

Minutes of the
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA
DEC MEETING
(October 21, 2018 – Susitna Valley Post 35)

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Lowndes at 9:13 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

National Officers

National NEC Lisa Williamson
Alternate NEC Penny Mazonna

Officers

President Debbie Lowndes
1st Vice-President Jane Larson
2nd Vice-President Yvonne Lamm
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Historian Ann Robinson
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Executive Committeewoman Anne Foley
Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair

Committee Chairmen

Americanism Sue Waldhaus
ALA Alaska Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Children and Youth Ann Robinson
Community Service Kathy Moore
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Lisa Williamson
Education and Scholarship April Sinclair
Finance Jane Larson
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Historian Ann Robinson
Leadership Colleen Newman
Legislative Marge Blankenship
Membership Yvonne Lamm
National Security Lisa Williamson
VA&R Jane Larson

ROLL CALL (continued)

Present (continued)

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
George H Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents

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

Excused

Committee Chairmen

Audit Linda Schmitt

Past Department Presidents

Linda Schmitt

Absent

Officers

Sgt. at Arms Lori Fruhwirth

Committee Chairmen

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Past Presidents Parley Barbe Wolkoff
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth
Public Relations Lori Fruhwirth

ROLL CALL (continued)

Absent (continued)

Units

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

Past Department Presidents

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

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Margaret Blankenship

PREAMBLE

The American Legion Auxiliary Preamble was recited by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Department Executive Committee meetings were presented for approval. These include the minutes of April 28, 2018, August 28, 2018 and June 14, 2018. A correction was made to the meeting of August 28, 2018. This was to change the name of Lori Wolfe to Lori Fruhwirth as Lori Wolfe as not at the National Convention.

MOTION: by Susan Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to approve the minutes of all three minutes with the necessary correction to the August 28, 2018 meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is still a need for a Junior Activities Chairman. Danielle Larson has indicated that she would do it next year, but wasn't sure about this year. President Debbie Lowndes will talk with her about doing it this year.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) to ratify the appointment of Danielle Larson as the Junior Activities Chairman.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Spenard Unit 28 will take on the Anchorage Christmas Project with Muldoon Unit 29 assisting.

NEW BUSINESS

Gaming – Diana explained that we had not received any money since June 2017. Emails and phone calls were not being returned to her. Secretary Barbara Nath sent a letter by certified mail to him. It was received and a discussion was forthcoming. He explained the process for getting gaming proceeds. We did receive proceeds in the amount of \$2,000. More is expected in the future. Lisa encouraged us to be sure to thank our gaming operator. Diana will be sending him some Dave and Buster gift card.

Senior Dues – National Dues went up by \$3 while department dues did not increase. We are required to incorporate any changes to dues by National. What is charged by each unit is up to the unit. With the total cost due to Department and National being \$23, if your unit dues are not to pay for the total to Department and National, it is the Unit's responsibility to cover the difference. Lisa Williamson pointed out that at the 2017 National Convention the delegates approved increase the amount of the national portion from \$9.00 to \$12.00 per member. Last year the request to increase the department portion of the dues was declined. Standing Rules have been updated to show the National changes. In the change from one Department Secretary to another, the change fell through the cracks. We want to be sure that our finances are in black and white for everyone to understand. This was not a case of making "magical changes". Our documents must match National. Standing Rules can be changed at any time. This change was an announced change. It was noted that if a transmittal is sent with the wrong amount, our Treasurer, Diana Estrada, will send it back for correction.

Units should assure that their dues cover the amounts due to National (\$12) and Department (\$11). In addition, Junior dues are \$5.25. Units will still have to pay the necessary amount, but if dues for the unit are not enough to meet the required amount, then there will be less for the

unit to keep.

As this change is put in place, and you are paying dues, make sure you are paying the correct amount for each year.

The question was raised as to the amount for the Fairbanks Christmas Project. It is believed that it is \$750. Sue Diaz (Unit 20) noted that their unit donates \$250 each for the Anchorage and Fairbanks projects. This is not part of the budgeted amount and goes directly to the project.

Women's Veterans Day Activities – Women's Veterans Day is November 9th. It is in Anchorage at the VA and will be from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Every unit received a flyer about this event. Funds will come from VA&R.

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Kathy Moore (Unit 29) to donate up to \$100 for the Women's Veterans Day activities.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Silver Tea is at Jack Henry Unit 1. This is their 60th Anniversary. As Debbie Lowndes could not attend she asked our 1st Vice President Jane Larson to attend representing the Department of Alaska.

The Christmas Gift Shop at the Domiciliary will be on Saturday, December 1st from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ann is looking at getting items donated and she has received offers from different agencies. She will need a letter to send to those people from whom she is asking for donations. She will be asking for donations of supplies. An inventory will be completed and then emails will be sent out to units indicating what was needed. Veterans will come in to pick out gifts for their families.

It was noted that our National Western Division Vice President is not allowed to travel to Alaska on an official visit. She has offered to come at her own expense (along with her daughter). She would not be coming in an official capacity and instead would be introduced as a member of her unit who has offered to come and help with the Christmas Gift Shop. Ann Robinson offered to house her while she was here.

Lisa gave the history about travel for the National Western Division Vice President (NDVP). Several years ago there was a tightening of the belts. It was decided that there were certain places where the NDVP could not travel (including Alaska and Hawaii). With our new National Secretary there is a possibility that this will change allowing them to visit Alaska and Hawaii. Lisa Williamson predicts a resolution to allow the NDVP to travel to all states to be fair. She expects it to be approved. It was felt that the NDVP should be able to visit every state in her division.

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) to accept her invitation, extend our hospitality and welcome her with opens arms, taking this as an opportunity to show her what the Department of Alaska does for our Veterans.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

We will continue to work on getting the National rules changed so that National Division Vice Presidents can visit all states.

Sharon Cherrette has the packet for the Department Convention. The registration fee is \$160 for Senior members and \$185 for late registrations. Convention dates are April 25-27, 2019 in Anchorage with Jack Henry Post 1 as the host post. All meetings and most activities will be held at the Arctic Recreation Center. The Centennial Ball will be on Friday April 26th. Attire should be appropriate for a ball with no jeans and t-shirts. They would love to see ball gowns and gloves. If someone is not registered for the convention, the ticket would be \$30 in advance and \$45 at the door. Juniors and Sons who are under 18 are \$85.00

Everyone was invited to come to Peters Creek Unit 33 on December 1st to honor our Department President Debbie Lowndes. It is anticipated that the Department Commander will attend. It will begin at 4:00 with no host cocktails followed by a dinner. Invitations will be mailed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Marge Blankenship (Unit 28) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.