



## **2024/2025 California Membership - August Promotion #3**

### **We are the Branches of the Tree of Life for our Veterans!**

**National Ambassador: Linda Roloff    Department President: Sharonda Lewis**

**California Membership: Mary Ryser**

**In our organization, the Branches are the Auxiliaries. Our Roots are the Veterans of Foreign Wars.**



By now, all Auxiliaries should have mailed out their annual renewals. It is always nice when the President writes a note telling when the Auxiliary has their meeting, time and day of the month in which meetings are held and asks if they might need a ride to the meeting. It is also nice to let them know what the Auxiliary has been doing. Visit VA Hospitals? Having events for Active Duty? Feeding Police and EMT officers? Auxiliaries are doing so much to help Veterans and the Community -- it's a good way to let members that haven't attended in a while be informed and grab their interest in returning. Don't forget to go into the community and have a recruiting event. Don't forget to use the new QR Code! Let your community know who you are and how folks can join. It's summer and many events are being held outdoors, so get a booth together with membership applications and leaflets. Don't forget each Auxiliary can order 50 for free brochures and other helpful handouts.

On another note, I want the Auxiliaries to know of an issue I had last year. We had one treasurer that had never been to a District or State meeting and didn't know that what she did

affected everyone else. So, this is what happened: she had all these members that she never saw and assumed that they all passed. She entered 71 deceased members in one day(!) Not only did that knock her own President out of getting All-State President, but it knocked out the District for winning in their division, and then it knocked out the whole State of California from leading in our division. Later, she found over 50 of those members were Alive!! Another Treasurer didn't want to hold any annual members, so she just didn't send out the renewals! So please don't just assume that members have passed unless they're over 120 years old or you have an obituary or notice from a family member. Annual members have every right to belong to your Auxiliary even if they can't afford to go to Life membership or just prefer to be annual. I have an annual who's been annual for 20 years and did not want to be a Life member. Do not clean your books because you don't know them or have never seen them. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call me.

Last, I want you to know that we are off to a Great Start this year! We're leading in our Division in July at 90.81%. Keep up the Fantastic Job!!!

I know California are Proud Members and I know you're going to be excellent at growing your Auxiliary and this Organization for our Veterans.



### **Recruiters of the Month - Great Job 6311 D.13**

On Saturday & Sunday, June 1st & 2nd, our city of Manteca hosted its Annual Watermelon Faire. During this event, our Post gets a booth for the Comrades and Auxiliary to share, and various members take shifts in manning the booth. This is a wonderful Membership drive opportunity as well a way to meet our community and let them know who we are and what we are all about. During this event several of our Auxiliary Officers took advantage of this opportunity to give out 8 1/2" X 5 1/2" Cards that our Post's Sr. vice Hector Torres and I created that Lists "Volunteer Opportunities at 6311." During that weekend, we were able to hand out several applications for membership, but two (2) gals totally stuck in my mind. One: Cici Juarez. She is a good friend of Past President, Kitty Walker. Cici is one of our volunteers & greeters at the Post. She is eligible for membership after a little digging (of course). However, Cici is on a strict fixed income that the annual fee would be a hardship. As Secretary/Treasurer of our Auxiliary, I explained that I would make a plea to the Auxiliary to pay her fee for her, as she would truly be an asset. She is very excited to hear our decision. Once that is clear, I have offered to help her get the documents that she needs. And gal, LaDonna Gonzales. She came specifically to our booth to inquire about "Life Memberships." Apparently, years ago when Merced had a Post her father, Albert Sanchez Gonzales Sr. was a member ( I think even an officer). She said that her father had told her that he had paid for her "Life Membership." She wanted to know if that it was still active and if it could be transferred. I took her information and am in the process of tracking down that information. I hope it all works out.