



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of California  
District 28

Draft Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
March 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the District 28 Auxiliary was called to order by President Esther Le Pore (69) at 10:15 AM on Sunday, March 19, 2023 at American Legion Post 694 in Marina, CA. Several members attended via Zoom as well. Rituals were recited.

Fourteen officers, eighteen chairmen, eight Past District Presidents and seven Unit Presidents answered roll call.

Department President Gloria Williams was escorted to the podium and introduced by Distinguished Guest Chairman Linda Lara-Guzman. President Esther and members welcomed Gloria and expressed the hope that she would enjoy her official visit with District 28.

The minutes of the January 22, 2023 meeting were approved as emailed.

There were no **Communications**.

**Treasurer** Sherryl Panek (694) gave the Treasurer's report, noting that since the January meeting deposits totaling \$4,177.80 had been credited to the Chase account, and of that amount \$3,860 was from the District 28 Education Fundraiser. Sherryl advised that as of March 18, 2023, the General Fund had a balance of \$8,463.33 and the Welfare Fund had a balance of \$9,290.11; the combined total for both Funds was \$17,753.34. Members learned that the California Registry of Charitable Trusts has extended their Raffle Registration year to the end of December, and effective immediately the raffle year will be January 1-December 31. The CRT-1 for the calendar 2024 must be filed by February 1, 2024. Sherryl requested that all program chairmen who award 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards for supplemental reporting need to inform Sherryl prior to the May meeting so that she can issue checks for the winners.

**Membership** Chair Rebecca Glenny (694) reported that District 28 Membership is currently at 94.45% of goal. Carmel Unit 512 received kudos for being at 134.78% (thanks to their 25 new members); Salinas Unit 31, Monterey Peninsula Unit 41, and Gonzales Unit 81 are all over 100%; Hollister Unit 69 and Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589 each need only two more members to make Goal; Seaside Unit 591, Prunedale Unit 593, and Monterey Cypress Unit 694 are all over 80% and need to re-fuel and speed up to reach Goal! Rebecca reminded Unit chairmen that Membership reports are due by April 14<sup>th</sup>. Members were advised that Unit packets contained tips and information on calling members to renew AND recruiting new members.



**Poppy** Chair Kimberly Stuhler (41) reported that she contacted each District 28 Unit to learn what each of them has planned for Poppy Day – May 26<sup>th</sup>.

- Unit 31 will be offering Poppies at two Salinas locations – CVS and Star Market
- Unit 41 is working on Poppy donation which will be sent to all members of the American Legion Family at their Post. Also requesting a Poppy Day Declaration from the City of Monterey Mayor. Poppy wearables will also be offered for purchase as a fundraiser.
- Unit 69 will set up a Poppy table at the Hollister Veterans Memorial Building on May 26<sup>th</sup> for Poppy distribution.
- Unit 81 – TBA
- Unit 512 will hold a Poppy donation event on May 26<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the City of Carmel at Devendorf Park. Additional activities will be available at the Post.
- Unit 589 – TBA
- Unit 591 is sending Poppy donation letters to all Legion Family members at Post 591.
- Unit 593 will have a Poppy table set up for Poppy Day.
- Unit 694 will receive a Proclamation from the City of Marina Mayor declaring May 26<sup>th</sup> as Poppy Day; Poppy donation letters will be sent to members of the Post 694 Legion Family.
- As a Poppy fundraiser the District 28 Poppy Chair will offer a variety of poppy wear, including earrings, necklaces, T-shirts, scarves and a notebook for purchase. Flyer with details is forthcoming.

Kimberly provided promotional Poppy flyers in Unit packets and asked that they be prominently displayed at each Post.

**Education** Chair Molly Smith (589) shared a recap of the District 28 Scholarship fundraiser held on February 17, 2023 at Post 694. Event income totaled \$3,740.00; Kona Jerry was reimbursed \$228.00 for the baking potatoes and cheese; he donated all of the brisket used for the event. In-kind donations from Food 4 Less, Starbucks, McWherter's, Moose Lodge 876, Dr. Leland Rosenblum, and DJ Mike Ward totaled \$1,519.00. Donations received from Units 31, 69, 81, 512, 589, and 694 totaled \$1,214.03. Molly advised that a total of 281 volunteer hours and 365 miles were reported for the event. We learned that the D28 Scholarship Fund now has a balance of \$5,297.71. Molly expressed sincere thanks to all of the District members who gave so freely of their time and resources to make the fundraiser such a success.

**Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation** Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) reported that there are currently many volunteer openings at VAMCs and CalVet homes in California, and members were asked to share this information with friends around the State and ask them to investigate such openings at a facility in their respective areas. Robin also reported that effective January 17, 2023, veterans in acute suicidal crisis are now able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost –



including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit. Robin also shared some of the information on various wish lists received from Palo Alto Hospital Representative Connie Raya.

**President** Esther Le Pore (69) encouraged Unit Presidents and Chairmen to write supplementals for their year-end reports, to emphasize the wonderful accomplishments Units have made in Auxiliary programs this year. She congratulated the Units that made Goal or better this year and urged those Units that have not to keep trying!

Written reports were received for Chaplain, Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children and Youth, Constitution and Bylaws, Girls State, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, National Security, and Past Presidents Parley.

Written reports were also received by the Presidents or Representatives of 31, 41, 69, 81, 512, 589, 593, and 694.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Members discussed a possible District 28 donation for the 2023 Visalia Convention 'swag bags'. On a motion by Robin Falkenberg members approved a District donation not to exceed \$145 to cover the cost of supplies needed for the 300 individual boxes.. Rebecca Glenny will chair the project.

**New Business:** There was no New Business.

**Comments from Members:**

- Girls State Chair Linda Guzman (81) advised that this year's luncheon will be for Girls State delegates (and families) only and will be held at Post 81 on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 12 Noon. Linda asked that Units sponsoring delegates get the names to her as soon as possible.
- VA&R Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) gave a brief report on the United Veterans Council, noting that Units are welcome to join the group. Dues are \$20 annually per person, and each Unit may have up to three (3) members.
- Members learned that the Monterey County Stand Down has been approved as a non-profit organization. The 2023 Stand Down will be held on June 9, 2023 and will be a one-day event at the area across the street from the Veterans Transition Center in Marina.
- The Monterey County Blue Star Moms will hold a care packaging event at Post 91 on Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 12 Noon.
- The District 28 Past Presidents Parley will hold their Spring meeting at Post 694 on Sunday, April 2, 2023, 1:30 PM. All Unit and District past presidents are invited to attend.



**Department President** Gloria Williams was presented with donations for her Special Project by District 28 and attending Units. Madame President thanked members for taking such good care of her during her visit and commended the District for the excellent meeting and wonderful reporting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

The next District 28 meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023, 9 AM, Gonzales Post 81.

Susan Baker, Secretary  
ALA District 28