

**Minutes of the
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
April 25, 2020
(2:00 p.m. – Teleconference)**

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by President Jane Larson.

OPENING CEREMONY

A prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Colleen Newman,

President Jane Larson let the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt Unit 33 and seconded by Diana Estrada to dispense with the recitation of the preamble.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PROTOCOL FOR THIS CALL

President Jane Larson asked that if people were not speaking that they have their phones muted so we are able to hear what is being said. She also asked that if someone wants to speak they should state their name and their unit and wait to be recognized.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson
1st Vice President Yvonne Lamm
2nd Vice President Ann Robinson
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Colleen Newman
Historian April Sinclair
Executive Committeewoman Frances Bedel
Executive Committeewoman Zona Gregg

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Chair Yvonne Lamm
Americanism Chair Kathy Moore
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chair Zona Gregg
Children and Youth Chair April Sinclair
Community Service Chair Frances Bedel
Distinguished Guests Chair Penny Mazonna
Education and Scholarship Sharon Dillon
History Chair April Sinclair
Junior Activities Chair Danielle Larson
Leadership Chair Sue Caswell
Legislative Chair Penny Mazonna
Membership Chair Yvonne Lamm
National Security Chair Penny Mazonna
Poppy Chair Margaret Blankenship
Public Relations Beverly Eads
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Chair Anarene Robinson

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn C anal Unit 12
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
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

ROLL CALL (continued)

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Susan Caswell
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus
Linda Schmitt

ABSENT

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alternate NEC Susan Diaz

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit Sue Diaz
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes

UNITS

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 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 | Jean Shandy | Jill Pawson |
| Francisca Guilford | Lynn Bash | Sue Diaz |
| Barbe Wolkoff | Debbie Lowndes | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Beverly Eads, Unit 17 to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2019 DEC Meeting as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER' REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| General..... | \$27,977.49 |
| Gaming..... | \$16,125.70 |
| Merrilyn Stock/Evelyn Oliver..... | \$16,080.55 |
| Rehab | \$13,841.40 |
| Alaska Girls State Checking | \$9,902.26 |
| Alaska Girls State Savings..... | \$11,091.91 |
| Edward Jones Investments..... | \$85,475.10 |

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 asked if there were any bonds coming due which would require action by the DEC. Diana Estrada, Unit 35 stated that they came due last year and have been reinvested.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to be read.

OLD BUSINESS

President Jane Larson asked if there was any Old Business.

Rehta Foster, Unit 28, wanted to know if a motion was necessary for the gaming permit. That is a separate item under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 that the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska continue its current officers until the Department Convention in 2021

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 explained that National had presented a resolution that would have all national officers carried over until the National Convention in 2021

The current Department Officers are:

President.....Jane L. Larson
1st Vice President Yvonne Lamm
2nd Vice PresidentAnarene Robinson
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Historian.....April Sinclair
ChaplainColleen Newman
Sergeant-at-ArmsLori Fruhwirth
Executive Committee MemberFrances Bedel
Executive Committee Member Zona Gregg

Sue Waldhaus, Unit 28 asked if all current officers were in agreement with continuing for another year. President Jane Larson stated she had spoken to them and they were all in agreement.

It was noted that the National Executive Committeewoman Penny Mazonna and Alternate National Executive Committeewoman Sue Diaz fall under the National Officers.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

DEPARTMEN STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Sharon Cherrette, Unit 29 that the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska continue it Department Standing Committee Chairs until the Department Convention in 2021.

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 explained that National had made a decision to do so.

Lisa asked if the committee chairs had agreed to continue. Jane replied that she had not spoken to everyone yet, but would do so in the near future.

If there are any standing committee chairs that do not wish to continue to serve, they should notify the Department Secretary and the Department President. Those Standing Committee chairs that are not filled can be ratified at a future Department Executive Committee meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

GAMING PERMIT

MOTION: by Diana Estrada, Unit 35 and seconded by Lisa Williamson, Unit 57 that the gaming permit be continued with Loyal Ladies.

Diana Estrada, Unit 35 noted that they had been doing much better this year.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ALASKA GIRLS STATE

Von Lamm report that the Girls State Board of Directors held a meeting at which they cancelled Alaska Girls State for 2020. She noted that our insurance did not cover communicable diseases. If someone were to get sick, they could sue us. The Board vote was a unanimous vote.

MOTION: by Von Lamm, Unit 33 ad seconded by Diana Estrada Unit 35 that the Alaska Girls State Program for 2020 be cancelled.

Von noted that the location is secured for next year and that the deposit paid this year would be carried over for next year.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

FALL WORKSHOP

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Diana Estrada, Unit 35 to hold the Fall Workshop at Post/Unit 20, Post/Unit 28 or Post/Unit 35.

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 explained that we have been notified that these three Units were interested in hosting the Fall Workshop. At this time, we have had Units 20 and 35 confirm they are still interested. We have not yet received a confirmation that Unit 28 is still interested. During this meeting, those members of Unit 28 were asked if they were still interested, to which they responded yes.

The Units are located as follows

- Unit 20 (Kenai)
- Unit 28 (Anchorage)
- Unit 35 (Wasilla)

Von Lamm, Unit 33 asked if we were going to make a decision today. The answer was yes.

Marge Blankenship, Unit 33 noted that if it is held in Kenai we will be looking at flying or driving. We don't know if there will still be Covid restrictions at that time.

Rehta Foster, Unit 28 noted that we might have to cancel if the restrictions have not been lifted.

Von Lamm, Unit 33 stated that we will have to decide where to hold it and wait and see.

Linda Schmitt indicated she would like to have it at Unit 28. Unit 35 probably needs a breather since they will be hosting Department Convention next year. She also pointed out that logistically it would be easier if it was in Anchorage,

Beverly Eads Unit 17 felt Anchorage is a good location for hotels, etc.

Ann Robinson Unit 33 said there are a lot of hotels in Anchorage

Sharon Cherrette, Unit 29 felt that since Post 35 was approved to host the Department Convention in 2021 it might be good.

REVISED

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Ann Robinson, Unit 33 that the October 20920 Fall Workshop and DEC meeting be held at Post/Unit 28.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATES FOR THE FALL WORKSHOP

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Rehta Foster, Unit 28 to put up for discussion the following dates for Fall Workshop: October 2-4, 2020 and October 23-25, 2020.

Many comments were made by units as to which they preferred. It was noted that there are no national meetings through the month of October. It was decided to give each unit a chance to voice their opinion.

Secretary Barbara Nath then went through everyone on the DEC roll called to find what each person desired. At the end, it was reported that the vast majority had indicated they would like the October 2-4, 2020 dates.

RESCINDED

MOTION: At this time, the motion was rescinded.

MOTION by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Von Lamm, Unit 33 to hold the 2020 fall workshop at Post/Unit 28 in Anchorage on October 2-4, 2020.

The motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION: by Sue Caswell, Unit 33 and seconded by Rehta Foster, Unit 28 to change the name from Fall Workshop to Fall Conference.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

JUNIOR OFFICERS

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Lisa Williamson, Unit 57 to retain the current Junior Officers until the Department Convention in 2021.

It was pointed out that the Junior President would be a Senior member.

If there are any changes due to someone aging out of the Junior level or someone not wanting to continue in that office, it will be resolved at the next DEC meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Frances Bedel, Unit 57 that the Scrapbooks, History Books, and Prayer Books be carried over to the Department Convention in 2020.

Lisa Williamson, Unit 57 noted that National is considering the second year a continuation of the 1st year. So, these books will cover a two-year period, instead of a one-year period. This would be a one-time occurrence.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NOME UNIT 19 CHARTER

MOTION: by Barbara Nath, Unit 20 and seconded by Colleen Newman, Unit 35 to revoke/cancel the charter for Nome Unit 19.

Barb had spoken with the Unit and explained that the DEC would be discussing this at the next DEC meeting. The unit acknowledged that their members are not interesting in being actively involved (either as officers or in other ways).

Linda noted they only have either (8) active members. They must have 10 to be an active unit.

Diana confirmed that they have not paid any fees in the last couple of years.

We will only take action on Nome Unit 19 at this meeting.

Nome Unit 19 received a letter asking that they return their charter and any monies they have to the Department. In addition, all members were sent a letter explaining what would be happening and asking them to identify the unit where they wish their membership to be transferred.

Unit 34 is another Unit which may be going through this, but we will first send them a letter explaining that they are in danger of losing their charter.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

BUDGET

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by Ann Robinson, Unit 33 to continue the budget that we are currently operating on for 19-20 through October.

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 not that we have no upcoming major expenditures. Events have been cancelled and therefor, there is no problem with operating under the current budget. That gives the Finance Committee an opportunity to present a good budget for the next year. That budget will be presented to the DEC in October at the Fall Conference.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 noted that our Finance Committee has dwindled down to nothing. We are having to request a resignation from Sharon Cherrette. She asked that anyone having any kind of financial background to please give Jane Larson a call so she can put together a Finance Committee. The committee must be three members from three different units. They cannot be affiliated with another committee or be an officer. Linda has offered to stay on as an advisor in the background. She would answer questions and help the committee to get started. She doesn't want to be a committee member because she can't make any commitments due to her health.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marge Blankenship, Unit 33 asked how committee reports would be handled. President Jane Larson explained that reports would not be sent into National.

Lisa Williamson, Unit 57 explained that for the most part, there are no year-end reports at the national level.

President Jane Larson explained that the only exceptions would be those committee chairs who will not continue in that role. They will be asked to provide a year-end report to the next committee chair so they will have it for submission in 2021.

So all year-end reports will be part of a two-year report period.

IMPACT REPORTS

Impact reports will still need to be completed. The form was attached to the email about this meeting. Barb stated Impact Reports be turned in to department on May 15 so that she can meet the national deadline.

SCHOLARSHIP

Sharon Dillon, Unit 5 stated that the Scholarship Committee had reviewed several applications for scholarship. In the end, they chose the following to be sent to the Western Division:

- Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship – Abigail Middleton Unit 16
- Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship – Celestina Cruz Unit 17
- Non-Traditional Student Scholarship – Brianna Bahl Unit 16
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship – Raine Wing Unit 12

All of these applications were forwarded to the Western Division National Chair. Winners on the Division Level will be forwarded to the National Chair and then on to National for a final decision. There is still a period of time before the awards are announced. All applicants on the State level have been informed of whether or not they were selected and the timelines involved.

There were no eligible applications for the Merrilyn Stock/Evelyn Oliver Memorial Scholarship.

The Aggie Parks Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to Abigail Middleton as the person forwarded to National for the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship.

OTHER BUSINESS

Diana Estrada, Unit 35 asked that members consider that FNBA has started charging a dollar for each account. At this time, we have 6 or 7 accounts at the bank and it is beginning to add up. She believes it is a waste of our money. She knows there are banks that don't have any charges.

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by April Sinclair, Unit 57 to have Diana talk to different banks and make a presentation at the DEC meeting at the Fall Conference..

Frances Bedel, Unit 57 asked about waiting six months. Linda said it was necessary to get information before we can make a decision. It could be discussed at the next DEC.

Sue Caswell, Unit 33 suggested seeing if we could find a statewide bank. It was pointed out that there are no statewide banks if we include southeast Alaska.

REVISED

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 and seconded by April Sinclair, Unit 57 to have Diana talk to different banks and make a presentation at the next DEC meeting.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

Colleen Newman, Unit 35 had a couple of questions. The first had to do with the 100th Anniversary Committee of which she was chair. She had purchased several items. She noted that there was an original budget of \$150. With the sale of pins, there was an additional \$300 for the budget. She does have some receipts to turn in for reimbursement. She asked if we would be continuing this to the next Department Convention.

Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 reminded her that all committees are carrying over to the next year.

Colleen then asked for guidance. Her standing rules read that unit officers take their offices after the end of the Department Convention. They know that they need to change their standing rules. At this time, she asked when the new officers take over. Linda Schmitt, Unit 33 responded that standing rules are in conflict with the Constitution and ByLaws which state that all unit officers will be installed before Department Convention. She has not yet installed the new officers.

Other members shared how they had done their installation. This include doing them via Zoom.

Lisa Williamson, Unit 57 pointed out that we would have had a Department Convention. This date would have been when our new Department Officers were installed. She stated unit officers would have been active after the convention, so this date could be used.

Lia Williamson, Unit 57 then pointed out that with the National decision to maintain all officers until next year, it will mean that the upcoming president would not take the position until August 2021. As far as Lisa is involved, she would take the National President office until 2023 in New Orleans. Everyone has been very flexible with all that is happening. She also cautioned about holding the Fall Conference the first weekend in October. While that will work this year, traditionally that is when the National President has her homecoming so it won't be available in the future.

Sharon Cherrette, Unit 29 mentioned that all meetings schedule for Indianapolis through the end of September have been cancelled. The State Oratorical winner will get a scholarship of \$2,000. The Samsung scholarship was cancelled. National officer cannot travel out of state until Fall Conference in Indianapolis.

Penny Mazonna asked if there was a way to make this a zoom meeting instead of teleconference call so it is easier to hear. We will look into that possibility.

NEXT DEC MEETING

President Jane Larson is wanting to schedule another DEC meeting. This will allow for any open positions to be filled and ratified. Currently she is suggesting Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Von noted that she might not be available for that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the DEC, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.