

Minutes of the
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(August 29, 2021 – National Convention)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Jane Larson at 9:07 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

MOTION: by April Sinclair (Unit 57) and seconded by Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) to dispense with opening ceremonies except for the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Colleen Newman.

All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna
Alt. National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz

OFFICERS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Alaska Girls State Lori Fruhwirth
Audit Sue Diaz
Children and Youth April Sinclair
Community Service Debbie Ervin
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna

ROLL CALL (continued)

PRESENT:

STANDING COMMITTEES (continued)

History April Sinclair
Leadership Sue Caswell
Legislative Penny Mazonna
Membership Anarene Robinson
Poppy Marge Blankenship
Public Relations Beverly Eads
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

UNITS

Jack Henry Unit 1
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Marge Blankenship
Susan Caswell
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Diaz
Penny Mazonna

Lisa Williamson

ABSENT:

OFFICERS

Executive Committee Member Frances Bedel
Executive Committee Member Zona Gregg

STANDING COMMITTEES

Americanism Kathy Moore
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Education and Scholarship Lisa Boyles
Finance Debbie Lowndes
Junior Activities Margaret Clausen-Grimm
National Security Frances Bedel
Past Presidents Parley Debbie Lowndes

ROLL CALL (continued)

ABSENT (continued)

UNITS

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Bucker Unit 16
Ninilchik Unit 18
Spenard Unit 28
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 37
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
Linda Schmitt	Wilma Stokes	Rehta Foster
Jean Shandy	Jill Pawson	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Barbe Wolkoff	Debbie Lowndes
Sue Waldhaus		

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Appointments – Jane has committee appointments to be ratified.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to ratify the following committee appointments:

Alaska Girls State 2nd Year Board Member – Robyn Downs (Unit 1)
Finance Committee 3rd Year Member – Connie Landmesser (Unit 35)

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by to ratify the following committee appointments pending acceptance by the member:

Americanism – Marilyn Mork (Unit 6)
Service to Veterans – Donna Brocksmith (Unit 16)

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

There was a change to be made for the Junior Activities Committee.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) to ratify the following appointments:

Junior Activities
Chair – Nina Ketelson
Co-Chair – Margaret Clausen Grim

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Appointments still to be filled – Finance Committee 1st Year Member

Pre-Convention Committee Reports

- ALA 100th Anniversary (Jane L. Larson) – Those present shared how they celebrated the 100th Anniversary. Many had parties celebrating. One department made Christmas ball decorations with pictures of their past Presidents. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- ALA Foundation (Diana Estrada) – Grants can be applied for by either the Unit or the Department. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- ALA Girls Nation (Lori Fruhwirth) – There was 100% reporting. She mentioned that Alaska Girls State had paired with Hawaii Girls State this year. There no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Americanism (Angel Whitney) – Members were encouraged to report all time spent on Americanism projects. Our youth should be encouraged and educated to get more involved in meetings and mentoring them as to what they can do to be more involved. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Sue Diaz) – We were going to ask the Finance Committee to put an amount in the budget. However Diana indicated that we sent almost \$3,000 this year. She will confirm this and further action will be taken if needed... Penny noted that when units submit money, they can break it into two checks (one for national and one for Alaska) which should be designated in the memo section of the check. All donations need to go through Department (even though you can donate on line). You must go through Department in order for Alaska to get credit. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Children and Youth (April Sinclair) – There was 100% reporting. The recommendation was made to connect with EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program). All departments participated in Purple up Day. All Department Presidents and Chairs were thanked. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.

- Chaplain (Colleen Newman). It was mentioned that there were impromptu prayers using the name of Jesus. There were a lot of disgruntled remarks, because many units have members who don't recognize Jesus. It was recommended that when saying prayers to use "our Lord" or "our God." It was suggested that each unit put together a prayer book to cover any diversities in their units. Members shared some of the things they are doing. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- Community Service (Angel Whitney) – Many people have not been reporting hours donated. Be sure they are getting reported and only in one category. If what you are doing could fall in more than one category, the pick one. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- Constitution and ByLaws (Sue Diaz) – Many of our members attended this meeting. The IRS needs clarification and so we will be changing the NEC to the National Board of Directors. It is mostly a title change to make the power chain clean. The Executive Director will become the authorize signer. The Audit Committee becomes the Rick and Compliance Committee. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Credentials (Barb Nath) – There were 711 voting delegates attending the National Convention. There were no resolutions or recommendations nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- Education (Angel Whitney). Many departments shared the unique and different and have worked well. There was recognition for participation in the oratorical program. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Finance (Diana Estrada) – The recommendation was made that all departments should require two signatures on checks. It is a protection for the department. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- Junior Activities (April Sinclair) – There was 100% reporting. There is Junior Mentor training available. Departments were encouraged to focus on more use of the Patch Program. You could include SAL members in this program. Adults must sign off in order for patches to be awarded. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- Historian (Lori Fruhwirth) – She mentioned Alaska's Jeopardy game for providing historical information. Juniors will also be encouraged to submit a history book. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Leadership (Sue Caswell) – We should continue to encourage leadership participation as well as the ALA Academy for members. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- Legislative (Penny Mazonna) – They hadn't seen each other since the beginning of Covid. The recommendation was made to check the TAL website for any legislative issues. We follow the TAL protocols. Not all veterans are aware that legislative activities are supported by the American Legion. Encourage members to be aware and to contact their legislators. Penny recommended that you find one person in your unit that might be interested in contacting legislators. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska, however C. Russell Huber Unit 57 was nominated for an award.
- Liaison to Child Welfare Foundation (April Sinclair) – There were 22 grants given this year. Annual contributions to CWF were encouraged.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and Penny Mazonna (Unit 35) to ask the Finance Committee to include an annual department contribution to the Child Welfare Fund for next year's budget.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

There will be a recommendation to amend the Alaska's Standing Rules to include an annual department contributions. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.

- Membership (Anarene Robinson) – There is a request from the American Legion to change the governing documents to allow eligibility for everyone. The Membership committee passed this and it will come up on the floor for a discussion. It was recommended to make sure that all language is gender-neutral. There should be absolutely no holding of membership applications by anyone. They have to be processed by the Unit Treasurer immediately. There was a celebration award of \$500 to Alaska.
- National Executive Committee (Penny Mazonna) – There are many C&B changes proposed. It has been recommended to change the name of the National Executive Committee to the National Board of Directors. There were no resolutions nor any awards for Alaska.
- National History (Lori Fruhwirth) – Remember to learn, share, prepare, and teach our history. There will no longer be a National History Committee. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska, however C. Russell Huber Unit 57 was nominated for an award.
- Past Presidents' Parley (Jane L. Larson) – There was discussion about our past presidents being mentors, staying in touch with our members, and reminding them that they are all important. There is no longer going to be a National Past Presidents' Parley Committee. Departments can continue to have a PPP Committee if they so choose. The Member of the Year is going to be under the Leadership Committee. The Service Member of the Year will move under the National Security Committee. There were reports from 47 of 57 departments. There were no resolutions nor were there any awards for Alaska.
- National Security (Robyn Downs) – There was some discussion about the program. It is for active military. The National Security meeting in Washington DC had representatives from all 52 departments. Departments were recommended to work with local police and fire departments to create welcoming packets. We are also working with ROTC, JROTC and the Blue Star programs. There were numerous stories of partnerships and events. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Past Presidents Parley (Jane Larson) – This will no longer be a national committee. The Unit Member will be under the Leadership Committee and the Service Woman will be under the National Security Committee. We received the award for our unit member of the year. Out of 52 departments there were 47 unit women of the year. There were no resolutions or recommendations
- Poppy (Marge Blankenship) – Marge encouraged committees to get their reports in earlier and not wait until the last minute. Susan Diaz noted reports are currently needed by April 15th. She spoke of the possibility of making them due earlier so we have them in time for the national report timelines. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.

- Public Relations (Robyn Downs) – Members were encouraged to include all events that take place. Everyone has learned new technology and also how to connect electronically. We should be prepared to move forward with technology. There was a talk about Facebook and having both a public section (anyone) and a private section (members only) like National has on their web page. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Resolutions (Barb Nath) – There is a resolution to come up for a vote regarding membership. There were nor recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- Rules (Barb Nath) – The rules for the convention will be coming up on the floor for a vote. The rules can be found on Page 24 of the program. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.
- VA&R (Brenda Fiddick) – A lot of information was shared about recruitment. There were no resolutions, recommendations nor awards for Alaska.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- There were a lot of gifts received, but we do not know when the hospitality room will be open. There will be no tickets. Instead it will be a silent auction. The Silent Auction will be finished Tuesday evening and items need to be picked up on Wednesday.
- Hospitality hours for Alaskans will be at 4:00 p.m. Non-Alaskans will be able to come to the Hospitality Room from 5-8.
- Barb has Department pins if anyone would like to purchase them. In addition, the Happy Bears pins and the totems are \$5 each while the coins are \$15.
- Jane requested that we wear the hats she provided at this meeting for the caucus. It is optional.

The Chaplain provide a closing chair.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the DEC, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.