



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
District 28

Minutes
Regular Meeting
November 21, 2021

The District 28 meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Doidge (593) at 9:05 AM on Sunday, November 21, 2021 at Santa Cruz Post 64, and via Zoom. Rituals were recited.

Thirteen officers, sixteen chairmen, 7 past District presidents, and four Unit presidents answered roll call.

The minutes of the September 19, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Susan Baker (694) had no communications to read. She reminded program chairmen that they needed to email their meeting reports to her and the President if they had not already done so. All program reports become part of the District 28 permanent records.

Treasurer Sherryl Panek (694) gave the Treasurer's report, noting that she had submitted a \$400 payment to Department for the President's pins; \$322 to the Department Past Presidents Parley fund; and was reimbursed \$39.20 for postage and stamps to mail the President pins and Junior Conference tickets to the units that did not received them in person at the last meeting. All units except 69, 121, and 512 had sent in their assessment and per capita fees. Unit 121 was not sent pins or tickets. Sherryl further advised that the 2020-21 taxes had been filed and requested help to file the CT-NRP-1 form for raffles. Susan Baker volunteered to assist. Additionally, a District 28 PPP Nursing Scholarship was added to the budget in October. The scholarship fund currently has a balance of \$30 and proceeds from the Rally Up basket fundraiser will be added to the Scholarship budget line. Members were advised that no invoices for Project Hero supplies had been submitted for reimbursement and a \$5 check written to Unit 591 in May remains outstanding. The current Chase checkbook balance is \$14,019.22.

Membership Chair Esther LePore (69) reported that seven of our nine active Units are at 50% of goal. She thanked Unit 31 President Karol Adams for being the first and only chair to send transmittal copies to her. Members were reminded that mid-year report forms are due to her no later than December 1st.

Poppy Chair Rebecca Glenny (694) reported that she had not as yet received Poppy order form copies from Units 69, 121, 512, or 593, and she hoped those units placed their orders by the October 31st deadline. It was noted that to date a total of 6,138 poppies were ordered by our reporting Units. Rebecca informed members that there is a poppy shortage and poppy makers are needed. Unit and District members are encouraged to volunteer. Supplies would be

provided by Department at no expense to Districts or Units. Contact the Department Poppy Chair, Linda Hayes, as soon as possible if you are able and willing to help.

Chaplain Connie Raya (694) urged members to reach out to homebound members and those residing in assisted living facilities this holiday season. Hugs and prayers go a very long way to brighten someone's day. All Unit chaplains are encouraged to create Prayer Books for their Presidents, and members were asked to send Connie prayers, devotional thoughts, quotes and poems for the Prayer Book she is making for Madame President Liz. Connie also reminded Chaplains that their mid-year reports must be received by her no later than December 1st, per Department Code. Connie reported that since our last meeting she had sent out 3 sympathy cards and two get well cards to members of the Legion family.

Americanism Chair Liz Doidge (593) shared information on the "Star Spangled Kids" program that helps to educate our children and youth on U.S. History. This year each of the National Divisions will hold random drawings, and will supply boxes of Americanism items to two units in each division. Liz noted that November is Military Family Month, and Veteran's Day was November 11th. Also included in her report were the updated Americanism Essay titles for this year. Liz is also providing 100 small American flags to each D28 unit, and she is asking that the flags be placed on veterans graves at local cemeteries, as part of National SAL Commander Michael Fox's program – Flying Flags for Heroes.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Susan Baker (694) advised that the Western Division AEF Chairman issued a challenge for all units nationwide to donate a minimum of \$1.00 or more per member, based on the unit's membership as of July 31, 2021. Susan encouraged all D28 Unit Chairmen to take up a collection at each of their Unit meetings, and then sometime in the late spring of 2022 send all of the money collected during the year to the American Legion Auxiliary, National. Contribution forms were supplied to each D28 unit. Susan advised that there are two application forms for AEF assistance – Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) for ALA Members, and TFA for Members Affected by Disaster. Both are available on the Department website, and both include instructions to complete the forms. Susan introduced "Lulu", her donation collection bank for AEF. All donations will be forwarded to AEF National after the May 2022 meeting. Mid-year report forms are due by December 1st.

Children and Youth Chair Sondra Castillo (81) reported that she is still looking for military children in our area so they can receive gift bags. She will contact personnel at the Presidio of Monterey to see how many military kids are there. Sondra provided some ideas on how to show deployed children you care during the holidays, including:

- Holding a virtual holiday party through Google Hangout or Skype during Christmas festivities. Include an organized gift exchange.
- Using Google Hangout or Skype to complete a Christmas craft together.
- Purchasing from Hallmark a book that allows you to record stories to be read to children.
- Sending a deployed child a special Christmas ornament, or through Skype or Google Hangout, create Christmas letters or bake cookies.

Community Service currently has no chair, so Units should send their mid-year reports to President Liz.

Constitution and Bylaws Chair Ruby Kapsalis (591) reminded members that the Model Bylaws should be followed when rewriting unit bylaws. Members were also reminded that when they submit an amendment, five (5) original signature pages must be submitted to the Department Chairman with the document. Standing Rules should also be reviewed to determine if they need to be updated.

Distinguished Guests – Members asked Sophie Grant (69) to serve as Distinguished Guest Chair and they will give her direction on the proper protocols associated with the position.

Education Chair Molly K. Smith (589) advised that in their mid-year reports Unit chairs should include donations to Department and District, and note the number of Poppy Seals purchased and Give Ten items and costs. Molly reminded members that the D28 Education Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 19th, 2022, and asked that units NOT schedule any other activities or events for that date as ours is a District fundraiser. Tickets will be \$15 each and may be purchased through Eventbrite. Members approved making 100 paper tickets for units to sell, as well. This will enable those who are not computer literate to purchase tickets to the event. Units are encouraged to donate an opportunity drawing basket for the event, and Molly can provide a sample letter for units soliciting basket donations.

Girls State Chair Linda Lara-Guzman (81) advised that the October 1 deadline to reserve a Girls State spot was extended to November 30, 2021. Unit Chairs are urged to log on to the monthly Girls State meeting to learn about the program and share creative ideas. The next Girls State Zoom meeting is Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7 PM, and related information is available on the Department Girls State website. Tentative dates for the 2022 session are June 26-July 2. Unfortunately, no contract has yet been signed so the location cannot be confirmed at this time. Transportation will be addressed once the actual event location is known.

Junior Activities Chair Rebecca Glenny (694) reported that all D28 units have received their Junior Conference tickets. Junior Conference is planned for April 22-24, 2022, and more information will follow in the coming months. Mid-year reports are due to Rebecca no later than December 1st, 2021.

Leadership Chairman Robin Falkenberg (512) advised that she would like to schedule a Leadership training some time in March, and she is hoping one of the Units will volunteer to host the event. Robin also encouraged all members to take the ALA Academy courses offered on the National website.

Legislative Chairman Kim Stuhler (41) shared with members the American Legion Legislative Agenda which will also be found at www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Bills. From this site the reader can click on the red box at the top – “Sign Up for Alerts” to sign up to receive legislative updates on veterans legislation. Contact Kim directly if more information is needed or for help.

Music Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) encouraged all units to provide patriotic music for the openings and closings of their meetings.

National Security Chair Connie Raya (694) asked Unit chairs to familiarize themselves with the Neighborhood Watch Program and City Crime Prevention Program and share that information with their units. Members were encouraged to have in place an Emergency Plan for their

families should the need arise. Also, keep an emergency kit in the car and another in the home, and keep them stocked with water, daily medications and copies of important papers. Connie shared with members the Emergency & Intervention Agencies list. It could come in handy in an emergency.

Parliamentarian Robin Falkenberg (512) had nothing new to report.

Past Presidents Parley Chair Molly K. Smith (589) reported on the fall District 28 PPP meeting, noting that

- the members reviewed and updated the PPP standing rules, and
- the members approved donating \$322 to the Department Nursing Scholarship. A fundraiser was recently held to raise money for the newly established D28 PPP Nursing Scholarship, and \$180 was raised. The scholarship will only be awarded to a student currently in a nursing program;

Mid-year reports for this program are due to Molly no later than December 1st.

Public Relations Chair Esther LePore (69) encouraged members to continue utilizing all available social media platforms to promote Unit activities and events. Unit chairs were also encouraged to develop or update their media contact lists. Mid-year reports for this program are due to Esther no later than December 1st.

VA&R Chair Karol Adams (31) was not present and no report was given.

VA&R Hospital Representative/Deputy Connie Raya (694) advised that she would be going to the Palo Alto and Menlo Park VA's on November 23rd to deliver holiday donations to the Spinal Cord Ward (Building 7) and there was still time to contact her to schedule a pick-up if a unit or individual is donating items. Members approved a \$600 expenditure - \$300 for Thanksgiving, and \$300 for Christmas – to purchase gift cards from In 'N Out Burger, McDonalds, and Costco. The cards will enable Spinal Cord Ward patients to have something other than institution food for their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Connie advised that she would make a second trip to both Palo Alto and Menlo Park on December 6th to deliver Christmas donations to these facilities. Call her directly if you have items to send. Members learned that the Fort Ord VA Clinic has resumed their COVID vaccination clinics and volunteers are needed. Contact Evan Fasbinder at Evan.Fasbinder@va.gov, or via phone at 408-218-4254 to volunteer. Current 'wish lists' were provided for Palo Alto Building 7, Foundations of Recovery: 520AFOR (2 lists), and Recreation Therapy Services.

President Liz Doidge (593) reported on declining membership in the Auxiliary, noting that should the decline continue at it's current pace, the Auxiliary will not exist in five years. Liz expressed concern that members continue to be driven away because of personal conflicts, cliques, arguments and infighting. Serious consideration needs to focus on promoting those things that our organization is doing to attract new members, and work hard to quash those things which make people want to join a different organization. Liz advised that she has had official visits with Unit 41 and Unit 69 and has several more scheduled during December. Members were delighted to learn that Liz's special project will also be "GI Josie", a local program that serves female veterans.

The meeting was recessed at 10:31 AM and reconvened at 10:55 AM.

Unit Reports were received from 41, 69, 81, 512, 589, 591, 593, and 694.

Unfinished Business

- Members were reminded that the District will have their official visit with Department President Dee Ann Graham on Sunday, January 23, 2022, 9:00 AM, and San Benito Unit 69 will host the meeting at the Veterans Memorial Building (Annex) in Hollister. Please plan to attend if at all possible.
- Members learned that nearly 90% of the Project Hero Riders were veterans, not the 10% that was previously reported.
- Gonzales Unit 81 rescheduled their official visit with the District President, and it will now occur on December 2nd at 6 PM. Units 591 and 593 still need to schedule their visits with the District President.
- Member approval was obtained for the Treasurer to file the CT-NRP-1 Form with the Department of Justice for the purpose of conducting raffles this year.
- Work is being done by Rebecca Glenny and Liz Doidge to update the District 28 website at d28ala.weebly.com, Unit 589 member Selena Miranda has also been assisting with the makeover.
- Sherryl Panek reminded members that \$200 was budgeted for the Department President's special project.

New Business

- Members were advised that the Department DEC meeting will be held at the Long Beach Marriott, January 14-16, 2022, and all members planning to attend should make their hotel and banquet reservations soon.
- President Liz will be putting together a gift basket (red/white/blue theme) to donate to the DEC. Please contact Liz directly if you have donations for the basket.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Baker, Secretary
ALA District 28

NOTE: Next District 28 meeting will be Sunday, January 23, 2022, Veterans Memorial Building Annex, Hollister, CA, hosted by San Benito Unit 69.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Baker, Secretary
ALA District 28

