

**FALL CONFERENCE**  
**October 2 - 3, 2020**  
**Susitna Valley Post/Unit 35**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020**

**COMBINED OPENING CEREMONIES**

The morning began with a Combined Opening Ceremonies. This was followed by an Awards Luncheon. President Nicole Clapp was the guest speaker. Alaska had several national awards for youth presented by National President Nicole Clapp. They and their family members and teachers/principal were our guests at the luncheon. These included:

- Good Deed Awards – Alexis and Makenzi Grimm, C. Russell Huber Unit 57 and Connor Haywood, Spenard Squadron 28
- Youth Hero Awards – Erabella Hunt and Lily Caven (third graders at Big Lake Elementary)

In addition, membership awards were distributed to Units.

After the luncheon, the meeting split to individual sessions.

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.

**MOTION:** by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Zona Gregg (Unit 6) to dispense with opening ceremonies except for the Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The Prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Colleen Newman.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

## ROLL CALL

### PRESENT:

#### *NATIONAL OFFICERS*

Alternate National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz

#### *OFFICERS*

President Jane Larson

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Anarene Robinson

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Audit Sue Diaz

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg

Children and Youth April Sinclair

Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz

History April Sinclair

Leadership Sue Caswell

Membership Anarene Robinson

National Security Frances Bedel

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

#### *UNITS*

Jack Henry Unit 1

Merlin Elmer Palmer, Unit 6

Dorman H. Baker Unit 11

Matanuska Valley Unit 15

General Bucker Unit 16

George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20

Spenard Unit 28

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*

Susan Caswell  
Sue Diaz  
Sue Waldhaus  
Lisa Williamson

**EXCUSED**

*NATIONAL OFFICERS*

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna

*OFFICERS*

Treasurer Diana Estrada

*STANDING COMMITTEES*

Americanism Kathy Moore  
Community Services Debbie Ervin  
Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna  
Finance Debbie Lowndes  
Junior Activities Margaret Clausen-Grimm  
Legislative Penny Mazonna  
Past President Parley Debbie Lowndes  
Poppy Margaret Blankenship

*PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT*

Penny Mazonna  
Debbie Lowndes

**ABSENT**

*STANDING COMMITTEES*

Public Relations Beverly Eads

*UNITS*

Joseph T. Craig Unit 3  
Seward Unit 5  
Lynn Canal Unit 12  
Sitka Unit 13  
Robert G. Blair Unit 17  
Ninilchik Unit 18  
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27

**ROLL CALL (continued)**

**ABSENT (continued)**

*UNITS (continued)*

Muldoon Unit 29  
Chappie James Unit 34  
Peter Heyano Unit 442

*PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS*

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

**MOTION:** Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and Collen Newman (Unit 35) to accept Sue Diaz as the Parliamentarian

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Program Action Plans – Please put them in the mailboxes. If you wish to speak about your Program Action Plan, please see President Jane Larson.

Constitution and ByLaws – Chair Sue Diaz stated that she was approached by many people with questions regarding the Constitution and ByLaws. She requested time to speak about this at the Fall Conference. Templates are guidelines. Unit Constitution and ByLaws do not need to be the same word-for-word. Make them yours. All Governing Documents (Constitution, ByLaws, Standing Rules and Policy and Procedures) should be sent in to the Department Secretary ASAP. The Executive Board for the Unit consists of the President, Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and anyone who is elected. You must have at least 1/3 of the Executive Board present for a meeting.

Use of Personal Facebook Pages – Personal Facebook pages are not to be used for Auxiliary. Information on personal Facebook pages is available to anyone who can read it and is therefore open to reposting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mid-Year Reports are due December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Poppy order forms were provided to all units. This must be returned to the Department Secretary by November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership has been really good this year. Our numbers went up. We showed that we don't just stop because there are challenges. We are trying to get members back to active status. Every member matters. Don't just strive for 100%, instead strive for a higher percentage. Everyone has an opportunity to help veterans and their families. Don't leave anyone with a need behind.
- April noted that the National President did an excellent job with the ALA history. History submissions should include the report, pictures, dates, time, events etc. Don't overstep your unit historians. Include them in getting information submitted. She would like to receive everyone's report early and not wait until the last minute.
- There will be awards for Children & Youth today. Members are encouraged to watch for anything our youth are doing for which we can give them awards. Please let April and Lisa know if you see anything.
- The Military Childs Table was awesome.
- April Sinclair is the new Chair for VA&R. This is a new committee for her. Her paying job is with Triwest Health Care and she works with veterans. She works closely with the VA in Anchorage for authorization and support. She reported that there have been drive up clinics for flu shots for veteran. Alaska Legal Services provides counsel for veterans.
- Lisa Williamson and Lisa Boyles are helping Debbie Lowndes with the Finance Committee. Copies of the budget are in mail boxes. There will be talk about finances at the DEC meeting on Sunday. Debbie will be on the phone to answer any questions.
- Lisa thanked everyone for their support in the last several days. She is here this weekend because that is what her mother wanted.
- TEAMALASKA2023 – web site – There is a cart to order polo shirts and pay through pay pal. We hope to use this for fundraisers and raffles. You can't sell raffle tickets on internet. They are not doing a calendar for 2021 because finances are not as good as last year. She thanked her home family for running with this one. She wishes her mom could be there. She is working on the web site, but encouraged members to check it out.
- Colleen noted there are lots of things chaplains and members can do. One of our chaplains has provided guidance and always has a happy face. She is there for others. There have been flags donated for first responders. Support is provided for those who are hospitalized or homebound. Prayers have been posted on Facebook pages. She provided instructions for the Chaplains Prayer Book. She asked that the Department Chaplain be informed of anyone who passes away so a note can be sent from Department.

- Lori is excited to be the new Alaska Girls State Director. She attended her first Girls State Conference. She is waiting on information from National before she posts her Plan of Actions. She is still looking for a third year Board member.
- Members were encouraged to take out any “female” references in their Governing Documents. There should no gender identifying statements.
- Zona reminded everyone that in order to receive funds through the AEF, the person must be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. The award date is June 1<sup>st</sup>. National has indicated that members who are having problems due to COVID can apply. Some will be accepted. She also asked that if a unit or person is donating to the Department or National AEF, please be sure to share that with her. We do not have any application for Department AEF funds this year, but we do have funds available. Zona will be making a recommendation to make a donation to National AEF in the amount of \$500. It will come up at the DEC meeting on Sunday. Remember, report to your unit, then to Diana and Zona. That way, Alaska will get credit for donations made by our members.

**RECESS:**

**MOTION:** by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Marilyn Mork (Unit 6) to recess until Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.

There being no objections, the meeting was recessed at 3:10 p.m.

## **SATURDAY, October 3, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by President Jane Larson

A prayer was offered by Department Chaplain Colleen Newman.

All members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT:**

##### *NATIONAL OFFICERS*

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

##### *OFFICERS*

President Jane Larson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Anarene Robinson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President April Sinclair  
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  
Audit Sue Diaz  
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg  
Children and Youth April Sinclair  
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz  
History April Sinclair  
Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna  
Leadership Sue Caswell  
Legislative Penny Mazonna  
Membership Anarene Robinson  
National Security Frances Bedel  
Poppy Margaret Blankenship  
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation April Sinclair

**ROLL CALL (continued)**

**PRESENT (continued)**

*UNITS*

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

*PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS*

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

**EXCUSED**

*STANDING COMMITTEES*

Americanism Kathy Moore  
Community Services Debbie Ervin  
Finance Debbie Lowndes  
Junior Activities Margaret Clausen-Grimm  
Legislative Penny Mazonna  
Past President Parley Debbie Lowndes

*PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS*

Debbie Lowndes

**ABSENT**

*STANDING COMMITTEES*

Public Relations Beverly Eads

## **ROLL CALL (continued)**

### **ABSENT (continued)**

#### *UNITS*

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

#### *PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS*

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

## **MISSION TRAINING**

There was a virtual Mission Training session conducted by National which all those present at Fall Conference attended.

## **RECESS**

There being no objection, the meeting was recessed to the Luncheon and the Installation of Officers.

## **RETURN FROM RECESS**

The meeting returned from Recess at 3:14 p.m.

## **TRAINING:**

The following training was offered to those present:

- ALAMIS (Diana Estrada)\
- ALA Academy – ALA Leadership
- ALA Academy – Establishing a Culture of Goodwill

Members were encouraged to go online and take the ALA Academy Classes so that they can get credit for attending.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Carolyn Null had had hip surgery. Members were encouraged to take few minutes and send her a card.
- There have been deaths in our Department. One was Deb Isominger, Dale Underhill, and Megan Anderson.
- Post 1 is hosting a 2-day forum on suicide prevention. It is being presented by another agency. We are invited to attend. It is on November 4<sup>th</sup> and consists of two 8-hour classes which begin at 8:00 a.m.
- Homer had a suicide prevention ride and there was a great turnout to raise money. ALA Legion Riders were part of that event.
- Right before dinner today there were be a presentation by the Juniors. They are waiting on National President Nicole Clapp to return from her activities. It is anticipated it will be at 4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

The Closing Prayer were offered by Department Chaplain Colleen Newman.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.