

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION  
FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2012  
REDDING, CALIFORNIA

VOLUME I  
PAGES 1 - 223

Reported by: Karen A. Andasola, CSR No. 10919

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

	I N D E X	PAGE
1		
2		
3	Call to Order (Linda Fercho)	3
	Invocation (Alzora Carter)	3
4	Roll Call (Peggy Vogele)	4
	Reading of Convention Rules (Carol Fuqua)	18
5	National Executive Committee Report (Pilar Reyes)	27
	Department President's Report (Linda Fercho)	31
6	Department Vice President's Report (Terry Mikesell)	35
	Department Chaplain's Report (Alzora Carter)	38
7	Historian's Report (Cherie Galvan)	43
	Parliamentarian's Report (Diane DeLashmit)	49
8	Musician's Report (Theresa Jacob)	51
	Sergeant-at-Arms' Report (Gloria Williams)	53
9	Girls State Report (Sherry Schneider)	54
	Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman's Report (Kat Conrad)	66
10	Legislative Chairman's Report (Pilar Reyes)	70
11	Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Peggy Vogele)	74
	Community Service Report (Bonnie Christner)	77
12	Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report (Esther Garcia)	85
13	Afternoon Session	113
	Nominations for Department Officers 2012-2013	115
14	Nominations for Delegates and Alternates to National Convention	122
15	Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report (Esther Garcia) (Continued)	148
16	Past Presidents Parley Committee Report (LuAnn Capazzi)	159
17	Junior Activities Committee Report (Wantu Robinson and Jacqueline Cleveland)	174
18	Junior Conference Committee Report (Jackie Cleveland)	175
19	Junior Activities Committee Report (Wantu Robinson)	178
	Americanism Committee Report (Michelle Soares)	189
20	Children & Youth Committee Report (Sue Hooker)	200
	National Security Committee Report (Terry Mikesell)	206
21	Membership Committee Report (Karen Karanickolas)	210
	Adjournment (Linda Fercho)	222
22		
23		
24		
25		

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
2 DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
3 93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION  
4 FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2012; 9:04 A.M.  
5 REDDING, CALIFORNIA

6  
7 CALL TO ORDER

8  
9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The 93rd Annual  
10 Stampede for Redding has now convened.

11 (Applause.)

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I love seeing the  
13 corral out there with all those horses just moseying  
14 around having a little bite to eat this morning. We  
15 didn't wear them out. They got here, so we're good. You  
16 guys are all great.

17 We will now have invocation by our preacher,  
18 Alzora Carter.

19

20 INVOCATION

21

22 CHAPLAIN CARTER: Heavenly Father, we thank you  
23 for our church and the American Legion Family. Thank you  
24 for those present at this meeting this morning. Be with  
25 us as we make many important decisions that will affect

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 all the members of our organization. Help us to remember  
2 that everyone's opinions are essential in making the  
3 correct decisions. Help us to always remember our true  
4 purpose as the American Legion Auxiliary. Bless our  
5 president and officers as they conduct our meeting and  
6 keep them in your care. May all of us praise your name.  
7 Amen.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Amen.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time we  
10 will have the roll call from our department secretary who  
11 rode in from the ranch.

12 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Good morning,  
13 ladies.

14 (Singing.)

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Thank  
16 you. Maybe we can get the words out to this and before  
17 this is all over, we'll have the words.

18

19 ROLL CALL

20

21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Good morning,  
22 ladies. Let's start with roll call. And we'll start off  
23 with our Governor Linda.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Here.

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Department Vice

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 President Terry Mikesell.

2 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Here. I beg  
3 your pardon? I can't hear over here. These two ladies  
4 are talking.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Secretary/Treasurer  
6 Peggy Vogeles is here. NEC Woman Pilar Reyes.

7 NEC WOMAN REYES: Present.

8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Chaplain Alzora  
9 Carter.

10 CHAPLAIN CARTER: Present.

11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Historian Cherie  
12 Galvan.

13 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Here.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Parliamentarian  
15 Diane DeLashmit.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Circuit judge is  
17 here.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Musician Theresa  
19 Jacob. She's here. She's here somewhere. There she is.

20 Sergeant-at-Arms Gloria Williams.

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAMS: Here.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Marshal Kathy  
23 Harris.

24 MARSHAL HARRIS: Here.

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Finance Committee

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Chairman Susie Tozier.  
2 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: Cha-ching.  
3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Finance Committee  
4 Senior Norma Billings.  
5 FINANCE COMMITTEE SENIOR BILLINGS: Cha-ching.  
6 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Finance Committee  
7 Junior Member Kathy Martinez.  
8 FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNIOR MARTINEZ: Cha-ching.  
9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Advisory Committee  
10 Madeline Lee.  
11 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER LEE: Here.  
12 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Advisory Committee  
13 Odette Cuccaro.  
14 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER CUCCARO: Present.  
15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Advisory Committee  
16 Sandy Jacob.  
17 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER JACOB: I'm waking up.  
18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Let's move on to the  
19 chairmen. Americanism, Michelle Soares.  
20 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Here.  
21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: AEF Fund, Kat  
22 Conrad.  
23 AEF FUND CHAIRMAN CONRAD: Way back here.  
24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Children & Youth,  
25 Harriet Clendenin is excused. Community Service, Loretta

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Marsh is excused. Constitution & Bylaws, Esther Garcia.  
2           CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Here.  
3           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Convention Chairman  
4 for Redding. Cassie is excused, Cassie Mikesell.  
5 Convention Commission Chairman, Linda Caples.  
6           CONVENTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAPLES: Here.  
7           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. Credentials,  
8 Marge Rye.  
9           CREDENTIAL CHAIRMAN RYE: Still up in the corral.  
10          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Distinguished Guest  
11 Chairman, Linda Workman.  
12          DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN WORKMAN: Hee-haw.  
13          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Editor, Estella  
14 Avina.  
15          EDITOR CHAIRMAN AVINA: Here. Here.  
16          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: There she is.  
17 Education, Sylvia Alcantar is excused. Elections, Melanie  
18 Taylor.  
19          ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Here.  
20          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Girls State  
21 Chairman, Lou Thompson.  
22          GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Are you from  
23 Girls State?  
24          AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yeah, yeah.  
25          (Applause.)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  Girls State  
2   Director, Sherry Schneider.

3           GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER:  Back to back and  
4   ready to go.

5           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  Junior Activities  
6   Chairman, Wantu Robinson.

7           JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON:  Our girls  
8   are still active.

9           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  Junior Conference  
10  Director, Jackie Cleveland.

11          JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND:  Here.

12          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  Leadership, Linda  
13  Diebel.

14          LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN DIEBEL:  ALA leaders into the  
15  22nd Century.

16          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  Legislative, Pilar  
17  Reyes.  Here.  Membership, Karen Karanickolas.

18          MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS:  Present.

19          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  National Security,  
20  Terry Mikesell.

21          DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL:  Present.

22          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:  Past Presidents  
23  Parley, LuAnn Capazzi.

24          PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI:  Good  
25  morning.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Poppies, Jean  
2 Cooley-Demeules.

3 POPPY CHAIRMAN COOLEY-DEMEULES: Back over here.  
4 Rolling hills in the poppy.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Way, way in the  
6 back. Rolling way back there.

7 Public relations, Lisa Stuart. She's here.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Here she is.

9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: There she is. Hi,  
10 Lisa.

11 Resolutions, Pat Sweeney.

12 RESOLUTIONS CHAIRMAN SWEENEY: Here we go.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Rules, Carol Fuqua.

14 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: Present.

15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Veterans Affairs &  
16 Rehabilitation, Anita Biggs.

17 VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
18 Good morning, Peggy.

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Ways & Means, Denyse  
20 Laugeson.

21 WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN LAUGESON: Howdy.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: And we'll move on to  
23 the district presidents. District 1, Kat Conrad.

24 DISTRICT 1 PRESIDENT CONRAD: Woo-who.

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: There she is in the

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 back. District 2, Nancy Johnson.

2 DISTRICT 2: We are here and present.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 3, Lola  
4 Ramey.

5 DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT RAMEY: Back here in the  
6 back.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. District 4,  
8 Barbara LaDoucer.

9 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Here.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. District 5,  
11 Virginia McQueen.

12 DISTRICT 5: Yahoo.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 6, Wendy  
14 O'Brien.

15 DISTRICT 6: The chicken pluckers are ready to  
16 pluck. Cluck, cluck, cluck.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 7, my girl  
18 Beverly Chapman.

19 DISTRICT 7: Yippy. We're here.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 8, Tammy  
21 Manini is excused. District 9, Dolly Rios.

22 DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT RIOS: Here.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 10, Susan  
24 Peters.

25 DISTRICT 10: (Singing.)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 11, Joan  
2 Cannon.

3 DISTRICT 11: (Singing.)

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 12, Joan  
5 Cannon. I'm sorry. District 12, Jane Matthews. There  
6 she is. There she is.

7 District 13, Joyce Henderson-McLeod is excused  
8 and Theresa Jacob is filling in.

9 DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT HENDERSON-McLEOD: No, no.

10 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Oh, is she here?  
11 Okay. Sorry about that, Joyce.

12 District 14, Martha Sweeney. Barbara Davis is  
13 filling in.

14 MS. DAVIS: Here.

15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 15, Karen  
16 Herrera is not here, excused, but Genieca Risner is  
17 filling in.

18 DISTRICT 15: District 15 is here.

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 16,  
20 Rosemary Weber.

21 DISTRICT 16: (Speaking Spanish.)

22 DISTRICT 16 MEMBER: Do you want translation?  
23 Good morning from the ladies of the Pacifica.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Gracias, amigos.  
25 Amigas.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1                   SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 18, Kathy  
2 Pipkin.

3                   DISTRICT 18: The cattle drive from District 18  
4 has reached the end of the trail.

5                   DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yahoo.

6                   SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 19, Diana  
7 Moreno.

8                   DISTRICT 19: District 19 is ready to get this  
9 party started.

10                  DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I was there last  
11 night and you all weren't there. I had my red Solo cup  
12 too.

13                  SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 20, Linda  
14 Hayes.

15                  DISTRICT 20: Good morning, Madam President.  
16 We're back here.

17                  SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 21, Cheryl  
18 Hathaway.

19                  DISTRICT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: Good morning.

20                  SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 22, Gigi  
21 Manno.

22                  DISTRICT 22: Howdy to you from District 22.

23                  SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 23, Denise  
24 Coleman.

25                  DISTRICT 23: ALA came from town of Tombstone is

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 down for the last roundup. Good morning, Madam President.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 24, Susie  
4 Johansen.

5 DISTRICT 24: Howdy, Linda, from the bucking cow  
6 contestants.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 25, Donna  
8 Mattox.

9 DISTRICT 25: We wore our hats and cowgirl boots,  
10 our cactus plants grew tall. To support the Legion  
11 Family, we truly gave our all. Good morning from the  
12 great 25th District Cactus Flats.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 26, Lou  
14 Thompson.

15 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Good morning.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 27,  
17 Danielle White.

18 DISTRICT 27: (Horns blowing.)

19 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 28, Renee  
20 Yaqub.

21 DISTRICT 28: Liberty Bell is moving on up.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 29, Tami  
23 Bell.

24 DISTRICT 29: The oranges are ready to roll in  
25 Redding.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 30, Belen  
2 Telford.

3 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: Good morning.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good morning.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. The VA&R  
6 reps, we'll get to them now. Loraine Sullivan is excused.  
7 Mary Lou Warner from Reno.

8 HOSPITAL REP WARNER: Here.

9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Mary Sinopoli from  
10 Fresno. Are you having Gloria say hello for her?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sure my mom says good  
12 morning and wishes you well for a good convention, Madam  
13 President.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: And I'm sorry, Wendy  
15 O'Brien, I skipped over you from Sacramento.

16 HOSPITAL REP O'BRIEN: Here I am.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Pat Klang, Palo  
18 Alto.

19 HOSPITAL REP KLANG: Here.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Ruth Briggs,  
21 Livermore.

22 HOSPITAL REP BRIGGS: Yes.

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Phyllis Holmberg  
24 from San Diego.

25 HOSPITAL REP HOLMBERG: Here.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Mavis Kanka, Loma  
2 Linda.  
3 HOSPITAL REP KANKA: Here.  
4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Pat Alvarez, Long  
5 Beach.  
6 HOSPITAL REP ALVAREZ: Good morning, Madam  
7 President. No cane.  
8 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Earlean Paige from  
9 Los Angeles.  
10 HOSPITAL REP PAIGE: West LA in the house.  
11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Hermine Fosmark,  
12 Santa Barbara excused.  
13 Okay. Angie Acosta, Barstow.  
14 HOSPITAL REP ACOSTA: Saddle sore, but here.  
15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Lois Cornish, Chula  
16 Vista.  
17 HOSPITAL REP CORNISH: I'm here.  
18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Peggy Grabski,  
19 Yountville.  
20 HOSPITAL REP GRABSKI: I'm here. Here and doing  
21 fine.  
22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Veronica McGough,  
23 Lancaster.  
24 HOSPITAL REP LANCASTER: Yippee ki yay.  
25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Madeline Lee,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Ventura.

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT LEE: Howdy.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Deloris Artis, Los  
4 Angeles.

5 HOSPITAL REP ARTIS: Here.

6 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Madam President,  
7 that's your roll call.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
9 much.

10 Good morning, everyone.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And it is a  
13 beautiful morning. The weather is cooperating. It's not  
14 supposed to be as hot, so it's going to be a great day.  
15 Just a couple of things. We will be having lunch over at  
16 the Red Lion. Later this morning we will be introducing  
17 our Unit Member of the Year. And we're all excited. She  
18 will be here. And I think we have some recipients of some  
19 scholarships also, so we're very happy about that.

20 At this time I would like to ask all members in  
21 the audience that are here for the first time to a  
22 convention please stand. Your first time to one of our  
23 conventions.

24 (Applause.)

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I see a lot of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 great ones here. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very,  
2 very much. And also at this time we introduce our  
3 district presidents, but we all go back to our roots no  
4 matter what we do. National president elect, after her  
5 year, we go back. We go back to where? To the unit.  
6 That's where we start. That's where we go back.

7           Myself, I like the kitchen. I like cooking. I  
8 like being in the kitchen, so they're ready to have me  
9 back for some Monday night tacos, Monday Night Football.  
10 But I'd like to have all unit presidents in the audience  
11 please stand. I'd like to recognize those that are there  
12 on a full-time basis.

13           (Applause.)

14           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Thank  
15 you very much. Yesterday I had a lot of thank yous and I  
16 introduced a lot of people. And you know how it is when  
17 you get up here. I mean, I thought I was so prepared, and  
18 I'll tell you, I'm a nervous wreck. You know, I love you  
19 all and I know if I goof and I blow it, you guys are just  
20 going to say: Okay; that's her, and we're going to go on.  
21 But you do. You get kind of nervous. You think you're  
22 ready, but you're just not.

23           And yesterday there was one very, very important  
24 person. And when Sharon sang "Wind Beneath My Wings" --  
25 my daughter, Tracy, please stand.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: But she not only  
3 has been a support for me, but also for her dad two years  
4 ago as the past Commander of the State when he was State  
5 Commander. So our family -- the family truly thanks you  
6 because they don't have to do it.

7

8 READING OF CONVENTION RULES

9

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time we  
11 will have the convention rules read by Carol Fuqua.

12 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: Good morning, Madam  
13 President Linda. At this time I will recite the  
14 convention rules. Your convention rules can be found on  
15 page 10 of the book of reports.

16 Madam President Linda, this chairman will  
17 hesitate after each rule or if there is a question or an  
18 amendment, it may be presented at that time.

19 Okay. Rule number 1: All meetings of the  
20 convention shall be called to order at the designated  
21 times or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present.

22 Number 2: A quorum shall exist when one-third of  
23 the units in good standing are partially or wholly  
24 represented by all elected delegates or alternates.

25 Number 3: The audience shall remain seated

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 during the business of the convention. The department  
2 president shall designate certain doors to accommodate  
3 delegates who find it necessary to enter or leave the  
4 convention hall during the reports of committees or when a  
5 speaker has the floor. Cell phones must be turned off or  
6 in vibrate mode.

7 Number 4: The chair may deviate from the printed  
8 program when necessary or expedient.

9 Number 5: The credentials chairman shall report  
10 registration as directed by the Chair.

11 Number 6: The registration of delegates and  
12 alternates shall close at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 23rd,  
13 2012.

14 Number 7: Only qualified delegates shall have  
15 voice and vote.

16 Number 8: It shall be the responsibility of each  
17 district president to see that only accredited delegates  
18 and alternates serving as delegates are seated in her  
19 district delegation during the business meetings of the  
20 convention.

21 Number 9: If a delegate expects to be absent  
22 from the convention, except for the purpose of attending a  
23 committee meeting, she shall relinquish her delegate's  
24 card to her alternate. The alternate shall then take her  
25 seat in the voting section. In the event the delegate

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 does not have the opportunity of reporting to the district  
2 president, it shall become the duty of the chairman of the  
3 unit to report to the district president the absence of  
4 the delegate and the presence of the alternate or the  
5 absence of both the delegate and the alternate.

6           Number 10: A delegate wishing the privilege of  
7 the floor shall rise, address the chair as "Madam  
8 Department President," give her name, unit and district  
9 numbers, pause, and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

10           Number 11: A member speaking in debate on a  
11 question shall be limited to three minutes. No one shall  
12 speak more than twice on the same question without consent  
13 of the assembly.

14           Number 12: Delegates attending called committee  
15 meetings shall be notified when the convention is  
16 considering and voting upon adoption of any change in  
17 policy or matters affecting finance.

18           Number 13: Reports of committees which do not  
19 appear to be controversial in nature may be adopted by  
20 general consent. If there is no objection -- if there is  
21 objection, a vote shall be taken. Following the  
22 acceptance of a report of a committee, recommendations or  
23 resolutions may be presented for consideration and  
24 adoption.

25           Number 14: Any committee whose proposed changes

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 in policy might conflict with that of the American Legion  
2 shall confer with the American Legion before presenting  
3 said change to the convention.

4 Number 15: A committee recommending an  
5 appropriation of funds for any purpose shall consult with  
6 the department finance committee before presenting the  
7 recommendation or resolution to the convention.

8 Number 16: All resolutions to be presented to  
9 the convention shall be in triplicate and properly signed.

10 Number 17: Committees may amend resolutions and  
11 recommendations referred to them before favorably  
12 reporting same. Resolutions or recommendations rejected  
13 by a committee shall be marked "rejected," signed by the  
14 chairman of the committee, and returned to the department  
15 resolutions chairman immediately following the committee  
16 meeting.

17 Number 18: A unit, district, or members  
18 presenting a resolution or recommendation shall have the  
19 privilege of explaining same to the committee to which it  
20 was referred.

21 Nineteen: Committees shall report to the  
22 convention all resolutions properly submitted and accepted  
23 by a majority convention committee.

24 Number 20: A resolution rejected by a committee  
25 may be brought before the convention by a two-thirds vote.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Number 21: Emergency resolutions which may arise  
2 during the convention or after the date for submitting  
3 resolution may be presented no later than noon of the  
4 second day of convention.

5           Number 22: Nominations of officers, junior  
6 member finance, department delegates, and alternates to  
7 the national convention shall be held Friday afternoon,  
8 June 22nd, 2012.

9           Number 23: The endorsement of candidates for  
10 national office shall follow the nominations.

11           Number 24: Nomination speeches shall be limited  
12 to three minutes. There shall be no seconding of  
13 speeches.

14           Number 25: Election of department officers,  
15 junior member of finance, national candidate, department  
16 delegates, and alternates to the national convention shall  
17 be held on Saturday morning, June 23rd, 2012.

18           Number 26: The doors of the convention hall  
19 shall be closed during the entire election procedure and  
20 no one shall leave or enter the hall until the chair  
21 states that the election is concluded. The exception to  
22 this shall be that in an emergency a member may leave, and  
23 if her absence affects the voting strength, the district  
24 president shall immediately notify the presiding officer.

25           Number 27: When there is but one nominee for

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 department offices and but one nominee for junior member  
2 of finance, the nominees shall be elected viva voce. Upon  
3 roll call, the district presidents shall report the number  
4 of units partially or wholly represented by duly elected  
5 delegates or alternates present in the delegation at the  
6 time of roll call. This is to determine that there is a  
7 quorum of units present at the time of the election.

8           Number 28: When there is more than one nominee  
9 for the department offices or junior member of the finance  
10 or national office, election shall be by written ballot.  
11 The district president shall, when they are instructed by  
12 the Chair, take a roll call of their respective  
13 delegations to ascertain the total voting strength of  
14 their district for the election reporting the same to the  
15 Chair. When there is but one nominee for office or junior  
16 member of the finance, the ballot may be dispensed with a  
17 nominee elected viva voce.

18           Number 29: When there are three or more nominees  
19 for an office or a junior member of the finance, unless  
20 one nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot,  
21 the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be  
22 automatically dropped before proceeding with the next  
23 ballot.

24           Madam Department President Linda, this concludes  
25 the reading of the convention rules. I move that the

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 convention rules be considered seriatim and be adopted as  
2 a whole.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: There's two more.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: There's five more.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: There's a couple  
6 more.

7 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: Well, that page was  
8 missing.

9 When there are three or more nominees for an  
10 office or junior member of the finance, unless one nominee  
11 receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the nominee  
12 receiving the lowest number of votes shall be  
13 automatically dropped before proceeding with the next  
14 ballot.

15 Number 30: Each district president and district  
16 member of the elections committee shall distribute and  
17 collect the votes cast by the district delegation and  
18 deliver them to the department chairman of the elections.

19 Thirty-one: Department officers, chairmen,  
20 committee members, and past department presidents shall  
21 vote with their respective districts.

22 Number 32: Each delegate shall be entitled to  
23 one vote. The vote of an absent unit delegate, not  
24 represented by an alternate, shall be cast by the majority  
25 of the delegates from the unit. When two delegates



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 represent three votes, the chairman of the unit delegation  
2 shall cast the third vote.

3 Number 33: A majority of all votes cast shall  
4 elect, except that in the election of the national  
5 delegates and alternates a plurality shall elect.

6 Number 34: These convention rules may be amended  
7 during the convention by a two-thirds vote.

8 Number 35: Robert's Rules of Order, Newly  
9 Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority on all  
10 points not covered by these rules, the department  
11 constitution and bylaws, and the convention mandates.

12 At this time, Madam President, this concludes the  
13 reading of the convention rules. I move that the  
14 convention rules be considered seriatim and be adopted as  
15 a whole.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do I have a second?

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Move and seconded  
19 to accept the department's reading of the convention's  
20 rules as a whole. All those in -- discussion?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I didn't hear it very well.  
22 Can you read it again?

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, Linda.  
24 How many are in favor of reading them again?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Madam President,  
2 Diane DeLashmit, Department Parliamentarian. Rule number  
3 25 was read as Saturday morning, June 22nd, 2012. It  
4 should be June 23rd.

5           AUDIENCE MEMBER: She read the 23rd.

6           PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Oh, okay.

7           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
8 much. Yeah, I think the copy that we do have does have  
9 the 23rd. All in favor?

10          ALL PRESENT: Aye.

11          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed? Linda?

12          (No response.)

13          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very,  
14 very much.

15          Thank you, Carol.

16          RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: Madam Department  
17 President, rule number 3 provides it is your  
18 responsibility to designate certain doors to accommodate  
19 the delegates to enter or leave the convention.

20          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Far right. Your  
21 left.

22          DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: That one  
23 back there where Linda Workman is.

24          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Linda, wave your  
25 hand. Where she's at, that will be the door. Not really

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 where she's at, but where the exit sign is. So we'll  
2 designate that.

3 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: Okay. Madam President, I  
4 suggest that we request delegates entering the hall to  
5 stand quietly until the speaker has finished before  
6 returning to their seats.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

8 RULES CHAIRMAN FUQUA: And thank you, Madam  
9 Department President Linda, for this appointment and the  
10 opportunity to serve the Department of California.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
12 much, Carol.

13 (Applause.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. So we do  
15 need to close this door.

16

17 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

18

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I  
20 would like to start with our officers' reports. And we're  
21 going to hear first from Madam Pilar Reyes. She will be  
22 reporting as the National Executive Committee Woman.

23 NEC WOMAN REYES: Slippery. Well, we have to  
24 have some excitement sometimes, you know. There's  
25 something slippery here.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Okay. Now let's go to the -- Madam Department  
2 President and all, good morning.

3           AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

4           NEC WOMAN REYES: It is indeed an honor to serve  
5 as California National Executive -- they're wiping me off.  
6 I didn't -- I'm not wet up here. Thank you.

7           It is indeed an honor to serve as California  
8 National Executive for 2011-2012.

9           At the NEC post convention meeting held in  
10 Minnesota on September 1st, 2011, NEC adopted separate  
11 motions that approved this calendar year 2012 annual  
12 national budget and national appointments. On November  
13 30, 2011 at its virtual meeting, the National Executive  
14 Committee approved establishing an ALA Affinity credit  
15 card program through USAA which is already at the height  
16 of its promotion for support.

17           In February 2012 I was privileged to attend the  
18 Washington D.C. conference, this time both as NEC and  
19 Department Legislative Chairman. Although it was my third  
20 time to attend the event, it had always offered a valuable  
21 educational and learning experience ever to be remembered  
22 by everyone in attendance.

23           I would like to thank Madam President Linda for  
24 filling in for me in the Saturday orientation session  
25 because I missed my early flight due to a chain of

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1     unfortunate events and did not get in on time for the  
2     first meeting.

3             The following day I was able to attend the  
4     skill-building workshop designed for skills and leadership  
5     development and advocating for our veterans and their  
6     families. These include first improving organizational  
7     effectiveness through role clarification. Is it by  
8     governance or management?

9             And by the way, I will present this issue at the  
10    new business, so it is an important matter. Whether heads  
11    of units, departments, or the national organization,  
12    Auxiliary volunteer leaders at all levels are facing  
13    challenges in critical areas such as member recruitment  
14    and retention and organization governance. The session  
15    discussed strategies how to manage these challenges.

16            The second one is listening to each other. This  
17    is creating a positive member experience for all the  
18    generations. The American Legion Auxiliary has a  
19    multi-generational membership. This session offered  
20    participants an opportunity to listen to three members in  
21    their role-playing of various generations, traditional,  
22    baby boomers, and contemporary generations who shared  
23    their experiences in the Auxiliary and what motivates them  
24    to serve.

25            Bottom line is every generation has the same

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 motivation, to serve our veterans and their families as a  
2 way of thanking them for their service to our country.

3 The third one is advocacy fundamentals.

4 Effective advocacy on behalf of our veterans and their  
5 families is one of the Legion Family's key strategies and  
6 strengths. The session introduced the fundamentals of  
7 engagement with public policymakers to ALA members who are  
8 new to advocacy. Attendees learned the difference between  
9 lobbying and advocacy, how they are approached, and  
10 importance of each for our mission for our veterans and  
11 their families.

12 There were many more presentations by speakers on  
13 national security and veterans affairs matters and I had  
14 mentioned some of them in my legislative bulletin number 4  
15 and legislative report. This will be coming.

16 For your information, a reminder from NEC on the  
17 charter cancellations. I am sure some of you already know  
18 this, that the deadline for submitting unit charters for  
19 cancellation should be received no later than July 20,  
20 2012. Before a unit charter can be considered for  
21 cancellation by the National Executive Committee, a letter  
22 from the department officer should be received verifying  
23 that the DEC has taken the appropriate action. Any  
24 requests for cancellation of unit charters received after  
25 the July 29th deadline will be held until the next meeting

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 of the NEC. And there will be no exceptions.

2 Thank you, Madam President. This concludes my  
3 report.

4 (Applause.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

6

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

8

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I'd  
10 like to ask our lieutenant governor to please take the  
11 station while I present my report. I got my marching  
12 orders from the Pages, so I'm trying to get in the right  
13 direction here. I don't want to -- I don't want to  
14 upstage our NEC woman and have to dance with her later,  
15 so --

16 To all the good citizens of Fort Friendly and the  
17 Territory of California. I am here today to let you know  
18 what an honor it has been this past year for me to be your  
19 territorial governor. Your support and continued  
20 dedication to our mission has been unwavering, but I am  
21 here to say that I will not be seeking reelection. I  
22 think that's what all good politicians are supposed to say  
23 when they have come to the end of a good run and a very  
24 qualified candidate will be their successor.

25 All kidding aside, this has been an amazing year.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 I have traveled over 33,000 miles and have put a dozen  
2 horses out to pasture at the ranch who have carried me  
3 throughout the territory greeting as many of you as I  
4 could, be it when I visited your district or at one of the  
5 six Wild West shows. Or it might have been at one of the  
6 many Legion or Auxiliary events that I attended  
7 representing each of you. Everywhere I went I was  
8 constantly amazed by your creativity in using the western  
9 theme in your decorations, gifts, programs, or reports.

10 I have issued two State of the Territory reports  
11 that I hope that you all have had an opportunity to read.  
12 In them I have talked about the many places I have been,  
13 so I'm not going to repeat all of them.

14 Some of the highlights of this year have been  
15 installation in Ontario where your Fort Friendly saloon  
16 owner, department gopher-in-training and my best friend  
17 Past Department Commander Dennis and I two-stepped down  
18 the aisle.

19 Wasn't that western mural amazing? My unit, my  
20 post, my Legion family there put that together, and I hope  
21 you all enjoyed it. It's now on eBay if anybody wants to  
22 buy it. They have refused to put it up again.

23 Then I started riding all over the territory  
24 bringing Wild West shows to your areas. Fourth of July,  
25 my birthday, was a real town celebration from riding in



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 the 4th of July parade in Pacific Palisades on one of  
2 those newfangled motor machines to the surprise party at  
3 Camarillo Post 741.

4 We had a long, rough stagecoach ride all the way  
5 to Minnesota for the National Convention where I was  
6 installed with National President Kris Nelson.

7 Back in the territory took a few buckboard rides  
8 visiting districts. I needed the buckboards to bring home  
9 all the loot received from all of you. Thank you for all  
10 the donations to my special project Ride 2 Recovery. The  
11 department received over \$13,000 in cash donations, but  
12 over \$32,000 was recorded in kind donations.

13 As they rode through our state, you served them  
14 food, you housed them, you took care of those Riders.  
15 Those Wounded Warriors will never, ever forget their ride  
16 down the coast of California. Thank you very much. Your  
17 generosity was very humbling.

18 National President Kris came to the territory in  
19 October and had an amazing time at the Junior Jamboree.  
20 She is still talking about that. She visited the West LA  
21 Veterans Hospital, the USO at LAX, joined the Ride 2  
22 Recovery in San Francisco, had dinner in Webster, and was  
23 presented -- and was present at Palo Alto VA when Past  
24 Department President Pilar presented her generous  
25 donation. Then we had dinner in Santa Clara.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           The holidays came and went in a blur as we were  
2   on the trail again visiting as many towns as we could  
3   while we headed for the department rodeo in Oxnard in  
4   January. The rodeo was a huge success and the saloon  
5   owner had all his saloon girls dressed in their finest  
6   ready to entertain the rodeo guests.

7           But one stole the show. Past Department  
8   President Odette truly impressed everyone at the saloon,  
9   especially the saloon owner who asked her to dance. She  
10   said, "I haven't danced in years." He says, "That's  
11   okay." She said, "I have on rubber-soled shoes. I can't  
12   do that." He said, "Let's just cuddle."

13           (Applause.)

14           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yeah, those fishnet  
15   hose were amazing and, Miss Kitty, eat your heart out.

16           During the months that followed the rodeo, I  
17   continued to attend many celebrations throughout the  
18   territory. May was a real rip-roaring, gun-slinging, best  
19   darn party anyone could ever have. The band "Caught Red  
20   Handed" couldn't have played any better boot-scooting  
21   music and the grub was to die for. I can't thank my post  
22   family enough for all of your hard work to make my  
23   homecoming such a memorable event.

24           But you had to be real careful at it, that you  
25   didn't get out of hand because the sheriff and his deputy

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 was right there to arrest you and throw you in jail. And  
2 if you found yourself in jail, that's when you know who  
3 your true friends are.

4 And here we are at the end of the trail at the  
5 stampede in Redding. Hasn't Cassie and Terry Mikesell and  
6 all the committee done a fantastic job? I love the boots,  
7 I love the hats, I love all of you that fit in your  
8 personal things. It's all just amazing and it's fantastic  
9 and I can't thank you all enough for all of your hard  
10 work. I want to thank all of you residents in the  
11 territory California for making this best darn year anyone  
12 could ever have.

13 Thank you. Years of service, God bless America,  
14 God bless our organization, God bless our soldiers. Thank  
15 you, thank you, thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

18

19 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

20

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I'm  
22 going to have our Lieutenant Governor, Terry Mikesell,  
23 please read her report.

24 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Good  
25 morning, ladies.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

2 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: It has been  
3 a tremendous honor serving as your vice president this  
4 past year. Installing the new honorary junior officers at  
5 Junior Conference is an experience that I will never  
6 forget. There are some very capable young ladies everyone  
7 will be working with next year. The committee did a great  
8 job scheduling events the whole weekend.

9 National Membership workshop with the incoming  
10 Membership chairman and Department Secretary Peggy Vogele  
11 included meeting some of the nicest ladies in our  
12 organization from all over the United States. National  
13 staff was most gracious with all of the questions from the  
14 audience. I can truly say I would never live back there  
15 because when we woke up Friday morning to 85 percent  
16 humidity, I went into weather shock.

17 Explanations were given as to the problems with  
18 staffing and getting the Membership system up to speed.  
19 We were able to take a little time away from the business  
20 and enjoy dinner with Nancy Brown-Park and Linda Fercho at  
21 Weber Barbecue. And I think Nancy has plans for Weber  
22 Barbecue.

23 The budget meeting held at the department office  
24 was a very enlightening endeavor, juggling our budget to  
25 meet the ever increasing changing needs of our great

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 organization.

2 President Linda had an awesome homecoming hosted  
3 by a truly gracious Legion Family. The music was lively,  
4 the food abundant, and some of the very best company from  
5 California that you could ever spend time with.

6 It was good that Kathy Harris-Richardson was  
7 there to bail me out of the jail after I had been arrested  
8 at the post. That tells you how many friends I have.  
9 Where's Kathy? Some of my fellow jailbirds were not quite  
10 so lucky and were gazing longingly out of the bars as I  
11 made my escape.

12 Thank you, ladies, for this great year. Madam  
13 President, that concludes my report. Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I'm  
16 going to excuse myself and have your Lieutenant Governor  
17 take over the podium. I will be going over to bring  
18 greetings to the Legion from all of you and see why they  
19 weren't here yesterday. I know why. We're going to give  
20 you an excuse. They were in jail.

21 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
22 Do you want to borrow my gun?

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I probably need to  
24 to get those guys in line over there.

25 (Processional.)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1    ///

2                                   DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

3

4                   DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL:   Okay.  At  
5  this time we're going to hear from our preacher, Alzora  
6  Carter.

7                   CHAPLAIN CARTER:   Good morning.

8                   AUDIENCE MEMBERS:   Good morning.

9                   CHAPLAIN CARTER:   I hope you all enjoyed the  
10 memorial service yesterday.  It was very touching and very  
11 moving.

12                   (Applause.)

13                   CHAPLAIN CARTER:   The convention meeting of  
14 chaplains met on Thursday, June 21st, 2012 in the Buckskin  
15 Room of the Holiday Inn Hotel in Redding at 10:15 a.m.  
16 With the consent of a committee I appointed C.J. Reyes,  
17 District 19, as secretary, Deloris Artis, District 24, as  
18 chaplain, Jennifer Bieger, District 21, as  
19 Sergeant-at-Arms.

20                   The chaplain offered prayer and the  
21 Sergeant-at-Arms led the pledge of allegiance.  Secretary  
22 C.J. Reyes called the roll of district delegates.  There  
23 were 22 delegates answering roll call and four guests  
24 present.

25                   The statistical report of this chaplain appears

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 on page 13 of the Book of Reports. The Department  
2 Chaplain's code was read with no code changes. There were  
3 no resolutions.

4 Certificates were given to 27 districts for 100  
5 percent reporting. Awards for some first place and second  
6 and third place winners were given in committee. A copy  
7 was placed in the secretary's office.

8 With no further business, the preconvention  
9 meeting of chaplains and delegates adjourned at 10:45 a.m.  
10 with prayer.

11 Madam President, this concludes my committee  
12 report. May I continue on to the first place awards?

13 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: You may.

14 CHAPLAIN CARTER: Our department chaplains, aka  
15 preachers, have done an outstanding job as spiritual  
16 leaders of this great state. It has been the  
17 responsibility of each chaplain to be strong and ask their  
18 personal saviour for strength and guidance.

19 Many have spent a total of over 4600 hours  
20 visiting and praying for and with active military and  
21 their families. Our continuous support of the veterans is  
22 always a priority on every chaplain's agenda.

23 We have assisted many activities of our American  
24 Legion Family by visiting the sick, the shut-in, coming to  
25 homes, veterans' homes, and all the members. As the

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 spiritual leaders of this great state, we have sent out  
2 over 8,000 get well cards, sympathy cards, and some  
3 birthday cards to our veterans and our American Legion  
4 Family.

5 Many chaplains were asked to be at ceremonies, to  
6 opening and closing prayers of meetings in units and  
7 districts, as well as give invocations at their local  
8 churches and memorial services.

9 It is with sadness that we have lost a total of  
10 330 voting members, to include our Past Department and  
11 Past National President Josie Melgard and our Past Finance  
12 Chairman, Lucille Taylor, of District 23. Services were  
13 held for Josie Melgard with our department and national  
14 leaders and members in attendance. A memorial service for  
15 the past finance chairman, Lucille Taylor, was given at  
16 the home post of Jackie Robinson, which is my home post,  
17 Unit 252 with some of our past department presidents and  
18 national representatives. They both are truly, truly  
19 missed. Many charters were draped in honorary colors as  
20 well as memorial services were held.

21 Spiritual leaders visited VA hospitals to share  
22 joy and love while participating in holiday festivities.  
23 Their participation made a difference in Armed Forces Day,  
24 Field of Honor and Random Acts of Kindness Day. And  
25 Operation Backpack where supplies, cards, and letters of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 encouragement were placed on the barracks of the trinity  
2 of Camp Pendleton.

3 Many came to the Santa Monica Pier wearing red,  
4 white, and blue to our Wounded Veterans at the Road 2  
5 Recovery. Over 100 units with four chaplains participated  
6 in the unit meeting as some came to remember the brave  
7 chaplains. Some units donated in loving tribute and many  
8 of a loved one.

9 Veterans Day and Memorial Day some chaplains  
10 visited the cemeteries of unknown soldiers and placed  
11 flowers and poppies, wreaths. Many participated in Armed  
12 Forces parades and of course the 4th of July ceremonies.  
13 Over \$3,000 were donated to various memorial  
14 contributions.

15 We will always remember the reason God gave  
16 chaplains the ability to pray and love everyone regardless  
17 of their religious faith. God is good all of the time.  
18 This is not a myth, but a true statement.

19 At this time I will present the first place  
20 winners. For unit supplemental, Los Alamitos, Unit 716,  
21 District 29 Carrie Taylor, Chaplain.

22 (Applause.)

23 CHAPLAIN CARTER: First place district  
24 supplemental award to District 29, Kendall Madsen,  
25 Chaplain.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAPLAIN CARTER: Most prayers sent to this  
3 department chairman, but some were sent to National, goes  
4 to William Bill Proud Unit 211, District 16. Lucy Rocha  
5 sent to this chaplain 600 prayers.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAPLAIN CARTER: This is what we call a  
8 chaplain. She's not just a chaplain. She's a preacher.  
9 All of those prayers. She made two prayer books, one for  
10 her unit and one for her post commander. Wonderful.  
11 Thank you so much.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAPLAIN CARTER: We have the first place prayer  
14 book. It goes to Unit 282, District 22. District 22.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAPLAIN CARTER: District prayer book goes to  
17 District 21. Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAPLAIN CARTER: The judges for the prayer book,  
20 I would like to thank Ruth Hackney and Deloris Artis.  
21 Thank you so much.

22 Madam President, it has been a pleasure serving  
23 as the chaplain for our department. I thank you for this  
24 opportunity. I think I'm not a preacher, but I try.  
25 Again, thanks for entrusting me with this assignment.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Hats off to you, Madam President, for all that you have  
2 done for the American Legion Auxiliary volunteers. She's  
3 not here, but I will give --

4 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: You want to  
5 wait and do that later then?

6 CHAPLAIN CARTER: Yes, I do.

7 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay.

8 CHAPLAIN CARTER: And thank you all.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Chairmen,  
11 have you sent your notes out to the districts who will be  
12 receiving the awards and have them come up and have them  
13 be seated up here?

14

15 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

16

17 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: We're going  
18 to hear from Historian Cherie Galvan next.

19 HISTORIAN GALVAN: The Historian Committee met at  
20 the Red Lion on June 21, 2012. Fourteen delegates  
21 answered roll call. There were four guests present. The  
22 statistical report can be found on page 15 of the Book of  
23 Reports.

24 The code was read and there were questions from  
25 the delegates on Code 4, that they felt it was unclear.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 The first question was does "history book" refer to  
2 written only or written and picture. And the second  
3 question was do districts and units compete separately for  
4 awards or against each other for awards because it's been  
5 done both ways.

6 May I read the code?

7 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Yes.

8 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Okay. As currently the code  
9 reads: History book competition: Unit and districts may  
10 compete on department level under the following  
11 classifications: Seniors. Juniors class I, up to age 12.  
12 Juniors class II, 13 to 17. Prizes: Unit and district  
13 shall be awarded first, second, and third. Junior class  
14 I: first and second. Junior class II: first and second.

15 Proposed changes are inserting the words "picture  
16 and written history book competition" at the beginning of  
17 code and inserting the word "each" to the prize section  
18 so that it will be clear and no longer open to  
19 interpretation.

20 May I read the code in its entirety with those  
21 proposed changes?

22 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Did you guys  
23 vote on this in committee?

24 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Yeah.

25 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Did you give

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Linda a copy of your code change?

2 HISTORIAN GALVAN: No. I just verbally told her  
3 this is what the committee wanted to do. I did not do  
4 that.

5 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay. Well,  
6 we're going to have to have the Circuit Court Judge be  
7 involved in this here because -- but go ahead and read the  
8 code in its entirety, please.

9 It's in your report. Did you not get this?

10 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Proceed or wait?

11 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: We believe  
12 she's ready.

13 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Proposed change. Code 4 would  
14 be: Written and picture history book competition. Units  
15 and districts may compete on department level under the  
16 following classifications: Senior. Juniors Class I, up  
17 to age 12. Juniors Class II, 13 to 17. Prizes: Unit and  
18 district shall each be awarded first, second, and third.  
19 Junior Class I: first and second. Junior Class II:  
20 first and second.

21 By direction of the committee I move for the  
22 acceptance of this change.

23 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: It's been  
24 moved and seconded. Is there any discussion?

25 (No response.)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Hearing  
2 none, all those in favor say aye.

3 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

4 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: That portion  
5 is passed.

6 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Passed. Continuing on,  
7 discussion on what happens in years where there is no  
8 Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman. It was  
9 suggested that Historian felt Cavalcade duties in those  
10 years or perhaps doing away with the program altogether.  
11 And then after that certificates were given for second and  
12 third place supplementals and then all unit and district  
13 awards for district both written and picture history  
14 books.

15 That concludes my report. May I continue with my  
16 supplemental?

17 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Yes, you  
18 may.

19 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Sorry. Thank you for this  
20 appointment. I'm going to cry. Even though this was much  
21 more work than I expected, I have felt -- I'm  
22 embarrassed -- it's been a valuable learning experience.

23 To the district historians, thank you. I think  
24 Madam President will be very happy with what we have.  
25 Those who sent me nothing, please, it's not too late.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Okay? Pick up your history books at the end of session  
2 tomorrow.

3 That concludes my little report. May I continue  
4 with first place awards, please?

5 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Yes, you  
6 may.

7 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Say yes. Unit supplemental  
8 report goes to Jean Cooley-Demeules, Unit 314.

9 (Applause.)

10 HISTORIAN GALVAN: Okay. District supplemental  
11 goes to District 29, Sharon Starr.

12 (Applause.)

13 HISTORIAN GALVAN: That's okay. We'll get  
14 pictures afterwards. Okay. For overall written history  
15 we judged the districts and the units and then did the  
16 voting by the numbers. That is Unit 291, Wendy Meyer,  
17 also District 29.

18 (Applause.)

19 HISTORIAN GALVAN: And overall picture history  
20 book goes to District 19, Jean Cooley-Demeules.

21 (Applause.)

22 HISTORIAN GALVAN: That concludes my report.

23 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
24 Cherie. Excellent job.

25 HISTORIAN GALVAN: You're welcome.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Ladies, at  
2 this time we have the Sons of The American Legion. Will  
3 the Sons --

4 (ProceSSIONal.)

5 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Well, I  
6 recognize Gil so I guess Gil is going to be the gentleman  
7 to speak.

8 VICE COMMANDER AREA 4 DEMEULES: Good morning,  
9 ladies.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

11 VICE COMMANDER AREA 4 DEMEULES: This is very  
12 impressive what you've got. I was back there watching you  
13 guys. This is kind of cool. Just hearing my wife there  
14 too, congratulations.

15 (Applause.)

16 VICE COMMANDER AREA 4 DEMEULES: I'm here for the  
17 songs. You know, we're having a Need 2 Speed night -- can  
18 you hear me? Is that better?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes.

20 VICE COMMANDER AREA 4 DEMEULES: Should I sing?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

22 VICE COMMANDER AREA 4 DEMEULES: Boy, these are  
23 heavy critics. Okay. We're having a Need 2 Speed night.  
24 What it is is there's a track, they can race. There's  
25 also miniature golf. This is for the youth. We have a



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 sign-up sheet we gave -- do we have that? Okay. We have  
2 a sign-up sheet. It's from 5:45 to 8:00. And we --  
3 please have them sign up, meet us at the Red Lion. They  
4 will transport. Okay? So that's all I have.

5 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: They are  
6 going to have a sign-up sheet. The Page will take care of  
7 the sign-up sheet. So any of the Juniors or the Sons that  
8 want to go, it's all youth. It's going to be Saturday,  
9 June 23rd. So you sign up today for the event for  
10 Saturday.

11 VICE COMMANDER AREA 4 DEMEULES: Thank you,  
12 ladies.

13 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
14 Gil.

15 (Processional.)

16

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT

18

19 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Now the  
20 Parliamentarian Diane DeLashmit.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Good morning. Madam  
22 President, this circuit judge has been riding her horse  
23 jury, who is in the table right now, to various places  
24 within our territory. Mostly though I have had and made  
25 many telegraph messages from every direction: north,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 south, east, and west. We know that every trail has some  
2 puddles, but in many cases they have been nothing but huge  
3 mud holes, with no fault of your own, Governor.

4 We, as the members of this great organization,  
5 need to learn life is simpler when you plow around a stump  
6 and kicking don't get you nowhere, lessen you're a mule.  
7 And yes, we have some of those.

8 Many of the problems we've had this year concern  
9 relationships and boundaries with the American Legion. We  
10 need to be respectful and understand that we don't tell  
11 them how to run their business and they don't tell us how  
12 to run ours.

13 (Applause.)

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: But we can do this in  
15 a very nice way. Other problems concern relationships  
16 with our own members. We don't necessarily have to like  
17 each other, but we need to work together. We need to  
18 remember what our organization is about and who we are  
19 serving.

20 We are volunteers. We are not getting paid to do  
21 the things we do. We need to show respect to each other  
22 even when it's infuriating. Take stock of ourselves. Do  
23 you want to be talked to in the way you perhaps dish it  
24 out? A lot of problems can be solved if we follow the  
25 Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 unto you.

2 We also need to take time to know our  
3 organization. When we follow the rules you will have a  
4 lot less conflict. Answers to many of your concerns and  
5 questions, et cetera, can be found in the constitution and  
6 bylaws and standing rules and the unit handbook. In order  
7 to be a positive influence in your unit or district, you  
8 owe it to yourself to become more informed.

9 Remember that a full house divided don't win no  
10 pots. Governor, I'm happy that I was able to serve you  
11 and the department in this capacity.

12 And before I leave, I have \$20 bail money because  
13 one of the Pages tried to rob me. I told her I didn't  
14 think she was using good judgment since I was the judge.  
15 So I told her she's going to jail and she gave me some  
16 hush money. So I have \$20 to donate to our department --  
17 our governor's special project.

18 (Applause.)

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: That person is Zana  
20 Chaney, if you can believe it.

21 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
22 Diane.

23

24 MUSICIAN'S REPORT

25

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: The order of  
2 the next reports is going to be first Musician Theresa  
3 Jacob, then Sergeant-at-Arms Gloria Williams and Marshal  
4 Kathy Harris Richardson are up next.

5 Theresa.

6 MUSICIAN JACOB: Good morning, ladies.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

8 MUSICIAN JACOB: What a fun year to be the  
9 department musician. I did not realize that there was so  
10 much music that followed your theme. I could be playing  
11 music in the background the whole weekend and not even  
12 scratch the surface of all the music that's available.

13 The members of the Department of California took  
14 your western theme and had a wonderful time playing music,  
15 singing songs, and doing the two-step throughout the  
16 state. But I do have one small confession to make. As  
17 songs started to roll in by the members who were inspired  
18 by the District 25's creativity, I could not choose a  
19 winner because I loved all of them so much.

20 So what I've done is I've made copies for all the  
21 ladies in the audience. I only have 200 copies so you  
22 guys have to share. And you guys can see how creative it  
23 is. I'm also sending out Districts 25, 18, and 24 who  
24 were my big writers for me another small thank you.

25 And to Past Department President Pilar, who was

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 my very first song that came in, I want to say a very  
2 special thank you.

3 As your year comes to an end and we sing happy  
4 trails to you, I'll do my best to keep the members of the  
5 Department of California Boot Scooting and Boogying for a  
6 few more days. This concludes my report.

7 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
8 Theresa.

9

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS' REPORT

11

12 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay.  
13 Gloria.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAMS: Madam President  
15 Linda, your deputies have had a fantastic time roping and  
16 steering your department Sergeant-at-Arms and marshals in  
17 the right direction. There have been no arrests made of  
18 any of your subjects, except some cowpokes at your  
19 homecoming had the nerve to arrest me. Thank goodness  
20 Kathy had enough money to bail me out. It has been our  
21 earnest desire to excite and illustrate to all the units  
22 and districts the importance of our flags and the  
23 reverences they deserve.

24 We thank you for the opportunity to serve you and  
25 the Department of California. Madam President, some

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 trails are happy ones. Others are blue. It's the way you  
2 ride the trail that counts. Here's a happy one for you.  
3 Excuse the voice. Happy trails to you, until we meet  
4 again. Happy trails to you, keep smiling until we meet  
5 again.

6 Madam President, this concludes my platform  
7 remarks.

8 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
9 Gloria. Lots of talent in that lady right there.

10

11

GIRLS STATE REPORT

12

13 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay. The  
14 next report will be from Girls State.

15 GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR SCHNEIDER: Madam Department  
16 President and delegates to this convention, I would like  
17 to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to all  
18 unit members in the audience and throughout the state who  
19 have worked to raise funds for the Girls State program. I  
20 would also like to give a special thank you to Lou and her  
21 committee who have worked countless hours to ensure that  
22 this year's session of Girls State will be a  
23 once-in-a-lifetime experience for those delegates who  
24 choose to immerse themselves in the opportunity before  
25 them.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           On Monday the 2012 session of Girls State will  
2 begin as 504 delegates from around the state converge on  
3 the Claremont McKenna campus and begin to work together  
4 for a week to build a society where camaraderie and  
5 compromise are actually a part of politics.

6           During my tenure as director, I have worked to  
7 create an environment where our Girls State committee  
8 works hand in hand with our exceptional volunteer  
9 counseling staff. If we can continue to keep these  
10 talented women with a love for the program involved in  
11 moving the program forward, we will continue to give the  
12 delegates we send the opportunity to educate themselves  
13 about the importance of being involved citizens in our  
14 system of government.

15           We will continue to stimulate in them a desire to  
16 maintain our democratic government processes, to allow  
17 them to gain a sense of self-worth and to realize that  
18 their opinions matter and that they can make a difference.  
19 We will give them the opportunity to gain self-esteem and  
20 learn skills in dealing with people who share different  
21 values or beliefs. They will become more comfortable  
22 talking and communicating in front of large groups of  
23 women or people with whom they may not know.

24           We can all learn from the goals and emphasis of  
25 the Girls State program as we as an organization work

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 towards a common goal of helping our veterans and the  
2 communities in which we live in. Let's leave the backroom  
3 politics and the "what about me" actions at the door and  
4 create positive atmospheres filled with cooperation and  
5 compromise in our units, districts and this department.  
6 Let's realize that all members have value in this  
7 organization and recognize each other's strengths so that  
8 we can use those strengths to advance the many programs of  
9 the American Legion Auxiliary.

10 Thank you and that concludes my remarks.

11 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
12 Sherry.

13 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: The convention  
14 committee of Girls State met June 21st, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.  
15 in the Buckskin Room of the Holiday Inn Convention Center.  
16 The statistical report of this chairman appears on page 15  
17 on the Book of Reports.

18 Tricia Smith was appointed secretary, Gloria  
19 Sinopoli offered prayer, and Sherry Schneider was  
20 appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 27 district  
21 delegates answered roll call. There were 15 visitors  
22 present.

23 The committee agreed upon the following report:  
24 Code changes. Judy Tabachi moved that the new proposed  
25 Girls State Code be tabled and be referred to the



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 2013-2014 Girls State Committee. Seconded by Veronica  
2 McGough. It was passed.

3 Code 8. There's a language change so that code,  
4 budget, and other Girls State forms all use the same words  
5 to describe the two fees of enrollment and registration  
6 and a clarification of the method of approval.

7 The current code reads: Code 8. The Department  
8 President, in consultation with the Girls State Chairman,  
9 shall call a meeting of the Girls State Committee to be  
10 held as soon as possible, but no later than October 1st.  
11 The secretary/treasurer shall attend the Girls State  
12 Committee meeting. The Girls State registration fee shall  
13 be set annually by the Girls State Committee after the  
14 review of the previous year's budget and expenses and the  
15 current bids received from colleges for the following  
16 administrative year. The registration fee and location of  
17 Girls State shall be ratified by the Department Executive  
18 Committee. That was amended in 2008.

19 The proposed code will read: Code 8. The  
20 Department President, in consultation with the Girls State  
21 Chairman, shall call a meeting of the Girls State  
22 Committee to be held as soon as possible, but no later  
23 than October 1st. The secretary/treasurer shall attend  
24 the Girls State Committee meeting. The Girls State  
25 enrollment and registration fees shall be recommended

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 annually by the Girls State Committee after the review of  
2 the previous year's budget, expenses and the current bids  
3 received from colleges for the following administrative  
4 year. The enrollment and registration fees and location  
5 of Girls State shall be ratified -- shall be ratified --  
6 I'm sorry. Recommended at the Midyear DEC meeting for  
7 approval at the convention. And the amendment would be  
8 dated 2012.

9 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Okay. It's  
10 been moved --

11 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: By direction of  
12 the committee, I so move.

13 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
14 Lou. I got a little ahead of myself there. Okay. It's  
15 been moved by the Girls State Committee to change Code 8  
16 to read: The Department President, in consultation with  
17 the Girls State Chairman, shall call a meeting of the  
18 Girls State Committee to be held as soon as possible, but  
19 no later than October 1st. The secretary/treasurer shall  
20 attend the Girls State Committee meeting. The Girls State  
21 enrollment and registration fees shall be recommended  
22 annually by the Girls State Committee after the review of  
23 the previous year's budget, expenses and the current bids  
24 received from colleges for the following administrative  
25 year. The enrollment and registration fees and location

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 of Girls State shall be recommended at the Midyear DEC  
2 meeting for approval at the convention. Is there any  
3 discussion?

4 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
5 I have a question.

6 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Anita.

7 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
8 Did you state shall be ratified?

9 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: No. That  
10 word was deleted.

11 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
12 Okay. Thank you.

13 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: That word  
14 was deleted. Is there any further discussion?

15 (No response.)

16 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: All those in  
17 favor, signal by saying aye.

18 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

19 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Any opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
22 ladies.

23 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Code 27 was also  
24 offered to increase the registration fee from \$50 to \$75.  
25 That was defeated.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Resolutions. There were no resolutions  
2     pertaining to the Girls State. The following  
3     recommendation will be placed in the procedure book for  
4     next year's Girls State Chairman. The Girls State  
5     Director Sherry Schneider, District 26, is suggesting that  
6     the applications arriving after April 30th will require an  
7     additional handling fee of \$50.

8           Presentations. There's a listing of all of the  
9     citations with the exception of the most outstanding  
10    district and unit Girls State chairman. And the citations  
11    were given to 22 districts and 33 unit chairmen. A copy  
12    of the listing is posted in the department convention  
13    office.

14           Madam President, may I continue my report?

15           DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: You may.

16           GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

17     Michele Jackman, California Girls State Senator in 1961  
18     and a long-time member of the counseling staff says,  
19     "Girls State makes you extra, extra out of the ordinary.  
20     It is a kind of mini-lottery. We girls win and then we  
21     find out how it makes us winners in life forever if we  
22     choose to make it happen. Don't hide after this magical  
23     experience."

24           California Girls State, like the Girls State  
25     across the nation, sparkles in the sunshine, taking a

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 small piece of our future and embellishing it with gems of  
2 civic pride, charms of public awareness, and a glittering  
3 cooperative spirit.

4 505 high school young women and a staff of 62  
5 will come to Claremont McKenna College June 25th, 2012 to  
6 experience what others have for the last 68 summers. The  
7 69th session of California Girls promises to successfully  
8 enhance the possibilities for the delegates. There may  
9 even be miracles happening as they embark on this  
10 life-altering, once-in-a-lifetime event.

11 There are dynamic speakers who will surely  
12 enlighten, engage, and energize the entire Girls State  
13 community. As requested by the national organization,  
14 Girls State citizens will participate in an activity which  
15 will generate 505 friendship bracelets with handwritten  
16 letters attached to be given to Operation Military Kids  
17 participants.

18 Sixty-four units and districts donated an  
19 additional \$4,185 towards the Girls State 2012 session.  
20 This year the Girls State Committee launched a new  
21 fundraising activity intended to be supported by parents,  
22 schools, and the communities of our delegates. The  
23 handbook advertising generated \$600 which will be used to  
24 offset the cost of producing the handbook. Thank you to  
25 Units 3, 277, 472, 496, 552, 595, and 741 for submitting

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 ads.

2 (Applause.)

3 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: The program  
4 offered a loss of 30 schools sponsored last year, but not  
5 this year. However, there is an increase of 63 new  
6 schools with a net gain of 33 schools. 186 units from 28  
7 districts sponsored delegates to this year's session.

8 The program was significantly enhanced with a  
9 donation of \$22,500 from the American Auxiliary Legion San  
10 Gabriel Post 442 upon the surrender of its unit. This  
11 surprise came at a perfect time and will be held as a  
12 reserve for future Girls State sessions.

13 At this time I would like to present four special  
14 awards. Would someone from Unit -- this Girls State  
15 citizen was a delegate in 2011. City of Lassen, County of  
16 Bidwell. For her senior project she joined the unit's  
17 homeless veterans backpack activity earning enough money  
18 through her bake sale to purchase and fill six packs with  
19 the remaining \$200 being donated to the department's VA&R  
20 program. Please join me in acknowledging Madison Forney  
21 for being the most outstanding Girls State citizen of  
22 2012.

23 (Applause.)

24 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: The California  
25 Girls State Alumnae Foundation represented by Nancy

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Brown-Park is here. I want to recognize their New Unit  
2 Matching Grant Program which supported 11 new schools this  
3 year with a total donation of \$2200. Please join me in  
4 thanking the California Girls State Alumnae Foundation for  
5 its most outstanding contribution to the Girls State  
6 session 2012.

7 (Applause.)

8 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: This district is  
9 sending 43 delegates to the Girls State 2012. It is  
10 sponsoring seven new schools. This district enhanced the  
11 core Girls State program by providing the delegates and  
12 their parents and the school staff with an orientation  
13 program that included showing the Girls State and Boys  
14 State DVD, the POW/MIA table set up and explanation, an  
15 explanation of the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy and its  
16 symbolism, and a guest speaker who is not only a counselor  
17 at one of the sponsored schools, but also a former Girls  
18 State citizen from 2002.

19 This district chairman jumped in for some of the  
20 units in her district when they were unable to manage the  
21 interviews. She helped promote the American Girls State  
22 California Fund Alumnae Foundation New Grant Program with  
23 three of the seven new schools received grants.

24 Please join me in acknowledging the most  
25 outstanding Girls State Chairman from District 29,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 President Carol Borgman.

2 (Applause.)

3 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: This unit Girls  
4 State Chairman organized the sponsorship of four high  
5 schools. The high school counselors were invited to  
6 attend the interviews and the district orientation.  
7 Monthly e-mails were sent to the delegates, alternates,  
8 and their parents and the school staff. The Need-a-Lift?  
9 publication was suggested to all participants, with one  
10 high school counselor expressing thanks for introducing  
11 her to something she knew nothing about.

12 The unit gives gift bags filled with goodies and  
13 more Legion Family information to their delegates  
14 attending the district orientation. The unit shared the  
15 information about the new handbook advertising campaign  
16 with about 50 local organizations and businesses. Please  
17 join me in acknowledging the most outstanding unit Girls  
18 State chairman for 2012 from Unit 277, Stacey Smith.

19 (Applause.)

20 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: We are prepared  
21 for a most exciting week of learning and leadership. It  
22 is such a privilege to work at Girls State, a truly  
23 inspiring and unique experience that just can't be  
24 described adequately in words. Our sunny location in  
25 Southern California is just perfect. The weather is



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 ideal, the jacarandas are in bloom splashing the  
2 tree-lined streets with a deep purple, and we're meeting  
3 for the first time with lifelong friends. It's sparkling.

4 I would like to introduce the Girls State  
5 Committee. If they could stand in place, please. For  
6 2011-2012, Director, Sherry Schneider; assistant director,  
7 Trish Smith; Two-year committee member, Bobbi Estes;  
8 one-year committee member, Rhodona Enright; nurse, Kat  
9 Conrad; advisor, Vicki Crow; president's alternate, Jeri  
10 Adams; vice president's alternate, Gloria Sinopoli.

11 Madam President, this concludes the 69th Girls  
12 State chairman's report.

13 (Applause.)

14 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Thank you,  
15 Lou. I see our governor in the back of the room.

16 (Processional.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Well, I went over  
18 to the Legion and I took one of our alien guns, told them  
19 that we had cowboys and aliens over there. And I held him  
20 up. But actually, I didn't hold him up. I actually got  
21 him out of jail. He was robbing the bank yesterday in the  
22 finance meeting and apologized for not getting there, but  
23 after robbing the bank, he got thrown in jail. So he will  
24 be making it over.

25 And actually, we will be dressing him up a

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 little. I think I kind of scared him a little because I  
2 told him we weren't going to be easy on him. It was such  
3 a close membership. We had at the close of books May 15th  
4 when we had our challenge in, we were at 94.58. They were  
5 at 94.45. We made it by the skin of our teeth. So I told  
6 him that we were going to take it easy on him, but he best  
7 look good in feathers.

8 So he's such a good sport so he will be over to  
9 greet you ladies and bring some words from the convention.  
10 So we had a nice little scare on him.

11 That was a great report, Lou. Thank you very  
12 much.

13 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: That was exciting.  
15 That was exciting for Stacey.

16

17 AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

18

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So at this time  
20 we'll have a report from AEF Kat Conrad. As I said,  
21 ladies, if you're going to be reporting, be prepared  
22 because we will be moving things around some. We do have  
23 some requests for a little shifting because of Girls  
24 State. It's a long ride, long trail ride, dusty ride down  
25 to Southern California for where they are going, so we're

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 going to let them be there a little earlier so they can  
2 get them horses down the road. They've got their  
3 saddlebags packed and they're ready.

4 AEF CHAIRMAN CONRAD: Good morning. The  
5 preconvention committee meeting for the Auxiliary  
6 Emergency Fund, AEF, was held in the Cascade Room at the  
7 Red Lion Hotel in Redding beginning at 10:34 a.m. on 6/21.

8 No code changes were done, but a recommendation  
9 to stress to incoming chairmen when presenting information  
10 about AEF program is that aid is temporary and not all  
11 applicants are awarded monies from this fund. Monies  
12 allotted to those in need come from donations from units,  
13 districts, and individuals.

14 With all life's challenges that face our members  
15 and the population at large, from the economy, loss of  
16 work, the wages and limited job opportunities, many are  
17 left struggling to provide food, shelter, and clothing to  
18 themselves and their families. Environmental disasters  
19 always seem to strike with little or no warning often with  
20 devastating effects.

21 With that, prayer was offered by Alberta  
22 Cummings, District 23; Secretary Elizabeth Doidge,  
23 District 28; Sergeant-at-Arms Bonnie Chavoya, District 7;  
24 and the Pledge of Allegiance by Linda Fariss, District 29.  
25 Seventeen delegates were in attendance with six guests.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Twenty-one districts sent in reports with eight  
2           supplementals. I was surprised for getting supplementals  
3           being submitted by both unit and district. The monies  
4           donated on the reports came to grand total of \$5,792.88.  
5           Units also indicated that individuals donated to members  
6           in need, but did not submit application for aid. One was  
7           for \$460 from one member. This amount is not included in  
8           the total above.

9           Reports indicated that 21 members applied for AEF  
10          funds and 19 for emergency assistance. These numbers  
11          alone indicate the value of donating to this valuable  
12          program and the reasons that not all will be given  
13          assistance.

14          Some delegates were surprised that no report had  
15          been received from their districts.

16          Districts that did not submit reports were also  
17          given a certificate to stress the importance of reporting  
18          no matter what the donation. Every penny counts. This  
19          program is invaluable in today's troubled times and many  
20          members who apply will not receive aid due to lack of  
21          resources available at the National level. Surviving  
22          life's storms and helping out our members is indeed  
23          service, not self.

24          Certificates to all districts were awarded by  
25          donation level. A complete list will be posted by

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 district number, not amount, in the department office.

2 District 25 made the largest donation of \$848.61.

3 (Applause.)

4 AEF CHAIRMAN CONRAD: Followed by District 29  
5 with \$711.

6 (Applause.)

7 AEF CHAIRMAN CONRAD: All supplemental reports  
8 received a hats off for a job well done for service, not  
9 self and individualized to what was stressed in their  
10 report. Prizes were awarded as well by this chairman to  
11 second and third place at the preconvention meeting. They  
12 will be posted in the department office. First place is  
13 awarded to District 29, Unit 715 for -- oh, 716. I'm  
14 sorry -- for their report that most exemplified President  
15 Linda's theme of the Old West and uniqueness of activities  
16 to earn monies for this program.

17 This chairman did submit a report to National's  
18 Western Division Chairman with an attachment from our  
19 department bookkeeper with the amounts that were submitted  
20 to department and forwarded to National. The goal was a  
21 10 percent increase from the previous year. I indicated  
22 to her that our timeframes were out of sync and I had yet  
23 to get the actual, a term for money in the Old West, from  
24 the districts. I received an e-mail back thanking me for  
25 the information and saying what a wonderful job California

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 did for this program.

2 Thank you, Madam President, for this appointment.

3 Thank you, members of California, for all your hard work.

4 Hats off to a job well done. Enjoy the rest of this

5 convention and that concludes my report.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

7

8 LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

9

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I'm

11 going to have our Legislative Chairman -- are you ready

12 or --

13 NEC WOMAN REYES: I'm always ready.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I know you're

15 always ready. Rough and ready, that's you. And I'm going

16 to have you step over to this microphone.

17 NEC WOMAN REYES: Yeah, I don't want to fall

18 again.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I might have to

20 start dancing with you again.

21 NEC WOMAN REYES: Good morning again. Good

22 morning. The convention committee on Legislative met on

23 June 21st, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Appaloosa Room over

24 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Northern

25 California. The statistical report of this chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 appears on page 14 or 16 -- there are two pages, but it's  
2 page 14. So it is there in the reports.

3 Nancy Niles of District 24 was appointed  
4 secretary, Chris de la Rosa of District 28 offered prayer,  
5 and Cathy McCoy of District 21 was appointed  
6 Sergeant-at-Arms.

7 A total of 19 district delegates answered roll  
8 call and there were seven visitors. Each delegate  
9 received a copy of the legislative code which was read by  
10 this chairman.

11 There were no code changes, no resolutions, and  
12 no recommendations. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

13 This concludes my Legislative report, Madam  
14 President. May I proceed to my supplemental report?

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

16 NEC WOMAN REYES: This chairman takes pride to  
17 report on the outstanding activities of our Auxiliary  
18 members in the Department of California as they worked  
19 very hard to promote the Legislative program in support of  
20 the American Legion's priorities concerning our veterans,  
21 their families and their communities. Twenty-nine  
22 districts reported with 233 units reporting after  
23 persistent bugging by this chairman.

24 328 subscriptions of the "Dispatch" were  
25 purchased by units and members. Other Legion publication

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 magazines including, "How a Thought Becomes a Bill" and  
2 "How a Bill Becomes a Law," "Legislative Handbook," and  
3 "How to Make a Difference Through Effective Grassroots  
4 Lobbying," were given out at the Department Executive  
5 Committee fair.

6 All legislative updates and other information on  
7 vital issues affecting our veterans received from National  
8 Legislative Director and Division Chairman and other  
9 sources were all shared with the membership regularly  
10 through bulletins and e-mails sent to districts and units.  
11 Units kept busy reaching out to their legislators by  
12 writing letters, making phone calls, e-mailing, trying all  
13 means of communication just to be heard and to awaken  
14 their consciousness that we as Auxiliary members are in  
15 full support for the American Legion on all the priority  
16 issues they are fighting for, including the Flag  
17 Amendment, Fiscal Year 2013 VA Budget, and all priority  
18 issues of vital importance to our veterans and their  
19 families.

20 In the essence of saving time I will not read the  
21 outstanding activities that I have listed. I can make a  
22 copy for anyone interested to see those activities.

23 Attending the Washington D.C. conference on  
24 February 25 to 29, 2012 was a very valuable privilege and  
25 a most informative and educational experience forever to



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 be remembered by this chairman. Speakers shared  
2 impressive and enlightening views and information on  
3 legislative issues relevant to veterans' concerns and  
4 benefits.

5 One of the highlights of this event was the  
6 enjoyable experience on the "Hill Walk" to meet and talk  
7 to congressional leaders and their legislative assistants  
8 who listened to our questions of concerns.

9 As Auxiliary members we can make a difference on  
10 behalf of our veterans by persistent contact with our  
11 lawmakers, awakening their awareness and getting their  
12 favorable support on issues of vital importance to our  
13 veterans who have fought for our country and to those who  
14 are still fighting so that they can better serve them and  
15 our nation as a whole.

16 This concludes my supplemental report, Madam  
17 President. May I proceed to the presentation of my first  
18 place awards?

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please do.

20 NEC WOMAN REYES: Thank you. Okay. Do we have  
21 all the recipients ready? I have a citation of first  
22 place awarded to District 29, Tami Bell. Chairman, this  
23 is best overall district report.

24 (Applause.)

25 NEC WOMAN REYES: Congratulations. You did a

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 great job. The next one is first place awarded to best  
2 unit supplemental report. Inyo Unit 118, District 27.

3 (Applause.)

4 NEC WOMAN REYES: Pictures can be taken later.

5 Okay. Now another first place awarded to -- I won't say  
6 that. I will say what the -- I mean, the category. Most  
7 contacts made to government officials. Goes to District  
8 19, Nina Freeman.

9 (Applause.)

10 NEC WOMAN REYES: Next one is first place  
11 district ordering most dispatch awarded to District 22,  
12 Cindy Simons.

13 (Applause.)

14 NEC WOMAN REYES: And last but not least, most  
15 letters sent to congressional officials by a district.  
16 And this goes to District 14, Martha Sweeney, chairman.

17 (Applause.)

18 NEC WOMAN REYES: Okay. And that concludes my  
19 report, Madam President.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. She's good.  
21 She bounced back really well.

22

23 SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

24

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I'd

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 like to have some words from the ranch.

2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: All right.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: If you're ready.

4 She galloped on over with me to the men's side. So we're  
5 going to have the words from our ranch now. We're doing  
6 some of the remarks from the stage, from this podium  
7 because of the stairs and the situation earlier. So  
8 please bear with us. Thank you.

9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Howdy Cowgirls and  
10 Cowboys. Back at the ranch we've been having the best  
11 trail ride ever. I would first like to start off with my  
12 thanks first. I've only been your department secretary  
13 for 11 months and I still have a giant learning curve  
14 ahead of me, so I thank all of you for your patience with  
15 me, especially if I send you to the bathroom instead of  
16 the restaurant.

17 There are several PDPs who have given me -- who  
18 have been so helpful with their advice and encouragement.  
19 We all must give special hats off to Ruby Kapsalis and her  
20 husband, Art, for their diligent work on our webpage. How  
21 often do we all say, "It's on the web page"? Thank you  
22 over and over again, Ruby and Art.

23 (Applause.)

24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: We can no longer  
25 call national ALAMIS membership database new anymore. Our

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Membership clerk and I are now able to maneuver through it  
2 and create several different reports. The Membership  
3 clerk does a superb job working with our members making  
4 sure the membership are being processed in a timely  
5 manner. Please make sure when sending in the transmittals  
6 that the correct form is used, names are in alphabetical  
7 order, and the correct amount of money is sent. If any of  
8 this is incorrect, our Membership clerk will return it to  
9 have you fix it, and this does slow down the membership  
10 clerks.

11 QuickBooks has been our accounting software in  
12 the office for almost two years now. Our bookkeeper  
13 enjoys researching issues and creating new reports. It is  
14 extremely helpful for the bookkeeper when the checks are  
15 received in the office with the correct form attached,  
16 both the unit and district numbers is on the correct form,  
17 and a remark is written on the note area of the check.

18 This time next year the Department of California  
19 office will be in a new location, but we don't know where  
20 we're going to be yet. The City/County of San  
21 Francisco will be starting an earthquake retrofit on July  
22 1st, 2013. Rumor has it that there will be -- we will be  
23 there at the new location for about two years. This past  
24 February we started getting ready by clearing out over 200  
25 boxes from the basement. We are also planning on a

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 department yard sale. Do you need a four-drawer cabinet  
2 or an office chair? Bring your pickup or cattle truck and  
3 stop on by and get it. Our office is now on the first  
4 floor, but we will be moving back to the third floor when  
5 we are back in the office, back in the Memorial Building.

6           Feel free to contact me or staff in the office at  
7 any time. Also, if you shop at Office Max and don't have  
8 one of their Perk Cards, please give them the department  
9 phone number, (415) 861-5092. This way your purchase will  
10 help us purchase more office supplies at a discount.

11 Thank you again.

12           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. And we  
13 don't all have an opportunity to go to the department  
14 office, but they have it decorated so cute. Western with  
15 chaps, and it's just really cute. Thank you for getting  
16 in the theme and having that ranch house really warm and  
17 welcoming.

18

19                           COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

20

21           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I'm  
22 going to ask Bonnie Christner to please give the Community  
23 Service report for Loretta Marsh who is unable to be with  
24 us at this time. Following her will be Esther Garcia with  
25 Constitution & Bylaws, and we'll see where we go from

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 there.

2 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Madam  
3 Department President, the convention committee on  
4 Community Service met on June 21st, 2012 in the Trinity  
5 Room in the Red Lion Hotel in Redding, California.

6 The statistical report for Community Service can  
7 be found on page 14 in the Book of Reports.

8 In the absence of Department Chairman Loretta  
9 Marsh, Past Department President, myself, was asked to  
10 chair the meeting. Genieca Risner, District 15, was asked  
11 to act as chaplain. Pat Davis, District 23,  
12 Sergeant-at-Arms, and Lois Cornish District 22 secretary.

13 The meeting was called to order with a prayer by  
14 Genieca and the Pledge of Allegiance led by  
15 Sergeant-at-Arms Pat.

16 Including chairman Bonnie, 20 districts answered  
17 roll call with five delegates replaced by alternates. Six  
18 visitors were welcomed.

19 The Community Service code was read in its  
20 entirety with no changes made. No resolution or  
21 recommendations were made.

22 Except for the first place certificates were --  
23 except for the first place, certificates were handed out.  
24 First place will be awarded when report is presented on  
25 the floor. Gifts accompanied the certificates.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Discussion was held on how the Community Service  
2 report was aimed at veterans and how to apply hours worked  
3 and funds expended during programs and projects for  
4 Community Service.

5 The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by  
6 Genieca.

7 This is my committee report, Madam President.  
8 May I go on with my supplement?

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: I shouldn't  
11 say "my" supplement. It's the supplement by Loretta Marsh  
12 who is your Community Service chairman. And she did an  
13 excellent job this year.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: She did.

15 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: The  
16 Auxiliary units of the Department of California put the  
17 National plan of action to work right out of the gate this  
18 year. Our Department President chose a western rodeo  
19 theme for us to work with this year and asked each  
20 chairman to name her committee accordingly. As Community  
21 Service we chose the theme name Civic Organization of  
22 Women, or COWS. I'm sure she had her reasoning for that.  
23 I don't know what it is, but --

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We're not going to  
25 take that one personal.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Yeah. With  
2 that we had a very fun and productive year.

3 Homeless veterans were recipients of much effort  
4 and attention and donations. Along with food, clothing  
5 and sundry items, two units reported furnishing small  
6 apartments for patients coming out of drug and alcohol  
7 rehab and trying to rebuild their lives which they have  
8 done successfully. They have volunteered many hours and  
9 dollars working at veteran Stand Downs all up and down the  
10 state.

11 And what a sight it must have been from a bird's  
12 eye point of view of all the poppies, crosses, and flags  
13 that were placed in cemeteries on Veteran's Day, Memorial  
14 Day. Parades, parties, and picnics were abundant for  
15 these days, as well as Martin Luther King Day.

16 Make a Difference Day and Family Volunteer Day  
17 brought out the giving nature and kindness of our members.  
18 Things were happening in the neighborhoods. They were  
19 weeding, planting, painting, shopping, cooking, driving,  
20 entertaining, building, removing graffiti and picking up  
21 trash, all to help a neighbor and make their community a  
22 better place.

23 Even the animals fare well with these volunteers.  
24 Care and attention of pets were considered when homeless  
25 veterans are given care because many of them have pets and



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 can't just leave them behind. And some military personnel  
2 need pet care when they are deployed, so Auxiliary members  
3 are there for them.

4 I would like to share a couple of stories related  
5 in the reports that I found of interest. One unit held a  
6 new beginning tea party in which 13 ladies from a local  
7 homeless shelter, eight of them from military families,  
8 were sent formal invitations to the post home for a tea.  
9 They were each given a purse filled with makeup and  
10 toiletries and given the opportunity to choose accessories  
11 such as a scarf, hat, hair ornaments, or jewelry from a  
12 chest.

13 They were served dainty sandwiches and cookies  
14 and tea from a dainty cup and saucer which they are given  
15 to take with them to remind them of new beginnings. The  
16 guests commented they had not felt like ladies in a long  
17 time. They were given the opportunity to share where  
18 these -- where they see themselves and where they hope to  
19 be in a few years from now. The occasion was so rewarding  
20 the unit wants to make it an annual affair.

21 One unit reported volunteering at a convalescent  
22 care center. They served the usual refreshments and  
23 visited with patients. They provided karaoke for the  
24 entertainment. One gentleman patient sitting off to the  
25 side in a wheelchair broke out singing, "She'll Be Coming

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1     Around the Mountain" without the benefit of music even.  
2     The staff was stunned. They said he had not spoken one  
3     word since he arrived several weeks ago. How awesome is  
4     that, huh? He was continuing -- he has continued to speak  
5     freely since that day. I bet you can't shut him up now.  
6     Auxiliary volunteers surely do make a difference in the  
7     lives of others.

8             The deeds of the American Legion Auxiliary cannot  
9     be given justice and totally described in a short report  
10    as one can see from the following figures. They are  
11    genuine heroines to so many.

12            Units reported the following statistics regarding  
13    the National plan of action: Number of units  
14    participating in National recognized days of service, 144.  
15    Homeless veteran activity, 97. Jobs/career fair, 35.  
16    Number of volunteers, 1,989. Number of  
17    veterans/military/family members, 38,724. Hours, 16,361.  
18    Innovative community service activities, 29. Cost to the  
19    units, 51,661. Value of in-kind donations, 72,512.

20            Miscellaneous activities outside the National  
21    service days: Volunteer, 5,255. Dollars donated,  
22    140,838. Value donations, 144,326. Hours, 132,604. You  
23    ladies are awesome.

24            These figures reflect activity in schools,  
25    libraries, churches, civic organizations, blood banks,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 cancer fundraisers, senior centers, women's shelters,  
2 recycling programs, animal shelters, community centers,  
3 Habitat for Humanity, and a multitude of others.

4 God bless the American Legion Auxiliary and its  
5 outstanding members awards. Madam President, this  
6 concludes Loretta's report. May I proceed with her first  
7 place awards?

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please do.

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: The best  
10 unit supplement going to Monterey Unit 694, District 28,  
11 Emily Tafoya, Chairman.

12 (Applause.)

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Best  
14 district supplemental goes to Linda Hunt, chairman,  
15 District 16.

16 (Applause.)

17 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: And,  
18 Danielle White, are you the woman. I'm sorry. I'll give  
19 this to you. There she is. Danielle, you weren't at  
20 committee and I apologize. I should have sent this to  
21 your district this morning. She got it for the best blood  
22 drive activity.

23 (Applause.)

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: And the  
25 Community Service senior volunteer of the year goes to

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Rosalie Moyer, Unit 53, District 23.

2 (Applause.)

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: And the  
4 junior Community Service volunteer of the year goes to  
5 Maya Novicki, Unit 43, District 24.

6 (Applause.)

7 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Madam  
8 President, Loretta would like to tell you that it has been  
9 a pleasure to serve on your team and this concludes her  
10 report.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
12 much.

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Madam  
14 President, may I take a point of privilege, please?

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Absolutely.

16 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHRISTNER: Ladies,  
17 thank you. I would be remiss if I did not thank you so  
18 much for your thoughts and prayers and your support over  
19 the last year and a half with my husband Thomas and  
20 myself. I have to tell you when I was at my lowest and  
21 really needed a lift, here came an e-mail or a card in the  
22 mail or some kind of encouragement. And knowing that you  
23 ladies were here supporting us meant more than I can ever  
24 tell you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you so  
25 very, very much.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2

3 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

4

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And now we'll hear  
6 from -- I like to two-step, but you guys are just  
7 outrocking us here.

8 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: The  
9 Constitution & Bylaws committee met at the Palomino Room  
10 at the Holiday Inn on June 21st, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in  
11 Redding, California. Excuse me. Thank you.

12 The statistical report of this chairman appears  
13 on page 14 of the Book of Reports. Carol Fuqua of  
14 District 25 was appointed secretary, Phyllis Holmberg from  
15 District 22 was appointed chaplain, and Zana Chaney from  
16 District 15 was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. Roll call  
17 found 19 delegates and one guest present.

18 The committee approved -- I can't read. The  
19 committee agreed on the following report. The code was  
20 read and the following changes were made. Code number  
21 6(a) now reads: When rewriting the bylaws, two complete  
22 sets, including signature page, and three additional  
23 signature pages will be required for submission to the  
24 department chairman. Three additional signature pages  
25 will be returned to the unit after the department

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 president signs them. The signature pages are to be  
2 attached to three copies of the new unit Constitution &  
3 Bylaws. One set is to be retained by the unit  
4 Constitution & Bylaws chairman, one set to the district  
5 president, one set to the District Constitution & Bylaws  
6 chairman. It is recommended that the unit secretary also  
7 maintain a set of these bylaws.

8 Changes were made to include the word "original."  
9 Code 6(a) will now read with the proposed changes: When  
10 rewriting the unit bylaws, two complete sets, including  
11 five original signature page, are required for submission  
12 to the department chairman. Three original signature  
13 pages will be returned to the unit after the department  
14 president signs them. The original signature pages are to  
15 be attached to three copies of the new unit Constitution &  
16 Bylaws. One set is to be retained by the unit  
17 Constitution & Bylaws chairman, one set to the district  
18 president, one set to the District Constitution & Bylaws  
19 chairman. It is recommended that the unit secretary also  
20 maintain a set of these bylaws.

21 By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
22 committee, I move for the acceptance of this code change.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do I have a second?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Discussion?

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (No response.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. So the new  
3 code will read: When rewriting the unit bylaws, two  
4 complete sets, including five original signature page, are  
5 required for submission to the department chairman. Three  
6 original signature pages will be returned to the unit  
7 after the department president signs them. The original  
8 signature pages are to be attached to three copies of the  
9 new unit Constitution & Bylaws. One set is to be retained  
10 by the unit Constitution & Bylaws chairman, one set to the  
11 district president, one set to the District Constitution &  
12 Bylaws chairman. It is recommended that the unit  
13 secretary also maintain a set of these bylaws.

14 All those in favor?

15 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Pass.

19 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Code 6(b)  
20 now reads: When district bylaws are rewritten, two  
21 complete sets including their signature pages and two  
22 additional signature pages are required for submission to  
23 the Department Chairman.

24 Changes to Code 6(b) were made to conform to Code  
25 6(a). Code 6(b) with the proposed changes will read:

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 When district bylaws are rewritten, two complete sets,  
2 including four original signature pages are required for  
3 submission to the Department Chairman.

4 By the direction of the constitution and bylaws  
5 committee, I move for the acceptance of this code change.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is there any  
7 discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The new code change  
10 will read: When district bylaws are rewritten, two  
11 complete sets, including four original signature pages are  
12 required for submission to the Department Chairman.

13 All those in favor?

14 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

18 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: The  
19 following Code 6(c) was added and the current 6(c) and  
20 6(d) were renumbered. Code 6(c) reads: Constitution &  
21 Bylaw amendments and rewrites shall be read at two  
22 separate unit/district meetings.

23 By the direction of the constitution and bylaws  
24 committee, I move for the acceptance of this code change.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Discussion?



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (No response.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The code will now  
3 read: Constitution & bylaw amendments and rewrites shall  
4 be read at two separate unit/district meetings. All those  
5 in favor?

6 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

10 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Code 6(d)  
11 had a housekeeping change and code number change adding a  
12 colon after the word "page," first sentence.

13 Code 6(e) was renumbered from 6(d) to 6(e).

14 The following are the proposed Constitution &  
15 Bylaw changes. Number 1 proposed bylaw change to  
16 Department Constitution Article IV, Section 4 now reads:  
17 Triplicate copies of amendments pertaining to the  
18 Constitution & Bylaws to be in the department office not  
19 later than 75 days prior to the opening of the following  
20 department convention.

21 Proposed change: A copy of amendments pertaining  
22 to the Constitution & Bylaws to be in the department  
23 office not later than 75 days prior to the opening of the  
24 following department convention. Triplicate copies  
25 required if via regular mail.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           The rationale is the majority of amendments are  
2 now being e-mailed to the department office rather than  
3 through regular mail. There is no need to send three  
4 copies of the amendments to the department unless sent via  
5 United States Postal Service, USPS, and copies of all  
6 proposed resolutions are mailed to all units and district  
7 presidents from the department office.

8           By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
9 committee, I move for the acceptance of this bylaw change.

10           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Discussion?

11           (No response.)

12           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It will now read:

13 A copy of amendments pertaining to the Constitution &  
14 Bylaws to be in the department office not later than 75  
15 days prior to the opening of the following department  
16 convention. Triplicate copies required if via regular  
17 mail.

18           All those in favor?

19           ALL PRESENT: Aye.

20           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

21           (No response.)

22           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

23           CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Proposed  
24 number 2. Sorry. Number 2 proposed housekeeping bylaw  
25 change to department constitution Article V, Section 4.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Installation of officers now reads: Elective  
2 department officers, junior member of finance committee,  
3 district presidents and district vice presidents and  
4 appointed department officers shall be installed prior to  
5 and take office upon the adjournment of the department  
6 convention at which they were elected, that are elected,  
7 ratified, or appointed and serve until adjournment of the  
8 succeeding department convention.

9           Proposed change: Elective department officers,  
10 junior member of finance committee, district presidents,  
11 and district vice presidents and appointed department  
12 officers shall be installed prior to and take office upon  
13 the adjournment of the department convention at which they  
14 were elected, ratified, or appointed and serve until  
15 adjournment of the succeeding department convention.

16           Rationale: The majority of amendments are now  
17 being e-mailed -- whoops.

18           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: That's a  
19 housekeeping change.

20           CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Pardon?  
21 My rationale is -- the rationale for the --

22           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It's changing the  
23 word "that are elected" to "which they were elected."

24           CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Yeah, I  
25 have that too. "That are elected."

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I'm trying to find  
2 the right one at this point.

3 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: That was  
4 copied and pasted.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: While we look at  
6 it, let's just go to the next one for the sake of time. I  
7 think you're just dropping a word. So it is just to drop  
8 a word. It's housekeeping.

9 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Yes.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All in favor?

11 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

15 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Thank  
16 you.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Let's go on.

18 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Number 3,  
19 proposed bylaw change to department constitution Article  
20 VI, Section F now reads: When by mutual consent or on  
21 demand of the Department Executive Committee of the  
22 American Legion Auxiliary, a subsidiary organization if  
23 dissolved, said organization shall send to the department  
24 headquarters all properties, records, and money after  
25 organization indebtedness is paid, provided requirements

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 of sponsoring organizations are met and the salons of the  
2 8 Et 40 shall forward charter and material to department  
3 salon.

4 Proposed change: When by mutual consent or on  
5 demand of the Department Executive Committee of the  
6 American Legion Auxiliary a subsidiary organization is  
7 dissolved, said organization shall send to department  
8 headquarters all properties, records, and monies after  
9 organization indebtedness is paid, provided requirements  
10 of sponsoring organizations are met.

11 Rationale: The 8 Et 40 is no longer a subsidiary  
12 of the American Legion Auxiliary and needs to be removed  
13 from this article.

14 By direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
15 committee, I move for the acceptance of this constitution  
16 change.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Any discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It will now read:

20 When by mutual consent or on demand of the Department  
21 Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary a  
22 subsidiary organization is dissolved, said organization  
23 shall send to department headquarters all properties,  
24 records, and monies after organization indebtedness is  
25 paid, provided requirements of sponsoring organizations

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 are met.

2 All in favor?

3 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

7 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Number 4

8 proposed bylaw change to department constitution Article

9 IX, Section 2, per capita tax.

10 Now reads: Per capita tax shall be payable in

11 advance annually. National senior dues \$5, department

12 senior \$6, Auxiliary News assessment \$1, national junior

13 \$1.25, department junior 75 cents.

14 Proposed change: Per capita tax shall be payable

15 in advance annually. National senior \$9, department

16 senior dues \$7, Auxiliary News assessment \$1, national

17 junior \$1.25, department junior 75 cents.

18 Rationale: To conform with the national mandate

19 effective for the 2013 membership year.

20 By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaw

21 committee, I move for the acceptance of this

22 constitutional change.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Discussion? Do we

24 have a discussion?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I didn't bring my resolutions

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 up here with me. So we're raising our dues up a dollar  
2 also?

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So it's not just for National.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: This was amended in  
6 committee to -- yes, it was amended in committee?

7 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Yes. I'm  
8 sorry.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It was amended in  
10 committee to -- for the National we do have a \$4 increase  
11 in per capita raising the amount from five to \$9. The  
12 amendment added that we would also increase the department  
13 per capita \$1, raising it from six to \$7. And that  
14 amendment passed the committee?

15 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Yes.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: That's the  
17 clarification. Do we have discussion? The proposed  
18 change would now read: Per capita tax shall be payable in  
19 advance annually. National senior \$9, department senior  
20 dues \$7, Auxiliary News assessment \$1, national junior  
21 \$1.25, department junior 75 cents.

22 Those in favor?

23 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

25 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We will have a  
2 standing vote. It takes a two-thirds vote. So would you  
3 please stand if you are in favor of this change,  
4 increasing \$4 to National, \$1 to the department. If you  
5 are in favor of this increase, please stand.

6 Thank you. Please be seated.

7 Could I have those not in favor please stand?

8 Thank you, ladies. Because of time constraints,  
9 because we will be having the PPP luncheon and this will  
10 take now a roll call vote to enact this, I am proposing  
11 that we will postpone this until after lunch as it will be  
12 time consuming and we will run out of time. So this will  
13 be tabled until after lunch.

14 Would you like to go forward?

15 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: With just  
16 that one?

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: With just that one.  
18 We'll proceed with the others unless we have another  
19 issue. Thank you.

20 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay.

21 Ladies --

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies -- right.  
23 The rationale for why I am proposing the roll call vote is  
24 because this takes a two-thirds majority. And by having  
25 you stand, visually I could not see a two-thirds majority.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 And some of you have more than one vote. So we will --  
2 it's a very important issue and I think we all have the  
3 right to have your opinion on this and to have it  
4 recognized.

5 So in order for the delegation to really speak to  
6 what they wish, I am proposing we do postpone this until  
7 after lunch and we will take a roll call vote on that one  
8 issue. Thank you very much for your patience.

9 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: The  
10 following two amendments, 5 and 6, deal with paying unit  
11 fidelity bond every three years instead of annually.

12 Number 5 proposed bylaw change to department  
13 constitution Article VI, Section 1(c) financial statement.  
14 Now reads: An annual financial statement shall be  
15 submitted to the department president 30 days prior to  
16 convention. All person handling funds in subsidiary  
17 organizations shall be bonded, said bond to be paid by the  
18 organization annually.

19 Proposed change: An annual financial statement  
20 shall be submitted to the department president 30 days  
21 prior to convention. All persons handling funds in  
22 subsidiary organizations shall be bonded, said bonds to be  
23 paid by the organization every three years for the ensuing  
24 three years.

25 Rationale: Coincide with national mandate of

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 filing unit fidelity bonds every three years instead of  
2 annually.

3 By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
4 committee I move for the acceptance of this bylaw change.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is there any  
6 discussion? Wait. Just one minute, please. Thank you.  
7 Thank you, ladies. It will now read: An annual financial  
8 statement shall be submitted to the department president  
9 30 days prior to convention. All persons handling funds  
10 in subsidiary organizations shall be bonded, said bonds to  
11 be paid by the organization every three years for the  
12 ensuing three years.

13 All those in favor?

14 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

18 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Number 6:  
19 Proposed bylaws change to department constitution Article  
20 XIV, Section 5 financial statement.

21 Now reads: An annual financial statement shall  
22 be submitted to the department president 30 days prior to  
23 convention. All persons handling funds in subsidiary  
24 organizations shall be bonded, said bond to be paid by the  
25 organization annually.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I think we have  
2 that written on the page twice.

3 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Then what  
4 happened to number 6?

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I don't know. I  
6 don't know what happened to it. It's them aliens that  
7 keep coming down. We cowboys can't handle it.

8 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I have 5  
9 twice. Okay. I have it now.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We got it.

11 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Okay.

12 Start over. Redo. Resolution number 6: Department  
13 constitution Article XIV, Section 5, finance officers to  
14 be bonded.

15 Now reads: The office of treasurer and all units  
16 shall be bonded, said bonds will be paid annually to the  
17 ensuing calendar year.

18 Proposed change: The department constitution  
19 Article XIV, Section 5, finance officers to be bonded be  
20 amended to read: The office of treasurer and all units  
21 shall be bonded, said bonds will be paid every three years  
22 for the ensuing three years.

23 Rationale: To coincide with national mandate of  
24 filing unit fidelity bonds every three years instead of  
25 annually.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
2 committee, I move for the acceptance of this bylaw change.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Any discussion?  
4 (No response.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It will now read,  
6 department constitution Article XIV, Section 5: The  
7 office of treasurer and all units shall be bonded, said  
8 bonds will be paid every three years for the ensuing three  
9 years.

10 All those in favor?

11 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass. Oh, wait.  
13 No? Pass.

14 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Number 7  
15 proposed bylaw change to department constitution Article  
16 XIV, Section 6, audit/taxes (new).

17 Proposed change: That a new section be added to  
18 the department constitution Article XII, Section 7 and  
19 Article XIV, Section 6 entitled, "audit/taxes" renumbering  
20 following sections accordingly, which would read: The  
21 treasurer's books shall be audited annually within 60 days  
22 of the end of the fiscal year, prior to filing appropriate  
23 tax form with the Internal Revenue Service and Franchise  
24 Tax Board and renumber following sections in Article XIV,  
25 Section 6 accordingly.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Rationale: Units and districts are mandated by  
2 state and federal laws to file tax forms with the Internal  
3 Revenue Service and the California state Franchise Tax  
4 Board, FTB, five months on the 15th day of the close of  
5 books November 15th. The California Attorney General  
6 Charitable Trust and California Secretary of State.

7           By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
8 committee I move for the acceptance of this constitution  
9 change.

10           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Any discussion?

11           (No response.)

12           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We will now add a  
13 new section that will be added to the constitution Article  
14 XII -- XIV, Section 7 -- don't we have -- isn't it in two  
15 places? It says Article XII, Section 7 and Article XIV,  
16 Section 6.

17           CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: That's  
18 what it says.

19           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Will be added:  
20 Audit/taxes renumbering following sections accordingly,  
21 which would read: The treasurer's books shall be audited  
22 annually within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year,  
23 prior to filing appropriate tax form with the Internal  
24 Revenue Service and the Franchise Tax Board and renumber  
25 following sections in Article XIV, Section 6 accordingly.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 All those in favor?

2 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Pass.

6 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Number 8

7 proposed bylaw change to department constitution Article

8 I, Section 14 - district treasurer.

9 Now reads: The district treasurer shall be  
10 custodian of the district funds. The books of the  
11 treasurer shall be audited and the office of the treasurer  
12 shall be bonded to be paid by the district and books  
13 audited before officers assume their duties.

14 Proposed change: The district treasurer shall be  
15 custodian of the district funds. The books of the  
16 treasurer shall be audited within 60 days of the end of  
17 the fiscal year and the office of the treasurer shall be  
18 bonded, said bond to be paid by the district when billed  
19 by the department office.

20 Rationale: To coincide with tax mandates filing  
21 date of November 15th and having accurate gross income  
22 figures to report to the Franchise Tax Board.

23 By direction of the Constitution & Bylaw  
24 committee, I move for the acceptance of this constitution  
25 change.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Any discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The code will now  
4 read: The district treasurer shall be custodian of the  
5 district funds. The books of the treasurer shall be  
6 audited within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year and  
7 the office of the treasurer shall be bonded, said bond to  
8 be paid by the district when billed by the department  
9 office. All those in favor?

10 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Passed.

14 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Number 9  
15 proposed unit/district model bylaws, Article VII, Section  
16 1(a) committees. Both currently read the same except for  
17 -- I don't know how to say -- annotating where the books  
18 are for the unit or the district which now reads: The  
19 president shall appoint an auditing committee of three  
20 members to serve during her term of office. This  
21 committee shall audit, or cause to be audited, the books  
22 of the unit (district) treasurer annually. Audits may be  
23 conducted throughout the Auxiliary year, but all books  
24 must be audited prior to the installation of  
25 officers-elect.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Proposed change: That both the unit/district  
2 model bylaws, Article VII, Section 1(a) to be amended to  
3 read substituting unit and district -- I made a typo here;  
4 I can't read it. Substituting unit and district dependent  
5 upon whether making changes to unit or district model  
6 bylaws, the president shall appoint an auditing committee  
7 of three members to serve during her term of office. This  
8 committee shall audit, or cause to be audited, the books  
9 of the unit (district) treasurer annually. Audits may be  
10 conducted throughout the Auxiliary year, but all books  
11 must be audited within 60 days of the end of the fiscal  
12 year.

13 Rationale: To coincide with tax mandates filing  
14 dates of November 15th and have accurate gross income  
15 figures to report to the Franchise Tax Board.

16 By the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws  
17 committee, I move for the acceptance of this unit/district  
18 model bylaw change.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Any discussion?

20 (No response.)

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It will now read:

22 That both the unit/district model bylaws, Article VII,  
23 Section 1(a) to be amended to read substituting unit and  
24 district dependent upon whether making changes to unit or  
25 district model bylaws, the president shall appoint an



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 auditing committee of three members to serve during her  
2 term of office. This committee shall audit, or cause to  
3 be audited, the books of the unit (district) treasurer  
4 annually. Audits may be conducted throughout the  
5 Auxiliary year, but all books must be audited within 60  
6 days of the end of the fiscal year.

7 All those in favor?

8 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

12 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA:

13 Resolution number 10: Whereas, by way of memorandum from  
14 the national secretary dated 3/16/12 regarding ALA  
15 district/counties/councils; subject filing 990s, which  
16 stated: ALA district/counties/councils and any other  
17 unchartered unit to department liaisons exist for the  
18 benefit of the departments, departments either create them  
19 or allow them to exist. Districts are not independent and  
20 should not be regarded as independent because they are not  
21 chartered entities recognized by the national  
22 organization. The department has the power to  
23 determine/establish the rights, prerogatives, and duties  
24 of districts, but these rights, duties, and prerogatives  
25 cannot and do not change the fact that the districts are

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 subordinate to the department. Any money collected or  
2 maintained by the department is considered department  
3 funds and any money spent by the district should be  
4 regularly reported to the department. The finances of the  
5 district should be regularly reported to the department.  
6 Districts should be included in the department's IRS Form  
7 990. The exception is a district that is separately  
8 incorporated and which has its own tax exempt status  
9 granted via a letter of determination from the IRS.

10           And whereas, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
11 requires a governing document of the organization to be in  
12 place stating the name, intent and purpose of the  
13 organization at the time the organization calls and  
14 requests the IRS to add the organization into their system  
15 so that they can file appropriate tax forms with IRS.

16           And whereas, the only governing document  
17 currently in place for districts is the district model  
18 bylaws which doesn't contain the intent nor the purpose  
19 and in order to meet IRS criteria.

20           Therefore be it resolved, that an additional page  
21 be added to the district model bylaws after the index and  
22 prior to the articles, listing the ALA preamble to the  
23 constitution, and using the national mission and purposes  
24 to satisfy IRS criteria.

25           Mission/Intent: In the spirit of service, not

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to  
2 support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of  
3 those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans,  
4 military, and their families, both at home and abroad.  
5 For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our  
6 citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good  
7 citizenship, peace and security.

8           Purposes: In fulfillment of our mission, the  
9 American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following  
10 purpose: To support and advocate for veterans, active  
11 military and their families; to support the initiatives  
12 and programs of the American Legion; to foster patriotism  
13 and responsible citizenship; to award scholarships and  
14 promote quality education and literacy; to provide  
15 educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the  
16 ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good  
17 citizenship and patriotism in government; to increase our  
18 capacity to deliver our mission by providing meaningful  
19 volunteer opportunities within our communities; and to  
20 empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment  
21 through service, not self.

22           And be it further resolved that if adopted by the  
23 2012 convention delegates, this amendment to the district  
24 model bylaws will go into effect immediately.

25           At the direction of the Constitution & Bylaws

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 committee, I move for the acceptance of this model bylaw  
2 change.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is there any  
4 discussion?

5 (No response.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I would like with  
7 the consent of the delegation to not reread this entire  
8 resolution and to call for a vote.

9 (Applause.)

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All in favor?

11 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I have a copy for  
13 whoever said no. So at this time then I do ask for a vote  
14 on the resolution. All those in favor?

15 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. And at  
19 this time, Esther, I am going to ask you please if you  
20 would not mind if we continue after lunch with the rest of  
21 your report. Give your voice a little bit of a break.

22 Because at this time I would like to have our  
23 Past President Parley Chairman LuAnn Capazzi, we have some  
24 special -- we have some special guests in the room. And  
25 at this time we're going to proceed with our Past

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 President Parley. And for sake of time, because we will  
2 be going for lunch and the lunch is over in the Red Lion  
3 next door.

4 And, ladies, I've been outside and the weather is  
5 lovely; it's quite cool so you're not going to be sweating  
6 on the way over there to the -- to have some grub with  
7 everyone.

8 Also I have asked permission from our Past  
9 President Parley Chairman, she will be reporting following  
10 lunch because at this time we have a very distinguished  
11 guest and I am going to have our Past President Parley  
12 Chairman woman come to the podium.

13 GIRLS STATE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Madam  
14 President. As you know at this time we always present our  
15 Unit Member of the Year and hopefully our \$2,000  
16 scholarship winner. So hopefully our Sergeant-at-Arms and  
17 Marshal with our distinguished guest chairman will present  
18 our Unit Member of the Year to the podium. She's there.  
19 I saw her come in.

20 (Processional.)

21 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Madam  
22 President, it is my honor to present to you Ms. Patty  
23 McKimmy, Unit Member of the Year sponsored by Lakeside  
24 Unit 496.

25 VETERANS AFFAIR & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Lakewood.

2 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: What?  
3 Lakewood. Lakewood Unit 496, District 19.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. McKIMMY: I'm going to make this short and  
6 sweet because I know we have lunch after this and it is  
7 one of the three most important meals of the day. Right  
8 in between our midmorning and midafternoon cocktails.

9 So I just want to say it's an honor to be  
10 standing here in front of a room full of women who are as  
11 accomplished and dedicated to the cause as you all are.  
12 You're not paid for your time and efforts in assisting the  
13 veteran community and yet you dedicate so much of yourself  
14 to helping others. And for that, as a veteran, as a  
15 Legion member, and as an Auxiliary member I say thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. McKIMMY: According to the American Legion  
18 Auxiliary website, the Unit Member of the Year is someone  
19 who gets things accomplished one task at a time. And some  
20 of the tasks that I've been involved in in the past  
21 include procuring donations for the food bank -- for a  
22 food bank which services homeless veterans, handing out  
23 gifts to children in the community for Toys For Joy and  
24 Toys For Tots, assisting with efforts and raising funds  
25 for junior Auxiliary with Lakewood 496, whoop, whoop,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 donating care package items to overseas service members,  
2 and becoming pen pals with a soldier in Iraq through  
3 Soldiers Angels.

4 My current and future efforts over the next few  
5 weeks and few months include visiting wounded warriors at  
6 the naval hospital down at Balboa in San Diego, sewing  
7 aprons to be sold on SB and through my Ms. Armed Forces  
8 Facebook page in which the net proceeds will go to Travis  
9 Mills who was a staff -- he is a staff sergeant in the  
10 U.S. Army and he is only the fourth quadruple amputee to  
11 survive from his wounds from Afghanistan and Iraq, and  
12 collecting hygiene products to be donated to homeless  
13 veterans in the fall.

14 If you ask a veteran what their favorite part of  
15 the service is, it's definitely not going to be the 4:30  
16 a.m. calls that we had to do to clean vehicles or the four  
17 hours that we spent inspecting our weapons or the six  
18 hours a day that sometimes we would spend just picking  
19 weeds in between rocks, but rather, the family members  
20 that we made and that we'll have for life.

21 And as Legion and Auxiliary members, we are a  
22 part of that family. And I consider myself lucky to be  
23 surrounded by so many caring, supportive, dedicated women  
24 such as yourself and hope to continue doing good in the  
25 veteran community and be just as good, if not better, than

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 I've already been in the past. And I look to you ladies  
2 as my mentors and I thank you very much for everything  
3 that you've done for the veteran community. And I am so  
4 proud to be a lady of the Auxiliary, so thank you so much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. McKIMMY: And I also want to say thank you to  
7 my fiance who exactly one year today will be my lovely  
8 husband.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. McKIMMY: He's here somewhere. Lord,  
11 Cameron, if you can do a 12-hour trip with me from down  
12 south up here and we didn't kill each other, we can make  
13 it through.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: They live in San  
15 Diego and they came in last night. That's where they live  
16 and they've driven 12 hours to get here. Thank you very  
17 much for helping that out. We know about driving.

18 Also we will hear more about our -- about Patty  
19 as our member unit of the year. We will hear more of that  
20 at the luncheon. So at this time I am going to recess us  
21 to the luncheon over at the Red Lion and we will reconvene  
22 at 2:00 o'clock promptly, please, because we have a lot to  
23 do this afternoon.

24 (Lunch recess: 11:55 a.m.)

25



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 AFTERNOON SESSION - 1:48 p.m.

2

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, if anyone  
4 is going to be doing a nomination for the President, Vice  
5 President, or Junior Member of Finance please come to the  
6 stage at this time.

7 What district is Lynn Holland? Lynn Holland,  
8 where are you? If you are here, please come see Linda  
9 Workman. Lynn Holland.

10 Ladies, please. Thank you. It was a great  
11 luncheon. We have an awesome scholarship winner. She is  
12 lovely. She was there with her family. They happen to  
13 have been vacationing up here. Timing could not have been  
14 more perfect.

15 At this time we have some dispatches so we're  
16 going to start with our dispatches.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Ladies, those  
18 telegraph wires have just been singing.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Those telegraph  
21 wires have just been singing. My telegraph key is just  
22 about worn out from all the messages that we've gotten off  
23 the record.

24 Pilar's Musicians will meet in the lobby  
25 tomorrow. Pilar didn't say what time in the lobby though.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Lunchtime. Okay. But do not have -- they're not having  
2 lunch, but you're going to meet at lunchtime in the lobby.

3 Terry's Cars, Margaret's Dream Catchers, and  
4 Ruby's All Stars will meet on Saturday after the closing  
5 session in Holiday Inn Room 115. See you there.

6 Linda's Workmen, Madeline's Princesses, Park's  
7 Patriots, Sue's Lighthouses, Melanie's Balloonists,  
8 Bonnie's Prom Queens, and Bev's Stars will meet Saturday  
9 for lunch at the Red Lion in Room 278.

10 LuAnn's Ship Captains will meet for breakfast at  
11 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning in the hotel restaurant. I'm  
12 going to assume that's the Holiday Inn restaurant. That's  
13 not the restroom; that's the restaurant. Sorry.

14 Norma's Birds of Paradise will meet in the  
15 Holiday Inn restaurant at the close of the session on  
16 Saturday.

17 Pinkie Performers and Classy Penguins will meet  
18 at the noon recess on Saturday in Room 116.

19 A roll of yellow tickets was left in the  
20 restaurant yesterday. See the bartender.

21 District 10 is looking for one banquet ticket if  
22 any districts have any extra to sell.

23 And that's -- and that's it for our telegraph  
24 messages. Oh, I'm sorry. We have two lost and found  
25 items, but I think the governor may have just -- may have

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 confiscated that one. And a flash drive that says,  
2 "Cannot open with a safety lighter."

3

4 NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2012-2013

5

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time I did  
7 ask if anyone is going to be making nominations for  
8 department officers for 2012-2013 to be on the podium. So  
9 at this time are there any nominations for department  
10 president?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Sorry. Well, I  
13 told you I am not running for reelection. It isn't going  
14 to happen so somebody better come up here. Here comes the  
15 Pony Express to save me.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Huh-uh.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: No? Please take  
18 that microphone if you're here for the purpose of a  
19 nomination. It's not on. It is not fine, Barbara.

20 Rodeo Queen District 4 Barbara LaDoucer.

21 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Barbara LaDoucer,  
22 District 4 president. Our candidate for Junior Member of  
23 Finance is Geri Fitzpatrick. We're up in Chico,  
24 California attended the vote --

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Excuse me. We were

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 starting with the president. Do you have a nomination for  
2 a president?

3 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: You told me to  
4 come up here.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Take the mic,  
6 Barbara. We're going to ask for a nomination for Junior  
7 Member of Finance. We know we have somebody, so go for  
8 it. Yahoo. I mean her horse won the race and she gets to  
9 be first.

10 Barbara, take the mic and nominate your Junior  
11 Member of Finance. Go for it now.

12 DEPARTMENT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Are you sure?

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I am sure. You've  
14 got the green flag. You won. But I am looking for a  
15 nomination, and I am desperately looking for a nomination  
16 for president and vice president. Hello out there.

17 District 2, Unit 197, ride your horse right up here right  
18 now. You're going to be in second place, so get up here.

19 Judy Gama, are you there?

20 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Come on.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Judy. Actually,  
22 it's vice president's horse that won second place. We're  
23 going to go with our first place winner, first place  
24 Junior Member of Finance nomination. Go for it.

25 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Barbara LaDoucer,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 District 4 president. Our candidate for Junior Member of  
2 Finance Geri Fitzpatrick grew up in Chico, California,  
3 attended both grammar school and high school there. She  
4 also attended Yuba College in the same area. Geri and her  
5 husband, Chuck, have their own business which Geri is  
6 responsible for all bookkeeping. Geri and Chuck had seven  
7 children and are both American Legion Family members.  
8 Geri is a 29-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary  
9 and she received her eligible through her son.

10 Geri Fitzpatrick is endorsed by the American  
11 Legion Auxiliary Unit 807 and District 4 for Junior Member  
12 of Finance. Geri has gone through the barracks holding  
13 all offices and chairmanships. She was also district  
14 president three times. Geri was given the Sherwood  
15 Auxiliary Member of the Year 2010. Geri is currently  
16 serving as Poppy production manager at the office.

17 Besides helping the veterans creating the poppies  
18 to be distributed in the May, Geri is on top of all the  
19 accounting, mailing, and other paperwork that goes with  
20 this position. At this time we proudly endorse Geri  
21 Fitzpatrick for Junior Member of Finance.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.  
23 Barbara. Barbara, the horse race ain't over. Are you  
24 going to nominate her?

25 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: Oh, I would like

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 to nominate -- I would like to nominate Geri Fitzpatrick  
2 for Junior Member of Finance.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Are  
4 there any other nominations for Junior Member of Finance?

5 (No response.)

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: No more horses  
7 riding up, so hearing no nominations for Junior Member of  
8 Finance.

9 And so it's the second place horse was my vice  
10 president's horse, but we're going to have the nomination  
11 for department vice president. Nominations are open at  
12 this time.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAMS: My name is Gloria  
14 Williams, Past 23rd District President. And it gives me  
15 great pleasure to nominate Anita Biggs for the office of  
16 department vice president.

17 (Applause.)

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WILLIAMS: She is an honorary  
19 lifetime member of Jackie Robinson Unit 252, 23rd  
20 District. She is eligible through service of her late  
21 father, Bill Johnson, who honorably served 30 years in the  
22 U.S. Navy. Anita has held many district chairmanships,  
23 served as unit and district president on the department  
24 level. She has served as Unit Development &  
25 Revitalization, Poppy, Leadership, Americanism, Children &

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Youth, and Gold Membership Chairman.

2 Anita has been serving on the national level  
3 since 2005 with the following an appointments: Unit  
4 Development & Revitalization, Vice Chairman and Chairman  
5 Membership, Long-Range Strategic Planning, and National  
6 Security Committee, and currently is serving as Western  
7 Division Girls State Chairman.

8 Anita is married with three children and five  
9 grandchildren, all members of the American Legion Family.  
10 On behalf of the proud teammates 23rd District and Jackie  
11 Robinson Unit 252, we nominate Anita Biggs for the office  
12 of department first vice president 2012-2013.

13 (Applause.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do we have any  
15 other nominations for the department vice president for  
16 2012-2013?

17 (No response.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Hearing none,  
19 nominations are closed. Congratulations, Anita.

20 At this time we will have the nominations for  
21 2012-2013 president. A little slow on the horses, but  
22 that's fine.

23 MS. GAMA: This was a surprise to me. I didn't  
24 know I was going to be doing this. I would like to tell  
25 you about Terry Mikesell. She's from Unit 197, District

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 2. She has basically held every office I think that's  
2 possible except for president. She is a great person, a  
3 great mom, a great family person. Any time we have a  
4 question, she's there to help us. And she's just an  
5 amazing, amazing person, so I would like to nominate Terry  
6 Mikesell for president.

7 (Applause.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Are there any other  
9 nominations for the department president for 2012-2013?

10 (No response.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Hearing none,  
12 nominations are closed. Yahoo. Would the nominees please  
13 come up for pictures?

14 Okay. We're not ready for pictures here. I know  
15 you're always ready. She has always a smile, our Ms.  
16 Photo Queen over here.

17 Okay. Here she comes. Do you all have cameras  
18 ready? Do you have your cameras? Okay. Let's take a  
19 minute or two to get some pictures. Beautiful background  
20 over there by Josie's picture.

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: First of  
22 all, I want to thank all of you who have sent your  
23 donations in to the Nancy Brown-Park campaign fund, but we  
24 still have a long way to go. There is a lot of expenses  
25 that are incurred as we've talked about before, and one of



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 our little fundraisers is happening in the back. There's  
2 a purse raffle. So come and get your tickets. It's for a  
3 purse with something surprising inside.

4 And we also have the Josie Melgard plate that  
5 we're raffling. So if anyone wants to buy those tickets,  
6 just come on back and see me. Thank you.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Nancy, would  
8 you come and say something? California, this is our  
9 national candidate for national president.

10 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.  
11 I want to just follow what Linda said and say thank you  
12 very much for all the support. It means so much to me.  
13 There have been fundraisers, fashion shows, lots of candy  
14 sold, lots of shirts. It's been amazing and I appreciate  
15 everything and everybody's help.

16 So -- oh, the shirts. So shirts -- Linda is  
17 going like this, tell them about the shirts. So the  
18 shirts, the "Forever" shirts, somebody has one on if you  
19 want to show them.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Everybody who has  
21 one on stand up.

22 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Show your  
23 shirts off. They're for sale. They're over in the men's  
24 hotel. I think what we're going to try to do is bring  
25 some over here in the morning so we have them. This is --

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Linda Fercho, I don't know how much they are.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The shirts are \$35  
3 up to size extra large, men's or women's, and two X to  
4 four and five X are \$40. And we will try to get some over  
5 here tomorrow also. Yeah, some of you might not be going  
6 over that direction so we're going to do that. We're also  
7 having -- we're trying to get together right now a cruise.

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: We have a  
9 cruise. We had a little glitch with the company so we're  
10 going to change and hopefully we're going to go back with  
11 the actual cruise company themselves and have more  
12 information later. But thank you, thank you, thank you.  
13 Thank you for all your help. I really, really appreciate  
14 every bit of it. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16

17 NOMINATIONS FOR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES  
18 TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

19

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Thank you.  
21 We're going to now have the nominations for delegates and  
22 alternates to national convention. So at this time I'm  
23 going to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Marshal to take  
24 the microphone, stand in the middle of the aisle here and,  
25 please, district presidents starting with District 1 line

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 up in numerical order. Line up in the center aisle and be  
2 prepared with your delegate, alternate, information from  
3 national convention.

4 We don't have any floor microphones so we're  
5 going to handle it this way. Oh, we do have a floor  
6 microphone. Okay. We're moving the floor microphone. So  
7 please line up District 1. Yeah, we'll put that one  
8 halfway down. Oh, good.

9 Thank you, Terry.

10 While you're lining up, ladies, and please do it  
11 quietly, we have a distinguished guest in the house. So  
12 I'm going to have the Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal and my  
13 Distinguished Guest Chairman, please present to the  
14 station the American Legion Department of California  
15 Riders President -- well, I call him "Doc" so I'm looking  
16 for his real name. It's Luis "Doc" Diaz. It would be my  
17 honor to have him brought to station for greetings from  
18 the American Legion Riders.

19 So, ladies, please line up 1, 2, 3 quietly.

20 Ladies, please stand.

21 (Processional.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, as you  
23 know, one of the -- one of the biggest and its nationally  
24 known membership-generating organization that we have now  
25 is American Legion Riders. They're an amazing, amazing

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 group. They do so much in our state and throughout the  
2 nation supporting our veterans, supporting our cause, and  
3 our mission. They do have to be a Legionnaire and also a  
4 member or a Son of Legion member in good standing to  
5 belong. So that is why it is such a great membership tool  
6 for all of us. And I would like to have you welcome today  
7 our 2011-2012 president of the Department of California  
8 American Legion Riders, Doc, my friend.

9 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT DIAZ: I just  
10 corrected your president. I was actually 2010-2012. I  
11 did two years, two years in a row.

12 But welcome again for the Sixth Annual American  
13 Legion Riders convention which was held in Hanford this  
14 year. We had a great turnout. Our conventions continue  
15 to grow. Our numbers continue to get larger. When I  
16 first started -- this is my last -- my third year. My  
17 first year we had 16 chapters. And we were very proud  
18 when we first got started, got our bylaws. Those of you  
19 know starting off you get your bylaws, you get your  
20 constitution, you get accepted by the American Legion,  
21 which is our parent organization. And we finally got  
22 started, but at the end of this sixth convention, we have  
23 67 chapters now. Sixty-seven.

24 (Applause.)

25 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT DIAZ: We pride

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 ourselves in the fact that at our American Legion Riders  
2 meetings, we get about 60 percent of the people that  
3 belong to the organization at the meetings. So that's --  
4 that's a great thing.

5 (Applause.)

6 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT DIAZ: At our  
7 convention we have posted 300 in our convention, and  
8 that's for a group that's only six years old. That was  
9 great. So things are growing, and part of it is because  
10 we can do it together. I think it's because we can work  
11 with our wives. And kneeling right here taking pictures  
12 in front is my wife, Jennifer. She's a retired Navy  
13 chief. She's a member of the Auxiliary. She is one of  
14 the Riders. She won't go on her own, I don't know why,  
15 but she does everything else.

16 But again, I think it's because we do things  
17 together and it's because of people like your president  
18 who have worked hard to try to bring the groups together,  
19 the Legion Riders and the ALA.

20 I heard a comment in the other convention about a  
21 cruisers club starting up possibly. They could use the  
22 template that we used to get started. There's a lot of  
23 people who -- I have a veteran who lives across the street  
24 with three gorgeous cars and he restored them, but he  
25 doesn't find anything of interest at the Legion. That

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 hook that you have to have, those are the things we have  
2 to look for, every organization has to look for. You have  
3 to find those hooks that are going to bring people in no  
4 matter what it is. You know, they like to do blankets,  
5 they like sewing, they like exercise, they like spinning  
6 classes, whatever it is. If we can find some way to use  
7 that activity that they have interest in and bring it in  
8 and help them put them in a position to provide service  
9 for our veterans organization. We need to do that.

10 We love our motorcycles, but we love the Legion  
11 more than them. The motorcycles is just a side thing.  
12 We're here for the vets just like you are. And we  
13 appreciate your support. If I could have -- I'm sure I  
14 have out there a few American Legion Rider members.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All of you stand  
16 up.

17 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT DIAZ: There's  
18 quite a few of them and the number continues to grow. And  
19 hopefully they're happy, as happy in our organization when  
20 they're meeting with us as they are with you all. You  
21 seem to have a lot more fun than what's occurring in the  
22 Legion. You're not missing anything over there. A lot of  
23 snoozing going on, a lot of people off to the side. But  
24 it's great to see all the energy here. I hope you have a  
25 great convention.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           The actual president for this year whose name is  
2 Pancho Villa, unfortunately he wanted to be here to  
3 address you, but his wife's dad became seriously ill and  
4 they had to rush back to help with that.

5           So he sends his greetings and they hope you have  
6 a great year with the incredible president that you're  
7 going to elect and put into office and -- at any moment  
8 now. I guess we're kind of holding that up. I'll quit  
9 talking and pass the microphone along. So I apologize.

10           So thank you for having me. My apologies for  
11 missing your opening ceremony yesterday. It was kind of a  
12 fluky thing, but I'd love to be here. And I may run again  
13 just so I can come back again to talk to you.

14           (Applause.)

15           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
16 much. And I have -- unless there's something going on,  
17 there's a garter for you. I'm a helpful person. Thank  
18 you. Thank you for everything you guys do. It's greatly  
19 appreciated.

20           (Processional.)

21           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. At this time  
22 -- we'll put the microphone back over.

23           Mary, could you move that microphone to the  
24 center? And we will proceed with the first five nominated  
25 delegates. And I believe that this is per our department

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 code Constitution & Bylaws is myself, Linda Fercho. And I  
2 will be attending. Terry Mikesell, who will be attending.  
3 Peggy Vogeles, our secretary. Nancy Brown-Park.

4 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Maybe.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Kinda sorta.

6 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I ain't  
7 giving your VA&R report.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And Melanie Taylor.  
9 So at this time I am addressing District 1 for purpose of  
10 nomination.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Actually, she just  
12 reads them.

13 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELLE: District 1, Kat  
14 Conrad. District 2, I have a pass. Is that correct or do  
15 you have someone now?

16 DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Terry Mikesell is  
17 already going.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELLE: Okay.

19 DISTRICT 2 PRESIDENT JOHNSON: Then we'll pass.

20 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELLE: District 3.

21 DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT RAMEY: District 3, we pass.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELLE: That was a pass for  
23 District 3. District 4.

24 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: District 4  
25 passes.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Hold on. I have --  
2 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: I know. Are  
3 you --

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: I have Jane McDonald  
5 down. Is she going or a pass?

6 DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT LaDOUCER: What unit? Well,  
7 I got a thing in the mail from Unit 210 and I think they  
8 didn't understand that because they're not going.

9 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. All right.  
10 Then that would be a pass for District 4. Thank you.  
11 District 5.

12 DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT McQUEEN: District 5. I'm  
13 Virginia McQueen and I nominate Doris Kilkenney. She is  
14 from Unit 208 from the district.

15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: She is down for  
16 District 4. Thank you.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Five.

18 SECRETARY-TREASURER VOGELE: Pardon me. District  
19 5.

20 District 6, do you have a nomination?

21 DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT O'BRIEN: No one is going.

22 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District  
23 7 I have Bonnie Bradbury.

24 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: That's correct.

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 8 is a pass. District 9 I have Janet Wilson.

2 DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT RIOS: That's correct.

3 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 10 I have a  
4 pass. Anyone from District 10? Ten. I'm sorry.

5 DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT PETERS: I'm nominating  
6 Emily Magwili. And then Pilar is going as the delegate of  
7 her own right.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: She is not.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: That's extras.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh, that's extras.  
11 Okay.

12 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: So we have Emily  
13 down as the delegate. Okay. I'm sorry. I put Emily in  
14 the wrong spot.

15 District 11 I have Jane Huston.

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Grace.

17 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: I'm sorry. Grace  
18 Huston.

19 DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT CANNON: We're passing on  
20 both of those.

21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: All right. For  
22 District 11 pass. District 12 I have Ann Kelley.

23 DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT MATTHEWS: No. The unit is  
24 on probation.

25 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: No. This is for

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 national. We have Ann Kelley.

2 DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT MATTHEWS: We have Ann  
3 Kelley.

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District  
5 13 I have as a pass.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: No, that's a blank.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Blank. I'm sorry.

8 Pardon me. Remember patience, please. Remember,  
9 patience, please. Let's start over.

10 DISTRICT 13 REPRESENTATIVE JACOB: Sandy Jacob.

11 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District  
12 14.

13 DISTRICT 14 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: Pass.

14 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 15.

15 DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT HERRERA: Pass.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 16.

17 DISTRICT 16 PRESIDENT WEBER: Madeline Lee.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Thank you. District  
19 18 I have Audra Lamolli.

20 DISTRICT 18 PRESIDENT PIPKIN: That's correct.

21 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 19 I have  
22 Tammy Sollazzo.

23 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Correct.

24 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 20.

25 DISTRICT 20 PRESIDENT HAYES: Linda Hayes.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 21.  
2           DISTRICT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: Marge Rye.  
3           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 22.  
4           DISTRICT 22 PRESIDENT MANNO: Virginia Goffney.  
5           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 23 I have  
6 Anita Biggs.  
7           DISTRICT 23 PRESIDENT COLEMAN: Correct.  
8           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 24 I have  
9 Nancy Niles.  
10           DISTRICT 24 PRESIDENT JOHANSEN: Correct.  
11           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 25 I have  
12 Diane DeLashmit.  
13           VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
14 Where they at? Come up here.  
15           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: So District 25 I  
16 have Diane DeLashmit.  
17           DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT MATTOX: Correct.  
18           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 26 I have  
19 Linda Workman.  
20           DISTRICT 26 PRESIDENT THOMPSON: Correct.  
21           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 27 I have  
22 LuAnn Capazzi.  
23           DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE: Correct.  
24           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 28 I have  
25 Ruby Kapsalis.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DISTRICT 28 PRESIDENT YAQUB: You betcha.

2 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 29 I have  
3 Jennifer Sandlin.

4 DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BELL: Yes.

5 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 30.

6 DISTRICT 30 PRESIDENT TELFORD: Pass.

7 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. Thank you. I  
8 have 21 plus the five. Twenty-one plus the one in their  
9 own right, which would be 26. Pardon me. Okay.  
10 Including the five.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So we have 26.  
12 While we are conversing on how many delegates we have  
13 available to California for the national convention --  
14 because it looks like we might even have to have an  
15 election, so we will be discussing that.

16 So at this time I would like to have my  
17 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal along with the Distinguished  
18 Guest Chairman escort to the station our Department  
19 Commander Hugh Crooks. Accompanying him is the National  
20 Vice Commander Merv Gunderson.

21 (Processional.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The men can be our  
23 guests. We also have the lovely, lovely most gracious  
24 first lady, Yoko, with him. All right. Commander.

25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: Ladies. Ladies of

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 the Auxiliary, I have never seen such beautiful lovely  
2 ladies in my entire life.

3 (Applause.)

4 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: But I came to bring  
5 you greetings and a welcome to the 94th convention for the  
6 Department of California. First off, I've learned this  
7 year -- this has been a learning -- you do not come visit  
8 the Department President without a gift. See now two  
9 years ago I would have come here and just walked in and  
10 said hi, and they would say how rude, not even -- now this  
11 time from the first lady and I to your president, roses.  
12 Because a rose is a rose.

13 (Applause.)

14 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: Now let me tell  
15 you, you may not -- your president came over to visit me,  
16 right, she made fun of my lack of knowledge about her.  
17 Because the first time I brought a gift to her, you know  
18 what I brought her? A bottle of wine. And of course what  
19 did she do with it? She said -- she was gracious, and  
20 then everybody looked and everybody goes, "You know Linda  
21 doesn't drink wine." So in my brain I said what do we get  
22 as a gift for the president? So guess what?

23 (Applause.)

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. My room.

25 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: I must introduce

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 you -- he's going to say a few words -- to our National  
2 Vice Commander Merv Gunderson.

3 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GUNDERSON: Thank you,  
4 Hugh. I have to tell you, Hugh told me that he wouldn't  
5 be where he was without the Auxiliary.

6 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: That's right.

7 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GUNDERSON: And that goes  
8 for most of our departments. We talk about a Legion  
9 family. We talk about what we do together. We do so much  
10 more when we all work together as the Riders and Sons of  
11 the Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, our juniors  
12 program, and the American Legion. If we work together, we  
13 get a lot of things accomplished.

14 And I really appreciate you, being from Montana,  
15 putting all these boots up and keeping the cool weather  
16 here today. I appreciate that. They told me it was going  
17 to be hot in Redding and I'm thinking, boy, somebody  
18 missed the boat there.

19 But it's a pleasure being in California. I had  
20 an interesting flight down and spent 12 hours at the San  
21 Francisco airport, so I got to find out about travel in  
22 California. As I told them at the Legion convention, I  
23 got to fly over at night. It was about 2:30 in the  
24 morning, 3:30 this morning I'm flying over. And looking  
25 out the airplane window, I know when I'm in Montana at

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 night and I'm flying, you'll see a light way off in the  
2 distance and that's one of our cities. And then you see  
3 another light way off, and that's probably another state.  
4 And when we left San Francisco, it's all lights. And I  
5 thought this is a little different, but it's fun.

6 It's great being out here and it's good to see  
7 the western part of our state and California and the  
8 coast. And I'm really looking forward to meeting some of  
9 you. I'm hoping that as we get together, stop up and say  
10 hi. Let's talk a little bit and find out what you're  
11 doing and how well you're helping us out.

12 President, thank you very much for the invite.

13 (Applause.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And this year I  
15 have a bit of a western theme going on, Commander, so I  
16 would like to present you with one of my garters and my  
17 pen.

18 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER GUNDERSON: I don't know  
19 if that will fit over my boots.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I don't know, but  
21 we can try it later. The ladies like too much info. He's  
22 turning as red as his hat.

23 I also have one for the Commander. And the man  
24 with the beer, for you is a garter too. You deserve it.

25 (Applause.)



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Men bearing gifts.  
2 Yoko, now I know where your garter would look good. I  
3 know men want to put it on, but that's kind of something  
4 you do when you get married and you've been married a long  
5 time. But you might want to relive that moment, so here  
6 you go.

7 (Applause.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Now we also had a  
9 little challenge going on. You know, Doc came over here a  
10 little earlier and he says that we're having a lot more  
11 fun than you are. And so, you know, I told you, ladies,  
12 when I came back that I threatened him with some feathers,  
13 but I knew we were going to take it easy on him because  
14 after all, we were real close, very close, so -- but it  
15 does take a boa.

16 Now this is -- actually, I should have all the  
17 PDPs doing this. They're the saloon girls and you ought  
18 to be over here tomorrow.

19 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: Odette is going to  
20 be the one.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Come on, Odette.  
22 So we're going to present you with your official saloon  
23 girl boa. And trust me, tomorrow afternoon after lunch  
24 about 2:00 o'clock, you might want to come on in and see  
25 us all in our western garb.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           But it has been a great year. It's been an  
2 awesome time working with you. You and Yoko are amazing.

3           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: I just want to say  
4 real quick, thank you for giving me a wonderful, wonderful  
5 president. I have one of the best presidents that have  
6 ever -- a unit commander has ever had. So I thank you.

7           (Applause.)

8           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Well, I  
9 think that you have somebody over there that does  
10 membership for you, so I'm going to have the  
11 Sergeant-at-Arms present someone else with their boa. I  
12 think it's the one that sleeps with Dennis and I. I know,  
13 but she needs to have one of these too.

14           DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CROOKS: I will make sure  
15 she gets it.

16           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: But we had a great  
17 year and a great time. Thank you. Thank you, Yoko.  
18 Thank you, Ed. And where is your wife, Annette? Is she  
19 over here. And Annette, this is Ed's wife. She's been an  
20 amazing friend too. Thank you and thank you for coming  
21 and bringing these. The space gun is still over there.

22           (Processional.)

23           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: What a great guy.  
24 He has been so much support all year and it's been a  
25 great, great, great time with him. And, yeah, we did have

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 to whip him into shape about the gifts, but it's okay.  
2 He's a good learner. He's a good learner. He got that  
3 right.

4 So I think at this time how many -- we have 21  
5 total delegates to national convention. We have on our  
6 roster here of those going 26. So -- 25. Oh, 25. So we  
7 have 25. We have four -- four that either they could step  
8 down to alternate or we could have an election.

9 So at this time is there anyone that has been  
10 nominated as a delegate that would move to alternate? If  
11 so, please come to the -- okay. We have an alternate.  
12 Chair recognizes District 19 Rodeo Queen Diane Moreno.

13 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Tammy Sollazzo has  
14 agreed to step town.

15 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: You have an  
16 alternate Linda Diebel.

17 DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: Right. She will  
18 not be attending. Linda Diebel will be unable to attend  
19 as an alternate. Tammy agrees to step down to alternate.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, Tammy,  
21 very much. District 7 recognizes Rodeo Queen --

22 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: Beverly Chapman.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Beverly, yes. I'm  
24 sorry. I was reading who you have there. You have an  
25 alternate there.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: No. Bonnie

2 Bradbury declines and we have no alternate.

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We have Josephine  
4 Haney.

5 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: No. She's not  
6 going to be able to go.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is Bonnie moving to  
8 an alternate?

9 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: No.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So you're passing  
11 for both?

12 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: Oh, wait a minute.  
13 I got another message. Alternate. She will move to  
14 alternate.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Bonnie will move to  
16 alternate. Okay. Thank you, Bonnie.

17 Rosemary Weber Rodeo Queen 16th District.

18 DISTRICT 16 PRESIDENT WEBER: Madeline would move  
19 down to alternate.

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You have Darleen  
21 Duncan at this time.

22 DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT CHAPMAN: Well, we're going  
23 to move Madeline to alternate.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We're going to move  
25 -- so we'll get to -- so Madeline Lee, that takes --

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 that's three. We need one more.

2 MS. SMITH: Madam President, Kathy Smith, past  
3 department president of 283. I'm listed as an alternate  
4 for District 12, but Ann Kelley said she would step down  
5 as an alternate, so I cannot go.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So you're removing  
7 yourself from District 12.

8 MS. SMITH: Yes.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And Ann Kelley is  
10 stepping down to alternate from District 12. Yahoo,  
11 ladies. We don't have to have an election. Thank you,  
12 thank you, thank you, thank you.

13 Now we do need to have alternates, so once  
14 again -- yes, I'm going to have the secretary read who we  
15 have to make sure we're correct.

16 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 1,  
17 Marialice Canclini. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm with delegates.  
18 Sorry. Never mind, never mind. Back up. Okay. We have  
19 Linda Fercho, Terry Mikesell -- all right. Never mind.  
20 Patience.

21 District 1, Kat Conrad. District 5, Doris  
22 Kilkenny. District 9, Janet Wilson. District 10, Emily  
23 Magwili. District 13, Sandy Jacob. District 18, Audra  
24 Lamolli. District 20, Linda Hayes. District 21, Marge  
25 Rye. District 22, Virginia Goffney. District 23, Anita

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Biggs. District 24, Nancy Niles. District 25, Diane  
2 DeLashmit. District 26, Linda Workman. District 27,  
3 LuAnn Capazzi. District 28, Ruby Kapsalis. District 29,  
4 Jennifer Sandlin.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Nominations for  
6 delegates to national convention are now closed. Open is  
7 the nominations for alternates to national convention.  
8 Secretary will read those that have been nominated or have  
9 been sent in as nominated for alternate. If your district  
10 has an alternate and she reads "pass" -- all right. The  
11 nomination for delegates to the national convention is now  
12 closed. We will be opening the nominations for alternates  
13 to national convention.

14 Our secretary will read the district and who is  
15 now currently listed as an alternate. If she reads "pass"  
16 and you have someone that wants to be alternate, please  
17 come to the microphone. Thank you.

18 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 1,  
19 Marialice Canclini. District 2, pass. District 3, pass.  
20 District 4, pass. District 5, Virginia McQueen. District  
21 6, pass. District 7, Bonnie Bradbury. District 8, pass.  
22 District 9, pass. District 10, pass. District 11, pass.  
23 District 12, Ann Kelley. District 13, pass. I'm sorry.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: No, they're coming  
25 to the microphone.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. Theresa Jacob  
2 as the alternate. Thank you. District 14, pass.  
3 District 15, pass. District 16, Madeline Lee. District  
4 18, Mindy Sinclair. District 19, Tammy Sollazzo.  
5 District 20, pass. District 21, pass. District 22 --  
6 okay.

7           DEPARTMENT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: You should  
8 have Joann Evans on there as an alternate.

9           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: For District 21 I  
10 did not have Joann's name turned in.

11           DEPARTMENT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: It was turned  
12 in weeks ago and then again yesterday to the office.

13           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: What was the name?

14           DEPARTMENT 21 PRESIDENT HATHAWAY: Joann Evans.  
15 She's from Post 595.

16           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

17           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 22,  
18 Patricia Mitchell. District 23, Gloria Williams.  
19 District 24, Judith Urich. District 25, Donna Scott.  
20 District 26, pass. District 27, Danielle White.

21           DEPARTMENT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE: I would like for  
22 you to instead of my name, please put Pat Sweeney.

23           SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. Pat Sweeney  
24 is the alternate and not Danielle.

25           DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE: Thank you.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: District 28.

2 DISTRICT 28 PRESIDENT YAQUB: We are removing  
3 Renee Yaqub and adding Rosie Estridge.

4 SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Okay. District 29,  
5 Jan Spriggs. District 30, pass.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. We have  
7 positions for five more alternates to national convention.  
8 This will be done by membership strength. So I will have  
9 the secretary -- District 29 will be first. Please line  
10 up at the microphone and let us know if you have a -- 29.  
11 Here she comes. 22 is next. 25 is next.

12 Okay. We have 29, 22, 25, 16. Twenty-one, then  
13 16 then 19, 18, 28. We'll get started with you. If we  
14 have anyone that -- we need five more. So at this time  
15 District 29, Rodeo Queen Tami, do you have an alternate?

16 DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BELL: Cynthia Mayfield,  
17 Unit 716.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: District 22?

19 DISTRICT 22 PRESIDENT MANNO: District 22 places  
20 the name of June Coatney.

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

22 District 25?

23 DISTRICT 25 PRESIDENT MATTOX: District 25  
24 passes.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: District 16?



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1                   DISTRICT 16 PRESIDENT WEBER: I'm sorry. Darlene  
2     Duncan.

3                   DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Darlene Duncan.  
4     District 19? She's destroying the microphone at the  
5     moment, but that's okay. That's those dragonfly marshals.  
6     They just get in the way all the time.

7                   DISTRICT 19 PRESIDENT MORENO: We pass.

8                   DISTRICT 18 PRESIDENT PIPKIN: And District 18  
9     wants to remove the name of Mindy Sinclair as an  
10    alternate. She's not able to go. Okay?

11                  DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. Who's next  
12    to line up. Twenty-eight, please come to the microphone.  
13    District 5, District 11. Twenty-three, 11.

14                  District 28, do you have a candidate for an  
15    alternate with national?

16                  DISTRICT 28 PRESIDENT YAQUB: Yes. Rosie  
17    Estridge.

18                  SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: You already have  
19    her.

20                  DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do you have  
21    another? We need one.

22                  VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION CHAIRMAN BIGGS:  
23    You, Renee.

24                  DISTRICT 28 PRESIDENT YAQUB: I'll just put  
25    myself back on. Pass.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: You're going to  
2 pass. Okay. District 5?

3 DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT McQUEEN: I'm Virginia  
4 McQueen and I'm not able to attend.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Okay. You're  
6 passing. District 11, do you have a candidate?

7 DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT CANNON: Pass.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Twenty-three, do  
9 you have a candidate for alternate? Somebody is coming.  
10 Here she comes. Hi, Denise.

11 DISTRICT 23 PRESIDENT COLEMAN: You should be  
12 able to hear me from here.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Who do you have?

14 DISTRICT 23 PRESIDENT COLEMAN: Kathy Harris.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Kathy Harris.

16 Thank you. Okay. Who's next? We lost two. We needed  
17 five. I think we're good on three. If anybody has an  
18 alternate, please line up. If anybody who might have an  
19 alternate going to national convention, please line up and  
20 we'll decide which order you're in. So line up again,  
21 ladies, and we'll -- the first one to District 14. Do you  
22 have an alternate? Thirteen.

23 DISTRICT 13 REPRESENTATIVE JACOB: Yeah, Cyndy  
24 Newman.

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Sandy?

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           DISTRICT 13 REPRESENTATIVE JACOB:   Cyndy.  
2           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   Oh, I'm sorry.  
3   Cyndy.   District 29?  
4           DISTRICT 29 PRESIDENT BELL:   Patricia Taylor,  
5   Unit 132.  
6           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   We're going to take  
7   a real quick count.   Twenty-seven, do you have one?  
8           DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE:   Yeah, but we need  
9   the help.   Myself.   I will put myself.  
10          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   Danielle, are you  
11   going to make it?  
12          DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE:   Yeah, I'll go to  
13   help you.  
14          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   I think that's it.  
15   Let me check real quick.  
16                    (Appause.)  
17          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   Ladies, we do have  
18   21.   Thank you.   Tammy, would you come to the podium --  
19   come to the microphone.  
20          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:   Who was that last  
21   one you just now made?  
22          DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   Patricia Taylor,  
23   Unit 132.   Thank you.  
24          SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE:   I move to close  
25   nominations.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Second.

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I have a move and  
3 second to close nominations for alternate to national  
4 convention. All in favor?

5 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do we have any  
7 discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All in favor?

10 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, ladies,  
12 very much.

13

14 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

15

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Now at this time  
17 when we recessed for lunch, we were having a discussion or  
18 were with the Constitution & Bylaws. Would Esther please  
19 come back to the station?

20 I talked about that we were going to have to have  
21 a roll call vote for the increase of the \$4 to National  
22 per capita, the dollar increase to department per capita  
23 because it did take a two-thirds vote. One of the things  
24 that didn't happen was that we didn't have very much  
25 discussion and I know that this was sprung on many of you

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 here and I feel at this time to be in all fairness to that  
2 resolution and to you the membership, you the delegation,  
3 we should have some explanation of why this has been  
4 presented at this time and why we didn't have this  
5 knowledge prior to.

6 So at this time I'm going to ask the -- I'm going  
7 to open that resolution for discussion and I'm asking our  
8 finance chairman, Susie Tozier, to please give some  
9 background as to why and what has transpired.

10 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Madam  
11 President, can we read it first because everybody seems to  
12 be --

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Oh, yes, we can do  
14 that. Absolutely. It's number 4, Article IX, Section 2.  
15 Would you like to reread that, chairman, please?

16 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: It now  
17 reads: Per capita tax shall be payable in advance  
18 annually. National senior dues \$5, department senior \$6,  
19 Auxiliary News assessment \$1, national junior \$1.25,  
20 department junior 75 cents.

21 So the proposed change: It's per capita tax will  
22 be payable in advance annually. National dues, \$9,  
23 department seniors, \$7, Auxiliary News assessment, \$1,  
24 Auxiliary News assessment -- sorry. National junior,  
25 \$1.25, department junior 75 cents.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 I was asked -- it was brought up that that totals  
2 19. Yes, it does, but the senior per capita tax is only  
3 the national seniors \$9, department seniors \$7, and the  
4 Auxiliary News \$1. The total is 17.

5 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Correct. But this  
6 does represent the \$4 --

7 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Yes.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: -- in the national  
9 increase and the dollar.

10 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: One  
11 dollar for the department fees.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: So we moved to have  
13 this and we had a second. Now we're going to open with  
14 some explanation under discussion that should have come up  
15 prior to. We were kind of rushing, but I feel it's very  
16 important for you, the delegation, to have all the facts  
17 and more information on this before we take a final vote.

18 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: Ladies, we  
19 did the budget in May and we again have come up with the  
20 general fund in a deficit. This is the fourth year the  
21 general fund has been in a deficit. We have tried -- they  
22 have tried all kinds of cost-cutting methods up there in  
23 department. Costs are going up just like for everybody  
24 else and we can't keep operating in the deficit because we  
25 are taking from the reserve funds and we are supposed to

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 keep reserve funds for an emergency and that's dwindling  
2 quite fast, especially this being four years in a row in  
3 the deficit.

4 The dollar increase was decided at the May  
5 meeting that we would present that to the congregation.  
6 It was not something that we wanted to surprise on you,  
7 but it is a necessity for the department office. They  
8 have not had a raise in several years for the expenses up  
9 there, so it is very needed to continue operating the  
10 department office.

11 We are down to two part-time people. We've got  
12 rid of the full-time people, and there are no benefits for  
13 those people. So we -- you know, they have really, really  
14 cut back a lot to give you the services you need to keep  
15 the State of California operational.

16 Is there any questions you would like to ask of  
17 me?

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Would anyone like  
19 to come to the microphone and make any other discussion on  
20 this?

21 ELECTIONS CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam President,  
22 Melanie Taylor, past department president. I stood as  
23 opposed to this because when the code change was made, I  
24 myself did not clearly understand that. I was not aware  
25 of what was happening. I more than anybody I think

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 understand having served as your department  
2 secretary/treasurer that our department coffers need this  
3 money, so I will be standing in favor of this. Thank you.

4 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER CUCCARO: Madam  
5 Department President, Odette Cuccaro, District 18. The  
6 rationale to this was to vote on and change the  
7 Constitution & Bylaws for the national raise of \$4. The  
8 dollar increase from the department gave us no forewarning  
9 to go back to our units to discuss this and to see just  
10 where we can help, but to just bring it under the same  
11 umbrella as the national \$4 is not the way to do it.

12 (Applause.)

13 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Madam  
14 President, Ruby Kapsalis, Past Department President. As  
15 our finance chairman explained to everyone, this  
16 department is off -- is operating on a shoestring budget.  
17 Believe me, they have cut corners and done everything they  
18 possibly can. And surely if we can give national \$4, we  
19 can give our department \$1.

20 (Applause.)

21 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: I don't know  
22 when the last time was that we got a per capita raise, but  
23 it was a long time ago, ladies. So please I ask you as a  
24 past department president and a member who cares about  
25 this department, please vote yes for this resolution.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. KULLEN: Ann Kullen, District 12, Unit 83.

3 I'm in favor of this position because I look at all the  
4 people up there doing all that volunteer work and all the  
5 people out there doing volunteer work, and if you need  
6 that money to operate, which is the information that you  
7 give us, it's just dire. We need it, we need you, and we  
8 need to give you a dollar.

9 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Madam  
10 President, Nancy Brown-Park, Past Department President. I  
11 speak in favor of the dollar dues increase. Our last dues  
12 increase for the department of California was in 2003.  
13 How much do we each care about those that we honor by our  
14 membership? Is that dollar really going to hurt us? We  
15 owe it to those we serve. It's just a dollar.

16 (Applause.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chair recognizes  
18 Linda Fariss.

19 MS. FARISS: Linda Fariss, 19, Unit 414. Madam  
20 President, I wasn't really against the dollar. I was just  
21 surprised. I was surprised it wasn't mentioned before the  
22 motion was made to pass it. Because I'm like sitting  
23 there because I didn't have the written, and when she says  
24 \$7, I thought we sent less than that. I believe it was --  
25 should have been presented as the \$4 increase as one

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 change and the dollar as a separate change and then I  
2 wouldn't -- then we would have been done before lunch  
3 because I wouldn't have said anything. I felt blind sided  
4 that because the resolution we all received at home  
5 said -- didn't mention the raise for the department.

6 So we're not being stingy or anything like that.  
7 We were just a little -- exactly. We were very surprised.  
8 Felt a little like we were getting hoodwinked.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN DELASHMIT: Diane DeLashmit,  
10 Department Parliamentarian. I just want to clear  
11 something up that the amendments to Constitution & Bylaws  
12 have to be into the department office the first part of  
13 April. And so there's deadline dates. There's 75 days  
14 they have to be in before convention. The budget meeting  
15 wasn't until May. It was at that time that we realized  
16 that we were quite a bit over budget in general fund.

17 So it wasn't that it was trying to pull the wool  
18 over anybody's eyes. There's deadline dates and it's just  
19 the way it happened with the budget being done after the  
20 resolutions had to be in or the amendments had to be in.  
21 Perhaps it -- because she's right. It went out with just  
22 that \$4 increase, but it was brought up in finance. It  
23 was amended there. Or it was -- you know, that resolution  
24 was amended. Whoever sat in on finance should have  
25 reported that to your caucus. It also was brought up in

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Constitution & Bylaws. Whoever was sitting in  
2 Constitution & Bylaws should have brought it up in your  
3 district caucus meeting so that it was not a surprise when  
4 you came here to the floor.

5 The motion probably should have been as amended  
6 rather than just changing the motion, but that's what  
7 happened. It wasn't anything devious that anyone was  
8 trying to do. So I hope that explains that to you that we  
9 have deadline dates that have to be met for resolutions  
10 and for proposed Constitution & Bylaws changes.

11 (Applause.)

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chair recognizes  
13 Past President Madeline Lee at microphone one.

14 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER LEE: I just want to  
15 comment that perhaps the information was misunderstood,  
16 you know, by everyone and so forth, but that does not mean  
17 that we don't need the dollar. And so I strongly  
18 recommend that you vote for the raise. Thank you.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Chair recognizes  
20 Rodeo Queen District 27, Danielle White.

21 DISTRICT 27 PRESIDENT WHITE: Ladies, you like  
22 the Auxiliary, don't you? Then you should support the  
23 Auxiliary. And if they need a dumb dollar, excuse my  
24 English, you maybe skip a candy bar or a drink and that  
25 will give you more than a dollar.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Judy Tabachi,  
3 District 18.

4 MS. TABACHI: Judy Tabachi, Unit 755, District  
5 18. I have a very simple solution. I know that my unit  
6 has almost 200 members. When that money comes in, we'll  
7 send the 200 or send the \$200 to department and it will  
8 come out of our programs. Thank you.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, at this  
10 time we will be calling for the vote. I am going to once  
11 again try to do a standing vote. It does need to pass  
12 two-thirds. If once again we feel that we need to, we  
13 will caucus and we will have you vote on it. So at this  
14 time everyone in favor of the proposed change -- this  
15 would read: Per capita tax shall be payable in advance  
16 annually, national senior \$9, department senior \$7,  
17 Auxiliary News assessment \$1, national junior \$1.25,  
18 department junior 75 cents.

19 If you are in favor of this change, please stand.

20 Ladies, I do believe that -- well, wait, wait,  
21 wait. Okay. Sit down because I do want to give the  
22 opportunity to those because I believe it is our  
23 obligation to give every member the right to speak their  
24 mind.

25 All those that are not in favor, please stand.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Thank you very much, ladies. And it is  
2 definitely a two-thirds vote and this amendment has  
3 passed. And I tell you that the department will use that  
4 money very, very wisely. They really will. They have  
5 worked very hard and, like I said, they do not get any  
6 benefits. They don't get any raises. We're not asking  
7 for any increases in anything. They're just -- and we  
8 have had to cut the staff and the job doesn't stop. The  
9 job doesn't get cut. The job is still there to make sure  
10 we have all the things that we need.

11           So thank you very much, ladies. Thank you for  
12 your patience on that. I truly, truly know you have the  
13 Auxiliary at heart, the best of our department at heart.  
14 Thank you.

15           And at this time I'll ask Esther Garcia to  
16 continue with her report.

17           CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: I wanted  
18 to correct the proposal bylaws change which was a  
19 housekeeping thing. It was to Article V, Section 6. I  
20 had said Section 4.

21           There were no recommendations. Awards were  
22 presented, and a copy will be posted in the department  
23 office. With no further business, the meeting was  
24 adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

25           Madam President, this concludes my report. May I

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 continue with my supplemental?

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please do.

3 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Thank  
4 you. This year was a complicated year for the  
5 establishment, the Constitution & Bylaws committee. There  
6 were many amendments -- let me start over.

7 This year was a complicated year for the  
8 establishment, the Constitution & Bylaws committee. There  
9 were many amendments and rewrites that needed to be done.  
10 They worked with units and within their district educating  
11 and assisting the members of the importance of their  
12 constitution & bylaws.

13 Units studied and reviewed their constitution and  
14 bylaws and 39 units rewrote their bylaws and 99 units  
15 amended theirs. Changes included dues increase, quorum  
16 totals, meeting places, dates and times. These numbers  
17 express that units worked on their Constitution & Bylaws.

18 It was a very busy year and I can say that the  
19 establishment did an excellent [sic] in assisting units  
20 and districts with their constitution and bylaws. I thank  
21 them all for your hard work.

22 Madam President, may I present my awards?

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

24 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: Thank  
25 you. First place unit submittal goes to Linda Fariss,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Hawthorne Unit 314.

2 (Applause.)

3 CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN GARCIA: First  
4 place district supplemental goes to Carol Fuqua, District  
5 25.

6 Madam President, thank you for this appointment.  
7 It truly has been a great learning experience for me.  
8 Madam President, this concludes my report.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. And she  
10 has done an amazing job with all the changes. It's really  
11 appreciated.

12

13 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY COMMITTEE REPORT

14

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: At this time we  
16 will have the completed -- the rest of the report from our  
17 Past President Parley Chairman LuAnn Capazzi.

18 PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Hello  
19 again. Thank you for a great lunch and for your kindness  
20 in waiting and enjoying the music. I hope that we had --  
21 I just wanted to thank you for the switch that we had to  
22 do and you came through.

23 The convention committee on Past President Parley  
24 met on June 21st, 2012 in the Cascade Room at the Red Lion  
25 Inn at 11:00 a.m. The Statistical report of this chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 appears on page 18 of the Book of Reports. With their  
2 approval, Michelle Soares was appointed secretary. Alzora  
3 Carter offered prayer, and Connie Raium was appointed  
4 Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 17 district delegates  
5 answered roll call. There were four visitors present.

6 The department code was read and the committee  
7 agreed on the following report: Code change for number 2.  
8 It now reads: The past presidents scholarship has been  
9 designated as a nursing scholarship by the Past Department  
10 Presidents Parley and shall be awarded annually in the  
11 amount of \$2,000 to a veteran or a veteran's wife or  
12 husband, widow or widower, or child of a veteran of the  
13 World Wars, Korea, Vietnam conflict, Grenada/Lebanon,  
14 Panama and/or Persian Gulf.

15 It now will read: The past presidents  
16 scholarship has been designated as a nursing scholarship  
17 by the Past Department Presidents Parley and shall be  
18 awarded annually in the amount of \$2,000 to a veteran or a  
19 veteran's wife or husband, widow or widower, or child of a  
20 veteran of the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam conflict,  
21 Grenada/Lebanon, Panama and/or Persian Gulf and Wars on  
22 Terrorism.

23 I move for the acceptance of this code change.

24 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved  
25 and seconded to accept code change number 2. Any



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 discussion? It will now read: The past presidents  
2 scholarship has been designated as a nursing scholarship  
3 by the Past Department Presidents Parley and shall be  
4 awarded annually in the amount of \$2,000 to a veteran or a  
5 veteran's wife or husband, widow or widower, or child of a  
6 veteran of the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam conflict,  
7 Grenada/Lebanon, Panama and/or Persian Gulf and Wars on  
8 Terrorism.

9 All those in favor, say aye.

10 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Passed.

14 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Code 5  
15 which now reads: The scholarship applicant has only two  
16 years to initiate use of the funds awarded. If the  
17 scholarship is not claimed by the university or college on  
18 behalf of the applicant within the two-year period, the  
19 department office will require in writing as to why these  
20 funds have not been used. If the use of the funds are not  
21 initiated in that time frame, they are to be reverted back  
22 to the funds from which they were originated. If  
23 circumstances of nonuse are of a medical nature, it is by  
24 discretion of the department president,  
25 secretary/treasurer, and the chairman to extend the claim

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 for a period not to exceed 18 months before funds are  
2 reverted back to where they originated.

3 It will now read: The scholarship applicant has  
4 only two years to initiate use of the funds awarded. If  
5 the scholarship is not claimed by the university or  
6 college on behalf of the applicant within the two-year  
7 period, the department office will require in writing as  
8 to why these funds have not been used. If the use of the  
9 funds are not initiated in that time frame, they are to be  
10 reverted back to the funds from which they were  
11 originated. If circumstances of nonuse are of a medical  
12 or personal nature, it is by discretion of the department  
13 president, secretary/treasurer, and the chairman to extend  
14 the claim for a period not to exceed 18 months before  
15 funds are reverted back to where they originated.

16 I move for the acceptance of this code change.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved  
18 and seconded to accept the code change code number 5. Any  
19 discussion?

20 (No response.)

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It will now read:  
22 The scholarship applicant has only two years to initiate  
23 use of the funds awarded. If the scholarship is not  
24 claimed by the university or college on behalf of the  
25 applicant within the two-year period, the department

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 office will require in writing as to why these funds have  
2 not been used. If the use of the funds are not initiated  
3 in that time frame, they are to be reverted back to the  
4 funds from which they were originated. If circumstances  
5 of nonuse are of a medical or personal nature, it is by  
6 discretion of the department president,  
7 secretary/treasurer, and the chairman to extend the claim  
8 for a period not to exceed 18 months before funds are  
9 reverted back to where they originated.

10 All in favor, say aye.

11 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

13 (No response.)

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Passed.

15 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Code  
16 13, which now reads: The Department Chairman will send  
17 out rules for the Auxiliary Member of the Year  
18 competition. Entries will be submitted to the Department  
19 President for judging. The Department President shall  
20 notify the recipient by letter and send a copy of the  
21 letter and nomination to the Department Chairman. The  
22 department chairman shall notify the National Chairman,  
23 National Secretary, and Department Office prior to June 1.  
24 The recipient will be honored at an appropriate function  
25 during the Department Convention. The Department Chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 will send an invitation to the recipient for the event  
2 where she will be honored and will notify her unit and  
3 district president of the honor extended their member as  
4 soon as possible. The Department Office will supply the  
5 recipient with housing forms and agenda for the National  
6 Convention where she will be honored. The recipient will  
7 be given mileage for her attendance at the Department  
8 function where she will be honored. She shall be given a  
9 ribbon similar to Page's ribbons inscribed "California"  
10 and the year she is honored. This ribbon shall be given  
11 to her whether or not she is able to attend the Department  
12 function.

13           It will now read: The Department Chairman will  
14 send out rules for the Auxiliary Member of the Year  
15 competition. Entries will be submitted to the Department  
16 President for judging by the first Friday in May. The  
17 Department President shall notify the recipient by letter  
18 and send a copy of the letter and nomination to the  
19 Department Chairman. The department chairman shall notify  
20 the National Chairman, National Secretary, and Department  
21 Office prior to June 1. The recipient will be honored at  
22 an appropriate function during the Department Convention.  
23 The Department Chairman will send an invitation to the  
24 recipient for the event where she will be honored and will  
25 notify her unit and district president of the honor

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 extended their member as soon as possible. The Department  
2 Office will supply the recipient with housing forms and  
3 agenda for the National Convention where she will be  
4 honored. The recipient will be given mileage for her  
5 attendance at the Department function where she will be  
6 honored. She shall be given a ribbon similar to Page's  
7 ribbons inscribed "California" and the year she is  
8 honored. This ribbon shall be given to her whether or not  
9 she is able to attend the Department function.

10 I move the acceptance of this code change.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved  
12 and seconded to accept code change to number 13. Any  
13 discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It will now read.  
16 The Department Chairman will send out rules for the  
17 Auxiliary Member of the Year competition. Entries will be  
18 submitted to the Department President for judging by the  
19 first Friday in May. The Department President shall  
20 notify the recipient by letter and send a copy of the  
21 letter and nomination to the Department Chairman. The  
22 department chairman shall notify the National Chairman,  
23 National Secretary, and Department Office prior to June 1.  
24 The recipient will be honored at an appropriate function  
25 during the Department Convention. The Department Chairman

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 will send an invitation to the recipient for the event  
2 where she will be honored and will notify her unit and  
3 district president of the honor extended their member as  
4 soon as possible. The Department Office will supply the  
5 recipient with housing forms and agenda for the National  
6 Convention where she will be honored. The recipient will  
7 be given mileage for her attendance at the Department  
8 function where she will be honored. She shall be given a  
9 ribbon similar to Page's ribbons inscribed "California"  
10 and the year she is honored. This ribbon shall be given  
11 to her whether or not she is able to attend the Department  
12 function.

13 All in favor, say aye.

14 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Passed. Thank you.

18 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: There  
19 were no resolutions from the committee. Second and third  
20 place certificates were placed in the envelope, each  
21 district's envelope. The delegates talked about their  
22 work in the program and offered suggestions to help  
23 parleys with fundraisers. We had several ideas.

24 A recommendation that we will make to next year's  
25 chairman in which we discovered as we were doing end of

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 year reports, that the unit end of year report needs to  
2 have a space at the top of the form for the chairman's  
3 name, unit number, district, address, phone number, and et  
4 cetera. I think it just went into that black hole that  
5 the technology does sometimes. So we were going to  
6 suggest you do that.

7 And to also have the district chairman when those  
8 reports come -- when those end of year forms come out, to  
9 check that backside of the unit form to make sure that's  
10 her name that those unit members are going to send their  
11 reports to. Because if it's wrong, we can get it changed  
12 right away. Peggy is very good about that, sending out a  
13 notice. Because if this person is sending a supplemental  
14 in the report and it goes out it goes to the wrong person  
15 and that person doesn't know where it goes and it goes  
16 back and forth, then your report is late. So we are going  
17 to just ask that, to recommend that for next year.

18 There was no further business and the meeting  
19 closed at noon. That concludes my committee report. May  
20 I continue with my supplemental?

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes.

22 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: Thank  
23 you. Madam President, congratulations to all the past  
24 presidents in the department for their continued work in  
25 this wonderful program. Your involvement at the unit and

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 district levels as mentors and partners has made it  
2 possible for our organization to continue to grow.

3           When it looked like a parley may have to fold,  
4 you asked the members to join with your group to carry on  
5 the work that needed to be done in both areas.

6           Our program is not a single-minded kind of  
7 endeavor. We have three areas that we work in. Our  
8 nurses scholarship is probably the most common area that  
9 we identify with when we speak of the Past Presidents  
10 Parley program, but we have two other very important areas  
11 in which to get involved. We have the Unit Member of the  
12 Year and the Salute to Active Duty Service Women.

13           In reading the supplemental reports from all the  
14 districts and units, I can see that all of these areas  
15 have been a regular part of your Parleys. You have made  
16 our scholarship program application for those interested  
17 in the nursing profession a widespread availability in  
18 your area through newspaper articles and flyers at your  
19 district meetings. A college education has become very  
20 expensive and any time we as an organization can help with  
21 finances for a deserving individual, we must do so.

22           I learned that many of our units and districts  
23 have their own nurse's scholarship fund to help with local  
24 students as well as donating to our to our department  
25 scholarship program. That is a great way to show our



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 communities what we are all about and how we are involved  
2 in our community.

3 Your visitations to our VA homes and hospitals  
4 with handmade goods and gift bags for all our veterans was  
5 wonderful to read about. Please continue to be visible to  
6 these veterans and let them know we are there for them.

7 Those Parleys who adopted a women veteran and  
8 invited her to meetings and visited her on birthdays and  
9 holidays was especially rewarding to read about. There  
10 are many who do not have family members around to visit  
11 with them on special days and so it is important that we  
12 have become a part of their family who can make that  
13 visit.

14 Having a special luncheon or dinner for the  
15 active duty members in your area was a great idea and also  
16 helped recruit new members. Paying for their first year's  
17 dues didn't hurt either. Well done, ladies.

18 As you can see from the statistical report in the  
19 Book of Reports, we have done well this year, but we need  
20 to give a little more to our PPP fund so that next year's  
21 chairman has a little more to work with for our  
22 scholarships and we can help a few more deserving future  
23 nurses.

24 Ladies, as we start a new Auxiliary year in July,  
25 please keep a sharp eye out for that special unit member

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 that is always there, always willing to lend a hand, and  
2 never looking for a pat on the back. She is going to be  
3 your nomination for Unit Member of the Year next spring.  
4 We need more applications in this area.

5 I know that many of you do not have a military  
6 base in your area and therefore may not have the  
7 opportunity to offer a woman active duty person the chance  
8 to write about her experiences as a woman in the service  
9 to her country. Those of you that do have this  
10 opportunity, please make an effort early in the year to  
11 locate these women and ask them to apply for this award  
12 and honor.

13 Again, thank you all for your hard work in this  
14 program. Continue your mentoring and sage advice to those  
15 new members and new officers and new chairmen.

16 Madam President, this concludes my floor remarks.  
17 May I present my first place awards?

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

19 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: The  
20 first place unit supplemental going to Lois Cornish, Chula  
21 Vista Unit 434, District 22.

22 (Applause.)

23 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: The  
24 first place district supplemental goes to Wantu Robinson,  
25 District 23.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pictures over  
3 there.

4 PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY CHAIRMAN CAPAZZI: This  
5 really does conclude my report, Madam President. Thank  
6 you very much.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
8 much. I think we all need to stand up and stretch. And  
9 while they're doing that, I have something special from my  
10 juniors, junior activity chairman, and junior conference.

11 Wantu, I need you to organize in the back real  
12 quick, real quick. Everybody please stand, take a  
13 stretch.

14 Ladies, let's take our seats. At this time I  
15 have requested a special presentation. And I've asked for  
16 a little bit of music and I'm going to have my  
17 Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal and my distinguished guest  
18 chairman please escort to the station our Junior  
19 Activities Chairman, our Junior Conference Director, and  
20 our juniors. Come on down.

21 (Processional.)

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, thank you,  
23 thank you. The reason I am having our juniors are our  
24 juniors are our future. And over here is a perfect  
25 example. And if you notice the shirts they have on,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 they're Linda's Girls. And I want to thank the advisor  
2 for junior conference, the Junior Conference Committee  
3 Chairman Jackie Cleveland and the Junior Activities  
4 Chairman Wantu Robinson for putting together such a  
5 wonderful conference.

6 And these girls, they had their shirts on the  
7 weekend and I am so proud of you. And I want to introduce  
8 you girls to a past junior member, Nancy Brown-Park, who  
9 was our first honorary junior president, our candidate for  
10 the highest office in our organization. Girls, this is  
11 what you can become. Okay. Everyone don't faint. Don't  
12 be fainting on me, but this is truly our future.

13 And thank you, girls, and thank you for coming  
14 this weekend and being here and wearing my shirt. I have  
15 a little gift for each of you. So at this time I will ask  
16 Wantu Robinson.

17 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Right now I  
18 kind of got nervous.

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And she just won a  
20 big award too, so she's really nervous about that.

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: We're going  
22 to get through this really smoothly. I think first I'm  
23 supposed to give all of you something for the stage. So  
24 in the meanwhile while I'm doing that --

25 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I'd like the girls

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 to introduce yourself. Can we get a microphone over and  
2 have everybody come up one by one and please introduce  
3 yourself and please tell us where you're from. And then,  
4 girls, you can go hide back in the back where you've been.  
5 They've been hiding back there. But they've done a great  
6 job today doing everything. I appreciate that.

7 (Applause.)

8 JUNIOR BARNES: Hi, I'm Tyler Barnes, District  
9 23.

10 (Applause.)

11 JUNIOR WALLS: I'm Marissa Walls from District  
12 10.

13 (Applause.)

14 JUNIOR TRIMBLE: Hi. I'm Rachel Trimble. I'm  
15 from Unit 23, District 578.

16 (Applause.)

17 JUNIOR COOPER: Hi, ladies. I'm Samantha Cooper  
18 and I'm from District 18.

19 (Applause.)

20 JUNIOR McDONALD: I'm Rebecca McDonald and I'm  
21 from District 6.

22 (Applause.)

23 JUNIOR FRANKIE: I'm Frankie and I'm from  
24 District 19.

25 (Applause.)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 JUNIOR GARCIA: I'm Nicole Garcia and I'm from  
2 District 18.

3 (Applause.)

4 JUNIOR COOPER: I'm Brooke Cooper and I'm from  
5 District 18.

6 (Applause.)

7 JUNIOR JULIE: I'm Julie and I'm from District 2.

8 (Applause.)

9 JUNIOR STUBBS: I'm Magenta Stubbs from District  
10 18, Post 247.

11 (Applause.)

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is that all the  
13 girls? Okay. Thank you. Come back so we can see you  
14 again.

15 (Processional.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you so much.  
17 It's appreciated.

18

19 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

20

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Thank you.  
22 Madam President, I would like to introduce Jackie  
23 Cleveland, our Junior Conference Director, and allow her  
24 to introduce her committee and give her report first.

25 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND: Hello. My

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 name is Jacquelyn Cleveland. I am the Junior Conference  
2 Director. I would like to introduce my advisor, Rosemary  
3 Weather. My committee members are Bonnie Smith. I don't  
4 know where she is right now. I have one that's not  
5 present. That's Bessie Platt. And the one that's here is  
6 Doris Davis.

7 (Applause.)

8

9 JUNIOR CONFERENCE REPORT

10

11 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND: Thank you.  
12 Before I give my report, I would like to say hats off to  
13 Diane Levias for giving us the assistance with the juniors  
14 here today. She just took it over and ran with it. So  
15 thank you, Diane.

16 (Applause.)

17 JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND: Our Junior  
18 Wranglers arrived at Forest Home campsite very excited.  
19 What? No snow. Just beautiful weather, a new location to  
20 enjoy and plenty steps to climb.

21 A total of 60 juniors and 23 adults attended the  
22 conference. We had six new juniors and five new  
23 counselors. Juniors participated in and learned about the  
24 Auxiliary programs and made new friends. They had  
25 wonderful entertainment.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           The 2012 graduation ceremony gave us ten new  
2 senior members. I'm sorry. Ten new senior members:  
3 Elaina Gutierrez from Unit 252, District 23; Cassandra  
4 Roman, Unit 790, District 18; Amy Armstrong, Unit 716,  
5 District 29; Katherine Harris, Unit 132, District 29;  
6 Quinta Lynch, Unit 310, District 22; Virginia Salicido,  
7 Unit 241, District 18; Briana Willis, Unit 460, District  
8 22; Ashley Delgado, Unit 280, District 18; Tyler Barnes,  
9 Unit 578, District 23; Erica Roue, Unit 725, District 25;  
10 Elaina Gutierrez will be leaving for the United States  
11 Army in September after she returns from the National  
12 Convention.

13           Our honorary junior officers for the year  
14 2012-2013: President, Talia Avina, Unit 742, District 21.  
15 Vice president, Deja Nae Trimble, Unit 578, District 23;  
16 Secretary, Magenta Stubbs, Unit 247, District 18;  
17 Chaplain, Destiny Salicido, Unit 241, District 18;  
18 Historian, Patricia Avina, Unit 742, District 21;  
19 Sergeant-at-Arms, Maya Novicki, Unit 43, District 24;  
20 Marshal Tyler Barnes, Unit 578, District 23.

21           (Applause.)

22           JUNIOR CONFERENCE DIRECTOR CLEVELAND:  
23 Congratulations to all. I am sure they will represent the  
24 department juniors very well.

25           The delegates for the national convention in



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Indianapolis, Indiana are Elaina Gutierrez of Unit 252,  
2 District 23 and the alternate is Maya Novicki, Unit 43,  
3 District 24.

4 I would like to thank all of the counselors who  
5 gave their time for a working weekend. Also thanks for  
6 driving our juniors to the conference.

7 Madam President Linda, thank you for this  
8 appointment. It was a wonderful experience for me. Thank  
9 you.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. That  
11 was a wonderful conference, but I'll tell you that we, me  
12 and my lieutenant governor here, and our NEC woman will  
13 vouch for this, that we do not have to go to the gym and  
14 do the StairMaster for the rest of our life. I really  
15 thought my cardiovascular would get better, but it didn't.  
16 I'm sure glad I'm not a smoker because I don't know that I  
17 could have made it.

18 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Madam  
19 President, may I ask one other thing? The SALs are taking  
20 the youth out tonight -- tomorrow night. I need about two  
21 chaperons to go with us. If you want to be a chaperon,  
22 please see me after this announcement. Thank you.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Did you all hear  
24 that? The SAL are taking the juniors out on an adventure.  
25 They're going to go explore this evening and they need two

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 chaperons. Is anyone -- tomorrow. It's banquet night.  
2 Oh, on banquet night. So they need two chaperons. Please  
3 see Jackie if you can help her out.

4 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: I'm sorry.  
5 I told you guys I'm nervous. It's not easy, but it's  
6 okay. Madam President, first I would like to say hats off  
7 to you and thank you very much for this important  
8 assignment. It has truly been a learning experience. I  
9 mean, I have been bucked off quite a few horses, but I get  
10 back up.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

12

13 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

14

15 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: The  
16 convention committee -- the convention committee in Junior  
17 Conference met on June 21st, 2012 in the Sierra Room of  
18 the Red Lion Inn in Redding, California. The statistical  
19 report of this chairman appears on page 15 of the Book of  
20 Reports.

21 Jackie Cleveland, Junior Conference Director,  
22 offered prayers. Dorothy Davis was appointed secretary  
23 and Lula Goodman was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A total  
24 of 20 district delegates answered roll call. There were  
25 four senior members and three junior members as visitors.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           The committee agreed upon the following code  
2 changes: I will first read the code as it reads now and  
3 then I will read upon the changes -- read the changes.

4           Paragraph 29 -- is that correct, Madam President?  
5 Thank you.

6           Paragraph 29 currently reads: Airfare \$100 per  
7 diem for two days and the registration fee of \$25 will be  
8 paid for by the department office for the delegates to  
9 National Convention. If the alternate delegate chooses to  
10 attend National Convention, she will do so at her own  
11 expense, except for \$25 registration fee which will be  
12 paid for by the department. In the event the Department  
13 Junior Delegate is unable to attend National Convention,  
14 the allowable expenses will be given to the alternate  
15 delegate.

16           That code currently reads -- or the change. I'm  
17 sorry. For the change, we would like to change it to  
18 read: Airfare 100 percent -- \$100 per diem for two days  
19 and the registration fee will be paid for by the  
20 department office for the delegate and alternate to the  
21 National Convention. The department president -- no. I'm  
22 sorry. The national -- let me go back. I am sorry. I am  
23 nervous.

24           Airfare \$100 per diem for two days and the  
25 registration fee will be paid for by the department office

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 for the delegate and alternate to the National Convention.  
2 Should the delegate not be able to attend the alternate  
3 will move up to delegate. The Department President,  
4 Junior Activities Chairman, Junior Conference Director,  
5 and Junior Conference Committee will select a junior that  
6 attended the current year junior conference to attend as  
7 the alternate. In the event that both the delegate and  
8 the alternate are unable to attend National Convention,  
9 the Department President, Junior Activities Chairman,  
10 Junior Conference Director, and Junior Conference Chairman  
11 will select two junior members that attended the current  
12 year junior conference to attend as the delegate and  
13 alternate.

14 Madam -- I don't have the sheet with the  
15 rationale on there, but, Madam President, at this time I  
16 -- it was accepted in my committee and I move for the  
17 acceptance of this code change.

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It has been moved  
19 and seconded to accept the code change. Any discussion?

20 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: Madam  
21 President, Susie Tozier, Chairman of Finance. This was  
22 not brought to the finance committee.

23 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: It was brought in  
24 the finance meeting when we met with the budget.

25 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: But they did

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 not bring it to the finance committee for approval. And  
2 it states some different numbers than what we have in the  
3 finance budget for them.

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I thought that we  
5 budgeted \$2,000 for that.

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: Yeah, but the  
7 finance committee did not review this change so the  
8 finance committee at convention did not endorse the change  
9 or make any additions or corrections, you know, on the  
10 numbers. Because for the budget we have both for the  
11 junior -- for the alternate and delegate to go, we  
12 budgeted \$800 for airfare, per diem \$400, plus \$80 for  
13 registration for a total of \$1280. And that's what we  
14 had.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I thought we had  
16 2,000 budgeted.

17 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: Well, we do  
18 have \$2,000, but that's just an estimated number. But it  
19 was still not brought to the finance committee for their  
20 endorsement. I mean, I don't know if that's a sticky  
21 number or anything. It's going to be a no brainer, but we  
22 don't have it in our notes that we endorsed this. They  
23 have the money to do this.

24 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Madam  
25 President, I would like to continue because I do remember

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 the rationale on this.

2 FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TOZIER: They do have  
3 the money to do this, but they just didn't bring it to the  
4 finance committee here at convention for endorsement.

5 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT KAPSALIS: Call the  
6 finance committee and let them vote on it.

7 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I'm going to at  
8 this time table this code change, ask the finance  
9 committee to please convene at the back of the room  
10 following this meeting. When we recess we will discuss  
11 this in the finance committee meeting and, ladies, we will  
12 bring this back to the floor tomorrow. Please proceed and  
13 we will bring it back. Thank you. Thank you, Susie.

14 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Thank you.  
15 Madam President, may I continue on with my supplemental?

16 It is with pride that I present this report on  
17 behalf of the California Juniors. Our Department  
18 President's theme "Western," her slogan "Hats off to  
19 American Legion Family Volunteers," this was perfect for  
20 our Wranglers, aka Juniors. In August the juniors  
21 throughout the state did a roundup recruiting and electing  
22 new officers in their units.

23 Juniors statewide had many fundraisers to  
24 purchase school supplies for military children whose  
25 parents were deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. The

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 supplies were distributed to many elementary, middle, and  
2 high schools. A total of \$1,113.18 cents was raised. Our  
3 juniors requested on-line for a needy military families,  
4 and the response was three families. The mission was to  
5 raise enough money for Christmas gifts and food baskets.  
6 Wranglers sent out care packages to troops in Afghanistan  
7 along with hero packs. Make a difference day found our  
8 Wranglers feeding the homeless, giving out school  
9 supplies, volunteering at the VA hospital, dog walking,  
10 and just giving service, not self.

11 Our Junior Jamboree was held in September where  
12 our Wranglers learned more about the programs of the  
13 American Legion Auxiliary. The Jamboree was hosted at  
14 District 29. The girls learned CPR, self-defense, and how  
15 to fold pocket flags. Senior members joined in the action  
16 as well. They helped packed and box up Operation Military  
17 Kids, OMK, backpacks.

18 At our Jamboree we had a special guest speaker  
19 who you all met this afternoon, Miss Armed Forces, who  
20 encouraged our Wranglers to stay in school -- who  
21 encouraged our Wranglers to stay in school -- to stay and  
22 if choosing at any time to join the military, it would be  
23 a great idea as the military has much to offer those who  
24 wish to continue their education after high school.

25 The local fire department watched as the

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 legionnaires held a flag burning ceremony after the  
2 closing of the Jamboree showing us how to properly dispose  
3 of a flag. The girls learned much about VA&R, community  
4 service, and the Poppy program. My, what a difference a  
5 day makes.

6 We had 22 juniors participate in the Ride 2  
7 Recovery in the City of Santa Monica where they helped  
8 serve over 60 wounded veterans as they made their way onto  
9 the pier. The juniors dressed in their red, white, and  
10 blue and waved the American flag of our country to each of  
11 the cyclists. Many of our juniors raised funds to assist  
12 the Ride 2 Recovery and the Creative Art Festival.

13 From July 2011 to this convention roundup with  
14 625 Wranglers serving over 200 projects, earning 80  
15 patches, volunteering 3,030 hours spending \$14,153. They  
16 have adopted 927 military families and serving 1,871  
17 active duty military men and women. They participated in  
18 welcome home celebrations and farewell parties and even  
19 did pet sitting while our veterans were away on duty .  
20 Project food basket was put into place as the juniors  
21 received money for food and toys for needy families.

22 Many juniors tutored students at school and home  
23 helping the families of active military. Juniors tutored  
24 senior members with Twitter, texting, e-mail, Facebook,  
25 and Internet. One unit of juniors put together a



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 thesaurus of acronyms for the senior members to understand  
2 new technology.

3 Another junior, Deja Nae Trimble, District 23,  
4 Unit 578 started a Facebook page, Girls of the American  
5 Legion Auxiliary, keeping all the State of California  
6 juniors in touch with each other. They earned many junior  
7 technology patches.

8 California junior members are very diverse and  
9 interesting group of girls. They have the energy and  
10 openness of preschoolers and grade school girls, the  
11 know-it-all attitudes of the junior high school girls, and  
12 the young adult attitudes of teenagers who are starting to  
13 show their independence. All stages are perfectly normal  
14 and a required part of growing up. Yet this group of  
15 outstanding young ladies came together in hopes to become  
16 an award winning department.

17 This diverse group -- I'm getting dry up here.  
18 Okay. This diverse group gathered in celebration of the  
19 riches of our organization and their country, working as  
20 one unit at our junior conference making poppies, folded  
21 200 pocket flags, making 68 hero cards for VA&R program,  
22 and packing of OMK backpacks again.

23 At our conference the juniors elected and  
24 appointed new officers and chairmen for 2012-2013. This  
25 has been a great year for our department of California

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 juniors.

2           Twenty-nine districts of active juniors, 23  
3 districts reported with 625 juniors participating in  
4 various programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. They  
5 have helped their prospective units to feed many of our  
6 wounded veterans, visiting the VA hospitals, as well as  
7 the elderly with Operation Care Comfort in veterans'  
8 homes. California Wranglers have folded 1,000 flags,  
9 shipped 2050 OMK backpacks, welcomed home 750 servicemen  
10 and women, had farewell parties for over 30 troops,  
11 spending \$3,053, and volunteering 1050 hours.

12           Way to go, Wranglers. Yay, great job.

13           (Applause.)

14           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Good job.

15           JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Opportunity  
16 drawing was held at junior conference. Three third place  
17 winners were won by Unit 48, District 16. Two second  
18 place prizes were won by District 15 of \$25 each. Third  
19 prize was won by District 21 and 22 of \$50. And first  
20 prize was 75 won by Diane Levias, District 19. Winning  
21 tickets are posted in the department office. One ticket  
22 did not bear a name. We are asking that all opportunity  
23 drawings for our junior activities to please put your  
24 name, district, and unit numbers on them. A telephone  
25 number will be great as well. It is very hard to give

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 money away when it is not properly filled out. When  
2 tickets are not filled out, we will have no choice but to  
3 disqualify that ticket and pull another one.

4 With the energy and enthusiasm of our juniors and  
5 the continuous good leadership from our members, the  
6 future for the American Legion looks very bright.

7 Madam President, this concludes my supplemental.  
8 May I continue with my first place winners?

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes. Thank you  
10 very much. She made it and she didn't faint. We're good.

11 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: My lips are  
12 sticking together up here.

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: She's got sticky  
14 lips.

15 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Okay. I  
16 did send notes out. I see one. I don't see the other  
17 one, but that's all right. When I call her name she'll  
18 run this way. First place unit supplemental was won by  
19 Rosa Moore-Hicks, District 25.

20 (Applause.)

21 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: First place  
22 supplemental report junior activities, District 22,  
23 Annette B. Grimslee.

24 (Applause.)

25 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Okay. Best

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 overall junior program activity -- trust me, if you see  
2 this girl's report that has been forwarded on to National,  
3 it's awesome. Annette B. Grimslee, District 22.

4 (Applause.)

5 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Madam  
6 President, that concludes my whole program other than  
7 approaching your station.

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: If you come running  
9 on down fast.

10 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: I'm going  
11 to try to get up these steps fast.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We don't want  
13 anybody tripping. While she's coming up here, the next  
14 report that will be given will be Americanism. So if you  
15 can come on down and get ready. Following her will be  
16 Children & Youth.

17 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Madam  
18 President, first I'd like to say this is from your  
19 children. I would like to present you with a bag of gold  
20 and a scarf for one, and then really we would like for you  
21 to open this and it is from the juniors.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: From the juniors.  
23 That's scary.

24 JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN ROBINSON: Juniors,  
25 look up.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Juniors, look up.  
2 (Applause.)

3 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: My goodness. Oh,  
4 my goodness.

5 Oh, give me pity; I'm on a committee. Which  
6 means that from morning to night we attend and amend and  
7 contend to defend without a conclusion in sight. We  
8 confer and concur, we defer and demur. We reiterate all  
9 of our thoughts. We revise the agenda with frequent  
10 addenda and consider a loaded report. We compose and  
11 propose and suppose and oppose and the points of procedure  
12 are fun, but though various notions are brought up as  
13 motions, there's terribly little that gets done. We  
14 resolve and absolve, but never dissolve. Since it's out  
15 of the question to us what a shattering pity to end our  
16 committee. Where else could we make such a fuss?

17

18 AMERICANISM COMMITTEE REPORT

19

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We will now hear  
21 from our Americanism.

22 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: How do you follow  
23 that? Good afternoon. I know you guys are getting tired  
24 already so I'm going to try to keep this as short as  
25 possible.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Madam Department President, the convention  
2 committee on Americanism met on June 21st, 2012 in the  
3 Appaloosa Room of the Holiday Inn in Redding, California  
4 at 10:00 a.m. The statistical report of this chairman  
5 appears on page 12, my lucky number, of the Book of  
6 Reports.

7           Chris de la Rosa of District 28 was appointed  
8 secretary, Cathy McCoy of District 21 was appointed  
9 chaplain, and Liz Plogger of District 2 was appointed  
10 Sergeant-at-Arms. Prayer was given and the Pledge of  
11 Allegiance was given by Sergeant-at-Arms Liz Plogger.

12           Secretary de la Rosa took roll call and there  
13 were 24 delegates present and 11 guests in attendance.

14           The code was read and the committee agreed on the  
15 following report: A proposed code change to code 6(f),  
16 which now reads: Unit chairmen shall be encouraged to  
17 seek out home school students, Girl Scout and Boy Scout  
18 troops, as well as traditional classroom students to  
19 participate in the department Americanism essay contest  
20 under the established essay contest rules provided by the  
21 unit chairmen. The essays received from the above will be  
22 put into the proper grade levels and judged along with the  
23 traditional classroom students.

24           This code would now read: Unit chairmen shall be  
25 encouraged to seek out home school students, Girl Scout

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 and Boy Scout troops and other youth groups and  
2 organizations as well as traditional classroom students to  
3 participate in the department Americanism essay contest  
4 under the established essay contest rules provided by the  
5 unit chairmen. The essays received from the above will be  
6 put into the proper grade levels and judged along with the  
7 traditional classroom students.

8 I move for this code change.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is there any  
10 discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: The code change  
13 will read: Unit chairmen shall be encouraged to seek out  
14 home school students, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and  
15 other youth groups and organizations as well as  
16 traditional classroom students to participate in the  
17 department Americanism essay contest under the established  
18 essay contest rules provided by the unit chairmen. The  
19 essays received from the above will be put into the proper  
20 grade levels and judged along with the traditional  
21 classroom students.

22 All in favor -- oh, wait, wait. Discussion. I'm  
23 sorry.

24 MS. RAMOS: I'm Betty Ramos, Unit 261, District  
25 18. I'm a newbie. This is my first conference. I want

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 to inquire does -- private schools are included in this  
2 contest?

3 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Yes.

4 MS. RAMOS: Okay. Thank you. I just want to  
5 make sure.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Welcome. Thank you  
7 for coming up and speaking too. I appreciate that.

8 MS. GREEN: I'm Sandy Green from Unit 69 and I  
9 know that everybody calls us the baby club. We have a  
10 club or an organization that is worldwide in all of our  
11 military bases, and that's the 4-H. It is the only youth  
12 group that is sponsored by the United States government  
13 under the Department of Agriculture. I would like to see  
14 that put in because I think the military kids that are on  
15 those bases and the 4-H kids in our country need to be  
16 included in this. Thank you.

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. And I  
18 do believe when they are addressing this addition --  
19 excuse me. I'm sorry. I just wanted to reiterate that  
20 you're absolutely correct and thank you for the  
21 information; and 4-H is extremely important, and when they  
22 address "and other youth groups and organizations," that's  
23 one of the reasons why this was put in there so that it  
24 could be broadened out to those type of youth groups. So  
25 this would encompass this and others that might come after



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 that. So I just wanted to let you know that and I'm  
2 hoping you'll vote yes on that because that will make this  
3 happen. Thank you.

4 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: If I could just  
5 give here a little bit further rationale, a lot of the  
6 schools are overloaded with their own agendas and we are  
7 having a lot of -- especially into the south getting into  
8 the schools. If we can broaden our horizons a little bit,  
9 I think we can increase the number of essays we receive.

10 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
11 much. Any other discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All in favor?

14 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

15 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you. Passed.

18 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: There was also a  
19 recommended code addition which would be numbered 10. And  
20 it would read: The Department Chairman shall provide a  
21 list of essay winners' names to the Department  
22 Secretary/Treasurer no later than June 1st when a monetary  
23 prize is awarded.

24 By the direction of the committee I move for this  
25 code addition.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Is there any  
2 discussion?

3 (No response.)

4 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: All those in favor.

5 ALL PRESENT: Aye.

6 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Pass.

9 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: May I proceed with  
10 my supplemental and my first place awards?

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Please.

12 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Madam Department  
13 President, the ladies of the Department of California have  
14 done an outstanding job implementing the Americanism  
15 program into their unit activities for our 2011-2012  
16 Auxiliary year.

17 Units have participated in the R2R Challenge by  
18 waving flags along the bike route, making and serving  
19 food, and having children from an elementary and middle  
20 school make over 150 place mats for a dinner served to the  
21 veterans.

22 Thousands of pocket flags were purchased and  
23 distributed. During Junior conference, the girls had a  
24 chance to help fold pocket flags which we left for an  
25 incoming group of active duty military and their families

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 that were coming to the camp for a retreat before being  
2 deployed.

3 In an interesting twist to the Americanism  
4 program, one unit made and displayed a Betsy Ross  
5 scarecrow at an annual Scarecrow Festival. It was  
6 displayed at a Veteran's hall next to a soldier and a  
7 little boy waving an American flag.

8 On Veterans Day over 2500 small flags were put  
9 out at local cemeteries in honor of the service these  
10 veterans performed for our country. Veterans Day also was  
11 a day when many units held activities at their post homes  
12 and passed out small flags to all who attended.

13 The department's essay contest brought us many  
14 exciting essays. They were judged by three independent,  
15 non-affiliated professional people and I think they made  
16 some great choices. I'm pleased to say that we did  
17 receive some participation in the national essay contest.  
18 All were forwarded to the Western Division Chairman for  
19 evaluation. Although our entries for National were small,  
20 I hope it brought some joy to the National Chairman, our  
21 own Melanie Taylor. It is my understanding it has been a  
22 very long time since our department has participated at  
23 the national contest.

24 Units in concert with their posts participate in  
25 the proper disposal of retired flags are disposed of with

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 respect and reverence. Several units participated with  
2 the Girl Scouts, teaching them about the meaning behind  
3 the colors of the flag and how disposal is important.

4 Units are also teaching flag etiquette and proper  
5 care of the flag in the schools. One unit gave out 100  
6 books on proper flag etiquette to custodians in their  
7 local school district. Another unit put these same books  
8 in businesses around town.

9 Members are encouraged to fly their flags daily  
10 if possible and some display their flags on lighted poles  
11 day and night 365 days a year.

12 One member is active in, "History through the  
13 Eyes of Women" with costumed first-person presentations  
14 and will be featuring Betsy Ross at the annual program  
15 provided for children on President's Day. This member  
16 also spent many hours as Betsy Ross at the Reagan Library  
17 showing visitors how to cut a paper five-pointed star.  
18 She also developed and often presents a museum lecture  
19 titled "Women's Contributions during World War I and II  
20 inspired by Poster Art" to celebrate the women who gave so  
21 much to the war effort.

22 One unit offers incentives to school children for  
23 good citizenship. They also hosted two patriotic  
24 assemblies in the schools.

25 One district sponsors a naturalization program

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 yearly with approximately 600 to 900 new citizens each  
2 year. This district also offers Poppy corsages and  
3 boutonnieres for the new citizens to wear during their  
4 citizenship ceremony. The wonderful part is this ceremony  
5 takes place during February which as you all know is  
6 Americanism month.

7 Another unit was able to take part in a  
8 citizenship ceremony as well where 139 new citizens were  
9 given the oath of citizenship.

10 One member volunteers as a mentor in classes for  
11 English as a second language for immigrants preparing for  
12 citizenship. Her unit has provided materials to teach the  
13 Pledge of Allegiance, history of our flag, and videos for  
14 the Eddie Eagle program through the American Legion. They  
15 are also promoting flag etiquette and distributing  
16 materials to students.

17 Units continue to get out the vote by holding  
18 town hall meetings and hosting local debates. Volunteers  
19 are already planning to drive seniors and disabled to the  
20 polls in the upcoming elections in 2012.

21 One unit participated in the Junior Auxiliary  
22 Americanism program. Every year this unit's juniors and  
23 SAL receive patriotic books as gifts from the unit. All  
24 of the books are geared towards the age and educational  
25 level of each child.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           A total of 67 books and 34 sets of flashcards  
2 were presented this year with some of the titles being,  
3 "History Happened Here" and, "When I Was a Girl, Memories  
4 From Celebrated Women," and "Slightly Odd United States,  
5 Wacky Facts of a Great Country." What an amazing way to  
6 educate Auxiliary and SAL juniors.

7           As you can see, the women of California are very  
8 active in the Americanism program; we should all be very  
9 proud of them.

10           This concludes my report. If I can continue with  
11 my first place awards. I hope everyone got my notes. In  
12 group 1, the essay contest was won with a \$100 prize to  
13 Kennah Davis, sponsored by Unit 118, District 27.

14           (Applause.)

15           AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: In group 2, first  
16 place goes to Ricardo Curiel-Jimenez who was sponsored by  
17 Unit 694, District 28 who also got a \$100 prize.

18           (Applause.)

19           AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Group 3, first  
20 prize goes to Sawyer Seth who was sponsored by Unit 720,  
21 District 2 who won \$200.

22           (Applause.)

23           AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Thank you, Terry.  
24 Group 4 -- now I get to the good stuff because the group  
25 4s received -- for you new people out there, they receive

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 educational grants. First price gets a \$2500 grant with  
2 the first part of it being \$500 and the rest gets  
3 forwarded to their college when they start college. So in  
4 group 4 our winner was Jasmine Mendez, sponsored by Unit  
5 777, District 25.

6 (Applause.)

7 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Group 5 is our  
8 exceptional needs children, and first place for ages 11 to  
9 14 was Justin Etheridge, Unit 118, District 27, \$200.

10 (Applause.)

11 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Group 5, 14 years  
12 to nine months -- 14 years, nine months to 20 years of age  
13 was won by Brittany Tolbert who was sponsored by Unit 147  
14 of District 14, \$200.

15 (Applause.)

16 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: First place unit  
17 supplemental goes to Cathy Blankenbeker, Unit 742,  
18 District 21. And my first place district supplement goes  
19 to Danielle White, district 27. There's no crying at the  
20 Auxiliary, Danielle.

21 (Applause.)

22 AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN SOARES: Thank you Madam  
23 President for this appointment. It has been very  
24 challenging at times, but I learned a lot and I hope that  
25 some of you did too. Thank you.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you,  
2 Michelle. Job well done.

3 (Applause.)

4 Children & Youth. Sue Hooker will be handling  
5 that for Harriet Clendenin. Having phoned earlier, she is  
6 greeting her daughter, who is one of our juniors who's now  
7 in the military.

8 I do have a very happy note to report that our  
9 Community Service Chairman Loretta Marsh who was called to  
10 the bedside of her brother who was not doing well, he is  
11 doing much better.

12 (Applause.)

13 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And he just rallied  
14 back. He's done. He's got a lot to do with his sister  
15 there, Loretta. So she was giving everybody the good news  
16 and we were certainly happy to get that news. Thank you.  
17 Thank you District 16 for telling me that.

18

19 CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

20

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Now we will hear  
22 from Sue Hooker, Past President Department, who is filling  
23 in for Harriet Clendenin.

24 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: Thank you,  
25 Madam President.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           Madam President, the Children & Youth statistical  
2 report is on page 14 in the Book of Reports. The  
3 committee met in the Sierra Room at 10:00 a.m. June 21st,  
4 2012. Kathy Smith, District 6 served as chaplain. Ruth  
5 Hackney from District 24 was secretary, and LuAnn Capazzi  
6 served as Sergeant-at-Arms.

7           There were 30 -- 23 delegates and five guests.  
8 The code was read. There were no changes, no resolutions,  
9 and no recommendations.

10           Madam President, may I continue with Harriet's  
11 report?

12           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Absolutely.

13           PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: Good  
14 afternoon, Madam President. The Children & Youth nannies  
15 have done a tremendous job this year. Realizing the  
16 importance of taking care of our children, especially the  
17 military child, is paramount. Looking at the numbers, the  
18 territory of California made a difference in the lives of  
19 over 7400 military families and spent over \$81,000.  
20 Incredible work everyone.

21           A big part of this is the Operation Military Kids  
22 project. As part of the California team, connections with  
23 the Family Readiness Officials enabled us to be on the  
24 front line, meeting the families, giving the children hero  
25 packs, and making the connection with our military

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 children and their families on a meet and greet.

2 Hugs and big thank yous were the norm, and of  
3 course who can resist the smiles. Our nannies recognized  
4 the importance of letting the children know that they are  
5 also heroes. 2,264 hero packs were assembled with 74 of  
6 them assembled at junior conference. Even units with no  
7 connection to a base or armory could pass out the hero  
8 packs to a family who was in their vicinity with a  
9 deployed parent. And sometimes a Family Readiness  
10 Official would contact this nanny to help the family in a  
11 different community.

12 The territory of California is notorious for  
13 partying, holiday parties especially. Halloween,  
14 Christmas, Easter, and predeployment. The list goes on.  
15 Many units reported parties in their own post or at the  
16 military base or a school or even a VA facility. Youth  
17 oriented activities and lots of gifts were on hand and  
18 units reported spending over \$50,000. The burning  
19 question is who had more fun, the unit members or the  
20 children who benefited?

21 Many nannies reported activities with youth  
22 groups from the Boy and Girl Scouts to 4-H, Big Brother  
23 Big Sisters, and Boy and Girls Clubs and, of course, the  
24 junior Auxiliary members. Working together for the  
25 betterment of our children was the priority, whether it be

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 for parties, Operation Military Kids, or just members  
2 volunteering.

3 4-H groups have recently become a partner with  
4 the Operation Military Kids and the Boys and Girls Clubs,  
5 the Big Brothers Big Sisters have trained courses on  
6 military mentoring which has been successful. Boys and  
7 Girl Scouts have also been instruments for connecting the  
8 students with the military child.

9 Case in point, District 6 connected with a Boy  
10 Scout who became a recipient of a hero back. What a great  
11 opportunity to honor a military child and also teach the  
12 nonmilitary children about our program.

13 With these trying economic times, it is not  
14 surprising that units and department donated over \$32,000  
15 in direct aid to our veterans' children, over 3,000 of it  
16 coming from Department in the form of temporary financial  
17 assistance. Much of that going to basic family needs such  
18 as diapers, food, and even helped out with housing and  
19 utilities. Units also helped the parents with educational  
20 assistance so the parent can eventually have a career, not  
21 just a job.

22 There were many terrific projects nannies  
23 participated in or planned for our youth. District 11,  
24 Unit 102 reported mentoring a 4-H member and helped her  
25 achieve a community service badge. Unit 83, District 12

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 aided a homeless veteran's daughter to go to her prom.

2 Many units adopted classrooms and sometimes even  
3 entire schools. For example, a long-standing tradition in  
4 a unit in the 15th district is to host a party for  
5 underprivileged children at a local military school. A  
6 unit in the 13th reported hosting a party for special  
7 education students. And in the 16th district parties were  
8 held for children from the local military bases.

9 District 22, also near several bases, helped  
10 military children with Operation Military Kids backpacks  
11 for back to school. Unit 348, District 20 donated money  
12 to the Eagle Scouts -- to an Eagle Scout so he can get his  
13 Eagle Award. The project was building a fire pit at the  
14 Lancaster Veterans Home for flag retirement ceremonies.  
15 District 20 also reports a junior member and her soccer  
16 team made pocket flags.

17 Unit 694, District 28 reported donating time to  
18 support a local food bank which served 325 children and  
19 another food bank which served over 1200 yearly.

20 Districts 22 and 29 report baby showers for soon-to-be  
21 military moms with clothes and blankets being delivered by  
22 nanny storks.

23 Probably the most inspiring story came from  
24 District 18, Unit 247. A military family, single mom, and  
25 four siblings were destitute around the holidays. The

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 oldest sibling stationed in Germany was not aware of the  
2 family's situation. Hearing of this family, the Auxiliary  
3 went to work, paid their rent, and then found there were  
4 even more in need. The family needed to get rid of their  
5 bedbug-infested mattresses. They also needed a microwave,  
6 toaster, and blender. The unit with the help of their  
7 entire post family raised enough money to purchase these  
8 items. But they didn't stop there. Food, clothes, toys,  
9 and Christmas ornaments were also delivered. Can you  
10 imagine the faces of the family when the Auxiliary and  
11 post members or family walked into the apartment?

12 Madam President, thank you for appointing me to  
13 this program. We all know that our nannies truly did work  
14 the motto, "Hats off to the American Legion family  
15 volunteers," and made a difference in the lives of many of  
16 our Children & Youth.

17 (Applause.)

18 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

19 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: May I continue  
20 with Harriet's first place awards?

21 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Absolutely.

22 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: Okay. Here we  
23 go. First place unit supplemental which was forwarded to  
24 National goes to Unit 416, District 22, Nanny Laura -- and  
25 I'm probably going to butcher your last name. Laura

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Schweighart.

2 (Applause.)

3 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: I'm going to  
4 apologize to Laura. The first place, honoring their  
5 service first place award, and it goes to National is  
6 District 18, Unit 247 Nanny Sandy Houseknect.

7 (Applause.)

8 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: She schooled  
9 me in how to do that last night but I forgot. Nanny  
10 Pamela Dixon-Hicks, first place district supplement.

11 (Applause.)

12 PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT HOOKER: Thank you,  
13 Madam President.

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you for  
15 filling in for her and doing such a wonderful job, Sue.

16

17 NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

18

19 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: We're going to now  
20 hear from National Security Terry Mikesell followed by  
21 Membership. If you have a note from Terry, please come on  
22 down.

23 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: The  
24 convention committee on National Security met on June 21,  
25 2012 in the Appaloosa Room of the Holiday Inn, Redding,

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 California. The Statistical report of this chairman  
2 appears on page 17 of the Book of Reports.

3 Sue Hooker was appointed secretary, Diana Levias  
4 offered prayer, and Faye Sanchez was appointed  
5 Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 18 district delegates  
6 answered roll call. There were five visitors present.

7 The committee agreed upon the following report.  
8 The Code was read with no changes recommended.

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you.

10 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: The chaplain  
11 offered closing prayer.

12 Madam President, this concludes my report. May I  
13 continue?

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: I love it.

15 (Applause.)

16 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: What a great  
17 lieutenant governor we got.

18 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Short and  
19 sweet. Our scouts answered the call to action immediately  
20 and set to work for our active duty military and their  
21 families.

22 Hundreds of yellow ribbons are being displayed  
23 throughout California to honor our serving heros. Others  
24 are displayed awaiting their return. You have worked with  
25 military bases in support of active duty military and

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 families while supplying babysitting, paying bills, giving  
2 hugs, and being there. Picnics have been hosted, baby  
3 showers given, and spending hours awaiting a returning  
4 group of service personnel.

5 Units have prepared themselves and others in  
6 their communities for emergency preparedness. You have  
7 attended classes, hosted classes, attended training and  
8 shared pamphlets about being prepared in an emergency. In  
9 our great state it can happen anywhere at any given time.

10 Blue star banners have been presented in our  
11 communities to those families who have military deployed.  
12 Units have presented the POW/MIA ceremony and we continue  
13 to lobby for a full accounting.

14 What a wonderful thing it is when units support  
15 the USO's. We donate supplies, raise monies, and all of  
16 the other little things that we can do to offer comfort to  
17 traveling military. Units also sponsor ROTC/JROTC  
18 whenever they become aware that this program is in their  
19 local schools. These young people are the future  
20 military. Medals, money, and certificates have been  
21 presented.

22 Several special stories were shared with the  
23 Western Division Chairman. Unit 585, District 26 each  
24 month has shipped six to ten boxes to U.S. Army medics and  
25 U.S. Marine infantry at a postage cost of \$12 per box.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 Each box's contents value 50 to \$100. A truly remarkable  
2 project. This is a Legion Family project.

3 Unit 179, District 5 has shipped 895 packages  
4 within the last 12 months. This unit goes out into their  
5 community for donations for the contents and the shipping  
6 costs. What a great community awareness this is and a  
7 great new membership tool.

8 Unit 102, District 11 has a female veteran who is  
9 married to an active duty National Guard officer. She  
10 travels with him and works our mission wherever she is.  
11 She has participated in training for emergencies, helped  
12 with lunches, massage therapy, she also acts as a driver  
13 for those who are unable to drive.

14 My final special story is about Unit 118,  
15 District 27. Now they really involve their Legion Family  
16 in the community in this event. It started out as an  
17 emergency blood drive for children with leukemia and they  
18 continued holding other blood drives with involvement of  
19 Juniors, American Legion Auxiliary, Legion Members and  
20 other communities.

21 All certificates were presented in committee  
22 except for the first place unit supplemental and the first  
23 place district supplemental. The complete list of awards  
24 is in the department office.

25 Our first place district supplemental goes to

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 District 21, Cathy McCoy, Chairman.

2 (Applause.)

3 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Our first  
4 place unit supplemental goes to Unit 716 Tami Bell,  
5 chairman.

6 (Applause.)

7 DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT MIKESELL: Tami's  
8 report has been submitted to National.

9 Madam Department President Linda, thank you so  
10 much for this appointment. It has been a pleasure working  
11 this program this year. This concludes my report.

12 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you very  
13 much. Great report.

14

15 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

16

17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Membership. Karen.

18 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS: Terry, I just  
19 might beat you as far as time going.

20 And I did send notes out to those districts who  
21 should have somebody up here.

22 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Do we have the  
23 recipients of the notes on Membership coming forward?  
24 She's getting all her -- we're coming in ready. She's  
25 driving her horse down here. Get that pony moving.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS: Hello,  
2 members. The preconvention Membership committee was  
3 called to order at 9:00 a.m. The convention committee on  
4 Membership met on June 21st in the Cascade Room in the Red  
5 Lion Hotel. The statistical report appears on page 17 of  
6 the Book of Reports.

7 Elizabeth Doidge, District 28 was appointed  
8 secretary, and she did a fabulous job. Yvonne Elizondo  
9 was appointed chaplain. Bonnie Chavoya, District 7, was  
10 appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. A total of 23 district  
11 delegates answered roll call and there were seven visitors  
12 present. And I found out later two were sitting on the  
13 floor.

14 The department Membership code was read with zero  
15 changes. Certificates for those units and districts  
16 achieving milestone number 2, number 3, and number 4 were  
17 handed out along with Recruit 3 Pins. So there were lots  
18 of certificates, lots of envelopes were flying.

19 Ribbons for Early Bird and 100 percent goal units  
20 will be ordered and delivered to the districts after  
21 convention. My apologies for this.

22 There were no resolutions or recommendations.  
23 And with no further business, the meeting of the  
24 Membership committee adjourned at 9:45. May I continue  
25 with my supplemental report?

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Yes.

2 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS: The  
3 end-of-year reports received show that the units had been  
4 working in a variety of ways to honor the service of our  
5 veterans. The Honoring Their Service program has put a  
6 face to the reason why we joined this great organization.  
7 The Commemorative buttons was a great idea. Wearing the  
8 commemorative buttons while volunteering at community  
9 events has helped to spread the word about who we are and  
10 what we do.

11 There are many success stories out there. One of  
12 them was despite having lost a few members, we had one  
13 unit recruit 51 new members which helped them make goal.  
14 This just goes to show how dedicated our members are to  
15 this organization and want to keep it growing and  
16 prospering. When we keep in mind that membership is  
17 everyone's responsibility, our membership will flourish.

18 Since midyear we have had three milestones.  
19 Milestone number two was January 25th for 70 percent. We  
20 had 26 districts and 188 units achieve this milestone.

21 Milestone number 3 was March 28th for 85 percent.  
22 We had 18 districts and 176 units make this milestone.

23 Most importantly, just last week was milestone  
24 number 4 of 100 percent on June 15th. We had three  
25 districts and 113 units achieve 100 percent.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1     Congratulations to all those units for all their hard  
2     work.

3             (Applause.)

4             MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS:   The area  
5     Membership support team has worked diligently this past  
6     term to help the units and districts with their  
7     membership.  Their support has been invaluable.  The  
8     department office has worked with the District Membership  
9     Chairman to help resolve those pesky membership issues.  
10    Your diligence to help resolve those issues has been  
11    greatly appreciated.

12            May I continue with my three awards?

13            DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO:   Yes.

14            MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS:  There are 59  
15    units which qualified for the Josie Melgard Award which is  
16    for achieving goal plus two members by close of books.  
17    Those certificates were handed out at the committee  
18    meeting.  And I don't have the angels pins yet.  They  
19    weren't in the department office when I checked.

20            The first award for the Ethel Flynn Award for the  
21    unit with the largest numerical gain over goal as of close  
22    of books was Unit 790 West Covina.

23            (Applause.)

24            MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS:  The Estella  
25    Hannell Memorial Award for the district with the largest

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 numerical gain over goal as of close of books goes to  
2 District 18.

3 (Applause.)

4 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS: And the  
5 Colleen Award goes to Unit 314 Hawthorne.

6 (Applause.)

7 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN KARANICKOLAS: Madam  
8 Department President, it has been a great honor to serve  
9 the Auxiliary this past term. Hats off to the American  
10 Legion Family of Volunteers. This concludes my report.

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Thank you, Karen.  
12 At this time I would like to take a little point of  
13 privilege and have your support team stand. They were an  
14 amazing group that helped out a lot this year when called  
15 on. Wendy O'Brien, please stand. Theresa Jacob, Area 2,  
16 District 13. Danielle White, Area 3, District 27. CJ  
17 Reyes, Area 4, District 19. Linda Olson, Area 5, District  
18 21. And Gerry Adams, Area 6, District 16.

19 (Applause.)

20 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: They truly made the  
21 difference. And I thank them very much and I thank you,  
22 Karen, very much also. Thank you. I'm going to ask now  
23 to have a special recipient to a hats off award that I  
24 gave earlier. I'm going to have Tammy Sollazzo, District  
25 19 please come to the station.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 (Applause.)

2 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Tammy we are  
3 recognizing with a special hats off. She has started an  
4 amazing thing and it is truly over and above and worth  
5 lending your brain just a couple minutes to learn what it  
6 is truly about. But it's Veteran Outreach. It's an  
7 Internet radio show that she started that brings the  
8 latest news and information to and for veterans and their  
9 families.

10 Veteran Outreach has been in production for  
11 approximately 15 months. It has been heard on the  
12 Internet via computers, smart phones, and telephones. The  
13 shows are aired live and prerecorded and then archived on  
14 their website. Veteran Outreach also trains veterans for  
15 careers in media such as television, radio, Internet,  
16 photography, and journalism. I believe they're trying to  
17 become syndicated.

18 I'm going to have her talk more about it. She  
19 has interviewed some amazing people. And I'm going to  
20 maybe steal a little of her thunder in that one of the  
21 women she interviewed is -- her name? The Goodwill. We  
22 both forgot. Stephanie Stone. She works with the  
23 Goodwill Industry. She received a \$7,000 grant to work  
24 with women veterans that are in need of help, jobs, or are  
25 on the verge of becoming homeless.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           And also she celebrated the birthday of Bea  
2 Coleman, 102-year-old woman veteran, oldest woman veteran  
3 in California. And it was an amazing celebration. It all  
4 came about through Tammy's persevering of opening this  
5 radio station, interviewing these people. And her hats  
6 off award is for her dynamite personality and  
7 perseverance. Tammy Sollazzo, please.

8           (Applause.)

9           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Tammy is an  
10 extremely humble, humble person also. And she's busy  
11 taking pictures, and so she put her notes back here, but  
12 she has a message for us all.

13           MS. SOLLAZZO: I'll make it brief. I started  
14 with this Veteran Outreach and he has taught me a lot.  
15 And because of his help, I have been able to meet a lot of  
16 amazing organizations that are all nonprofit organizations  
17 that are out there helping veterans in more ways than any  
18 of us can even imagine. And through the interviews that  
19 I've done I have networked and been able to connect  
20 certain organizations with other organizations so that  
21 they can help each other.

22           And I just truly feel blessed that I'm able to be  
23 part of this radio station. We are currently on the  
24 Internet if you ever want to check us out. We're at  
25 [www.veteran-outreach.com](http://www.veteran-outreach.com). And all of our shows we do



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 record every one live and then they are archived, so you  
2 can go back and listen to them at any time.

3 What we currently do is interview three or four  
4 people once a month. And during that month that we're --  
5 or the time we're not interviewing, we are out there, or I  
6 am, hitting the pavement trying to get people to  
7 interview. And it's -- it's amazing people that are out  
8 there doing great things like we are for our  
9 organizations. And I'll give you a few examples.

10 One that you all know, Coats of Valor. Great  
11 organization. Two, Rescue At Sea. Have any of you ever  
12 heard of Rescue At Sea? They're based out of San Pedro  
13 and they actually help veterans who had drug and alcohol  
14 problems integrate back into society instead of going the  
15 AA route where, you know, they sit in a room and talk and  
16 all that stuff. So it's an amazing program.

17 I met Stephanie Stone, Goodwill Southern  
18 California. And she's doing a women's veteran breakfast  
19 every month. All women veterans are welcome. It's free,  
20 totally free. They always have employers there. So  
21 they're doing great things. And people don't know this so  
22 what our radio station is doing, what we're trying to  
23 accomplish is to get that out there so that there's one  
24 place for everyone to go out there a veteran and say, wow,  
25 I need this or I need that.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1           I met a wonderful Marine who's helping OEF return  
2 amputees that need help with their homes. And I know  
3 District 19 jumped up on that one. We were able to pair  
4 him with District 19 Auxiliary and they've helped out a  
5 lot. I just have interviewed some amazing, amazing  
6 people. And because of them, it's what keeps me going on  
7 continuing this because it's a lot of work. But I love  
8 it.

9           I met Vet Hunters. I don't know if any of you  
10 ever heard of Vet Hunters, but Joe is one man who said  
11 screw the system, excuse me, but if I have a veteran  
12 that's homeless, I'm going to get him into a home and I'm  
13 not going to go to the route of all the red tape. And  
14 he's doing amazing things. And all these people need the  
15 same thing we do. They need the funding. They need the  
16 public to know what's going on. They need volunteers. So  
17 we're putting that out there.

18           And it's easy for me to interview because I just  
19 say who, what, when, where, and why, and then I let them  
20 do all the talking. So I love it. Any of you can do it.  
21 And we also train other media specialists. So if you're  
22 interested, contact me. You can find me through Veteran  
23 Outreach and I'm tammy@veteranoutreach.com. And I'll get  
24 back to you right away. So that's it.

25           DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: One of the reasons

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 I had Tammy speak about this is because she can use your  
2 help in connecting with organizations that you know. Your  
3 units are working with outreach type organizations that  
4 have things to offer, and her goal is to get this all in  
5 one spot where our veterans can go and get help. So if  
6 your unit has any information about someone that -- or a  
7 group, please come to her, talk to her, let her interview  
8 and get them on this radio station.

9 Thank you, Tammy, so much. And hats off.

10 (Applause.)

11 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: What is the value  
12 of one member? Ten little members standing in a line, one  
13 just disliked the president, then there were nine.

14 Nine district members offered to work late, one  
15 forgot her program, then there were eight.

16 Eight creative members had good ideas as good as  
17 heaven, one lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

18 Seven loyal members got into a fix, they  
19 quarrelled over programs, and then there were six.

20 One dropped out, then there were five.

21 Four cheerful members who never disagreed until  
22 one complained of meetings, then there were three.

23 Two little lonely members, our rhyme is nearly  
24 done, one joined a bridge club, and then there was one.

25 One faithful member was feeling rather blue, met

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 with a neighbor, then there were two.

2 Two earnest members each enrolled one more,  
3 doubling their numbers, then there were four.

4 Four determined members just couldn't wait until  
5 each one had another, and then there were eight.

6 Eight excited members signed up 16 more. In  
7 another six verses, there will be 1,024.

8 (Applause.)

9 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: If each of us  
10 enrolled one new member, think where we would be in our  
11 numbers? And we need those numbers to help build the  
12 mission that we have.

13 Ladies, at this time, believe it or not, we're a  
14 little early so I will be recessing us for the evening.  
15 We will be reconvening promptly at 8:30.

16 Now remember tomorrow be sure and order your  
17 boxed lunch before you come into convene because we will  
18 be recessing 15 minutes to go get our box lunches and come  
19 back for an extremely, extremely important workshop being  
20 given by Past Department Present Ruby "Taxes" Kapsalis and  
21 Diane DeLashmit. And I would like to encourage every  
22 delegate to do this. And it's important for your units  
23 and it's important for your districts and it's important  
24 for more than one person to hear it because we all know  
25 how that can happen. Do we have any dispatches?

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1                   SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Linda's Racers and  
2 Pat's Charmers will meet tomorrow morning at 7:00 a.m. in  
3 the Holiday Inn restaurant.

4                   District presidents to meet with the Elections  
5 chairman at 7:00 a.m. at the registration table. That  
6 would be tomorrow morning I would assume.

7                   And District 16 has two banquet tickets to sell.  
8 Also nobody's claimed this flash drive or the gun.

9                   DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: And will the  
10 committee that met in finance please join them at the  
11 front table. Ladies, we are dismissed. Hold on, hold on,  
12 hold on. Oh, you've been asked to reread a couple of  
13 dispatches.

14                   SECRETARY/TREASURER VOGELE: Just a reminder,  
15 Linda's Workmen, Madeline's Princesses, Park's Patriots,  
16 Sue's Lighthouses, Melanie's Balloon's, Bonnie's Prom  
17 Queens, Deb's Stars will meet Saturday for lunch at the  
18 Red Lion 278.

19                   Roll of yellow tickets were left in the  
20 restaurant yesterday. See the bartender.

21                   District 10 is looking for a banquet ticket if  
22 anyone has any to sell. So maybe go -- District 16 and  
23 District 10 need to get together.

24                   Geri's Cars, Margaret's Dream Catchers, Shelby's  
25 Actresses, and Ruby's All Stars will meet on Saturday

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 after the closing session at the Holiday Inn, Room 115.

2 Pilar's Musicians will meet tomorrow at the  
3 lobby, tomorrow noon in the lobby. Remember it's  
4 lunchtime but no lunch.

5 Norma's Birds of Paradise will meet at the  
6 Holiday Inn restaurant at the close of session on  
7 Saturday.

8 And LuAnn's Ship Captains will meet for breakfast  
9 at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the hotel restaurant.

10 I think that is all. Thank you.

11

12

ADJOURNMENT

13

14 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT FERCHO: Ladies, we are now  
15 recessed until 8:30 tomorrow morning. Thank you.

16 (The American Legion Auxiliary Convention  
17 was adjourned at 4:54 p.m. to be reconvened  
18 on Saturday, June 23, 2012, at 8:30 a.m.)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
93rd Annual Convention, Vol. I - 6/22/2012

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 ) ss.  
2 COUNTY OF STANISLAUS )  
3  
4

5 I, Karen A. Andasola, a Certified Shorthand  
6 Reporter in the State of California, holding Certificate  
7 Number 10919, do hereby certify that the American Legion  
8 Auxiliary - Department of California 93rd Annual  
9 Convention was taken Friday, June 22, 2012, at the time  
10 and place set forth on the first page hereof.

11 That upon the taking of the meeting, the words of  
12 the American Legion Auxiliary - Department of California  
13 93rd Annual Convention members were written down by me in  
14 stenotypy and thereafter transcribed by computer under my  
15 supervision; that the foregoing is a true and correct  
16 transcript of the oratory given by the American Legion  
17 Auxiliary - Department of California 93rd Annual  
18 Convention members.

19 I further certify that I am neither counsel for  
20 nor in any way related to any party to said meeting, nor  
21 in any way interested in the result or outcome thereof.

22 Dated this 3rd day of July, 2012, at Modesto,  
23 California.

24

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen A. Andasola, CSR No. 10919

25