



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Our Veterans, God and Country

Department of Alaska
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GIRLS STATE MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2015
Wasilla, Alaska

The meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Board was called to order by Department President Sharon Cherrette at 9:00am on Sunday morning, October 4, 2015 at Susitna Valley Post 35 located in Wasilla, Alaska. Susitna Valley Unit 35 Chaplain Jane Larson gave the opening prayer. Department President Sharon Cherrette led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble.

Roll Call was taken by Department Secretary Linda Schmitt as follows:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	NAME	P	A	E	TOTALS
GIRLS STATE DIRECTOR	VONN LAMM	X			
GIRLS STATE CO-DIRECTOR	ANN ROBINSON	X			
PRESIDENT	SHARON CHERRETTE	X			
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	SUE WALDHAUS	X			
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	BARBE WOLKOFF			X	
SEC./TREAS	LINDA SCHMITT	X			
FINANCE CHAIRMAN	DEBBIE LOWNDES	X			
AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN	ZONA GREGG	X			
1 - YEAR BOARD MEMBER	DEE THOMAS		X		
2 - YEAR BOARD MEMBER	BEVERLY EADS			X	
3 - YEAR BOARD MEMBER	DIANA ESTRADA			X	
TOTAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS					7
PAST GIRLS STATE DIRECTORS					
JUDY PUSTI				X	
SUSAN CASWELL		X			
DEBBIE HENDERSON			X		
DIANA ESTRADA				X	
LORI FITZSIMONS				X	
TOTAL PAST DIRECTORS					1

Department Secretary Linda Schmitt announced that there was a quorum.

Department President Sharon Cherrette turned the chair over to American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Director Yvonne Lamm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Session Dates

The 2016 Alaska Girls State Session is from June 5-11, 2016 at St. Theresa's Wilderness Camp. Get the paperwork into the schools by December 5, 2015 at the very latest. Girls are making their plans for the summer now.

Online Registration

We are going to try to go totally online with registration this year. Ann Robinson is helping Vonn get online registration up and running.

Storage Trailer

Secretary Linda addressed the issue of storage for Alaska Girls State. She suggested that we entertain the idea of spending up to \$1,500.00 for a 5x8 foot (or larger depending on the price) trailer to help with the storage issue for both Boys and Girls State. Currently we are paying for a 3x5 storage Unit at the cost of 105.00 per month. This would alleviate an expenditure of \$1,260 per year.

Interviews

Make sure to schedule your interviews and send the interview scoring sheet to Vonn by April 15th. Lavonne Collier asked why Vonn needed the interview scoring sheets. Vonn explained that she needs them because there is a question on the sheet that asks if the girl is willing to say a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. If they are not willing to say either, then they are not qualified to attend the program and Vonn needs this information to be able to make that determination. We are an organization formed in the spirit of service not self for our Veterans, God and Country. In order to attend Boys or Girls State, the interested individual must be able to prove that they are in the United States legally. Midnight of the first day of the program is the deadline for having all required paperwork into Vonn.

Vonn requested that Unit Presidents appoint an Alaska Girls State chairman to give her a Unit contact should she have any questions that she needs to have answered.

Samsung Scholarship

The application for the Samsung scholarship is 100% online. Send those girls that are interested in applying to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska website at www.alaskalegionauxiliary.org. Click on the Alaska Girls State tab and follow the links to the application. There will be nothing mailed this year from the American Legion.

Finance Report

Girls State Finance report – total donations received totaled \$12,668 thanks to Vonn's letter writing campaign asking for donations. Citizen travel alone was \$8,000 this year. There was \$4,000 left over after all travel and expenses were paid. Total Expenses this year (2015) were \$23,288. The budgeted amount for the program was \$28,350.00. The cost of the camp will go up this year so we will not have the surplus this year like we did last year. Please anyone can write donation letters, if you have any ideas of anyone that may be interested in donating to Girls or Boys State programs, write them a letter and let them know we are happy to accept all donations. We are a 501(c)19 Tax Exempt organization but for large donations we can run them through the American Legion Auxiliary National Foundation that is a 501(c)3 organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A donation of \$250.00 has been received from Jack Henry Post 1 for the purchase of collapsible shelving for the office location set up at Girls and Boys State. (The Boys State program has received this donation).

Please send your Mid-Year Unit Girls State report to Vonn by December 15 and your Final Year-End report by April 15.

Lastly, Vonn needs staff that will commit to be available for the entire week of June 5-11, 2016. If anyone is at all interested in helping out at Alaska Girls State please get your contact information to Vonn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Schmitt
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Alaska
Secretary/Treasurer