

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEETING
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA CONVENTION
(April 21-23, 2016)**

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:57 a.m.

Colors were posted by acting Sgt.-at-Arms Colleen Newman (Unit 28) and Jennifer Roalsen (Unit 17).

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance, sang the National Anthem and recited the Preamble.

Auxiliary National President Sharon Conatser spoke to the members. She was happy to be in Alaska and at the American Legion Auxiliary. She thanked us for our hospitality and stated she hopes to visit with many people. She will be the guest speaker at the Americanism Luncheon.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers:

President Sharon Cherrette
1st Vice President Susan Waldhaus
2nd Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Historian Colleen Newman
Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald
Executive Committeewoman Laurie Scott

Standing Committee Chairs:

Zona Gregg, Americanism
Colleen Newman, Cavalcade of Memories
Barb Nath, Children and Youth
Yvonne Porreca, Community Service
Lavonne Collier, Constitution and By-Laws
Lori FitzSimons, Education
Ruth Johnson, Finance
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State
Eva Aulston, Leadership
Lori Fruhwirth, Legislative
Barbe Wolkoff, Membership
Margaret Blankenship, Poppy
Patty Mazonna-Jones, Public Relations
Susan Waldhaus, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

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 Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Chappie James Unit 34
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents:

Lori FitzSimons
Lavonne Collier
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rheta Foster
Betty Randall
Peggy Mazonna

Excused:

Officers:

Chaplain Jane Larson
Sgt.-at-Arms Diane Estrada

Standing Committee Chairs:

Sue Diaz, Audit
Sue Coup, Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Beverly Eads, Distinguished Guests
Adrienne Huff, Junior Activities
Beverly Eads, National Security
Penny Mazonna, Past President Parley

Past Department Presidents:

Jill Pawson
Sue Diaz
Beverly Eads
Penny Mazonna

Absent

Units:

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30
Peter Heyano Unit 442

Past Department Presidents:

Judy Pusti
Linda Gunvalson
Jean Shandy
Lisa Williamson
Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash

There was a quorum.

Members who were at the Department Convention for the first time were asked to stand. They included

Robia Bishop, Unit 20
Sharon Bower, Unit 15
Carrie Doores, Unit 15
Peggy Hamner, Unit 5
Shelby Lamm, Unit 33
Jackie Novell, Unit 16
Cynthia Robell, Unit 16
Amber Sawyer, Unit 15
Heidi Webb, Unit 57
Lori Wolfe, Unit 5
Nancy Wyatt, Unit 15

Juniors were dismissed at 11:06 a.m.

Committee Assignments for Convention

- Credentials -- Linda Schmitt (Unit 33), Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57), and Debra Gilchrest (Unit 35)
- Rules -- Patty Mazonna-Jones (Unit 33)
- Constitution -- Lavonne Collier (Unit 1), Pat Salcedo (Unit 33), and Ann Robinson (Unit 57)
- Resolutions -- Rheta Foster (Unit 28), Marjorie Noble (Unit 35) and Sharon Dillon (Unit 5)
- Finance/Budget -- Ruth Johnson (Unit 35), Deborah Lowndes (Unit 33) and Jill Pawson (Unit 1)
- Parliamentary -- Sue Caswell (Unit 33)
- Nominations -- Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) with one member from each unit

- Distinguished guests -- Beverly Eads (Unit 17) and Penny Mazonna (Unit 33)
- Audit -- Sue Diaz (Unit 20), Jennifer Roalsen (Unit 17), and Carrie Archibald (Unit 35)
- History -- Colleen Newman (Unit 28), Donna Brockschmitt (Unit 16) and Heidi Webb (Unit 57). National President Sharon Conatser will serve on this committee.
- Poppy Book -- Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) Beth Anderson (Unit 16), and Wenda Sudduth (Unit 1). National President Sharon Conatser will serve on this committee.
- Chaplain Book -- Jane Larson (Unit 35), Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) Cynthia Robell (Unit 16). National President Sharon Conatser will serve on this committee.
- Balloting -- Lisa Williamson (Unit 57), Eva Aulston (Unit 1) and Vera Hart (Unit 29)
- Scholarships -- Lori FitzSimons (Unit 1), Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) and Carolyn Null (Unit 28)

MOTION: by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) and seconded to accept the chairmanships as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Patty Mazonna read the Convention Rules.

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) and seconded to accept the rules as read.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Penny Mazonna announced that she had some Past Presidents Parley activities for the weekend. She has items on which to write a note for a veteran. She will collect them and deliver them to veterans. She also has a bag of eggs. Each one has a message and a piece of candy and some have money. They are a fundraiser and are being sold for a dollar apiece. The Past Presidents Parley Luncheon will be in this room on Saturday. The cost is \$15 and Pat Salcedo will collect money. This money goes into future development.

Patty Mazonna-Jones needs a committee for Unit Member of the Year applications. The members need to be Past Department Presidents and cannot be from Units 1, 3, 5, 15, and 57. Members will be Marge Blankenship (Unit 33), Rheta Foster (Unit 28), Carolyn Null (Unit 28), and Beverly Eads (Unit 17). The committee will meet in seclusion. Rheta Foster will be the chair.

Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) announced she needs a certification of delegates from Units 29, 17, 20 and 34. It must be hand-delivered to her and be received prior to any voting. Linda will bring the other amp and microphone tomorrow so it is easier to hear.

There is only 1 person from Unit 34 to be filled out.

Pat Salcedo (Unit 33) needs money for Girl State and she has items for sale to raise money. Scarves will be \$10 and sun catchers will be \$25.

Committee chairs were encouraged to pick up their packets.

Any resolutions should be given to Rheta Foster.

Books can be left on the back table. This room will be secure.

Recess at 11:43 for Americanism Luncheon
Call to order at 2:05 p.m.

Lisa noted that Unit 57 gave \$3,000 to assist the additional 47 girls who might be going to Girls State.

Sharon apologized to the new folks and let them know that the appointments made to committees were just for the time of the convention and not for an entire year.

Recess to committee meetings at 2:12 p.m.
Call to order at 2:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers:

President Sharon Cherrette
1st Vice President Susan Waldhaus
2nd Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Historian Colleen Newman
Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald
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Judy Pusti
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Lynn Bash

There was a quorum.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska presented the following amendments to the Constitution at the 94th Convention in Wasilla, Alaska.

Changes #1:

In the ALA, Department of Alaska Constitution:

- Page 4 -- Article V -- Department Executive Committee -- (New), Section 4. "In the event of dissolution of the revocation of the Charter granted to the Department of Alaska by the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary, provision is made in the National Constitution and Bylaws for the National Executive Committee to take control, possession and custody of the records, property and assets of the Department, and may provide for such continued recognition and activities of Units in said Department as it may deem proper."
NOTE: This section is required by law and is included in the original Articles of Incorporation and must be contained in our Constitution.
- Page 6 -- Article VIII -- Amendments -- Add a space between Sections 2 and 3
- Page 6 -- Remove the signature line for the Notary Public. This document does not need to be notarized as per the State of Alaska, Division of Corporations and Economic Development.

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt and seconded to accept changes #1 as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Changes #2:

In the ALA, Unit Constitution and Bylaws there are a few corrections and two amendments to the Unit Bylaws to be considered. In the Unit Constitution:

- Page 2 -- Article I -- Name -- Extend the line for the Unit name to the end of the line.

- Page 2 -- Article II -- Nature, Section 1 -- add an "s" at the end of support. "Women" is plural therefore supports needs to be plural. The new Section will read: "The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian organization of women that supports the mission of the American Legion."
- Page 2 -- Article III - Object -- Remove "Section 1." and extend the line for the Unit name to the end of the line.
- Page 3 -- Article V -- Unit Officers -- Remove "Section 1." wording.
- Page 3 -- Article VII -- Fiscal Year -- Remove "Section 1." wording.
- Page 4 -- Remove the Notary section. As per the State of Alaska, Division of Corporations and Economic Development, this document does not need to be notarized.

MOTION by Linda moved and seconded to accept changes #2 as presented

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

Changes #3

In the ALA, Unit Bylaws, there are two corrections and two amendments to be considered. Correction on 03/1/16 -- there three amendments to be considered.

- Page 5 -- Article I -- Executive Committee -- Section 3. Remove the comma after "3" and add a period.
- Page 9 -- Article VIII -- Discipline -- Section 3 -- Move the entire section to the Constitution -- Article VI -- Executive Committee. Retain the Section number and wording as is.
- Page 9 - Article IX -- Parliamentary Authority -- Remove the words "Section 1."
- The first amendment to be considered is on page 7, Article III -- Dues -- Move Section 1 to the Unit Standing Rules. Remove the "Section 2." wording.
- The second amendment to be considered is on page 7 -- Article IV -- Unit Meeting -- Move Sections 1, 2 and 4 to the Units standing rules.
- Remove the "Section 3." wording.

MOTION by Linda Schmitt and seconded to accept Changes #3 as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION by Linda Schmitt and seconded to accept all documents as presented and voted upon and passed by the body.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Constitution and Bylaws Report. Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) reported that the ALA Department of Alaska had updated their Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, Policy and Procedures Manual and Unit Constitution and Bylaws. She thanked those who had spent the last three years in this process for their dedication and hard work. She noted that she received one mid-year report from George H. Plumley Unit 20 and one year-end report from C. Russell Huber Unit 57.

She especially thanked Linda Schmitt for her hard work on the Alaska Girls State Constitution and By-Laws.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report -- Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) stated that the revision of the governing documents for the Unit, Girls State, and Department are completed. She thanked Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) for her dedication and hard work. Lavonne's knowledge and familiarity with the documents made it a much easier process. Each unit will be provided one copy of the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Policies and Procedures. She encouraged each unit at their next meeting to begin working on adopting the Unit Constitution and Bylaws. They should be sure to incorporate the dues clause and the meeting clause in the standing rules. After they have been adopted, a copy should be sent to Linda Schmitt at Department headquarters. She stressed that there is no need to file the documents with the State of Alaska as this will be taken care of when their biennial report is filed with the State. It is important because if any units have a gaming permit, they will be asked if their bylaws and rules have been changed. If the answer is yes, then the IRS has to be notified. Linda noted that Constitution should rarely have to be changed. Bylaws are usually changed every 5-10 years. Standing Rules can be changed as often as needed. If there is a change of officers, you should file that report each year that officers are changed. If any changes are made to the Articles of Incorporation, that will be covered in the biennial report. A myriad of other information will also be covered in the biennial report.

Linda needs to receive letters of inclusion from most units. This permits National to include each unit under the tax exempt status of the National organization. It gives permission for National to add your unit to the list. The State of Alaska just instituted a brand new computer system. However, when many units were established, they utilized the post's EIN instead of getting their own EIN number. They did eventually get their own and it is recorded at the national level; however the state level is still operating under the old EIN even if you have filed your new EIN. The State requires proof that the EIN you submit is assigned to you. The unit should have received a letter from the IRS when they received their EIN. That letter is proof of your EIN for your unit. If you can't find the IRS letter, contact Linda and she will speak with National and they will send a letter indicating that your number is on file with them as the EIN for our unit. When you receive that letter, you can use it as the proof that the State requires.

There is a lot of confusion about committees. The National organization is no different than Department. Each year the incoming President names her committee chairmen. In addition, the National organization develops a plan of action. Over past years there have been great strides in trying to make it more user-friendly. We have gone from having very little structure to a more controlled structure. There used to be pods and now there are the following committees:

- Mission Outreach Committee
- Member Support Committee
- Administrative Committee

Mid-year reports are due to the National Chairman by January 5th and year-end reports are due by May 5th. Reports are due to the President 30 days prior to when they are due to National/Division. It was recommended that the incoming President set the due date for the State of Alaska. It was also recommended that each committee chairman go to the National Auxiliary web site (www.alaforveterans.org) to review the Plan of Action for that committee. You can look at the current one to begin preparing for your year as a chairman as they don't change very

much. Once the new Plan of Action is released by National, Linda will notify everyone and you can adjust your Plan of Action accordingly. Once your final Plan of Action is completed, a copy should be sent to Lisa Williamson so that she can put it on the Alaska web site. It was recommended that each chairman have a computer as in this day and age electronic media is the easiest and fastest way to communicate and get information.

The Centennial Strategic Plan was discussed. It was noted that we must adapt to change. There will be a resolution introduced regarding the Centennial Strategic Plan. We are requesting approval and a commitment to do this. Committee members must be willing to commit time and effort. It will require work and communication on a daily basis. Linda also let it be known that if you go to www.freeconferencecall.com you will receive a number which can be shared and you can have as many calls as you want to have. It is free.

The next topic was membership. Linda asked that when the New Officer Contact Information Request Form is sent out, be sure that the name of the membership chairman is included, as well as the unit name and number, and a phone number. This is probably the most important individual Linda will have to contact.

Linda reported that now that dues are being done online, she sends a transmittal and a check to the unit. The membership chairman will complete a membership card and get it to the member. Membership cards for 2017 should arrive in August or September. Once they arrive, Linda will send them to the units. When the unit receives their membership cards, they should scan and copy each sheet of cards. On the scanned copy you can write that the dues have been paid. You should also review last year's roster and handwrite on your scanned copy anyone who is not on the scanned list. In addition please add your Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members to the roster, however do not include your PUFL members on the transmittal. All that needs to happen for PUFL members is that you get them a membership card. When you receive a transmittal from Linda, do two things. First, write up the membership cards and second, deposit the check. Linda will be checking into the possibility of electronically transferring funds.

The Department receives income from Alaska's share of the dues paid by members. The Department receives \$7 for each senior member and \$2.75 for each junior member. These funds are used to pay the expenses of Department. There were 762 unpaid senior members (\$5,334) which is unavailable to us. Linda also noted that the summer months are coming. Many units go dark during the summer which means that it is rare that anything is transmitted during those months. She asked that if a new application is received, please do not let it sit there for the summer. She also explained that members are not enrolled until they are enrolled at the National level. If applications are not submitted, while you may have given them a membership card, they are not actually a member until it goes to National. Please don't leave your new members hanging for the summer months. Have a contingency plan in place to take care of obligations to potential members, existing members, and the Department.

The proposed dues increase was discussed next. This increase is justified given the decrease in membership and a subsequent decrease in revenue. The last increase was in 2007. The proposed dues increase is \$4 per member which translates to the Department receiving \$11 from the membership dues. It was noticed that National increased their portion of the dues to \$9 in 2013 which resulted in a loss of \$3 to the Department. If a change is approved, please make sure Linda is aware by May 18, 2016

Year-end impact reports from each unit are due by Friday, May 20, 2016. Instructions for completing the form and the forms are available at www.alaskalegionauxiliary.org.

Linda then gave her three year notice of resignation effective September 1, 2020. Her husband is retiring about the same time. They have no children at home and want to spend time together. Anyone interested in filling Linda's position can give Linda a call and she will talk about what she does. She wants someone at least a year in advance so that she can have them ready to take over.

President Sharon Cherrette recommended that chairmen get with the national chairman listed in the Plan of Action to confirm mid-year and year-end reports due dates. Also, all reports (narrative and number reports) need to be sent to Linda Schmitt.

Laurie Scott announced that on March 12, 2016 Unit 57 recommended Lisa Williamson to the office of National President of the American Legion Auxiliary

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) and seconded that Lisa Williamson be nominated to the position of National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Legislative Report -- The Legislative Report was given by Lori Fruhwirth. She received reports from 9 units. The units sent 211 emails to senators and representatives covering a variety of issues concerning our nation and veterans. She asked the units that had not yet filed a report to do so by April 31st. Her report is due by May 5th and she would like to have 100% of units reporting.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) encouraged members to sign up for action alerts that are sent out. By doing so you will be notified when action is needed. Be sure to include your mailing address so that it won't be kicked out because they can't confirm you are a constituent. It is possible that you would get responses via email and sometimes even a phone call. If you respond to an alert and/or receive a response, please let Lisa know. Amber Sawyer stated that she interned in Senator Murkowski's office and when they get a response to an alert sent to them, their primary concern is whether or not the communication is from a constituent. Rheta Foster (Unit 28) said to be sure to identify yourself and your unit.

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) reiterated that your voice does count. She gave examples of how it counts. All voices are important. The more communications they receive, the more likely they will pay attention.

Jacki Norvell (Unit 16) asked how to get alerts. Lisa said to go to legion.org/legislative to sign up.

Recess at 3:45 p.m.
To order at 3:57 p.m.

Inclusion letters were distributed to Units 3, 5, 6, 16, 18, 20, 28 29, 33, 34, and 35.

The Convention Nominating Committee read letters of endorsement for the following:

- Spenard Unit 28 -- Susan Waldhaus for President
- Peters Creek Unit 33 -- Barbe Wolkoff for 1st Vice-President
- No endorsements were received for the position of 2nd Vice President
- Peters Creek Unit 33 -- Linda Schmitt for Secretary/Treasurer
- Spenard Unit 28 -- Colleen Newman for Historian
- Susitna Valley Unit 35 -- Jane Larson for Chaplain
- C Russel Huber Unit 57 -- Laurie Scott for Sgt-at-Arms
- Susitna Valley Unit 35 -- Terry Archibald for Executive Committee
- No endorsements were received for the second position of Executive Committee

The 2nd Vice President position is a line support position and is responsible for membership. There is a convention shortly after Department is adjourned at which they will received a crash course in membership. They will take what National wants to accomplish and implement it in the Department of Alaska. It is a pretty intense position and a lot of work.

The Department mirrors National and the Unit mirrors National and the Department. The Executive Committee Woman is a voting member of the DEC. It is the first step up the ladder to the office of President. It is not a whole lot different from the Executive Committee on the Unit level.

Americanism -- The Americanism Report was given by Zona Gregg. She began her report by playing God Bless the USA by Lee Greenwood. She is missing reports from five units. Units have done the following in support of Americanism: being a part of the ALA National Anthem Challenge; ribbons and patriotic license plates; Flag Day events; care packages and phone cards to soldiers; going with a Veteran to visit a classroom; and joining for the sendoff of the Honor Flight on October 13th and welcomed them home five days later. The best estimate is that 353 members spent 156.5 hours involved in Americanism activities.

There is an Honor flight on April 30th at noon on the upper level at the Anchorage airport.

Recessed at 4:33 p.m. to reconvene on Friday, April 22, 2016.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016

The ALA Department Convention reconvened at 8:59 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited.

Distinguished Guest Chairman Rheta Foster escorted the National guests into the room. These were: National Commander Dale Barnett, Candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan, Past National Commander Marty Conatser and Dewey Moss (aide to the National Commander).

National Commander Dale Barnett likes the Auxiliary. He talked about his post where he was a "log cabin commander". They have a small cabin. They only had 14 members in the Auxiliary and 65 Legionnaires. He did lots of work on their post (Legion Post 105 in Fayetteville, Georgia). His Auxiliary sent 54 kids to Girls and Boys State (33 to Girls State). He noted that Boys and Girls State changes lives, as well as the Auxiliary. Seeds are planted. He also stressed that the Legion and the Auxiliary have to work together and urged people to hug a Legionnaire.

Candidate for National Commander Denise Cohan indicated that she will be the first female veteran to hold that position and the first Auxiliary member to be elected National Commander. When she joined, the first post told her that she could be a part of the Auxiliary, but could not be a post member. Since then, she has been elected Department Commander. That first post now has a shrine to her and it has the statement, "Remember, women are veterans". She stated that each person has a spark in their heart which makes them keep coming back. It becomes a beacon of light for veterans. She encouraged member to NOT put their light under a bushel; but to let it shine and let people know what we are doing and how it affects our country.

Marty Conatser, Past National Commander was introduced as was Dewey Moss (Aide to the current National Commander).

All books and poppy projects should be put in the back of the room for judging.

It was found that Unit 33 had a chaplain's book and therefore Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) will need to be replaced. Sylvia Banie (Unit 3) will be that replacement

Members were reminded to pay for the Past President's Parley luncheon.

Members were asked to please use the microphone when speaking and to give their name and unit number.

Department chairs and officers assume duties in September after the National Convention. Between now and then, they can start preparing and get their Plan of Action together so they are ready when the DEC meeting occurs in October. This year's chairman can work with the new chairman. There used to be a book that included the current year chair, with information about their year. The book was passed on to the incoming president.

Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57) suggested that current and past chairmen communicate.

Those running for Department office should have some knowledge of the different programs. There is a lot of information about the programs available on the web site. Do some research and learn. Then take ideas back to your unit so that you can evolve your unit.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) reported that on April 6th an email was sent out about welcome home letters. This is a project that the Auxiliary supports. There is a team finding memorabilia across the nation. They take it and try to track it back to the family. The Auxiliary is supporting this on the national level. It has asked that we all participate and sign up to be in support of these. There is a competition on the Department level to see how many each department can get signed up for e-alerts. There will be a percentage based on membership so that a small state isn't competing against a large state.

Members were reminded to write a note on the hearts, buy eggs for \$1 each, purchase the sun catchers and pay for tomorrow's luncheon.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers:

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2nd Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
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Excused:

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Francisca Guildford
Lynn Bash
Sue Diaz
Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship

There was a quorum.

President Sharon Cherrette received a check from Seward Post 5 of \$100 for her fundraising which is the Creative Arts Festival

Finance/Budget Report. Debbie Lowndes gave the report. Questions were asked.

- Rheta Foster (Unit 28) asked about the President's travel. She thought there was a budget of \$6,000. The \$9,400 includes all conventions, department conventions and other travel. The \$6,000 was for in-state travel. When Rheta was President, the amount covered all travel. It was noted that there has been an increase in travel costs since that time.
- Lisa Williams (Unit 57) noted that the President was encouraged to do a fundraiser which we don't do now. Linda Schmitt has been recommending that each year.
- Michele Giddings (Unit 11) stated she didn't understand why there are complaints about budget amount when only \$4,700 was spent.
- Rheta Foster (Unit 28) informed members that there will be resolutions for NEC for \$500 or \$1,000 so she doesn't know how it got into the budget. It was noted that this is a proposed budget

The Finance Committee wishes to report that the following accounts balance with the bank statements:

- General
- Gaming
- Girls State
- Girls State Savings
- Rehabilitation
- Marilyn Stock Memorial Scholarship
- Evelyn Oliver Memorial Scholarship
- Edward Jones Investment

MOTION: by Donna Brockschmidt (Unit 16) and seconded that the proposed budget for 2016-2017 be accepted.

Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) stated that the budget could not be done until resolutions were done.

Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) explained that now that the motion was on the floor, the proposed budget could be opened for discussion.

Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) asked that the proposed budget be tabled.

Resolutions Committee – Rheta Foster and her committee presented the resolutions for consideration.

Resolution Finance 2016-1 -- That the per capita membership dues transmitted be increased by \$4 from \$16 to \$20 with membership year beginning September 2, 2017. The Resolution Committee approved this resolution.

MOTION: Rheta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57) to approve Resolution Finance 2016-1 increasing membership dues.

Michele Giddings (Unit 11) stated we are trying to get new members and keep our old members and now we are asking for more dues. It is hard to get new members.

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) understood that this increase is the part of the dues that units forward on to Department. This means the unit amount kept by the unit would be decreased. Some units may choose not to increase their dues. Marge asked how much of the amount sent to Department must be sent to national. At this time, \$9 is sent to National with the Department currently maintaining \$11.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) stated that in 2013 National dues were raised by \$4. It's time that the Departments raise their dues also. You can raise dues at the unit level by May 20. There was no decline in membership as a result of the dues increase.

Colleen Newman (Unit 28) let it be known that the current amount of dues have put us in a deficit for the last years.

Eva Aulston (Unit 1) believes the units will increase the dues of the memberships. She will not be able to afford to pay additional dues amounts. We will lose members. Members put in personal money in addition to the dues. It will not be possible with the economy the way it is today.

Pat Salcedo (Unit 33) noted this is the cheapest organization you can find and it is the best as far as she is concerned. Even if the dues were \$50 a year, it would still be worth it.

Amber Sawyer (Unit 15) reported that her unit has reached out to leaders in their community. There are Post and Unit members who have community connections and they have spoken up on behalf of veterans. They have talked to agencies about stepping up and paying for memberships so that specific members (i.e. disabled veterans) can have a membership. However, they won't know there is a need and they won't step up unless they are asked.

Barb Thaman (Unit 1) said that instead of putting the cart before the horse, she would like to know why we need the increase. She needs it to make more sense instead of listening and trying to figure out why we need to do this.

Linda Schmitt gave the Secretary/Treasurer's report earlier. In her report she stated that there are 750+ people who have not paid their dues. There was \$45,000 last year with \$50,000+ projected. We are not talking about increasing junior dues. She also reminded members that she

has given her resignation. This will result in a raise to the salary given to a secretary. Currently it is \$7.25 an hour. This is an area of deficit. She gets no insurance and isn't asking for it, but the next person might. This is really planning ahead. She feels it is justified. She also noted there is travel required and the airfares have increased as have hotels costs, and other related expenses.

President Sharon Cherrette noted that the big cost was for the travel. The 1st Vice-President, Secretary and President will be traveling for the DNLC. We don't have a 2nd Vice President right now. You can't do tickets without having the person's name. They are traveling next week. Airfare is not cheap when booking last minute. That is another big cost.

National reimburses for the President, Secretary and 2nd Vice; however there is a specific deadline for names to be submitted. That deadline is always before Alaska's Department Convention.

Sylvia Banie (Unit 3) asked how much the unit get back if the dues are \$25. The response was that dues are paid to the unit (\$25). From that, an amount (currently \$16) is sent to the Department. Under the proposed increase, the amount sent to the Department will be \$20. Out of that you send department 16 currently. Under proposed will send \$20.

Rheta Foster called for the question.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Rheta Foster (Unit 28) stated that Resolution FIN2016-01 needed to be amended to show the correct effective date.

MOTION: by Rheta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Pat Salcedo (Unit 33) to amend Resolution FIN2016-01 so that the new increase will be effective with the membership year beginning on September 1, 2016.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

National SAL Commander Kevin Collier addressed members. He noted that the ladies have been a strong supporter through the years and he thanked them. The theme is "ROCKED" (Remembering Our Commitment, Keeping it Every Day) He thanked members for remembering the commitments and the hard work that they do. He encouraged everyone to keep up the fantastic job that is done for the Legion, youth, and communities and to keep the theme, "Rocked". Kevin has been on Boys State Committee or Department for many years and also worked with the oratorical. This year he gets to travel.

Kevin encouraged us to mentor and train our youth as future leaders. He thanked each person individually and gave them a pin.

The Auxiliary donated \$500 to Kevin earlier and will give him an additional \$1,500 to defray costs.

Red shirts are available at \$20 each with an extra \$2 for each "x" in your size. They are perfect for red Friday and to get information out about the auxiliary. They will say Department of Alaska on it. Please include an email and a phone number on the order form.

Recess at 10:05

To order at 10:18

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution FIN 2016-2 was read. It resolved that that the NEC be compensated up to \$500.00 upon presentation of appropriate receipts to attend the Washington, D.C. Conference and further that the NEC be compensated up to \$500.00 to help with travel expenses upon presentation of appropriate receipts to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Convention next April.

Rheta Foster (Unit 28) announced that the Resolution Committee approved the resolution.

MOTION: by Rheta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 57) that Resolution FIN2016-2 be approved.

Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) noted that the NEC is required to go for two days and not required to go all five days.

Rheta Foster (Unit 28) confirmed that they are only required to attend for two days, but the Auxiliary was invited to come and "storm the hill". It is very beneficial.

Lisa Williams (Unit 57) stated that if National is covering the airfare, it is well worth the investment to cover the additional hotel.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 57/2016-01 was read resolving that the Department President appoint a special committee before the conclusion of this 94th Department Convention named the 2014-2109 ALA Department of Alaska Centennial Strategic Plan Committee which will consist of an implementation team with a chairman and a vice-chairman as well as four-five additional members on the team plus five goal champions. It further resolved that the Implementation Team consist of Past Department Presidents and members of the ALA Department of Alaska at large, but at the very least the Chairman and Vice Chairman are Past Department Presidents. Further it resolved that the 2016-2017 Department President and each Department President thereafter becomes an ad hoc member of the Committee until such time as the committee is disbanded. The Implementation Team will meet at the close of this Department Convention (within one month's time). The Implementation Team will report at the Fall Workshop of a completed plan. The plan shall be ready for approval, the plan will be in place, the plan has been recorded and finalized at National Headquarters and is in the process of being funneled down to the Units of the Department of Alaska.

The Resolution Committee has approved the resolution

MOTION: by Rheta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) that Resolution 57/2016-01 be approved.

Lisa noted that once the Centennial Plan is adopted, there is money available from National. It is an evolving, growing thing. The plan has been simplified by National to be more manageable. We just need to create Alaska's plan and not get into the details. There are five goals. They are:

- Attaining and retaining members
- Nurturing a culture of goodwill
- Developing leadership
- Strengthening departments
- Building up the American Legion Auxiliary "brand" -- raising awareness and loyalty (which results in member retention!)

Ultimately the mission is supporting military veterans and their families. Alaska's plan needs to be submitted and then filtered down to Units.

Rheta Foster (Unit 28) called for the question

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Rheta Foster (Unit 28) stated that all resolutions that have been signed thus far have been presented.

At this time the discussion returned to the Finance Committee and budget.

MOTION: by Donna Brockschmidt (Unit 16) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) to approve the proposed budget.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) -- Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) asked for one person for each unit in the Anchorage Bowl area to stand up. There were two handouts given at last VAVS meeting. One was for a welcome event at the Alaska Zoo on Saturday May 14th, and the other was for the VA2K walking event on Wednesday May 11th. She reported the following: 17 volunteers; 746 volunteer hours; 2 youth volunteers; 1 new volunteer and 10 new regularly scheduled volunteer assignments. In addition, \$3,100 was received in cash donations. She urged continued support of the domiciliary and the Auxiliary. Marge had a bucket of toy soldiers which she placed on the head table. She asked everyone to get one and take it home. It should be put in a noticeable place to help remember our veterans and pray for them.

Girls State -- Vonn Lamm (Unit 33) has received 4 reports. She combined those with what she knows and reported there were 3,125 hours and \$6,560 in donations.

At 2015 Girls State there were 26 girls who were smart and hard working. The session was challenging and satisfying. She thanked the staff who helped tremendously, but needs more

hardworking productive staff. Please see her as she has to do a background check on each volunteer. They now have a nurse, but still need kitchen staff. She thanked all the units that recruited and conducted interviews. She knows it is not easy and it takes some time. Your chairman should know that it is a position that requires work. It's not super hard work, but it is a job. You can't just sit back. Linda noted that the event always occur even if the unit is not sending anyone.

There will be flyers available on the web site for anyone who wants one. In addition there is a Facebook page. On Facebook, there is a sign up tab for Girls State. Vonn also noted that there are brochures at the back of the room.

It was suggested that the local chairman keep in touch with those that attend Girls State. They can be used as a means to connect with other girls their age and also at their high school. Those who have attended can also be a great supporter and advocate.

On another note, there are 47 girls from the Anchorage home school network that may want to come to Girls State. We won't know for sure until May 1st. Vonn asked for volunteers from the Anchorage area to help Vonn do the interviews. In order to send an extra 47 girls, \$600 will be needed from every unit over and above what they are already giving. Debbie Lowndes (Unit 33) indicated they have \$900 above the girls they are sending.

Vonn noted we want to grow the Girls State program. We do not want to be the state with the smallest Girls State program. We have one less girl than Rhode Island.

Vonn asked that incoming Unit Presidents appoint a Girls State Chairman and provide her with their names, contact numbers and/or email. Vonn would like everyone to go back to their Unit and at the next meeting see if they can establish the interview dates so they can be posted on the web site by the October workshop.

Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) asked for donations of scrap balls of red, white or blue yarn for her project for Girls State.

It was brought to Vonn's attention that there is a problem with the application. People did not like the questions asking if the person was male or female or if they were pregnant. She is required by National to ask these questions. She also needs to know about allergies including food (in the medical section).

Members were reminded that there is Post Everlasting at 11:30 a.m.

Recess at 11:09 a.m.

To order at 1:58 a.m.

Children and Youth donations were accepted.

Children and Youth/Child Welfare Foundation – Barb Nath (Unit 20) highlighted her learning year as the Chairman. As the time of this report, she had over \$11,000 in donations, four parties held during the year; over 900 hours of volunteer time, \$4,500 in scholarships and sponsorship of citizens to Girls State. She also reported that one Unit Award Application was submitted for the

"Supporting Military Children Unit Award". Barb highlighted the Child Welfare Foundation giving a brief history of the Auxiliary's involvement. She asked everyone to go back to their home units and fill up the pigs with their donations. It was noted that all money donated to the Child Welfare Foundation stays in the foundation. Applications are received from different agencies and the funds are awarded to the local agency (not their national agency).

Certificates of Membership were distributed with numbers as of March 20)

Membership Status

Unit 3 --- 70%
Unit 35 -- 70.27
Unit 12--- 71.19%
Unit 20 -- 70.89
Unit 33 -- 72.77%
Unit 57 -- 73.55
Unit 27 -- 76.92
Unit 18 -- 78.06
Unit 5 --- 79.65
Unit 34 -- 82.05

New Members

Unit 3 -- 3
Unit 5 -- 8
Unit 11 -- 9
Unit 12 -- 2
Unit 13 -- 3
Unit 15 -- 9
Unit 17 -- 4
Unit 18 -- 4
Unit 20 -- 3
Unit 29 -- 4
Unit 30 -- 3
Unit 33 -- 9
Unit 34 -- 3

VA&R (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation) -- Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) had received reports from 15 units (out of 23). Activities are anything you do for your veterans (in community, in the Post, across the country). Stand down, volunteers, domiciliary, transportation, scholarships etc. are all normal things you do at the unit. This year we changed Christmas stocking activities with JBER. We went from 50 stockings at the JBER hospital to more than 200. They went to the Domiciliary, Fisher House, JBER hospital, and to veterans. There were 275 stockings, 100 mugs, lots of handshakes and hugs, and veterans who wanted to talk and visit. There were 5 units from Anchorage and Palmer involved. The Legion and the Sons and the Juniors were all part of this activity.

There are two domiciliary gift shops (one in Anchorage and one in Fairbanks). Marge thanked the Fairbanks ladies as they don't have the same layout and connections available as Anchorage has. They do a great job.

Marge reported that poppies are used all year round. It is possible to collect aluminum pull tabs from cans. It goes to Fischer House and buys time for medical treatment. Two juniors donated 12 pounds of pull tabs. Another activity included a concert with a veteran. Almost all units said they have VA&R information on tables when they have events. There was a unit honored for meritorious service. The total volunteer hours was 8,017, and total donations were \$22,229.50.

Lisa reported that the gift shop was changed this year so it was not the same weekend as the Anchorage gift shop. By doing so, the Department President was able to attend. It is done at the Fairbanks rescue mission (which has 10 or 15 beds dedicated just to veterans). It was

recommended that Casey be kept on as the Gift Shop chairman. She feels it is a successful program. Carol Bodha worked in the VA up there. She moved out of state so we have lost our contact. The Hud Vash program has Section 8 vouchers for housing to get vets off the streets. The voucher is only good for rent. They will need to have a security deposit. The Post, Unit and Squadrons from Units 57, 30 and 11 provided funds for security deposits to help veterans.

Marge asked for another person to serve on the judging for the poppy program.

Community Service -- Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57) reported 22,769 hours, 672 volunteers and \$55,092.83 in donations. She highlighted Units 3, 6, 33 and 57 in her report.

All members who had not been initiated into their units were asked to stand. There will be an initiation on Saturday for these members.

Education and Scholarship -- Lori FitzSimons (Unit 1) spoke to the oratorical contest as well as scholarships. During the oratorical contest, five members gave 106 hours. At Boys State, our members provided 75 hours and \$300.00. Scholarships were given to 26 girls to go to Alaska Girls State. There were scholarships to military spouses as well as four \$500 scholarships, two Marilyn Stock Memorial Scholarships (part time to Mercedes Moser Unit 15 and the full time scholarship to Tyrell Spoo Unit 33) and one each Aggie Parks Scholarship and Evelyn Oliver Scholarship. The total amount was \$33,027.60. Other activities included placing an ad in the school yearbook, and visiting the schools to explain scholarships available and flag etiquette.

Nancy Wyatt, Matanuska Valley Unit 15 President shared a story about the Mercedes Moserl who got the part-time Marilyn Stock Memorial scholarship. When she was 3 ½ years old she fell off a truck which resulted in a brain jury. She was in a coma for 11 days. She was paralyzed on the left side of her body. She is now 19 years old and has graduated. She was very appreciative of the scholarship award.

Leadership -- Eva Aulston (Unit 1) gave her report stating that leadership is difficult to master because there is nothing specific that can be taught. We need leaders to inspire, educate, and provide enthusiasm, compassion and motivation. Distance between units can be a challenge. Do not stereotype, but instead treat each member as you wish to be treated. Motivation is a must. Don't be intimidated by this information or other information that you might get. You are the only person who can show you have the knowledge and enthusiasm and that you are able to gain trust.

Recess at 3:02 p.m.
To order at 3:14 p.m.

Public Relations -- Patty Mazonna (Unit 33) gave a brief report. She noted that Lisa Williamson is hoping to move up the chain and so Patty is trying to learn from Lisa and take over. She only got a report from Unit 57. Lisa Williamson spoke to the web site. She encouraged people to get started on the plan of action. When your plan of action is finalized turn it in to Linda and include a copy to Lisa williamson@gci.net so she can put it on the website. She promoted the wearing of red shirts as it is an easy way to do PR, and also told everyone to make sure that you have an application on hand. Everyone should be open and positive and promote our organization in a good light. If you are not going to be a good representative, don't wear your shirt.

Membership -- Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33) noted this was an interesting year for members. It was not very good at the beginning of the year, but got better as the year continued. Many holidays and events were used to promote membership. Some units gifted memberships. She hasn't received many reports. She stated that Unit 57 has gone above and beyond. The Strategic Centennial Plan is encouraging a goal of a million members.

Awards had been given out. Barbe made a challenge earlier that she would donate \$100 in the name of the unit with largest membership by workshop. That was Unit 18.

In addition, Barbe had a unit that did exceptionally well and made 100% by the end of December. She gave a \$100 check to Girls State in the name of Unit 6 for making that happen.

Awards for rejoining or renewing memberships went to Units 28, 1, and 57. She encouraged members to always carry a membership form and asked those present to show that they had one.

MOTION: by Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) and seconded by Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57) that we honor female veterans by waiving the per capita dues for any new female veterans who signs up.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Poppy -- Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) began by distributing documents. There was a poppy award document. Those units that got the 2 page form are units from whom she does not have a report. She received 16 reports total. She needs the rest of reports by Friday so she gets the total numbers right. National is asking for narrative reports and pictures. Michele will be the new member on the convention poppy committee.

A number of units have received donations for poppies. Marge reminded them that 15% of the donation should be sent to Department. Marge had received an email which talked about handing out poppies to Mayors, borough members, and state legislators. All of these count.

Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) shared the information that Kevin Collier received in Georgia. There was also information about another state and what they are doing with their poppies.

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) that the requirement that the poppy chairman be a Past Department President be changed so that the chairmanship is available to anyone.

When the poppies were going to be produced in Alaska, it was felt that the chair should be a Past Department President. However, that this did not pan out and it is not felt that this requirement is necessary.

It was pointed out that if this requirement is in the bylaws or the standing rules it can't be changed.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) noted that Post, Unit and Squadron 15 does a wreath drop from an airplane at the cemetery. They then goes to cemeteries and place another wreath.

Marge stated that the Department needs to receive pictures and asked that each unit be sure to forward them to the Department. These can be forwarded to National to show them what Alaska is doing.

Michelle Giddings (Unit 11) reported that there is no requirement listed in the bylaws or standing rules regarding who has to be chairman. It only speaks to the fact that it is a standing committee. Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) thought that it was possible that the Poppy Chairman is being confused with the Poppy Production Chairman.

The motion was withdrawn by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28).

Recess at 3:51 p.m. to committees to work on books
To order at 4:08 p.m.

There were no poppy books.

Poppy bags were reviewed. There were five bags submitted. Awards were as follows:

- 1st Place -- Unit 5
- 2nd Place -- Unit 33
- 3rd Place-- Unit 18

Poppy bags will be auctioned off on Saturday

Chaplain books were reviewed. There were two books; one from Unit 28 and one from Unit 33. Unit 28 was the winner.

History scrap books will be done in the morning.

Recessed at 4:12 p.m. to reconvene on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016

The Convention reconvened at 9:13 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Prayer was given Sue Caswell

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers:

President Sharon Cherrette
1st Vice President Susan Waldhaus
2nd Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Historian Colleen Newman
Executive Committeewoman Laurie Scott

Standing Committee Chairs:

Zona Gregg, Americanism
Sue Diaz, Audit
Colleen Newman, Cavalcade of Memories
Barb Nath, Children and Youth
Yvonne Porreca, Community Service
Lavonne Collier, Constitution and By-Laws
Beverly Eads, Distinguished Guests
Lori FitzSimons, Education
Debbie Lowndes, Finance
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State
Eva Aulston, Leadership
Lori Fruhwirth, Legislative
Barbe Wolkoff, Membership
Beverly Eads, National Security
Margaret Blankenship, Poppy
Susan Waldhaus, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

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 Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29

Peters Creek Unit 33
Chappie James Unit 34
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents:

Lori FitzSimons
Lavonne Collier
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rheta Foster
Jill Pawson
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship

Excused:

Officers:

Chaplain Jane Larson
Sgt-at-Arms Diane Estrada
Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald

Standing Committee Chairs

Sue Coup, Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Adrienne Huff, Junior Activities
Penny Mazonna, Past President Parley
Patty Mazonna-Jones, Public Relations

Past Department Presidents:

Betty Randall
Linda Gunvalson
Penny Mazonna

Units:

Peter Heyano Unit 442

Absent

Units:

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30

Past Department Presidents:

Judy Pusti
Jean Shandy
Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash

There was a quorum.

National Security -- Beverly Eads has received reports from 7 units. Two units answered all the specific questions from the national plan of action. There are currently no blue and gold star banners; however there will be one from Unit 35.

Members were encouraged to bring their membership cards after lunch. Voting will occur after lunch and members will need to have their cards in order to vote.

Recess to at 9:26 a.m. for committee meetings.
To order at 9:38 a.m.

Convention Audit Committee -- Sue Diaz (Unit 20) reported that the audit committee has found the books are in good order. She thanked President Cherrette for the opportunity to be the chairman.

Auxiliary Emergency Funds -- Sue Diaz (Unit 20) reported for Sue Coup (Unit 20). She received reports from 7 units. The total donations received are \$6,045.00. There were also funds donated by the Auxiliary to the Auxiliary Emergency Funds.

History Book -- Heidi Webb (Unit 57) described the review process and announced the history book winners as follows

- 1st Place-- Jack Henry Unit 1
- 2nd Place -- Spenard Unit 28

Scrapbook -- Donna Brockschmidt (Unit 16) reported that there were four entries. She announced the winners as follows:

- 1st -- Jack Henry Unit 1
- 2nd -- Robert G. Blair Unit 17
- 3rd -- Susitna Unit 35

Historian -- Colleen Newman (Unit 28) received reports from 16 units as of March 31, 2016. There were 101 members participating for a total of 1,469 hours. The money reported was a total of \$2,250. Units were very busy this year with a variety of activities including parties, fundraisers, advertising and creating memorial and ceremonial items for events.

Linda Schmitt (Unit 33) announced that prize money for winners for the competitions would be mailed.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) donated their 2nd Place Poppy award to Girls State.

Sharon noted that Lisa Williamson has been very involved with the Legion Family over the years. With all her involvement in different programs she was nominated for a community service award in Ft. Wainwright. It was the Commander's Award for the US Army. It is the 4th highest award they can bestow on a civilian.

Members were asked to remember to complete a heart to be given out to veterans. They are in the back of the room.

Sharon thanked everyone for coming. It's nice to see all the new people.

It is not yet known where the Department Executive Committee meeting will be held.

Sharon Dillon (Unit 5) donated their 1st Place award for the Poppy project to Girls State.

Beverly Eads (Unit 17) donated their 2nd Place award for the scrapbook to Girls State.

The Junior Auxiliary members were asked to join the Auxiliary.

President Cherrette introduced National President Sharon Conatser from Champaign, Illinois. She is a long time member of the American Legion and Auxiliary. National President Conatser mentioned that Emblem Sales (on line) has poppy poster thank you cards. She also mentioned some brochures (At a Glance, American Legion Application etc.) that are available. She provided information on what is available for free on the web site (slide presentations, business card, brochures, as well as old magazines etc.). The American Legion web site is www.alaforveterans.org/resources. She is very interested in the Auxiliary Emergency Fund which is members helping members. She shared the story of a member who was helped by the AEF. The member was diagnosed with cancer and her husband died two weeks after she was diagnosed. The AEF stepped in and helped them to keep their home. Another story was shared of a family who lost everything as a result of a tornado. Because they were not members, they were not able to receive any assistances from the Legion. She encouraged everyone to ask everyone they know to join if they are eligible. There are two groups which we are missing: SAL wives (usually eligible on their own) and the retirees (we want to be the first one in the door to take up their spare time). We have to dispose of the idea that members have to be at a meeting every month. There are a lot of things in which people can be involved. When you ask people to join, also ask where their interests lie. Then see if they want to help in that area. Personal contact is important and that is what people need.

National President Conatser was in Taiwan and met with the president. He speaks perfect English and is a graduate of Harvard. They kept asking "who's keeping the promise". It was explained to them the organization is keeping the promise. They were thinking of an auxiliary. It was explained that without a grassroots organization, you can't have the bigger organization.

The Legion was responsible for the first and second GI Education bill and getting it passed down to family members. It is because of our numbers, but also the clout that the American Legion family has in Washington, D.C.

When writing letters, do not indicate that a letter is from an American Legion unless it coincides with the American Legion goals and priorities.

Her theme for this year is "Keeping the Promise". It came from Abraham Lincoln where he promises to take care of family members of service members. That is what we do. We have to keep the promise to ourselves. As a member, that veteran in your family did not get to choose who had their back. We should not choose who can be a member. We need to leave personality, ego and attitude outside the door. Your veterans should be the top priority. As long as you are doing the right thing at the right time for your veterans, that is your priority.

She spoke to the Strategic Plan indicating that it is confusing. She encouraged members to remember that if you want what is best for the organization and its future and you want to be part of the future of this organization, your strategic plan will come easier. We need to develop our organization to the next level. We can receive up to \$1,000 for submitting items to National regarding the strategic plan.

Juniors are the future of our organization. They are learning about parliamentary procedure and other information. There will be five division junior meetings. At mission training they touched 60% more juniors since 2005. 82% of those present had never had the opportunity to attend Junior National Meetings. She has spoken with the National Junior President who noted more girls are meeting more people and the friendships will grow. It will keep their division growing.

You have to think about family. It doesn't mean you will always get along. It doesn't mean you don't care. She cares that everyone does the right thing for the right reason. All veterans' organizations are there for the right reason.

If you use Amazon Smile you can choose the American Legion Foundation as your charity. She laid a wreath at Arlington on behalf of the Legion Auxiliary at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She laid a wreath at the Korean memorial for her father, but also for all veterans. She is thrilled to do what she does. She believes in the future of the organization. It takes everyone's help. She said to be accepting of everyone, remember our veterans, and to trust who has your back. Remember you are a unit member first and it doesn't matter your title.

She and her husband are proud to serve the American Legion. She thanked everyone for what they do each day.

Recess at 10:39 a.m.

To order at 10:55 a.m.

An Initiation Ceremony was held for all members who had not previously been initiated at their unit. It was led by National President Sharon Conatser. Pictures were taken of all who were initiated.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY

The Junior Auxiliary has been working very hard on different projects and also shared a skit about the emblem.

Slate of Officers for the Junior Auxiliary was presented:

President -- Kyrsten Johnson Gray (Unit 5)
1st Vice President -- Anna Malutin (Unit 17)
2nd Vice President -- Jessica Mendez (Unit 17)
Secretary -- Shelby Lamb (Unit 33)
Historian -- Renee Doyle (Unit 35)
Chaplain -- Tina Cruz (Unit 17)

Executive Committee -- Kylie Jordinelli (Unit 17)
Executive Committee -- Destinee Mead (Unit 17)
Executive Committee -- Makenzie Estrada (Unit 35)
Executive Committee -- Alexis Jimmerson (Unit 16)
Sgt.-at-Arms -- Amber Gilbreath (Unit 16)

Kyrsten's installing team will be:

Installing Officer -- Sharon Dillon
Installing Chaplain -- David D. Graft
Sgt.-at-Arms -- Bobby Duno

MOTION: by Adrienne Huff (Unit 16) and seconded by Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57) to approve the Junior Officers for 2016-2017.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Adrienne Huff (Unit 16) and seconded by Yvonne Porreca (Unit 57) to approve the Installing Team.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Adrienne reported that the Junior Auxiliary members completed their leadership certification. They learned about the US Flag and the Auxiliary emblem.

President's Report -- Sharon Cherrette filled the role of Department President with the support of a number of people. She gets motivated to continue when she attends these meetings. She stated it has been an awesome year. She thanked those who supported her. She highlighted all that she did this past year. Between the Auxiliary, Legion, family, Aces hockey games and grandkids she was very busy. The year zipped by. She apologized if she didn't get to visit a unit. She acknowledged that everyone is awesome and are working all year long. Don't give up the ship.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33) to accept the President's Report.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chaplain -- There was no report from Chaplain Jane Larson.

Rheta Foster (Unit 28) brought forth more resolutions.

Resolution 2016-5 was read resolving that Sharon Cherrette be given a hug from all members and that she receives a big "thank you" for a job well done.

MOTION: by Colleen Newman (Unit 28) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 57) Resolution 2016-5 be approved.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2016-4 was read resolving that the Susitna Valley Post, Unit and Squadron 35 be given a big "thank you" for a job well done.

MOTION: by Pat Salcedo (Unit 33) and Ann Robinson (Unit 57) that Resolution 2016-4 be approved.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Recess at 12:09 p.m. for the Past President Parley's Luncheon.
To order at 1:36 p.m.

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded to include Lori Van Matre in next year's remembrance.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Six applications were received for the Unit Member of the Year Award. Information was read regarding the Unit Member of the Year. The Unit Member of the year is Jeanne Ostnes (Jack Henry Unit 1).

President Cherrette's poppy project was to make a bag. The bags were auctioned. The money went to Girls' State with almost \$1,200 being raised.

Recessed at 1:56 p.m.
To order at 2:11 p.m.

Acting Sgt.-at-Arms Colleen Newman with assistance checked the 2016 membership cards. One person did not have her card with her, but it was verified.

Donna Brockschmidt (Unit 16) thanked those who donated to the Alaska Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Marge asked people to donate purses and stock them with items. She will collect the donated purses for women veterans.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Officers:

President Sharon Cherrette
1st Vice President Susan Waldhaus
2nd Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Chaplain Jane Larson
Historian Colleen Newman
Executive Committeewoman Laurie Scott

Standing Committee Chairs:

Zona Gregg, Americanism

Sue Diaz, Audit
Colleen Newman, Cavalcade of Memories
Barb Nath, Children and Youth
Yvonne Porreca, Community Service
Lavonne Collier, Constitution and By-Laws
Beverly Eads, Distinguished Guests
Lori FitzSimons, Education
Debbie Lowndes, Finance
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State
Eva Aulston, Leadership
Lori Fruhwirth, Legislative
Barbe Wolkoff, Membership
Beverly Eads, National Security
Penny Mazonna, Past Presidents' Parley
Margaret Blankenship, Poppy
Susan Waldhaus, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

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 Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spenard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Chappie James Unit 34
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents:

Lori FitzSimons
Lavonne Collier
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rheta Foster
Jill Pawson
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna

Excused:

Officers:

Sgt-at-Arms Diane Estrada
Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald

Standing Committee Chairs

Sue Coup, Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Adrienne Huff, Junior Activities
Patty Mazonna-Jones, Public Relations

Past Department Presidents:

Betty Randall
Linda Gunvalson

Units:

Peter Heyano Unit 442

Absent

Units:

Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
Con Miller Unit 30

Past Department Presidents:

Judy Pusti
Jean Shandy
Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash

There was a quorum.

Voting strength was announced as follows:

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1 -- 24 + 1 for a total of 25
Ketchikan Unit 3 -- 6 + 1 for a total of 7
Seward Unit 5 -- 18 + 1 for a total of 19
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 -- 9 + 1 for a total of 10
Dorman H Baker Unit 11 -- 8 + 1 for a total of 9
Matanuska Valley Unit 15 -- 15 + 1 for a total of 16
General Buckner Unit 16 -- 14 + 1 for a total of 15
Robert G. Blair Unit 17 -- 13 + 1 for a total of 14
Ninilchik Unit 18 -- 12 + 1 for a total of 13
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20 -- 14 + 1 for a total of 15
Spenard Unit 28 -- 28 + 1 for a total of 29
Muldoon Unit 29 -- 11 + 1 for total of 12
Peters Creek Unit 33 -- 14 + 1 for a total of 15
Chappie James Unit 34 -- 3 + 1 for a total of 4
Susitna Valley Unit 35 -- 15 + 1 for a total of 16

C Russell Huber Unit 57 -- 20 + 1 for a total of 21
Total for units is 240.

Committee Chairman (1 vote per chairman)

Zona Gregg, Americanism
Barb Nath, Children and Youth
Yvonne Porreca, Community Service
Debbie Lowndes, Finance
Yvonne Lamm, Girls State
Lori Fruhwirth, Legislative

Total for Chairmanships is 6.

Officers (1 vote per officer)

President Sharon Cherrette
1st Vice President Susan Waldhaus
2nd Vice President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt
Historian Colleen Newman
Chaplain Jane Larson
Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald
Executive Committeewoman Laurie Scott

Total for Officers is 8.

Past Department Presidents (1 vote each)

Lori Fitzsimons
Lavonne Collier
Susan Caswell
Eva Aulston
Carolyn Null
Rheta Foster
Jill Pawson
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Beverly Eads
Marge Blankenship
Penny Mazonna

Total for Past Department Presidents is 12.

GRAND TOTAL OF VOTES AVAILABLE: 266

Nominations Committee -- Marge Blankenship (Unit 33) indicated that letters did not need to be read again.

President -- Sue Waldhaus

President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of President. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Sue Waldhaus elected by acclamation.

1st Vice President -- Barbe Wolkoff.

President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of 1st Vice-President. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Barbe Wolkoff elected by acclamation.

2nd Vice President -- No nominations.

President Cherrette ask if there were any nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-President. Peters Creek Unit 33 nominated Debbie Lowndes. President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of 2nd Vice-President. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Debbie Lowndes elected by acclamation.

Secretary/Treasurer -- Linda Schmitt.

President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Linda Schmitt elected by acclamation.

Chaplain -- Jane Larson.

President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of Chaplain. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Jane Larson elected by acclamation.

Historian -- Colleen Newman.

President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of Historian. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Jane Larson elected by acclamation.

Sgt-at-Arms -- Laurie Scott.

President Cherrette asked if there were any other nominations for the position of Sgt.-at-Arms. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Lori Scott elected by acclamation.

Executive Committee Woman #1 -- Terry Archibald.

President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of Executive Committee Woman. There being no other nominations, President Cherrette declared Terry Archibald elected by acclamation.

Executive Committee Woman #2 -- There were no letters of intent.

President Cherrette ask if there were any nominations for the second position of Executive Committee Woman. Nominations were received for Debbie Gilcrest, Laurie Fruhwirth and Amber Sawyer. President Cherrette ask if there were any other nominations for the position of the second Executive Committee Woman. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed.

Ballots were distributed and a five-minute caucus was given. The ballot committee took the ballots and left the room to count ballots.

Upon their return it was announced that Amber Sawyer (Unit 15) would be Executive Committee Woman #2.

The final approved officers are:

President -- Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28)
1st Vice President -- Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33)
2nd Vice President -- Debbie Lowndes (Unit 33)
Secretary/Treasurer -- Linda Schmitt (Unit 33)
Chaplain -- Jane Larson (Unit 35)
Historian -- Colleen Newman (Unit 28)
Sgt-at-Arms -- Laurie Scott (Unit 57)
Executive Committee Women #1 -- Terry Archibald (Unit 35)
Executive Committee Women #2 -- Amber Sawyer (Unit 15)

Recess at 3:15 p.m.

To order at 3:34 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) and seconded by Rheta Foster (Unit 28) to leave the gaming permit where it is.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Convention, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Upon their return it was announced that Amber Sawyer (Unit 15) would be Executive Committee Woman #2.

The final approved officers are:

President -- Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28)
1st Vice President -- Barbe Wolkoff (Unit 33)
2nd Vice President -- Debbie Lowndes (Unit 33)
Secretary/Treasurer -- Linda Schmitt (Unit 33)
Chaplain -- Jane Larson (Unit 35)
Historian -- Colleen Newman (Unit 28)
Sgt-at-Arms -- Laurie Scott (Unit 57)
Executive Committee Women #1 -- Terry Archibald (Unit 35)
Executive Committee Women #2 -- Amber Sawyer (Unit 15)

Recess at 3:15 p.m.

To order at 3:34 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Lavonne Collier (Unit 1) and seconded by Rheta Foster (Unit 28) to leave the gaming permit where it is.

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