

Gold Star Wives Southwest Region 2022 Conference in Las Vegas

On April 8 & 9, 2022 the members of the Southwest Region held their annual conference in Las Vegas hosted by the Las Vegas Valley Chapter. This was a hybrid conference, 16 members attended in person and 16 members attend through Zoom.

The conference started out Friday afternoon with the members assembling in the Hospitality Suite at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino. Members received great swag bags with snacks and goodies, the bags had bunnies peeking into them.



Friday night everyone met at the infamous Leatherneck Club, which is a bar and grill owned and operated by Marines for Marines and the military! There we enjoyed a no-host dinner where the members had a surprise greeting by Lieutenant General E.R. “Buck” Bedard, USMC (ret) and Dan O’Connell, Commandant of the State of Nevada Marine Corps League. Lieutenant General Bedard welcomed the group and recognized a member, Carol Ellinger, who was in the women Marines as well as those whose late husbands were Marines. Everyone enjoyed the “Best Burgers” in Vegas!



The Saturday business meeting was held at the Palace Station. The conference theme was “Encourage and Empower Our Youth.” The Rancho High School JROTC presented the colors for the opening ceremonies.



Music for the Memorial Service was performed by Caring Voices from the Las Vegas Master Singers. Before the Memorial Service the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Unit 14 from Las Vegas (girls under age 18) presented towel teddy bears with Gold Stars that they had made for

each attendee. They also handed out red poppies to everyone. An 8-year-old Gold Star Child hand-decorated over 15 bags used in the raffle drawings for the numerous donated gifts.

The day ended with a dinner banquet with the introduction of Judy Cobb, the Adult Advisor for the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors, and the Keynote speaker was Lieutenant Colonel Mike Richmond, USAF (ret), JROTC Senior Instructor, Rancho High School. The Banquet concluded with the installation of the new officers.

A good time was had by all!

