

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Alaska
Department Executive Committee Meeting
October 2, 2016 --9:00 a.m.
Matanuska Valley Post 15 -- Palmer, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m. by President Sue Waldhaus.

MOTION by Penny Mazonna Unit 33 and seconded to suspend the prayer, the pledge of allegiance and the preamble.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The prayer was offered by Chaplain Jane Larson.

The pledge was led by Kathy Moore, Muldoon Unit 29.

The preamble was led by Wenda Suddoth, President, Jack Henry Unit 1

Cards were distributed for Linda Schmitt and for Jim Malone both of whom are sick

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers

Susan Waldhaus, President
Debbie Lowndes, 2nd Vice- President
Jane Larson, Chaplain
Amber Sawyer, Executive Committee Woman

Standing Committee Chairs

Barb Nath, Americanism
Zona Greg, Children and Youth
Penny Mazonna, Community Service
Lavonne Collier, Constitution and ByLaws
Debbie Lowndes, Finance
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State
Sharon Cherrette, Legislative
Debbie Lowndes, Membership
Sharon Cherrette, Past President Parley
Patty Mazonna-Jones, Public Relations

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H Baker Unit 11
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents

Lavonne Collier
Susan Caswell
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Sharon Churette

Excused

Officers

Barbe Wolkoff, 2nd Vice President
Linda Schmitt, Secretary/Treasurer
Colleen Newman, Historian
Laurie Scott, Sgt. at Arms

Standing Committee Chairs

Betty Randall, Audit
Leona Schank, Auxiliary Emergency Funds
Colleen Newman, Cavalcade of Memories
Beverly Eads, Distinguished Guests
Beverly, Eads, National Security
Doris Thomas, Poppy
Barbe Wolkoff, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Past Department Presidents

Eva Aulston

Absent

Officers

Terry Archibald, Executive Committee Woman

Standing Committee Chairs

Lori Fitzsimons, Education
Wendy Mendez, Junior Activities
Sharon Willett, Leadership

Units

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
General Buckner, Unit 16
Ninilchik, Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Neyano Unit 442

Past Department Presidents

June Haas
Sue Cherrier
Jean Clayton
Lori Fitzsimons
Betty Porter
Judy Pusti
Carolyn Null
Rheta Foster
Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson
Betty Randall
Lisa Williamson
Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash
Sue Diaz
Beverly Eads

READING OF MINUTES

The minutes from the National Convention were not available at this time. They will be mailed out by Linda Schmitt when available and ready.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Debbie Lowndes Unit 33 indicated there was no written report available. Linda Schmitt will mail them out.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to be read at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

JBER Christmas Stockings -- President Sue Waldhaus reported that this was expanded significantly last year. It included the Palmer Pioneer and Veterans Home, the Anchorage Pioneer Home, JBER Hospital, and the Domiciliary. Approximately 200 stockings or mugs were distributed. There were a lot of roadblocks that made for an interesting few weeks in order to get the dates set for distribution. The dates are being worked on right now for this year and should be set within the next couple of weeks. Barbe Wolkoff is in charge of this as part of her VA&R activities. She needs members to help, specifically those in Anchorage. It was also noted that the only food item that could be included is a candy cane. Sue Waldhaus recommended that rather than stockings and mugs, it might be good to go with one gift item per person (for example, slippers). It makes it easier to transport. A decision will need to be made. If stockings are continued, they will need to be made or purchased. Last year's budget was \$500, and it would be that much at least this year. An Anchorage host unit is requested to organize the activity, but all units can be involved.

Marge Blankenship, Unit 33 asked about the size of the stocking and explained that we wouldn't know sizes for slippers. Slippers was a suggestion, but it could be any item decided upon.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 and seconded that stockings be done for the gift shop.

Vera Hart, Unit 29 suggested maybe individual units could take on different homes and provide the items for that home.

Ann Robinson, Unit 57 asked if there was anyone who likes to sew. Amber Sawyer, Unit 15 stated she likes to sew. If she has the pattern and fabric she could make the stockings. President Sue Waldhaus has a pattern and would provide that.

Without being able to have food, it was suggested that shampoo and other hygiene items (lotion, etc.) be provided. These should be regular sized items, not travel size.

Sue Caswell, Unit 33 stated that that the Pioneer Homes could use stockings as decorations. She also pointed out that candy canes are probably not a good choice as many people are diabetic. Cups are nice, but they are expensive and a lot of people do not need a cup. She stated the most feasible suggestion would be lotions and shampoos, etc. Lavonne Collier, Unit 1 suggested gift bags instead of stockings.

President Sue Waldhaus stated that there is no cost to the unit that facilitates this project. It is included in the budget. The unit would just need manpower to assemble the items.

Zona Greg, Unit 6 suggested socks and shampoos. She stated that gift bags might be easier and cause less hassle than sewing stockings.

Amber Sawyer, Unit 15 mentioned utilizing the juniors in the unit. If she did bags, she would use her junior auxiliary members to decorate them. They could enjoy being a part of the activity. It would be something they knew they were doing for veterans. Pictures could be taken of the bags being delivered.

Patty Mazonna-Jones, Unit 33 stated there are requirements for socks. The ones she did for Soctober had to be non-slip soles.

President Sue Waldhaus said that there are no particular items that have to be included. It is a variety of items that people will be able to use. She liked the idea of bags and having Juniors assist in decorating.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 and seconded to amend the original motion to utilize lotion and/or shampoo, and that bags be ordered from Oriental Trading Company.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote,

AMENDED by Sue Caswell and seconded that gift items include lotion and/or shampoo and
MOTION: gift bags be ordered from Oriental Trading Company

The Amended Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

We gave out approximately 200 stockings last year (bags this year).

Marge Blankenship, Unit 33 asked who would take on assembling all of this. Vera Hart Unit 29 asked when they needed to be completed. They will be distributed a week to 10 days before Christmas.

Vera Hart, Unit 29 agreed to spearhead this project. Everyone should watch for an email indicating what items are needed.

Unit 35 and Unit 15 will work together for the Palmer Pioneer and Veteran's Home as well as the Senior Center.

Unit 33 will help in both Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell Unit 33 and seconded that the budget for the project be set at \$750 not to exceed \$1,000.

Lavonne Collier, Unit 1 asked if we have the money. It was noted there are gaming funds available for this. VA&R funds could also be utilized.

MOTION: by Lavonne Collier, Unit 1 and seconded to table the motion for further review

Marge Blankenship, Unit 33 pointed out that if the motion is tabled, there will not be another meeting prior to Christmas.

The motion to table failed by unanimous voice

MOTION: by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 and seconded that the original motion be amended to add the words “pending approval of the Finance Committee”.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

AMENDED: by Sue Caswell Unit 33 and seconded that the budget for the project be set at
MOTION: \$750 not to exceed \$1,000, pending approval of the Finance Committee.”

The amended motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ann Robinson, Unit 57 explained this is for the veterans and this is why we raise money.

Amber Sawyer, Unit 15 pointed out that this is a guideline. If we are hesitant about spending money we don't have to. You can reach out to others to support (i.e. donations).

Unit Constitutions and Bylaws -- Members were informed that their Unit Constitutions, Bylaws and Standing Rules need to be sent to the Department of Alaska. The Unit Bylaws format is online. All documents should be sent in to Linda Schmitt as soon as possible.

Ratify Chairmen

MOTION by Sharon Churette, Unit 29 and seconded that Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) be ratified as the Chairman for the Services to Veterans Committee and Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) be ratified as Chairman of the Poppy Committee.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Penny Mazonna asked for clarification as to who is the chairman for community service -- It was noted that Penny is the chairman and that the roll call was in error and should be corrected.

NEW BUSINESS

Honor Our Female Veterans -- This is to waive the department dues for the first year that a female veteran is a member of the Auxiliary.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell and seconded that the department dues be waived for female veterans for their first year of memberships

Sharon Cherette, Unit 29 asked if this was for 2017 membership. This was confirmed and also that it was for women veterans who are new Auxiliary members..

Zona Gregg, Unit 6 thought this had already been approved

Marge Blankenship, Unit 33 felt that this is a continuation for 2018.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Women Veteran's Recognition Ceremony -- A donation was requested for the Women Veterans Recognition Ceremony refreshments. President Sue Waldhaus shared a flyer on this. It is Wednesday November 9th. The VAV is part of the refreshment committee. Post 21 (all women) has supported this for many, many years.

MOTION: by Lavonne Collier, Unit 1, and seconded that \$200 be approved for refreshments at the Women Veteran's Recognition Ceremony.

Ann Robinson, Unit 57 remarked that there are budgets for different donations. Other donations have been allocated.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Donation for Parade of Checks at DC Convention in February -- A donation, usually in the amount of \$1,000.00 was requested for the parade of checks in Washington D,C, in February.

MOTION: by Ann Robinson, Unit 57 and seconded that a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 be given for the Parade of Checks at the Washington D.C. Convention in February, 2017.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Poppy Orders -- President Sue Waldhaus reminded those present that Poppy Orders are due by November 11, 2016 (Veteran's Day). The cost is \$99 per thousand poppies.

Donation for Veteran's Creative Arts and Women Veterans 00 This is a budgeted amount. The Women Veterans donation was already approved.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 and seconded that that a donation be made to the Veteran's Creative Arts as budgeted.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Travel for Department Honorary Junior President and her Chaperone -- This would for them to attend the Junior Auxiliary Meeting in Las Vegas. This meeting would be held in January 2017

MOTION: by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 and seconded that \$1,500.00 be given for the Department Honorary Junior President and her chaperone to attend the Junior Meeting in Las Vegas in January.

Lavonne Collier, Unit 1 asked about if there was a choice to go to the Spokane meeting instead . It was noted registration is closed for Spokane and they are not taking any further registrations. The one in January works better with school schedules. It is also the least expensive choice.

Lavonne Collier, Unit 1 noted it is already in the Standing Rules for them to go to Nationals. There will be an amendment made for this travel to be included in Standing Rules at the next Convention. In the meantime, this motion would allow them to attend this meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Awards -- President Sue Waldhaus presented the following awards:

- VAVS Perfect Attendance Alaska -- Marjorie Noble and Marge Blankenship
- 2015-2016 Community Service Senior Volunteer of the Year to Barbara Ziemblicki from C Russell Huber Unit 57.
- Certificate of Recognition to Department of Alaska for Goal 4, Strengthening Departments and Units for achieving 10% or more in unit member attendance at Department wide meetings in the Western Division.
- Certificate of Accomplishment to Department of Alaska for Goal 4, Strengthening Departments and Units by allowing the National Executive Committee member to serve longer than a single one-year term.
- National Auxiliary Recognition to Chappie James Unit 34 for 102% or more of their 2016 membership goal. They received a \$150 check to use for membership effort and mission outreach.
- National Auxiliary Recognition to Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6, for 102% or more of their 2016 membership goal. They received a \$150 check to use for mission outreach and membership effort.
- National Department Secretary to our Department Americanism Chairman Zona Gregg for achieving 100% reporting in 2015-16.

- Supporting Military Children Award to C. Russell Hubert Unit 57 (Elizabeth Gillis, Unit Chairman) for best program supporting military children.
- 2015-2016 National Security Million Member Award to C. Russell Hubert Unit 57

Sue Caswell presented the American Legion Good Deed Award to Shelby Lamm in recognition of good deed, community service, or humanitarian contribution celebrating service, not self.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Silver Tea to be held at Jack Henry Unit 1 on Saturday, November 5, 2016. It is a fundraiser for Jack Henry Unit 1. Part of the funds raised are allocated for the Domiciliary. The time will be announced.
- The Domiciliary Gift Shop will be on Saturday, December 3rd at the VA Domiciliary from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They need volunteers. Peggy Bateman, Unit 1 is the chairman.
- The Strategic Plan Committee will meet immediately after the DEC meeting is adjourned. Past Department President Sharon Churette is chairing this committee.
- Women Veterans Recognition Ceremony will be held on November 9th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.
- Sharon Churette noted that March is Women's History month. She encouraged including veterans in activities or this month.
- Department officers and chairmen must sign forms for Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest. This should be done before they leave the meeting.
- Penny Mazonna thanked everyone for the sock donations. There are 226 pairs of socks being given out between now and Veteran's Day. Some units will be putting out donation boxes for more socks and will let Penny know and she will come get them.
- Penny Mazonna needs to have names of those donating socks so please see her. She needs the name, number of pairs donated, unit numbers, etc.
- Penny Mazonna talked about spearheading a legion family Hawaiian Island cruise in January or February 2020. It would be a seven day island hopping cruise. She will share information as it becomes available.
- President Sue Waldhaus reminded everyone that there will be information about the bus trip to Haines. There is a sign-up sheet if you are interested and want information. There will be a drop dead date. You have to have a passport to utilize this possibility.
- Amber Sawyer announced that we should all practice the "elevator" speech. She was able to get two new members last night, with her "elevator" speech. One will be a dual member.
- Vera Hart shared that their secretary Brittney Hayes had taken her grandmother and grandfather to Fairbanks and to Denali Park. Her grandfather became ill and is still in the hospital. Unit 57 provided food, etc. and took care of them. The secretary was very impressed and thanked Unit 57.

- April Sinclair Unit 57 was elated to be here at her first workshop (she transferred from 29).
- President Sue Waldhaus thanked everyone for their support for this meeting, her first as President.
- President Sue Waldhaus thanked Unit 15 for their support, food, and the many tasks they have done to make this meeting a success. They have done a really nice job and their hard work in setting up and preparing is appreciated. The food was delicious.
- Unit 15 announced that the silent auction and baskets are wrapping up soon. Be sure to enter for those.
- Yvonne Lamm thanked those who attended to the Girls State meeting yesterday. She highlighted Sue Caswell and recognized that without Sue, she could not have made that happen.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10: 41a.m.