



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
District 28

Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2022

The District 28 meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Doidge (593) at 9:10 AM on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at Marina Post 694, and via Zoom. Rituals were recited.

Fourteen officers, fourteen chairmen and three Unit presidents answered roll call.

The minutes of the January 23, 2022 meeting were approved as emailed.

Treasurer Sherryl Panek (694) gave the Treasurer's report, noting that she wrote checks totaling \$355.00 during January/February and received \$422.50 for deposit. Sherryl noted that Unit 69 paid their District Assessment, Per Capita, and President Pins, and donated \$50 for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund program. Unit 121's District obligations remain unpaid. The checkbook balance on March 18, 2022 was \$12,236.44. No bills were submitted for payment.

Membership Chair Esther Le Pore (69) reported that the District membership numbers are increasing. Units should be aware that National will most likely approve a dues increase for 2023 at the National Convention, therefore, Units should also be discussing a possible dues increase. Units were provided with end-of-year Membership report forms. Completed forms are due to Esther by April 8, 2022.

Poppy Chair Rebecca Glenny (694) advised that this next year Auxiliary members will be schooled in poppy making at the Clovis Workshop. Supplies for poppy assemblage can be obtained through Department Treasurer, Susie Tozier. Rebecca provided a sample Poppy Proclamation in the Unit packets, so local cities can support the Auxiliary by declaring the month of May as Poppy Month. A sample press release was also provided in Unit packets. Year-end Poppy reports are due to Rebecca by April 8, 2022.

Chaplain Connie Raya (694) reported the death of past District 28 Commander John Tomkinson on March 11, 2022. There will be a celebration of life for John at the Seaside VFW on April 23, 2022 from 12 Noon to 6 PM, and all are welcome to attend. Connie also noted that Pat Pitts, Past 694 Commander recently passed away. It was noted that Unit 69 has a Gold Star Mother who recently celebrated her 99th birthday! Connie sent four Sympathy cards and several Get

Well and Thinking of You cards to members around the State. Members were encouraged to submit prayers and devotional thoughts to Connie for Madame President's Prayer Book by May 10th. The finished book will go to Convention for competition. Unit Chaplains were encouraged to make Prayer Books for their Unit Presidents, as well. Units were again asked to send Connie a courtesy copy of the Member Data Form submitted to Department to report a member's death. Connie must have this information by May 3rd if the Unit wants their deceased member(s) acknowledged during the District 28 Memorial Service on May 15th. Connie provided Units with year-end Chaplain Report forms, which are due to her by April 8th.

President Liz Doidge (593) advised that the year-end Historian Report Forms were included in Unit packets, and are due to her by April 8th.

President Liz Doidge (593) provided year-end report forms for **Americanism** in the Unit packets.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Chair Susan Baker (694) gave her report while her pal, "Lovely Lulu" took up a collection from the members present. As a fun way to increase the AEF donation, each member received an "AEF Silly Tax Form" which they were all asked to complete and return to Susan with payment. Susan emphasized that donations to this program are most important, as AEF funds are utilized to assist Auxiliary members in need. Year-end report forms were included in Unit packets and the completed forms are due to Susan by April 8th.

Children and Youth Chair Sondra Castillo (81) reported that April is the Month of the Military Child, and she will be distributing 100 goodie gift bags to military children in the Monterey area on April 16th at locations TBA. If Units or individual members wish to donate small items such as erasers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, wrapped candies, , etc., they should contact Sondra directly to arrange for delivery. Sondra and her committee will assemble the goodie bags on April 14th at Gonzales Post 81 beginning at 5:30 PM, and members are invited to help! Sondra will also be sending thank you cards to military children at an air base in England as part of this C/Y project. Sondra advised that Teddy Bears with Hearts, an organization that provides teddy bears for children in distress, has agreed to provide as many teddy bears as are needed for this project.

Community Service currently has no chair; no report was given. President Liz provided year-end Unit report forms for this program in the Unit packets, noting that Community Service Forms should be returned directly to her at lizdaux@gmail.com by April 8th.

Constitution and Bylaws Chair Ruby Kapsalis (591) reported that Units 69 and 81 were notified that they need to send to Department their Constitution and Bylaws updates ASAP so their delegates can be seated at Convention. All other Units are good to go.

Distinguished Guests – Sophie Grant (69) was absent; no report was given.

Education Chair Molly Smith (589) was excused due to illness; no report was given.

Girls State Chair Linda Lara-Guzman (81) advised that an agreement with Sacramento State has been reached and a contract secured and signed for this year's event. Units sponsoring delegates need to remit the \$425 (per delegate) registration fees to Department by March 31st. Linda reviewed the COVID vaccination requirement, and also advised that a transportation bus company has been secured, and more information will be provided on the bus route when it becomes available. Date, time and site for this year's D28 Boys and Girls State Luncheon are TBA.

Junior Activities Chair Rebecca Glenn (694) advised that this year Convention needs Junior Pages, and juniors who will be at Convention are asked to consider participating. Rebecca reported that this year's Junior Conference was canceled due to very low enrollment. Year-end Junior Activities Report forms were provided in the Unit packets.

Leadership Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) reported that a Leadership workshop is scheduled to be held on Sunday, April 24th at Monterey Peninsula Legion Post 41 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The workshop is open to all members and those who plan to attend need to RSVP to Robin at sterlingrose0709@gmail.com by April 20th.

Legislative Chair Kimberly Stuhler (41) shared current information on the numerous bills that relate to veterans and veteran affairs. Copies of her Legislative recap were provided in Unit packets. Members who are interested in keeping up with veteran-related legislation should visit www.voterve.net/AmericanLegion/Bills. Once there, click on the red box at the top "Sign Up for Alerts."

Music Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) urged members to help return music to their Units – sing at least one patriotic song at each meeting!

National Security Chair Connie Raya (694) informed members to be vigilant when staying at hotels or in someone's home; look for hidden cameras and listening devices. A handy detection tool app called Q 4 Hidden Camera Detector/Bug Finder can be downloaded to your iPhone at a cost of \$39.95. Connie also emphasized the importance of checking on people who are ill or hurt. Connie distributed a First Aid Kit to each Unit, along with the year-end National Security Report Forms, which are due to her by April 8th.

Parliamentarian Robin Falkenberg (512) had nothing to report.

Past Presidents Parley Chair Molly Smith (589) was absent, and no report was given. Robin Falkenberg reminded members that the Parley's spring meeting would be held on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 1:30 PM via Zoom.

Public Relations Chair Esther Le Pore (69) gave her report on Public Relations. She thanked members for keeping the ALA visible through social media. She urged members to give *The Auxiliary* gift subscriptions to their doctors' and dentists' offices. Subscription forms were

provided in the January 2022 Unit packets. For this meeting Esther included the year-end Public Relations Report Forms in Unit packets. Completed forms are due to her by April 8th.

VA&R Chair Karol Adams (31) was absent and no report was given.

VA&R Hospital Representative/Deputy Connie Raya (694) shared information received at the February 2022 Palo Alto VAVS meeting. Connie was able to obtain 'wish lists' from the Palo Alto VA Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder Unit and Palo Alto VA Recreation Therapy Services, and members and Units are urged to make donations based on the information provided. Connie advised that she will be going to the Palo Alto VA on Tuesday, April 12th, so if anyone has items to donate they should call her directly to arrange for pick-up.

President Liz Doidge (593) reported that District 28 Commander Paul Guzman has stepped down because of ongoing and unresolved issues with Department and National. A huge loss for our District leadership. Liz advised that she had finally made contact with Michelle Sanchez, Unit 121, and sadly, the Unit will surrender their Charter at Convention because no members will commit to being officers and supporting the Unit. Liz urged all Unit and District chairs to complete ALL of the year-end program reports and send them along in keeping with reporting deadlines. Convention is just around the corner – June 23-26 at the Wyndham Hotel in Visalia. Liz concluded her report by thanking everyone for their support and hard work despite the hardships created by COVID.

The meeting was recessed at 10:30 AM, and reconvened at 10:40 AM.

Unit Reports were given by 41, 81, 512, 589, and 694.

- Unit 589 11th Annual Applebee's Breakfast Fundraiser, May 14, 2022, 8 AM-10 AM, \$10 per plate.
- Unit 694 Paint & Sip Fundraiser, April 30, 1:30-3:30 PM, Post 694, \$35 per person.

Unfinished Business

- See's Candy Fundraiser ended on March 25th – dollar amount to the District TBA.
- District 28 Education Fundraiser – tabled until further notice.
- Monterey County Stand Down 2022 will be held June 17-18 at the Monterey Fairgrounds. No overnight accommodations. Participants will be bused to and from the facility each day. The Volunteer forms should now be available on the website at www.montereystanddown.org.

New Business

- Relay for Life will be held September 10th at the Salinas Airport from 2 PM-7 PM. District 28 will form a team and join the fun. Members unanimously approved dedicating their walk to Molly Smith, who is currently undergoing chemo and radiation for breast cancer.
- Susan Baker advised that both the US and Auxiliary flag stands are leaking sand and need to be replaced, and the eagle flag topper has been missing a wing for some time.

Susan moved and members approved the purchase of 2 new flag stands and an eagle topper, purchase amount not to exceed \$150.00. Susan will order the replacements through Emblem Sales.

- Robin Falkenberg advised that the Monterey County Blue Star Moms will have a packaging event on April 1, 2022 at the Salinas Masonic Temple, beginning at 5:30 PM. The group expects to fill 100 boxes for shipment to deployed soldiers. Linda Guzman said she would provide D28 members with the wish list of items that can be sent overseas.
- Endorsements for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President: Ruby Kapsalis verbally endorsed Esther LePore for 2022-23 President and Susan Baker read the endorsement letter for Rebecca Glenny for 2022-23 1st Vice President. No endorsements were given for a 2nd Vice President. Elections will be held at the May 15, 2022 meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Susan Baker, Secretary
ALA District 28

NOTE: The next District 28 meeting will be **Sunday, May 15, 9:00 AM** at Gonzales Post 81.

Zoom link for the May 15 meeting follows:

Topic: D28 Meeting-May 15, 2022

Time: May 15, 2022 09:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87923990045>

Meeting ID: 879 2399 0045

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87923990045# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,87923990045# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 879 2399 0045

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87923990045>