



**Department of California
District 28**

**Minutes
General Membership Meeting
November 19, 2023**

A District 28 general membership meeting was called to order by President Rebecca Glenny (694) at 9:08 AM on Sunday, November 19, 2023, at Monterey Peninsula Post 41. Rituals were recited.

Fourteen officers, fifteen chairmen, six Past District Presidents, and six Unit presidents answered roll call.

The minutes of the September 17, 2023 general membership meeting were approved as emailed. No communications were read.

Treasurer Sherryl Panek (694) gave the Treasurer's report noting that Unit Assessments/Per Capita totaling \$1,627.50 had been received from 69, 512, 589, 591, 593 and 694. Total deposited since the September meeting is \$2,343.78. Total expenses for the period amounted to \$1,725.00. Outstanding deposits totaled \$300, giving the account an ending balance of \$16,529.

On a motion by Susan Baker and seconded, members approved reimbursing Sherryl Panek \$80.12 for Auxiliary supplies purchased from Emblem Sales.

Reports:

Secretary Susan Baker (694) again distributed updated copies of the **2023-24 D28 Roster** to members and reminded everyone that the roster is for Auxiliary member use only.

Membership Chairman Kimberly Stuhler (41) reported on District 28 membership, noting that Unit 512 currently leads with 51 members (or 79%), and Unit 593 is in second place with 102 members (or 73.01%). Members are asked to focus on the 3 R's...Renewal, Recruitment, and Retention.

Poppy Chairman Linda Lara-Guzman (81) was absent and her report was read by Sondra Castillo. Linda's message encouraged all units to participate in the DEC Poppy Hat Competition, and members were reminded that mid-year reports are due to District chairmen by December 1st.

Chaplain Connie Raya (694) reviewed the duties of the Chaplain and advised that chaplains are the spiritual leaders of the unit, district, or department with responsibility for conducting the religious services practiced by the Auxiliary. The donation form for the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, the Department Code-Chaplain, the Member Data Form, In Loving Tribute Donation Form, and instructions for the Chaplain's Prayer Book were all placed in the Unit folders.



Historian Rosemary Barron (589) requested that when members post event pictures on social media they include the type of event, who sponsored it, which program will benefit from it (AEF, VAR, etc.), and if possible, the names of the people in the photos. All flyers should include the who, what, where, when, why, cost (if any), of the event.

Americanism Chairman Liz Doidge (593) was absent and her report was read by Susan Baker. The report focused on the Star Spangled Kids, an ALA initiative to educate our youth about United States history, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. Liz hopes to soon have enough Star Spangled Kits available to share with the Units. Kits contain various items that make teaching our kids about patriotism fun. Department Americanism Chair Cindy Rogers has challenged members to send her their best patriotic Veteran's Day picture by December 1, 2023 to receive a gift from her. The 2023-24 Americanism Essay Contest Titles were once again shared with members:

- Group I – Grades 4 & 5: Why do we honor the flag?
- Group II – Grades 6 & 7: Why is voting important?
- Group III – Grades 8 & 9: Who is responsible to keep our country safe?
- Group IV – Grades 10, 11, & 12: Is service to our country important?
- Group V – Exceptional Needs: How should the flag be disposed of?

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Chairman Robyn Huber (593) was absent and Rebecca Glennly read the report, noting that there are several other disasters that can affect your home, including flood, earthquake, or severe weather. It was noted that between November and February there are more electrical malfunctions caused by overloading outlets with tree lights and other holiday décor. Members were reminded that Temporary Financial Assistance is available to members who experience loss of, or severe damage to their home. TFA forms will be found on the National website. The AEF collection amounted to \$54.00; the total amount collected this year is \$112.28.

Children and Youth Chairman Kimberly Stuhler (41) advised that she tried several times without success to contact the Principal of La Mesa Elementary School to deliver Halloween coloring books. Kim is working on ideas for Purple Up! (held in April) and will soon have information available to share. Kim is hoping to work with the Americanism and Education chairs to provide more learning opportunities for children and youth in our communities.

Community Service Chairman Sherryl Panek (694) asked members to report information on any events that Unit members participated in for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, U.S. Navy Birthday, U.S. Marine Corps Birthday, Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Please also include information on visits to VA hospitals, homeless veterans shelters, or retirement homes. Visits and participation can be counted as Community Service hours when reporting.

Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules Chairman Susan Baker (694) reviewed the types of things that can be included in Standing Rules. She noted that Standing Rules are considered to be the administrative policies of the Unit, and they may be changed as the needs of the organization change with 1) prior notice to members, by a majority



vote; 2) by 2/3 majority vote without prior notice. Units were encouraged to review their Standing Rules and make changes as needed. Copies of the District 28 Standing Rules, Revised September 17, 2023, were shared with members and also placed in Unit packets.

Distinguished Guest Chairman Marguerite Blum (512) did not have a report.

Education Co-chairs Molly Smith (589) and Holly Darsch (41) advised that Unit packets included the Mid-year reporting form, the Department November Bulletin that contains valuable information on Scholarship applications and new public laws on education. Copies of the D28 Education Fundraiser flyer and a sample donation letter were also included. Molly reported that a \$250 donation was received for the Fundraiser, thanks to Rosemary Barron of Unit 589! Members were reminded that this is a District fundraiser and all units are expected to participate and donate.

Girls State Chairman Linda Lara-Guzman (81) was absent and her report was shared by Sondra Castillo. Delegate fees for 2024 include a \$75 Registration Fee and \$425 Unit Enrollment Fee, for a total of \$500 per Delegate. The fees do not include transportation costs; that fee will not be calculated until after all fees are collected on April 15, 2024 and it is determined how many Delegates will need transportation. Estimated cost for transportation is \$200 per Delegate. It was noted that there is currently an online auction to raise money for the Girls State program. The auction will be found on the shared Google drive. Members who would like a form emailed should contact Linda. Unit Information Packets are also located on the shared Google drive. By now, all Unit Chairmen should be in contact with their schools.

Junior Activities Chairman Marguerite Blum (512) advised that Junior members around the State have been busy placing flags at homes, schools, and veterans cemeteries. They will be wrapping holiday gifts for patients in veterans hospitals and medical centers while organizing Thanksgiving parties for veterans children and families, or organizing Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. December will find Juniors visiting veterans and seniors in hospitals and nursing homes, organizing Christmas parties and toy drives for veterans, children and families. Marguerite provided information about ALA Membership and Junior Shirts, ALA Membership and Junior Ornaments, and Mission Training. Information on Junior Conference is forthcoming.

President Glenny called for a short recess at 10:19 AM.
The meeting reconvened at 10:30 AM.

Leadership Chairman Robin Falkenberg (512) thanked all those who attended the District 28 Leadership Workshop on November 5th. Members were advised that they should contact her directly if they would like more information on the topics covered there.

Legislative Chairman Kimberly Stuhler (41) shared with members information received from the office of California Attorney General Rob Bonta, regarding the sentencing of



Don Azul who posed as a state contractor and defrauded more than 40 military families throughout California. Azul conned these families into paying at least \$500 each for counterfeit CalVet College Fee Waivers, a free California benefit that waives tuition at certain colleges for eligible students, including children of military veterans. Members were once again reminded that they can sign up for Legislative Alerts at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. Alerts will be sent directly to your mailbox.

Music Chairman Molly Smith (589) advised that Unit packets contain “Country” selections for the Music Books previously distributed. Molly is contemplating a special project that would include the collecting of used musical instruments – more information is forthcoming.

National Security Chairman Connie Raya (694) shared with members the Department National Security Chairman’s November 2023 bulletin, information on Earthquake preparedness, and an Emergency Supplies Checklist. Connie provided information on “The Soldier and Family Readiness Group”, which provides official, accurate command information and connects soldiers and families to the chain of command.

Parliamentarian Robin Falkenberg (512) once again counseled members on the need to respect one another. Be courteous, be kind.

Past Presidents Parley (PPP) Chairman Esther Le Pore (69) gave a brief report on the District 28 Fall PPP meeting held at Post 694 on October 8th. Items covered were the PPP standing rules and a budget overview. Dues were collected for 2023-24. Esther encouraged all past Unit Presidents to join the District PPP committee. The Spring 2024 meeting will be held on April 7th, 2024 (site not specified).

Public Relations Chairman Robyn Huber (593) was absent – no report given.

Resolutions Chairman Esther Le Pore (69):

Now, Whereas Resolutions Chairman Esther Le Pore gave her Resolutions report, and **Whereas** Esther announced that Department Chair Linda Fercho would be awarding prizes for winning resolutions submitted by members, and

Whereas Esther included various types of sample resolutions that can be written.

Therefore be it resolved that Esther is challenging District 28 members to create their own resolutions for a District Prize, and

Be it so further resolved that Esther will create a resolution to celebrate the many entries she hopes to receive from each Unit.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VAR) Chairman Robin Falkenberg (512) reported to members that the Project Hero event, held at Post 512 on October 16 was a huge success. Cost for the event was \$750; Unit and District donations were very much appreciated. Robin also advised that it has been determined that \$30K-\$50K is needed in order to host a Monterey County Standdown, and plans for fundraising are in the works. Robin provided suggestions for holiday activities for veterans and information on Wreaths Across America and Honor Flight, Inc.



VA Hospital Representative Connie Raya (694) reported on the Country Store silent auction held at the Marina VA Clinic on November 14th and thanked the members who donated baskets and items for the event. Connie's report included comments on the November 15th visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium with patients from the Palo Alto VA Spinal Cord Ward, Poly Trauma Unit and Blind Center. Three members of Unit 694 and one from Unit 41 served as escorts for the group as they toured the Aquarium. Connie also advised that in October she delivered 47 items with a total value of \$56 to the Community Living Center/Menlo Park VA. Connie provided a brief recap of the November 16 VAVS meeting held at the Palo Alto VA.

President Rebecca Glenny (694) thanked all District 28 members for their commitment to the Auxiliary mission. Special thanks went to the members who participated in the Back To Basics Training, and the leadership team who facilitated the training – Robin Falkenberg, Connie Raya, Sherryl Panek, and Susan Baker. Rebecca touched on the mid-year reporting date for Units – December 1st, and advised that even though a Unit may not have had any activity in a particular program a Mid-Year Report Form still needs to be submitted to the District chair for accountability. Members were also asked to remember the 'why' behind the Auxiliary mission as they promote programs and training.

Unit Reports were given by Presidents or representatives of Units 31, 41, 69, 81, 512, 589, 591, 593, and 694. (Individual Unit reports will be found on the D28 website.)

Unfinished Business

- Members discussed details for the Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 8-10 AM at the Applebee's Restaurant on North Davis Road in Salinas. The group agreed that that tickets would be \$12 each (District retains 50%, Applebee's gets 50%) The goal is to sell 200 tickets, which will be available at the D28 meeting on January 14th.
- Members discussed a plan for the Department President's visit on January 14, 2024. Molly Smith and Marguerite Blum will finalize a plan.

New Business

- Members discussed a donation to Department for the DEC swag bags. On a motion by Molly Smith and seconded, members approved a \$100 donation for the DEC swag bags.
- It was noted that the District has already budgeted \$150 for the Visalia Convention swag bags.

The next District 28 general membership meeting will be held on January 14, 2024, Post 694 at 9:00 AM.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM.

Susan Baker, Secretary
ALA District 28