



CALIFORNIA STAR

Native Daughters of the Golden West

Volume 51 No. 3

Spring 2025

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A Message From the Grand President

*Dear Sisters,
Happy Presidents Day!*



I hope the New Year is treating you well. January has been a very busy month for me, no OV's but lots of ND business.

We conducted the Committee Information meeting on Saturday 1/25 and it was a success. Many Parlors and members on the call. It was a great sharing of information and ideas. Our committees are working hard to spend their money and do good works. Many thanks to PGP Suzi Riley for a wonderful presentation and GM Renee and PGP Sherry Farley for their technology knowledge which made it very smooth.

My usual reminder for Parlors to submit their entry for a community project contest by March 1, 2025. In this mailing you will receive the letter from State of the Order regarding open positions on the Board of Directors. If you are interested, please check the Books of the Order for requirements to run and serve along with the job description for the position. Please be prepared for a time commitment to serve on the Board and the committees assigned to your position in the hundreds of hours with no remuneration. I don't want to discourage anyone, as we need Board Members, but please understand the commitment that you will be making to be an effective Board Member for the Order.

Now, let's look forward to a wonderful GPAM 2025 in Bakersfield. The GPAM committee is starting to meet regularly to finalize plans. There will be education videos and breakout sessions on various aspects of Native Daughters, a reception at Pioneer Village at the Kern County Museum prior to the Red, White, and Blue Ball Banquet, and lunches at the Hotel are back.

The site for reservations will be available shortly. There are great restaurants, including Basque to be enjoyed along with Buck Owens Crystal Palace. The Double Tree on Rosedale Hwy is located about 2 minutes from Hwy. 99, so there is great access and the property has been totally renovated.

I look forward to resuming my OV's in February and March. I was able to participate in a presentation to Wounded Hero Fund in Bakersfield with the Chairman of Veterans Welfare Leona Sunseri. They have a wonderful facility and do so much for our veterans. There will another grant to a Veterans facility in San Pedro in February, I plan on attending that as well. The Board is busy with the business of the Order, Palomares Cemetery is still in progress, forms are being revised and updated, we have approved an appraisal of our Home and are almost complete with the tax returns.

If you know of any sisters impacted by the fires, please let us know, we can help.

In Sisterly love,

Harleen Carpenter



CALIFORNIA STAR



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Photos with names are encouraged

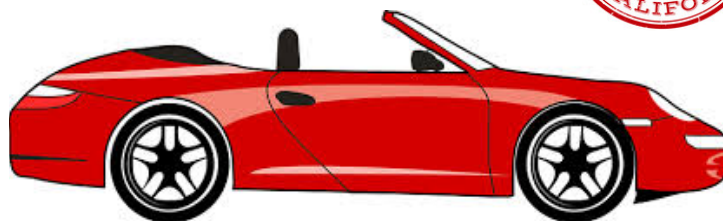




**ON THE ROAD WITH
THE GRAND PRESIDENT!**

DARLEEN CARPENTER

EL TEJON PARLOR No. 239
BAKERSFIELD



Above: President Amy Holland presiding with 2nd VP Ana Garcia and Recording Secretary Roberta Paul at their stations

Above: GP Darleen presenting a 25 year membership pin to Georgana Gularte, sister Bonnie Campbell Marshal



Grand President Darleen arrives in style to her Official Visit with San Juan Bautista Parlor No. 179 -- President Amy Holland; Driver Shawna Freels and her mother Ann Fritch



Left: Grand President's wonderful welcome basket





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NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

November 11, 2024

Grand Officers, Past Grand Presidents,
Officers and Members of Subordinate Parlors
Native Daughters of the Golden West



It is with deep sorrow that we reflect on the life and legacy of Past Grand President Marie M. Otto, whose unwavering dedication to the Native Daughters of the Golden West spanned an incredible sixty-eight years.

Marie M. Otto was born to Ernest F. Otto and Marie S. Otto in San Diego California on November 7, 1940. Her father was born in San Diego and her mother was born in Wisselsheim, Germany. Marie grew up in San Diego, attending San Diego High School and San Diego State College graduating in 1962. She worked for a law firm for 28 years and also was a participant in the family floral business on weekends and holidays. She was called back to our Lord two days before her 84th birthday on November 5th 2024.

As a young girl Marie joined Palomar Junior Unit No. 24. In 1957 she was initiated into San Diego Parlor No. 208. During the 1987 GPAM, San Diego Parlor nominated Marie Otto for the office of Grand Outside Sentinel. During the next several years she was elected to the Board of Directors multiple times becoming Grand President on June 26, 1993 in Modesto. Her brother, George and their cousins from Germany took part in a traditional family custom mixing soil from California and Germany, representing the ancestry of the family. Her theme for the term was "Reach Out for Native Daughters". At the end of her Installation speech, Marie read a poem regarding pledging ourselves to the light of truth, freedom, faith and love binding us closer in friendship and affection. "Guided by this **light** we shall go forward to the work of another year with steadfastness and confidence." When San Diego Parlor consolidated with Grace Parlor No. 242 in January of 2021, Marie continued her membership and stayed active by learning to meet with her Parlor Sisters electronically.

Marie was not just a leader: She was a guiding light embodying the very essence of community and friendship that our organization represents. Grand President Marie Otto established the first tree lighting event at the NDGW Home on December 5th in 1993. This beloved tradition has become a symbol of unity and joy, bringing together our Members and the wider community of Native Daughters to celebrate faith, friendship and charity. This December the NDGW Home is set to hold the thirty-first annual tree lighting event. Please join together to honor Past Grand President Marie Otto through song and celebration.

As we remember Marie, let us honor her extraordinary contributions and continue her legacy of service and camaraderie within and without our vibrant community. Rest in peace dear sister and friend. Your light will continue to shine throughout our Order. Details regarding Past Grand President Marie's service will be shared as soon as possible. Donation tributes in memory of PGP Marie may be made to the NDGW Home. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Sherry A. Farley, President of the College of Past Grand Presidents

Approved by:

Grand President



WOUNDED HEROES FUND

Local Heroes. Local Help. | www.thewoundedheroesfund.org



Submitted By: **Leona Sunseri, State Chairman, Veteran's Welfare**

Veteran's Welfare State Chairman Leona Sunseri, and her dedicated and hardworking Committee are extremely proud of their ongoing support of California's veterans. Along with the support of our Grand President Darleen Carpenter, the Native Daughters recently presented a **very generous grant for \$5,000 to the Kern County Veterans Wounded Heroes Fund**. The Wounded Heroes Fund is a service organization for those Veterans and their families affected by the terror of war with a focus on facilitating a healthy transition back to civilian life through support and appreciation. Appreciation might not be as tangible as monetary assistance, but its impact is often more indelible. And our Native Daughter Sisters are glad to provide both!

The Veteran's Welfare Committee was thrilled to visit their facility and presented the grant to the veterans at the Wounded Heroes Fund, who will certainly use the donation to continue their fine work of supporting local veterans in Bakersfield and their transition back from active duty to civilian-life.

During the moving presentation, Valerie Welch and Wendy Porter from the Wounded Heroes Organization shared how difficult it can be for a veteran to feel comfortable back in society. As life goes on back in the states, it can seem like the country is unaware that there is a war raging on in other parts of the world. Oftentimes, simply recognizing the sacrifices and the hardships that our soldiers have experienced can make all the difference in the life of a veteran.

Our Veteran's Welfare Committee is looking for more California Heroes to celebrate; please contact Leona Sunseri if you have a group to honor and recognize in your part of the state.



From Left: Two proud Veteran Heroess, Valerie Welch, WHF; Grand President Darleen Carpenter the grant check to VHF Grant Writer Wendy Porter (center); Leona Sunseri, NDGW Veteran's Welfare State Chairman and two more proud returning Veteran Heroes. Congratulations to the NDGW Veteran's Welfare State Committee!

Junipero Parlor No. 141's Patriotic Parlor Event

Submitted By: Patricia Hoffman, President &
Past President Jerilynn Smith Cariello, Event Chair



On November 11, 2024, a very special Veterans Day event was held at the Casa Serrano during the Junipero Parlor No. 141 in Monterey. Each Member was invited to dress patriotically and to prepare a brief 2-3 minute speech on "*What Veterans Day Means to Me*" or "*Why Veterans Day is Important*". We were thrilled to have over half of our Members in attendance dressed in red, white and blue and ready to participate!

Before the speeches, we initiated four new Sisters: Kimberly Perry, Laura Herbert,

Karen Williston and Katie Mitchell. Following the Ceremony of Initiation, everyone dressed in patriotic attire were invited to parade around the room singing "*I Love You, California*". Next, eleven Members stood in line and presented their short speeches about the meaning of Veterans Day in their lives. Each speech was unique and reflected on many different aspects of being a veteran themselves, having veteran parents or grandparents, teaching the children of veterans and even feeding soldiers sardines in their C-Rations! Afterwards, we ended the evening with a party celebrating our new Members and also celebrating Veterans Day! We all learned more about each other as we celebrated and created memories together. It was a lovely Patriotic evening.



From Left: Jeanette Mazarin, Louise Nelson, Cathy Colum, Scott Brady, Jerilynn Smith Cariello, Patricia Hoffman, Sheryl Latrell, Marilyn Schultz, and Mary Alice Cerrito Fetes proudly celebrate Veterans day in Monterey!



A Season of Giving...How will Your Parlor Help?

Submitted By:

Christine Lewis, Charter Oak Parlor No. 292



Every November Charter Oak Parlor No. 292 works with an Organization in the community to provide meal items to local families in need. In November of

pantry at Hope Horizon Mental Health as needed, This will provide necessary grocery items to families in need year round.



It is the goal of Charter Oak Parlor to continue and expand on our tradition of helping local families in need for years to come.

2024 Charter Oak Parlor Partnered with **Hope Horizon Mental Health** to provide meal baskets to 20 local families in need. The goal was to provide all the necessary component, except the turkey, to make a Holiday meal. We also included dry goods, rice, beans etc., to extend into the upcoming month. Blankets, laundry soap and laundry baskets were provided by Hope Horizon Mental Health to complete the baskets for the families. Starting in 2025, Charter Oak Parlor will provide food items to stock the food



Charter Oak Gives Back All Year!

From Left: Tim Green, Christine Lewis, Brandi Fleischmann, Brenda Green, and Nickie Acevedo help families in their community.

**REINA DEL MAR PARLOR NO. 126 ~ HALF-YEAR ACTIVITIES
SUBMITTED BY: MARY LOUISE DAYS**

Reina Del Mar Parlor No. 126 in Santa Barbara continues to be a busy Parlor of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. The Summer 2024 began with their annual Pre-Fiesta Tea held on July 7 at Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. Guests included board members and past presidents from Old Spanish Days as well as representatives of pioneer families. As tradition he new Saint Barbara was recognized as were past Saint Barbaras. Dance and song entertainers were enjoyed, followed by a social hour with traditional refreshments.

Parlor in the historical parade. She attended the Noches de Ronda show at the County Courthouse, sitting on the stage with other dignitaries and seeing Saint Barbara's appearance before the outdoor audience of thousands. A special treat was the presidente's Mass at Mission Santa Barbara where Grand President Darleen was accompanied by many Native Daughters. This was the 100th anniversary of the first modern Fiesta. An online newspaper carried a very nice story with photos by past el presidente David Bolton

Caroline Wedderburn, the 2024 Saint Barbara selected by Reina del Mar Parlor No. 126, was born in Lemoore. She graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara with a degree in religious studies. She has been a member of the parlor for five years and has served as recording secretary. Caroline is employed by Fielding Graduate University. She has also served on the Education Committee of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and has danced with Baile de California. In a local newspaper Caroline was quoted as saying "It is a tremendous honor....to be selected to portray our city's patron saint, Saint Barbara. I look forward to representing Saint Barbara at various events, not only as a symbol of tradition and heritage but also as a reminder of the values she embodies—resilience, strength, and faith."

Grand President Darleen Carpenter was a welcome guest at many Old Spanish Days Fiesta events, and she enjoyed seeing the Saint Barbara float sponsored by Reina del Mar



entitled *"Fiesta's Saint Barbara Often a Family Tradition."*

Reina del Mar Parlor No. 126 has welcomed several new Members to its ranks who have become active Sisters. The Parlor has carried out charitable projects, such as collecting warm clothing for veterans' organizations and donating to Transition House, a shelter for families. Under the chairmanship of Past President Betty Dominguez, assisted by Parlor



President Leeanne Figueroa, close to \$1,000 in gifts and funds have been given to Transition House in recent months.

Another successful rummage sale was held at the home of financial secretary Julie Hathaway. A Halloween gathering was held at Betty's home. In December a "Jingle Mingle" party was sponsored by members Mary Ellen Chacon and Margaret Mira.

From Left: Historian of the Order Mary Louise Days and the Sisters of Reina Del Mar Parlor welcome ***Grand President Darleen Carpenter (center)*** to Old Spanish Days in Santa Barbara.

Below: Holiday fun with Reina Del Mar



NDGW's 2024 C.F.I.C. CASH FOR CHRISTMAS

Opportunity Drawing a Great Success!

The Native Daughters of the Golden West's Charitable Foundation, Inc. would like to thank all of the generous **Native Daughter and Native Son donors as well as their friends and families** who so kindly supported our recent **CASH for Christmas** drawing!

Thanks to you all, the CFIC raised \$5,025 for our amazing Committees! These funds allow the Committee to continue to support the charitable work we do for our Order. The Native Daughters of the Golden West Charitable Foundation, Inc. was established to provide a 501(c) 3 tax status for our public benefit State Committees:

**Americanism and Civic Participation
California Admission Day
California History, Landmarks, and Historical Buildings
(Sub-Committees: Art Talent and Essay Contests)
California Lighthouse Preservation**

**Education and Scholarships
Environmental Issues
Mission Restoration
Veterans Welfare
Welfare**

All donations made to the NDGW Charitable Foundation or the individual Committees listed above are 100% tax deductible. Your contribution to the *Cash for Christmas* drawing allows all of the funds raised by these Committees to support our wonderful projects.

Congratulations to this year's BIG winners!

- **NSGW Grand Secretary Tom Perazzo, PGP ~ 1st Prize ~ \$500**
- **NDGW Encinal Parlor No. 156, Alameda ~ 2nd Prize ~ \$300**
- **NDGW Member Anna Nastari, San Bruno Parlor no. 246 ~ 3rd Prize ~ \$100**

The Native Daughters of the Golden West Charitable Foundation, Inc. was established to provide IRS 501(c) 3 tax status for our public benefit State Committees:

Special thanks to **GM Renee Rianda and CFIC Member Jenni King** for once again Co-Chairing this essential fundraiser for our Order – THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Dear Minerva,

Native Daughters seems to have several opportunities. I have been wondering how I might become a State Chairman, a Deputy Grand President or even a Grand Officer?

From, Just Wondering

Have you ever wondered about an aspect of Native Daughters? Why not, "Ask Minerva?" Submitted By Assessment and Renewal Committee (ARC) & Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) Members



Hello Just Wondering,

So glad to learn that you are thinking about the future of our Order. We need Sisters like you! Here are the steps to get involved.

State Chairman: The Grand President suggests the State Chairman which are presented to the Board of Directors (Grand Officers) for final approval. You must be a Member of the Order in good standing. It helps to have served as a Committee Member for the Committee you are interested in chairing. It is also important to review the responsibilities of the Chairmanship so you understand the commitment and other expectations. If a Member is a resident of a state that borders California, and she has attended at least two-thirds of her Subordinate Parlor meetings the previous year, she shall be eligible to serve on any State Committee or as a State Chairman

Deputy Grand President A Deputy Grand President must have served as Parlor President for two years, attending at least two-thirds of the meetings, or she may serve concurrently as Past President of a Subordinate Parlor during her appointment as Deputy Grand President. Subordinate Parlor. Members aspiring to a Grand Parlor office shall have previously served at least one year as a Deputy Grand President to a Subordinate Parlor. **Remember,** the Grand Vice President is currently taking suggestions for the State Chairman and Deputy Grand Officer positions. If you are interested in becoming a Grand Officer, please speak to a current Grand Officer or Past Grand Preside

Hope you will step-up to support our Order – We really need Sisters like you!

From, Minerva



El Vespero Parlor No. 118 Celebrates Wreaths Across America Day



Submitted by Kathy Kelly-Breitler, President

On what was a very windy and rainy morning on December 14th, 2024, El Vespero Parlor No. 118 in San Francisco, participated in **Wreaths Across America Day** at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno. The Parlor purchased 12 wreaths and were proud to join approximately 200 other volunteers in placing evergreen wreaths on 2,000 graves in a designated section of the cemetery.

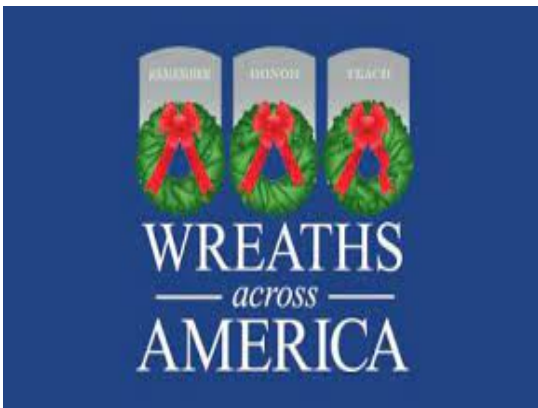
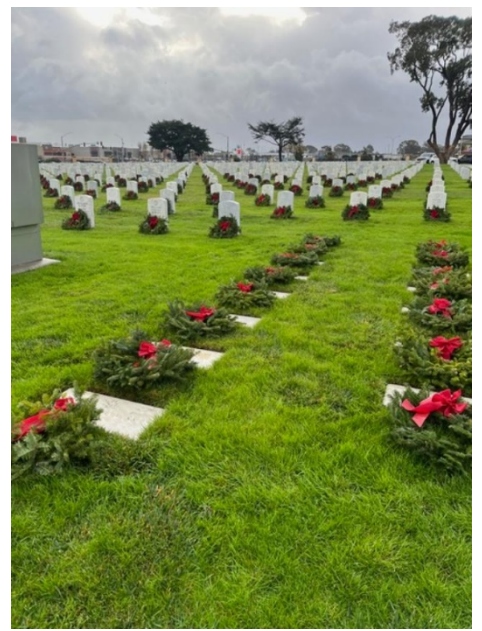


Volunteers were instructed to announce the name on each headstone aloud as they placed the wreaths, this moving ceremony ensures that all of the fallen heroes honored live on in our hearts and memories and are always remembered. Even though it was raining and wet, it was a wonderful way to honor those who have fought for our country and for our freedoms. El Vespero looks forward to participating again next year on December 13th. If you or your Parlor would like to participate or purchase a wreath, please visit wreathscrossamerica.org.

Wreath-laying ceremonies are held at the Arlington National Cemetery and at more than 3,100 other participating locations around the country. *Wreaths Across America* strives to remember our fallen heroes. The day honors those who served and reminds us about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedoms. Remember. Honor. Teach.

Left: Member Mary Ann Meyers braves the wind and the rain to help place the wreaths on the graves at the Golden Gate Cemetery.

Below Center: El Vespero Parlor President Kathy Kelly-Breitler presents a wreath for a fallen hero remembered in San Bruno, California.



Let's Help California Teens Meet their Future!

Submitted By: **Sandra Firpo**

Public Relations and Community Outreach Committee (PRACO)

Think back to your first job. Or the first time someone showed confidence in you or mentored you. Parents can't do it all, sometimes it takes an "outsider" to make a difference and impact the direction of a young person's future.

As Native Daughters of the Golden West, we have a vested interest in the future of the young people of California.

Through our Public Relations and Community Outreach Committee (PRACO) we'll be hosting a **Teen Job Interview Workshop** sometime in the spring at the NDGW Home. This will be for high school juniors and seniors in time for applying to summer internships and jobs.

If YOU are a professional with up-to-date skills in hiring, presenting, interviewing, writing resumes, and soft skills such as shaking hands, what to wear, how to welcome someone in a professional setting, you enjoy working with young people and would like to lend a hand, please let us know by emailing Sandra at: kgosandra@gmail.com

**TEEN JOB INTERVIEW
WORKSHOP**

HOSTED BY NDGW PRACO AT THE NDGW HOME!
(PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH)

**Do YOU have experience in hiring?
Presenting? Resume Writing?**

**HAND SHAKE &
FIRST IMPRESSION**

RESUME WRITING

INTERVIEW SKILLS

THANK YOU EMAIL / NOTE

WHAT TO WEAR?

STANDING OUT

LET'S HELP CALIFORNIA TEENS MEET THEIR FUTURE!
Want to lend a hand? Email us at: kgosandra@gmail.com

What Happens with my NDGW Dues??!!

**Submitted By: Darleen Carpenter, Grand President & Past Finance Chair
(Re-printed by popular demand!)**

As you know, we all pay dues to our Subordinate Parlors and a portion of our dues are then paid to Grand Parlor via (per capita assessments –sometimes called “Per-capita tax”). You might ask, “What do I get for this?” Well, let me explain.

Every non-profit incurs administrative costs to assist with managing the organization and to provide services for its members. Our Native Daughters of the Golden West organization is no different.

The bulk of our income is generated from dues (per capita), interest from our investments, and a small amount of administrative fees from our state Committees for service rendered to those Committees.

We are fortunate that we own our NDGW building so there is no rent to be paid, but we do have property taxes to pay along with utilities to light and heat the building. We also need staff to answer the phones, send monthly mailings, provide supplies to Parlors as requested, maintain our membership records, and maintain the Grand Parlor Office. We also have a bookkeeper who makes deposits, issues check, processes payroll and payroll taxes, provides monthly reports to our Committees, bills Parlors for Per capita and insurance, records and manages the books of the Order and coordinates our Annual Tax returns (required by law) with the CPA. There are also costs for phone, office supplies, postage, cleaning, CPA fees, insurance, legal, California Star.

Additionally, there are also costs for the GPAM as mandated by our Books of the Order for our annual meeting which is required by law to maintain our non-profit status.



So, as you can see, the dues you pay are vital to operating our organization and servicing the needs of our members, maintaining our non-profit status, and preserving California history and continuing our programs and projects.

Thank you to all of our Sisters for being Members of the Native Daughters of the Golden West; your membership (donations, and volunteerism!) truly helps A LOT!!



**Native Daughters of
the Golden West**
MEMBER

ART CONTEST

PRIZES

PICTURE FRAME CHALLENGE

**FILL A PICTURE FRAME WE/YOU PROVIDE WITH YOUR
ARTWORK NO BIGGER THAN 20" X 30"
NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED.**

FABRIC ARTS/QUILTS

**Quilts must be no larger than 48" by 48" (lap quilt) . Wall
hanging art must be no bigger than "36 by 36" and under
20lbs.**

**MEMBER
ART**

**DISPLAYED
AT GPAM**

FINE ARTS

**ANY 2 OR 3 DIMINSIONAL FINE ARTS,
PHOTOGRAPHY OR CRAFTS UTILIZING ANY MEDIUM
OR PROCESS ARE ALLOWED. ENTRIES MUST NOT
EXCEED 36" BY 36" OR 20 LBS.**

***ENTRIES SHOULD REFLECT THE THEME
"WHAT MAKES CALIFORNIA WONDERFUL"***

**NO ENTRY FEE IS REQUIRED
ALL ARTWORK MUST HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITHIN
TWO YEARS OF SUBMISSION**

**DUE BY
JUNE 1**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STATE CHAIRMAN BRANDI FLEISCHMANN
AT (208)250-7777**

Approved: GP Darleen Carpenter 

NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

STUDENT ART CONTEST

"WHAT MAKES CALIFORNIA WONDERFUL"

ALL ENTRIES MUST IN SOME WAY HONOR THE SPECIAL
THEME.

ENTRIES MAY INCLUDE ANY 2 OR 3 DIMENSIONAL ART,
PHOTOGRAPHY OR CRAFT.

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS GRADES 9-12
ENTRIES MUST NOT EXCEED 20" BY 30" OR 20LBS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT STATE CHAIRMAN BRANDI FLEISCHMANN AT (208)250-7777

AWARDS

NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED
SUBMISSIONS DUE BY JUNE 1 2025

Approved:
GP Darleen Carpenter

Darleen Carpenter

Welcome to our New Sisters!

Marguerite No. 12: Marilyn Glass

Califia No. 22: Jennifer Sander

Ruby No. 46: Shari Folendorf

San Jose No. 81: Janice Ricker

Reina del Mar No. 126: Meredith Brace,
Laura Garcia

Junipero No. 141: Laura Hbert,
Katherine Mitchell

Kimberly Perry, Karen Williston

Encinal No. 156: Rene Rasmussen, Sharon Ratto

San Juan Bautista No. 179: Melanie Anastasi,
Ana Garcia

Fresno No. 187: Judy Bufkin, Charlotte Tilkes

Rancho La Puente No. 331: Tracy Davila

Amapola No. 338: Cathy Snyder



Sadly, our Sisters we have lost...

Joaquin No. 5: Genevieve Johnson

Laurel No. 6: Laura Argento, Brita Rozynski

Ruby No. 46: Barbara Erickson

Mariposa No. 63: Joann Webb

Forrest No. 86: Kren Kelso, Linda Lee Morrison, PSP

Sutter No. 111: Barbara Mallette, Lois Norris

Nataqua No. 152: RoseMarie Bejeck, Elva Weir

El Pinal No. 163: Karen Biaggini

Sonoma No. 209: Jean Morenzoni

Grace No. 242: Marie M. Otto, PGP

Lomitas No. 255: Katherine Yribarren

Sonoma No. 209: Jean Morenzoni

Rancho La Puente No. 331: Dolores Kissinger



Sending well wishes to our
California Star
Publishing Partner, Kathleen
Valerio and her husband
NSGW GT Dennis Valerio.
We hope you are both feeling better.
We miss you!



