

Department of Alaska
American Legion Auxiliary
95th Convention
April 27 – 29, 2017
Haines, Alaska

THURSDAY, April 27, 2017

It was noted that this Convention would include a conference call with several members.

CALL TO ORDER

The 95th American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Convention in Haines, Alaska was called to order at 10:58 a.m.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS:

Colors were already posted.

INVOCATION

Chaplain Jane Larson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Honorary Junior Historian Renee Doyle.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was led by Honorary Junior Auxiliary President Kyrsten Johnson-Gray

AUXILIARY PREAMBLE

The Auxiliary Preamble was recited

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers

President Susan Waldhaus
1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Chaplain Jane Larson
Historian Colleen Newman

Committee Chair

Americanism Barbara Nath
Calvacade of Memories Colleen Newman
Children and Youth Zona Gregg
Community Service Penny Mazonna
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Barbe Wolkoff

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Penny Mazonna

ROLL CALL (continued)

Excused

Officers

2nd Vice President Debbie Lowndes

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt

Sgt-At-Arms Laurie Scott

Committee Chair

Audit Betty Randall

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Leona Schank

Constitution and ByLaws Lavonne Collier

Distinguished Guests Beverly Eads

Education Lori Fitzsimons

Finance Debbie Lowndes

Junior Activities Wendy Mendez

Leadership Eva Aulston

Legislative Sharon Cherrette

Membership Debbie Lowndes

National Security Beverly Eads

Past President Parley Sharon Cherrette

Public Relations Patty Mazonna-Jones

Absent

Officers

Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald

Executive Committeewoman Amber Sawyer

Units

Joseph T Craig Unit 3

Sitka Unit 13

Ninilchik Unit 18

Nome Unit 19

Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27

Muldoon Unit 29

Con Miller Unit 30

Chappie James Unit 34

Peter Heyano Unit 442

Past Department Presidents

June Haas

Lori Fitzsimons

Eva Aulston

Jill Pawson

Lynn Bash

Margaret Blankenship

Sue Cherrier

Betty Porter

Judy Pusti

Betty Randall

Sue Diaz

Sharon Cherrette

Jean Clayton

Lavonne Collier

Jean Shandy

Francisca Guilford

Beverly Eads

WELCOME

Department President Sue Waldhaus welcomed everyone to the 95th American Legion Auxiliary Convention.

FIRST TIME MEMBERS:

First time members at this Convention were recognized and welcomed.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

National American Legion Auxiliary President Mary Davis was in attendance at this meeting.

The following Past Department Presidents were in attendance: Sue Waldhaus, Sue Caswell, Carolyn Null, Rehta Foster, Penny Mazonna and Lisa Williamson.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Credentials	Barb Nath (Unit 20) with Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and Sharon Dillon (Unit 5)
Rules	Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33)
Constitution and By-Laws	Rehta Foster (Unit 28) with Diana Estrada (Unit 35) and Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33)
Resolutions	Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) with Jacki Norvell (Unit 16) and Jennifer Roalsen (Unit 17)
Finance/Budget	Debbie Lowndes (Unit 33) with written reports
Parliamentarian	Sue Caswell (Unit 33)
Nominations	Caroline Null (Unit 28) with one person from each Unit: Wenda Sudduth (Unit 1), Sharon Dillon (Unit 5), Marilyn Mork (Unit 6), Michele Giddings (Unit 11), Jackie Martin (Unit 12), Jackie Norvell (Unit 16), Jennifer Roalsen (Unit 17), Robia Bishop (Unit 20), Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33), Linda Travis (Unit 35), and Cassey St. Rose (Unit 57)
Distinguished Guests	Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) with Jackie Martin (Unit 12) and Unit 12 members
Audit	Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) with Robia Bishop (Unit 20) and Zona Gregg (Unit 6)
History and Scrapbook	Colleen Newman (Unit 35) with National First Lady Linda Schmidt and Marilyn Mork (. 6)
Poppy Book	There are no poppy books, so there is no committee.

Poppy Cards	Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) with National ALA President Mary Davis and Jackie Martin (Unit 12)
Chaplain Prayer Book	Jane Larson (Unit 35) with Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) and Wenda Sudduth (Unit 1)
Ballotting	Rehta Foster (Unit 28) with Robia Bishop (Unit 20) and Jan Scott (Unit 11)
Scholarships	Rehta Foster (Unit 28) with Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and Cassey St. Rose (Unit 57)

JUNIORS

It was announced that Honorary Junior Historian Renee Doyle made the flags that were on the table. The Junior Girls were excused.

READING OF CONVENTION RULES

The reading of the Convention Rules was done by 1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff.

RECESS

The Convention recessed at 11:15 a.m. to committee meetings and to attend the Americanism Luncheon

RECONVENE

The Convention reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Department of Alaska President Sue Waldhaus introduced National American Legion Auxiliary President Mary Davis and her traveling companion Linda Schmidt. Department President Sue Walhaus asked National ALA President Mary Davis to share words of wisdom with those present. National ALA President Mary Davis asked for Unit 12 President Jackie Martin to come forward. She noted that Unit 12 has worked very hard to get ready for convention. Unit 12 members met her at the plane. National ALA President Mary Davis presented her with a signed picture of herself. She informed Jackie that anytime a National President came to visit she should get a picture and display it at the Post.

Mary is a story teller. She went to Hawaii and the General in Hawaii told them a story about organizations in general and how the organization will die out if you don't find something to do that is different. It was also important to talk to younger people in their terms so they will understand and not in our terms.

She noted that in the military you start at the bottom and have to work your way up to get through the ranks. We have to find something in which our members have an interest and give them an opportunity to show what they can do for our organization. When members are signed up we should expect them to take part in the organization and invite (not tell) them to different events. Find their interest. Help them find a way to make their membership viable for them.

This year we should find a way enhance every member's experience in the organization and find a way of engaging them on their territory and find out how they can enhance our organization.

National ALA President Mary Davis was presented with a gift from the Department of Alaska. It was a piece of artwork depicting a Native Alaskan fishing. It had a ivory face.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Linda Schmitt)

Linda Schmitt gave the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. She indicated the following balances in our accounts:

General Checking Account	3,125.24
Gaming Checking Account	44,090.56
Girls State Checking Account	7,968.02
Rehab Checking Account.....	4,614.96
Alaska Girls State Savings Account.....	14,065.52
Evelyn Oliver Savings Account	5,011.04
Merilyn Stock Savings Account.....	15,055.21

Linda noted that all of the Edward Jones investment information will come with Debbie Lownde's financial statements.

Peggy Bateman's daughter Katie was one of those involved in the fire in Anchorage a few months ago. Peggy thanked everyone for the donations, cards and prayers for Katie McClain Engelking. Baby Liberty was born at 26 weeks. She is growing and getting stronger every day. She now weighs 4.4 pounds and is 10 weeks old. She is off the respirator. They started bottle feeding her this week. Hopefully she will go home in May or June. Logan is in therapy for anxiety. Katie broke her back and had burns. She has had to learn to walk, brush her teeth, etc. all over again. She doesn't use the cane any more. Katie is limited as to what she is allowed to do. Andrew's leg is healing slowly. He requires a cane or a wheelchair to get around. The family is in need of lots of financial assistance. They are grateful for all the help they have received so far. Members were asked to hold the family in prayer.

Members were also asked to pray for another child, Baby Micah, who was born with birth defects.

Gift Shop/Domiciliary Report (Peggy Bateman)

It was reported that there were 62 Veterans and 32 volunteers for the Gift Shop. The Domiciliary is generous with store items in November. Veterans living there helped to set up. A new line was added to the information page which allowed Veterans to give recommendations for items to have available for their family members. Among others, there were donations of cookies, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cups, and stockings. The snack table was overflowing with items. The leftovers were given to the snack kitchen. Members were asked to encourage Veterans to take a picture and put them in the package.

Dr. Kim Ballard attended the gift shop and was impressed. He wants his daughter to be more involved next year. He will be back next year and will promote the program around the VA. Peggy got the Shining Star Award on February 17th for the gift shop. They spent \$3,224 on gifts/supplies, and \$1,333 for postage. Alaska Lazer picked up packages and took them to the post office for delivery (we were not charged for their time). Fred Meyers gave extra discounts. She tries to get as many donations/discounts as possible.

The gift shop will need to replenish most supplies (scissors, scotch tape, packing tape, bows, film, 3 new storage containers – cost about \$500-600). Coffee pots need replacing. The expenses to replace things will be on top of other expenses.

National Security Report (Beverly Eads)

Units reported wearing red on Fridays to remember those deployed. There were 104 Fridays involving 12 members with no expenditures.

One Unit reported greeting members and families as they deployed or returned home or came home for a visit. There was one member for ½ hour and no expenditures. At the USO in Seattle, 10 members put in 10 hours. There were also 450 hours donated and expenditures of \$319. In January and February, almost 19,000 Veterans and their families passed through the Seattle USO.

Another Unit reported that 289 Veterans and families were served involving 22 volunteers and 171 volunteer hours. They received donations of \$740. In addition, they participated in the Four Chaplain Ceremony and held a Blue Star Banner Ceremony. They participated in both honor flights and held a Korean War and World War II dinner.

A Unit reported holding an “Operation Homefront” meet and greet with 25 Veterans. In addition they provided an appreciation dinner for 230 Veterans that came to town to provide free medical care. This involved 10 volunteers for 150 hours. There were expenditures of \$350 as well as donated items.

Secretary Report (Linda Schmitt)

Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) wished everyone happy National Volunteer Week and thanked everyone for all the volunteering that is done. She noted that the ALA supports the American Legion and honors the sacrifices of those who served. She also stated that everyone should know the mission.

Linda pointed out that we need to use the correct terminology. We are not the ladies auxiliary. We are the American Legion Auxiliary. We matter because our Veterans and the military depend on what we provide to them and their families.

It appears there is some confusion over program reports vs impact report. Program reports are from the program plan of action that each chairman gets every fall at the beginning of the new year. The plan of action has the report parameters listed in it for each chairman. It is necessary to get a report from each Unit. We need to let National know what we are doing. The impact report is a year-end report that goes to Linda and she sends it to National. It is all about numbers (hours, dollars, dollars in-kind etc.). They are combined with numbers from the American Legion consolidated report and the SAL reports. After reports are combined for the entire country, they are presented to Congress by the American Legion National Commander. Congress uses the numbers to determine what will happen to benefits (cut, increase, etc.) It is one of the most important reports that your Unit can do and submit. It should be sent to the Department Secretary.

Membership Information

Everyone was reminded that applications must be filled out completely. Eligibility information for the Veteran under whom they are joining must be completed. If it is not completed correctly, they have to be returned. Every membership chairman for every Unit should go through each applications and make sure they are filled out completely.

You need to ask those submitting an application if they have ever been a member before. If the answer is yes, you need to find out **where and when they were a member**. Linda can find their old membership number if they were a member in Alaska. If they are from a Unit outside Alaska, she has to go through National to get that information. She doesn't assume that someone has been a member in the past and not knowing sometimes results in more than one membership number. You should only have one membership number and you have the same one forever. If it has been more than three years, have them fill out a new application and write "REJOIN" at the top of the application. Be sure that the box for whether the Veteran is living or deceased is checked. On the bottom right hand side under the Veteran's eligibility information it wants a signature of a **POST OFFICER**. American Legion Auxiliary is a Unit and not a Post. A member of the American Legion Auxiliary is not a post member unless they have dual membership. The signature needs to be done on that line (**ONLY BY A POST OFFICER**) so that we have verification of that Veteran's eligibility.

In the recent past, Linda has been receiving transmittals. With the transmittal, the Unit provides the new member's name and address, marks the new box, and sends dues (transmittal sheet). However, the Unit is not providing the application form. The application form **must be included** with the transmittal.

Twice a year (October/February) National sends a list of PUFL member (paid up for life). Those members are paid up for life. You will get a card. Please do not transmit the names of PUFL members to Linda. You should only send her new members. Also, please don't submit the names of those people who paid on line. That information is sent to each Unit by Linda and she doesn't need it back.

With regard to PUFL members and those that paid on line, Linda used to spend a lot of time writing checks to Units for their portion of the dues for these members. Units were holding those checks and not depositing them. She has decided not to send checks, but instead sends credit memos. Now she has Units holding the credit memos. On the memo it says that the credit memo is good for 90 days. At the end of the 90 days, if not returned, it becomes a donation to the Department. If you get a credit memo, make a copy for your Unit records and on the bottom of the transmittal sheet (after you list everyone) you should subtotal and then deduct the amount of the credit memo from the subtotal.

Linda noted that if a Unit goes dark, membership DOES NOT go dark. If you get applications, you still need to submit them.

She encouraged everyone to keep up with their 990s. They should have been filed. She has two Units who were reinstated but the 990s were not filed and the tax exempt status was revoked by the IRS. General Buckner Unit 16 and Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27 have been reinstated. Nome is the only Unit that not gotten their tax exempt status reinstated.

She reminded everyone that they have to file biennial reports with the State of Alaska to keep their corporation in good standing. One Unit has been involuntarily dissolved and Linda will write a letter putting every member in that Unit at risk for having to pay corporate taxes.

Linda needs new officer contact information for all Units. She thanked those that submitted the information. Please include the name of the Membership Chair and the Girls State Chair. It is important that we have one person to contact for each of those two areas.

Linda thanked everyone for their support. This is her last year as Secretary (and hopefully Treasurer). She stated that it has been a pleasure and she would keep this job forever if not for her health issues.

Leadership Report (Eva Aulston)

Information shared included:

- Units/Department budgets do not include funds for items relating to leadership position. Please know the financial burden related to leadership positions.
- Criticism based on personal dislike of someone seeking a position needs to stop. We must find leadership in members who can do the job. Criticism and gossip will kill a Department.
- A number of leadership letters were mailed over the year. These included:
 - How We Can Progress
 - The Right Attitude and Respect
 - The Art of Leadership
 - Strategies on Obtaining a Million Members
 - Create an Internal Culture of Good Will
 - How to join Programs Together to include in PODS
 - Information on Boys and Girls State

Education and Scholarship (Lori Fitzsimons)

Rehta Foster (Unit 28) read Lori Fitzsimons' report. It was noted that we received one application for a scholarship. Because we use gaming funds for the scholarship, we are required to have an Alaska ID for each person submitting an application. The individual who applied did not have an Alaska ID and did not have the necessary signatures, so we could not accept the application. This year, there were two Merrilyn Stock Memorial Scholarships (\$3,000), an Aggie Parks Scholarship (\$1,000) and an Evelyn Oliver Scholarship (\$1,000).

There was one Unit who had ladies go to the school to explain what scholarships are available. Another Unit had seven Veterans visit a school. Flag etiquette was taught and flags were distributed.

Constitution and ByLaws Committee (Lavonne Collier)

Rehta Foster (Unit 28) gave Lavonne Collier's report. It was noted that the Department of Alaska has a Unit Constitution and ByLaws Template. This way, all Units are uniform. In that template, only the following items can be changed to the Unit's Constitution and ByLaws:

1. Name and number of the Unit
2. The annual amount of membership dues for senior and junior members
3. The regular meeting of the Unit (day and time)
4. How many members shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting
5. When the installation of the Unit officers will be held

Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws and Junior Standing Rules were read

ARTICLE VI – UNIT ORGANIZATION – SECTION 8

Currently Reads

Section 8. Any member in good standing wishing to transfer to another Unit must present to the new Unit her current membership card. Upon acceptance of the transfer applicant by the new Unit, the Unit Secretary will complete the Certificate of Transfer. The member shall then be entitled to active membership in said Unit. No dues shall be transferred.

Will Read:

Section 8. A member who is not subject to suspension or membership revocation under due process is eligible to transfer her membership to another Unit if she has paid her membership dues to her current Unit for the current year or immediate past membership year. A member transferring to a new Unit must pay current year dues to either her current Unit or to the Unit into which she wishes to transfer.

Evidence of paid membership includes:

1. American Legion Auxiliary Membership Card
2. Verification of membership by ALA Department or National Headquarters membership records
3. Other documents verifying payment of current or immediate past year's membership dues such as a cancelled check or receipt, or
4. When verifying documentation is not available, a sworn statement that the member's membership dues payment was tendered.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY STANDING RULES 10

Currently Reads:

Each Honorary Junior Auxiliary National Officer attending the National Junior Meetings from the Department of Alaska shall receive up to, but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Junior Meetings from the Department of Alaska. The Retiring Honorary Junior Department President shall receive up to, but not exceed, \$1,500.00 to attend the National Junior Meetings, but will be limited to one \$1,500.00. The Department of Alaska Junior Auxiliary members attending the National Junior Meetings will receive up to, but not exceed, \$300.00. No Junior Auxiliary member can combine National Junior Meetings attendee's amounts and will be limited to one National Junior Meetings attendee's amount.

Will Read:

Each Honorary Junior Auxiliary National Officer attending the National Mission Training Meetings from the Department of Alaska shall receive up to, but not exceed, \$1,500.00 to attend the National Mission Training Meetings from the Department of Alaska. The Retiring Honorary Junior Department President shall receive up to, but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Mission Training Meetings, but will be limited to one \$1,500.00. The Department of Alaska Junior Auxiliary members attending the National Mission Training Meetings will receive up to, but not exceed, \$300.00. No Junior Auxiliary member can combine National Mission Training Meetings attendee's amounts and will be limited to one National Junior Meetings attendee's amount.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) asked if there is not a Junior Election at this convention, can the existing Junior Auxiliary President represent a second time. It was also asked if the retiring president goes a second time, will Department pay her. Rehta Foster (Unit 28) will check into this and get back to the members.

Impact Reports

Impact reports were distributed with the requirement that those who received copies provide their name and Unit number.

Poppy Report (Lori Fruhwirth)

In the 2016-17 year, 15 Units placed orders for a total of 25,000 poppies. Also, Friday May 26th is Poppy Day.

Reports were received from 8 Units. Units reported that they have poppy cans at their Posts and in their community (resulting in \$7,335.34 received). Units reported having poppies at Welcome Tables and they were distributed for dinners, and with membership applications. Poppies were distributed at JBER and the VA, as well as placing poppies on Veterans' graves and to those who attended Memorial Day ceremonies.

Four Units had poppy girls this year. At least one had their poppy girl attend a Chamber of Commerce meeting where she met the Mayor and handed out poppies.

Fairbanks Christmas Shop (Cassey St. Rose)

There is an annual Veterans' gift shop done at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. It began in 2012. This year 19 Veterans submitted a form requesting gifts. There were 8 volunteers, spending a total of \$2,000.

Attendance at the gift shop has been in decline. Last year a few Veterans showed up and then American Legion Auxiliary members took gifts to peoples' homes. This year only two Veterans came to pick up their gifts. Others were mailed out, but there were a lot of items left over. These will be saved for next year. They are looking at other options for how to meet Veteran's needs over the holidays.

Anchorage Christmas Bags (Sue Waldhaus)

This year, the decision was made to forego food items as many of our Veterans are under dietary restrictions. It was decided that each gift bag would contain a bottle of lotion and about 180 were distributed at the JBER hospital, domiciliary, and the Anchorage and Wasilla Pioneer Homes. Sue thanked Unit 15 and their team for putting together the bags for the Valley. They had to reschedule their delivery date for a week later as there was a flu epidemic.

In Anchorage, Sue and Kirk Waldhaus helped to distribute bags. Vera Hart had gotten sick and another person (Dolores Jones) filled in and helped to distribute.

It was also reported that Unit 28 takes baby bundles to the maternity ward at JBER. It was found that the staff was taking them apart looking for explosives. The VA lady will be looking into it. There were 18 bundles left.

President Sue Waldhaus thanked Barb Nath for the donated Christmas Bags. She would like to see this project continue. Having only one item in each bag was well-received and made it easier. This will fall under the VA&R chair for the next year. It was reported that there was a budget of \$700 with only about \$300 being spent.

VA&R Report (Barbe Wolkoff)

At the time of this report, Barbe had only received reports from 6 of 23 Units.

She noted that Wrangell Unit 6 really worked hard to serve their Veterans. There were 22 projects for 644 hours with expenditures or donations of \$6,497. Seven Veterans' families (including 10 children) were assisted with services and donations.

Overall from the reporting Units, \$14,315 was spent. A total of 1,779 Veterans and their families were served by ALA members. Approximately 5,084 hours were claimed.

Other Units reported participating in picnics, baking, distributing food and clothing, etc.

President Sue Waldhaus noted that reports have a lot of uses. She got five calls in December from National or Division chairmen saying they had not received reports from Alaska. President Waldhaus called each chairman to find out why the reports were not submitted to National. Reports are only as good as what is turned in. If you accept a Chairmanship, then please do the reports. Another benefit is that if reports exist, next year's chairmen can look to see what was written. This is especially valuable if it is a new chairman.

The Past President's Parley will be on Saturday. Any applications for Unit Member of the Year, Junior Member of the Year and Service Woman of the Year were asked to be submitted before the close of the meeting on Friday. The cost for the Past President's Parley is \$12.50 for adults and \$6.25 for the Juniors.

President Sue Waldhaus showed a notebook kept by Unit 33. This notebook is a record of all their different program areas. It contains a calendar and a log sheet for each month. Members present at meetings can enter on the log sheet what they have done over the previous month. Right now, the name, hours and amount spent/donated is recorded but not what is actually done. The intent is to revamp the log sheet so it has space for more narrative. Unit 28 uses a 5x7 card box. Each member completes a card and you can keep adding to it instead of using a notebook.

The National President provided resources from National for us to use.

RECESS

MOTION: By Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to recess until Friday at 9:00 a.m.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

The convention recessed at 4:25 p.m.

FRIDAY, April 28, 2017

RECONVENE

The Convention reconvened at 9:02 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

For the Opening Ceremony, Unit 6 and the Junior Girls presented the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony. This is a ceremony to honor our military children.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Juniors were excused.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers

President Susan Waldhaus
1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Chaplain Jane Larson
Historian Colleen Newman

Committee Chair

Americanism Chair Barbara Nath
Cavalcade of Memories Colleen Newman
Children and Youth Zona Gregg
Community Service Penny Mazonna
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Barbe Wolkoff

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

ROLL CALL (continued)

Present (continued)

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Penny Mazonna

Excused

Officers

2nd Vice President Debbie Lowndes
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Sgt-At-Arms Laurie Scott

Committee Chair

Audit Betty Randall
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Leona Schank
Constitution and ByLaws Lavonne Collier
Distinguished Guests Beverly Eads
Education Lori Fitzsimons
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Junior Activities Wendy Mendez
Leadership Eva Aulston
Legislative Sharon Cherrette
Membership Debbie Lowndes
National Security Beverly Eads
Past President Parley Sharon Cherrette
Public Relations Patty Mazonna-Jones

Absent

Officers

Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald
Executive Committeewoman Amber Sawyer

Units

Joseph T Craig Unit 3
Sitka Unit 13
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Muldoon Unit 29
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

ROLL CALL (continued)

Absent (continued)

Past Department Presidents

June Haas	Sue Cherrier	Jean Clayton
Lori Fitzsimons	Betty Porter	Lavonne Collier
Eva Aulston	Judy Pusti	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Sue Diaz	Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship	Sharon Cherrette	

Children and Youth (Zona Gregg)

April is the month of the child. The third Friday in April is for wearing purple for the children.

It was reported that Alaska has three children waiting for organ donations.

Information was provided to Alaska Units regarding Children and Youth activities/awards. This year there was one Unit which turned in a Good Deed Award Nomination. Units reported that there was participation in the Oratorical Contest. In addition, events were planned around the holidays and Veterans visited the classroom for Veteran's Day. One person was sent to Washington DC for the Election Rally in November 2016 and one member sang the National Anthem at the start of a Wrestling Tournament in Sitka. Reports were received from all Units indicating that they served 4,894 youth of which 344 were military children. There were 146 projects involving 1,825 members for 35,474 hours and a total of \$41,977.26 spent or donated.

Donations were taken. A total of \$1,315.49 was received. In addition, a check will be sent by Unit 20 in the amount of \$500.

Historian (Colleen Newman)

It has been a busy and fun time over this last year. It is apparent that we practice what we preach. The report highlighted a great number of activities in which our Units have been involved. This included everything from membership, Americanism, flag folding ceremonies, cleanup of cemeteries, poppy cans, USO and Wounded Warrior Projects; assorted ceremonies and attendance at meetings. Members also volunteered at the Fisher House and provided food and clothing to Veterans.

Dues Information

There was a dues increase put in place last year. Dues amounts should be turned into National. Also, if dues payments are not turned into Linda, it is possible that members will get a notice that dues are owed. Linda needs to know if Units are increasing their dues in 2018. Changes can only occur from May 19th to May 26th. Please vote on this and let Linda know by May 19, 2017.

Constitution and ByLaws

Discussion began on the amendment for Standing Rule #10 for the Junior Auxiliary. It was noted that the name has not changed. It is still Auxiliary Mission Training and the Junior meeting is the National Junior Meeting. In the amendment it says that the amount is “up to, but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Mission Training Meetings, but will be limited to one \$1,500.00”.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) stated that she did not think there was a need for a change. She stated that the way it reads, there might be some question as to whether or not a National Junior President could attend more than one meeting. If anything were to be changed, perhaps the words “limited to one” could be changed to say limited to one per term”. That would make it clear that if re-elected, they would be able to get money to assist with them attending that training.

The National Junior Meetings run concurrently with Mission Training.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to add the words “per term” regarding Junior National Meeting attendance in the Junior Auxiliary Standing Rule #10.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President Sue Waldhaus called for the vote regarding the amendments to the Junior Auxiliary Standing Rule #10 with the addition of the words “per term” as approved above.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

It was noted that membership changes should be in the standing rules. If you have not sent in your standing rules, please do so as that is the only way they are known.

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to accept the amendment to the Bylaws, Article 6, Section 8 as read.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

Rehta Foster (Unit 28) reminded Units that they need to provide the information regarding their Unit. This should include

1. Name and number of the Unit
2. Annual amount of membership dues for senior and junior members
3. Regular meeting day and time for the Unit
4. How many members shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting
5. When the installation of Unit officers will be held

This information should be turned in to Barb Nath while at Convention.

It was noted that Unit 11 and Unit 33 have no changes.

Audit (Penny Mazonna)

There is not much to report as there is no ability to access Quick Books to review. The 990 has been filed. The accountant has reviewed the accounts and they are in order. All IRS and gaming paperwork has been filed and approved.

Budget (Debbie Lowndes)

A copy of the proposed budget was distributed to one person from each Unit. Income is down and membership is down. Money for membership needs to be turned in.

Comments included:

- Michele Giddings (Unit 11) said that Children and Youth is budgeted at \$5,600 but there are no expenses. This is not out of the general account.
- Kathy Balcom (Unit 5) had a question on the transfer of funds. She asked if this was the anticipated transfer and if the money was transferred. Linda noted that we do not have those accounts any more. They are investment accounts and are at Edward Jones. We had separate accounts years ago, but they were not making anything. They were put at Edward Jones so we would get some increase.
- Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) noted that under Edward Jones the Junior Auxiliary account will mature this year. Linda indicated that it will be rolled over.

There were no other question. It was requested that people have some time to review the budget. Linda Schmitt and Deb Lowndes will be online tomorrow for further questions after review.

Membership (Deb Lowndes)

Penny Mazonna read the membership report for Deb Lowndes.

As of April 26, 2017, Alaska is at 66.8% which is very low. It places us 6th from the bottom.

Membership events included taco nights, membership dinners, and painting classes. Units were encourage when attending event to ask people if they are members. Be enthusiastic. Get people involved. We need to increase our membership.

President Sue Waldhaus pointed out that membership is everyone's responsibility, not just the membership chair. There are different aspects to membership. The Chairman looks for way to promote. Another aspect is the person who processes membership.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) suggested having applications at the head table during meetings. That way people can pick them up. Be prepared for membership. Have an application with you at all times.

Linda Schmitt spoke to membership. She noted it is all well and good to recruit, but if you don't keep people as members it negates the recruitment. A lot of people do not renew. If a member continues to renew for three years, they will likely continue to renew their dues. A couple of things to note regarding members:

- Help them feel they are wanted, contact them and welcome them into the organization.
- Once you sign up a new member, it is up to you to take a personal interest in letting that member know what the ALA has to offer and ways in which she can get involved.

We are currently over 200 people behind where we were last year.

Marge Blankenship asked about how many widows have paid for children/grandchildren and now can't afford them. Contact them and see what we can do to help.

It is important to note that when signing up or renewing a member, it doesn't end when you've gotten the paperwork. Your responsibility continues. Find a way to get them engaged, call them for the next meeting, and invite them to events. Be a mentor to that member.

RECESS

The convention recessed for a 10-minute break at 10:20 a.m.

RECONVENE

The convention reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Penny read her list of attendees for the Past President's Parley luncheon. She encouraged people to let her know if they were attending so they can order the food.

Americanism (Barbara Nath)

Reports were received from eight Units. There was a large number of events for Americanism. These included: cemetery events, Christmas events, election events, flag distribution, flag education, flag retirement ceremonies, other flag events, food drives, Independence Day events, Memorial Day events, singing of the National Anthem, participation in the oratorical contest, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, poppy activities, Thanksgiving, thrift stores, travel, Veterans and Thanksgiving day events, USO club involvement, the Veteran's Wall, and Workshops and Conventions. All in all, there were 683 members involved for a total of 4,119.5 hours and \$17,140.50.

Community Service (Penny Mazonna)

Units were encouraged to look at all the time involved in an activity. In reviewing reports the amounts seem to be low (such as 15 hours and 15 volunteers for Thanksgiving Dinner). Be sure to take into account the time it took to plan, how much time committee members spent brainstorming and coming up with items, purchasing supplies, set up, serving, cleaning, etc. Everything counts. Be sure to include them all in your reports.

Michele Giddings (Unit 11) noted that she puts in hours for community service, but that she only enters hours under one category. For instance if it is specific to Children and Youth or Girl's State, etc. she will put it under that report.

Zona Gregg (Unit 6) does it the same way, but lets people know that the hours are split between different reports.

It is not expected that Units are involved in every program. Each Unit should pick and choose the programs that will work for them.

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) reminded everyone that it is not just what the Unit does, but what each person does. Some people may do things that are not done as a Unit. Be sure to include those hours and events also.

Girls State (Yvonne Lamm)

Reports were received from 15 Units, showing a total of 10,438 hours and \$12,695 spent on recruiting. Fundraising involved bake sales, auctions and the sale of crafted and handmade items by many Unit members.

Girls State was June 3-9, 2016 in Wasilla. A total of 17 young ladies were sponsored and attended. It was a busy week. There were leadership and legislative workshops followed by speakers from the city and state level governments. During the week, citizens were able to pass 13 bills through the ALA Girls State House and Senate. They were signed by the newly sworn in Governor on graduation night.

Citizens from Fairbanks and Ketchikan went to the National Girls State.

In order to attend Girls State, you have to be a junior in high school with no less than one semester remaining in high school.

This year, Girls State will be June 3-9, 2017.

Chaplain – (Jane Larson)

The Chaplain sent out various types of cards to members, Veterans and their families in addition to participating in prayer requests. Many Units had opening and closing prayers for their Unit members. Veteran's graves received flowers, wreaths and crosses on Memorial Day. There were approximately 2,458 hours volunteered.

Announcements

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) displayed a pullover red jacket (like a blast jacket) which we have the opportunity to purchase from National for \$35. President Mary Davis needs the orders by June/July. The more we buy, the more money we will keep. Our charge is \$35 but the upfront cost will go down as more orders are received (not just from Alaska, but from other Departments.) We will get to keep the money above the upfront cost. So, if the upfront cost is \$25, we will get to keep \$10.

President Sue Waldhaus recommended that we recess and reconvene within a half an hour after the return from the Children and Youth Luncheon. We are scheduled to re-convene at 1:30 p.m.

RECESS

The convention recessed at 11:10 a.m. for Post Everlasting and for the Children and Youth luncheon,

RE-CONVENE

The Convention re-convened at 1:55 p.m.

Electronic Public Relations (Lisa Williamson)

There was no report because this is a subcommittee of Public Relations. It was shared that Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) is the webmaster for the ALA Web Site (alaskalegionauxiliary.org). Her email address is williamsonlisad@gmail.com.

The web site is as updated as possible. There is a page for each program. Conventions items are there. She will need information from the Department Chairmen. When the plan of action is ready, each Department Chairman should send it to her as well. She prefers documents to be in Word or Works. If you don't have either of those, make your report an email and she will format it.

The old profile we had is not current because she can't get to it. Please like ALA Department of Alaska (Facebook). It has the American Legion Auxiliary logo. It has been put in place in the last year, so please search for it and find it. She is thinking of other social media possibilities, but has not gone any further.

The Centennial Plan from National Headquarters speaks to promoting our program. Members were encouraged to wear their ALA shirt if they are doing something. She also asked to get a picture of everyone wearing red today.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (National)

Lisa Williamson is selling individual deck cards as a fundraiser for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. She has 10 more cards to sell. This will be the third deck of cards. She has raised \$750 in a day and a half. Department will match what is raised. Lisa noted that awards at the National level are based on the highest donation per capita. She will continue selling the cards as a fundraiser throughout the convention.

Unit 28 gave a donation of \$200 for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Legislative (Sharon Cherrette)

Penny read the Legislative Report for Sharon.

Training was provided to 60 Unit members at the Fall Workshop with information provided to each Unit. In addition, this information was placed on the Department of Alaska web site. In the course of the year, members attended local town hall meetings and spent time writing Legislators, and attending legislative forums, as well as responding to legislative alerts (mostly sent by the Legion Legislative staff on particular issues). Many members voted in elections this past year. There were over 450 hours expended on Legislative issues.

At this time, members were notified that there were some corrections to be made to the proposed budget. These will be made this evening for distribution tomorrow.

GIRLS STATE DEC MEETING

Friday, April 25, 2017

The Girls State meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Members

Director Vonn Lamm

Co-Director Ann Robinson

President Sue Waldhaus

1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff

Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt

Americanism Chairman Barb Nath

2 year Board member Diana Estrada

Past Girls State Directors

Susan Caswell

Diana Estrada

ROLL CALL (continued)

Absent

Board Members

2nd Vice-President and Finance Chairman Debbie Lowndes

1 year Board member Beverly Eads

3 year Board member Terry Archibald

Past Girls State Directors

Betty Bumala

Rita Gunderson (Deceased)

Darlene Wilson

Merrilyn Stock (Deceased)

Judy Pusti

Debbie Henderson (Deceased)

Lori Fitzsimons

Vonn reported that she is not handing out applications at the Fall Workshop. These are available at www.alaskalegionauxiliary.org All paperwork/deadlines will be on-line shortly after October 1st.

She requested that letters for alternates not be sent. There are no alternates for Girls State. Vonn prefers that Units do the interviews. Choose two people you want to have attend and then rank the others. Do not send out letters indicating someone is an alternate or that they have not been chosen. If your Unit cannot afford to send more than one or two girls, there are other Units who will sponsor someone to come.

Currently there are two girls from Ketchikan, three from Juneau and one from Gambell who do not have sponsors. If your Unit does not have a girl to sponsor, considering sponsoring on of these. There are two locations where we don't have a Unit (Juneau and Gambell). Ketchikan has a Unit and they are sponsoring two girls to attend, but have two more who want to attend. Airfare ranges from \$300 to \$600 depending on the origin for travel.

Vonn is still accepting applications. On-line applications are the best. Applications must be submitted by May 15th. If there are questions you can call Vonn or email her at loveysmom2000@hotmail.com

Vonn presented some items for sale to raise funds. They are:

- Bun hats – \$5
- Reversible aprons – \$10
- Poppy bags – \$25
- Eagle decals – \$5

If members want to volunteer as staff for Girls State, a background check will need to be completed and turned in by the end of this Convention.

The Girls State DEC meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m. and the Convention continued.

NOMINATIONS

The first reading of endorsement for nominations was completed. All endorsements were read. It was noted that the Secretary and Treasurer positions are now elected positions and don't require endorsement letters. Nominations included:

President.....Barbe Wolkoff
1st Vice PresidentDebbie Lowndes
ChaplainColleen Newman
Sgt. At ArmsJane Larson
Executive Committee.....Zona Gregg
NEC.....Lisa Williams (This is a two-year position)
Alternate NEC.....Penny Mazonna
Alternate NEC.....Sharon Cherrette

There are still two positions that do not have nominations. These are

- 2nd Vice-President
- Historian

RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions will be read after the Past President's Parley tomorrow.

JUDGING OF BOOKS

There were books added yesterday afternoon. We are not done with everything yet, so they will be held until tomorrow with awards give after judging is complete.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

The following certificates were awarded:

Certificate of Appreciation – Jack Henry Unit 1 – 69.87% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – Jack Henry Unit 1 – 18 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Joseph T. Craig Unit 3 – 55.56% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – Joseph T. Craig Unit 3 – 2 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Seward Unit 5 – 64.47% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – Seward Unit 5 – 11 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 – 6 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Dorman H. Baker Unit 11 – 62.50% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – Dorman H. Baker Unit 11 – 8 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Lynn Canal Unit 12 – 46.45% Membership
Certificate of Appreciation – Lynn Canal Unit 12 – 2 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Matanuska Valley Unit 15 – 41.95% Membership
Certificate of Appreciation – Matanuska Valley Unit 15 – 3 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – General Buckner Unit 16 – 68.64% Membership
Certificate of Appreciation – General Buckner Unit 16 – 10 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Robert G. Blair Unit 17 – 53.20% Membership
Certificate of Appreciation – Robert G. Blair Unit 17 – 12 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20 – 73.02% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – Spenard Unit 28 – 52.87% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – Peters Creek Unit 33 – 66.05% Membership
Certificate of Appreciation – Peters Creek Unit 33 – 9 New Members

Certificate of Appreciation – Susitna Valley Unit 35 – 75.56% Membership

Certificate of Appreciation – C. Russell Huber Unit 57 – 72.20% Membership
Certificate of Appreciation – C. Russell Huber Unit 57 – 17 New Members

Marilyn Mork (Unit 6) had some suggestions for membership. They do a rummage sale and a donation sale. They say it is for programs for ALA. The membership is paid for through the funds raised, including members in long term, members in need, and female Veterans. They had 36 members participating out of 70. There were 28 member out of town and four of them sent items by mail. In addition, they have a bake/no bake sale and it goes to the children's Christmas party. You either bake or you pay money. Penny suggested for a no bake sale, you can estimate what you would have paid to make the product and send that money in and include the recipe. You can use the recipes to start a cook book.

Marilyn noted that there are people who have to do community services and the Unit can use them for work they need done.

Sharon Dillon (Unit 15) announced that Kyrsten lost her Junior President pin and asked everyone to watch for it.

Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) noted that entry forms are due for the Unit Member of the Year.

RECESS

MOVED: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) to recess until Saturday morning.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

SATURDAY, April 29, 2017

RECONVENE

The convention reconvened at 9:02 a.m.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Distinguished Guests Jean Clayton and First Lady Linda Schmidt were introduced.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers

President Susan Waldhaus
1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Chaplain Jane Larson
Historian Colleen Newman

Committee Chair

Americanism Chair Barbara Nath
Calvacade of Memories Colleen Newman
Children and Youth Zona Gregg
Community Service Penny Mazonna
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Barbe Wolkoff

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spnard Unit 28
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

ROLL CALL (continued)

Present (continued)

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Penny Mazonna
Jean Clayton
Marge Blankenship (on-line)

Excused

Officers

2nd Vice President Debbie Lowndes
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Sgt-At-Arms Laurie Scott

Committee Chair

Audit Betty Randall
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Leona Schank
Constitution and ByLaws Lavonne Collier
Distinguished Guests Beverly Eads
Education Lori Fitzsimons
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Junior Activities Wendy Mendez
Leadership Eva Aulston
Legislative Sharon Cherrette
Membership Debbie Lowndes
National Security Beverly Eads
Past President Parley Sharon Cherrette
Public Relations Patty Mazonna-Jones

Absent

Officers

Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald
Executive Committeewoman Amber Sawyer

Units

Joseph T Craig Unit 3
Sitka Unit 13
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Muldoon Unit 29
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

ROLL CALL (continued)

Absent (continued)

Past Department Presidents

June Haas	Sue Cherrier	Sharon Cherrette
Lori Fitzsimons	Betty Porter	Lavonne Collier
Eva Aulston	Judy Pusti	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Sue Diaz	Beverly Eads

Resolutions will be taken care of after lunch.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) spoke to the pullover jackets. She will get information out to everyone.

Finance

The revised budget was distributed. Deb Lowndes explained that the March and April statements had been missed and were now entered. All changes have been incorporated into the revised proposed budget.

Kathy Balcom (Unit 5) asked why expenses had been reduced from \$73,000 to \$69,000. It was explained that the actual income was \$70,000 and the intent was to match the income. We do not want to spend more than the anticipated income.

The proposed budget is the best guess for the future. It is part of the Finance Committee's responsibility to watch the budget and make suggestions for changes.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) pointed out that with more members we would have more income. Sue Caswell (Unit 33) stated that everything comes back to membership.

Carolyn Null (Unit 28) asked about the gaming permit and whether it is making money for us. Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) responded that the gaming permit is with Loyal Ladies Enterprises (Anchorage) and has been for a while. They usually play the American Legion Auxiliary for a quarter of the year. Beginning last year, they played it year round. There is over \$40,000 in the gaming account and that allows the American Legion Auxiliary to make donations. She suggested leaving the permit where it is. The gaming permit is in good standing.

There was nothing new to report on the Rehabilitation Fund.

Girls State is doing fairly well. They keep themselves on budget.

The Edward Jones account doesn't have very many bonds to reinvest. The investment counselor rolled the bonds into Franklin Templeton and it is earning 2-3%. They are doing the best they can with what they've got. Bonds are beginning to be released to the general public. Linda will talk to the counselor to see what is available and roll cash to new bonds.

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to accept the proposed budget for 2017-2018 as revised April 28, 2017.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

Linda noted that Debbie deserves a big hand because she spent last night getting the revisions done for today. Linda thanked her for her dedication.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

At this time, another distinguished guest, Mayor Jan Hill was introduced. She stated she was here to chaperone her mother (Jean Clayton).

MOTION: by Sharon Dillon (Unit 5) and seconded to keep the gaming permit with the Loyal Ladies Enterprises.

This motion was rescinded as it needed to be brought up under New Business.

JUDGING OF BOOKS

Chaplain's Book – Jane Larson (Unit 35) noted there was one entry from Unit 33. They are the winner this year. Unit 33 donated their award money back to the AEF program.

Poppy Book – Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) reported there were no poppy books submitted.

Poppy Cards – President Sue Waldhaus had asked for up to three entries from each Unit. National President Mary Davis assisted in picking out the winners. Six of them were chosen.

All will be put into note cards and will be ready at the Fall Workshop. It will be a fundraiser and money will go into President's fundraiser category. She was overwhelmed by the response. She thought it was wonderful. We have lots of creative people. She felt they were all first place entries.

Scrapbook/History Book– First Lady Linda Schmidt assisted with the judging. It was very tough to make a decision. She enjoyed looking at all the entries. It was fun to see all the things that have been done throughout the year.

Scrapbook winners were:

- 1st Place – Unit 1
- 2nd Place – Unit 16
- 3rd Place – Unit 17

History book winners were:

- 1st Place – Unit 1
- 2nd Place – Unit 33
- 3rd Place – Unit 28

Colleen Newman (Unit 35) thanked her assistants.

Award monies were donated as follows:

Unit 1 to Girls State.

Unit 16 to Girls State

Unit 28 to Girls State

Unit 33 to AEF

Announcements

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) reported that her fundraiser has raised \$780 in two days. A card raffle is a good fundraiser to subsidize for Units that want to pay membership dues for their members. Spenard Unit 28 gave a \$200 donation. At this point we are over \$1,000. With the match from the Department, that brings the total over \$2,000.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) pointed out that we are making history with the electronic method of teleconferencing. We are finding a way to include our members who can't be physical present.

Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) has 3-4 applications for Unit Member of the Year. Carolyn Null (Unit 28) and Rehta Foster (Unit 28) are reviewing them. Results will be announced at the luncheon this afternoon. Members were reminded to bring swap items for the Past President's Parley Luncheon. There will be a few Women Veterans joining us for lunch. We will be honoring four Past Department Presidents who have passed.

The Junior raffle has over 90 items. Tickets will be sold until the very end. There are hats, bags and an apron for sale for Girls State. Don't forget to sign the cards. The silent auction will be closing at 9:00 p.m. They would like items to be picked up immediately afterwards.

Department President Annual Report (Sue Waldhaus)

It was a very busy year for the Department President. It included visits to a number of Units throughout the state, all of which were wonderful experiences. The Department President also took part in events such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July military ceremony, awards ceremonies, a tea and initiation ceremony, early bird dinners, a Veteran's day event at Bass Pro Shops, Women's Veteran's Day celebration and holiday activities. At the visit in Kodiak, she got to see a mama bear and two yearling cubs. Department President Waldhaus installed new leaders at her home Unit 28.

Department President Waldhaus expressed her thanks to everyone involved in making her year a success. She thanked her husband, daughter, Carolyn Null and Linda Schmitt for their support for this year's convention.

MOTION by Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33) and seconded by Vonn Lamm (Unit 33) to accept the Department President's report.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

RECESS

The convention took a recess at 10:12 a.m.

RECONVENE

The convention reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Oratorical (Jan Scott)

Jan spoke for a few minutes explaining that she is responsible for the Oratorical Contest. This contest has pulled the American Legion together. It involves all facets of the American Legion (Post, SAL, Unit and Legion Riders). Without the support of everyone she would not be able to do this program. Thank you all.

Jan works with counselors at the schools to get them involved, puts out flyers and is trying to get with the PTA. She wants to get a facebook page or something on social media. She tries to go through the schools, involve the scouts and others. She also puts articles in the Legionnaire with ideas.

The topic for this contest is always the Constitution. Participation is open to all high school students. Participants prepare a 10-minute speech on any part of the constitution. They are also given specific topics. This could involve up to 5 prepared speeches. There is a time limit for each speech and points are docked if the speaker is outside of those time limits.

During the contest there is to be no feedback to the participants. This includes facial expressions or body motions or clapping. This is partially because the judges are in the audience not sitting as a panel. In addition, not everyone has the same number of people attending to support them. Not allowing feedback means that there is no knowledge of how many are there on behalf of that participant and it doesn't affect the judges. Participants speak with no podium, no lectern and no sound system. They get a sound check. They begin in a holding room with their notes, then they move to the contest where they cannot have their notes. Participants are introduced as #1, #2, etc. so judges have no information about them.

This year's scholarship were awarded to:

Thomas Warren, Delta Junction	\$500.00
Priscilla Joslin, Delta Junction	\$500.00
Robert McMillan, Anchorage	\$500.00
Angel Spurgeon, Ketchikan	\$750.00
Shannon Octuk, Anchorage	\$750.00
Runner Up Jade Daniels, Anchorage	\$1,000.00
First Place Sierra Smith, Anchorage	\$1,500.00

Sierra Smith will be going to the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis April 21st to the 23rd.

Jan thanked all those that participated as well as the volunteers that made this event possible. She reported that all parts of the American Legion Family participated.

Carolyn Null (Unit 28) asked about where the funds come from. They come from the National American Legion. There is a budget to give out of \$7,000. However, the number of participants determines how much each person will received.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2017-1 – A resolution bestowing Linda Schmitt with the title “Past Department of Alaska President”. The connection to the conference call was “accidentally disconnected.” The decision had been made to make Linda an Honorary Past Department President. This is in appreciation for her support as Department Secretary over the years. She would have all the rights and benefits of a Past Department President.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded that Resolution 2017-1 be approved.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The conference call was re-connected.

Resolution 2017-2 – A resolution thanking Lynn Canal Post, Unit and Squadron for a job well done hosting this convention.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Carolyn Null (Unit 28) that Resolution 2017-2 be approved.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2017-3 – A resolution thanking Department President Sue Waldhaus for a job well done and for a successful year as Department President.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Penny Mazona (Unit 33) that Resolution 2017-3 be approved.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lisa Williamson thanked her committee members.

Department President Sue Waldhaus expressed her gratitude for her Board and her committee chairs. She asked for Unity across the Department which is a necessity and it is being accomplished. She recognized her chairman and Department Board members.

Carolyn Null has been her aide.
Carrie Doores with Unit 15
Lori Fruhwirth, Poppy
Zona Gregg and Merillyn Mork, Children and Youth
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State (one of our premier programs)
Jane Larson, Chaplain (who has done double duty this week for the American Legion
Auxiliary and for the American Legion)
Penny Mazonna, Community Service
Barb Nath, Americanism (and now Secretary)
Colleen Newman, Historian (the keeper of the memories)
Cassey St Rose, Fairbanks Christmas shop (and a wonderful host)
Barbe Wolkoff, 1st Vice-President and VA&R chair
Lisa Williamson, Electronic Media and PR person (She gets everything from National and
Department. We couldn't ask for someone better to keep us informed.)

Cassey St. Rose (Unit 57) brought up the following:

1. Rehab – falls under VA&R. There is a lack of resources available and there are long waiting periods for appointments. She wondered if anyone has thought about how to work with small private practices with Veterans while waiting for their appointment. Have any Units checked to see if there is reduced rate or pro bono available? Rehta Foster (Unit 28) indicated there is no funding available at the VA level. It is possible there is some at the Unit level. Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) wondered if there was a way to work with the Department Service Officer in that area. Fred is their Department Service Officer and she can put us in touch with him. She is not sure how to get a foot in the door. Cassey noted that as private providers, they don't have to go through the red tape. It's like a holding spot to keep a Veteran safe. If there are services available to help keep a Veteran stable, can we take advantage of it? Not all counselors are Veterans and may not understand the Veteran's needs. People thought it was a good idea.
2. Cassey is excited to see the use of technology in this meeting (groundbreaking, history-making meeting). She's been brainstorming with her Unit and trying to attract younger women to be part of the Unit with different ideas on how to do that. She asked for ideas from others. The young moms she has been interacting with don't bring their children to the bar. She has reached out to the Spouses Club at Wainwright. Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) suggested maybe finding out which members have young children and possibly having a "playdate" meeting on a Saturday or a picnic. Jane Larson (Unit 35) asked to please don't call us a bar. They took all of the bar stuff out of there. It's called a canteen, not a bar. They have a big room for families where they can run around. Make your area family friendly. There is no smoking. Vonn Lamm (Unit 33) had an idea to offer babysitting when parents have to go shopping. That way they will learn it's a place where kids are safe. Rehta Foster (Unit 28) noted in California they have an electronic Unit. They have their meeting on-line. That way they can be home with kids and still be part of the meeting. Robia Bishop (Unit 20) recently sent out invitation to all of her Unit to sign up a lot of people in the next year. They are having an initiation for everyone who has never been initiated. There will be prizes, fun and guest speakers. She is looking for guest speakers who can speak on the children's programs. They want to have a Junior program and they have several new families.

3. Cassey asked about topics at Fall Workshop. She wondered if there was anything about using technology to get younger folks involved. The Fall Workshop is primarily the chairmen pumping up their committees and programs. The Department Chair looks at Alaska and what Alaska can do. Each Unit will take a look at what is offered and choose several in which to participate (for instance, if you don't have many kids, then don't plan family activities geared toward kids). Taylor your involvement to your Unit. Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) stated that if we keep doing things the way we are doing them, there won't be an Auxiliary by 2030. We need to find an avenue to tap into the electronic arena. We also need to find activities that will attract young members. Meetings are not what gets younger members involved. They want to be out doing things.

Rehta Foster (Unit 28) acknowledged that the Legion needs to change a lot within themselves. They didn't understand in the past. Now it is understood that there is a problem, and it needs to change.

RECESS

The convention recessed to the Past Presidents' Parley Luncheon at 11:26 a.m.

RECONVENE

The convention reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

Past Presidents' Parley

Past President Penny Mazonna read the report for Past President Sharon Cherrette. She reported that a Silver Tea was held in November to raise funds for the Christmas Gift Shoppe at the VA Domiciliary and other programs. Another Unit decorated a white Christmas tree with blue and red decorations and held a silent auction for the Hospice.

This year's theme was ALA Member Pride. She mentioned the following:

- Pride in helping Veterans, military and their families
- Pride in making a difference
- Pride in a job well done
- Pride in belonging to an organization whose mission we totally embrace

Those Department Past Presidents who had passed away were remembered: Mabel Fennimore, Lorene Evelyn Van Matre, Linda Gunvalson Van Horn and Gloria Olson Petrovich.

Unit Member of the Year – There were four nominations received. The Past Department Presidents reviewed and voted on those nominations. Marilyn Mork (Unit 6) was awarded the 2017 Unit Member of the Year. Marilyn will be going to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada in August.

A break was given to allow people to get their membership cards and use the facilities. Members were told that once the break was over, the doors would be closed and no one would be allowed to enter or exit.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers

President Susan Waldhaus
1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Chaplain Jane Larson
Historian Colleen Newman

Committee Chair

Americanism Chair Barbara Nath
Cavalcade of Memories Colleen Newman
Children and Youth Zona Gregg
Community Service Penny Mazonna
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Barbe Wolkoff

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Penny Mazonna
Jean Clayton

ROLL CALL (continued)

Excused

Officers

2nd Vice President Debbie Lowndes
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Sgt-At-Arms Laurie Scott

Committee Chair

Audit Betty Randall
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Leona Schank
Constitution and ByLaws Lavonne Collier
Distinguished Guests Beverly Eads
Education Lori Fitzsimons
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Junior Activities Wendy Mendez
Leadership Eva Aulston
Legislative Sharon Cherrette
Membership Debbie Lowndes
National Security Beverly Eads
Past President Parley Sharon Cherrette
Public Relations Patty Mazonna-Jones

Absent

Officers

Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald
Executive Committeewoman Amber Sawyer

Units

Joseph T Craig Unit 3
Sitka Unit 13
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Muldoon Unit 29
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

Past Department Presidents

June Haas	Sue Cherrier	Sharon Cherrette
Lori Fitzsimons	Betty Porter	Lavonne Collier
Eva Aulston	Judy Pusti	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Sue Diaz	Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship		

VOTING STRENGTH

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1	25 + 1 for a total of 26
Seward Unit 5	15 + 1 for a total of 16
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6	9 + 1 for a total of 10
Dorman H Baker Unit 11	7 + 1 for a total of 8
Lynn Canal Unit 12.....	7 + 1 for a total of 8
Matanuska Valley Unit 15	10 + 1 for a total of 11
General Buckner Unit 16	15 + 1 for a total of 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17.....	13 + 1 for a total of 14
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20.....	15 + 1 for a total of 16
Spenard Unit 28	23 + 1 for a total of 24
Peters Creek Unit 33	14 + 1 for a total of 15
Susitna Valley Unit 35	16 + 1 for a total of 17
C Russell Huber Unit 57	19 + 1 for a total of 20

Total for Units is 201.

Committee Chairman (1 vote per chairman)

Barb Nath, Americanism
Zona Gregg, Children and Youth
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State
Lori Fruhwirth, Legislative

Total for Chairmanships is 4.

Officers (1 vote per officer)

President Sue Waldhaus
1st Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Historian Colleen Newman
Chaplain Jane Larson

Total for Officers is 4.

Past Department Presidents (1 vote each)

Susan Caswell
Carolyn Null
Rheta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Penny Mazonna
Jean Clayton

Total for Past Department Presidents is 6.

GRAND TOTAL OF VOTES AVAILABLE: 215

Nominations Committee

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) indicated that letters did not need to be read again.

President – Barbe Wolkoff

President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of President. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Barbe Wolkoff elected for the office of President for the 2017-2018 year by acclimation.

1st Vice President – Debbie Lowndes.

President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of 1st Vice-President. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Debbie Lowndes elected for the office of 1st Vice-President for the 2017-2018 year by acclimation.

2nd Vice President – No nominations.

President Waldhaus asked if there were any nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-President. Unit 35 nominated Jane Larson as 2nd Vice President. President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-President. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Jane Larson elected for the office of 2nd Vice-President for the 2017-2018 year by acclimation.

Historian – No nominations.

President Waldhaus asked if there were any nominations for the position of Historian. Unit 35 nominated Colleen Newman as historian. President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Historian. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Colleen Newman elected for the office of Historian for the 2017-2018 year by acclimation.

Chaplain – No nominations.

President Waldhaus asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chaplain. Unit 33 nominated Marge Blankenship as Chaplain. President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Chaplain. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Marge Blankenship elected for the office of Chaplain for the 2017-2018 year by acclimation.

Sgt.-at-Arms – No nominations.

President Waldhaus asked if there were any nominations for the position of Sgt.-at-Arms. Unit 6 nominated Zona Gregg as Sgt.-At-Arms. President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Sgt.-at-Arms. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Zona Gregg elected for the office of Sgt.-at-Arms for the 2017-2018 year by acclimation.

E-Board – There are 2 openings

Colleen Newman (Unit 35) nominated Carrie Doores (Unit 15) for E-Board which she accepted.

Michele Giddings (Unit 11) nominated Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) for E-Board, which she accepted.

President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the E-Board. Hearing none, President Waldhaus declared Carrie Doores (Unit 15) and Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) elected to the E-Board for the 2017-2018 year by acclamation.

National Executive Committee Woman -- Lisa Williamson. (2 year term 2017-2019)

President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of National Executive Committee Woman. There being no other nominations, President Waldhaus declared Lisa Williamson elected by acclamation.

Alternate National Executive Committee Woman – Nominations were received for Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) and Penny Mazonna (Unit 33).

President Waldhaus asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Alternate Executive Committee Woman. There being no other nominations, ballots were distributed and a five-minute caucus was given. The ballot committee took the ballots and left the room to count ballots.

Upon their return it was announced that Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) would be the Alternate Executive Committee Woman for a two year term (2017-2019)

The final approved officers are:

President.....	Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33)
1 st Vice President	Debbie Lowndes (Unit 3)
2 nd Vice President	Jane Larson (Unit 35)
Chaplain	Marge Blankenship (Unit 35)
Historian.....	Colleen Newman (Unit 35)
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Zona Gregg (Unit 6)
National Executive Committee Women	Lisa Williamson (Unit 57)
Alternate National Executive Committee Woman	Penny Mazonna (Unit 33)

MOTION by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) and seconded Zona Gregg (Unit 6) to separate the office of Secretary and Treasurer position into two separate positions and make them appointed positions, not elected positions.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to keep the Gaming permit with Loyal Ladies Enterprises in Anchorage.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

FALL WORKSHOP

Unit 28 (Anchorage) has asked to host the Fall Workshop. The date is now September 30 and October 1 (Saturday/Sunday).

MOTION by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) to have a Fall Workshop hosted by Unit 28 in Anchorage from September 30 - October 1, 2017.

It was noted the workshop is on Saturday with the Department DEC meeting on Sunday as well as the Girls State DEC meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote no abstention.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Convention will be in Reno, Nevada from August 18th to 24th. Yvonne Lamm and Sue Caswell volunteered to be the two pages for the convention. Parade attire is white or khaki slacks (no short shorts) with red shirts. The attire for the caucus will be the same. The caucus will be on Saturday with the parade on Sunday. The DEC meeting will be Sunday morning before the caucus.

Those interested in attending included:

Vonn Lamm (Unit 33) -- Page
Rehta Foster (Unit 28)
Carolyn Null (Unit 28)
Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11)
Lisa Williamson (Unit 57)
Barbara Hommel (Unit 6)
Juanita Coursen (Unit 6)
Merrilyn Mork (Unit 6) – Unit Member of the Year
Zona Gregg (Unit 6)
Collen Neuman (Unit 35)
Barbe Walkoff (Unit 33)
Sue Caswell (Unit 33) – Page
Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28)
Marge Blankenship (Unit 33)
Lavonne Collier (Unit 1)
Linda Schmitt (Unit 33)
Barb Nath (Unit 20)
Beverly Eads (Unit 17)
Sue Diaz (Unit 20)

If anyone on this list finds that they are not going to be able to go, they need to let Linda know as soon as possible. Linda will be Secretary until after the National Convention.

MOTION Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Carrie Doores (Unit 15) that the delegates and the alternate delegates be selected by the Secretary.

Officers would be the first choice, followed by chairman and then any one else. There are 8 delegates, 8 alternates and two pages. We won't know the final actual numbers until 30 days before the convention. It is based on membership. The 2017 membership number is used until December 31st. The 2018 membership cards come out around August.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

Rehta Foster thanked her team.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY

There is not a quorum present to elect officers. Officers will retain their positions until the nominations occur. It is anticipated that this will be at the Fall Workshop.

Kyrsten gave a report on her attendance at National. It was in January. They focused on the flag and flag etiquette. They talked about how the American Legion is built off one another. They were educated on the Poppy Lady and how she introduced the poppy which became the Legion Flower.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) stated that she needs a picture in front of the flag of new Department officers.
- Sue Caswell (Unit 33) asked for someone to fill in for some spots in the installation lineup. Jan Scott and Cassey St. Rose will fill in for the 1st Vice-President and the Chaplain. Installation is at 6:00 p.m. so be there by 5:30 p.m. Sue Caswell is the installing officer
- The Convention recessed to the Department DEC meeting at 2:50 p.m.
- The Convention returned from the Department DEC meeting at 3:25 p.m.
- Linda Schmitt congratulated all newly elected officers and looks forward to working with them.
- President Sue Waldhaus wished Barbe Wolkoff good luck in the future and gave her a gift of journal to keep notes for her activities throughout the year, to be included in her President's year end report next year.
- Chaplain Jane Larson gave the invocation

CONVENTION CLOSING

President Sue Waldhaus declared 95th American Legion Auxiliary Convention closed at 3:24 p.m.