

DEC Floor Report
Education Floor Report
January 2024

Good Morning Madam President, Department Officers and Chairman, Members and Guests:

This year's Education Program began with a ringing bell at the Clovis workshop. National Convention, and then the Southern and Northern workshops. I was really pleased to see so many of you at both the Southern and Northern workshops.

I would like to thank unit chairmen who took the time to send in their mid-year reports. I see that many of you are generously donating to the Give 10 to Education which is currently at \$15,923.07; Education donations are starting to come in and are already at \$1,655; and many of you are purchasing Poppy Seals. Your reports show that \$1,000 has been received to date. Remember that Poppy Seals help fund the scholarships we offer. Most units indicate that they are promoting scholarships, and many units have or are planning on giving scholarships. In fact, so far reported scholarships total \$26,650! One unit is giving book grants which is a terrific idea.

It is obvious members are doing a wonderful job promoting the Education Program. A lot of activities were held on during Education Week. Unit 167 presented the flag program to 30 home schooled 2nd and 5th graders. Another participated in a flag retirement ceremony and then presented a new flag to the school. Two units shared the 13 folds of the flag. In District 25, a unit held a question-and-answer session regarding the origin and history of the American Flag. Other events included distributing warm clothing and holiday meal bags, they read to students and donated books to classrooms and libraries. A unit read books to at-risk students in an afterschool program. And one unit donated playground games and equipment.

Unit 221 reported that they contacted a teacher at Edwards Air Force Base and talked to her about Give 10 to Education, explaining how it can help the children of deployed military. A unit in District 19 donated \$200 to Maui Public Schools Education Foundation to help students and staff affected by the Lahaina Fire. An individual members personally donated another \$200. Twenty-units reported that 33 veterans participated in veterans in schools at grade levels K-8.

A unit in District 28 combined both the Education and Americanism programs in an event called "As American as Apple Pie". They taught children and adults how to sign the Pledge of Allegiance – what an awesome idea! They told the story of Johnny Appleseed and the history of several apple varieties. Goody bags filled with craft kits, notebooks, pens, apple juice, apple treats, sanitizers, and flags were handed to the

children. Children were taught how to make candy apples, and everyone was given some freshly made apple crisps.

Most units are promoting scholarships by having contact with schools and universities. One unit met with their Mayor to request help to support local scholarships. Another met with UC Riverside Student Veterans Organization to elicit their support in getting the word out. Members who are teachers have been instrumental in helping to promote scholarships through school activities. Also, 135 veterans have been contacted who want to pursue higher or vocational education.

The deadline is almost here for those who are submitting scholarships. Department of California scholarship applications must be submitted no later than March 1st to the unit President. National Scholarships must be submitted online no later than March 1st. All applications are found on the websites. The Department of California website is calegionaux.org and the National website is ALAforveterans.org.

Madam President, this concludes my report.