packet of tickets. There is a sign out sheet to sign and an information sheet about the tickets. Thank you.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted, Marguerite Blum Junior Activities Chairman