



Department of California

CLOVIS WORKSHOP

August 2023

Hello Everyone and Welcome to the 2023 Clovis Workshop!

It is hoped that each of you will leave the workshop on 'information overload,' for then our program chairmen will know that you have received all of the tools you will need to successfully work our Auxiliary programs this year!

Madame President Glenda designated the VA&R program as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The State of California website tells us that HHS provides oversight to departments and state entities that support our most vulnerable citizens. The State HHS mission is to work together with counties and cities to make the State a healthy place to live, play, work, and learn. Likewise, the ALA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program oversees the work done by our Districts and Units to improve the quality of life for California veterans.

This Chairman will be the Secretary of HHS, District Chairs will be Administrative Assistants and Unit Chairs will be Administrative Aides. So, let's get to work! One of the most important tasks for District VA&R Chairmen will be to determine who their Unit chairs are and communicate with each of them on a regular basis for optimal success. Use email if possible, and US mail if not. Share the information you receive from this Chair as soon as possible and encourage your Unit counterparts to visit the Department website to access the VA&R tools available to them.

The annual **Impact Report** is a vital part of the year-end reporting process for VA&R and will be required again in 2023-24 for all units and districts. The data you report on the form will eventually find its way into the annual American Legion report that is presented to Congress each year. Remember – every hour, dollar,

and mile that you devote to veterans is reportable, so please stress to ALL ALA members in your districts and units the importance of keeping **Tracking Sheets** current throughout the year; it will make the reporting process so much easier, and will provide a much more accurate accounting of time and money spent, and hours volunteered for VA&R during the year.

You are encouraged to read the materials provided in your VA&R packet now and use them for reference during the year. Study the VA&R Department Code, which was amended by the members at Convention in June. Visit the VA&R page on the Department website and download “The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: A Guide for Volunteers” Booklet. The Guide and updated Department Code will provide you with most of the information needed for a successful chairmanship!

Don’t hesitate to contact me if you need assistance or have questions – this Chair is here to help each of you experience a productive and positive year with the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program!

United as One,

Susan Baker, Chairman
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