

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 4, 2020

(9:00 a.m. – Susitna Valley Post/Unit 35)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Larson at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to dispense with opening ceremonies

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna
Alternate National Executive Committee Person, Sue Diaz

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson
1st Vice President Anarene Robinson
2nd Vice President April Sinclair
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sgt.-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Colleen Newman
Historian April Sinclair
Executive Committee Person Frances Bedel
Executive Committee Person Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Lori Fruhwirth
Audit Sue Diaz
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Children and Youth April Sinclair
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna
Finance Debbie Lowndes
History April Sinclair
Junior Activities Margaret Claussen-Grim
Leadership Sue Caswell
Legislative Penny Mazonna
Membership Anarene Robinson
National Security Frances Bedel
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes
Poppy Margaret Blankenship
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT (continued)

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Merlin Elmer Palmer, Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Bucker Unit 16
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Con Miller Unit 30
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Margaret Blankenship
Susan Caswell
Sue Diaz
Debbie Lowndes
Penny Mazonna
Sue Waldhaus
Lisa Williamson

EXCUSED

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Sharon Cherrette

ABSENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Kathy Moore
Community Services Debbie Ervin
Public Relations Beverly Eads

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT (continued)

UNITS

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Muldoon Unit 29
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

An announcement was made that this year Post 28 of the American Legion had decided to help out a family member going through a hard times. Board members at Post 28 selected an Auxiliary member to be the recipient this year. Von Lamm and her family received an award of \$1,000. They thanked Von for all of her hard work.

CORRESPONDENCE

Department Secretary Barbara Nath read a letter from Abigail Middleton. Abigail was nominated for the Children of Warriors National Scholarship (which she received) and as such was awarded the Aggie Parks Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Abigail wrote to thank the Auxiliary for their confidence in her and their support of her education. She was very humbled to receive both scholarships.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to come before the DEC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 350 and Anarene Robinson (Unit 33) to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020 DEC meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 DEC meeting.

The following corrections were given:

- Unit 57 should be the unit listed for April Sinclair
- Lisa Boyles, Linda Schmitt and Sue Diaz were present

AMENDED

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 DEC meeting with the reported corrections.

The amended motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Department Convention – Due to a conflict in scheduling the 2021 DNLC has been scheduled for the same week as our Department Convention in 2021. The Department President, Secretary and Membership Chair are expected to attend the DNLC. We were asked to chose a date for the Department Convention. It will be voted on by the American Legion to see what the final date would be.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to request that the Department Convention for 2021 be held April 15-17, 2021.

The question was raised as to why it would be before the DNLC instead of afterwards. That was to allow us to have our elections and have the correct officers attend.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

BUDGET

The Finance Committee met on Thursday. A proposed budget was put in mailboxes for each unit. It was noted that the column headings were correct.

There were some changes noted

- Under general, Business Expenses increased to \$8,500
- Emblem sales increased to \$1,500.
- National Travel for the Department President, Secretary and Membership Chair to attend the DNLC was decreased to \$475.
- The donations for gaming were broken out.
- The annual assessments (\$30) still need to be sent in. If you have not done so, please do it ASAP.
- Don't forget to turn in 15% of your unit's poppy sales to Department.
- Christmas gift shops and stocking expenses were moved to Rehabilitation

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) to accept the proposed budget.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

April Sinclair (Unit 57) commended the committee for their work. A round of applause was given to committee members.

COMMITTEE VACANCY

At this time, there is no chair for the Education Committee. Jane asked that anyone interested in serving as chair please contact her. The Education Committee is responsible to stay in contact with units, keep abreast of scholarships, get into the school system and find out what units are doing with the schools. They are also responsible for selecting scholarship winners. The Western District Chair is a good contact for this committee.. Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) indicated that she would be willing to serve in that position.

MOTION: by April Sinclair (Unit 57) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) to ratify Lisa Boyles as the Department's Education Chair

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Sue Diaz indicated that at our next Department Convention we will need to make some updates in the Constitution and ByLaws. Information will be sent out as to what will need changing.

Sue Diaz also noted that you can wear pins (called guards). It can be worn above your heart or on your heart. They cannot be worn above the flag. They should be worn on the left side with your name tag on the right side.

ALASKA GIRLS STATE

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) to ratify Sheryl Howe as the Co-Director of Alaska Girls State.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) to ratify Tonja Halliday as the 3rd Year Girls State Board member.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to purchase a computer bag for the Alaska Girls State computer at a cost not to exceed \$150.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to ratify the Melanie Rodeheaver (Unit 35) as the Honorary Junior Auxiliary Secretary

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Honorary Junior Officers are:

President – Shelby Lamm
1st Vice President – Makenzi Grimm
2nd Vice President – VACANT at this time
Secretary – Melanie Rodeheaver
Historian – Crystal Maddox
Chaplain – Renee Doyle
Sgt.-at-Arms – Alexis Grimm

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP (Anchorage)

We do not have a chair for this. Jane Larson agreed to be the chair. Because of COVID-19, we will not be able to do the gift shop. Some comments were made:

- Do a variety of gift cards (great idea).
- Send little items with the auxiliary emblem and gifts to distribute.
- Use little bags to put the gift card in and print out a business size card with the ALA branding.
- It was noted the bags would go to the veterans, but the gift shop was to allow them to make purchases for their family members.
- The gift cards can be used to purchase items for their family members.
- Domiciliary members may not be able to leave the Domiciliary. We had a lot of gifts for them to choose from last year.

- The VA took gifts to give to 13 vets and family members in the VA, which opened it up to a new group. We had an increase of membership by 21. VA was serving only 15 people. We did not agree to have another event where they could bring everyone in to pick out gifts.
- Are we sure we can't do it in the traditional way?
- Could the Anchorage event be done how Fairbanks does it with the gift bag and us thinking about the veterans and not the family? Fairbanks does about 100 bags and stays under budget. Last year they did 150. They called different agencies and got a list of approved items. They stock up with photo albums, pencils and pens, notebook, chap stick, lotion, non-skid socks, small fleece blankets, etc. They also got numbers of people to support from each group. In each bag was a card signed by Juniors members along with a gift from the Juniors. The Juniors helped distribute. The downside was that they didn't have one on one time with veterans to hear their stories.
- We already have gift bags for the Pioneer Home so we could just add the Domiciliary into that number.
- Shopping could be done early through online merchants.
- You can make bags to go to the senior center, hospital and personal veterans that the unit knows (like Unit 20 does). Gifts can be simple. One suggestion was to purchase socks, tie them in two areas to make a snowman
- A request was made to add the Chris Kyle Patriots Hospital in Anchorage to receive gifts.
- If anyone is interested in making ornaments, Penny has enough for Girls State and anyone else who wants to make them. (Sue Diaz and Lisa Boyles indicated they were interested.)
- About 50 bags were also dropped off to Meals on Wheels last year. Great feedback was received.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) that the Anchorage Gift Shop be flexible to perhaps mirror what Fairbanks does for their Christmas project.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

At this time, the American Legion announced that they have voted to have the 2021 Department Convention April 15-17 hosted by Susitna Valley 35 Family.

MOTION: by Barbara Nath (Unit 20) and Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to make a donation to Free Conference Call in the amount of \$250.

This money will come from the general operating expense.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by April Sinclair (Unit 57) and seconded by Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) to research various platforms to use for future meetings.

There are many different programs available such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Go to Meetings, etc. We need to find one platform that will work for the Auxiliary and for Alaska Girls State.

The motion carried by unanimous voice.

MOTION: by Zona Gregg (Unit 6) and seconded by Collen Newman (Unit 35) to make a donation to the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

The Treasurer noted that the funds are in the budget.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) to submit the approved donations to their appropriate recipients.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Penny was at a shop and found a glass cut humpy. It was presented to Lisa Williamson in recognition of what is going on in her life.

Penny will be picking up Madam National President Nicole to go out to breakfast. She noted that President Nicole will be at the dedication this afternoon and that will be a good place to say final goodbyes.

Lori Fruhwirth announced that ALA Girls State will be June 5-11, 2021 at the Elks Camp. The cost is \$400 and attendees will have to be vetted before they come on campus. At this time, she will need help in all areas – counselors, drivers, cooks, girls, lifeguards, legislative chair and speakers. She will be sending out the application for counselors, once she receives everything (by the end of next week). It will also be on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) to adjourn.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25sa.m.