

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California Girls State
Department Executive Committee (DEC)
January 15, 2022

Good morning, Madam President:

ARE YOU FROM GIRLS STATE? The American Legion Auxiliary California Girls State 79th session will be held June 27th – July 2nd, 2022. After learning that Claremont McKenna College will not be hosting summer programs until July, we accelerated our planned move to Sacramento by one year. Director Tammy Sollazzo is working with UC Davis and Sacramento State to obtain a contract for the 2022 session. We hope that public health and university requirements will allow us to safely hold an in-person session. Circumstances change rapidly during a pandemic. If it is necessary for us to pivot to a virtual session for 2022, we will follow the same format we used last year.

I am extremely grateful for our extraordinary Beach Volleyball team who have moved forward despite so many uncertainties. They have been extremely patient with and supportive of me as Department Girls State Chair as I have had to dedicate more time to meeting with TAL CABS members to negotiate how we will adhere to SB363 requirements in 2023.

1. **Reservations for the 2022 Session** – We currently have 509 reservations.
 - a. SB363 requires that there are an equal number of total participants in the ALA CA Girls State and TAL CA Boys State programs in 2023. We would like to increase the number of 2022 ALA CAGS delegates as much as we can. As soon as we have a contract with a facility, we can determine our maximum capacity. Right now, a good goal for reservations is 600.
 - i. Units can still submit reservations.
 - ii. If your Unit sponsored schools last year but have not yet made a reservation for this year, please consider doing so.
 - iii. If your Unit submitted reservations for schools, please do everything you can to help those schools participate.
 - iv. Unit 194 in District 5 and Unit 125 in District 16 will be turning in their Charters and chose not to sponsor their schools for 2022. Please let me know if your Unit is willing to sponsor Clear Lake, Kelseyville, Upper Lake, or Cabrillo.
 - v. The American Legion held a meeting last weekend with their District Boys State Chairs. Commander James has encouraged all American Legion Boys State personnel to support their ALA Girls State counterparts. They could share connections they have at schools that do not yet participate in ALA CAGS or even provide financial assistance. There are many Units and Posts who already work together. Both programs require numerous volunteer hours. Any way that we can lift the burden for each other will be helpful.
 1. I will add a tab on the Reservations List that will have the schools that participated in TAL CABS in 2019, but do not yet have reservations for the 2022 ALA CAGS session. Consider contacting the TAL CABS Chairs to determine if they could help those schools participate in TAL CAGS by sharing school contact information or providing financial support.
 2. Remember to reach out to the American Legion Family, including the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders for help supporting ALA CA Girls State.

2. **Additional Support for District and Unit GS Chairpersons** – We know there are numerous challenges to Units during the ongoing pandemic.
 - a. We continue to hold monthly Zoom meetings. This year we have recorded the Zoom meetings so that those who are unable to attend can watch them and learn from the other District and Unit Girls State Chairpersons. Ideas for fundraisers and involving former ALA CAGS participants with the Unit have been shared. Our next Zoom will be this coming Tuesday.
 - b. We have our shared Google Folder where Districts and Units can share documents for candidate selection and fundraising.

3. **Girls State Committee Meeting** – October 22-23, 2021 via Zoom
 - a. Madam President Dee Ann Graham (until I inadvertently prevented her from returning to the Zoom), Department Vice-President Gloria Williams, Girls State Advisor Nancy Brown-Park, Girls State Chairperson Allyn Kau, Girls State Director Tammy Sollazzo, Girls State Committee 1-year Member Caitlin Voss, Girls State Committee 2-year Member Maggie Taylor Aherne, Girls State Committee 3-year Member Jan Fletcher, President's Alternate, Karen Herrera, Vice-President's Alternate and 2022 Chief Counselor Kimberly MacKinney, Girls State Nurse Elizabeth Tomlin, and Glenda Schultz attended.
 - b. The Committee decided that we would plan for an in-person 2022 Session. COVID vaccines and negative PCR tests will be required of all participants (staff, delegates, and guests). If we cannot hold an in-person session safely, we will use the same format as the 2021 virtual session.
 - c. Fees will be the same as the 2019 in-person session: \$350 Unit Enrollment fee plus \$75 Delegate Registration fee.
 - d. The Code was reviewed and changes were discussed and approved by the Committee to present at Department Convention in June.

4. **2022 Session** – June 27th-July 2nd, 2022
 - a. Once we have a contract finalized, the Unit Information Packet will be emailed to Unit and District Girls State Chairpersons and available on our beautiful Department website.
 - b. We will determine deadlines for candidates' online application and for fees to be sent to the Department Office in San Francisco based on when the contract is finalized and when money is due to the facility. I expect we will be able to extend our deadlines which are typically in March.

5. **Samsung Scholarship** – Saving the best for last – hot off the press! We received notification Thursday that Elizabeth Goebel from Foothill High School in Pleasanton, sponsored by District 10, Unit 117, was selected as the 2021 Samsung American Legion National Scholar from the Western Region. This award is a \$10,000 scholarship! Thank you to all of you who encourage your qualified ALA CAGS delegates to complete the lengthy Samsung Scholarship application.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you,
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