



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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

Department of Alaska
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DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Susitna Valley Unit 35, Wasilla, Alaska October 3, 2015

President Sharon Cherrette called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at Susitna Valley Post 35. Chaplain Jane Larson offered opening prayer. President Cherrette led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Cherrette thanked Post, Unit and Squadron 35 for all of their hard work to help make our Fall Conference and this DEC meeting weekend possible.

President Cherrette announced that for those members that will be attending the Department Convention in April 21-23, 2016 that will also be hosted by Post, Unit and Squadron 35; Grandview Inn and Suites is already accepting reservations for that event. Be sure to tell them when making your reservations that you need the Legion rate. You will get a 15% discount if you reserve a room before February 27, 2016. If you are an Alaska resident you will get an additional 5% on top of that.

President Cherrette next asked that everyone please stand and join her in singing Happy Birthday to Department of Alaska Adjutant Gene Franks. At this point all Legionnaires and Detachment members were excused to their own meetings.

President Cherrette led us in the Preamble.

ROLL CALL

OFFICERS	NAME	P	A	E	TOTALS
PRESIDENT	SHARON CHERRETTE	X			
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	SUSAN WALDHAUS	X			
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	BARBE WOLKOFF			X	
SEC./TREAS	LINDA SCHMITT	X			
CHAPLAIN	JANE LARSON	X			
HISTORIAN	COLLEEN NEWMAN	X			
SGT-AT-ARMS	DIANA ESTRADA	X			
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMEN	TERRY ARCHIBALD	X			
	LAURIE SCOTT			X	

TOTAL OFFICERS					7
STANDING COMMITTEES					
AMERICANISM	ZONA GREGG	X			
AUDIT	SUSAN DIAZ			X	
AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND	SUE COUP			X	
CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES	COLLEEN NEWMAN	X			
CHILDREN AND YOUTH	SUSAN DIAZ			X	
COMMUNITY SERVICE	YVONNE PORECCA	X			
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS	LAVONNE COLLIER	X			
DISTINGUISHED GUEST	BEVERLY EADS			X	
EDUCATION	LORI FITZSIMONS			X	
FINANCE	RUTH JOHNSON		X		
GIRLS STATE	YVONNE LAMM	X			
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES	ADRIENNE HUFF			X	
LEADERSHIP	EVA AULSTON			X	
LEGISLATIVE	LORI FRUHWIRTH			X	
MEMBERSHIP	BARBE WOLKOFF			X	
NATIONAL SECURITY	BEVERLY EADS			X	
PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY	PENNY MAZONNA	X			
POPPY	MARGARET BLANKENSHIP	X			
PUBLIC RELATIONS	PATTY MAZONNA- JONES	X			
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION	SUSAN WALDHAUS	X			
TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEES					9
UNITS		P	A	E	TOTALS
JACK HENRY	UNIT 1	X			
KETCHIKAN	UNIT 3		X		
SEWARD	UNIT 5	X			
MERLIN ELMER PALMER	UNIT 6	X			
DORMAN H. BAKER	UNIT 11	X			
LYNN CANAL	UNIT 12		X		
SITKA	UNIT 13		X		
MAT. VALLEY	UNIT 15	X			
GENERAL BUCKNER	UNIT 16	X			
ROBERT G. BLAIR	UNIT 17	X			
NINILCHIK	UNIT 18	X			
NOME	UNIT 19		X		
GEO. H. PLUMLEY MEM.	UNIT 20	X			
GLADYS M. HEINTZ MEM.	UNIT 27		X		
SPENARD	UNIT 28	X			
MULDOON	UNIT 29	X			
CON MILLER	UNIT 30	X			
PETERS CREEK	UNIT 33	X			

CHAPPIE JAMES	UNIT 34		X		
SUSITNA VALLEY	UNIT 35	X			
C. RUSSELL HUBER	UNIT 57	X			
TOTAL UNITS					15
PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS		P	A	E	TOTALS
LYNN BASH			X		
CAROLYN NULL			X		
SUSAN CASWELL		X			
LAVONNE COLLIER		X			
BETTY RANDALL		X			
JILL PAWSON			X		
LISA WILLIAMSON				X	
JEAN CLAYTON			X		
REHTA FOSTER			X		
JEAN SHANDY			X		
FRANCISCA GUILFORD				X	
LINDA VAN HORN				X	
EVA AULSTON				X	
JUDY PUSTI				X	
BETTY PORTER			X		
SUE CHERRIER			X		
LORI FITZSIMMONS				X	
JUNE HAAS			X		
SUE DIAZ				X	
BEVERLY EADS				X	
MARGARET BLANKENSHIP		X			
PENNY MAZONNA		X			
TOTAL PDP'S					5

Secretary Linda Schmitt announced that there was a quorum present.

Motion was made by Susan Caswell to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurers' Report

Linda Schmitt gave the Treasurer's Report as follows: Gaming Account – \$32,094.15; General Account – \$17,399.08; Girls State FNBA Account – \$5,154.68; Rehabilitation Account – \$6,261.55 Girls State Savings - \$14,053.21, Evelyn Oliver Scholarship - \$5,006.67, Merrilyn Stock Memorial Scholarship - \$15,019.46. Balances as of 10/01/2015. Linda was asked to explain why scholarships are being paid out of the gaming funds instead of out of the scholarship accounts. The reason is that the gaming funds have to be spent out of the gaming account. Gaming funds cannot be saved or transferred to other accounts, they must be spent.

There are no communications.

Terry Huisman was asked to speak on Children and Youth programs. Terry spoke on CODA and Temporary Financial Assistance programs. TFA is a last resort Legion program that allows for a one time, \$2,500.00 grant to those in immediate need. The American Legion, Department of Alaska is working to establish a Junior Shooting program. The membership in the Department of Alaska can help in many small ways to help make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families. Take a veteran shopping, save your pop-top can tabs, buy gas cards and to donate to our veterans and their families.

Workshop

Historian Colleen Newman – Gave her Plan of Action.

Leadership – Eva Aulston could not be here as she is on a cruise ship to Australia. Sharon read her Plan of Action.

Membership Contest

Membership Chairman Barbe Wolkoff sent a stuffed Puffin to be awarded to the Unit with the highest percentage of paid membership as of the date of the workshop Saturday, October 3, 2015. The winner of the first contest in Barbe's membership year themed "Puffin' up Membership" was Ninilchik Unit 18 with 51.61%.

At this point President Cherrette turned the podium over to the American Legion Auxiliary, Alaska Girls State Director Yvonne Lamm for the Girls State meeting. Please see the minutes of the Alaska Girls State meeting attached.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Workshop

Department Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt announced that we had a total of 78 Legion Family members attend this years' Fall Workshop and DEC Meetings. At \$40.00 per person that is roughly \$2,520.00 paid to Susitna Valley Post 35 (some members only attended one day and some members chose not to eat any meals at the Post and again we had some members that registered but did not pay and did not show up).

Online Dues Payments

Secretary Linda Schmitt addressed the Online Dues Payment process through the National organization. Linda announced that Unit portion payments to the Units will be transmitted every Friday as soon as she receives notice and the transmittal to Department from National. A member can only pay the current years dues online and she cannot pay the dues of other Auxiliary members. Units need to issue Auxiliary membership cards as soon as they receive the transmittal and the check from Department or if the member presents the temporary card that they printed out at the time they made their online payment and they are presenting it to the Unit in exchange for their permanent card.

JBER Christmas Stockings

President Cherrette suggested that we include the Veteran Pioneer Home in Palmer and Post 4 at the Pioneer Home in Anchorage in the Christmas Stocking program that we normally do for JBER and the Fisher House. In addition to the 50 stockings that are normally provided, the new total would be approximately 200 stockings. Sue Waldhaus volunteered for Spenard Unit 28 to once again provide the Christmas Stockings for those service members in the Hospital at JBER and also those folks that are in the Fisher House over the Holidays.

Susan Caswell made a motion for Spenard Unit 28 to provide Christmas Stockings for 200 individuals for the four locations and that Department donates \$300.00 to Unit 28 to help defray expenses. The motion was seconded. All in favor of approving this motion as amended signify by saying aye. Motion approved.

The amended motion is to donate \$500.00 to the Christmas stocking project to facilitate Spenard Unit 28 out of gaming funds. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Ratify Chairman

President Sharon Cherrette announced that Susan Diaz stepped down as Department Children and Youth Chairman due to health issues and that President Cherrette has asked Barb Nath (Sue's sister) to fill the chairmanship with Sue as her co-chairman. Sue Caswell made a motion that President Cherrette's appointment of Barb Nath to the Children and Youth chairmanship with Sue Diaz as co-chairman be ratified. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Honor Our Female Veterans

National waived their portion of the per capita once again for the 2016 membership year for new female veterans that apply for membership to the American Legion Auxiliary. Linda Schmitt made a motion that the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska waive the department portion of the per capita dues for the 2016 membership year for new female veterans that apply for membership. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Donation for Parade of Checks

It is customary to donate \$1,000.00 to the National President's Scholarship Project at the Washington D.C. Conference held in February each year. Lavonne Collier made a motion to donate \$1,000 during the Parade of Checks at the Washington D.C Conference for the National President's Project. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Other Veterans Donations

Sue Caswell made a motion to donate \$1,000 each to the VA Veterans Creative Arts Festival and to the VA Women Veterans. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

President's Poppy Project

President Cherrette changed her poppy project for Department Convention from a poppy jacket to a Poppy Flag Bag. (Please see the attached requirements.) She would like to auction off the bags at Department Convention with the proceeds to go to the VA Veterans Creative Arts Program.

Poppy Orders

All poppy orders need to be received by Linda in Department Headquarters no later than November 13, 2015. If you miss the deadline you are out of luck until next November.

Storage Trailer – Girls and Boys State

Penny Mazonna made a motion to spend up to \$1,500 to purchase a 5x8' or larger trailer for Girls and Boys State. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Jan Scott made a motion to remove the size limitation for the trailer. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Juniors

Sue Caswell made a motion to provide \$1,500 for the American Legion Auxiliary, Honorary Department of Alaska Junior President and her chaperone to attend the Mission Training session in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 23, 2016. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

Hospitality Suite

Department Adjutant wanted everyone to be aware that the funds for the Hospitality Suite are dwindling. There will be funding for next year and possibly the year after. We need to look at ideas for other fundraisers from Units, Posts and individuals. In the future we may have to ask for a room at the convention center. Linda Schmitt made a motion to increase the donation to the Hospitality Suite at National Convention from the ALA, Department of Alaska to \$1,000.00. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Silver Tea – Jack Henry Unit 1 – Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 1:00 – 4:00PM

Domiciliary Gift Shop – VA Domiciliary – Saturday December 5, 2015 – 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Save the date for Kevin Collier's homecoming the weekend of March 3-4, 2016 at the Anchorage Hilton.

Strategic Planning Committee to meet immediately following this DEC meeting. All interested members are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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