

**MINUTES OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEC MEETING
October 2, 2017 – Post 28, Anchorage**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Barbe Wolkoff at 9:10 a.m.

Present:

Officers

President Barbe Wolkoff
1st Vice-President Debbie Lowndes
2nd Vice-President Jane Larson
Secretary Barbara Nath
Treasurer Diana Estrada
Sgt. at Arms Zona Gregg
Chaplain Marge Blankenship
Historian Colleen Newman
Executive Committeewoman Carrie Doores

Committee Chairmen

Americanism Barbara Nath
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Zona Gregg
Cavalcade of Memories Colleen Newman
Children and Youth Barbara Hummel
Community Service Penny Mazonna
Constitution and ByLaws Sue Diaz
Distinguished Guests Lisa Williamson
Finance Diana Estrada
Girls State Yvonne Lamm
Leadership Sue Caswell
Legislative Sue Waldhaus
Membership Jane Larson
National Security Lisa Williamson
Past President Parley Sue Waldhaus
Public Relations Sue Waldhaus
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Debbie Lowndes

Units

Jack Henry Unit 1
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6
Matanuska Valley Unit 15
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20
Spennard 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

Lavonne Collier
Susan Caswell
Carolyn Null
Betty Randall
Lisa Williamson
Sue Diaz
Margaret Blankenship
Penny Mazonna
Sharon Cherrette
Sue Waldhaus

Absent

Officers

Executive Committeewoman Lori Fruwirth

Committee Chairmen

Audit Jennifer Roalsen
Education and Scholarship Darlene Sheldon
Junior Activities Wendy Mendez
Poppy Lori Fruwirth

Units

Joseph P. Craig Unit 3
Seward Unit 5
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11
Lynn Canal Unit 12
Sitka Unit 13
General Buckner Unit 16
Robert G. Blair Unit 17
Ninilchik Unit 18
Nome Unit 19
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27
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

Eva Aulson

Jean Clayton

Judy Pusti

Etta Singleton

Wilma Stokes

Rehta Foster

Jean Shandy

Jill Pawson

Francisca Guilford

Lynn Bash

Beverly Eads

Excused

Past Department Presidents

Linda Schmitt

OPENING CEREMONIES

The Opening Prayer was given by Chaplain Marge Blankenship.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Barbe Wolkoff.

The Preamble was led by President Barbe Wolkoff.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unit Constitution and ByLaws – Members were reminded that the Unit Constitution and ByLaws need to follow the established guidelines. Once they are correct, a copy needs to be sent to both the Constitution and ByLaws Chairman (Sue Diaz) and the Department of Alaska Secretary (Barb Nath).

JBER Christmas Stockings – Sue Waldhaus pointed out that there has been a move from the Christmas stockings to Christmas bags. This has been done by Unit 28 for the last couple of years. Sue Waldhaus has coordinated and she is happy to do so again. However, she would like to have more participation. There are a lot of logistics in making this successful. It includes the JBER Hospital (progressive care and maternity wards), the Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home, the Anchorage Pioneer Home, the Domiciliary and they will also work with veterans at other homes. They are averaging 160-200 veterans. The budget for last year was \$500 and due to a donation of Christmas gift bags did not use the entire budgets. Each veteran received a bottle of lotion and a card in the Christmas bag with tissue paper. Food items cannot be provided, although a candy cane could be given. Lavonne Collier suggested putting more than just one item in the bag. The bags are funded through Department. Last year a motion to raise the funds to \$750 was presented, however Finance did not give approval and it remained at \$500.

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Sue Diaz stated that her unit donates \$250 each to the Anchorage Gift Shop and to the Fairbanks Gift Shop. That money is dedicated to those funds. It was pointed out that the Gift Shop is different from the Christmas stockings/bags. Sue Waldhaus preferred to see the program called something other than the JBER Christmas Stocking. It was pointed out last year that the decision was not made to include only one item in the bag. It was noted that these monies are deposited in the "rehab" account and they are dedicated funds to Veteran projects.

MOTION: by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to increase the budget for the Christmas stockings from \$500 to \$750.

Debbie Lowndes indicated that there are not the funds necessary to raise the budget to \$750. This project has its own budget line item in the Department's budget.

Betty Randall (Unit 18 – PDP) asked for clarification regarding the money for the Christmas stockings (\$500). Her unit donates \$500 to the Department Christmas Gift and to the Fairbanks Gift Shop. The Gift Shops and the Christmas Stockings are two different projects.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) suggested that this topic be tabled until after the gift shop discussion. That discussion will be brought up later in this meeting.

The motion was rescinded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) and Colleen Newman (Unit 35).

PRESIDENT'S FUNDRAISER

President Barbe Wolkoff reported that she has had one raffle which was very successful. She noted that Unit 17 was awesome at selling tickets. They raised about \$1,000. Prizes included a \$500 prize, a \$300 prize and two \$100 prizes. The money raised from the President's Fundraisers will be to the General Fund.

A second raffle is underway. It is a card raffle and will be split the pot.

There was no other Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Gift Shop – It was reported that there is typically \$3,000 for each gift shop. April Sinclair (Unit 57) shared information about the Fairbanks Gift Shop. It has been challenging. Over the years, Fairbanks has tried many different ways for getting items to veterans. There are not that many veterans in Fairbanks that want the help. Last year, there were 6 veterans and 16 Auxiliary members. With permission, Fairbanks would like to give up their Gift Shop. That will free up funds. They would like to do something similar to the JBER Christmas stockings project.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to dissolve the Fairbanks Gift Shop.

Sue Diaz asked if the Fairbanks Gift Shop was in the Constitution and ByLaws. It is not in the Constitution and ByLaws, but it should be in the Standing Rules. Lavonne Collier (past C&B Chairman) did not have a copy with her. After reviewing the necessary documents, it was noted that it will be included in the Standing Rules and a resolution will be written for the Department Convention in 2018.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) to create a Fairbanks/Ft. Wainwright Christmas Gift Project to mirror the Anchorage Christmas Gift Project with funding coming through the Department.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to authorize \$750 each for Fairbanks/Ft. Wainwright Christmas Gift Project and the Anchorage Christmas Gift Project, deferring to Finance for budget approval.

Finance indicated that the funds were available as a result of the Fairbanks Gift shop being discontinued.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Sue Diaz asked about the money donated from her unit for each gift shop. Debbie Lowndes indicated that it goes into the general account, however, that was corrected to show they go into the “Rehab” account. If the check specifies where it is to go, then it will be submitted to the fund. Sue Diaz will be sure to specify that it is for the Christmas Gift Project.

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Marge asked for volunteers. Last year Sue Waldhaus had a limited number of people to help with this project. Ann Robinson asked about having a committee instead of just one unit. Sue Waldhaus reported that one unit facilitates and the request goes out to all units in the area requesting someone to volunteer to assemble and deliver. Sue Diaz stated that the email should go out to all units. There are some (like Unit 20) who have members in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas who would be happy to assist. If invited they would come.

Ann Robinson (Unit 33) stated she had 4 teenage girls when this happened last year. She could have had others there to help. She lives in Anchorage and is now part of Unit 33. If more units were part of the notification, more people might be involved.

Sue Waldhaus reported that it takes more than one day to get everything assembled. Delivery is during the week due to staffing. You cannot get on base without an escort. Also, there are new regulations regarding the form of ID necessary to get on base. You need an escort with military ID, and each person will need ID. It will also depend on the security level at the time, which changes pretty regularly.

Sue Diaz (Unit 20) congratulated Unit 28 and Unit 57 for doing a great job. She suggested that an article be published in the Legionnaire magazine with dates, times, what we are doing, and what we need along with providing a contact person. That way everyone will have the knowledge to make a decision as to whether or not they can be helpful.

Carolyn Null had been doing stockings for many years. They wanted us there. The last couple of years she was involved, it appeared they did not really want us. It was not possible to get a date close to Christmas.

MOTION: By Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to appoint Unit 28 to facilitate the Anchorage Christmas Gift Project.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

HONORING OUR FEMALE VETERANS

President Barbe Wolkoff reminded members that the Department of Alaska as well as National has waived their portion of the costs for the first year for a new female Veteran who joins the Auxiliary. The Alaska Department dues is \$11 and the National dues is \$9.

It was clarified that it is for all female Veterans, not necessarily active duty.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) pointed out that units could also forgive their portion of the dues and the first year would be free. Each unit has to approve that decision.

WESTERN DIVISIONAL NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT VISIT

The Alaska Department would request that the National Vice-President come to visit. Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) informed members that National will pay for the air fare and the Department would pay for housing.

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to extend an invitation to the Western Division National Vice-President to attend the opening of the Domiciliary to enhance visibility to veterans and their needs.

The motion carried by voice vote (one nay vote)

The following comments/questions were raised about this visitation:

- Should there be an official event to entertain her that evening?
- Would a unit act as a host? The suggestion was to combine with the event honoring Korean veterans (Unit 35).
- The request for the Western Division Vice-President (WDVP) to visit comes from the Department. If there is something that a unit/post has going on in the evening, and they would like the WDVP to attend, the request should be made to the Department Secretary.
- If the WDVP is able to come, President Barbe Wolkoff should be in attendance. If President Barbe Wolkoff has a visit scheduled that day, the Western Division National Vice-President would go with her on the visitation.
- Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) reminded that as the NEC, she is the Distinguished Guest Committee Chairman. Either she or the Alternate NEC or the President will host whatever dignitaries come to Alaska to visit.
- The Western Division National Vice President will only be able to spend one night. She can come in on Saturday and will have to fly out on Sunday.
- Will there be any issues with a National visitor on a day that is a prime night for the Department Commander, Auxiliary President, Detachment Commander, etc.? Would there be a different time she could visit?
- The Alaska team will not be waylaid by her. It is similar to when the National Commander comes to Alaska.
- The National Vice-President can only come when there is a major function. There are only three options – Fall Workshop, Domiciliary or Convention. The National President is coming for the Convention. The only other option is for the Domiciliary. It is important to have her attend and we must publicize that she is here. Plans should be made to have the newspapers and news stations interview her.
- The requirement for only staying one night was changed when trips for Division Vice-Presidents were discontinued completely. When it was reinstated, very strict guidelines were put in place. You can request an additional day, but it will probably not be grant.
- Please be sure to get information to Sue Waldhaus as the PR Chairman so she can publicize.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT PARADE OF CHECK

A National Headquarters is being purchased in Indianapolis so that we don't have to rent. At the post-NEC meeting, they voted to do away with the DC Conference. It is not happening this year, but may occur again in the future. There is still going to be a Parade of Checks at the NEC meeting. While the DC conference is not happening this year, the Legion will still "Storm the Hill".

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Vonn Lamm (Unit 33) that the Department of give \$1,000 to the American Legion Foundation as part of the Parade of Checks.

Debbie Lowndes indicated that since the Fairbanks Gift Shop has closed, we can do this. However, Lisa noted it is already in the budget.

The motion was rescinded.

POPPY ORDERS

Poppy orders must be received by November 11th. They should be sent to Barb Nath as Department Secretary. She will send out the order forms and include a list of what was ordered last year.

Poppy orders last year were supposed to come from Oregon, but they could not supply them. We did our order through Wisconsin. There were a few issues, but the majority of units were happy with their orders.

Marge will need poppies for Girls State and will take donations. She stated it didn't need to be this year's poppies. Please let her know if anyone has any she can have.

Debbie Lowndes has two boxes of kits. If someone wants to get those kits and make their poppies they should let her know. It takes a great deal of time to make the poppies, so be prepared.

Last year, we ordered from the Department of Minnesota. The cost was \$165 per thousand and they are prepared by Veterans.

RECESS

The DEC meeting went into recess at 10:24 a.m. and returned from recess at 10:34 a.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) spoke to scholarships. We have two scholarship: Merrilyn Stock Memorial Scholarship and the Evelyn Oliver. Both were in existence when Alaska had the Western District. Applications for the scholarships will be sent out with the Call to Convention in January.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to combine the Merrilyn Stock Scholarship and the Evelyn Oliver Scholarship into one scholarship called the Merrilyn Stock/Evelyn Oliver Scholarship.

Right now there are two Merrilyn Stock Scholarships awarded and two Evelyn Oliver Scholarships awarded). Depending on the funds available, it is possible to have more than one scholarship award. Finance will make the determination as to how many awards will be given.

If approved, this would take effect after this meeting.

A voice vote was held to determine if the motion was approved. Because you could not tell if it passed or not, a call was made for a division of the house.

The motion passed.

It is important to find out where the information of scholarships is contained (either C&B or the Standing Rules)

Sue Waldhaus shared one more thing. At the National Convention awards were given. Jane Larson was not present at the meeting. Sue Waldhaus presented Jane Larson an award in recognition of her service as Department Chaplain.

MISSION TRAINING

Mission Training will be held on February 3rd in Las Vegas – President Barbe Wolkoff read the flyer about mission training. She stated that you are not required to attend a mission training. If you do, the costs will be your own. You also don't have to attend the one in our Division (Las Vegas). The Department pays \$1,500 for our Honorary Junior President and her Chaperone to attend. It will cover the cost of airfare and hotel. Possible training includes:

Springfield, Illinois – October 14
Hartford, Connecticut – October 21
Minneapolis Minnesota – October 21

Shreveport, Louisiana – October 28
Charlotte, North Carolina – January 20
Las Vegas, Nevada – February 3

JUNIOR AUXILIARY

Penny stated that the Juniors had a couple of homework assignments. They made their own flag. Each Junior member told at least one thing they learned about the flag this week.

- Madeline shared that she learned about the retirement of the flag and that the 13 stripes were for the 13 states.
- Shelby learned that before September 11, 2001 there were 115,000 flags flown. The next year, there were over 7 million being flown.
- Becca learned what the colors stood for on the flag.
- Lilliana learned that the flag can be used in many different ways.
- Melanie learned that the flag should not be flown at night unless it has a light on it.

There are three other officers who were not present.

The slate of Honorary Junior Officers is as follows:

President – Madeline Edelen (Unit 20)
1st Vice-President – Shelby Lamm (Unit 33)
2nd Vice-President – Elysia Jackson (Unit 29)
Secretary – Cecelia Rios (Unit 29)
Chaplain – Rebecca Trickel (Unit 20)
Historian – Renee Doyle (Unit 35)
Sgt. At Arms – Lilianna Christenson (Unit 20)
Sgt. At Arms – Melanie Rodeheaver (Unit 35)

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) that the Honorary Junior Officers be accepted.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) to accept the installing team as follows:

Installing Officer – Barbe Wolkoff
Chaplain – Sue Diaz
Sgt. At Arms – Robia Bishop

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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Sue Diaz asked if a decision was made at the Department Convention to have the Juniors hold their meeting at the Fall Workshop with installation to occur at that time. It was only decided for this year as we did not have enough Juniors members present at Convention to conduct an election.

If it is being contemplated to move the Junior meetings to the Fall Workshop, a resolution will need to be put out before the Department Convention. It should be circulated by the Department Secretary at least 30 days before the Convention.

The idea was to see how it worked to have it at the Fall Workshop. The Juniors cannot always take time in April to attend Department Convention for three days (and more for travel). Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) noted that it mirrors what is being done on the national level. On a National level, moving the meeting to a one day meeting has resulted in more than three times as many in attendance and it did not interfere with school. At this Workshop, we had eight Juniors in attendance and at the Department Convention we had two.

A vote will probably come up at Department Convention to change the meeting times for Juniors. We will have to get a resolution ready ahead of time.

The Silent Auction will still be held at the Department Convention. We anticipate attendance by some Juniors. The Honorary Junior President should be in attendance to help with the auction. Funds from the Silent Auction will go to Junior Activities.

MOTION: by Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) and seconded by Ann Robinson (Unit 33) that a contribution be made in the amount of \$200 for the Women Veterans Celebration.

This was done last year. We work through the VA, the VAVS, and the Women Event Coordinator for Women Veterans. It is held in conjunction with Women Veterans Day (November 9th). Last year there were about 150-160 in attendance, most of which were active duty members. The money donated helps with refreshments

Sharon Cherette (Unit) noted that the speaker this year is from Post 5.

Debbie Lowndes reported that the funds come out of gaming.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

INSTALLATION OF HONORARY JUNIOR OFFICERS

The Sgt. At Arms presented the new Honorary Junior Officers.

The Installing Officer (President Barbe Wolkoff) led the ceremony with a prayer by the Installing Chaplain (Sue Diaz).

Auxiliary members were asked to commit to supporting these new officers and mentoring them as they fulfill their obligations in their new roles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Split the Pot from the card raffle was closed. Zona Gregg from Unit 6 was the winner with the other half going to the President's Fundraiser.

The Silver Tea will be held on November 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Jack Henry Post 1. The theme is "Decorating for Christmas". There will be a live auction and a silent auction. Invitations will be mailed.

The Domiciliary Gift Shop is on December 2nd. It is located at C Street and Benson. Set up will start around 9:00 a.m. and will open at 10:00 a.m. Peggy Bateman is in charge this year, but is trying to find someone to take it over next year. She needs helpers in the Greater Anchorage area. Volunteers can help throughout the day on Saturday. This should be published in the newsletter in a box (not as an article)

A suggestion was made to have a notice in a box (not an article) for Christmas and the Domiciliary. Use red lettering so people can see it and be sure it includes contact information.

The newsletter has an upcoming events section. It could be in that area.

Sue Waldhaus (Unit 28) shared a phrase used at school – "It takes six to make it stick" meaning that if you get it to people in six different ways (poster, phone call, email, etc) they will remember it. When sending information out send it to at least three different people in the unit. Include the President and the Secretary and one other person who will share with the Unit.

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Sharon Cherette (Unit 29) noted that in 2019 Anchorage Post 1 will be the host for the Department Convention. They have a coin for the State of Alaska. Art Bell is the main person. Coins can be purchased for \$7.50 each and then sold at a higher price to raise funds for the unit. The possibility of doing a "birthday ball" was mentioned. It would be a semi-formal event and information will be shared once a decision is made. In addition, there will be a special convention shirt probably in one color. The possibility of using the Legion Family Logo was brought up and members were asked to think about that. Another suggestion was to have the preamble for all four groups (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders) read at the opening ceremonies. This is food for thought also.

The idea of having the Fall Workshop at a time when we can get in on fall rates was brought up. If the Fall Workshop is held on the 3rd Saturday of October, it will be after the PFDs come out and there are specials for airfare/hotel rates. In April, we decide where it is going to be held and when. Sue Diaz (Unit 20) suggested putting it in a resolution for Standing Rules. The Fall Conference for the Legion and SAL is on Columbus Day weekend.

The ALA Academy link is on our Auxiliary web site. It was pointed out that the first Academy Course was about the Auxiliary itself. It would be good for new members. All members should do all parts of the ALA Academy as they become available.

Lisa is taking orders for the pullover jackets. They are \$35 each and you can request red or royal blue. She will send out an email.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: by Sue Diaz (Unit 20) and seconded by Robia Bishop (Unit 20) to adjourn.

By unanimous voice vote the ALA DEC Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.