



# East Palo Alto Unit #472

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of California

The meeting of East Palo Alto Unit 472 was called to order by acting **Unit President Kerry Finley** at 12 pm on Thursday March 2, 2006. The meeting was opened in regular fashion. 15 members registered as present during the meeting.

The February minutes were approved as posted.

It was reported that the Executive Committee met on February 11, 2006. The minutes from that meeting can be viewed on the unit website.

**Treasurer, Sherry Schneider**, posted the financial statement for the unit, it stated that the balance on hand as of 02/28/06 was \$263.00. No corrections were made so it will be placed on file for audit.

**President Kerry Finley**, reported that National Unit Development & Revitalization Committee Chairman Anita Biggs would be observing our meeting. She also invited Department UD&R Chairman Rhodona Enright and District 26 President Gerry Wilcox to the meeting. Post 472 Commander Robert Dowelle and Post 472 Adjutant William Rector were invited to our April Meeting in Sacramento.

**Cavalcade of Memories, Sarah Sled**, Gave a brief explanation about what The Cavalcade of Memories is. She also suggested that we maintain a virtual Cavalcade of Memories of our unit on the unit website in addition to the traditional preservation of any physical objects of note, Sarah would like digital photo of members so that we can create an album of all our members online. Lastly, she wanted any members who have served in the military and are "dual members" (that is, members of both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary), to identify yourself to her via email at

[ssled@alum.berkeley.edu](mailto:ssled@alum.berkeley.edu). The ALA is seeking to recognize these members for their contribution to our organization and our country.

**Children & Youth Chairman, Susan Middendorf** , reminded everyone that April is Children & Youth month. She highlighted on some of the many programs we members could participate in. Reminding us to keep track of our activities, mileage, cost and time. There will be an Easter basket contest at the April meeting.

**Constitution & Bylaws, Linda Workman**, reported that National President Carol Van Kirk presented East Palo Alto's Unit Charter to her at Carol's official visit to Northern California.

**Junior Activities, Angela McCoy** ::

Our Unit has three Junior Members. She will be requesting a Tiny Tot certificate for each girl and will make the presentation to them as soon as possible

**Leadership Chairman, Lou Thompson**, Discussed how End-of-Year Reporting works. She requested that all officers and chairmen find the link to the report form on their program page at the Unit Web site. That if you had a report, print one copy of it so that you can bring it to the April Meeting where they will be completed. If you couldn't attend the meeting, you were to fill out the report and either email or snail mail to Lou Thompson before April 10, 2006. Lou also explained what a Supplemental Report is.

**Legislative Chairman, Rebecca Dunham**, reported that the 2007 VA budget submission was had an 11.6% increase in funding since 2006; but included proposals that would increase VA health care and prescription drug co-payments, the President's budget does not request enough to truly meet the federal government's obligations to veterans. It is the American Legion's position that VA health care should be available to all veterans that is affordable and easily accessible. (For more information go to <http://capwiz.com/legion/issues/alert/?alertid=8489191>)

Sarah was sending a letter to our CA representatives regarding the impact of this budget to our unit, families and communities. She encouraged other members to do the same. In addition, National President Carol Van Kirk recently sent our Unit a letter requesting our

support of “The American Legion’s legislative agenda requesting Congress to enact remedial legislation that will shut down a judicial practice allowing misuse of taxpayers’ money.” Please review the information provided on the [Public Expression of Religion Act of 2005](#) (HR 2679), or PERA, and contact your [Representative](#) to urge its passage.

**Membership Chairman, Mary Martin** reported Membership for East Palo Alto Unit# 472 is as follows:

Seniors ~ 24; Juniors ~ 3; Total 27

Of the Seniors we have 3 VIM and 1 PDP

We have five memberships "on the desk" with one being a transfer and four new members.

**VA&R Chairman, Bea Waggett**, discussed the three areas in our VA&R program: Hospital Service, Field Service and Home Service. Bea reminded everyone to email your activity information... the Hours, Miles, and Money you invested in the activity you did and the number of Veterans served to her. She encouraged members to collect those little toiletries that you gather at a hotel when you travel or attend a convention and donate to a veteran’s hospital. Bea informed us about the “Grant the Last Wish” Program which helps terminally ill veteran with a special wish that we can fulfill. Bea talked about the DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S Emphasis – EPA Fisher House, Homeless Veterans. She reported that National President Carol Van Kirk is looking for support in providing needs to the NEW Menlo Park Fisher House. <http://www.fisherhousepa.com/news.html>

Correspondence was received from National Unit Development & Revitalization Committee Chairman Anita Biggs congratulating and encouraging us on our journey as a new unit.

**Nominations for Officers & Convention Delegates** were as follows

**President** :: Kerry Finley

**1st Vice President** :: Sarah Sled

**2nd Vice President** :: Bea Waggett

**Secretary / Treasurer** :: Sherry Schneider

**Executive Committeewoman** :: Nicole Willis

**2 Convention Delegates** :: Lou Thompson

**2 Convention Alternates** :: Susan Middendorf

Mary Martin volunteered to act as chaplain at the April meeting.

It was decided that we create a mission statement for our unit.

Lou talked about the affiliate's page on the unit website and how it can help our unit raise funds.

The meeting was adjourned in regular fashion at 12pm on Friday  
March 3, 2006