

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 20, 2019
(Susitna Valley Post 35 – Wasilla)**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson
1st Vice President Yvonne Lamm
2nd Vice President Ann Robinson
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Colleen Newman
Historian April Sinclair
Executive Committeewoman Frances Bedel
Executive Committeewoman Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Chair Yvonne Lamm
Americanism Chair Kathy Moore
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Zona Gregg
Children and Youth Chair April Sinclair
Community Service Chair Frances Bedel
Distinguished Guests Chair Penny Mazonna
Finance Chair Sharon Cherrette
History Chair April Sinclair
Junior Activities Chair Danielle Larson
Leadership Chair Sue Caswell
Legislative Chair Penny Mazonna
Membership Chair Yvonne Lamm
National Security Chair Penny Mazonna
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chair Anarene Robinson

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT:

UNITS

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
George H. Plumley Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Susan Caswell
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus

EXCUSED:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Sue Diaz

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Chair Sue Diaz
Constitution and Bylaws Chair Sue Diaz
Past Presidents Parley Chair Debbie Lowndes

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Sue Diaz
Linda Schmitt
Debbie Lowndes

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Education and Scholarship Chair Sharon Dillon
Poppy Chair Nancy Hoskins
Public Relations Chair Lori Wolfe

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Seward Unit 5
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Ruth Brown	Betty Bumala	Laverne Kearns
Evelyn Oliver	June Haas	Lori FitzSimons
Betty Porter	Lavonne Collier	Eva Aulston
Jean Clayton	Etta Singleton	Carolyn Null
Wilma Stokes	Rehta Foster	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Francisca Guilford	Lynn Bash
Beverly Eads	Barbe Wolkoff	

OPENING CEREMONIES

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded by Marge Claussen-Grimm (Unit 57) to dispense with all opening ceremonies

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) and seconded by April Sinclair (Unit 57) to have the Chaplain review the list of Past Department Presidents in an effort to remove those who are deceased from the roll call.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Juniors came into the meeting to show their project. They had completed 52 Quit Kits for the VA. They also had 32 toiletry items. In addition, they noted that they had been working on an item which will be disclosed at the Department Convention in April, 2020

VAVS Report – Linda Schmitt had sent in a report regarding VAVS Pins and Hours. The following would be receiving pins and/or hour bars:

Katherine Pinky Bleth (Unit 5).....	Pin plus 500 hours
Sharon Dillon (Unit 5).....	Pin plus 300 hours
Barbara Hommel (Unit 6).....	Pin plus 300 hours
Heidi Armstrong (Unit 6).....	Pin plus 50 hours
Rania Corri (Unit 6).....	Pin plus 200 hours
Ann Robinson (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 1,000 hours
Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 1,500 hours
Sue Caswell (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 400 hours
Marge Blankenship (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 400 hours
Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 400 hours
Debbie Lowndes (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 400 hours
Dixie Bolgiano (Unit 33).....	Pin plus 400 hours

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is a need for a 3rd Year Finance Committee position. Marge Blankenship was suggested to fill the position.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2019 minutes.

The following corrections were noted:

- Lori Fruhwirth was on the list as absent but she did attend
- On page 3, the Past President's Parley was to go under Leadership.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with the noted corrections.

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The following positions needed to be ratified:

Leadership – Sue Caswell
Finance – Marge Blankenship
Public Relations – Beverly Eads
Girls State Co Chair – Lori Fruhwirth

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to ratify the following:

Leadership – Sue Caswell
Finance – Marge Blankenship
Public Relations – Beverly Eads
Girls State Co Chair – Lori Fruhwirth

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Penny Mazonna spoke to the wash cloth project. People have been making washcloths and Ann has been distributing them. Penny thanked people from her unit and all others who had contributed. They currently have over 300 washcloths for distribution.

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to make the washcloth project an ongoing project for the Department.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Yvonne Lamm and seconded by Ann Robinson to waive the Department per capita dues for female veterans for 2020.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ann reported that the VA is looking for organizations to support PowerUp stations. They found a company who will make the station. They would like the Department to have the first power up station in our VA. We would like it to be branded if possible. The Department would donate \$500 and the VA will cover the rest. It will be ADA compliant,

MOTION: by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) and seconded by Frances Bedel (Unit 57) to purchase one Power Up station to go to the VA.

Diana confirmed that we did have the money necessary to do so. At this time, we are only asking for one power up station. If it works, there is a possibility of more stations.

Sue Caswell felt that a plaque would be provided.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

April Sinclair stated that Unit 57 has been chairing the switch from the Fairbanks gift shop to a Fairbanks Gift Project. They do not hold a gift shop (similar to the Domiciliary Gift Shop). They are currently receiving \$750. They have been spending closer to \$1,000 and asked for an increase.

MOTION: by April Sinclair (Unit 57) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to increase the amount given to Fairbanks for the Gift Project program to \$1,000.

- Sue Waldhaus asked how many bags they were giving out. At this time it is 120 but they are looking to increase that number. Meals on Wheels in Fairbanks has asked for bags that they can also distribute to assure that all veterans are getting a bag. We may have to look at logistics to determine how many can be done and how to make it happen.
- If we increase Fairbanks, will we increase Anchorage?
- Amy Bell noted that Anchorage is being asked for hypoallergenic items.
- There has been talk about using Meals on Wheel in Anchorage.
- Small puzzles could be included.
- We will still do the Christmas Gift Shop in Anchorage (which they don't do in Fairbanks)
- It was suggested that a statewide request be put out by Fairbanks to our units and get their assistance.
- Some bags go to staff (who are also military) and to non-veteran individuals (if there are extra bags)

The motion carried with one opposition.

Marge asked about the Anchorage Christmas Project (bags). Amy will send out information about this after the workshop.

The challenge from the Fall Workshop regarding membership was met by Unit 35 (\$135) and Unit 57 (upping their challenge to \$157).

ALA FOUNDATION GRANT

Barb asked for permission to submit a grant application to the ALA Foundation for a variety of banners. The maximum amount that will be granted would be \$10,000 with the Department being responsible for providing a 20% match (up to \$2,000).

MOTION: by Barbara Nath (Unit 20) and seconded Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to authorize an application to the ALA Foundation for an amount up to \$10,000 for an assortment of banners to be utilized for branding our activities.

Diana stated that we do have the funds to meet the match.

The motion carried by voice vote with one abstention.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) reported that the American Legion had determined that the Department Convention in April, 2020 will be a three-day convention. The American Legion rescinded the resolution at the DEC held at National in August. Dates will be April 23 – 25. There will be the American Legion DEC meeting on Thursday. The Riders and the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday evening. The Auxiliary will meet at 5:00 p.m. and Riders will meet at 7:00 p.m. All entities will review the agenda.

Sharon also noted that Art Bell was in the ER Thursday evening. He has some medical issues that will be long term. Last night there was a special American Legion DEC and he was removed from office. Hunter Davis is the acting Commander at this time. Hunter will be able to run if he so desires at the next convention for Commander.

Sharon Cherrette will be the Department Adjutant effective October 1, 2019.

MOTION: by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) and seconded by Von Lamm (Unit 33) to discontinue the Silent Auction at the Department Convention.

The Junior Auxiliary members have voted to stop doing the Silent Auction at the Department Convention. It is not making as much money as it has. In addition, it is felt that children should not be in the bar selling tickets. They want to try something new and are suggesting a bake sale by donation with local units hosting. It was felt that fundraising should occur at the unit level for the Juniors. There could also be donations made at the Department Convention.

Comments included:

- Ann Robinson (Unit 33) stated that parents want their Juniors to have fun and not be responsible for the silent auction. In addition, Juniors are very excited and energetic in the morning and less so in the evening. We need to treat the Juniors like the Auxiliary Members and not use them to sell items.
- Colleen Newman (Unit 35) pointed out that if a bake sale is held, there will need to be a discussion. The kitchen at Post 35 is an approved kitchen. Diana noted that if an event is being paid for, the food must be prepared in that kitchen (as opposed to bringing in donations). Tonya Halliday stated it might be cheaper to make a cash donation. Bake sales don't tend to raise a lot of money.
- April Sinclair (Unit 57) reminded everyone that this was just a suggestion by the Juniors. It doesn't have to be a bake sale and it doesn't have to be at Department Convention. We have elected our Juniors and we should allow them to have their ideas.
- Bake sales do not make a lot of money and maybe having people make a donation would be a better idea.

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- Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) was in support of not making the Juniors do the silent auction. Her child most disliked having to deal with inebriated people in order to sell tickets. We need to have the Juniors in a safe environment and for them to have fun and enjoy each other's company.
- The motion is to end the silent auction and we can let the Juniors decide what they want to do.
- At the end of the day, the Juniors can be excused. They could then come together and have a fun evening somewhere and can relax. Hopefully this will mean more Juniors attend. The Alaska Girls State Chair is sending out monthly emails with ideas of what they can do with their meeting. We want to build the Juniors.
- We have taught our Juniors and they are on the right track. They've learned to speak out and let the American Legion Auxiliary know how they feel and some changes they would like to make.
- Whatever they come up with, their cut off time for activities should be 5:00 p.m.
- The Silent Auction did approximately \$2,500 and has dropped in the last few years.
- Whatever they come up with should be approved by the Post that is hosting the Convention.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Approximately \$1,428 was raised to support Lisa Williamson in her efforts to become the National President for the American Legion Auxiliary.

MOTION: by Jane Larson (Unit 35) and seconded by Marge Blankenship (Unit 28) to have a raffle for the walking stick that was donated.

It is important to be sure it is stable. The suggestion was made to indicate that the walking stick is decorative only and not intended to be used as a walking stick

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

There was talk of the possibility of an e-unit for Juniors who live out of state. It was pointed out that they are members in Alaska. It is important to get information out to everyone. The current chair has a vision to know what they Juniors are doing. We should get them back to the post/unit and have meetings at the same time. Juniors need to know what is going on and how they can get involved. If Juniors don't see Auxiliary members, they don't feel like they are a part of us. For those who are out of state, encourage units to get information to them and to join the meeting online. A conference call in number can be set up through Free Conference Call and does not have a charge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lisa still has some shirts for sale.
- Lisa thanked everyone for what was done this weekend for her. It means a lot to know there are a lot people behind her.
- Ann Robinson stated this has been an absolutely wonderful workshop. She thanked Jane who is a wonderful president.
- Jane received a standing ovation.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the DEC, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.