

Minutes of the
Department Executive Committee
August 25, 2019
10:00 a.m. – National Convention

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Penny Mazonna, NEC
Jane Larson, Department President
Yvonne Lamm, 1st Vice President
Anarene Robinson, 2nd Vice President\
April Sinclair, Historian
Diana Estrada, Treasurer
Barbara Nath, Secretary
Susan Caswell, PDP
Sharon Cherrette, PDP
Beverly Eads, PDP
Sue Waldhaus, PDP
Lisa Williamson, PDP
Michelle Porecca, Unit 57
Tonya Halliday, Unit 20 (Page)
Lori Fruhwirth, Unit 11 (Page)

OPENING CEREMONIES

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to dispense with opening ceremonies except for the Prayer and Pledge

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The prayer was offered by April Sinclair (Unit 57).

The pledge was led by Jane Larson, Department President.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no Unfinished Business to come before the DEC.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratify Committee Appointments – the following committee appointments were not set at the Department Convention in April. They will need to be ratified.

- Christmas Gift Project (Anchorage) – Amy Bell Unit 1
- Legislative – Penny Mazonna Unit 33
- National Security – Penny Mazonna Unit 33
- VAVS Kenai Deputy – Tonya Halliday Unit 20

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson Unit 57 and seconded by Anarene Robinson Unit 33 to ratify the following committee chair appointments

- Christmas Gift Project (Anchorage) – Amy Bell Unit 1
- Legislative – Penny Mazonna Unit 33
- National Security – Penny Mazonna Unit 33
- VAVS Kenai Deputy – Tonya Halliday Unit 20

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Appointments Remaining to be filled:

- Finance 3rd Year Committee member still needs to be filled

PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Amy Bell reported no resolutions. There was a discussion regarding grants to help members in emergency needs. They talked about flood, fires, etc. Oklahoma reported that they had a member who lost everything. They made 15,000 meals and gained 25 new members from that. A recommendation was made to educate on eligibility. There were 35 grants denied because units are holding memberships. If you are paid up on dues and are current, you can qualify. You must have been a member for 3 years. There were no awards for Alaska. A couple of fundraisers were mentioned. One was a water bottle challenge. Someone fills a water bottle with money, empties the money and pass it on to someone else to fill with money and on and on. The other was a coin challenge. The Western District contributed the largest amount per capita/

Children and Youth – Anarene Robinson reported that there were no resolutions, recommendations or awards. She also noted that the Josh Dogs are now done. The owner of the company passed away and the company has closed down. They may come back in the future, but not at this time. There are a lot of amazing you who are doing amazing things. They are not fearful. They look at their past and see that their grandfathers and other family members were not fearful and they determine they will not be fearful either. The Youth Hero Award is for all the amazing youth across the nation. The age limit is high school. Any award applications should be sent to the Department Secretary and the Children and Youth Chair.

History – Anarene Robinson reported that there were no awards, resolutions or recommendations. Be sure to talk to elders to get historical information (when did you join). The question could be changed to why did you join. Encourage our elders to write down their history. Ann explained that Alaska changed history and had a double installation with both Junior and Senior members. National like that idea. We were encouraged to mentor the committee chairs.

Liaison to Child Welfare – Anarene Robinson noted that they did not want the history committee recommendation to be passed. They felt it was too much work for one person. They also did not want the recommendation regarding the Past Presidents Parley to pass. It was noted that it was only at the National level that the recommendation would apply. They do not have to be applied on the Department level.

Community Service – Beverly Eads reported that there was 100% reporting at year end. There were no resolutions, no recommendations and no awards for Alaska.

Education – April Sinclair stated that there were no resolutions, no recommendations and no awards. There is a potential for a new scholarship. Different ideas were given for fundraising/recognition. Don't forget the unit scholarships. If you want to read to students in a school, you must be vetted through the School District. Don't forget to use social media. You can also check into different reading programs.

Constitution and Bylaws – Barb Nath reported that there are nine proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. It was recommended that amendments #1-6 and #8 and #9 be adopted. For amendment #7, it was noted that the Poppy Committee should remain and with that back in it was recommended that it also be adopted.

Credentials – Barb Nath reported that there are a total of 739 delegates at this Convention. There were no resolutions, recommendations or awards for Alaska.

Resolutions – Barb Nath reported that the only resolutions would be courtesy resolutions. There were no recommendations or awards for Alaska.

Rules – Barb Nath reported that the rules for the Convention could be found on page 124. They would come up for passage on the floor. There were no resolutions, recommendations or awards for Alaska.

Past Presidents Parley – Debbie Lowndes reported that there is a recommendation to move the Woman of the Year Award to the National Leadership Committee and the Service Member of the Year Award to the National Security Committee, and to dissolve the National PPP Committee and incorporate it under National Leadership.

ALA Girls Nation – Anarene Robinson and Debbie Lowndes reported for Girls Nation. It reported that ALA Girls Nation is a premier program. She mentioned a fundraising suggestion which was for people to take old ALA shirts in our closets to make bags and then sell them for donation to Girls State. ALA did \$69,000 for children, \$89,000 for The American Legion and \$427,000 for Sons of the American Legion. They also talked about an e-unit for alumni. A suggestion was made to invite a veteran to speak on Legion Night (the Appreciation Dinner for Alaska). The possibility of outsourcing to different companies and business was also discussed.

Finance – Diana Estrada noted that the biggest discussion was that audits are not being done. Alaska does it on the Department level and not on unit level. 990s need to be done. If they are not done you can lose your EIN and it takes about \$600 and six months of work to get it reinstated.

National History – Beverly Eads stated there were no resolutions, no recommendations and no awards for Alaska. People talking to elders should be sure to get the full story from them. One unit did a tree with members' names and a little statement. Bring your colors next year for National Convention.

Junior Activities – Beverly Eads reported there were no resolutions, no recommendations and no awards for Alaska. They did have 100% reporting at both mid-year and end-year. There are new scholarships available. They can apply for a \$2,500 scholarship. They must continue their membership moving to the Senior level. It has to be the first year of college. The incoming National President, Nicole Clapp, had been an Honorary National Junior President

Poppy – Lori Fruhwirth noted that there were no resolutions, no recommendations and no awards for Alaska. She also noted that South Dakota has 100,000 for sale. Barb will check in regarding costs and report at the Fall Workshop. It was suggested that the incoming Poppy Chairs make a connection with the schools around their state. She mentioned the website www.shineapples.com and encouraged people to visit it. The web site states: *“Just as every apple is quite unique, so are we as humans. Shineapples share, help, inspire, nurture and empower those in their community country and world.”*

ALA Foundation – Lori Fruhwirth stated there are three requests to bring to Departments and Units.

- We can't award grants without money, so please donate.
- Apply for Grants (i.e. grant for Girls State)
- Consider serving on the Foundation Board (they don't have any Board members from west of Kansas).

There were no resolutions, recommendations or awards for Alaska.

Legislative – Penny Mazonna said this committee had no resolutions, no recommendations and no awards for Alaska. They were encouraged to have a collective voice as a family to communicate with lawmakers. You can use social media to boost communications. Contact all levels of government and encourage lawmakers to come to events. They had 100% reporting. Make sure you are aware of upcoming concerns and issues. The National Legion office will release information about issues and concerns for the national organization so we know what to talk about for the next legislative session. The Washington Conference is the first weekend in March. All units/posts are encouraged and highly recommended to participate in town hall activities/meetings. Veteran Service Officers can help those that aren't comfortable approaching legislators.

National Security – Penny Mazonna reported that there were no resolutions, recommendations or awards from this committee. There was a conference call for Department Chairs and 37 of 52 departments participated. Arkansas made pamphlets to identify issues of concerns to be addressed. We should encourage people to look up what the handbook says that National Security covers. We support veterans, active duty personnel, and their families. You could have a kid's night and provide free babysitting so parents can do something. Get out there and do what you need to do to support. Show people who we are and what we do.

Leadership – Sue Caswell stated there were no resolutions and no awards. A couple of recommendations were made.

- Encourage all members to join the leadership group on Facebook.
- Make sure everyone feels important.
- Work with rogue units to make them feel important and included. They need someone to work with them.
- Encourage every unit to pay the \$10 for the ALAMIS program.
- Use the ALA Academy.
- New members can't use the website without a membership number.

Chaplain – Sue Waldhaus noted there were no resolutions. It was pointed out that we are: “One body, one soul, one spirit.” We are sisterhood, we are a family and we should be unified. The Chaplain isn't just for saying a prayer at a meeting. Use your chaplain when there is a Celebration of Life or when remembering a family member. The Chaplain says if the tongue speaks with kindness it will bring in membership. Pray for your members, do small acts of kindness, use inspirational handouts, always welcome people, and apply the golden rule, Chaplains exemplify what ALA stands for. Whatever we do reflects on our organization. Proverbs 31:26: She opens her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. This is what a Chaplain should be.

Americanism – Sue Waldhaus stated that there was 100% reporting and an increase in the submission of photos to the Auxiliary Magazine and to local departments. It was recommended that more assistance be given to the American Legion with the oratorical and shooting contests. Do anything we can to help with that. The number of participants are not as high as they would like to see. The Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program Award for the Western Division was given to Washington. The Western Division Best Department Americanism Award was given to California. The Essay Contest winners in the Western Division were

1. New Mexico
2. Utah
3. Nevada
4. Utah
5. Washington
6. New Mexico

Public Relations – Tonya Halliday stated that we should publicize what we do and utilize social media. Be sure to thank your members. It is recommended that we are walking, talking billboards for this organization. Members were encouraged to find the PSA that Florida put out. There were ideas for public relations – quilt of valor, branded clothing, bulk mailings, PSAs, newspaper article, wearing red on Fridays (remember those deployed). There were no resolutions or awards for Alaska.

100th Anniversary – Tonya Halliday noted there were no resolutions, nor were there any awards for Alaska. We are celebrating 100 years of “Service not Self”. Departments were reminded to bring their colors to the next National Convention. We should find the oldest living member and the longest member to put on our Facebook page. They want to know how we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary at the Unit/District/Department level. It should be posted on our Facebook pages.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson and seconded by Ann Robinson to put Tonya Halliday of the 100th Anniversary Committee.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Membership – Von Lamm stated that National has informed us that as a group we have 43,718 new members. It was recommended that we take advantage of online renewals and let new members know they can join online. Of the new members, 4,542 were Juniors, 4,056 gave no age, and the remainder were Senior members. It was noted that younger members don’t want to sit around and talk about what to do, they just want to do it. Von is looking into an ALA Girls State e-unit. There were 60 new units chartered this year. Make sure all units have at least 10 members. It was highly recommended to work harder on retaining members. Celebrate with your members. Come together to have fun, not just to work.

VA&R – Jane Larson noted that there were no resolutions, recommendations or awards for Alaska. It was noted that Ann and Sue had perfect attendance. The Director of VA Services talked to those present. The Volunteer of the Year is 97 years old and has been doing it for 63 years with 23,000 hours of service.

INFORMATIONAL

There will be a fundraiser at the Fall Workshop on Saturday night. A calendar raffle exists. We will sell 1,000 and there will be one winner each day with 365 chances to be a winner.

There are Team Alaska shirts and jackets. Order forms were available.

Sharon Cherrette noted there is a new post out of Eagle River.

April had requested that we assist with the purchase of pajamas. She is planning to deliver them and asked if anyone wanted to go with.

Sharon stated that beginning October 1st she is the Department Adjutant and will be working with Kelly.

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Silent Auction – If you still have items, please turn them in.
- Department Pins – Pins are \$1.50 per pin or \$15 for 11 pins
- Fall Workshop – This is scheduled for October 19th at Susitna Valley Post 35
- Parade Information – We will meet in this room at 2:00 p.m. for the parade. There will not be transportation for those utilizing scooters. Please leave early and be at the staging area. There will be a van shuttle for others.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the DEC, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.