



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
END OF YEAR REPORT PARLIAMENTARIAN
JUNE 2024
ANITA BIGGS

Good morning, Madam Department President,

As your Attorney General for this great state of California the Golden State United as One, received many questions and situations. Many rulings and advice have been offered to our members. While we continue to strive for unity as one department, there is still some divisiveness. We continue to find that personality differences are the number one reason for unit problems. It is apparent that certain members need more training and understanding of our mission of service, not self and vision of supporting The American Legion. It has been a pleasure working with Tracy Fercho, Chair of Unit Development and Revitalization. Tracy always goes in with a positive, yet realistic attitude ^{and} has been successful for most Units. We are still finding most issues at Units are personal between members, while others are not following protocol. I am repeating this information again this year, It is always good to remind members to follow their unit Bylaws and Standing Rules. If they don't have a copy, please make sure all members are offered copies, it is their right. As a reminder to you all, it is a good idea to add a disciplinary process section to your unit's standing rules.

Per our National and Department Standing Rules “All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard. A Department may discipline a Unit for failure to discipline a member.” I have been asked “what is discipline of a Unit?” The answer is probation or cancellation of a charter are disciplinary actions. Cancellation is extreme; however, the Department Executive Committee has that authority. We want to keep our Units intact, operating smoothly with our mission and vision in mind. Let us bring our best behavior and best self forward when we are volunteering to help others and representing the American Legion Auxiliary.

As you all know, we have lost one of the greatest parliamentarians of our time, with the passing of ^{our} ~~my~~ dear friend and mentor Diane DeLashmit. This should remind us all that we are only here for a short time and in our short time her how will we live? How will we treat each other. This is a perfect time for us to reflect on ourselves, while we honor and memorialize our good and loyal friend Diane. Let us do our best to treat each other, in the words Diane...Be humble and kind.

Madam President, this concludes my report.