



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California
District 28

Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 19, 2021

The District 28 meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Doidge (593) at 9:10 AM on Sunday, September 19, 2021 via Zoom. Rituals were recited.

Fifteen officers, seventeen chairmen, nine past District presidents, and five Unit presidents answered roll call.

The minutes of the May 16, 2021 meeting were reviewed and amended with a housekeeping change. The minutes of the August 22, 2021 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed and amended to correct the dates for the Project Hero event, which are Sunday, October 17 and Monday, October 18, 2021.

Secretary Susan Baker (694) had no communications to read, however, Sherryl Panek (694) read the thank you note received from the G I Josie organization for the donation from District, as part of the 2021 District President's special project

Treasurer Sherryl Panek (694) gave the Income/Expense Report for July-August 2021, noting no deposits were made and only one check (\$350.00 to UC Merced for one-half of Elana Glenn's scholarship) was written during the period; the bank balance on 9/10/21 was \$12,335.42. Members approved the proposed budget for 2021-22. Please contact the Treasurer for a copy of the approved budget. Sherryl informed members that a notice from Chase Bank had been received, advising that the ALA District 28 checking account would be charged a monthly service fee if the balance is less than \$2,000. This is now standard practice with all Chase Business accounts.

Sherryl advised that she was emailing to all Unit Presidents an invoice for their share of the District 28 per capita. Members gave approval for Sherryl to mail the Department President's pins to the Units who want them mailed; she will deliver the pins to those Units who do not want them mailed. Units with 50 members or less will each receive 5 pins, while Units with 51+ members will receive 10 pins. The pins are \$5 each, and Units should send their pin payments and District per capita fees to her as soon as possible. Junior Activities Chairman Rebecca

Glenny (694) asked if the Junior Conference tickets could be sent out with the pins, and members approved the action.

There were no bills for submission.

Audit Committee member Robin Falkenberg (512) gave the final Audit Report for 2020-21, noting that the beginning balance on July 1, 2020 was \$8,015.51, and the ending balance on June 30, 2021 was \$12,685.42. Robin again stated that the Treasurer is doing a fabulous job and the books are in good order.

Membership Chair Esther Le Pore (69) reminded members of the 2022 Unit goals shared at the August Executive Committee meeting. Esther also advised that she would be sharing the 'New and Renewal Only' transmittal as well as the 'Past and Rejoin' form with Units. Members were once again advised that all transmittal forms and dues payments must be mailed to the Pasadena address which is noted on each transmittal. Esther will also share with Units information on both the National and Department Membership awards. Esther asked that all Membership information be shared with Unit Chairs. Unit Membership Chairs are asked to send to Esther a copy of each transmittal submitted to Department so that she has a copy for her records. Her email is lepore_e@yahoo.com.

Poppy Chairman Rebecca Glenny (694) gave her report, reminding members that Poppy orders are due to Department by October 1st. Units that fail to order by October 31st will automatically be assessed \$25 and allocated 100 poppies. Rebecca also shared information on the Poppy Poster Contest, Miss Poppy Contest, and Poppy Displays for Convention competition.

Chaplain Connie Raya (694) advised that all Chaplains will be known as the Soul Surfers this year, per Grace Huston, Department Chaplain. Connie asked that members keep a list of sympathy, get well, thinking of you, and birthday cards sent. Unit Chaplains are encouraged to drape their Charters to honor deceased members, and visit members and veterans who are shut-ins. Also, members are encouraged to volunteer in community-wide projects, keep in touch with Gold Star Mothers and remember them during the holidays, and make a prayer book for their Unit president. Connie advised that in the last several months she sent twelve get well cards, two thinking of you cards, and seven sympathy cards to Legion Family members around the state. Members were reminded of the importance of sending Member Data Forms for deceased members to the Department office, with a copy to her. The information is invaluable as it gives Connie a more accurate record of those members to be honored at the annual District 28 Memorial Service in May.

President Liz read the **Historian** report for Priscilla Gaitan (593), which included a brief recap of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the monuments that New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, PA, have built to honor all those who died that day.

President Liz read the **Americanism** report with members, noting that Department is updating the current Americanism Essay titles for grammar issues and they should be available on the

website next week. Liz also advised that the program would focus on promoting flag history and etiquette, flag disposal, and observation of patriotic holidays within communities. The Auxiliary will be working with National SAL Commander Michael Fox to promote his project – Flying Flags for Heroes. Commander Fox is challenging Units to visit local cemeteries to place American flags on veterans' graves. The goal is to place one million flags in cemeteries this year. Liz advised that she is ordering one thousand flags for District 28 Units to use for this project.

President Lis also gave the **Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)** report, advising that this fund provides emergency assistance to a member in need for a limited period of time, and includes funds to help with shelter and utilities during a financial crisis; funds to help pay for food and shelter due to weather-related emergencies or natural disasters; and funds for educational training that an Auxiliary member must take due to life changes such as death of a spouse, divorce, or separation, and which result in the Auxiliary member having to assume the role of primary source of support for his/her family. AEF Assistance Request Forms will be found online and once completed are submitted directly to National for consideration. Units are no longer required to be involved in the submission process.

Children & Youth Chair Sondra Castillo (81) shared her report with members, noting that this year she plans to celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April, and will again send 'thank you' cards to military children overseas, and provide 'goodie' bags to military children in Monterey County.

There was no **Community Service** report given as the position is currently vacant.

Constitution & Bylaws Chair Ruby Kapsalis (591) provided members with a list of the most current Unit Standing Rules updates she has received from the Units, as follows:

Salinas Unit 31 – 11/21/2013
San Benito Unit 69 – 2016-2017
Gonzales Unit 81 – none on file
Edward H. Lorenson U121 – 6/8/2013
Carmel Unit 512 – None on file
Cecil M. Anderson U589 – 12/5/2016
Seaside Unit 591 – 8/4/2001
Prunedale U593 – 8/4/2016
Monterey Cypress U694 – 8/1/1996

If Units have updated their Standing Rules since the dates provided in the above list, please email an updated copy to Ruby at kapsalis694@comcast.net, or snail mail it to her at 1105 Mescal Street, Seaside, CA 93955-6110.

There was no **Distinguished Guest** report as the position is currently vacant.

Education Chairman Molly Smith (589), encouraged Units to participate in the Give 10 to Education program again this year. Members are asked to make a list of items and their value on the Give 10 to Education donation checklist, which can be found on the Department website. Members were also

encouraged to share with local school counselors ALL of the scholarship information and applications offered by the American Legion Family as soon as possible. Molly also advised that the District 28 Scholarship Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2022 at Post 694. Linda Scherer (694) will handle ticket sales on Eventbrite, and the McGuffie Road Band is donating their time and talent. Kona Jerry will prepare the Baked Potato Bar and smoked brisket for the event. Tickets will be \$16. Units are asked to donate drawing baskets and desserts. Lis Billingsley (694) said she would bake 4 cakes for the event.

Girls State Chairman Linda Lara-Guzman (81) shared the Girls State report with members who were reminded that October 1st is the deadline to reserve a Girls State spot for the 2022 session. Linda provided a report from the Department Girls State Chairman, which includes current information on the program.

Junior Activities Chairman Rebecca Glenny (694) advised that Jackie Cleveland will continue as Junior Conference Director this year. The event is currently scheduled for April 22-24, 2022. Rebecca also advised that she will be distributing Junior Conference tickets to all units. (Please see the Treasurer's report above for member approval on how the tickets will be distributed.)

Leadership Chair Robin Falkenberg (512) shared her report with members noting that all Leadership chairmen will be known as the 'Beach Balls' this year. Robin advised that she is looking for a place to hold a District 28 workshop in the near future. She also noted that the Monterey County Blue Star Moms will be participating in the Salinas Veterans Day Parade, and she invited District 28 members to participate in the event with the group.

Legislative Chair Kimberly Stuhler (41) reported on all of the legislation concerning veterans and/or veteran affairs that are currently being considered in the State and National legislatures. Kim urged members to get involved by contacting their legislators at all levels. She offered to assist Units with the process to use to sign up and utilize legislative websites that provide current information on proposed legislation.

President Liz shared the **Music** report with members and highlighted amazing benefits which scientists have identified that can be experienced by listening to music, including better brain health in older adults, the reduction of pain, improved sleeping and eating habits, and lowering stress and improving health, to name a few. Liz also reviewed with members the proper respect to be shown during the playing of the National Anthem.

National Security Chair Connie Raya (694) advised that all National Security chairmen will be known as the Shore Patrol, in keeping with the Department President's theme. Connie noted that the purpose of this program is to maintain and provide a strong national defense; strengthen our military families; prepare for national and manmade disasters; awareness of crime that may threaten our security; make an Emergency Planning List; be educated on crime prevention as information is shared; get involved with the local Neighborhood watch; support your local police and fire departments. Connie stressed that with the wild fires that have devastated California this year, families in the affected areas will need all kinds of assistance, including food, clothing, and shelter. Units are encouraged to donate if possible.

Parliamentarian Robin Falkenberg (512) noted that all Units should have on hand the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Past Presidents Parley Chair Molly K. Smith (589) reviewed the criteria for joining the District 28 Parley. Members who have served as past Department, District, and Unit presidents are encouraged to join the group. The fall District 28 PPP meeting will be held at Post 694 on Sunday, October 3rd at 1:30 PM. Molly also advised that the District PPP will be establishing a scholarship fund, and there will soon be a “Rally Up” basket available to bid on, with proceeds going to the PPP scholarship fund.

Public Relations Chair Esther Le Pore (69) advised that all Public Relations Chairmen will be known as the “Sound Waves”. Esther encouraged Units to fully utilize all of the PR tools that are available to them – including social media and the web – to promote their events. Units are also encouraged to create newsletters to share with their members.

Resolutions Chair Ruby Kapsalis (591) had no report and advised that for this program there most likely won’t be any news until next spring, when we get closer to convention.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair Karol Adams (31) briefly touched on the Project Hero event that will be held at the Carmel Mission Inn on Monday, October 18, 2021. Contact Karol directly if you are interested in volunteering. Detailed information will be shared as it becomes available. There was a question about the actual number of veterans participating in the Project Hero event. Karol will contact the event director in this regard; it is suspected that currently only about ten per cent of the participants are veterans.

VA Hospital Representative Connie Raya (694) reported that she delivered to the Palo Alto Defender’s Lodge food items totaling \$595.71, and food items totaling \$241.79 were delivered to the Menlo Park VA, as well. She thanked Units 31, 41, 589, 591 and 694 for their contributions. Connie also has an updated wish list for the Palo Alto Spinal Cord Ward to share with Units. Connie reviewed the minutes from the Palo Alto VAVS meeting, held on September 16, 2021. It was noted that District 28 will still be able to deliver holiday gifts to the Spinal Cord Ward patients this year.

Liz Doidge gave her **President’s Report** and reminded Units that she needs to receive a copy of their Unit Audit Report Form by September 30th. District 28 bi-monthly meetings are scheduled as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 21	Santa Cruz Post 64, 9 AM
Sunday, Jan. 23	Veterans Memorial Building, Hollister (69), 9 AM
Saturday, Mar. 19	Prunedale Post 593 Senior Center, 9 AM
Sunday, May 15	Gonzales Post 81, 9 AM

Members will be notified in advance if there are any changes to this schedule.

The following official visits are scheduled:

Monday, Nov. 1	Carmel Unit 512 – visit will be via Zoom, 6 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 2	Monterey Peninsula Unit 41, 6 PM
Monday, Nov. 15	San Benito Unit 69, 7 PM

Saturday, Nov. 20	Gonzales Unit 81, 1 PM
Thursday, Dec. 9	Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589, 2 PM @ Post 31
“	Salinas Unit 31, 5 PM
“	Monterey Cypress Unit 694, 7 PM

Units 121, 591, and 593 still need to schedule official visits with Madame President Liz.

Additionally, Liz explained that the new Department website should be treated like a file cabinet and chairmanships should be treated like file folders that contain specific program information for viewing and/or download.

Unit Reports were shared by members of 31, 41, 69, 81, 512, 589, 591, 593, and 694. Most Units are working on fundraisers and membership at this time, as well as planning activities for the year..

Old Business

- Discussion was held regarding the need for Units to annually file a Form CT-NRP-1 with the California Registry of Charitable Trusts if they plan to hold raffles, opportunity drawings, and/or 50/50 raffles between September 1 and August 31. A filing fee of \$20 is paid and submitted with the form. It was unclear whether multiple raffles could be listed on the same form, or must a new form be filed for each raffle to be held. Ruby Kapsalis said that she would contact the IRS for clarification and report back to the members. The motion to approve the \$20 payment to the Registry was approved, then withdrawn and the matter was tabled until a clarification is obtained.
- President Liz advised that she will cover Americanism and Music, and Susan Baler will cover AEF for the remainder of the year. Currently, the chairmanships for Community Service and Distinguished Guests remain unassigned.

New Business

- Molly Smith advised that she would reach out to Selena Miranda (589) to see if she would be interested in working on the District 28 Auxiliary website, which is not currently operational.
- Robin “Falkenberg (589) reported that the **2022 Monterey County Veterans Stand Down** will be held at the Monterey Fairgrounds, June 15-20, 2022, and volunteers are needed. Robin also advised that the **Heroes Open Golf Tournament** sponsored by the United Veterans of Monterey County will take place at the Bayonet-Blackhorse Golf Course on October 30th, and volunteers are welcome!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Baker, Secretary
ALA District 28