### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

# DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

# AMERICANISM Year End Report (April, 2017)

The Department of Alaska is actively supporting Americanism. They have reached out in their community in the following ways:

# Americanism -- no details

Unit 442 -- 4 hours

#### Cemetery events

- Unit 15 Went to Talkeetna for Community Cemetery clean up in preparation for Memorial Day.
- Unit 16 -- Clean up of May-Hickerson Memorial Cemetery

# Christmas Share the Spirit

 Unit 16 -- 3-6 families provided with food for Christmas dinner as well as toys/gifts for family members. Also assist with utilities bills (Thanks to Post, Sons and Riders for their help)

#### Election events

- Unit 11 -- 10 members, 20 hours with 50 members voting as well as 30 hours forwarding Facebook articles and emails
- Unit 16 -- Two auxiliary members participating at primary election for 30 hours and two auxiliary members participating at regular election for 40 hours.

# Flag Distribution

- Flag giveaway to public at events. Invested \$115
- Unit 17 Gives flags throughout their community
- Unit 33 One member purchased anew State of Alaska flag for \$50.
- Unit 33 One member contacted Senator Murkowski's office and received a donated flag that was flown at the Capitol in Washington DC

# Flag Education

- Unit 15 -- Contacted local waste facilities to inform them on where customers could bring old flags for proper disposal, one member sells flags, etc. and uses work as an opportunity to educate
- Unit 17 -- Educate on flags etiquette, pledge and preamble.
- Unit 33 -- 5 members, 182 hours -- teaching flag etiquette

Flag events

- Unit 15 -- Attendance at Flag Day ceremony, face painting of flag themes, and distributed flag etiquette books
- Unit 16 -- Participated in Flag Day ceremonies. One member read the flag folding information while other members performed the flag folding ceremony
- Unit 16 Carrying of flag by Junior members at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade
- Unit 17 Speech given for Flag Day at Camp Mueller
- Unit 33 Decorate parade float and hand out 1,000 American Flags for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This
  involved 4 members over 9 hours with an investment of \$100

#### Flag Retirement

- Unit 3 -- 8 women plus several men, 2 hour ceremony
- Unit 11 -- 8 flags collected for retirement
- Unit 15 Collected flags and hosted flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day
- Unit 33 -- 8 women, 24 hours, ceremony with post officers

#### Food Drives

Unit 16 – Donated over 668 hours and over \$200 collecting food items for the food pantry as
well as several boxes of food stables that were donated to the in-house veterans in need.

# Independence Day

- Unit 16 -- hosted a carnival, donated pies, distributed flags
- Unit 33 \_- 6 members, 12 hours, decorate parade float -- \$100 spent
- Unit 33 -- 4 members, 9 hours (hand out 1,000 American flags)

# Memorial Day

- Unit 11 -- 65 hours making wreathes and crosses and placing them on grave sites, going to services and assisting with the Open House
- Unit 15 -- Flags placed at both cemeteries in Palmer on veterans grave sites, participated in parade, handed out flags
- Unit 15 Attended the Byers memorial ride to Byers Lake Veteran's Memorial along with 200 other riders and veterans.
- Unit 15 Did a fly-by wreath drop on the Knik River for Memorial Day

#### National Anthem

Unit 6 – Sang the National Anthem at a Wrestling Tour (1 member, ½ hour)

# Oratorical Contest

• Unit 11 -- 14 hours

# Pledge of Allegiance Meetings/Workshops/Convention

- Unit 3 -- 10 meetings
- Unit 6 -- 12 meetings, 7 members,
- Unit 11 -- 80 hours
- Unit 15 Proudly says the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting.
- Unit 17 52 weeks
- Unit 33 -- 380 members, 8 hours

# Pledge of Allegiance at School, Ceremonies, Girls State

- Unit 6 -- 130 days, 1 member (school)
- Unit 33 -- 105 members, 5 hours (Ceremonies)
- Unit 33 -- 9 members, I hour (Girls State)

#### **Poppies**

 Unit 16 -- Handing out poppies on Memorial Day, distributing poppy cans, providing information about poppies and their meaning

# Promoting the Ladies Auxiliary

 Unit 17 -- Members carried membership applications to hand out, wear auxiliary jewelry and tshirts, educate community on what the Auxiliary does

# Remember Everyone Deployed -- Wearing red in remembrance

- Unit 6 -- 10 members, every Friday (52 times)
- Unit 17 Ladies try to wear red on Fridays until all deployed troops are back home.

# Thanksgiving

 Unit 16 -- Thanksgiving dinner for all members, donation of money to help with turkey baskets given to families in need.

# Thrift Store

• Unit 6 had 16 members and 9 volunteers at the Moosallaneous Bargains Thrift Store. They invested a total of 897.8 hours for members and 992 hours for volunteers.

# Travel

Unit 11 -- 200 miles to meetings and events

# USO Club

• Unit 6 donated 46 items in support of Americanism. There were 2 members and 5 volunteers involved for 3 hours and they invested \$45.50.

# Veteran's Day

- Unit 6 -- Held a Veteran's Day dinner. There were 13 members involved as well a 5 volunteers. They invested 76 hours and \$1,650.
- Unit 16 -- participate in parade, helped with presentation at Veteran's Park Memorial; laid wreath on memorial; helped with cookies for luncheon
- Unit 17 60 flags on Veteran's graves

Veteran's Project

- Unit 6 Provided 50 cookie trays for veterans. It involved 15 members and 3 volunteers who donated 50 dozen + cookies, 50 mini banana bread loaves, 10 pounds of candy 2.34 pounds of cheese and w0 pounds of tangerines. They invested 129.50.
- Unit 16 Annual stockings project for small gifts and treats to be delivered along with a Christmas carol or two.
- Unit 16 One devoted member plays the bugle at each service for departed veterans.
- Unit 16 5 members were involved in planning a party for a 100-year-old veteran.

Veteran's Wall

Unit 15 - Attended the Veteran's Wall in Wasilla to present a wreath on behalf of their American Legion Auxiliary

Volunteerism

 Unit 11 -- 196 hours for patriotic holiday events, 137 hours helping students at University of Alaska, 110 hours helping neighbors or friends

Workshops and Conventions

Unit 11 -- 220 hours attending workshops and conventions; \$2,570 spent by members.

Monetary Contributions

- Unit 11 -- \$115 on flags to give away at public event, \$2,250 on raffle tickets for other organizations by members
- Unit 33 -- \$100 for Fourth of July activities

Many of our members are very involved in promoting the American Legion Auxiliary as well as Americanism. Throughout the year, we have had 683 members involved in Americanism for a total of 4,119.5 hours. Money spent for Americanism totals \$17,140.50.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Americanism Chairperson for the 2016-2017 year. It was an honor to serve in this capacity.

For God and Country,

Barbara Nath

Barbara Nath Americanism Chair Department of Alaska 0

# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Chaplain Report 2016 – 2017

It's been a blessed year being the Department of Alaska Chaplain for the American Legion Auxiliary. I participated in prayer requests, sending out varies type of cards to members, veterans and their families.

Units reported opening and closing prayers for their unit meetings. Our units reported sending out numerous cards and prayers for our fantastic veterans, members and their families. Flowers, wreaths and crosses were places on veteran's graves for Memorial Day.

Approximately 2,458 hours were volunteered for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day, Early Bird and/or membership appreciation dinner and Four Chaplain Ceremony.

I thank you all for the privilege for letting me be your Chaplain for this year. I am truly blessed.

For God and Country

Jane L. Larson

Department of Alaska Chaplain
(907) 715-2377

morjlarson@yahoo.com

PO BOX 546 WRANGELL, AK 99929

5-10-17

Mary Lou Lopez: WD C&Y Chairman

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Chairman Zona Gregg, Department - Alaska

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

1. How did your units and department promote "Star Spangled Kids," educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism?

Promoted by handouts at the Dept. Fall DEC meeting in October, letters, & emails.

Units participating in The American Legion Oratorical Contest

1 Unit supported Legion Baseball

Units had Veterans visits the classroom for Veteran's Day Units planned events around holidays during the year

sent 1 young man to Washington DC for Election Rally November 2016

1 Unit reported a member singing the National Anthem at the start of a Wrestling Tournament in Sitka

2. How did your units and department promote the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award? Promoted by information & form handed out at the Dept. Fall DEC meeting in October. The Department has a website that had the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award posted for easy access by the units.

1 Unit turned in a Good Deed Award Nomination

3. What success stories do you have regarding support for military or homeless preterans' children? 

None.

I did try promoting 'stamp out hunger' in the USA by programs with General Mills & ConAgra. Only 1 Unit reported doing this donating 221 meals to the local food bank in Anchorage, AK

Totals reported from 22/22 Units serving 4,894\* youths (344 were military kids):

Projects 146 members 1,825 volunteering 35,474 hours \$41,977.26 spent or donated

\*When the ladies are helping in the classroom or with school teams or other group events we don't always have a count on the number of children vs adults attending. cc. National Chairman Nicole Clapp, Ak Dept. Sec. Schmitt

Chairman Zona Gregg, Department - Alaska

12 inch ruler

List of letters, emails, & handouts given or sent to Units in Department of AK:

Email about COTA from C & Y Chairmen 2015-16 & 2016-17
Receiving mailing information late, Barb & I discussed it & agreed to send this email so the Units could choose to support COTA in her year (2015-16) with an amended report or wait for the new budget year (2016-17).

9-30 Children & Youth September Letter
10-1 DEC Workshop Children & Youth Packet
Youth Hero and Good Deed Award Nomination Form
Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony
From National Chairman Nicole Clapp
Happy Halloween — Safety Tips for Trick or Treat
From Western Div. Chairman Mary Lou Lopez
Supporting Our Military Children — program information
Leaflet from COTA association
Box Tops = points for education the web site is bfte.com
double your points for school by getting the new app for your phone
OutNumberHunger.com
ChildHungerEndsHere.com and Frequently asked question

I did the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony as part of my program at the workshop in October with all Units receiving copies. The Department President requested that we use this Ceremony at Convention so we used it for our opening one day. Our attending Junior Girls carried the items to the table. One of the girls made the party hat. This was well received.



# Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony

C&Y chair:

(or Youth #1)

"We will begin today with a ceremony to honor our military children."

"Our United States military members answer the call to service every day as they defend freedom around the world. That service often comes at a great personal sacrifice, not only for the service member, but also for their family, their children.

"When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq, he said, 'Please don't send cookies, care packages, or socks. Just help take care of our children.' Our country has always supported its military in times of war through community efforts. We have a great capacity to care for the home front. Now is the time for a new Victory garden. In this garden, we can tend to the needs of the military child.

"Today we would like to present to you the Military Child's Table Setting, inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.

"The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that they may flower and flourish where planted.

Youth #2

Enters carrying Potted Flowering Plant and sets on table

C&Y chair:

(or Youth #1)

"The Hand Spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new location any place in the world at a moment's notice, where they become fully immersed in the culture, make new friends and acclimate themselves to a new school.

Youth #3	Enters carrying Hand Spade and sets on table
C&Y chair:	"The Birthday Hat and Unlit Candles
(or Youth #1)	"Baseball Glove and Ball
	"and Ballet Slippers represent the fact that sometimes special
	occasions are missed by one or both parents while serving their
	country.
Youth #4,	Enter carrying Birthday Hat and Unlit Candles
5 & 6	Baseball Glove and Ball
	and Ballet Slippers and set on table
C&Y chair:	"The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed
(or Youth #1)	parent represents the foundation of our country's strength
Youth #7	Enters carrying Family Photo and sets on table
C&Y chair:	"families united in their commitment to national service and willing to
(or Youth #1)	make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad
	"to ensure that our flag continues to fly free."
Youth #8	Enters carrying US Flag and sets on table
ALL	Amen.

Please feel free to turn in amended reports for April events at Convention to add to your numbers for the year.

THANK them for their strength and sacrifices! Why purple? It's the

ks part of Children & Youth month, show your support for Military Kids and

Combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red,

Ben't forget: today is "Purple Up! for Military Kids" day!

# C&Y List of Projects 2016-17

Donations to:

Dept. Children & Youth Program

and Navy blue. Then wear a red poppy for remembrance. Children of a member who was killed by an Avalanche this spring. To a young man going to the Election Rally in Washington D.C. 1 Unit Donated \$200 to COTA - organ transplant support for military children

Children's Halloween parties & related events or fund raisers Youth Day face painting, Halloween Trunk or Treat

Children's Christmas party & related events or fund raisers Donations to Schools for Children's Christmas events Mrs. Claus and her husband Santa, a SAL member volunteering Bake Sales for Christmas Party fund raised over \$1200 Christmas Stocking raffle for Christmas Party fund Sled full of Toys Raffle (29) for Christmas Party fund Donating kids books to Christmas Book Sale

Patriotic programs & related events, 4th July parades, races, Native Heritage Dancers 4th July & Native Heritage Education Language

#### Other events:

Easter Egg Hunt at Post Kids Don't Float - donating life Jackets at the community docks Hannah's Place (parent resource center, ages 0-5) doing laundry, donating food, bedding, toys, & other supplies Child Hunger ends here – collect codes to stop hungry for children in the USA Outnumber Hunger - each code = 5 meals 95 meals Reported

Summer Reading Prorgam Hooligan Book Fair Reading Donating Kids books to Ferry or terminal waiting rooms, or hospital waiting rooms Donating kids books to Librarys

School & related events or fund raisers Campbell Labels (cancelled June '16) Pink Points for Educations - 4- 4- 5- 400 hs Volunteer @ school in the classroom PTA volunteer Middle school - 2 classes Bird watching, 2 classes on fishing in SE AK in NC High Sch Girls Basketball Team Hospitality room for visiting team members & staff Senior Class Fundraisers for Graduation Party Safe Night 1 Unit dong Te To Legion Bose Bakk Middle School Rummages Sales

Scholarships for educations

100% Reporting! 146 projects. 1825 members 35,474 hours \$ 41,977.26 Serving 4,894 YouTh only 2 as MiliTary K

# APRIL It Takes a Village

Background National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.

Learn the warning signs of child abuse and how to create a safety plan for your family using resources available at www.stopitnow.org





Participate During the month of April wear a blue ribbon or display a blue pinwheel at your desk or in your yard. Share with your friends, family, or co-workers what you learned about child abuse warning signs.

# MAY Paint the Town Lime Green

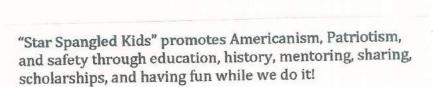
Background Mental Health Month aims to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses and strives to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental illnesses.

Learn about mental health issues and take the "stigma free" pledge online at www. nami.org/stigma





Participate Lime green is the official color of Mental Health Month. Incorporate the color in someway at your home, in your office or at a meeting with a club or organization you belong to. It could be as simple as tying a green ribbon to your doorknob. Talk with your friends, family or co-workers about why you helped "Paint the Town Lime Green".



Some things we can plan to do in May & June as the weather Changes into summer.

classroom volunteer or field trips volunteering for Summer Reading Program donate to Special Olympics Flag Day program Scrap Fish Derby Boating safety classes life jackets at public floats 'Kids Don't Float' donate children's books to bus/ferry terminals 4th of July parade - events







The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) is the nation's premier organization providing fundraising assistance to families facing a life-saving transplant. COTA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Since 1986 millions of dollars have been raised by COTA Miracle Makers for thousands of children and young adults needing an organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant.

Miracle Makers organize fundraisers in honor of transplant families, promote organ and tissue donor registration, advocate COTA's mission on behalf of transplant patients, participate in fundraising events and/or make contributions to further COTA's life-saving work.

Become a Miracle Maker today.

- Visit cota.org
- Email MiracleMakerInfo@cota.org
- Call 800.366.2682

Call COTA today.

Children's Organ Transplant Association, 2501 West COTA Drive Bloomington, Indiana 47403

COTA.org 800.366.2682





No cost to transplant families.

100% of funds raised in honor of patients are used for transplant-related expenses.

Lifetime coverage of transplant-related expenses.







1 in 8 go Hungery!

Cheerios

Fiber One

BeTly Cracker

Pillsbury

OLD EL Paso

Chex Mix

Suddenly Salad

Mott's

GardetTo's

Fruit Roll-ups



April 23, 2017

ALA Department of Alaska

Penny Mazonna, Department Community Service Chairman 2016-17

Community Service 2016-2017 End of Year Report

The American Legion Auxiliary Units of the Department of Alaska have had a very busy and productive year as active members of their communities. I have contacted all Units. I requested reports, by phone, e-mail and Facebook. As of this date I have received year end reports from 12 of the 22 Units within our Department. This is a 54.5% reporting rate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following Units for submitting Mid-Year (M) and Year-End (Y) reports: Joseph T. Craig Unit 3 (Y), Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6 (M)(Y), Dorman H. Baker Unit 11 (M)(Y), Matanuska Valley Unit 15 (M)(Y), General Buckner Unit 16 (Y), Robert G. Blair Unit 17 (M)(Y), Nome Unit 19 (Y), George H. Plumley Unit 20 (M), Gladys M. Heintz Unit 27 (Y), Con Miller Unit 30 (Y), Peters Creek Unit 33 (M)(Y), Susitna Valley Unit 35, (Y), C. Russell Huber Unit 57 (Y).

Of the twelve Units reporting, 3 reported no activity. The remaining nine Units have reported 653 volunteers donated 5,366 hours, and \$34,047. I can't even imagine what those figures would be if statistics were turned in for every member of our Department. Mind boggling, I'm sure.

Following you find responses to the questions asked in the ALA Community Service Plan of Action:

- How did members recruit community volunteers while engaged in ALA Community Service activities and/or projects? No reported activity
- How did members engage high school students in ALA Community Service activities and/or projects? Several Units reported inviting students to assist with community fundraising events. These young people prepped meals, helped with set-up and clean-up, bus tables, and serve meals. Many of the students collected tips that were used to help them in their school programs/projects. Students also assisted in community and cemetery clean-up activities.
- Did members volunteer for or organize service projects for any of the ALA suggested days of service?
  - (9/11/16) 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance: No activity reported (10/22/16) Make a Difference Day: No activity reported
  - (11/11/16) <u>Veterans Day</u>: All Units reported participating in local Veteran Day ceremonies and provided meals for the community. They also cleaned up local cemeteries and place flag and/or wreaths/poppies at the graves of known veterans. Participated in parades and other community
  - activities to honor and remember those who gave their all for our freedoms and liberties.
  - (11/19/16) National Family Volunteer Day: No activities reported
  - (1/16/17) Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: One Unit reported hosting a community BBQ at the Post home for those participating in the local festival activities.
  - (4/23-29/17) National Volunteer Week: No specific reports were received. However, I do know that our members/chairman were very busy this week preparing reports and program projects

for our Department Convention (April 26-29, 2017), to be held in Haines, Alaska. Convention is a wonderful time to recognize and celebrate our hard working and dedicated American Legion Family volunteers.

- What types of community service activities and/or projects were done in your department? May 2016:
  - One Unit hosts a monthly Senior Dance, open to all seniors/elders in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
  - -Units hosted and prepared Mother's Day Brunches.
  - -Memorial Day ceremonies/actives, including cemetery clean-up, flag placements, Poppy distribution, Post open houses, parades. Throughout the year, one member is honored to salute our fallen by presenting her rendition of Taps on her bugle at Memorial Day ceremonies, Veterans Day ceremonies and funerals for veterans.
  - -One Unit participates in the Adopt-A-Highway Program. They are responsible for maintain a two mile stretch of the highway (from May-September) to keep it as litter free as possible.
  - -Several Units reported participating in Community/Highway Spring clean-up, to do their part in keeping Alaska Beautiful.

#### June 2016:

- -Flag Day: Four Units reported participating in Flag Day ceremonies/activities, including Flag retirement ceremonies, Flag etiquette, Flag folding instruction. Each of these Flag Day activities are presented at the American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State and The American Legion Alaska Boys State programs.
- -Father's Day: Most Units hosted brunch to honor fathers.
- One Unit reported a member participated in Relay for Life
- One Unit assisted a Popeye Wrestling team with a fundraiser.
- Several Unit members plan, plant and maintain flower beds at their Post homes, local Senior Centers and homes of veterans.
- One Unit reports hosting a Farmers Market throughout the "Ice Free" months.

#### July 2016:

- -Independence Day: Most Units reported organizing and/or participating in Community festivities. One Unit reports hosting a baby contest as part of the local celebration.
- Flag distribution during parades is a very common activity for our Units.

#### August 2016:

-August is "Fair Season" in Alaska. Most of our communities have local State Fairs. Units participate in Parades, Pull-Tab Booths and other activities.

#### September 2016:

- -One Unit reported that Women's Ride.
- -Labor Day celebrations were reported by two Units.

#### October 2016:

-At our Annual Department Fall Conference the Department Community Service Chairman held a "Kick-Off" event for Socktober. We collected and distributed 293 pairs of socks. These socks were given to Veterans outreach programs, VA Stand Down for homeless veterans, Rehabilitation Centers, the Alaska VA Domiciliary,

- -Many Units hosted Fall/Halloween Parties for the community.
- One Unit hosted an event in conjunction with Red Ribbon week activities.

#### November 2016

-All Units reported either hosting Thanksgiving meals or distributing/donating funds or food stuffs for Thanksgiving Baskets for those less fortunate families in our communities.

#### December 2016:

- -Units collected and donated to community Christmas food baskets and Angel Tree programs.
- -Community Christmas Parties for kids of all ages.
- -Two Units participated in and contributed to a free Community Christmas Dinner, serving approximately 3500 people.

Many of our Units contribute and/or participate in the two ALA sponsored Veterans Christmas Gifts Shops (Anchorage and Fairbanks. These shops are fabulous outreach projects. We invite community members to help and witness the power of reaching out to our deserving veterans.

- -One Unit is proud to support the 1-24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion at Fr. Wainwright, Fairbanks, AK. They had an information table on post during their holiday bazaar. They provided \$500 for scholarships for children of the 1-24<sup>th</sup> Battalion. They also provided \$1,000 to assist active duty family airfare to attend a funeral. Provided \$1,000 to help with children's Christmas gifts for the 1-24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Christmas party. In cooperation with the 1-24 FRG, helped to provide homemade cookies to the single soldiers of the 1-24. They also provided \$500 to the Ft. Wainwright Spouses Club for their scholarship program.
- -Distribute Christmas stockings and gifts to Hospitals, Fisher House and Pioneer Homes.

#### January 2017:

No activities reported

#### February 2017:

-One Unit reported hosting a Valentine's Dinner with the proceeds going to the University of Alaska to be used for various programs.

#### March 2017:

No activities reported

#### April 2017:

-Easter Parties abound. Many Units hosted community Easter parties. Providing egg hunts, food and activities for party goers of all ages.

#### Other Activities:

- Units provided food and fellowship for funerals weddings and community events.
- Volunteer at Senior Centers
- Assist with proper disposal of old medications.
- Distribute ribbons for various awareness weeks, such as domestic violence, Autism,
   Military kids and Cancers, to name a few.
- RED Friday is supported by many of our members proudly wearing their shirts to remind our communities about those who are deployed and serving our country.
- Support of food pantries/banks by volunteering and/or contributing funds.
- Host Veterans and Senior meals.
- Assist Local schools, scouts, 4-H, FFA, Youth groups and other service organizations to better our community.

- Contribute to Wreaths Across America, Quilts of Valor, Honor Flight, Community
  Beautification projects, Love Inc., Fishing Derbies, Polar Plunge, Homeless shelters,
  Youth sports, Hospital gift shops, Animal shelters, Hospice, Donate paperback books to
  jails, airports, ferry terminals, and schools. One member volunteers to provide hair and
  nail care for long-term patients. One Unit contributes to Birding Festival, local radio
  stations, Hospice/HospiceAuxiliary, recycles glass bottles, cardboard and aluminum.
  They also operate a Thrift Store out of their Post home. The funds earned go right back
  into the community.
- Some other activities include raising fund and collecting donations for victims of fire/flood and others in need. Supporting teen/family shelters. Assisting youth with travel expenses for educational events, CHARR, Chamber of Commerce, Victims for Justice, Volunteer Firefighters, Local Police/State Troopers/Volunteer EMS, Empty Bowl, Boys and Girls Club, Special Olympics, Muscular Dystrophy and Rescue Missions.

Thank you to all our hard working and dedicated members. I know that our communities are grateful to have such supportive ladies in their mist. I also know that many of you have short changed yourselves in the number of volunteers/hours/monies reported. You are such a loving and caring group that you tend to overlook the things that you do daily. None the less, you have completed another successful year. Thank you seems to be such a small token for all you have done and continue to do to serve our veterans, their families and our communities.

Thank you, Department of Alaska President Sue Waldhaus, for honoring me to serve as your Community Service Chairman. I will update this report when other year-end reports are submitted.

Respectfully Submitted.

For God and Country,

Penelope FC Mazonna

Constitution

Barb - NAther

# Attention! Attention!

Regarding the Department of Alaska Unit Constitution and bylaws "Template"

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska has a Unit "Template" Constitution & bylaws. All Units are uniform.

The only things that may be changed in the Unit's Constitution & bylaws "Template" are the following items:

- 1. Name and number of the Unit.
- 2. The annual amount of membership dues for senior and junior members.
- 3. The regular meetings of the Unit day and time.
- 4. How many members shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting.
- 5. When installation of the Unit officers will be held.

As a reminder all changes shall follow the procedures set in the Bylaws under Article X – Amendments.

#### ARTICLE X-AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws will be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular Unit Meeting, provided the proposed amendments are to the Date & Time of meetings, Nominations, Elections, Installations, amount of dues or number for a Quorum, and shall have been read at the previous regular meeting. All other changes to these Bylaws must be made at Department Convention.

Section 2. Amendments not having been previously read will be adopted by the unanimous vote of the members present.

Section 3. These Bylaws shall be automatically amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Each Unit's Standing Rules may be changed at a regular scheduled meeting with a majority vote.

For God and Country.

Lavonne Collier, PDP
Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

# Department By-laws - ARTICLE VI - Unit Organization - Section 8. (page 14)

**Currently Reads:** 

Section 8. Any member in good standing wishing to transfer to another Unit must present to the new Unit her current membership card. Upon acceptance of the transfer applicant by the new Unit, the Unit Secretary will complete the Certificate of Transfer. The member shall then be entitled to active membership in said Unit. No dues shall be transferred.

#### Will Read:

Section 8: A member who is not subject to suspension or membership revocation under due process is eligible to transfer her membership to another unit if she has paid her membership dues to her current unit for either the current year or immediate past membership year. A Member transferring to a new unit must pay current year dues to either her current unit or to the unit into which she wishes to transfer.

Evidence of paid membership includes:

- 1. American Legion Auxiliary Membership Card
- 2. Verification of membership by ALA Department or National Headquarters membership records
- 3. Other documentation verifying payment of current or immediate past year membership dues such as a cancelled check or receipt: or
- 4. When verifying documentation is not available, a sworn statement that the member's membership dues payment was tendered.

Unit By-laws Template - Article VII Transfers

# Junior Auxiliary – Standing Rules 10 (page 3)

**Currently Reads:** 

10. Each Honorary Junior Auxiliary National Officer attending the National Junior Meetings from the Department of Alaska shall receive up to but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Junior Meetings from the Department of Alaska. The Retiring Honorary Junior Department President shall receive up to but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Junior Meetings, but will be limited to one \$1,500.00. The Department of Alaska Junior Auxiliary members attending the National Junior Meetings will receive up to but not exceed \$300.00. No Junior Auxiliary member can combine National Junior Meetings attendee's amounts and will be limited to one National Junior Meetings attendee's amount.

#### Will Read:

10. Each Honorary Junior Auxiliary National Officer attending the National Mission Training Meetings from the Department of Alaska shall receive up to but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Mission Training Meetings from the Department of Alaska. The Retiring Honorary Junior Department President shall receive up to but not exceed \$1,500.00 to attend the National Mission Training Meetings, but will be limited to one \$1,500.00. The Department of Alaska Junior Auxiliary members attending the National Mission Training Meetings will receive up to but not exceed \$300.00. No Junior Auxiliary member can combine National Mission Training Meetings attendee's amounts and will be limited to one National Mission Training Meetings attendee's amount.

- Section 6. When a Unit ceases to function, or its Charter has been revoked or canceled, the Charter and all Unit records and funds shall be immediately forwarded to Department Headquarters.
- Section 7. No person may, at any time, be a member of more than one Unit.
- Section 8

Any member in good standing wishing to transfer to another Unit must present to the new Unit her current membership card. Upon acceptance of the transfer applicant by the new Unit, the Unit Secretary will complete the Certificate of Transfer. The member shall then be entitled to active membership in said Unit. No dues shall be transferred.

- Section 9. A Unit member may withdraw providing her current dues are fully paid. Upon withdrawal, however, she shall be prohibited from joining any other Unit as a new member during the remainder of the current year for which said dues are paid. In the event a member wishes to remove her membership from one Unit to another during the current year, it shall be done by transfer and not by withdrawal.
- Section 10. No Unit in this Department or any member thereof shall circularize any other Unit or member thereof without the consent of the Department Secretary.
- Section 11. Unit Officers shall be elected each year in March prior to the holding of the Department Convention. They may, if desired, be installed before the Department Convention, but not assume their duties until after the Department Convention. Terms of Unit Standing Committee Chairmen must coincide with the terms of Unit Officers.
- Section 12. A Unit President, President Elect or any other Unit officer, who moves her residence from the area in which the Unit is located, should resign her office unless the move is still within a reasonable distance of the town in which the Unit is located. The Unit Executive Committee is to decide what a "reasonable distance" is and whether or not it would affect the functions of the officer.
- Section 13. All persons handling funds of the Unit shall be bonded, such position bonds being available through Department Headquarters.

# DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP REPORT 2016-2017

# **ORITORICAL CONTEST**

	ORITORICAL CONTEST			
	4 members 14 hours			
	75 hours for members attending workshops			
80 hours for members volunteering at UAF LARS center				
	Out of pocket cost for travel etc.			
	Reimbursement for expenses for travel to workshops etc.			
	1,850 miles traveled by members to attend Workshops			
	1 Unit reported 169 hours for education and total funds			
	Expended for Education	\$ 6,850.0		
	17 scholarships to send girls to Alaska Girls State 536 hours	\$ 3,210.00		
	Transportation for the girls to Alaska Girls State	\$ 4,200.00		
	1 unit will give 2 merit scholarships in the spring	\$ 1,500.00		
	4 scholarships were given at Alaska Girls State	\$ 7,000.00		
	2 Merrilyn Stock Memoria scholarships	\$ 3,000.00		
	Aggie Parks Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00		

# LORI FITZSIMONS

# THIS IS MY REPORT OF MY ACTIVITIES DURING THE PAST AUXILIARY YEAR. 2016-2017

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

LUNCHBOX	400.00
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	250.00
COATS FOR KIDS (6 outfits, coats, scarfs and gloves)	119.95
For kids in schools gloves, socks, etc.	84.95
ST. JUDE	50.00
March of dimes	50.00

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

FOOD BANK	550.00	
SALVATION ARMY	100.00	
CATHLIC SOCIAL SERVICES	100.00	

# \$104.85 ON YARN TO MAKE (15) AFAGANS FOR VETERANS IN WHEELCHAIRS

#### GAVE THE AFAGANS TO EVA TO TAKE TO THE VETERANS

Paralized Veterans	50.00
AUXILIARY	50.00
Auxiliary (National)	50.00
SAL	170 <i>s0</i> 0
SILVER TEA	50 ¢ 00

TOTAL \$ 27,760.00

TOTAL HRS

One Unit has ladies go to the schools to explain what Scholarships are available..

One Unit had 7 Veterans visit the school.

Flag etiquette was taught and 50 flags were given out.

Lori FitzSimons

Department of Alaska

Education and Scholarship Chairman

#### **Barb Nath**

From:

Debbie Lowndes <alaskandebb@yahoo.com>

Sent:

Saturday, April 29, 2017 12:39 AM

To:

Dept Of AK Amer Leg Aux Linda Schmitt Sec; Barb Nath; Sue Waldhaus

Subject:

**UPDATED FINANCE REPORT** 

Attachments:

2016-2017.xlsx

The Finance Committee Chairman, Debbie Lowndes, has updated the Financial Report and the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget to include the accounting income and expenses for the period of 03/01/2016 though 02/28/2017. All accounts continue to balance with the bank statements.

Respectfully submitted, For God and Country,

Debbie Lowndes Finance Chairman American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska

# Fairbanks Christmas Shop – Year End Report April, 2017

Each year, an annual Veteran's gift shop is done at the Fairbanks Rescue Mission. This was started in 2012. This year there were 19 veterans who submitted a form requesting gifts. There were 8 volunteers and a total of \$2,000 was spent on gifts. Dale Toenies from SAL played Santa at the function as well as at other Christmas functions (Children's Christmas party and 1/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Christmas party).

When the gift shop was started, it was very well attended. But the attendance has decreased over the years. Last year, a few Veterans showed up and Auxiliary members took gifts to peoples' home. This year, only two Veterans came to pick up their gifts. Some gifts were mailed out, but there were a lot of items left over. These will be stored to be used next year.

Other options are being explored for how we can meet the needs of Veterans over the holidays.

For God and Country,

Cassey St. Rose

Unit 57

Madam President and members of the Auxiliary.

This is a program that I love doing each year. It is what kicks off the holiday season for me.

The gift shop had 62 veterans that participated this year, 32 volunteers. The domiciliary each year is very generous with storing the items starting in November and the veterans living there help with bringing stuff in and helping me to set up. This year was no different. They are always very excited for this day.

This year I change the form a little, I added a line for recommended items. This gave me ideals on what sort of items they would want to give to their family members. It helped a lot when I was shopping for the veterans, as I was able to see what type of items they would like. Each year it is a guess on what will be the going item at the gift shop.

Donations came in for cookies, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, napkins, plates, cups, stocking with socks and some hygiene items. The snack table was overflowing with donations as usual. All left over items was taken to the Veterans snack kitchen for them to enjoy. Santa was there to take pictures with the veterans and volunteers as requested. We have been encouraging the veterans to take pictures of them and put the picture in the box with the packages. That seems to be a big hit especially with the veterans from out of town.

This year the new director of the VA, DR. Tim Ballard attended the gift shop and was very impressed with the program and how it reaches out to the veterans in the program and aftercare. He asked a lot of questions and most of the veterans didn't know who he was as he just introduced himself by his first name. He wants his daughter to be more involved next year and has offered her services in any need there is. He said he would be back next year and he has started to promote the program around the VA. He said more of the VA staff will be there next year to help out.

received the Shining Star award from the Director at the VA for the Gift Shop in February, 17. He proceeded to tell all employees about the program and how it is one of the good ones to help boost moral with the veterans. He encouraged them to keep it in mind for next year or to make donations.

A total of \$3,224.00 was spent on gifts and supplies, postage came to \$1,333.00. Dave from Alaska Laser picked up the packages as he does each year. The company processes and meters each package and then takes them to the post office for delivery. They do not charge us for the time the employees spend doing this. It is a donated service each year.

Fred Meyer gave the usual extra discounts for the gift shop purchases, letting me use the Family and Friends coupons. When shopping at stores I try to get as many discounts and/ or donations as possible by telling them about the Gift Shop.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Bateman

The gift shop on top of the gift expenses this year will need to replenish most all supplies. I have bought in the past as I need stuff each year, but it is now at a point where everything needs to be stocked up. Scissors, scotch tape, packing tape, brown paper, labels, bows, ribbon, boxes, wrapping paper, film for the instamatic camera, 3 new storage containers two should be a large Christmas tree size as one currently has a hole in the bottom the other a smaller one. I would think it would be around \$500.00 to \$600.00 to pick up all of these items. Hopefully, most items can be picked up during back to school time and the other items on black Friday. And then to stock up on labels, bows, ribbon and wrapping paper after the holidays when they are marked down.

The 2 coffee pots also are in need of being replaced. One of them this year was missing the cord to plug it in.

In the past I have purchased these items with the gift shop money, but because everything is in need this year it will be an extra expense. This expense will be on top of the current gift shop expenses.

Thank you.

Peggy Bateman

Dom. Gift Shop Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State Department Year End Report

The Department of Alaska has been working diligently on the American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State Program. I have received 15 reports 8 of which had no money or hours to report. From the 8 Units that did have hours and money to report a combined amount of 10,438 hours and \$12,695.00 was spent on recruiting, interviewing, staffing and travel to and from the program. 16 schools were contacted by 8 Units. Moneys were raised through several different fund raisers including bake sales, auctions and the sale of crafted and handmade items by many unit members.

17 Young ladies were sponsored and attended the ALA Alaska Girls State session held June 3, through June 9, 2016 in Wasilla Alaska. Many Unit members attended the session as administrative, kitchen and counselling staff throughout the week.

These young ladies had a very busy week starting with opening ceremonies, followed by a solemn and informative flag retirement ceremony conducted by several Post, Unit and SAL members. The week started off strong with leadership and legislative workshops. Followed by many great speakers from the city and state level governments.

The middle of the week was a high point for our attendees with our annual ALA Unit appreciation dinner. The citizens found this to be a fantastic opportunity to "get to Know" and thank the Unit members in attendance. Dinner was served at 6pm followed by the ever fun and entertaining talent show. Ten American Legion Family members attended this festive evening. A good time was had by all including citizens, staff, guests.

The citizens worked hard throughout the week and were able to pass 13 bills through the ALA Alaska Girls State House and Senate. All 13 bills were signed by the newly sworn in Governor on Graduation night.

I would like to thank American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska President Susan Waldhaus for giving me the opportunity and in trusting me with the very satisfying position of American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State Department Chairman.

For God and Country,

Yvonne Lamm

American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State Director

# Colleen Newman 3457 N Inspiration Loop Wasilla, AK 99615 907/539-2802 avonkodiak@gci.net

#### April 24, 2017

Department of Alaska Historian Year End Report 2016-2017

our members Wow, what a busy and fun time ALA Units had this year! Not only do we believe in supporting our veterans, 100% Americanism and helping the community that we live in, but you will see from this report that we practice what we preach. Taking the narratives submitted by the Department of Alaska's units, I continued to weave the

In support of Americanism and Veterans, our members wear red tee shirts on Fridays in honor of R.E.D., say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of our meetings and other community meetings and events; work voting polls; wrote letters, sent emails and had meetings with legislators about veteran affairs

Membership - Rejoined current members, recruited new members and worked at rejoining past members; Initiation of new members; sponsored events to bring community members in hopes of recruiting new members, events such as a Paint Night, Kentucky Derby, Wednesday Night Tacos, Dart League Dinner, Muscular Dystrophy Dinner and Special Olympic Dinner

Election of new Unit and Department officers

section of the tapestry of the USA that Alaska is tasked with. Narrative fabrics used:

- Created and/or cleaned up, hung awards and rotated history displays at Unit; displaying pictures of Unit
- Cleanup of cemeteries, placing flags and poppies on veteran's graves, Veteran's Memorial Wall
- Flag folding ceremony and participated in communities observance of Flag Day, donated flags for table decorations for fundraiser and teaching flag etiquette at elementary schools
- Put Poppy cans around town and collected donations; distribute poppies at the 4th of July parade
- Department President visitation recorded at Unit and during visit honored Unit members for their outstanding works for the ALA performed installation Ceremony for members Department Officers and various members attended National Convention/Workshops and Department
- Workshops
- · We agree that "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders" and supported Girls State and Children & Youth
- Supported USO and Wounded Warrior Project
- Hosted ceremonies, open houses and served delicious foods for each holiday event and special days of recognition. Dinners for veterans and families on Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Years, American Legion 98th Anniversary, also a Father's Day brunch; Special events participated in were two Honor Flights, 9/11 Awareness Ceremony, Blue Star Banner, July 4th Parade, Four Chaplain Ceremony and a Stand Down in Anchorage
- Unit members volunteered at the Fisher House for veterans and families throughout the months.
- Supplied food and clothing to homeless veterans, honored Korean War and World War II veterans with a dinner
- Unit members participated in various races and contests benefiting local and national non-profit organizations such as Relay for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness, etc.

- Multiple fundraisers; donating school supplies, knitting and crocheting hats, gloves and scarves Christmas
  time wrapped presents, Santa Day for kids and an ongoing collections of items such as small travel sized
  items, playing cards, calendars, etc. to put in veteran's stockings; donated holiday food items and gifts to
  needy families
- As we depend on memories and stories from our seniors to use as threads to weave the tapestry of our history we spend time with our elderly, hosting monthly Senior Dances, taking them to appointments, help with their shopping and doing chores around their homes
- · Beautification and preservation of our posts; clean-up and beautification of our communities
- · Photos taken at events and added to Unit History Book
- · Revamped old scrapbooks and displays while creating new ones
- · Utilized Face Book and other medias to get word out of events happening

10 Units Reporting for April 1, 2017 Units 1, 6, 11, 15, 16, 17, 27, 35, 57, 442



In order to accomplish these projects listed above successfully, the Department of Alaska is happy to report:

\$10,801.17	Money Reported
7,163	Volunteer Hours Reported
406	Number of Members Participating
7,394	Veteran's and Family Members Served

The Department of Alaska is very proud of its members for the hours volunteered, projects completed and money donated to the support of the military, veterans and their families as is evidenced in this report. I am sure many more activities, money raised and volunteer hours were accomplished; but were not reported.

Respectfully submitted For God and Country

*Colleen Newman* Colleen Newman

ALA Department of Alaska Historian

# Leadership Report – Eva Aulston

I was not appointed the Department Leadership Chairman for 2016-2017. I was asked by President to be a Leadership Mentor. I have held Leadership Chairman plus a few other lead positions.

For our Department workshop, which I could not attend, I asked PDP Lavonne collier to read my information. This was pertaining to problems we in Alaska face. Such as the vast distance between our units, department and any National functions we may want to attend.

This can create a personal financial issue to us. So understand when seeking a lead positions, our Units and/or Department does not have funds in the budget for many items.

This wasn't just my opinion, but that of a few other Past Department Presidents. Another item was, we must stop criticizing members seeking positions due to personal dislikes, but to look for leadership in members who can do the job. Criticism and gossip will kill a Department.

I received a phone call asking if I had received anything pertaining to our leadership program, my reply was no, I agreed to help. I did not know at the time how serious a sight problem I had.

During the year, I mailed a number of Leadership letters to our Department President, Secretary and Units. Information on How we can Progress, The Right Attitude and Respect, The Art of Leadership, Strategies on obtaining a Million Members, Create a Internal Culture of Good Will, and How to join programs together to include in PODS. I even made a copy of our upcoming Boys and Girls State Flyers. All of the items were copies and sent by postal mail, as I am now legally blind.

For God and Country,

Eva Aulston

# Department of Alaska Legislative Report 2016-2017 Programs Action Plan

How did you train members in the legislative issues promoted by The American Legion and how did your members employ those methods?

I provided training to approximately 60 Unit members at our annual Fall Conference in October 2016. The information was also provided to each Unit to pass the information on to their members. The Legislative training information and Legislative report was placed in our Department's web site for easy access for members. Information was passed on at Unit meetings and a few passed the information on in their emails/letters to members with other information. Information was also provided in the Legion Department newspaper (Legion Family provides articles).

What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did members attend in their communities and departments? What suggestions did members have to improve those activities? Please describe.

Members attended local town hall meetings throughout the state of Alaska. I did not receive any information on how to improve those activities.

How did members develop relationships with their elected officials? Please describe. Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials and what were their successes.

Members spent 80 hours writing Legislators about issues

Members spent 50 hours attending Legislative forums at local, State, and National (DC). Members spent 70 hours attending Town hall or similar public meetings in their local areas. Our elected officials at the State and National level welcome visitors to their offices. The officials' staff members are also very receptive to visitors and keep the legislators abreast of issues brought up. Local representatives-assembly members are not always as receptive to having issues brought up unless it fits their "agenda".

Members spent 20 hours responding to Legislative alerts; most of these were the alerts sent out by the Legion Legislative staff to respond to a particular issue

Cost - approximately \$100 spent on mail/calls

Miles - approximately 125 miles traveling to local forums or visiting local Legislative offices

Total of over 450 hours expended on Legislative issues

Many members voted in local and the National elections this past year.

Submitted by:

Sharon Cherrette
Department of Alaska Legislative Chairman
(PDC 2011-2012/PDP 2015-2016)

# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska 2016 – 2017 Membership Report

Alaska is at 66.8% as of April 26, 2017. 66.8% is very low, in fact Alaska is in 6<sup>th</sup> place....from the bottom.

Three Units turned in their membership report. Membership events held include:

- Weekly Taco Nights held: Serving 3,270 people, 7 volunteers, 421 hours, \$200 donated
- Annual Membership dinners held at 3 Units.
- Painting Class: Free class offered to any new members.

I know everyone is struggling to get volunteers and new members, but it is vital or our organization that we continue to try. We must remember to keep asking those new faces you see at your events if they are members. If they say no then take that short window of opportunity to tell them a little something about what the ALA does; what our mission is, be enthusiastic! Tell them about some of the things your Unit does to not only help veteran but the community events you host as well. Invite them not only to a meeting but also invite them to come back for one or your many fun events.

National Security Report

We have had Units reporting wearing red on Friday to "Remember Everone Deploye" 104 Fridays, 12 members \$0

One

Unit reported greeting members and families as they deploy and/or return from deployment or come "home" for a visit. 1 active duty unknown family member 1 member .5 hours \$0

One Unit donated items to the USA Club at Sea-Tac airport that is used by active duty, retired military and their families when traveling overseas.

USO in Seattle 10 members 10 hours \$319.000 1 project 450 items donated. We learned that during January and February almost 19,000 veterans and their family members passed through the Seattle USO.

One Unit report:

\$740 Money Donated

289 Veterans and Family Members

22 Volunteers

171 Volunteer Hours

For the first time, their Unit participated in Four Chaplain Ceremony. One member's son was deployed they held a Blue Star Banner Ceremony. Their Unit participated in both honor flights, held a Korean War and World War II dinner while supporting the USA and our veterans and family.

One Unit held a "Operation Homefront" with a meet and greet with 25 Veterans offering finger food and sharing points of interest in their community. They also provided an appreciation dinner serving steak, chicken and seafood for 230 Veterans that came to their town to provide free medical care including their pets.

\$350.00 10 volunteers

10 volunteers 150 hours and donated items

For God and Country,

Respectfully Submitted

I will gladly add anything else submitted to me by either e-mail – winkle28@hotmail.com or a phone call 539-1649 for my year end report to National. Thanks again!

Beverly Eads

# 2017 Department of Alaska Oratorical Report

The Department of Alaska contest was held in Anchorage at Central Middle School on February 25, 2017. The scholarships awarded were as follows:

Thomas Warren from Delta Junction	\$500.00	
Pricilla Joslin from Delta Junction	\$500.00	
Robert McMillian from Anchorage	\$500.00	

These young contestants were the top two competitors in the morning round and moved into the afternoon completion according to the judges' scores.

Angel Spurgeon from Ketchikan	\$750.00
Shannon Octuk from Anchorage	\$750.00

Runner up for first:

Jada Daniels from Anchorage \$1,000.00

Department winner to go to National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis on April 21-23:

Sierra Smith from Anchorage \$1,500.00. She will also receive \$1,500 for participation in Indianapolis.

I want to thank all the post that participated in the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program 'A Constitutional Speech Contest". Kudos to Rick Terril in Delta for having 11 local participants. Thank you to Alaska Department Commander, Elexzanderia Carr, for supporting this program by being there on Friday night to greet the contestants.

I want to thank all the volunteers that made this event possible: judges, timers, escorts, tabulators contest moderators, and assigned topic moderators. These workers came from our legion family including; American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, and Sons of the American Legion. I am impressed that all parts of the American Legion Family will participate to educate the youth of

our country about the United States Constitution through this American

Legion Program.

I was privileged to be on the staff for the National Contest on April 21 to 23, 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is when Sierra Smith in the quarter final contest, but did not move up the ladder. She did receive recognition as an outstanding person with appositive attitude by many participants and legionnaires, including Shayne Abrahams, the National Oratorical Contest Director.

# The final results:

First place

Massachusetts

Second place

Maryland

Third place

West Virginia

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Scott
Department of Alaska Oratorical Chair

# Department of Alaska Past Presidents Parley 2016-2017

Although an end-of-year report is not required, I thought I would pass on some information on what our Units and Department Past Presidents do.

One Unit holds a Silver Tea in November to raise funds towards the Christmas Gift Shoppe at the VA Domiciliary and other programs in the local area (they have been doing this for over 60 years). The Past Unit Presidents are the hostess for the tea and the VA staff are invited to attend along with members from the Legion Family.

One Unit decorated a white Christmas tree with blue and red decorations and held a silent auction for Hospice. Past Unit Presidents put this fundraiser together and invited the community.

Our Presidents mentor new members, old members, provide training on Auxiliary programs, and mentor our Juniors.

At our Department Conventions, we hold a Past Presidents Parley luncheon for any Auxiliary member who wishes to attend (usually all in attendance unless the person has a prior engagement). We select our Unit Member of the Year. We honour our service women at the luncheon, to include those who are veterans but are not eligible to be a Legionnaire (dates of service don't meet the requirement). Many of our service women are dual members (Legion and Auxiliary).

#### Submitted by:

Sharon Cherrette
Department of Alaska Past Presidents Parley Chairman
(PDC 2011-2012/PDP 2015-2016)

### **DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA**

### YEAR END 2016-2017 POPPY REPORT

For the 2016-2017 year, the Department of Alaska had 15 Units order 25,000 poppies for distribution at a total cost of \$2,375.00.

Units report they have poppy cans not only in their posts, but in their communities at various business establishments such as bars, restaurants, thrift stores, and retail stores. Proceeds received from these cans total \$7,335.34. One Unit had poppies out on their Welcome Table their Veteran's Day dinner for people to take. One Unit sets out poppies with member applications. One Unit got their juniors involved by having them pass out poppies during their Early Bird Dinner. Another Unit reports they had 24 members distribute 250. poppies at JBER and the VA.

Several Units reported that for Memorial Day they placed poppies on Veteran's graves and handed out poppies to those in attendance at Memorial Day ceremonies.

Four (4) Units reported having had poppy girls this past year. One Unit reported having their poppy girl attend a Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, where she met the Mayor and handed out poppies.

Units report they promote the poppy by using them for decorations and centerpieces for events and even attaching them to flyers and materials they hand out, using over 3,000 poppies for this purpose.

Unfortunately, I have not received any information from our Units regarding any of them having Poppy Poster Contest.

I would like to thank Department President Sue Waldhaus for allowing me to be her poppy chairman.

For God and Country,

Lori Fruhwirth

Dept. of Alaska Poppy Chairman

#### VA&R

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA**

#### YEAR-END REPORT 2016 - 2017

I am hoping to receive more Unit Yearend reports while at convention in Haines; as I have only received 6 of 23 via snail mail or email at this time. Thank you; Darlene Sheldon for reporting for Kenai Penninsula Area (Units #'s 16, 17, 18 & 20). I received reports from Unit #'s 6, 11, 15, 33 & 35.

Wrangell Unit #6 has really worked hard to serve their veterans. 447 members plus 2 volunteers completed 22 projects, spent 644 hours and spent or donated \$6497. 7 families (veterans) including 10 children were assisted with services and donations Some were assisted with funeral expenses and moving costs. Way to go ladies.

A total of \$14,315 was spent just by the reporting units. 1779 veterans and their families served by ALA members. Approximately 5,084 volunteer hours claimed, but for the amount of services performed, assistance, projects and events I doubt these are all hours volunteered.

Kenai Pen. Area Deputy reported participation in picnics for veterans, serving over 150 adults and 10 children; baking and the cooking all done by the ALA members. They collected donations from other organizations and businesses to fund these events. Cookies were baked for the holidays and delivered to clinics and medical centers; costing \$600 and using at least 60 volunteer hours. Gifts were purchased and delivered during the holidays. Many donations; monetary, gifts and food were collected and distributed to local veterans.

Unit # 35 distributed food and clothing to homeless veterans. There are domiciliary gift shops in Anchorage and Fairbanks, and while I know the ALA did a lot for veterans during holidays I have no figures to report. I do hope to add to this report before my final draft is sent on to National and Western Division.

Thank you for allowing me to be your VA & R Chairman this year.

For God and Country

Barbe Wolkoff

BarbeWolkoff@hotmail.com

#### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT of ALASKA

# ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT SUE WALDHAUS, PRESIDENT 2016 – 2017

**GREETINGS & HAPPY SPRING TO ALL!** That was the first line of my first newsletter article as your Department President a year ago. The sentiment is the same. The promise of an exciting year to come is soon ended as a new President takes office. But let me tell you a bit about the past year.

It has been a rollercoaster year with highs and lows. Installation night was a dream come true. I remember when I became a member more than 20 years ago, after about six or so meetings, I thought "I'd like to be President some day." You know the adage "be careful what you wish for?" While the journey to this point was long and at times exhilerating and other times disappointing, the journey is what prepared me to keep moving ahead. It was with wonderful mentors like Carolyn Null, Lisa Williamson, Sue Caswell, Linda Schmitt, Yvonne Collier, Jill Pawson, Rehta Foster and so many others that the learning of who we are, what we do and why we matter came through the Chairmanships and E-Board positions. I look around this room and see so many of you who "are candidates for leadership" and I encourage you to pursue that goal.

But on to "my year" as your Department President. Installation was over. Three days later Linda Schmitt and I flew to Indianapolis for the Membership, Secretaries and President's Conference. Deb Lowndes joined us a day later. The conference was loaded with information and enthusiasim. Of course May is busy for all of us with Mother's Day, Graduation and Memorial Day events. My husband, Kirk and I attended the memorial celebration at the Park Strip in Anchorage. We met Cmdr. Dolly there. I felt honored to place a wreath at the flagpole in recognition of our veterans. Later that day I attended the service at Angelus Memorial Park with my home Post 28 family. We had previously placed over 1000 flags and crosses with poppies at the Park.

June found us at the Girls State dinner. I have to tell you that Chm. Vonn Lamm and her team are doing a dynomite job for us. The young women I spoke to were so complimentary and excited. The Talent Show was great. The following week Kirk and I attended the same dinner at Boys State. Chm. Jim Scott and team receive the same accolades. These are our community and country leaders of the future.

The end of June I joined the fun at the Alaska Fest festivities at Post 28. It's open to the community and hundreds of people come for music, food, booths and of course there's a Membership Table.

July! Summer in full swing! 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Fireworks. Commander Dolly and Kirk and I attended a military ceremony on Park Strip with the men and women from JBER. I don't think I have the name exactly right but the ceremony was making a name change from the Alaska Region defenses to the Pacific Region defenses. There were hundreds of military families there to talk to. We had wonderful conversation at the BBQ after the ceremony, Passed out membership apps. too.

August – Cmdr. Dolly and Kirk and I were invited to the monthly brunch at Post 4 (the Anchorage Pioneer Home Post.) What a delight. So many old veterans who wanted to talk. What stories they had. We learned too that their only fundraiser, the Pioneer Home Bazaar was to be in Nov. The funds from the Post part of the event provides the Legion caps for their members, etc.

September – Everyone returns from vacations. Kids are back in school and our Units and Posts get BUSY. I was thrilled to go to Kodiak to visit. Cmdr. Dolly and I travelled together. We were met at the airport by the Post Cmdr., by James and Natalie (two young Post family members and Auntie.) They grabbed the suitcases and headed for the car. Traffic was stopped on the bridge – a mama bear and 2 yearling cubs were below at the river. The dinner and evening was great with conversation and member interaction. Thank you to President Claudine Aloki and Unit 17 for your hospitality.

October brought us the Fall Workshop hosted by Unit 15 and President Carrie Doore. Way to go ladies-Job well done. We had a good turn out and handled volumes of information, sending it back to the Units. It was more miles as Kirk and I drove to Homer for a Saturday luncheon and an evening dinner with the Post. I was so delighted to see several Juniors at both events. It was great to hear how they are involved. President Carol Bishop and Unit 16 members can be proud of the job they are doing on behalf of our veterans and auxiliary. Thank you to all of Post 16.

On Sunday we drove up the coast to Ninilchik for a beautiful luncheon and awards ceremony. Past President Betty Randall and Unit President Chris Calabreese and Unit 18 really went all out to make the ceremony special. I was honored to be asked to be a part of it. I had the chance too, to talk about our Department, the Strategic Plan, the coming year, membership and lots more. Thank you friends for a wonderful afternoon.

It was an adventure to fly to Wrangell to visit with Unit 6 and President Marilyn Mork. Thank you to Zona Gregg for meeting me at the airport and for she and her husband's hospitality in their home. What a busy Unit. They run a thrift shop from their clubhouse. The first evening there unit members and I met for pizza and lots of talk of "what's up? What are your plans Sue? And here's what we're doing." The next day wasincluded a visit to Past Dept. President Wilma Stokes and some sightseeing. Zona is a great tour guide. A dinner for all Post family members came in the evening. I was asked to do the Initiation Ceremony. Some 6 or 7 memberrs were initiated including a Junior. Thank you Unit 6.

A bonus with the Wrangell flight was a conversation with a Legion member from Dillingham. He was excited for the activities of the Post and Auxiliary. They are fired up.

President Sue Stepsics and Unit 1 invited me to a Tea and Initiation ceremony. It was a beautiful day. A great group of their members were there. The ceremony was postponed, some who would be initiated could not be there, we used the time to talk "Auxiliary" and to make favors for the coming Early Bird Dinner. It was such fun. Thank you Unit 1!

It is with saddness that I tell you the visits to Unit 5 and 20 were scheduled but had to be rescheduled. That never happened. The request came through the Legion Department on behalf of the Cmdr. (she had recently lost her husband). As time flies, and the time of year just gets busier and busier, those visitations fell by the wayside. My very sincerest apologies to both Units. I would still love to come to see you. I'm told I can make a visitation until August when the Auxiliary year is over with National.

November saw Early Bird dinners, The Election, and Thanksgiving. I was pleased to attend a Unit 33 meeting with President Deb Lowndes and her ambitious members. Listening to their meeting it is clear that they work well as a team and their meeting wasn't a long one. How lucky they are too to have the wealth of leadership resource they have with 3 Past Dept. Presidents, and several Department officers/chairmen. Hats off to Unit 33.

The Anchorage Pioneer Home Bazaar and Post 4 booth was great. So many of the community attended. I was very pleased knowing that at least 3 of our units had contributed items. However, the Post had a food concession so the donated items were saved to use with the regular bingo games. When we learned of the bazaar, they did not mention a food concession rather a booth. But I think it worked out for all involved.

Bass Pro Shops sponsored an event for Veterans Day inviting organizations to display information, and memoribelia. Kirk and I set up a table with a great array of information about the American Legion Family. This retailer is supportive of our military and families. They were a pleasure to work with. We look forward to working with them again.

November also saw our Department partner with the VA and the Women Veterans Celebration. It was held on Women Veterans Day, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. We were one of several groups to work together. Our Department officially co-sponsored the refreshments. What wonderful speakers and conversations with our well seasoned woman veterans and the current women who have or are serving.. I strongly recommend that we continue this partnership.

December! Holy cow! I don't know about you but this is the busiest month for me with Legion family activities, church and family. Chairman Peggy Bateman did another phenominal job with the Domicilary Christmas Shop. And what a team of volunteers. I was so proud of our Auxiliary, Post, SAL, Riders, and Juniors. Our veteran recipients do take notice and are so appreciative.....They told me as I talked with many of them.

The next week I flew to Fairbanks to join Unit 57 and President Cassie St, Rose and Unit 11 and President Michele Giddings for the Fairbanks Christmas Gift Shop during the day and a beautiful dinner at the Italian restaurant that evening. The flowers and candy in my room added a very special touch. At the dinner I was honored to do the Initiation Ceremony with several members from both units being officially initiated.

Our Annual JBER Christmas Visit was expanded two years ago. We visited JBER Hospital, the Veteran and Pioneer Home in Palmer, Anchorage Pioneer Home and the Domicilary. It was an adventure. In Palmer, when we arrived, President Carrie Doore, Unit q5 met us to say we were told we could not visit. Flu epidemic. We rescheduled for a week later. That happened. In Anchorage, Vera Hart, the unit person to meet us wasn't there. I called-she was sick, someone was to have called me-didn't, so our sick gal contacted Dolores of Unit 29 who came quickly with the gifts. It was a great visit even if we got started late. I love teamwork! Thank you gals.

The new year promised to keep pace with the already busy schedule. Kirk and I and Cmdr. Dolly attended the WWII Veterans dinner at Post 35. Unit 35, President Jane Larson and the Post and SAL hosted an electric evening with a plated dinner served by a school sports team. The ROTC posted the flags. The program included a school chorus and the conversation at the tables were filled with WWII veterans and their families sharing. It was a tribute of honor and we were proud to be a part of it all. Thank you Post 35 American Legion Family for the wonderful example of service not self.

As we headed closer to this convention the phone rang, e-mails came, and the snow was flying. I was privileged to be asked to install Unit 35's new board and President Jane Larson. The evening was shared with the Installation of the Legion, Riders and Sons new boards. My best wishes to the new leadership in the coming year.

My own Unit 28 and President Char Snyder asked me to install our new leaders. Welcome new President Jennifer Reed and her team. I'm looking forward to a great new year. We too shared the evening with out Legion and Sons. And celebrated after with great food. Thank you Post 28 Family for all your support over the years.

It is with great admiration and a whole lot of angel hugs to President Jackie Martin and Unit 12 here in Haines. They made time to meet with me on Tuesday of this week for a visitation. They truly know the value of using the resource of the Dept. President's availability. I enjoyed visiting with you and I can see your commitment and energy to the goals of the auxiliary in partnership with Post 12 and your community. Thank you ladies for making our time together one of learning and graciousness.

I would be remiss in not saying Thank You to our members who serve on the higher levels above Department. Thank you to Lisa Williamson, Nat'l. Emergency Fund Chm., to Marge Blankenship Division 5 Emergency Fund Chm., to Bev Eads, our Nat'l. Exec Committeewoman and to Sue Diaz Alternate NEC. Thank you ladies.

That brings me to today. I can't tell you how nervous I was coming to convention. But with the support of husband Kirk, daughter Sarah, my bff Carolyn Null who was there with reminders, "how can I help?" and constant encouragement and our wonderful Dept. Secretary Linda Schmitt who, even though so very ill most of the year, always kept me on track and was willing to listen with the patience of a saint, I 'm here. Though there were tears, and some really nasty moments from a few, I have to say I am proud to be an American Legion Auxiliary member of the Department of Alaska. Thank you friends for your support and vote of confidence. I wish our new Dept. leadership team the very best and ask that you individually and you as the unit stand tall and spread the message of Who we are! What we do! and Why we matter! With that I sign off officially with "Hugs, Sue"

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Waldhaus, President 2016-2017



# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska

# RESOLUTION 2017-

WHEREAS, Linda Schmitt, Department of Alaska Secretary, is retiring at the conclusion of the National Convention to be held in August, 2017 in Reno after six years of outstanding and meritorious service to our Department and the entire American Legion Family in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Linda quickly stepped in as the pro-tem Department Secretary during the convention in which she was elected to this position when the current secretary became ill in Kodiak, and

WHEREAS, through diligent effort and dedication, she has performed her duties throughout her years of service in a conscientious and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, she has consistently responded with ingenuity, imagination and foresight to the duties and responsibilities given her, fulfilling them with outstanding accuracy and competency; and

WHEREAS, Linda has set an example of dedication to principle which has been an inspiration to her fellow American Legion Auxiliary members; and

WHEREAS, she, in all her endeavors, has reflected great credit upon the Department of Alaska; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska duly assembled at our Department Convention during April 27-29, 2017 in Haines, Alaska, that that we do hereby extend to Linda Schmitt our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to her and her family for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** that in recognition of her outstanding leadership skills and proven professionalism, instead of flowers, gifts or other worldly goods to be given to Linda in gratitude, effective immediately Linda Schmitt be bestowed with the title "Past Department of Alaska President" to include all rights, responsibilities and duties to include having a vote and shall be a member for life on the Department Executive Committee, as long as she remains in good standing in her Unit; and be it

**FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this Resolution be read to the entire American Legion Family body during the Installation Banquet to be held in Haines on April 29, 2017 so that all can publicly recognize and thank her for her devotion and dedication.

For God and Country,

### Sharon Cherrette

Sharon Cherrette 2015-16 Past Department President

Penny Mazonna

2014-15 Past Department President

# Marge Blankenship

Marge Blankenship 2013-14 Past Department President

# Beverly Eads

Beverly Eads 2012-13 Past Department President

# Susan Díaz

Susan Diaz

2011-12 Past Department President

Lisa D. Williamson

2008-09 Past Department President

Rehta Foster

/2003-04 Past Department President

Carolyn Null

2000-01 Past Department President

Judith L. Pusti

Judith L. Pusti

1998-99 Past Department President

Susan Caswell

1995-96 Past Department President

Lavonne Collier

1993-94 Past Department President



# American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska

#### **RESOLUTION 2017-01**

WHEREAS, Linda Schmitt, Department of Alaska Secretary, is retiring at the conclusion of the National Convention to be held in August, 2017 in Reno after six years of outstanding and meritorious service to our Department and the entire American Legion Family in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Linda quickly stepped in as the pro-tem Department Secretary during the convention in which she was elected to this position when the current secretary became ill in Kodiak, and

WHEREAS, through diligent effort and dedication, she has performed her duties throughout her years of service in a conscientious and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, she has consistently responded with ingenuity, imagination and foresight to the duties and responsibilities given her, fulfilling them with outstanding accuracy and competency; and

WHEREAS, Linda has set an example of dedication to principle which has been an inspiration to her fellow American Legion Auxiliary members; and

WHEREAS, she, in all her endeavors, has reflected great credit upon the Department of Alaska; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska duly assembled at our Department Convention during April 27-29, 2017 in Haines, Alaska, that we do hereby extend to Linda Schmitt our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, and our best wishes to her and her family for continued success, happiness, and good health in the years to come; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in recognition of her outstanding leadership skills and proven professionalism, instead of flowers, gifts or other worldly goods to be given to Linda in gratitude, effective immediately Linda Schmitt be bestowed with the title "Past Department of Alaska President" to include all rights, responsibilities and duties to include having a vote and shall be a member for life on the Department Executive Committee, as long as she remains in good standing in her Unit; and be it

**FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be read to the entire American Legion Family body during the Installation Banquet to be held in Haines on April 29, 2017 so that all can publicly recognize and thank her for her devotion and dedication.

For God and Country,

**Sharon Cherrette** 

Sharon Cherrette 2015-16 Past Department President

Penny Mazonna

Penny Mazonna 2014-15 Past Department President

Marge Blankenship

Marge Blankenship 2013-14 Past Department President

**Beverly Eads** 

Beverly Eads 2012-13 Past Department President

Susan Diaz

Susan Diaz 2011-12 Past Department President

Lisa D. Williamson

Lisa D. Williamson 2008-09 Past Department President

Rehta Foster

Rehta Foster 2003-04 Past Department President Carolyn Null

Carolyn Null 2000-01 Past Department President

Judith L. Pusti

Judith L. Pusti 1998-99 Past Department President

Jean Clayton

Jean Clayton 1997-98 Past Department President

**Eva Aulston** 

Eva Aulston 1996-97 Past Department President

Susan Caswell

Susan Caswell 1995-96 Past Department President

Lavonne Collier

Lavonne Collier 1993-94 Past Department President

Lori FitzSimons

Lori FitzSimons 1991-92 Past Department President



#### American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Resolution 2017-3

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska has been represented during the 2016-17 administrative year by Susan Waldhaus with graciousness and a kind heart; and

Whereas, Susan's quiet enthusiasm helped promote and expand all the American Legion Auxiliary programs within our Department; and

Whereas, the Department Convention was forced to be held in a non-traditional way, encompassing the use of technology and Susan's flexibility allowed for a well-run meeting,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska duly assembled at our Department Convention during April 27-29, 2017 in Haines, Alaska, that by standing ovation the delegates sincerely thank Susan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be given to Susan Waldhaus and her home unit, Spenard Unit 28.

Lisa Williamson,

Resolution Committee Chair

Jackie Norvell Jennifer Roalson



#### American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Resolution 2017-2

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska's 98th Annual Convention was successfully held in Haines, Alaska; and

Whereas, Lynn Canal Post 12, Unit 12 and Squadron 12 were very gracious and accommodating hosts; and

Whereas, a great time was had by all, including fabulous food, hospitality and fellowship; and

Whereas, the Veterans in attendance were honored to be included in a Tlingit Ceremony dedicating a Community Wellness Center that caters specifically to Veterans;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska duly assembled at our Department Convention during April 27-29, 2017 in Haines, that a huge THANK YOU be extended to the American Legion Family in Haines, Alaska for a job well done; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all three entities: Lynn Canal Post, Unit and Squadron

Lisa Williamson,

Resolution Committee Chair

Jackie Norvell

Jennifer Roalson