

MADERA UNIT 131
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General Membership Meeting
March 18, 2025

	Present	Excused
Betty Cox, President	x	
Jan Melhorn, Vice President	x	
Carol Stonecipher, Treasurer	X	
Mary Beth Stensgard, Secretary	X	
Mavis Graves, Chaplain	X	
Roxe Ann Teiper, Historian	X	
Pennee Lopez, Sgt. At Arms		X
Sue Anderson, Member At Large		X
JoAnn Johnson, Member At Large	X	
Lynne Linn, Member at Large	X	
Sally Cady, Immediate Past President	X	

President Betty called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. We had 27 members in attendance. Opening prayer was given by Mavis Graves, Chaplain. Honoring POW/MIA chair took place. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership. Due to time constraints, no song *was* sung by the members. The Preamble was recited by the membership.

The President reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

Today's Agenda stands approved. Minutes from February 18, 2025 stand approved.

Treasurer's Financial Report – Carol reported the Unit has assets worth \$88,244 and \$22,793 is in a CD. Since there were no further questions regarding the report, it will be filed for audit.

President's Report: Betty asked for any first-time attendees. There were 3.

Betty advised we had the following totals for Volunteering for the month of February: 6,135hours; 2,568miles; \$2,243 in donations. Please continue to send your volunteer hours to ckissinger@cox.net.

Committee Reports

- A. **Chaplain's Report** – Mavis reported that 6 cards were sent for the month of February - 4 birthdays, 2 Get Well
- B. **Kitchen** – Jan Melhorn stated that lunches have been a bit stronger in attendance lately. Lunch service ends the last week of April. Thank you to all who worked this year.

- C. **Special Guest/Speaker** – Jean Fadigan, Founder/Executive Director at Sr. Jose’s Shelter. She shared with us how and why she started this shelter and the difference they are making in women’s ability to survive during hard times. President Betty presented her with a check for \$4,000.
- D. **Children & Youth & Education** – Sally Cady explained the card making for veterans that we do with the students at Sopori School in Amado. See Sally if you are interested in helping with this fun program. A pizza party at the school is being planned in April.
- E. **Fisher House** – Pat Dent reported that she will be taking items up on the second Thursday of the month. Please drop off all items on the Wednesday before. Pat explained what Fisher House was and what we do for them. **Please put your donations in the crate next to the white refrigerator in the kitchen – NOT IN THE AUXILIARY OFFICE.**
- F. **VA&R** – No report
- G. **Poppies** – Judy Kackman reported that we collected \$22.76 from the cans in the bar this month. Poppy mugs have arrived. We initially ordered 12, and we have 8 left. They are \$23/each. 12 more have been ordered. Help is needed for May 23, Poppy Day. See Judy if you can help. Poppy making will occur this summer at the President’s discretion. There is a beautiful patriot wreath that will be raffled around Memorial Day weekend. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$5.00. There will be several opportunities to purchase tickets at various upcoming events. Judy announced this will be her last year as Poppy chair. Please contact her if you are interested. She will walk you through the job.
- H. **Americanism** – No Report
- I. **President’s Special Project**- No report
- J. **Tucson State Veteran Home** – No report
- K. **Community Service** – No report
- L. **Membership Report** – Jeannie McGaughey – Jeannie’s report was read by Betty. We are 1 member short of being at 100%. The next new member will receive the \$25 gift card. 99 members have not renewed as of today.
- M. **AZ Girls State – Jeannie McGaughey**- Jeannie’s report was read by Betty. Jeannie continues to be in contact with department. We are sending \$1,200: \$800 for the two girls we have sponsored and \$400 for the sponsored girl from Unit 7. If you shop at Fry’s, you can sign up to help benefit Girls’ State.
- N. **Communications** - Mary Beth reported that we received 2 items. Mary Beth read 2 thank you notes from the VA regarding items we had sent on January 15, 2025 and February 6, 2025 to Fisher House.

Unfinished Business:

- A. **5th Saturday of the Month** – March 29 – The money from this event will go to our AZ State Department President's special project: PAWSS- Dianne Grahm will co-chair with Betty for this dinner. It will be a meatloaf dinner. Tickets are \$18. Available in the lounge. Tunesmith Band will be playing at 5:00. 50/50 and raffle tickets for the wreath will be available at that time.
- B. **Spring Tea – Saturday, April 5 at 11:30:** Tickets are \$18, available in the lounge. Tickets are available until March 25. There will be a Unique Hat and Fancy Hat contest, raffles and more. Codi Larson-Deeter will be making scones, cakes, and other surprises.
- C. **VA Bingo Machine** - \$500 was sent to Department earmarked for this machine purchase. Checks also were sent from the Legion, Sons, and Riders totaling \$2,000.
- D. **Officer Nominations** – Sally announced the following nominations for the year 2025-2026: Dianne Grahm, President, Jan Melhorn, Vice President, Carol Stonecipher, treasurer, Ann Bracco, secretary, Debby Heiker, Historian, Mavis Graves, Chaplain, Nancy Morrow, Sgt. At Arms, Lynne Linn, Member at Large, JoAnn Johnson, Member at Large, RoxeAnn Teiper, Member at Large, Diane Bissell, Member at Large. Betty asked if there were any other nominations from the floor 3X for each position. There were no other nominations given. Nominations are now closed. Voting will take place in April for Member at Large because there are 4 interested members with only 3 positions open. Interested members will give a brief talk about their interest in the position.

New Business:

- A. **Arizona Department State Auxiliary President, Stacey Mayberry** – She was introduced by Betty. She explained her special project for this year, PAWSS, Pups and Warriors Side by Side, and the great need for this project. She also shared some stories about how this has impacted and helped our veterans. Betty presented a check for \$1000 with more to come.
- B. **Military Baby Shower** – The annual baby shower chaired by the ladies at Quail Creek is being planned for May 17. As partners, we will be collecting baby items here at the Post. Bring any items such as toys, clothing, 3-6 month sizes, etc.. No diapers or soaps and lotions. Cash donations are accepted. Please give these to Jan Melhorn.
- C. **Bike Helmets** – We partner with the Legion who purchases bikes for local schools. We will purchase the same number of helmets as bikes.
- D. **Committee Impact Reports** – Please send in your reports to Department by mid April. A copy of your report should also be sent to Betty.
- E. **Pop top tabs - 19#** of tabs were taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Tucson by Betty. Continue to save the tabs for next year's donation.
- F. **Spaghetti Dinner** – The Cub Scouts will be serving a dinner on Saturday, April 5. Bill Bracco is looking for serving volunteers. See Bill or Ann if you would like to help.

Announcements: PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR POST

- A. **Hamburger's every Monday, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**
- B. **Taco Night – Wednesdays – 4:00-6:00 p.m. Help is needed.**
- C. **Queen of Hearts – Thursdays – 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

- D. **Slingo – First Sunday of the month at 2:00-4:00 p.m.**
- E. **BUNCO – Second and Fourth Sunday, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**
- F. **SWOOP- Mondays at 11:30a.m.**
- G. **Café Legion – Open to the public, Tuesday-Friday, 11:30-1:30 Ending the last week of April**

Closing prayer was read, and President Betty gave her closing statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Stensgard
Secretary Madera Unit 131