

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
98th-99th DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
Hosted by Susitna Valley Post 35

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by President Jane Larson.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson

1st Vice President Anarene Robinson

2nd Vice President April Sinclair

Secretary Barbara Nath

Sgt.-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth

Chaplain Colleen Newman

Historian April Sinclair

Executive Committee Member Frances Bedel

Executive Committee Member Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Lori Fruhwirth

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg

Children and Youth April Sinclair

Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna

Education and Scholarship Lisa Boyles

History April Sinclair

Junior Activities Margaret Claussen-Grim

Leadership Sue Caswell

Legislative Penny Mazonna

Membership Anarene Robinson

National Security Frances Bedel

Poppy Margaret Blankenship

Public Relations Beverly Eads

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer, Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Bucker Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
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
Beverly Eads
Penny Mazonna
Carolyn Null
Sue Waldhaus
Lisa Williamson

EXCUSED

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alternate National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz Mazonna

OFFICERS

Treasurer Diana Estrada

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Kathy Moore
Audit Sue Diaz
Community Service Debbie Ervin
Constitution and Bylaws Sue Diaz
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Sharon Cherrette	Susan Diaz
Debbie Lowndes	Linda Schmitt

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT

UNITS

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
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	Wilma Stokes
Rehta Foster	Jean Shandy	Jill Pawson
Francisca Guilford	Lynn Bash	Barbe Wolkoff

OPENING CEREMONIES

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Zona Gregg (Unit 6) to dispense with the opening ceremonies except for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Prayer.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Department Chaplain Colleen Newman said a prayer for our meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

President Jane Larson welcomed all who were able to attend this convention. She asked all Past Department Presidents to stand and be recognized. Next she asked her Department Officers to stand and be recognized. Then she asked all members who were attending the Department Convention for the first time to stand and give their name and unit affiliation. President Larson then recognized those youth in attendance. She presented a gavel engraved with the words “Honorary Junior Auxiliary” for them to use at their meetings.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Credentials – Barbara Nath (Chair, Unit 20), Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) and Connie Landmesser (Unit 35)

Rules – Anarene Robinson (Unit 33)

Constitution and Bylaws – Barbara Nath (Chair, Unit 20), Sue Caswell (Unit 33), Marge Blankenship (Unit 33)

Resolutions – April Sinclair (Chair, Unit 57), Von Lamm (Unit 35) and Dee Stokes (Unit 17)

Finance – Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) and Lisa Williamson (Unit 57)

Nominations – Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and a representative from each unit

Parliamentarian – Beverly Eads (Unit 17)
Distinguished Guests – Penny Mazonna (Unit 35)
Audit – Marilyn Mork (Unit 6) and Annette Gwalthney-Jones (Unit 1)
History & Scrapbook – April Sinclair (Chair, Unit 57), Shirley Shadbolt (Unit 29) and Debbie Van Tassel (Unit 5)
Poppy – Marge Blankenship
Chaplain’s Prayer Book – Colleen Newman (Chair, Unit 35), Sue Waldhous (Unit 28) and Debbie Brahm (Unit 16)
Balloting – Robyn Downs (Chair, Unit 1), and Susie Martin (Unit 5)
Scholarship – Lisa Boyles (Chair, Unit 15), Frances Bedel (Unit 57) and Von Lamm (Unit 33)

READING OF CONVENTION RULES

1st Vice President Anarene Robinson read the convention rules.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The proposed revisions had been sent out with the required notice. The proposed changes to the governing documents were read.

Revisions dates, location and persons signing all amended documents will be updated to current information.

CONSTITUTION -- ARTICLE III - Eligibility

NOW READS

Section 1. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods. April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States, all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States, at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

WILL READ

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents is as follows:

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

- (1) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and
- (2) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods. April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who being a citizen of the United States, at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
- (3) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and
- (4) To those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

CONSTITUTION -- ARTICLE 4 – Department Officers **Sections 3 and 4**

NOW READS

Section 3. The office of National Executive Committeewoman and the Alternate National Executive Committeewoman shall be elected. The term of office is for a two year term and runs from the post-convention at National Convention to the close of the pre-convention at National Convention every two (2) years on odd numbered years. Any person elected to these positions is highly recommended to have served as Department President, so that she knows the policies and procedures of the Department. The current Department President shall be the Second Alternate National Executive Committeewoman. They shall also be members in good standing with the Department of Alaska and reside within the State of Alaska.

Section 4. Alternate Executive Committeewoman: It shall be the duty of the First and Second Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, when called upon, to assist the National Executive Committeewoman, and in her absence perform her duties and shall, in the order named, succeed her in office in case of death, resignation or removal.

WILL READ:

Section 3. The office of National Executive Committee Person and the Alternate National Executive Committee Person shall be elected. The term of office is for a two year term and runs from the post-convention at National Convention to the close of the pre-convention at National Convention every two (2) years on odd numbered years. Any person elected to these positions is highly recommended to have served as Department President, so that as NEC they know the policies and procedures of the Department. The current Department President shall be the Second Alternate National Executive Committee Person. They shall also be members in good standing with the Department of Alaska and reside within the State of Alaska.

In the event that the ALA National Headquarters makes a determination to extend terms of office, the term for the National Executive Committee Person shall be extended to the next scheduled election (odd years).

BYLAWS – Article IV (Department Executive Committee)

Section 4 (Meetings)

NOW READS

Section 4. Meetings: The Department Executive Committee shall hold at least four meetings per year as follows: Immediately following adjournment of the annual Department Convention; immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding Department Convention; and at an appropriate time when issues arise or if necessary during the National Convention, but only to the extent that the business being conducted is in reference to voting on the National floor or National business, election of National Officers or special donations, or ratification of any outstanding Department appointments. It shall also meet at the Fall Workshop. A meeting may also be called by Department President or when requested in writing to do so by three members of the Department Executive Committee or in an emergency, at the request of the Department Secretary.

WILL READ

Section 4. Meetings: The Department Executive Committee shall hold at least four meetings per year as follows: Immediately following adjournment of the annual Department Convention; immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding Department Convention; and at an appropriate time when issues arise or if necessary during the National Convention, but only to the extent that the business being conducted is in reference to voting on the National floor or National business, election of National Officers or special donations, or ratification of any outstanding Department appointments. It shall also meet at the Fall Workshop. A meeting may also be called by Department President or when requested in writing to do so by three members of the Department Executive Committee or in an emergency, at the request of the Department Secretary.

While it is preferred that meetings of the Department Executive Committee be held in person, they may be also held electronically (such as Zoom or some other electronic method) or telephonically.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) pointed out that the proposed amendments to the Constitution, Article III regarding eligibility are as a result of changes on the National level. We are required to incorporate them into our governing documents and a vote on these revisions is not necessary. All other proposed amendments will be brought up for voting on Saturday.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA GIRLS STATE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Revisions dates, location and persons signing all amended documents will be updated to current information.

CONSTITUTION – Article III and Article IV

NOW READS:

Article III: The object for which this corporation is formed is to provide an organization for citizenship training girls who have completed their junior year in high school; to afford them an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens; and to inform them about the duties and privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of the government when they become adults.

Its purpose shall be to annually conduct an educational training course for girls in citizenship and educational process of State and Municipal government. Inference of such purposes to supervise the organizing and establishing by girls of a mythical state known as ALASKA GIRLS STATE of the United States of America modeled after the State of Alaska, with State and Municipal governments therein, governmental offices there under and all functions for government thereof performed by the girls attending.

Article IV: The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Chairman/Director and Vice Chairman/ Co-Director, who shall be appointed by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska to serve one year. Three Members at Large of the Board of Directors, one to be appointed annually by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska to serve three years; the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska President and the Secretary-Treasurer, and the past Directors of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State program. Each of the above shall have one vote. New appointments by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska must be ratified by the Department Executive Committee at the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska Executive Committee meeting held prior to the beginning of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention immediately following that year's Alaska Girls State session. Interim vacancies will be filled by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary,

WILL READ:

Article III: The object for which this corporation is formed is to provide an organization for citizenship training for participants who have completed their junior year in high school; to afford them an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens; and to inform them about the duties and privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of the government when they become adults.

Its purpose shall be to annually conduct an educational training course for participants in citizenship and educational process of State and Municipal government. Inference of such purposes to supervise the organizing and establishing by participants of a mythical state known as ALASKA GIRLS STATE of the United States of America modeled after the State of Alaska, with State and Municipal governments therein, governmental offices there under and all functions for government thereof performed by the participants attending.

Article IV: The affairs of this corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Chairman/Director and Vice Chairman/ Co-Director, who shall be appointed by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska to serve one year. Three Members at Large of the Board of Directors, one to be appointed annually by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska to serve three years; the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer; and the past Directors of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State program. Each of the above shall have one vote. New appointments by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska must be ratified by the Department Executive Committee at the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska Executive Committee meeting held prior to the beginning of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention immediately following that year's Alaska Girls State session. Interim vacancies will be filled by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary,

MOTION: by Von Lamm (Unit 35) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to remove the Vice President as a member of the Board of Directors.

Von pointed out that the Vice President is not a member of the Board. Instead it is the responsibility of the Vice President to fill in for the President in her absence.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) to remove the membership of the Vice President on all other governing documents for the Alaska Girls State Program.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

BYLAWS

Article I (Meetings) Section 2

NOW READS

1st Paragraph – Members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Secretary/Treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Chairman/Director, Vice-Chairman/Co-Director and three members at large of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Committee, appointed by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., each year. The new member will serve for the three year term, and each remaining member in turn will move up.

WILL READ:

Members of the Board of Directors shall consist of the President, 1st Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Chairman/Director, Vice-Chairman/Co-Director and three members at large of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Committee, appointed by the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., each year. The new member will serve for the three year term, and each remaining member in turn will move up.

Per an earlier motion, the 1st Vice President is not a member of the Board of Directors and will be removed.

Article III (Girls State Organization) – Section 2

There were no recommended revisions to this section, however the following motion was presented.

MOTION: by Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) and seconded by Von Lamm to revise this section to read: All appointments must be a member in good standing of the American Legion Family, Department of Alaska.

Previously, this paragraph limited to being a member of the America Legion Auxiliary. This change allows for us to utilize anyone within the American Legion Family. We would not be able to appoint anyone who is not an Auxiliary member.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) that any place in the ALA Governing documents where it states that they must be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be changed to American Legion Family.

This change is so that we can utilize any member of the American Legion Family for the Girls State program. This includes staff (such as a male person who provides instruction during the Girls State Program). Having the resources of the entire Legion Family is helpful and strengthens us.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADDITIONAL REVISIONS BY MOTION:

MOTION: by Annette Gwalthney-Jones (Unit 1) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 35) to make changes throughout the governing documents to refer to girls participating in the Girls State Program as “participants”.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion occurred regarding someone who is transgender or who is going through the process of becoming transgender. Our National headquarters tells us that if we suspect a citizen may be transitioning, we will have to conduct a physical examination. If their genitalia is different from that of a girl, we must provide separate housing. Concern was raised about protective health information.

This is also required for any staff members.

It was asked if an attorney had reviewed these documents. It was stated that if National has approved the wording, then it has been approved by an attorney.

Members were informed that at a previous Department Convention, the Department Secretary was given the authority to make changes with regard to housekeeping corrections (such as typographical errors, numbering errors, gender specific wording, etc.) She will be going through all documents to see if there are any other changes that need to be made for which she has authority.

STANDING RULES

Paragraphs A, C, and M were revised to match the wording in Department documents. This is required so no vote is necessary on these paragraphs.

Paragraphs B and D – Amendments were suggested to change “girl/girls” to “person/persons” As approved by an earlier motion the wording change will be to “participants”. No further action is required to enact these changes.

Paragraph F

NOW READS:

The First Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., when elected President, should make her appointments to the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Board of Directors immediately following the Girls State session, and present her list of appointees to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., Department Executive Committee for ratification at the Department Executive Committee meeting held at the National Convention.

WILL READ

The President elected by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska should make appointments to the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Board of Directors immediately following the Girls State session, and present her list of appointees to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc., Department Executive Committee for ratification at the Department Executive Committee meeting held at the National Convention.

Paragraph K

NOW READS

All individuals attending the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State, Inc., program as citizens must at the time of the session possess all of the physical body parts of the female gender.

WILL READ

All individuals attending the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State, Inc., program as citizens must at the time of the session possess all of the physical body parts of the female gender. Alaska Girls State will conduct due diligence with regard to individuals wanting to attend the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State, Inc.

Paragraph M – this is a new paragraph

In referring to students who attend American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, Citizens of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is the appropriate title, not Girls Staters. This is a National policy.

ALAMIS/MEMBERSHIP SUBMISSION

Diana spoke to membership and ALAMIS submission. She wanted to be sure people are aware that great grandchildren are not eligible any more. If they are already in, they are grandfathered in, but if their membership lapses, they will not be able to re-enroll unless they have other eligibility. The applicant must sign their application for membership. Applications have to be signed by a post officer who can verify that the applicant is eligible. It can be any post officer.

- Be sure that the application being submitted is complete. Make sure all information is included. If we are ever audited and applications are not complete we will have problems.
- Debbie Van Tassel (Unit 5) asked about how to handle it if a veteran and his spouse are joining at the same time and you don't have a membership number for the auxiliary member. In the place for the membership number, write the word "new".
- It is hoped that post officers are being trained.
- Post officers don't always confirm eligibility, they just sign the application.
- As the membership chair for your unit, you can only do the best you can. However, be sure you review the application and you have the information needed to determine eligibility.
- All transmittals and numbers must come to Diana.
- When a member passes, transfers, or there is an address change, you must complete the member profile update and transmit the form to Diana. Be sure your unit number is on the form.
- If someone passes away, please submit that information to Diana.
- If you are interested in serving as the ALAMIS person for your unit, you must let your Unit President know that. There will have to be a vote at a unit meeting to approve your appointment to that responsibility. A copy of the minutes and a letter on Unit letterhead should be submitted to Barb and/or Diana. They will each let the other know that they received an appointment for a unit.
- Each Unit can have only one person as the ALAMIS person. There will be a charge of \$10 per year for someone in your Unit to have access to ALAMIS.
- Diana has a great relationship with National and can fix most anything through them. They are good to our Department.
- There will be classes available for ALAMIS. Diana will provide the classes. She generally arranges for 3 or 4 units at a time. It will probably be done over the phone or Zoom. There is also a handbook for ALAMIS that is available online.
- April mentioned Diana is very good. People learn as they go.
- Something to note. If a member is paying dues and also has a name change at the same time, please submit the dues payment first and be sure it is processed. After it has gone through, then submit the name change.
- Please be sure your transmittals are in alphabetical order. Diana gets numerous transmittals at once and it takes three times as long to process if it is not in alphabetical order. It also opens up the possibility that a membership will be missed.
- If you are doing transmittals for multiple years (i.e. 2019, 2020 and 2021), there must be a separate page for each year's transmittals.
- When a member and a veteran are married, and the veteran dies, the member stays eligible. However, if they become divorced, that is a different matter. You wouldn't be able to rejoin if you have divorced the person under whom you qualified for membership.

The Convention went into recess at 3:45 p.m.

The Convention returned from recess at 4:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

After returning from the recess, the Convention broke into committee meetings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The PP&P Luncheon will be on Saturday at noon. The cost is \$15 per person.
- There is an AEF (split the pot) fundraiser.
- Unit 35 is doing a calendar fundraiser.
- Lisa Williamson has Team Alaska shirts for sale.
- The attire for the National Convention will be red shirts. Let Lisa know if you need to purchase a shirt.

RECESS

The Convention recessed at 4:35 p.m. until Friday, April 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Larson at 9:06 a.m.

PRAYER

A prayer was offered by our Department Chaplain Colleen Newman.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson

1st Vice President Anarene Robinson

2nd Vice President April Sinclair

Secretary Barbara Nath

Sgt.-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth

Chaplain Colleen Newman

Historian April Sinclair

Executive Committee Member Frances Bedel

Executive Committee Member Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Lori Fruhwirth

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg

Children and Youth April Sinclair

Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna

Education and Scholarship Lisa Boyles

History April Sinclair

Junior Activities Margaret Claussen-Grim

Leadership Sue Caswell

Legislative Penny Mazonna

Membership Anarene Robinson

National Security Frances Bedel

Poppy Margaret Blankenship

Public Relations Beverly Eads

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer, Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Bucker Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
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
Beverly Eads
Penny Mazonna
Carolyn Null
Sue Waldhaus
Lisa Williamson

EXCUSED

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alternate National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz.

OFFICERS

Treasurer Diana Estrada

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Kathy Moore
Audit Sue Diaz
Community Service Debbie Ervin
Constitution and Bylaws Sue Diaz
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Sharon Cherrette	Susan Diaz
Debbie Lowndes	Linda Schmitt

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT

UNITS

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
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	Wilma Stokes
Rehta Foster	Jean Shandy	Jill Pawson
Francisca Guilford	Lynn Bash	Barbe Wolkoff

MOTION: by Barbara Nath (Unit 20 & Constitution and ByLaws stand in chair) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 35) to approve the governing documents of the American Legion Auxiliary as presented on Thursday with the knowledge that the Department Secretary has been given the authority to make any housekeeping changes (such as gender specific pronouns and typographical errors etc.) without requiring further approval by the Convention attendees.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Barbara Nath (Unit 20 & Constitution and ByLaws stand in chair) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 35) to approve the governing documents of the Alaska Girls State as presented and with the revisions voted on and approved on Thursday and giving the Department Secretary the authority to make any housekeeping changes (such as gender specific pronouns and typographical errors) without requiring further approval by the Convention attendees.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NOMINATIONS

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) asked that the budget be distributed while she was reading nominations.

There will be no voting today. This is just a reading of endorsement letters. Lisa Williamson is the Nomination Committee Chair and the following people did the reading: Brenda Fiddick (Unit 57 incoming President); Pat Francois (Unit 35 1st Vice President); and Karen Wolter (Unit 1 President).

The following Endorsement Letters were read:

President – Jane Larson (Unit 35)
1st Vice President – Ann Robinson (Unit 33)
2nd Vice President – April Sinclair (Unit 57)
Chaplain – Colleen Newman (Unit 35)
Historian – Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11)

At this time our National Visitors arrived. Howard Fruhwirth NEC introduced National 1st Vice Commander Ned Fox from California. He will be speaking at the luncheon today. He thanked Auxiliary members for letting him come into the meeting.

After our National visitor left, the Convention returned to reading of Endorsements Letters continuing with the following:

Sgt-At-Arms – Frances Bedel (Unit 57)
Executive Committee – Robyn Downs (Unit 1)
Executive Committee – Carol Johnson (Unit 33)
NEC – Penny Mazonna (Unit 35)
Alternate NEC – Sue Diaz (Unit 20) – She is not present, but has accepted the nomination

The Secretary and Treasurer are appointed positions and will be ratified by the DEC at the Post Convention meeting. Letters of recommendation were read from their units.

Secretary – Barb Nath (Unit 20)
Treasurer – Diana Estrada (Unit 35)

FIRST READING OF RESOLUTIONS

There will be no voting today. It is the first reading of resolutions. The resolutions were read by April Sinclair, Resolutions Committee Chair.

The first resolution (submitted by Unit 35) was to create a 3-member committee to interview candidates for the secretary and treasurer paid positions and making recommendations to the Department Executive Committee.

The second resolution (submitted by Unit 35) was to limit travel for a Department President serving a consecutive two year term. It would limit travel to one time to a Unit in a two year term period.

There would also be two courtesy resolutions.

The Convention went into recess at 10:05 a.m.

The Convention returned from recess at 10:24 a.m.

COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORTS

Poppy Report – Marge Blankenship shared the story of vet who had not seen a poppy in 20 years. He had tears in his eyes. Innovative ways were found to get poppy programs into the community. These resulted in a renewed interest in poppies. The enthusiasm for the poppy program was evident.

Leadership – Sue Caswell reported that units have continued to grow. They look to find new leaders. They also encouraged new members to take part in activities.

Education and Scholarship – Lisa Boyles noted that Covid caused lots of challenges. Many school were closed. Covid doesn't allow travel. Lisa will be more involved by reaching out to PTAs and schools when we can get back to school. She also hopes there will be college fairs.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Zona stated that she had a winner for her fundraiser. The winner was Marilyn Mork of Unit 6 for a total of \$240. She got reports from all but one Unit. Everyone is getting with the program. There were no requests for funds during this last two year period. This program directly helps Auxiliary members.

Alaska Girls State – Lori Fruhwirth reported that there were 11 participants in 2019. They were eager to learn about government. During the program, they made poppies for the Honor Flight. The 2020 session was cancelled due to Covid. She is currently working on the 2021 session. There are 8 participants for 2021 session.

National Security – Francis Bedel had no written report. She highlighted activities with veterans including making masks and providing food. The Military asked for assistance on a sheet and pillow drive to give to active duty military upon return to their barracks. There were 2,032 hours and \$4,754 in donations.

100th Anniversary – Colleen stated that this was delayed from the last Department Convention until this Convention. A mini-celebration was done at the Fall Conference when President Nicole Clapp was attending. She pointed out the display at the back of the room. There were 100-year pins purchased and a proclamation was requested for an American Legion Day. The State of Alaska gave a recognition letter. Work now begins on the next 100 years. The Department of Alaska American Legion Auxiliary 100th Anniversary will be next year (2022)

Chaplain – Colleen indicated that we have provided support for emotional needs. Cleaning of cemeteries was done and flowers/plants were given to those in the hospital. In addition, new flags were placed on graves and financial assistance was provided. Prayers were given at meetings and the Four Chaplains ceremonies. She is still waiting on more Unit reports before she turns in her report to National.

Membership – Anarene Robinson distributed membership certificates to those Units that were at 82% or higher in membership. She thanked everyone for working on membership. She would like the Department of Alaska to be #1 in the Western Division. She asked that any pictures being submitted be sent as a jpg so she can send them to National. She is still developing her report for submission to National.

Children and Youth – April Sinclair provided three Youth Hero awards. One of these will be presented at the luncheon today. There are three Good Deed awards (for valor and maybe saving a life). Our youngest member (six weeks old on March 2th and became a member of Unit 57 on March 15th) is attending the Department Convention. People are eligible for membership on the date of their birth. There have been many creative activities – reading programs, Christmas drives, and movie drive. Purple Up Day was yesterday and a picture of everyone in their purple shirts was sent to the Western Division. There was a plethora of donations.

VA&R – April Sinclair stated that members have been sitting with veterans at hospitals or making meals. They have been reaching out to see how veterans were doing. It is interesting that one Unit reported a combat fishing tournament. Another did a lunch for crew members when their vessel was at port. Many different meals were provided. Fisher House donations were received from across the state. Laundry has been done for veterans. Many Units reports mentioned involvement in the Quilts of Honor. Lap blankets were given to the Pioneer Homes, and many Units made masks. One Unit had to relearn how to sew, but in doing so made about 70 masks. Another Unit had a birthday party for a veteran over 95 years old.

History – It was reported that there was over \$2,000 raised including the Red Pigs (for the Child Welfare Fund). Please remember that all numbers should be included in each Unit's impact report.

The Convention went into recess at 11:26 a.m. to attend the Children and Youth Luncheon

The Convention returned from recess at 2:43 p.m.

President Larson announced that the Juniors will be coming down to do a jeopardy game with the seniors.

Prior to continuing with Committee Year End Reports, President Jane Larson asked for the parade of checks

PARADE OF CHECKS

Unit donations were accepted at this time.

The Convention went into recess at 2:50 p.m. to tally the donations received.

The Convention returned from recess at 3:05 p.m.

The breakdown was as follows:

President's fundraiser	875.00
Fines	10.00
AEF Department	2,700.00
AEF National	358.00
Americanism	500.00
Christmas Gift Shop	1,000.00
Children and Youth	4,783.74
Girls State	4,530.00
Juniors	250.00
Oratorical	1,000.00
Poppy	515.00
VA&R	1,000.00
VAVS	1,000.00
TOTAL	15,521.74

COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORTS (continued)

Public Relations – Beverly Eads shared ways in which the American Legion Auxiliary has made our presence known in the community. This includes wearing branded clothing/items; posting events on Facebook pages and sharing those posts on personal Facebook pages; and having information about the American Legion Family available at events (including member applications). In addition, many units turned to social media to get information out to the public as well as having media present at events.

Junior Activities – Margaret Clausen Grimm and the Juniors joined our meeting. They created a Jeopardy game to test our knowledge about poppies. Members were not allowed to use computers, phones or other forms of assistance. Everyone had a great time and either learned or confirmed their knowledge.

Junior Slate of Officers – The following Junior Slate of Officers was presented for approval

President ----- Makenzi Grimm (Unit 57)
1st Vice President ----- Amber Gilbreath (Unit 16)
2nd Vice President ----- Teyvan Chya (Unit 35)
Secretary ----- Renee Doyle (Unit 35)
Historian ----- Azmariah Barnes (Unit 35)
Chaplain ----- Alexis Grimm (Unit 57)

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 35) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to accept the Honorary Junior slate of officers as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Our Juniors were thanked for all their hard work on the Jeopardy game. It was recommended that it be taken to all Units around the state.

COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORTS (continue)

Fairbanks Christmas Project – Margaret Clausen-Grim shared that they had done a gift bag for veterans this year. They asked veterans what they needed that they can't get. They talked about money so they could purchase gifts themselves. They also talked about having us purchase the gifts for them. They distributed 100 bags which were decorated by the Juniors. There was a Christmas card, and ornament, a roll of toilet paper, 4 stamps, envelopes, note pad, photo album, pocket calendar, a jumbo pencil, an eraser, chapstick and unscented lotion. They distributed them to the Meals on Wheel program, the Denali Center, the Pioneer Home, homeless shelters, and women's shelter. They were really appreciated. A total of \$849 was spent on this project.

Anchorage Christmas Projects – Jane coordinated this and bags were distributed to the Anchorage Pioneer Home with the assistance of the Honorary Junior Chaplain. This involved \$198.50, 187 miles, 4 hours for the Senior member and 1 hour for the Junior member. In the bag, there were socks, paper, notepad, ornament, and a poppy with the poppy poem (made into a book marker). In addition bags were given to the Alaska Veteran's and Pioneer home. This involved \$375.33, 140 miles, and three hours of time. Bags were dropped off because we couldn't go inside due to Covid. They were very appreciative. Instead of doing a Gift Shop at the Domiciliary, every Veteran was given a Christmas gift (flannel shirts, and a toiletry bag). These were delivered on Christmas Eve to be opened on Christmas Day. It was pointed out that there were Veterans who did not get presents at Christmas (and usually the same ones each year) so this was a great idea. The Domiciliary project involved \$485.69 and 10 hours of time. All locations were very appreciative of the items received.

At this time President Jane Larson tuned the gavel over to 1st Vice President Anarene Robinson.

MOTION: by Jane Larson (Unit 35) and seconded by Anne Foley (Unit 1) to discontinue the ALA veterans gift shop at the Domiciliary and to instead purchase specific items for each individual residing at the Domiciliary.

We were spending a large amount of money to get gifts for veterans to give to their family member and to mail them.

Purchasing individual gifts will replace the Domiciliary Gift Shop. A gift would be purchased for each person at the Domiciliary. We can't purchase items too far in advance so that we can be sure who will be there for Christmas Day.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Convention went into recess at 3:55 p.m.

The Convention returned from recess at 4:05 p.m.

Finance– Lisa Boyles thanked Debbie Lowndes for her assistance in preparing the proposed budget. The budget distributed is the same as last year. This is because we don't know how things will continue during the pandemic. There were no major changes, but there will be some. We are waiting the 1st quarter report as there were computer issues and we could not get it. There may be an increase in dues. Business expenses were up because we changed banks. Lisa Williamson thanked those who served on this committee. Debbie Lowndes will not be able to do this in the future. Once everything is updated, copies will be available. President Jane Larson thanked Lisa Williamson and Lisa Boyles. She also noted there have been appointees for this Department Committee.

There were several comments given before recessing

- Lisa Williamson noted that Electronic Media falls under Public Relations and was included in the Public Relations report.
- Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) asked about members being able to pay their dues online. This is possible.
- Colleen Newman thinks it is wonderful to pay dues online. They will mail the person their card although it might take a while.
- April Sinclair (Unit 57) pointed out that Units will get credit for the online dues, however the process is different. If you pay in person at the Unit, the process is Unit, Department and then National. If payments are done online it is National, Department and then Unit. However, if you have assigned someone to have access to ALAMIS that person can go online and look at membership. Once an online registration is processed, you can print their card.
- Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) thought that new members who join on line get credited to Unit 77 for the Department and not to a specific Unit. Then they can be changed to the Unit at which they want to belong.
- Zona Gregg (Unit 6) pointed out that your dues must be current in order to renew online. You cannot pay for back membership dues online.
- Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) said that when paying online that payment is made to National who then sends a check to the Department. She also asked if we are still issuing credits to the unit and for how long they are good.
- Don't forget to pay for the Past Presidents Parley luncheon before leaving tonight.

PRAYER

Department Chaplain was asked to provide a prayer for someone who is in the hospital today and to close today's activities.

The Convention went into recess at 4:25 p.m. until Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Larson at 9:15 a.m.

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Colleen Newman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 1st Vice President Anarene Robinson.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson

1st Vice President Anarene Robinson

2nd Vice President April Sinclair

Secretary Barbara Nath

Sgt.-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth

Chaplain Colleen Newman

Historian April Sinclair

Executive Committee Member Frances Bedel

Executive Committee Member Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Lori Fruhwirth

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg

Children and Youth April Sinclair

Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna

Education and Scholarship Lisa Boyles

History April Sinclair

Junior Activities Margaret Claussen-Grim

Leadership Sue Caswell

Legislative Penny Mazonna

Membership Anarene Robinson

National Security Frances Bedel

Poppy Margaret Blankenship

Public Relations Beverly Eads

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT (continued)

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer, Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Bucker Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
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
Beverly Eads
Penny Mazonna
Carolyn Null
Sue Waldhaus
Lisa Williamson

EXCUSED

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alternate National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz.

OFFICERS

Treasurer Diana Estrada

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Kathy Moore
Audit Sue Diaz
Community Service Debbie Ervin
Constitution and Bylaws Sue Diaz
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Sharon Cherrette Susan Diaz
Debbie Lowndes Linda Schmitt

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT

UNITS

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
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	Wilma Stokes
Rehta Foster	Jean Shandy	Jill Pawson
Francisca Guilford	Lynn Bash	Barbe Wolkoff

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Junior Activities – Margaret Clausen Grim provided a breakdown by unit of Junior Activities. During the reporting period, Juniors participated in their first Military Child’s Table Ceremony. They also collected winter gear, socks, and hygiene sets to be given to Veterans. They decorated cards for soldiers overseas, signing them and including a poppy in them. While National President Nicole Clapp was visiting in Alaska, they made a gift for her, decorated signs with pictures and sang happy birthday to her.

Finance/Budget – Lisa Boyles shared that there were some questions. She anticipate more income as the budget is finalize. Lisa will sit with Diana to update the budget and copies will be sent out. It was noted that under office expenses the budget was \$500 and much more than that was spent. It appears that there will also need to be an increase in the budget for postage. There was no poppy income in the budget.

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to accept the budget with the items mentioned.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Legislative – Penny Mazonna received reports from 10 units. Those that did report were very active in trying to connect on both the state and federal levels. She encouraged them to keep up the good work. There is a legislative advocacy book which each unit should have. It gives a lot of information about how to contact officials on any level including inviting them to your home. Most have some type of electronic methods of contact like Facebook, etc. Please keep your legislators informed of your feelings on different topics. There were four auxiliary members on the Zoom meeting for the Washington DC conference. Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) asked Penny to explain how to look at legislative page nationally. Penny noted there are links on our web page. You can access by National website and our website (alaskalegionauxiliary.org).

Distinguished Guests – Penny Mazonna had the honor of hosting National President Nicole and her companion Terry at Fall Conference. They had an awesome time. Nicole loved visiting with us. She got to go to Fisher House (both of them). She went to Hatcher Pass and also did a tour of different veterans places in Wasilla, including the Wall of Honor. She was presented with a cookbook by Hazel Schwulst. Her son has cooked every item in the book.

The Convention went into recess at 9:55 a.m.

The Convention returned from recess at 10:15 a.m.

Zona reported that we were able to raise \$408.34 for the National AEF through the Dazzling Me donation of dimes or silver coins.

Service to Veterans Report – Barb Nath read Linda Schmitt’s report since she was not present. Linda has made sure that all awards are up to date because she will not be continuing this committee. She expressed her gratitude for being able to serve in this capacity. In her report, she reminded members that instead of just saying “one member took a veteran to the store” they should provide the name of the member and the amount of time involved. That way they will get credit for their service to the veteran. In addition, she stated that the Service to Veteran pins are only distributed in particular increments. If someone has hours over one increment and below the next, they will be awarded a pin for the hours earned and those over the increment will be tallied and used for the next pin. (For example, if someone had 75 hours, they would get a 50 hour pin and the remaining 25 hours would be tallied until there is a total of 100 hours for the next pin.)

RESOLUTIONS

April Sinclair presented the resolutions for this Convention.

Resolution 2021-1 appointing a 3-member committee to interview candidates for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer and making recommendations to the Department Executive Committee who would then meet for acceptance and endorsement.

MOTION: by Christine Calabrese (Unit 18) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to approve Resolution 2021-1.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) stated that she opposes this resolution. She noted that on the National level there is a Secretary, an Executive Director, and a Treasurer, all of whom are paid. Lisa reminded those present that the President appoints these position and will do so for the good of the organization. The President will talk with their advisors. These positions are voting members of the DEC. While paid employees are normally not voting members, our Secretary and Treasurer do have that authority. We may need to draw a lint regarding their duties. If this resolution is passed, it takes away from the President’s abilities.

Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) also has an issue with this resolution.

The motion failed by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2021-2 restricts travel for President if serving a two year consecutive term. It would authorize one visit to each unit during the two year period.

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Donna Brockschmidt (Unit 16) to approved Resolution 2021-2.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) stated that there are units that are struggling and need help. Limiting visitation to one time during a two year term would not allow the President to go back again to assist them. Sitka is one of those units that is struggling. We should not restrict travel. The Department President usually travels with the Department Commander.

Yvonne Lamm (Unit 35) noted that units may get help, but don't get visits. We lose members because they go to other units. If we don't pick and choose, then a visit should be done to every unit. Invitations should not be a requirement. If the President can go to every unit every year, she would agree to this resolution.

President Larson explained that if it is a two year term, the President can only visit each unit one time.

Barbara Nath pointed out that this position is normally a one-year term. This year was an exception due to Covid-19.

Penny Mazonna (Unit 35) noted that there used to be a calendar set up and units were told when Department officers would be visiting. Then it changed so that the President could only visit if invited. She believes it should be a requirement to visit each year. We do not know if a President might do a second term.

Sue Caswell (Unit 35) reminded everyone that letters used to be sent to each Unit for a visit, combining those units in the same region. If the time specified didn't work, then they could request it to be re-scheduled.

It was pointed out that the Unit being visited is responsible for all costs except air fare.

Sue Caswell (Unit 35) shared that this is not just a visit to the Unit. It is a time to share information for the Unit and could include some type of workshop if needed. The Department President is at their disposal during the visit and should be willing to address members and answer questions, etc.

The motion failed by voice vote (not unanimous).

Resolution 2021-3 thanking the Family of Susitna Valley Post, Unit, Squadron and Chapter for hosting this Convention and being very gracious and accommodating to all who attended.

MOTION: by Frances Bedel (Unit 57) and seconded by Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) to approve Resolution 2021-3.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2021-4 thanking President Jane Larson for a successful two-year administrative term and for her quiet enthusiasm, dedication and determination.

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 35) and seconded by Frances Bedel (Unit 57) to approve Resolution 2021-4.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Convention went into recess at 11:00 a.m.

The Convention returned from recess at 11:20 a.m.

Vicky Paddock (Unit 11) explained that many veterans are homeless when they come out of services. People found out and helped. She has three posters to sell. Two of them are \$55 and the third one is free. You will receive the posters as well as a poem and a biography. She asked for help to help veterans. Several members purchase a set of posters.

MOTION: by Barbara Nath (Unit 35) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 35) to remove the requirement that the Department must have an invitation in order to visit a unit, that the Department President visits each unit every term and that a motion be forwarded to the DEC to increase travel expenditures.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Susan Garner (Unit 33) and seconded by Annette Gwalthney-Jones (Unit 1) to expend some funds to help with the web site for the Department to keep the web site current and the information up to date.

The web site is maintained by Lisa Williamson, who asked for specifics.

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) stated that she has not seen any old information.

Susan Garner (Unit 33) shared that for \$20 an hour someone could manage the web site. You need a social media presence to draw in the younger crowd. We have to change what we are doing and market ourselves. It needs to be more current and more updated. She will put together a list.

Christine Calabrese (Unit 18) has someone who could take this on.

Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) noted that Lisa Williamson is moving on to bigger and better things. We need to move toward modernizing. We need someone with young eyes and a young view. It is a totally different world than 10 years ago. She doesn't believe we can solve this today.

Lisa Williamson noted the web site is on an older platform. We are struggling to convert. When Lisa Williamson is informed of changes or updates, she takes care of doing those. She understands what is being said about younger people. There are two parts of the web site. One is to promote and present items to draw people in. The other is the members' only portion. She will talk with the system administrator to see if we can make changes and to discuss possibilities.

Sue Waldhaus (Unit 29) asked if we can establish a path for Lisa Williamson to be the lead on this project. She should work on what must be done and bring forth recommendations.

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) noted we have a media chair. She asked if we hire someone if that takes abilities from the media chair. It was reported it would add to the chair's abilities.

Lisa will sit down with the system administrator and Unit members to discuss what we would like to do. It is possible that Lisa Boyles would want to be included. Lisa Williamson believes that Jo Marie can easily do what we need with a set amount of money.

The motion failed by a voice vote (not unanimous).

MOTION: by Benda Fiddick (Unit 57) and seconded by Anarene Robinson (Unit 33) to create a task force to review and evaluate the website and bring recommendations forward.

Robyn Downs (Unit 1) noted that no one here is a webmaster. It is great to have a committee who can give feedback. We need to have a little bit of professional help in taking a look at the web site.

Lisa Boyles (Unit 15) thought there might be a volunteer to look at the web site.

The thought was to utilize the task force and then find someone to review.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Convention went into recess at 11:35 a.m. for the Past Presidents Parley luncheon.

During the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon, the Unit Member of the Year (Darlene Sheldon – Unit 18) and the Service Member of the Year (Jennifer Bell) were announced:

The Convention returned from recess at 1:55 p.m.

The winners of the President's Poppy Project (poppy wreath) were announced:

First – Unit 35
Second – Unit 20
Third – Unit 29

President Report – President Jane Larson was on a great and interesting adventure. The pandemic caused her term to be extended from one year to two years. She praised all of her officers and chairs. She began on April 27th at Post 1 for their 100th anniversary. Then she went to National Convention and was installed there as Department President with all Department President from other departments. With the pandemic, travel was limited and she wasn't able to go to many units. Her visitations include:

- Palmer Unit 15
- Peters Creek Unit 33
- Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
- C Russel Huber Unit 57
- Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 for their Christmas party
- Con Miller Unit 30 was in the midst of changing officers so there was no visitation

She expressed her gratitude for members voting to give gifts to Veterans at the Domiciliary and not doing the gift shop. She thanked everyone for voting for her and trusting her in this position. She distributed gifts to her committee chairs and officers.

Other contests winners were announced.

- Chaplain's Book – There was only one entry from Unit 33.
- History Book – 3rd place went to Spenard Unit 28; 2nd place to Jack Henry Unit 1 and 1st place to Susitna Valley Unit 35.
- Scrapbook – 3rd place went to Spenard Unit 28; 2nd place to General Buckner Unit 16 and 1st place to Susitna Valley Unit 35.

VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

Members were given time to get their credentials if needed. They were also informed that they will need to stay in the room until voting is completed. If someone leaves the room, they will not be allowed to return. Credentials were verified by the Credentials Committee and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

VOTING STRENGTH ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna

OFFICERS

President Jane Larson

1st Vice President Anarene Robinson

2nd Vice President April Sinclair

VOTING STRENGTH ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT:

OFFICERS

Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sgt.-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth
Chaplain Colleen Newman
Historian April Sinclair
Executive Committee Member Frances Bedel
Executive Committee Member Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Lori Fruhwirth
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Children and Youth April Sinclair
Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna
Education and Scholarship Lisa Boyles
History April Sinclair
Junior Activities Margaret Claussen-Grim
Leadership Sue Caswell
Legislative Penny Mazonna
Membership Anarene Robinson
National Security Frances Bedel
Poppy Margaret Blankenship
Public Relations Beverly Eads
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer, Unit 6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Bucker Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spennard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Con Miller Unit 30
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT (continued)

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Margaret Blankenship
Susan Caswell
Sharon Cherrette
Beverly Eads
Penny Mazonna
Carolyn Null
Sue Waldhaus
Lisa Williamson

EXCUSED

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Alternate National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Kathy Moore
Audit Sue Diaz
Community Service Debbie Ervin
Constitution and Bylaws Sue Diaz
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Susan Diaz Debbie Lowndes
Linda Schmitt

ABSENT

UNITS

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

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

VOTING STRENGTH

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1	18 + 1 for a total of	19
Ketchikan Unit 3	5 + 1 for a total of	6
Seward Unit 5	16 + 1 for a total of	17
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6	8 + 1 for a total of	9
Dorman H Baker Unit 11	5 + 1 for a total of	6
Matanuska Valley Unit 15	8 + 1 for a total of	9
General Buckner Unit 16	10 + 1 for a total of	11
Robert G. Blair Unit 17	12 + 1 for a total of	13
Ninilchik Unit 18	8 + 1 for a total of	9
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20	12 + 1 for a total of	13
Spenard Unit 28	20 + 1 for a total of	21
Muldoon Unit 29	7 + 1 for a total of	8
Peters Creek Unit 33	15 + 1 for a total of	16
Susitna Valley Unit 35	19 + 1 for a total of	20
C. Russell Huber Unit 57	18 + 1 for a total of	19
TOTAL UNIT STRENGTH		192

National Officers (1 vote per officer)

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna	1
TOTAL NATIONAL OFFICER STRENGTH	1

Officers (1 vote per officer)

President Jane Larson	1
1 st Vice President Anarene Robinson	1
2 nd Vice President April Sinclair	1
Secretary Barbara Nath	1
Treasurer Diana Estrada	1
Chaplain Colleen Newman	1
Sergeant-at-Arms Lori Fruhwirth	1
Executive Committeewoman Frances Bedel	1
Executive Committeewoman Zona Gregg	1
TOTAL OFFICER STRENGTH	10

VOTING STRENGTH

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

Leadership – Sue Caswell.....	1
Poppy – Marge Blankenship.....	1
Public Relations – Beverly Eads.....	1
TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEE STRENGTH.....	3

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

Sharon Cherrette	1
Carolyn Null	1
Sue Waldhaus	1
Lisa Williamson.....	1
TOTAL PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS STRENGTH.....	4

TOTAL DEPARTMENT VOTING STRENGTH..... 216

ELECTIONS

Department President –Jane Larson (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. 1st Vice President Anarene Robinson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, 1st Vice President Anarene Robinson declared Jane Larson President for the 2021-2022 year by acclimation.

Department 1st Vice President –Anarene Robinson (Unit 33) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared Anarene Robinson 1st Vice President for the 2021-2022 year by acclimation.

Department 2nd Vice President –April Sinclair (Unit 57) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared April Sinclair 2nd Vice President for the 2021-2022 year by acclimation.

Historian –Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared Lori Fruhwirth Historian for the 2021-2022 year by acclimation.

Chaplain –Colleen Newman (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared Colleen Newman Chaplain for the 2021-2022 year by acclimation.

Sgt.-at-Arms –Frances Bedel (Unit 57) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared Frances Bedel Sgt.-at-Arms for the 2021-2022 year by acclimation.

ELECTIONS (continued)

Executive Committee –Robyn Downs (Unit 1) and Carole John (Unit 33) have been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Yvonne Lamm (Unit 35) nominated Sheryl Howe (Unit 16). Because there are only two openings and three nominations, this requires casting votes. The votes were counted and Robyn Downs (unit 1) and Sheryl Howe (Unit 16) were elected Executive Committee members for the 2021-2022 year.

National Executive Committee Member –Penny Mazonna (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared Penny Mazonna National Executive Committee Member for a two year term (2021 – 2023) by acclimation.

Alternate National Executive Committee Member –Susan Diaz (Unit 20) has been nominated for this position. President Jane Larson asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Jane Larson declared Susan Diaz Alternate National Executive Committee Member for a two year term (2021 – 2023) by acclimation.

The Convention went into recess at 3:10 p.m.

The Convention returned from recess at 3:25 p.m.

MOTION: by Barbara Nath (Unit 35) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 35) to have our Gaming Permit remain with Loyal Ladies.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NATIONAL CONVENION ATTENDEES

The National Convention is in Phoenix in August. The following indicated that they planned to attend the National Convention either by notifying the Department Secretary or announcing it at the Department Convention:

Ann Robinson	Yvonne Lamm	Lisa Williamson	Lori Fruhwirth
Marge Blankenship	Jessica Blankenship	Linda Blankenship	Sue Caswell
Penny Mazonna	Robyn Downs	Brenda Fiddick	Colleen Newman
Beverly Eads	Angel Whitney	April Sinclair	Jane Larson
Barb Nath	Debbie Ervin	Sue Diaz	

Brenda Fiddick and Angel Whitney agreed to serve as pages with Robyn Downs as an alternate if needed.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to accept these nominations above and to allow the Department Secretary to determine who would be Delegates and Alternates.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Members were thanked for praying for the person in the hospital this morning.
- Lisa Boyles indicated there had been an application for Children of Warriors. Liam Houlihan is from Anchor Point and received a \$1,000 Aggie Parks Scholarship for his application.
- April Sinclair presented our Department President with a hard bound scrapbook documenting her times as President. It was signed by each unit.

CLOSING PRAYER

Chaplain Colleen Newman offered a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Department Convention the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.