

Minutes of the
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA
DEC MEETING
(August 26, 2018 – Convention Hospitality Suite, Minneapolis)

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Lowndes at 10:01 a.m.

Delegates and Alternates to the 2018 National Convention

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Amy Bell (Unit 1) | Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) |
| April Sinclair (Unit 57) | Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) |
| Barbara Nath (Unit 20) | Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) |
| Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33) | Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) |
| Beverly Eads (Unit 17) | Susan Caswell (Unit 33) |
| Debbie Lowndes (Unit 33) | Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) |
| Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) | Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) |

Present:

National Officers

National NEC Lisa Williamson
Alternate NEC Penny Mazonna

Department Officers

President Debbie Lowndes
2nd Vice-President Yvonne Lamm
Secretary Barbara Nath
Sgt. at Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair

Committee Chairmen

Americanism Sue Waldhaus
ALA Alaska Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Distinguished Guests Lisa Williamson
Education and Scholarship April Sinclair
Legislative Sue Waldhaus
Membership Yvonne Lamm
National Security Lisa Williamson
Past President Parley Barbe Wolkoff
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth

Units

Jack Henry Post 1
Dorman H Baker Unit 11
Robert G Blair Unit 17
George H Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
C Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell
Sharon Cherrette
Beverly Eads
Penny Mazonna
Sue Waldhaus
Lisa Williamson
Barbe Wolkoff

Absent

Department Officers

1st Vice-President Jane Larson
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Historian Ann Robinson
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Executive Committeewoman Ann Foley

Committee Chairmen

Audit Linda Schmitt
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Cavalcade of Memories Ann Robinson
Children and Youth Ann Robinson
Community Service Kathy Moore
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Finance Jane Larson
Junior Activities vacant
Leadership Colleen Newman
Legislative Marge Blankenship
Public Relations Lori Wolfe
VA&R Jane Larson

Units

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Susitna Valley Unit 35
Peter Heyano Unit 442

Past Department Presidents

Ruth Brown
Evelyn Oliver
June Haas
Lori FitzSimons
Betty Porter
Lavonne Collier
Eva Aulston
Betty Bumala

Jean Clayton
Judy Pusti
Etta Singleton
Carolyn Null
Wilma Stokes
Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson
Louise Kearns

Betty Randall
Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Rehta Foster
Linda Schmitt

PARADE INFORMATION

Michael Downs was present from the American Legion, Department of Alaska. He announced that the parade has been moved indoors. More information will be texted as it becomes available.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Debbie Lowndes read a note from National President Diane Duscheck regarding her visit to Alaska.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to come before the Department Executive Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratify Committee Appointments

MOTION: Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to ratify the appointment of Ann Robinson as the VAVS Representative and as the Chair for the Children and Youth Committee.

Marge Blankenship has resigned as the VAVS Representative. The Chair for the Children and Youth Committee had originally been someone who filled the chairmanship last year. The chair for that committee can only be for one year.

Concern was raised over the fact that these are two very active assignments. Members present felt that Ann would be able to fulfill the duties of both assignments.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Chairmanships

The Chair for the Junior Activities Committee (Sharon Dillon) had resigned indicating she would not be able to attend the Department Convention in 2019. President Lowndes is working with Penny Mazonna to write an SOP for Junior Activities. This is something that Penny feels is necessary to provide guidance to the Chair of this committee. Patty Mazonna was suggested for this committee, but her schedule may not allow her. She will be approached. Penny indicated she is available to assist. In writing the SOP, Penny will contact some of the senior members who have been part of the Juniors and get ideas from them.

We are currently missing VAVS Deputies for Anchorage and Kenai. This involves four meetings a year, which can be joined electronically. Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) stated she would be willing to fill the Anchorage Deputy position. While requests have been made for the Kenai Deputy, no one has yet accepted that position.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) asked who was filling the position of the 3rd Year Board members for Girls State. It was noted that Pat Francois (Unit 33) filled that position.

Anchorage and Fairbanks Christmas Project Chairs still need to be filled. April Sinclair (Unit 57) will be the chair for the Fairbanks Christmas Gift Project.

MOTION: By Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) to ratify the following appointments:

VAVS Deputy for Anchorage – Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29)
Third Year's Girls State Board Member – Pat Francois (Unit 33)
Fairbanks Christmas Project – April Sinclair (Unit 57)

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

National Executive Committeewoman – Lisa Williamson noted that she is in line for Chair of the National Education Committee. Committee appointments will be approved on the Convention floor this week. Lisa reported that it is anticipated that there will be some changes occurring regarding the National Executive Committee which would involve the Board that meets to take action between the regular National Executive Committee meetings. If it is approved, the members will include the President, the Vice President, Division Vice-President and two National Executive Committee members. It has been confirmed that an NEC can hold a national committee assignment and remain an NEC.

At the Department Convention in April, Lisa had informed those present that she had been approached for a national committee and that if that occurred she would resign as Alaska’s NEC. If she resigned, Penny Mazonna (alternate NEC) would take over that position and the Department President would become the alternate.

Lisa has spoken with Penny who is in agreement to have Lisa retain the NEC position and Penny retain the Alternate NEC position. It was asked that the DEC concur with this since it was different from what was announced in April.

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to maintain Lisa Williamson as the Alaska NEC.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lisa requested a co-chair for National Security and asked if that could be Penny Mazonna (Unit 33).

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) to approve Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) as the co-chair for the National Security Committee.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Junior Activities (Amy Bell) – There were no resolutions. The goal is to find Senior members to work with and mentor the Juniors, and to recruit more Junior members. Recommendations were made regarding ways to raise money for National Junior meetings. Many departments shared what they had done including duck racing, receiving donations from their department, holding dinners and having bake sales. Another area was keeping Juniors interested. Some of those included inviting them into the Senior programs, helping with poppies, and hosting camps and workshops. Alaska did not receive any awards.

ALA Girls Nation (Amy Bell) – There were no resolutions. Updates were given regarding fostering relationships, social media, a succession plan, and more awareness for ALA Girls State and Girls Nation. There were no recommendations. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Education (April Sinclair) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. However, it was reported that there was 100% reporting for the year. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Credentials (Barb Nath) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. Alaska did not receive any awards. There are a total of 755 voting delegates for this Convention.

Rules (Barb Nath) – There were no resolutions. A review was done on the rules for this Convention. Those in attendance were asked to be sure to read the rules and be prepared to vote on approval of those rules. There were no recommendations. It was pointed out that the role of the Parliamentarian is to give advice, not to make decisions. Unless the Department Constitutions and Bylaws state otherwise, they lose the right to vote and to speak. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Constitution and Bylaws (Barb Nath) – There are no resolutions. There are no amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws to be brought forward. It was pointed out that all requests for the Counsel General must go through the Department Secretary to the National Secretary. There were no recommendations from the committee, however members were asked to share recommendations for the future. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Resolutions (Barb Nath) – A resolution will be brought forward to the Convention floor to have a Parade of Colors at the 100th Anniversary Convention (2020). This will be for one year only. Another resolution was brought up regarding the wearing of the gold star/next of kin pins. After discussion the resolution was rescinded. The recommendation was made to communicate and share information to educate members about myths, customs and traditions. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Past Presidents Parley (Barbe Wolkoff) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. It was pointed out that each unit should have a Unit Member of the Year. In addition, at your Department Convention, you should recognize all of those nominated for this award. Alaska's Unit Member of the Year was April Sinclair and she was recognized at the Woman of the Year luncheon. Alaska did not receive any awards.

ALA Foundation (Beverly Eads) – There were no resolutions. Recommendations were to give donations so that grants can be given. Grants cover Veterans' projects, as well as the Veterans Creative Arts Project. There is a new department that has helped women Veterans. If a grant is given, 20% of the grant must be covered by the Department.

Liaison to Child Welfare (Beverly Eads) – This is a program administered by The American Legion. There is a board that reviews any request for financial assistance. There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. Awards will be given on Monday.

VA&R (Debbie Lowndes) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. It was noted that there was 100% reporting for this year. The VA&R guide is being revised. There are several power points which will be on the National website. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Historian– There was no representative at this committee and there is no report.

National History Committee – There was no representative at this committee and there is no report.

National Security (Lisa Williamson) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. Some highlights were given. The Central Division (Wisconsin) gave 700 GI Josh Dogs. The Eastern Division (Delaware) did stockings for soldiers. The Northwest Division (Colorado) helped the 244th Battalion with a food bank. The Southern Division did deployment ceremonies and welcome home ceremonies at Ft. Bragg. The Western Division (California) did a huge Christmas party. Members were encouraged to pay attention to the platform remarks. Alaska did not receive any awards (although not for lack of trying).

Legislative (Lisa Williamson) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. Paul Dillard presented plaques to the National Legislative Chairman and the National Vice-Chairman. Lisa asked that if anyone had a working relationship with our U.S. representatives to let her know. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Children and Youth (Lisa Williamson) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. There was 100% reporting this year. We should “toot our own horn”. Members were encouraged to record information immediately after the event and to take photos. Some highlights included puppeteers, cards for Hannah (2 ½ year old girl with leukemia, money for Hurricane Harvey, involvement in the Star Spangled Kids program, holding a children and youth tea and adopting a foster home. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Lori Fruhwirth) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. There were more emergency funds distributed than donations received. This is due to the number of disasters this year. We need to look at trying to re-build that fund. Puerto Rico’s Department President thanked everyone for the support given to them. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Poppy (Lori Fruhwirth) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. There was 100% reporting. It was noted that Facebook had a huge impact on poppies this year. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Public Relations (Penny Mazonna) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. Members were encouraged to check out the NALPA Facebook page. It is a public forum. Members need to serve as the reporters, photographers and submitters for articles and radio PSAs etc. We should write the article and take it to them so they will hopefully print it. Lisa noted that she is checking out SnapShot which is an interest of the younger generation. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Community Service (Penny Mazonna) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Finance (Sharon Cherrette) – When she arrived, the meeting was running late. She saw Beverly in the Alaska Chair and thought she was sitting in for Finance. Not realizing it was a previous committee meeting, she did not stay. There is no report.

Leadership (Sue Caswell) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. A quote was shared: “People may hear the words, but they feel your attitude”. It was noted that Course #5 is out on the ALA Academy. Sue stated that the Western Division has 100% reporting this year. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Americanism (Sue Waldhaus) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. All reports should be shared with the Division Chairman. There was 100% reporting this year. Alaska had two entries in the Senior essay contest (Marge Blankenship and Barb Nath). Members were encouraged to help those in nursing homes to be able to vote. There are two awards to be aware of. The first is the Dorothy Pearl Award for the most outstanding. The other is for the best Department in Americanism. Essay contests for Juniors and Seniors will have a theme. Alaska did not receive any awards.

Chaplain (Sue Waldhaus) – There were no resolutions. Recommendations were to do prayer books, ask for stories and send prayer forms to the Chaplains. Prayer has a calming effect. Another recommendation was to take in the Quilts of Valor display at the National Convention. Debbie Lowndes had submitted a quilt square for Alaska. Alaska received an award for Marge Blankenship for Chaplain.

Membership (Yvonne Lamm) – There were no resolutions. There were no recommendations. It was noted that we are 364 members less than last year. Yvonne is working on that. All present spoke to how they are trying to boost membership. There were only five states who had more members than last year. Alaska did not receive any awards.

The Western Division Caucus will be this afternoon. We will meet in Hall E of the Convention Center at 3:15

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.