

Minutes of the
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA
DEC MEETING
(August 20, 2017 – Convention Hospitality Suite, Reno)

The meeting was called to order by President Barbe Wolkoff at 9:55 a.m.

Present:

Officers

President Barbe Wolkoff
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sgt. at Arms Zona Gregg
Historian Colleen Newman
Executive Committeewoman Lori Fruwirth

Committee Chairmen

Americanism Barbara Nath
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Cavalcade of Memories Colleen Newman
Children and Youth Barbara Hummel
Distinguished Guests Lisa Williamson
Finance Diana Estrada
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Leadership Sue Caswell
Legislative Sue Waldhaus
National Security Lisa Williamson
Past President Parley Sue Waldhaus
Poppy Lori Fruhwirth
Public Relations Sue Waldhaus

Units

Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Dorman H Baker Unit 11
Robert G Blair Unit 17
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spnard Unit 28
Muldoon Unit 29
Peters Creek Unit 33
Susitna Valley Unit 35
C Russell Huber Unit 57

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Present (continued)

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell
Rehta Foster
Lisa Williamson
Beverly Eads
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus

Absent

Officers

1st Vice-President Debbie Lowndes
2nd Vice-President Jane Larson
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Executive Committeewoman Corrie Doores

Committee Chairmen

Audit Jennifer Roalsen
Community Service Penny Mazonna
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Education and Scholarship Darlene Sheldon
Junior Activities Wendy Mendez
Membership Jane Larson
VA&R Debbie Lowndes

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Joseph P. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
General Buckner Unit 16
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Con Miller Unit 30
Chappie James Unit 34
Peter Heyano Unit 442

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Absent (continued)

Past Department Presidents

Sue Cherrier
Evelyn Oliver
June Haas
Lori FitzSimons
Betty Porter
Lavonne Collier
Eva Aulston

Jean Clayton
Judy Pusti
Etta Singleton
Carolyn Null
Wilma Stokes
Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson

Betty Randall
Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Linda Schmitt

OPENING CEREMONIES

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) that the opening ceremonies be waived

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote

READING OF THE MINUTES

The reading of the minutes was waived.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was waived

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to come before this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Zona Gregg (Unit 6) and seconded by Sue Caswell (Unit 33) that the Girls State Director Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33), Co-Director Ann Robinson (Unit 57) as well as 2-year Board Appointee Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and 3-Year Board appointee Beverly Eads (Unit 17) be ratified.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Diana Estrada (Unit 35) that Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) as the 3-year Finance Committee appointee and Susan Waldhaus (Unit 28) as the Legislative Chairman be ratified.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

It was noted that reports were received from the various Department Chairmen, many of which had good things to report. However, there were numerous times when units were not given credit thus not allowing for any awards. It was suggested that when something occurs, a narrative (with a picture) be done and submitted to the Chair immediately so as to assure inclusion.

It was also reported that the Legionnaire magazine would like to have pictures with articles submitted to them.

Committee reports were as follows:

- Americanism (Sue Caswell) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Education (Sue Caswell) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Community Service (Sue Caswell) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Junior Activities (Yvonne Lamm) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Girls Nation (Yvonne Lamm) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Children and Youth (Zona Gregg) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation (Zona Gregg) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Public Relations (Marilyn Mork) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Marilyn Mork) – There were no reports, or resolutions from this committee. Alaska received the Western Division Award for the highest per capita, thanks to the playing card fundraiser.

At this time, it was announced that there would be a van to take people to the parade. It will be in front of the hotel between 2:15 and 2:30 p.m. Staging will be at the parking lot by the courthouse.

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- Leadership (Marilyn Mork) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee.
- Membership (April Sinclair) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. There was no entry for the Best Member Experience Award from the entire Western Division. Be aware of this for next year. There were five interest forms, but only one was acted upon. The Chair was asked to forward those.
- National Security (Beverly Eads) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. They had 100% reporting.
- Legislative (Beverly Eads) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. They had 100% reporting. They are working on getting the 100 year coin approved. It has passed through the Senate but not the House. Members were encouraged to make calls to legislators. Don Young is a co-sponsor. Sharon Cherrette was recognized for submitting one of the best reports ever received.
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (Barbe Wolkoff) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. There was a story of Purple Heart being reunited with the family. The grandson received it for their family. There is a bill which would make it illegal to buy, sale, or trade a purple heart. This is HR544. A history of the Purple Heart was shared noting that it started as a sash and there must be the shedding of blood to be awarded a purple heart.
- Chaplain (Colleen Newman) – There were no reports, no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. Colleen was not able to attend due to a scheduling change which created a conflict.
- Historian/National History Committee (Colleen Newman) – These were combined. There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. They had 100% reporting. Packets of information were distributed. It was shared that in 1918, an American Legion Auxiliary member wrote a song with music provided by another person. The song was “The Call of the Flag”. It was published by the National Department (after there was an American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary). Colleen has a sheet music. It was mentioned as a possibility to be sung at the Fall Workshop.
- Poppy (Lori Fruwirth) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. They had 100% reporting. They talked about how challenging it is to get poppies. Crystal Dalton is the contact for poppies. Some people are now incorporating the poppies with the Girls State program and having the girls make poppies (Alaska’s Girls State does this). Another state has a “book” garden.” They submitted the “Poppy Lady” book to be planted in the garden. Another member reported making poppies while she is on the train commuting. She makes over 100,000 each year. Members were asked to share stories which could be published. A commemorative poppy stem is being discussed.

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Rehta Foster (Unit 28) thanked Department chairmen for turning in their reports. 100% reporting means Alaska did something right. Kudos

- Finance (Diana Estrada) – There were no awards for Alaska from this committee. There was a resolution which is a continuation of plans and goals. It has been recommended for approval
- Foundation (Diana Estrada) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. The Foundation has approximately \$20,000 earned from the savings account. Application can be submitted on-line for a grant. Sharon Cherrette noted there is an award for the Creative Arts Festival. When donations are received, you must specify if you wish it to go to a specific program. If not, it will go into the general fund. There is a VAVS wish list on Alaska's web site.
- Credentials (Linda Schmitt) – Barb Nath reported for Linda. There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. There are 744 delegates to this convention. For a vote requiring one-half the total votes needed to pass would be 388. For a vote requiring two-thirds, the total votes needed to pass would be 516 votes. Alaska has a total of 8 delegates with voting rights.
- Past Presidents Parley (Sue Waldhaus) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. This is a lot more than a luncheon at Department convention. Some of it we do (recognizing women veterans, recognizing deceased past presidents, etc.). Past Presidents are supposed to be mentor and teach, give, inform and educate (TGIF). This includes presidents on all levels (unit, department, national)
- Rules (Barb Nath) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. The Standing Rules for this convention are on pages 124-126 of the Annual Report booklet. These were brought up for adoption at the Convention. Please be sure you read them prior to the beginning of the convention. .
- Resolutions (Barb Nath) – There were no awards for Alaska, nor any resolutions from this committee. A resolution regarding financing for year four of the Strategic Plan was brought up. This resolution was sent to the Finance Committee for recommendations. No recommendation was required from the Resolution Committee.
- Constitution and By-Laws (Lavonne Collier) – Barb gave the report since Lavonne was not able to attend this Convention. There were no awards for Alaska from this committee. National officers for the next year were presented and given time to speak to those present. Officers included National President (Diane Buseck), National Vice-President (Kathy Dungan), Historian (Susan Campbell) and Chaplain (Evelyn Espinola from Colorado and Cheryl Park from Oregon) Voting for these national offices will occur during the Convention on Wednesday. There followed a discussion centered on an amendment regarding a dues increase. There were two areas in the amendment. The first is an increase of \$3 for Seniors and \$1.25 for Juniors to be effective in 2019. The second was authorizing the NEC to make incremental increases of up to 4% without requiring any further approval by the Convention. If approved, an incremental increase would become effective two years after being approved. The Constitution and ByLaws Committee forwarded a recommendation of approval to the Convention. Lisa Williamson stated that this resolution will probably be separated into the two areas for the purpose of voting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fall Workshop and DEC meeting will be September 30 to October 1 at Spenard Unit 28. Committee chairman should be prepared to give their Plan of Action at the Fall Workshop. The National Plan of Action should be available within the next couple of weeks. A DEC meeting will be held on October 1st. In addition, the Junior Auxiliary members will be holding their meeting and elections on September 30th with a presentation and ratification of officers at the DEC meeting on October 1st. Please make sure all units are aware of the Junior activities and asked to bring their Juniors to this meeting. Registration is due by September 23rd. There is major construction on the Seward Highway. Members were asked to use the well-marked detour to get to the meeting. There is plenty of parking. The meeting is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wendy will be present to run the meeting for the Juniors and Jessica will be running for office. It was noted that the registration costs covers only lunch on Saturday. There will be an email sent out with more information regarding the Fall Workshop.

Transition Plan – While the new Secretary and new Treasurer will be effective September 1st, the transition period will continue for a few weeks. It is anticipated that this transition will be completed by September 15th.

Auxiliary Department of Alaska Pins are available at \$1.50 per pin or 11 for \$15.00.

Yvonne is working on a location for 2019 for Girls/Boys State program. This may result in the need for an increase of tuition (currently \$300) based on the cost of new location.

Silent Auction items need to be turned in to the Hospitality Room. This is a Department raffle. The Post will get bags and set up for the item and raffle to occur. Money goes to the cost of the Hospitality Room and supplies. Beverly asked that if you are in the room, try to help with selling tickets. We also need additional money for the van and taxis for the parade. Remember this is everyone's auction.

The event with President Trump will start early on Wednesday. The roads will probably be closed down at 9:00 a.m. People were asked to bring only what is necessary for Wednesday. There will be only one line to get into the room, and extra items will slow down that process. President Trump will speak at 11:00 a.m. You must have your credentials to get into the Convention Center. Doors to the Center open at 6:15 a.m. and the meeting room doors open at 7:00 a.m. Busses from various venues to the Convention Center will leave at 6:00 a.m.

Alaska has a coin they are selling for the 100 Year Centennial to raise funds. At this convention, it costs \$20. They will have more at Fall Workshop. The money raised stays within the Department.

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Sue added that the Post 28 has an Oktoberfest scheduled during the Fall Workshop. Everyone is welcome to join. There will be authentic German food. Information, including cost, will be included in the email sent out about Fall Workshop.

Colleen has tickets for the Department President's (Barbe) fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 each. There will be a cash drawing of \$500, \$300 or \$100. Only 200 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held September 4th with the money going to the Department of Alaska. This will be one of four raffles held this year.

The agenda for this convention has changed. Please get an updated agenda. The Department Secretary will get the voting equipment and distribute it to those with voting rights. If a delegate leaves the room, there needs to be an alternate sitting in that seat.

Any awards received will be mailed to the Department Headquarters to be distributed at the Fall Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was no further business to come before the DEC.

MOTION: by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) and seconded by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) to adjourn the meeting.

By unanimous voice vote the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.