

# American Legion Auxiliary



## Convention Committee Meeting Report

The Convention Committee on Education met on June 17, 2024, via Zoom at 5:00 pm. The statistical report of this Chairman appears on page 29 in the book of Reports.

Carolyn Glenn, Unit 92, District 2 was the appointed Secretary  
Barbara Toth, Unit 299, District 25 offered prayer, and  
Teresa Nunez, Unit 628, District 17 was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

A total of 18 District Delegates answered roll call. There were 12 visitors present.  
The Committee agreed upon the following report:

The Committee recommended the following changes to the Education Code:

1. Amend Department Code #12 to become #13 with no changes to the Code.
2. Add new #12 to address the deadlines for scholarships, which are not currently addressed in the Code.
3. Delete the current Department Code #13. The Ganey Family Scholarship has never had an applicant, there are no Ganey family members known by the American Legion Auxiliary to contact, and there is no longer a Ganey Scholarship line item in the budget.
4. Renumber the subsequent Code Sections to align with the changes above.

Districts that had 100% Reporting are 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, and 29.

- The Unit 2<sup>nd</sup> Place supplemental report was awarded to Danielle White, Unit 118.
- The Unit 3<sup>rd</sup> Place supplemental report was awarded to Kristin Landis of Unit 716.
- The District 2<sup>nd</sup> Place supplemental report was awarded to LaSharon Perez of District 21.

- The District 3<sup>rd</sup> Place supplemental report was awarded to Gayle Stewart of District 19.

Department scholarship winners were as follows:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Educational Assistance application for \$2,000 was won by Riley Collins of Unit 169, District 7.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Educational Assistance application for \$1,000 was won by Noah Kwanoski of Unit ~~52~~<sup>51</sup> in District 28.
- The Scholarship for Continuing or Reentry Students was won by Madison Ammirati from Unit 293, District 5.

Closing prayer offered by Barb Toth.

Madam President, may I continue with my platform remarks?

Good Morning/Afternoon Madam President,

This year's Board of Education has worked hard to get out the Education information to the units and it shows.

I would like to share with you some impressive work units did this year. For instance, the total donation amount that the Give 10 to Education program received was \$44,204.00! Besides the usual paper, pencils, pens, folders, backpacks, rulers, crayons, and notebooks, Unit 302 donated 150 laptops to local schools, another unit donated \$300 for backpacks with school supplies, and one unit purchased t-shirts with an anti-bullying logo and Stop Bullying cards.

For National Education Week, Unit 41 held a cross-over event with the Americanism Program named "American as Apple Pie" which I reported on at DEC. What impresses me the most is that everyone attending the event received flyers with instructions on how to "sign" the Pledge of Allegiance. Unit 79 donated playground games and exercise equipment.

Units promoted Scholarships by discussing scholarship opportunities with Girls State delegates, local colleges, and local high schools, they sent letters to school counselors, links to the applications were emailed to high schools, flyers were handed out, articles sent to local newspapers, and qualifying junior members received scholarship information.

Units reported on their "Veterans in the Community Schools Project." One unit invited a female veteran to share her experiences. She spoke about her military service and what it

was like to be one of the first females to serve aboard a Navy ship. She brought her memory books to share with students. Students asked her how to join the military after graduation. Unit 716 had three veterans visit a school campus and interact directly with students, sharing stories and experiences, and answering questions from students.

There are many impressive things our units have done that deserve recognition. I could talk for an hour. I do want to tell you about our scholarship program. To start, units have given out local scholarships totaling \$38,450! The Department received scholarship applications from three Districts. The winners are:

- **Riley Collin – Education Assistance General Education – \$2,000  
Sponsored by Unit 169, District 7**
- **Noah Kwasnoski – Education Assistance General Education - \$1,000  
Sponsored by Unit 512, District 28,**
- **Madison Ammirati – Continuing/Re-Entry - \$1,000  
Sponsored by Unit 293, District 5**

The Department received *fifty-three* Children of Warriors, five Non-Traditional and one Spirit of Youth scholarship applications. Winners are:

- **Lindsay Carstairs – Western Division Children of Warriors - \$5,000**
- **Bailee Haywood – National Spirit of Youth - \$5,000**
- **And because Bailee won her scholarship, California also receives \$1,000 for our scholarship program!**

The Non-Traditional Scholarship was not a National winner but is a winner in our eyes.

- **Jessie Castillo – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Department Winner – \$500**

I want to thank Susan Baker and Rebecca Glenny for taking the time to read and judge 59 scholarship applications. As you can imagine, it was grueling work that took hours. They made my job easy, as they independently chose the same top winners!

Madam President, may I hand out my awards?

- First Place District Supplemental: Molly Smith
- First Place Unit Supplemental: Rodi Andreescu

I have genuinely enjoyed being your Education Chair. Thank you for making this year a memorable one.

Madam President, this concludes my Education Report.