

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
97th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
April 25 – 27, 2019
Hosted by Jack Henry Post 1
Held at Arctic Recreation Center**

Joint Opening Ceremonies were held prior to the American Legion Auxiliary Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Lowndes at 10:07 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to dispense with Opening Ceremonies except for the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Department Chaplain Marge Blankenship said a prayer for our meetings

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committeewoman Lisa Williamson
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Debbie Lowndes
1st Vice President Jane Larson
2nd Vice President Yvonne Lamm
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Historian Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair
Executive Committeewoman Anne Foley

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Chair Sue Waldhaus
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Zona Gregg
Children and Youth Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Community Service Chair Kathy Moore
Constitution and ByLaws Chair Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Chair Lisa Williamson
Education and Scholarship Chair April Sinclair
Finance Chair Jane Larson
ALA Girls State Chair Yvonne Lamm
History Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Junior Activities Chair Danielle Larson
Leadership Chair Colleen Newman
Legislative Chair Marge Blankenship
Membership Chair Yvonne Lamm
National Security Chair Lisa Williamson
Poppy Chair Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chair Jane Larson

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph P. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
George H. Plumley Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Lori FitzSimons
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus

ROLL CALL (continued)

EXCUSED

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Chair Linda Schmitt
Past Presidents Parley Chair Barbe Wolkoff

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Linda Schmitt
Beverly Eads
Barbe Wolkoff

ABSENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Relations Chair Lori Wolfe

UNITS

Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Ruth Brown	Betty Bumala	Laverne Kearns
Evelyn Oliver	June Haas	Betty Porter
Lavonne Collier	Jean Clayton	Judy Pusti
Etta Singleton	Wilma Stokes	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash		

The Juniors were dismissed to their meetings.

President Debbie Lowndes introduced Alaska National Executive Committeewoman Lisa Williamson. Lisa said it was an honor and introduced National President Kathy Dungan. She noted that National President Kathy Dungan was her first roommate at the Chairman's meeting. She has been kind and a true southern woman. Lisa holds her near and dear. Kathy's focus is on serving our heroes. Her family is her pride and joy. She had just become a grandmother for the first time.

National President Kathy Dungan is excited. She told us that Lisa got the nod and is moving up the chairs toward National President. Kathy's focus this year is on female veterans. She recognized Sharon Charrette and Lori FitzSimons. Her theme is "Serving Our Heroes". She chose this theme to put the spotlight on all veterans, and especially female veterans.

Debbie showed the dog tags she had made that said “No Woman Left Behind” and presented one to National President Kathy Dungan

First time members to the Department Convention were asked to stand and be recognized. They introduced themselves.

Jennifer Fee, Unit 35
Debbie Ervin, Unit 57
Crystal Stonecipher, Unit 20
Megan Anderson, Unit 16
Debbie Brahm, Unit 16

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Credentials Committee	Barbara Nath (Unit 20), Debbie Ervin (Unit 57), and Becky Fite (Unit 20)
Rules Committee	Jane Larson (Unit 35)
Constitution and ByLaws	Sue Diaz (Unit 20), Michele Giddings (Unit 11), and Rehta Foster (Unit 28)
Finance Committee	Jane Larson (Unit 35), Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29), and Barbara Nath (Unit 20)
Nominations Committee	Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and one representative from each Unit.
Parliamentarian	Sue Caswell (Unit 33)
Distinguished Guests	Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and Penny Mazonna (Unit 33)
Audit	Sue Diaz (Unit 20), Francis Bedel (Unit 57), and Debbie Van Tassel (Unit 5)
History/Scrapbook	Colleen Newman (Unit 35), Debbie Brahm (Unit 16), and Carolyn Null (Unit 28)
Poppy	Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11), Anne Foley (Unit 1) and Andrea Ferrin (Unit 12)
Chaplains Book	Carolyn Null (Unit 28), Kathy Balcom (Unit 5), and Eva Aulston (Unit 1)
Balloting	Lisa Williamson (Unit 57), Sylvia Banie (Unit 3), and Rehta Foster (Unit 28)

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS (continued)

Education	Samantha Funk (Unit 3), Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33), and Marilyn Mork (Unit 6)
PPP	Sue Caswell (Unit 33) who announced she needs all nominations for Unit Member of the Year and for Servicewoman of the Year.

READING OF CONVENTION RULES

Jane Larson, Rules Committee Chair and the Department 1st Vice President read the Convention Rules.

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 10:48 a.m.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

President Debbie Lowndes asked for each committee chair to stand and inform those present of their needs in order to complete their reports for the Department Convention. Those chairmen present let the members know how many reports they had received from the 22 Units in the Department. Most committees were missing reports from at least 5 Units.

The Chaplain let it be known that it is important to share with the Chaplain when someone is in need of prayer, or in the hospital or passes away or there are other needs she might be able to help with. It was pointed out that not everyone wants their personal information shared (not even with their Unit).

The judges for the Past Presidents Parley Unit Member of the Year and the Servicewoman of the year would be: Lori FitzSimons (Unit 1), Sue Diaz (Unit 20), and Lisa Williamson (Unit 57)

NEC Report – National Executive Committeewoman Lisa thanked everyone and informed them of her National Appointment which is Education. She highlighted the following:

- There is a report about restructuring the NEC. It will come up at the National Convention.
- Lisa will be resigning as our Alaska NEC. Penny will complete Lisa's term until National Convention. A new NEC and Alternate NEC will need to be elected at this Department Convention.
- At the NEC meeting in August, 2018 (post National Convention), the budget was approved, national appointments were ratified, and Debbie Buckner submitted her resignation as National Secretary among other items of business. Linda Boone will be the interim National Secretary. A search is underway to fill that position with someone who fits our organization.
- We now own our new building. At the National Convention in August 2019, tours will be available. Engineers are looking at the building to determine any needs. There are renovations needed. We were not told about any of the needs and the cost is about \$800,000 to meet those needs.

- The 100th Anniversary is next year. A resolution was made regarding transfers to another Unit. Several years ago, a transfer had to be accepted by the Unit. Now, the accepting Unit, after determining eligibility and dues paid, has a choice to vote on accepting the transfer. They don't have to vote.
- Spring NEC – National is proposing a change to the national committees. There are 185 national appointments. They are looking at eliminating and combining positions resulting in elimination of 31. It's a great example of streamlining. Lisa has a draft and will give to Barb.
- There were discrepancies within National Governing documents and other internal documents. The Department was told that the Western Division National Vice President could not come to Alaska for a visit. Last year, she chose to come at her own expense in a non-official capacity. She and her daughter were going to come to the Christmas Gift Shop. However, the earthquake in November cancelled that activity and they weren't able to come. She is hoping to visit sometime this year. Lisa talked with Linda Boone during the NEC meeting. The discrepancies have been removed and we do have the possibility of the WDNP visiting Alaska. The two possibilities for Alaska would be either the Christmas Gift Shop or the Fall Workshop.
- She stormed the hill in Washington DC. Representative Don Young has been the longest serving legislator in the House and now is the longest serving legislator for both the House and the Senate. She saw Nathan from Lisa Murkowski's office. Dan Sullivan may be here at the Department Convention.

Debbie thanked Lisa Williamson for her guidance as well as Linda Schmitt, Marge Blankenship and Sue Diaz.

Anarene (Ann) Robinson noted that the director of the VA is working with us. He has said that he will go into a meeting with veterans. If you let Ann that you want the director to attend, she will work on getting him there. He will meet with Post members, Unit members, and veterans.

Michele Giddings is the Fairbanks Deputy and she went to a town hall meeting and the director is phenomenal. If you know a Veteran who is going out of town, they need to find the VA center where they are going. Alaska's VA is not connected; it is a stand-alone. The Veteran needs to make contact with that VA Center so there is a record. If visitors come to Alaska have them sign in at our VA.

Anne Foley noted that you have 72 hours to report to the VA Center where you are visiting. Don't report to Alaska.

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 11:36 a.m. for the Americanism Luncheon

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

Lisa took a moment to explain that once she is ratified to her National appointment as Children and Youth Chairman in August, she will be on the road toward National President. If she succeeds, she will be the first National President from Alaska to be elected in August 2022. She would chair the National Convention in 2023. She will have a homecoming in October.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS REVISIONS

Members were sent the proposed revisions to the Constitution, ByLaws, Standing Rules and Policy and Procedures in advance of the Department Convention. All of the documents need to be read and reviewed today so that a vote can be taken on them later in this Department Convention. Each of those changes were read and reviewed.

It was pointed out that the Constitution should not be revised very often. Therefore, the Constitution and the ByLaws will be two separate documents. Except for the Constitution, all other documents can be revised as frequently as necessary.

Constitution Additional Revisions/Comments

- One additional revision was made to fix the footer to read “Constitution” instead of “ByLaws”

ByLaws Additional Revisions/Comments

- Page 3, Article III, Section delete the hyphen between the words “handle” and “funds” in the last line.
- Page 3, Article III, Section 3 delete the word “local” before bonding company in the last sentence.
- In regard to Department officers, officers would be elected for a one-year term, but may choose to run for a second one-year term. It is not an automatic two year term. The Department President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Historian can serve a maximum of two one-year terms. Others may serve more than two terms.
- It is not a requirement to go through the different chairs.
- The Secretary and Treasurer positions are now two separate positions. They are appointed by the President and then ratified by the DEC.
- Two years ago a motion was made to appoint the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. It is now being changed in the governing documents.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to strike Article V, Section 4.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to add the following paragraph on page 10 after the first paragraph in Section 8 and before the evidence of paid membership includes: “Transfer is final upon verification of eligibility, evidence of paid membership, and acceptance of the transferee by the Unit.”

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- A discussion began on the use of the word “citizen” when referring to those attending ALA Girls State. Those attending are referred to as “citizens”. It complies with National language. A concern was raised that people would think they have to be a citizen of the United States in order to attend. Citizen is a word used to indicate they are participating in either ALA Girls State or TAL Boys State. It is possible that there would be a transgender person attending. If someone identifies as a girl they would go to ALA Girls State and if someone identifies as a boy they would go to TAL Boys State.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to move Sections 14 and 15 on page 11 to become Sections 10 and 11 in the same article.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- If a member is expelled from a Unit they cannot be a member of any other member. It is a serious matter to have a judiciary hearing. Expulsion is very severe and takes a lot of work. If a member is expelled it is because of a serious problem and we don’t want that person causing a problem at another Unit.
- Page 12, Article VII, Section 5 delete the word “local” before bonding company

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 3:03 p.m.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 3:34 p.m.

Standing Rules Additional Revisions/Comments

- On page 7, under Inclusiveness and Diversity, the word “its” should be one word with no space between the letters.
- On page 10 it was noted that the American Legion National Washington DC meeting is not always in February. The suggestion was to add a TBD between February and March and put the statement TAL (The American Legion) Washington DC Conference in that section
- On page 10 under April, add the word “scholarships” after “Certified Division after April 1st and April 15th.”
- Page 11 Change to say ALA Girls State Chairman/Director on May 15th
- Page 11 Add impact reports due May 15th
- Page 16, under the Legacy Scholarship add the letter “s” to the word time in the last sentence. Page 16, change the last sentence to say that the Application Deadline is on the Legion web site.
- Page 16, remove the word “finally: from the first paragraph of the Merrilyn Stock/Evelyn Oliver scholarship information

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) to remove the information regarding the application deadline dates.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Policy and Procedure Additional Revisions/Comments

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to add the following paragraph to “D Fees” on page 4: “If the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska pays the registration fee, and you cannot attend, you must notify the Department Secretary two weeks prior to the National Convention so that a replacement can be found or you will reimburse for the cost of the registration fee.”

It was asked if we need to set a specific date and it was felt that the notification of two weeks prior to convention would be sufficient.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- Page 7, it was noted that there were no additional members for the Convention Finance Committee as it is the same membership as the Department Finance Committee.
- Page 17, K-1 there are no National Rules for the Poppy Contest so replace “National Rules” with “Department Rules”
- Page 21, #6 Department Historian. There is no National Historian. Delete those words.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to add the word “traditionally” on page 22 under “B” after the word “Committeewoman” and before the word “serves”

It would read “The National Executive Committeewoman traditionally serves as Chairman of the Legislative Committee.”

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- Page 23 #6 put parenthesis before and after “flowers, mealtransportation”

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to strike the last sentence of the first paragraph under Education Committee on page 28.

Deleted was the sentence “All judges must be current member in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska.”

Judges are not required to be members

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Sandi Coash (Unit 17) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to recess the meeting at this time.

Rehta Foster (Unit 28) indicated that if we do not finish the first reading today we will not be able to vote on the revisions until Saturday.

The motion failed by voice vote.

MOTION: by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to delete the first sentence on page 39 #5 ALA Girls State.

The sentence to be deleted reads “Units eligible to send girls to ALA Girls State must participate in at least four of the following programs: Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans’ Affairs and Rehabilitation, ALA Girls State, Poppy or Community Service.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 5:05 p.m. to reconvene Friday morning at 9:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

RECONVENE – The Convention was reconvened at 9:09 a.m. by President Debbie Lowndes.

A prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Marge Blankenship.

National Executive Committeewoman Lisa Williamson introduced the following who spoke to those present:

- National Commander Brett Reistad stated that the American Legion Auxiliary is very energetic. It is his first time to Alaska. He has visited 45 departments and hopes to visit all 55 by the time of the National Convention. He has had the support of his family and it has made it possible for him to be in this position.
- National President Kathy Dungan is happy to see all the red today. She feels very welcomed. She thanked Penny Mazonna for doing a great job. She appreciates everything the American Legion Auxiliary does for veterans and families. In her welcome basket she received chocolates, a handmade woven Alaska basket, a moose pin, and a blown glass candy dish. She thanked her family for their support as she would not be able to do this without them.
- National Commander Candidate Paul Dillard from Texas has always enjoyed American Legion Auxiliary meetings. This is his first time in Alaska. He will take office at the National Convention in Kentucky in 2020. His family is very involved in the American Legion Family. He couldn't do his job without his family's support. Hospitality has been great. It's a beautiful country. He hopes to be back in 2021.

At this time Department President Debbie Lowndes left to attend a meeting with the American Legion. The 1st Vice President took over the gavel and podium.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Constitution and ByLaws Chair Sue Diaz (Unit 20) came to continue the process of revising the Governing Documents. She noted that they would not be read again, but would instead be brought up for action.

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to approve the Constitution as presented and revised.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) and seconded by Megan Anderson (Unit 16) to approve the ByLaws as presented and revised.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to approve the Standing Rules as presented and revised.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Kathy Moore (Unit 29) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) to approve the Policy and Procedures as presented and revised.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Sue remarked that it took everyone to make these revisions possible. It was a long process and has concluded successfully. She also thanked the Department Secretary Barbara Nath for her work in this process. Jane Larson thanked Sue Diaz for taking over the responsibility of making sure our governing documents were accurate.

Sue Caswell asked if there were any other applications for Servicewoman of the Year or Member of the Year. If so they should be brought to her.

RECESS – The Convention recessed for brief committee meetings at 9:52 a.m.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Committee reports will be given throughout the Convention and in no specific order.

Poppy Committee Report – Lori Fruhwirth reported that 16 Units had 19,900 poppies. One Unit held a poppy day art contest (Lynn Canal Unit 12)

Unit Reports Received16
Volunteer hours.....2,109
Money Raised\$9,993.10

Correspondence – Letters were read from Past Department President Evelyn Oliver and from National President Kathy Dungan.

History Report – Anarene (Ann) Robinson received reports from seven Units. One Unit operates a thrift store to raise fund. Another sponsored a raffle. There was a patriotic float in the 4th of July Parade. There were numerous events for opportunities to socialize.

Past Presidents Parley Committee Report – Barbe Wolkoff’s report was read to those present. April Sinclair was the Unit Member of the Year last year and attended National Convention.

Unit Reports Received9
Volunteer hours.....25
Money Spent560.00

Barbe thanked Sue Caswell for filling the responsibilities for the PPP Luncheon as Barbe was not able to be attend. There will be a report regarding the Luncheon on Saturday afternoon.

Public Relations Report – Lisa Williamson read Lori Wolfe’s report. Lori noted that our website and social media inspired Units to set up their own Facebook pages, with members posting information from the website to their personal Facebook pages. Articles, photos and lists of upcoming events were submitted to local newspapers. These have resulted in increased attendance at events. Branding is done throughALA logo wear, auxiliary pins and through social media

Unit Reports Received8
Volunteer hours.....10,946
Money Spent5,664.44

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Committee Report – Zona Gregg reported that involvement has improved over last year. The AEF is to help Auxiliary sisters. While most reports contained figures you should also report any donations of clothing, time, etc. that were given. There were 27 projects throughout the year and help was provided for food, lodging, heat and electricity.

Unit Reports Received18
Volunteer hours.....17
Money Raised5,808.00
 Department (4924.50) National (1883.50)
Money Spent2,976.32

There was one emergency this year which was the earthquake on November 1st. No lives were lost. Auxiliary members checked on each other to assure everyone was safe and to see if they had any needs. Zona thanked everyone.

Junior Activities Committee Report – As Danielle Larson (Chair) was conducting the Junior Activities during the Department Convention, her report was read by Anarene (Ann) Robinson. There were a total of 8 Juniors at the Department Convention. Activities throughout the year included planting flowers at the Post, doing a rummage sale, Toys for Tots, Santa activities, and making Cookies 4 Kuwait.

Unit Reports Received13
Volunteer hours.....465
Money Spent325.00

RECESS – The Convention recessed to Post Everlasting at 10:44 a.m.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 2:07 p.m.

Americanism Committee Report – Sue Waldhaus reported that Units show Americanism by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble at their Unit meetings. Training occurred throughout the year. Many Units sponsored citizens to ALA Girls State and/or TAL Boys State. A parliamentary workshop was given at ALA Girls State and TAL Boys State. Units sent boxes to our Troop and their families were invited to activities. Celebration of Life Ceremonies were held as were Flag Retirement Ceremonies.

Unit Reports Received22
Volunteer hours.....5067.5
Money Spent4353.50
Miles23,500

Anchorage Christmas Project – Sue Waldhaus reminded all that this is an annual event. Veterans at Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home, Anchorage Pioneer Home, and JBER hospital received gift bags. This year’s gift bags included socks, ornaments, lotion and sock puppy for 57 veterans

Unit Reports Received3
Volunteer hours.....48
Money Spent340.83
Miles23,500

First Reading of Nominations – Letters of Endorsement were read by the Nomination Committee consisting of Sue Caswell (Unit 33), Michele Giddings (Unit 11) and Crystal Stonecipher (Unit 20). The following letters were read:

- Jane Larson, Department President (Unit 35)
- Yvonne Lamm, 1st Vice President (Unit 33)
- Annarene (Ann) Robinson, 2nd Vice President (Unit 33)
- April Sinclair, Historian (Unit 57)
- Colleen Newman, Chaplain (Unit 35)
- Lori Fruhwirth, Sergeant-at-Arms (Unit 11)
- Frances Bedel, Department of Alaska Executive Committeewoman (Unit 57)
- Zona Gregg, Department of Alaska Executive Committeewoman (Unit 6)
- Sharon Cherrette, National Executive Committeewoman (Unit 29)
- Penny Mazonna, National Executive Committeewoman (Unit 33)
- Sue Diaz, Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, (Unit 20)

Letters of Endorsement were also read for appointed positions

- Diana Estrada, Treasurer (Unit 35)
- Barbara Nath, Secretary (Unit 20)

RESOLUTIONS – Jackie Novell and Tanya Holiday

Resolution 2019-2 was read. It was to show appreciation to Debbie Lowndes for her leadership as the 2018-2019 Department President.

MOTION: by Megan Anderson (Unit 16) and seconded by Kathy Moore (Unit 29) to approve Resolution 2019-2.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2019-1 was read. It was to thank Jack Henry Post 1, Unit 1 and Squadron 1 and the American Legion Riders Chapter 1 for doing a successful job of hosting the 2019 Department Convention.

It was noted that the American Legion Riders had been inadvertently left off the resolution and they will be added.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to approve Resolution 2019-1, assuring that the American Legion Riders were added to the Resolution

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

OFFICERS

President Debbie Lowndes
1st Vice President Jane Larson
2nd Vice President Yvonne Lamm
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Historian Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT:

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Chair Sue Waldhaus
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Zona Gregg
Children and Youth Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Community Service Chair Kathy Moore
Constitution and ByLaws Chair Sue Diaz
Education and Scholarship Chair April Sinclair
Finance Chair Jane Larson
ALA Girls State Chair Yvonne Lamm
History Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Leadership Chair Colleen Newman
Legislative Chair Marge Blankenship
Membership Chair Yvonne Lamm
Poppy Chair Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chair Jane Larson

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph P. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
George H. Plumley Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Lori FitzSimons
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus

ROLL CALL (continued)

EXCUSED

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committeewoman Lisa Williamson
Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

Executive Committeewoman Anne Foley

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Chair Linda Schmitt
Distinguished Guests Chair Lisa Williamson
Junior Activities Danielle Larson
National Security Chair Lisa Williamson
Past Presidents Parley Barbe Wolkoff

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Linda Schmitt
Lisa Williamson
Penny Mazonna
Beverly Eads
Barbe Wolkoff

ABSENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Past Presidents Parley Chair Barbe Wolkoff
Public Relations Chair Lori Wolfe

UNITS

Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Ruth Brown	Betty Bumala	Laverne Kearns
Evelyn Oliver	June Haas	Betty Porter
Lavonne Collier	Jean Clayton	Judy Pusti
Etta Singleton	Wilma Stokes	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Beverly Eads	Barbe Wolkoff

VA&R Committee Chair – Jane Larson noted that the Department of Alaska took to heart the mission “service not self”. There were many activities cited including

- Assisting at a veterans fishing resort
- Providing food
- Visiting at home and in the hospital
- Transportation
- Cemetery markers
- Financial assistance
- Making a quilt of honor
- And the list goes on and on

There are probably many other things that weren’t reported.

Unit Reports Received4
Volunteer hours.....24,846.5
Money Spent42,637
Miles6,825

Proposed Budget for 2019-2020 – The proposed budget for the next year was distributed with each Unit receiving a copy to review.

Children and Youth Committee Report – Anarene (Ann) Robinson said that several Units invited veterans’ children to Christmas parties. One Unit concentrated on the Toys for Tots program holding fundraisers as well as an auction. Mr. and Mrs. Claus came to the event on the back of a local fire truck. Many Units are collecting box tops for school, supporting local children’s charities, as well as those on a National level. Some Units held meetings and invited community youth to make Hero Packs, promote family, flag awareness and safety while doing fun crafts. There is a “school supply drive” as school begins and a winter drive for winter weather clothing. They were truly “family” events.

Unit Reports Received11

Community Services Committee Report – Kathy Moore’s report was read by Sue Caswell showing us again about the belief in “Service not Self”. There were many activities which included:

- Hanging baskets honoring Unit President and all veterans
- Helping a Coast Guard family to replace belongings destroyed on their way to base
- Volunteering
- Donations
- Christmas activities
- Cleaning cemetery before Memorial Day
- Baby contest
- Elder Care Center visits
- Project Homeless Connect
- Annual picnic

- Working with autism program to get housing for kids when out of state
- Thanksgiving activities
- Gas cards

Volunteer hours.....7738
 Money Spent5,650
 Miles1,441

Children and Youth Information – The items auctioned at the Children and Youth Luncheon will result in 50% coming to the Department. Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) challenged all PDPs to donate \$20 for C&Y. Past Department Presidents made donations in a variety of amounts.

National Security Committee Report – Lisa reminded everyone that National Security deals with active duty military while VA&R deals with veterans to enhance their lives and their families’ lives. Throughout the year, many things happened across our state.

- Servicewoman of the Year nominated and selected and forwarded to National Headquarters
- Helping with the Annual Combat Fishing Program
- Involvement in Operation Apple Pie (sending out care packages)
- Providing meals and special meal events
- Hosting crew dinners when vessels are in port.
- Driving force behind Military Appreciation Day in Seward
- Getting school children involved in different activities
- POW/MIA empty chair ceremonies at all formal ceremonies and meetings.
- Contact with Coast Guard
- Monetary contributions
- Support during the Government shut down
- Providing homemade cookies at Christmas time
- Contributing to 5-1 Cav for their stockings
- Attending Change of Command ceremonies
- Keeping a foot in the door at military installations and with their FRG (Key to a successful National Security Program)
- Involvement with JROTC for many events
- Being a part of deployment and redeployment services
- Hosting of dinner for National Guardsmen and their families
- Supporting a Coast Guardsman and his family at the birth of their preemie son as there were complications and the family was away from home (special thanks to Anarene (Ann) Robinson). Marge Blankenship took a kit to the mom to make a baby blanket. The mom requested it and wanted to learn how to do it.

Unit Reports Received16
 Money Spent3,089

RECESS – The Convention recess for the day to reconvene on Saturday morning.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

RECONVENE – The convention reconvened at 9:07 a.m. The pledge was recited and a prayer was offered.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committeewoman Lisa Williamson

OFFICERS

President Debbie Lowndes
1st Vice President Jane Larson
2nd Vice President Yvonne Lamm
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Historian Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair
Executive Committeewoman Anne Foley

PRESENT:

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Chair Sue Waldhaus
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Zona Gregg
Children and Youth Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Community Service Chair Kathy Moore
Constitution and ByLaws Chair Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Chair Lisa Williamson
Education and Scholarship Chair April Sinclair
Finance Chair Jane Larson
ALA Girls State Chair Yvonne Lamm
History Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Leadership Chair Colleen Newman
Legislative Chair Marge Blankenship
Membership Chair Yvonne Lamm
National Security Chair Lisa Williamson
Poppy Chair Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chair Jane Larson

ROLL CALL (continued)

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph P. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
George H. Plumley Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Lori FitzSimons
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Sue Waldhaus

EXCUSED

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Chair Linda Schmitt
Junior Activities Danielle Larson

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Linda Schmitt
Penny Mazonna
Beverly Eads
Barbe Wolkoff

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Relations Chair Lori Wolfe

UNITS

Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Ruth Brown	Betty Bumala	Laverne Kearns
Evelyn Oliver	June Haas	Betty Porter
Lavonne Collier	Jean Clayton	Judy Pusti
Etta Singleton	Wilma Stokes	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Sharon Cherrette	

Audit Committee Report – Sue Diaz and her committee reviewed the books for the Department. Discrepancies noted were on names only and the books are in great order.

A recommendation was made by the Audit Committee that since Nome has not been active and only has 5 members a letter be sent to them indicating the possibility of having their Charter revoked.

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to send a letter to Nome Unit 19 regarding the possibility of having their charter revoked.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY STANDING RULES REVISION

Sue Diaz (Unit 20) spoke to those present indicating that there needs to be a change to the Junior Auxiliary Standing Rules. The Rules currently state that the retiring Honorary Junior Auxiliary Department President shall attend the National Junior Meetings. This should be the current Honorary Junior Auxiliary President.

Currently Reads:

10. 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 per term.

Amend to read

10. The Incoming Honorary Junior Auxiliary President and any existing Honorary Junior Auxiliary National Officers can attend the National Mission Training/Junior meeting and shall receive up to but not exceed \$1,500 to attend each. 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 per term.

MOTION: by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to approve the change to the Junior Auxiliary Standing Rules as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Veterans' Gift Shop Committee Report – Due to the earthquake, the Gift Shop was not held in the traditional manner. We served 57 veterans despite the challenges. A Veterans' Social was held and was a big hit. One doctor who attended the social suggested having more events that would involve family members and help those connections to stay strong. Gifts were delivered.

For the future, it was noted that the Domiciliary is someone's home. Utilizing the Domiciliary can limit the people we can invite to take part in the Gift Shop. The suggestion was to change the location. Ann suggested the VA because it is large.

Ann stated that she got a lot of requests for homemade items. She suggested going back to "arts and crafts" items.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to change the Gift Shop location to the VA and call it an ALA event.

The budget for the Gift Shop is \$2,500. The money can be moved from the line item of Domiciliary Gift Shop and utilized.

Rehta Foster (Unit 28) asked if we needed to change the Constitution. Sue Diaz responded it was not in there and no changes were needed.

Eva Aulston (Unit 1) thought the change from the Domiciliary would be great. However, she stated the VA building would not be possible. This event started several years ago for homeless veterans. We need to have it where they can attend.

Ann noted that the Domiciliary is only open to those who are registered and is limited to 65 people. There are 50 people who live there leaving opening for 15. Ann intends to have lists go to the different shelters and will also ask about transportation needs to get the veterans to the location. She is sure that since the VA has a large PR media they will help advertise this event. She doesn't want to exclude the Domiciliary.

The motion was amended as follows:

AMENDED MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to move the location for the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop and task the committee chair to find a location and share that location with others.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PROPOSED BUDGET:

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Sharon Dillon (Unit 5) to approve the 2019-2020 budget as presented.

Some items to note:

- There is money in the DLNC which is in case something comes up that is not covered by National Headquarters.
- The Legionnaire is going electronic which will cut our costs.
- Reductions in line items were as a result of not receiving the income expected.
- We can pull out of savings if there is a need.
- This is the first year that the budget has been put together by our new Treasurer and Secretary. There may be items that are in the wrong categories, but these will be figured out before the next year.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Legislative Committee Report – Marge reported that several Units met with the Congressional delegation when they were in town for constituent meeting. They discussed needs and challenges facing Alaska women veterans. One Unit has two members on their city council. They bring up many activities and programs that the American Legion Auxiliary has done. There are many members who attend local council and borough meetings. Many have signed up for Legislative Alert notification. Letters and emails have been sent to Senators and Representatives throughout the year. Benefits etc. are received because reports are done. She thanked those that stormed the hill.

Unit Reports Received12

Chaplain's Report – Marge highlighted some of the activities in which Chaplains are involved. Prayers were offered at the opening and closing of meetings. Chaplains participated in Celebration of Life activities. In addition, several Chaplains are involved with other organizations and churches. Holidays and events at the Posts are also a way in which our Chaplains are involved. Chaplains were involved in ceremonies at local National Cemeteries and other cemeteries where veterans are interred. Wreaths are placed on veterans or military graves.

Unit Reports Received16

ALA Alaska Girls State Committee Report – Last year there were 26 participants with 22 members of the Legion Family also involved. They enthusiastically made poppies for Honor Flight participants. One of those who went to ALA Girls Nation came to the Fall Workshop to report on her experiences.

The dates for the year's ALA Girls State had to be changed. The new dates are now June 17 through June 23, 2019.

Membership Committee Report – Yvonne reported it has been a year of ups and downs in membership. Much work was done on trying to get members to renew. The membership boxes were a success. She developed a new slogan for Alaska

You do you
I do me
We do us
ALA Strong

This has been picked up by many Units in our district. She believes it is the true sentiment of the ALA Department of Alaska.

One area that needs work is that of goodwill to one another. It is important that we stop being mean to each other. Be kind and treat others as you would like to be treated. Without membership we will have no organization or programs.

Unit Reports Received7
Volunteer hours.....1,439
Money Spent2,692.00

Yvonne thanked those who talked about membership and gave out certificates of appreciation. She also thanked Lisa Williamson for her mentoring, help and encouragement. In addition, she thanked Anarene (Ann) Robinson and Debbie Lowndes for their support.

Education Committee Report (with Scholarship Subcommittee Report) – April noted the Department works hard and strives to ensure our members and other are adequately informed of the Education Programs.

Unit Reports Received21
Volunteer hours.....2,200
Money Raised8,517

Some highlights included:

- Assistance to help a sixth grade class travel to the State Capital to learn how the state government operates
- Assisting a 1st grade class to tour a research vessel and a kindergarten class to prepare a presentation for their Veterans’ day program
- Assisting a Marine Corp Veteran with college enrollment application
- Sponsoring school students on trips to Washington D.C. and to Normandy
- Presentation on the American Legion Auxiliary to schools
- Reciting the Flanders Field poem at an elementary school and educating on what a Veteran is and how important it is to thank them
- School supply and winter gear drives

One scholarship application was received this year. Elena Hamner was awarded a Merrilyn Stock/Evelyn Oliver scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

Leadership Committee Report – Colleen reported that the year started with Unit leaders elected and installed. Over the year Units have hosted dinners with officers to discuss their roles and responsibilities. Officers should have a copy of the Unit’s Constitution and ByLaws as well as the Standing Rules. All were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to learn through the ALA Academy. We continue to look for ways to be leaders in our community, providing leadership as opportunities arose.

Unit Reports Received16
Volunteer hours.....1,640
Money Raised1,818

100th Anniversary Committee – Colleen noted that the committee is meeting monthly. They are preparing to connect with each Unit for specific information about that Unit. There will be a Unit profile created which will include a photo of the Post/Unit. The committee is also looking for people to interview on both the Senior and Junior levels. Colleen shared the information we are looking for and asked for all Units to respond quickly to requests.

Unit History Book Contest – All of the history books were fabulous. This year’s winner was Susitna Valley Unit 35.

Scrapbook Contest – The scrapbooks were beautiful and very full. First place was awarded to Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 (Wrangell)

Chaplain's Book Contest – First place was awarded to Peters Creek Unit 33.

President's Poppy Project Contest – There were four entries to the President's Poppy Project. Susitna Valley Unit 35 was the first place winner. All entries will be used in the coloring book to be printed.

Fairbanks Christmas Project – Margaret Clausen-Grim reported that this year they did over 100 bags. They also received an additional \$200 to spend. Gift bags were delivered to the Denali Senior Home (35), Pioneer Home (20), Senior Center and Meals on Wheels (45). They were joined by Debbie Lowndes and Yvonne Lamm at the Pioneer Home as well as 2 Junior members. Bags consisted of non-slip socks, blanket, coloring books and crayons, crossword puzzles, and a handmade ornament from the Juniors.

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 10:10 a.m.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 10:30 A.m.

The Juniors reported that they had approved a motion to ask for an inexpensive digital camera for their Historian to use.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to purchase an inexpensive camera for the Junior Historian to use.

Susie Martin (Unit 5) donated a camera.

The motion was rescinded.

Junior Presentation – The Juniors gave a presentation to the Auxiliary members regarding the preamble. They distributed gifts to the American Legion Auxiliary members present. The Juniors were given a High 5 for their presentation.

President's Report – Debbie has moved out of Alaska. She will remain in Peters Creek Unit 33 and attends meeting via phone, Facebook, etc. so she is still an active member.

She was able to visit 13 Units during her term as Department President. Debbie stated they are truly living and breathing the mission of "Service Not Self". She was made to feel welcome at each Unit and was able to talk with their members. One of the visits was to Joseph T. Craig Unit 3 (Ketchikan) to help with ideas for increasing membership and member participation. While visiting, Debbie was able to see participate in Christmas activities, Halloween activities, honoring veterans, and membership dinners. She had a visitation crew of Yvonne Lamm (Membership Chair) and Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Children and Youth Chair).

She expressed her thanks to her home Unit of Peters Creek Unit 33 for their support, as well as Linda Schmitt, Lisa Williamson, Sue Caswell, Diana Estrada and Barb Nath.

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to accept the President's Report.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

She was then presented with her scrapbook of activities through the year.

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to ratify the motion from the October 28, 2019 ALA Girls State Board Meeting authorizing repayment to Ann Robinson.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

It was announced that a resolution was passed by the American Legion to decrease the meeting days for Department Convention from three days to two days (Friday and Saturday) beginning in 2020.

MOTION: by Sue Dian (Unit 20) and seconded by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) to have the meeting days for the American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention match those of the American Legion Department Convention.

Comments were made to include:

- We can still have three days because there is a lot of reorganization to do
- We could do the two day convention, but start an hour earlier each day
- We shouldn't have to change much because there will be no governing documents to review and that took a full afternoon
- Opening ceremonies could be shortened and officers could speak during their times instead of at the opening ceremonies
- The speaker for the Children and Youth Luncheon is SAL
- The speaker for the Americanism Luncheon is the National President
- The National Commander Banquet is on Friday
- It is sad that we didn't know about it ahead of time, however some believe we can accomplish our business in two days but it will be important to keep all reports short and adhere to reporting timelines (i.e. 10 minutes each)
- The possibility was mentioned about having the DEC meeting in the afternoon and beginning the Auxiliary Department Convention after it was recessed, however members from Southeast cannot get in until later in the afternoon.
- There could be pre-convention meetings (like National) to get work done

The motion was rescinded

- There are still tickets for the Harley Davidson Raffle from Unit 57.
- Zona has two pillows on silent auction. Proceeds will go to the National AEF.
- Unit 35 donated their history books monetary award to ALA Girls State.
- Request has been made to have the Fall Workshop remain in the Anchorage bowl/Mat-Su Valley area.

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 11:32 for the Past President’s Parley Luncheon.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 1:17 p.m.

MOTION: by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) and seconded Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to allow the Department Secretary to make housekeeping changes to the Governing Documents without requiring a vote.

Any changes that are significant and meaningful will be brought back before the body for a vote. However things like punctuation, footers, numbering, removing a hyphen, etc. would not require a vote.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

At this time, all members were informed that they will need to stay in the room until voting is completed. If someone leaves the room, they will not be allowed back in.

Credentials were verified by the Credentials Committee and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

VOTING STRENGTH ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committeewoman Lisa Williamson
 Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Debbie Lowndes
 1st Vice President Jane Larson
 2nd Vice President Yvonne Lamm
 Secretary Barbara Nath
 Treasurer Diana Estrada
 Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
 Chaplain Marge Blankenship
 Historian Anarene (Ann) Robinson
 Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair
 Executive Committeewoman Anne Foley

ROLL CALL (continued)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Chair Sue Waldhaus
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Zona Gregg
Children and Youth Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Community Service Chair Kathy Moore
Constitution and ByLaws Chair Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Chair Lisa Williamson
Education and Scholarship Chair April Sinclair
Finance Chair Jane Larson
ALA Girls State Chair Yvonne Lamm
History Chair Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Junior Activities Danielle Larson
Leadership Chair Colleen Newman
Legislative Chair Marge Blankenship
Membership Chair Yvonne Lamm
National Security Chair Lisa Williamson
Poppy Chair Lori Fruhwirth
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chair Jane Larson

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph P. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
George H. Plumley Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Lori FitzSimons
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Chair Linda Schmitt
Past Presidents Parley Chair Barbe Wolkoff
Public Relations Chair Lori Wolfe

UNITS

Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Ruth Brown	Betty Bumala	Laverne Kearns
Evelyn Oliver	June Haas	Betty Porter
Lavonne Collier	Jean Clayton	Judy Pusti
Etta Singleton	Wilma Stokes	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Beverly Eads	Barbe Wolkoff
Linda Schmitt		

VOTING STRENGTH

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1	23 + 1 for total of	24
Ketchikan Unit 3	5 + 1 for a total of	6
Seward Unit 5	14 + 1 for a total of	15
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.....	9 + 1 for a total of	10
General Buckner Unit 16	12 + 1 for a total of	13
Robert G. Blair Unit 17.....	9 + 1 for a total of	10
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20.....	12 + 1 for a total of	13
Spenard Unit 28	19 + 1 for a total of	20
Muldoon Unit 29.....	9 + 1 for a total of	10
Peters Creek Unit 33	13 + 1 for a total of	14
Susitna Valley Unit 35	17 + 1 for a total of	18
C. Russell Huber Unit 57	20 + 1 for a total of	21
TOTAL UNIT STRENGTH	192

Officers (1 vote per office)

President Debbie Lowndes	1
1 st Vice President Jane Larson	1
2 nd Vice President Yvonne Lamm	1
Secretary Barbara Nath	1
Treasurer Diana Estrada.....	1
Historian Anarene (Ann) Robinson	1
Chaplain Margaret Blankenship	1
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth	1
Executive Committeewoman April Sinclair	1
Executive Committeewoman Anne Foley	1
TOTAL OFFICER STRENGTH	10

Standing Committees (1 vote per chairman if not counted above)

Americanism – Sue Waldhaus	1
Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Zona Gregg.....	1
Community Services – Kathy Moore	1
Constitution and ByLaws – Sue Diaz	1
Distinguished Guests – Lisa Williamson.....	1
Junior Activities – Danielle Larson	1
Leadership – Colleen Newman.....	1
Legislative – Marge Blankenship	1
TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEE STRENGTH	8

Past Department Presidents (1 vote per PDP if not counted above)

Lori FitzSimons	1
Sue Caswell.....	1
Eva Aulston.....	1
Carolyn Null.....	1
Rehta Foster	1
Sharon Cherrette	1
TOTAL PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS STRENGTH	6

TOTAL DEPARTMENT VOTING STRENGTH.....216

ELECTIONS

Department President –Jane Larson (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared Jane Larson President for the 2019-2020 year by acclamation.

Department First Vice President –Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) has been nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared Yvonne Lamm First Vice President for the 2019-2020 year by acclamation.

Department Second Vice President –Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) has been nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared Anarene (Ann) Robinson Second Vice President for the 2019-2020 year by acclimation.

Department Historian –April Sinclair (Unit 57) has been nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared April Sinclair Historian for the 2019-2020 year by acclimation.

Department Chaplain –Colleen Newman (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared Colleen Newman Chaplain for the 2019-2020 year by acclimation.

Department Sergeant-at-Arms –Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) has been nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared Lori Fruhwirth Sergeant-at-Arms for the 2019-2020 year by acclimation.

Department Executive Committeewomen – Zona Gregg (Unit 6) and Frances Bedel (Unit 57) were nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Diana Estrada nominated Linda Travis (Unit 35) for this position. Ballots were distributed.

Ballots were collected and the Balloting Committee left to count the votes. After being counted, the two Department Executive Committeewomen positions were filled by Frances Bedel (Unit 57) and Zona Gregg (Unit 6) for the 2019-2020 year.

National Executive Committeewoman –Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and Sharon Cherrette (Unit 2p) were nominated for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, the ballots were distributed.

Ballots were collected and the Balloting Committee left to count the votes. After being counted, Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) was elected as the National Executive Committeewoman for a two year term (2019-2021).

Alternate National Executive Committeewoman –Sue Diaz (Unit 33) announced her intent to run for this position. President Debbie Lowndes asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Debbie Lowndes declared Sue Diaz the Alternate National Executive Committeewoman for a two year term (2019-2021) by acclimation.

Some fundraising was done at this time by auctioning off the jackets made by Sharon Dillon of Unit 5. The jackets sold for \$140 and \$135 for a total of \$275 raised. This month was applied to the President project.

President-elect Jane Larson stated that she has a fundraising activity and that the money raised would go to her costs for visitation as President.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded by Anarene (Ann) Robinson (Unit 33) to leave the gaming permit with the Loyal Ladies.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

National Convention is from August 23rd to August 29th. The following individuals indicated their desire to attend the National Convention and be considered as delegates, alternates or pages.

Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Diana Estrada
Sue Caswell
Sharon Cherrette (as an alternate and she is not able to attend pre-convention meetings)
Anarene (Ann) Robinson
Yvonne Lamm
Penny Mazonna
Debbie Van Tassel (Woman of the Year)
Sue Diaz
Sue Waldhaus
April Sinclair
Lori Fruhwirth
Debbie Lowndes
Barb Nath
Margaret Clausen-Grim
Tonya Halliday
Beverly Eads

Willing to serve as Pages

Margaret Clausen-Grimm
Lori Fruhwirth
Tonya Halliday

RECESS – The Convention recessed at 3:02 p.m.

RECONVENE – The Convention reconvened at 3:16 p.m.

The Juniors spoke to the Convention and indicated that they had passed a motion to ask for seven corsages for installation.

MOTION: By Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to purchase seven corsages for the Juniors for their installation.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) explained that they had intended to make 85 washcloths. Instead they made over 200 washcloths. She extended a challenge to anyone who crochets or knits to make more of them. They can send them to Penny or bring them to the Fall Workshop. She will put a Department of Alaska label on them and put them on the beds at Fisher House.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded by Marge Blankenship (Unit 28) that the Department donate \$1,000 to the Golden Age Games in June.

This money will come from the gaming account. The Golden Age Games are June 4th to the 10th.

The motion carried by unanimous vote cote.

Carolyn Null has a friend who has been badly injured. This person has three guinea pigs who must be out of her home before she can return home. Carolyn asked that if anyone knew someone who could take them, to please contact her.

JUNIOR OFFICERS

The following slate of Honorary Junior officers was presented:

President – Kyrsten Anderson-Gray (Unit 5)
First Vice President – Shelby Lamm (Unit 33)
Second Vice President—Makenzi Grim (Unit 57)
Secretary – April Schwertfeger (Unit 5)
Historian – Crystal Maddox (Unit 5)
Sergeant-at-Arms – Alexis Grim (Unit 57)
Chaplain – Renee Doyle (Unit 35)

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Marge Blankenship (Unit 28) to accept the newly elected Honorary Junior Officers

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

There will be a dual installation of both Junior and Senior Officers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Department Convention, the 97th Department Convention was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.