



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
District 28

Minutes
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the District 28 Auxiliary was called to order by President Esther Le Pore (69) at 9:10 AM on Sunday, May 21, 2023, at American Legion Post 81 in Gonzales, CA. Several members attended via Zoom as well. Rituals were recited.

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

The minutes of the March 19, 2023 meeting were approved as emailed.

There were no **Communications**.

Treasurer Sherryl Panek (694) gave the Treasurer's report, advising that a total of \$266.01 was deposited since the March 2023 meeting, and \$874.19 was incurred in expenses. Members approved the transfer of \$500 from the General Fund to the Welfare Fund to cover the Department President's Special Project. Sherryl noted that the Department President's official visit expenses totaled \$244.19 – (\$184.19/hotel, \$60/Department President) Members ratified the payment of \$60.00 to Department President Gloria Williams, which exceeded our \$200 budget by \$44.19. Sherryl asked that checks for donations to Selena Miranda be written to ALA District 28; she will then write one check to Selena. Unit Treasurers were reminded that they need to schedule their annual audit with their Unit Presidents, which must be completed by August 31st. Copies of the Unit Audit Form go to the District President by September 30th.

Membership Chair Rebecca Glenny (694) reported that the District is close to making Goal this year; we are currently at 99.76%, and 2 more members are needed to reach 100%. Only eight of the 9 Unit Membership chairmen submitted year-end reports. The following Membership awards were presented to Units:

- Best Membership Supplemental, 1st Place – Carmel Unit 512 - \$10.00
- Best Membership Supplemental, 2nd Place – Gonzales Unit 81 - \$5.00
- Earliest to Goal, 0-101Members – 1st Place = Carmel Unit 512 - \$10.00
- Earliest to Goal, 0-101 Members – 2nd Place – Monterey Peninsula Unit 41 - \$5.00
- Earliest to Goal, 102-Up Members – 1st Place – Salinas Unit 31 - \$10.00
- Largest % of Gain, 0-101 Members – 1st Place – Carmel Unit 512 - \$10.00
- Largest % of Gain, 0-101 Members – 2nd Place – Monterey Peninsula Unit 41 - \$5.00
- Largest % of Gain, 102-Up Members – 1st Place – Salinas Unit 31 - \$10.00



- Largest % of Renewals, 0-101 Members – 1st Place - Gonzales Unit 81 - \$10.00
- Largest % of Renewals, 0-101 Members – 2nd Place – Hollister Unit 69 - \$5.00
- Largest % of Renewals, 102-Up Members – 1st Place – Salinas Unit 31 - \$10.00
- Largest % of Renewals, 102-Up Members- 2nd Place – Monterey Cypress Unit 694 - \$5.00
- Most New Members, 0-101 Members – 1st Place – Carmel Unit 512 - \$10.00
- Most New Members, 0-101 Members – 2nd Place – Monterey Peninsula Unit 41 - \$5.00
- Most New Members, 102-Up Members – 1st Place – Prunedale Unit 593 - \$10.00
- Most New Members, 102-Up Members – 2nd Place – Salinas Unit 31 - \$10.00

Poppy Chair Kimberly Stuhler (41) shared with members some of the ways D28 units worked the program this year, noting that she received 100% reporting. District 28 Units ordered a total of 98 sheets of Poppy Seals. 1st Place Best Unit Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was given to Gonzales Unit 81; 2nd Place Best Unit Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was given to Hollister Unit 69.

Historian Lisa Casarez (69) did not have a Historian's report to share.

Americanism Chair Liz Doidge (593) gave a brief summary of the events and projects accomplished by D28 units this year for Americanism, including a Veterans Appreciation Lunch, the Salinas Veteran Parade, flying the US flag daily, handing out American flags, and promoting the program in the community. District awards for the Americanism Essay Contest were given as follows: Group I – Ethan Pascover, Grade 5, Lone Olson Elementary School - \$10.00; Group II – Luina Paz, Grade 7, Los Arboles Middle School - \$10.00. 1st Place Best Unit Supplemental for Americanism and \$10 was given to Monterey Cypress Unit 694 and 2nd Place Best Unit Supplemental and \$5.00 was given to Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Deniece Clay (694) reported via Zoom on this program, noting that she had received eight year-end reports and two supplementals. Two units held fundraisers for AEF, and the District was collectively able to donate \$965.00 to AEF National. 1st Place Best Unit Supplemental Award and \$10 was given to Gonzales Unit 81; 2nd Place Best Unit Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was given to Monterey Cypress Unit 694.

Children and Youth Chair Sondra Castillo (81) reported on Purple Up! for Military Kids Day activities in the District. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10 was presented to Monterey Cypress Unit 694 and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was presented to Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589.

Community Service Chair Esther Le Pore (69) shared the various activities and projects that D28 units participated in this year, including work with homeless veterans, National days of recognition and remembrance, and honoring Gold Star Mothers. Units reported a total of \$1,099 for in-kind donations; 2 units donated a total of \$250 to the California Disaster Fund. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was given to Monterey Cypress Unit 694.



Constitution and Bylaws Chair Ruby Kapsalis (591) advised that she had 100% reporting, and that all District 28 Unit Constitution and Bylaws are current.

Distinguished Guest Chair Linda Lara-Guzman (81) had no report.

Education Chair Molly Smith (589) advised that Unit 512 donated \$250 to a teacher from their unit who works with special needs children. Unit 694 raised \$4,040 in school supply donations and cash for Give 10 to Education, and donated 2,938 in classroom items to local schools. Total District Give Ten donations totaled \$4,540. Unit donations to the Department Education Program was \$345.00; \$200 was donated to the District Education Fund; units ordered a total of 141 Poppy Seal sheets. Three units gave a total of \$1,800 in local scholarships. Unit 589 hopped outside the box and gave \$100 Book Stipends to 4 candidates not selected for the Girls State program. Molly noted that the District Scholarship Fundraiser experienced a profit of \$3,512 which allowed the fund to reach a total of \$5,297.71; the District will award two \$1,500 scholarships this year. Certificates of appreciation for the Give Ten Program were presented to Units 512, 593, and 694. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10 was given to Monterey Cypress Unit 694, and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was given to Gonzales Unit 81.

Girls State Chair Linda Lara-Guzman (81) reported that the District sponsored 11 delegates this year. Some schools made it difficult for units to get in and share information on the program with counselors. Linda advised that the Girls State Luncheon was 'girls only' for the first time. It was held at Gonzales Post 81 on April 30th and there were 65 guests. Three Girls State alumnae also attended and shared their stories with everyone. All three will attend 4-year universities this Fall. Safe to say, the event was most successful! Linda encouraged all unit Girls State chairmen to attend the monthly Zoom meetings – and the District meetings. There is much valuable information presented that will only be shared via Zoom, so it is important that all GS chairs attend and participate. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was given to Gonzales Unit 81, and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was given to Hollister Unit 69.

Junior Activities Chair Rebecca Glenny (694) recapped unit activities for the program this year. One Junior member in Unit 81 participated in the Junior Patch Program and earned the Americanism, Community Service, Education, Physical Education, and VA&R patches. Seven Juniors from four units were involved in fourteen volunteer service projects. They collectively served 65 veteran/military families and volunteered 125 hours. Junior members also participated in Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and St. Patrick's Day observances, and a dinner and auction fundraiser. Two Juniors from Unit 593 attended Junior Conference in April. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10 was presented to Gonzales Unit 81, and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was presented to Monterey Cypress Unit 694.

Leadership Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) thanked the members who participated in Unit-needs specific workshops, general information workshops and the workshop on year-end reports and supplemental



writing. The unit chairs who submitted year-end reports were acknowledged, as well. Robin reminded members that we are all leaders, and one does not have to hold a chairmanship or an office in order to share their gifts with the membership. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was presented to Monterey Cypress Unit 694 and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was presented to Gonzales Unit 81.

Legislative Chair Kimberly Stuhler (41) thanked Unit chairs for 100% reporting. She noted that Units reported attendance at Town Hall meetings and Meet the Candidates Night events; 29 members subscribe to The Dispatch, and Legislative E-News subscriptions now total 22. 134 letters were written to our U.S. Senators, and 74 letters were sent to our U.S. Representatives. A total of 92 replies were received from U.S. Senators, and 17 were received from U.S. Representatives. Kim again urged all members to sign up for Voter Voice.net, The Dispatch, and Legislative E-News to keep current on all veteran related legislation. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was given to Monterey Cypress Unit 694 and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was given to Gonzales Unit 81.

Music Chair Angela Prak (69) was absent; no report was given.

National Security Chair Linda Lara-Guzman (81) advised that she received six year-end reports and two no-activity reports. A total of thirteen D28 members regularly wore R.E.D. on Fridays. Three D28 members donated blood, and one D28 member completed CERT training. Unit 69 presented a Blue Star and a Gold Star Banner in their community. In December and April members in five Units helped prepare care packages for deployed troops serving overseas. A total of \$782 was donated to the Monterey County Blue Star Moms. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was presented to Hollister Unit 69 and 2nd Place Best Supplemental Award and \$5.00 was presented to Monterey Cypress Unit 694.

Parliamentarian Michelle Soares (694) had no report.

Past Presidents Parley Chair Molly Smith (589) advised that she had 100% reporting and received two supplemental reports for PPP. Molly also reported that the PPP standing rules were rewritten this year to include gender inclusivity as per National rules, and approved a District PPP Special Project – the first ever PPP Nurses Scholarship. Proceeds from the online “Rally Up” basket drawing totaled \$365 for the Nurses Scholarship Fund. The PPP will be awarding a \$250.00 scholarship to the student who submitted through Unit 694, an application for the Department’s \$4,000 Nursing Scholarship. Molly announced that Esther Le Pore will serve as the District 28 PPP President and will chair this program for the next two years. Also, Rebecca Glennly will serve a 2-year term as the D28 PPP Secretary. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 was given to Monterey Cypress Unit 694.

Public Relations Chair Angela Matas-Gay had no report.

Resolutions Chair Ruby Kapsalis had nothing to report.



Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) thanked those members who participated in Project Hero and expressed gratitude to the Units that donated time and goods to the event. Robin noted that even though the District still has no access to Palo Alto VA Building 7, Units very generously filled fifty goodie bags with crocheted hats, mittens, scarves, and knitted and crocheted lap robes, cards, and puzzle books which were delivered to the facility for the patients in December. Robin thanked the Units that submitted year-end reports. 1st Place Best Supplemental Award and \$10.00 went to Monterey Cypress Unit 694.

Hospital Representative Connie Raya (694) reported that she learned at a recent VAVS meeting that there will be changes within the Palo Alto/Menlo Park VA health care system staffing in the next few months. Also, the Marina VA Clinic Canteen can use regular donations of snacks, cookies, donuts, and water. Units interested in donating should contact Mariam Fenwick, Voluntary Service Specialist at the Marina Clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 831-884-1108. Unit packets contain wish lists for the various Recreation Therapy Service outlets, Addiction Treatment Services, and Intensive Outpatient Program Building 520. Please refer to the Unit packet for wish list information on all of these and other facilities/programs within the Palo Alto/Menlo Park VA system.

President Esther Le Pore (69) reported on her year as District President, noting how much she had learned about the Auxiliary during her official visits with each Unit, and by attending Department workshops and trainings. Esther also thanked Ruby Kapsalis, Liz Doidge and Susan Baker for their mentorship. She thanked everyone for the assistance they provided this year. Junior Past President Liz Doidge presented Esther with a card and money, and thanked her for her leadership aboard the Friendship Train.

Presentations

- Education Chair Molly Smith presented \$1,500 scholarships to Katherine Barclay and Elana Glenny. Ashlin Habes received a \$250 PPP Nursing Scholarship.
- The following Poppy Poster awards were presented to the winners by Kimberly Stuhler and Molly Smith:
 - Poppy Poster Contest Group IV – Lacey Garden, Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589 - \$10.00
 - Poppy Poster Contest Group V – Jacqueline Church, Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589 - \$10.00
 - Poppy Poster Contest Group VII – Holly Travis, Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589 - \$10.00
 - Poppy Poster Contest Group VIII – Michele Garden, Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589 - \$10.00

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 11:15 AM and reconvened at 12:30 PM.

The **District 28 Memorial Service** was conducted by Chaplain Connie Raya. The ceremony paid tribute to Unit 81 Members Irene Lyons, Eunice Piffero, and Lillian Rianda; Unit 589 Member Barbara Miller; and Unit 694 Members Letitia Fernandez, Alicia Kim, Zettie Lipscomb, Linda McIntyre and Dolores Rivera. All of these members passed during the 2022-23 year.



Unit Reports were given by the President or a representative of 31, 41, 69, 81, 512, 589, 591, 593, and 694.

Unfinished Business:

- Members approved a budget transfer of \$250 from Education to PPP Nurses Scholarship.

New Business:

- Election of 2023-24 Officers:

The number of eligible delegates present was determined to be 27; a majority of 14 would be required to win the election if more than one candidate was running for a particular office.

- Rebecca Glenny was elected viva voce for President
- Kimberly Stuhler was elected viva voce for 1st Vice President

Linda Lara-Guzman and Marguerite Blum both accepted nominations for 2nd Vice President and a written ballot was required.

- Linda Lara-Guzman was elected by majority ballot for 2nd Vice President
- Susan Baker was elected viva voce as the D28 Delegate to National Convention
- Liz Doidge was elected viva voce as the D28 Alternate to National Convention
- Convention Caucus Committee Assignments were made. A complete list of the meetings and delegate assignments will be emailed to all those attending Convention.

Comments from Members:

Dates to Remember:

- Clovis Workshop, August 12-13, 2023
- D28 Executive Committee Meeting, Sunday, August 20, 2023, 9 AM, Post 694; all District 28 officers, chairmen, and unit presidents need to attend.
- Project Hero 2023 – Monday, October 16, 2023, Dinner @ Carmel Post 512.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Susan Baker, Secretary
ALA District 28

Minutes approved as presented September 17, 2023.