

**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 26, 2017  
7:00 a.m. – Haines, AK

The meeting was called to Order by President Sue Waldhaus at 7:00 p.m.

**OPENING ACTIVITIES**

Chaplain Jane Larson offered a prayer.  
Sue Caswell (Unit 33) led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
The Preamble was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Officers

President Susan Waldhaus  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Barbe Wolkoff  
Chaplain Jane Larson  
Historian Colleen Newman

Committee Chair

Americanism Barbara Nath  
Cavalcade of Memories Colleen Newman  
Children and Youth Zona Gregg  
Community Service Penny Mazonna  
Girls State Yvonne Lamm  
Poppy Lori Fruwirth  
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Barbe Wolkoff

Units

Seward Unit 5  
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6  
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11  
General Buckner Unit 16  
Robert G. Blair Unit 17  
Geo. H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20  
Spenard Unit 28  
Peters Creek Unit 33  
Susitna Valley Unit 35  
C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Past Department Presidents

Susan Caswell  
Carolyn Null  
Rehta Foster  
Lisa Williamson  
Penny Mazonna

## **ROLL CALL (continued)**

### Excused

#### Officers

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Debbie Lowndes  
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Schmitt  
Sgt-At-Arms Laurie Scott

#### Committee Chair

Audit Betty Randall  
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Leona Schank  
Constitution and ByLaws Lavonne Collier  
Distinguished Guests Beverly Eads  
Education Lori Fitzsimons  
Finance Debbie Lowndes  
Junior Activities Wendy Mendez  
Leadership Eva Aulston  
Legislative Sharon Cherrette  
Membership Debbie Lowndes  
National Security Beverly Eads  
Past President Parley Sharon Cherrette  
Public Relations Patty Mazonna-Jones

### Absent

#### Officers

Executive Committeewoman Terry Archibald  
Executive Committeewoman Amber Sawyer

#### Units

Jack Henry Unit 1  
Joseph T Craig Unit 3  
Lynn Canal Unit 12  
Sitka Unit 13  
Matanuska Valley Unit 15  
Ninilchik Unit 18  
Nome Unit 19  
Gladys M. Heintz Memorial Unit 27  
Muldoon Unit 29  
Con Miller Unit 30  
Chappie James Unit 34  
Peter Heyano Unit 442

#### Past Department Presidents

June Haas	Sue Cherrier	Jean Clayton
Lori Fitzsimons	Betty Porter	Lavonne Collier
Eva Aulston	Judy Pusti	Jean Shandy
Jill Pawson	Betty Randall	Francisca Guilford
Lynn Bash	Sue Diaz	Beverly Eads
Margaret Blankenship	Sharon Cherrette	

**DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**

Lisa Williamson introduced National President Mary Davis from Washington State. She is only able to stay a short while and will be leaving Friday morning. Her mother, who is a Veteran and is 96, is being honored.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were sent out via mail.

**MOTION:** by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) to approve the minutes.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Barb Nath read a report from Linda which consisted of the balances in the four accounts:

Checking (General).....	2,719.54
Gaming.....	37,092.12
Girls State.....	6,468.02
Rehabilitation.....	4,465.96

The report was approved as presented.

In the future, the report would not be approved. Use words like “Thank you for the Treasurer’s report. That information will be recorded.”

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications to come before the Department Executive Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

JBER and VA Women Veterans’ Report – President Sue Waldhaus noted that two years ago, JBER changed to include the Domiciliary and Pioneer Homes. The first year there were 200 in number with just under that this year. In addition, this year only one item was put in the bags which was a large bottle of lotion. There were lots of good comments from staff and folks. It was much appreciated. It was an adventure. President Waldhaus said there is a new person at the VA.

There were two Units (Unit 15 and Unit 35) involved for the Valley. For Anchorage Unit 29 headed that project. Bags were donated. They were Christmas bags and were nice and easy to handle. This was an efficient way to do this. When they got to Palmer, the President from Unit 15 met them at the door and said they wouldn't let them in because there was flu epidemic. It was re-scheduled for a week later. Staff were happy to see them and they had a good time. They liked to talk to our ladies. In Anchorage, Sue Waldhaus went with her husband. Vera Hart from Unit 29 was supposed to meet them, but she got sick. Instead Delores Jones from Unit 29 brought the supplies. At the Domiciliary they were able to drop off bags with the Event Manager. There were about 180 bags distributed. There was a budget of up to \$750. Total cost came up to about \$350.

Women Veterans Day was November 9<sup>th</sup>. Post 21 (an all-women Post) has been working with this for many years and Unit 28 was also involved. The impression was that Unit 28 was a big sponsor. It was great. It was something to pay tribute to our Women Veterans. Sue Waldhaus talked with a number of Veterans who weren't ALA members and a lot of applications were distributed. Interesting stories were shared. Planning for this year will start in June.

Kyrsten gave her report on the National Junior Meeting. She went to Las Vegas. She is happy she was able to go. The discussion was about fundraisers and how the American Legion is not separate and they are all family. One can't grow without the other. She met a lot of Juniors from ages 7 to 17. They did a bunch of relays for Socks for Love – filling up socks for Women Veterans. She learned a song about Juniors and performed it at a women's meeting. She got to sit in the women's meeting and listened to five active duty women talking about what they have done, what inspired them and how they contributed. It was encouraging to Junior Auxiliary members.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) asked about one favorite inspirational moment. Kyrsten said it was doing push ups with active duty women.

There was no other Unfinished Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We have been encouraged by National to separate the Secretary/Treasurer position, making it two positions. This was brought up at the last Convention. With Linda retiring, this is a good time to make this happen. It is recommended that both positions be appointed and not elected.

**MOTION:** by Colleen Newman (Unit 35) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to appoint the positions of Secretary and Treasurer as two separate positions.

These are paid positions and as such will be appointed positions. Linda has recommended that the pay be split evenly between the two positions.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) noted in any organization that has a governing body (in our case the DEC), the governing body tells management (Secretary and Treasurer) what to do. It provides checks and balance.

It was pointed out that while the pay is not top-of-the-line pay, it is what we can afford. President Sue Waldhaus pointed out that this is the recommendation from Finance and Budget.

Carolyn Null (Unit 28) asked what we would do if we can't find someone to be Treasurer who will accept that pay. Sue Caswell (Unit 33) stated that Linda Schmitt will continue in that position if we don't find someone at Convention.

National President Mary Davis gave some insight as to what she has seen around the country. They have had similar problems. Because it was important to have two hands on every check and money that comes through, they voted to divide it out. She started listening to how some Departments handled it. Some Departments have people filling those two positions as volunteers. Other Departments have a person with a financial background as the Treasurer. They are given minimum wage. Time is split between the two positions with one coming in for half a day and the other for the second half of the day.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) pointed out that we don't have an office. Both the Secretary and the Treasurer will work from their homes.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lisa believes that this will come before the Convention tomorrow. The **motion was rescinded** to wait until the convention.

**MOTION:** by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) and seconded by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) to have Barbara Nath act as Secretary for this Convention.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.

Lynn Canal Unit 12 has been asked to serve as Sgt-at-Arms. There is some clarification needed before this can happen. If needed, Penny Mazonna will stand by to fill that position.

The American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain has been asked to serve as Chaplain for the Legion. President Sue Waldhaus asked for the two Junior members (Renee and Kyrsten) to step in for the ceremony. They will place the poppies. This was approved by power vote.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) is serving as the National Chairman for the AEF. Lisa would like to do a card raffle with the winner getting half the proceeds and the National AEF getting the other half.

**MOTION:** by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Penny Mazonna (Unit 33) to run a raffle for a fundraiser as described above and that the Department match the funds raised for the National AEF.

The motion carried by unanimous vote with no abstentions.

There was discussion regarding the terminology used when referring to the American Legion Auxiliary. In an effort to help people become aware of what they are doing a motion was forwarded.

**MOTION:** by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded by Yvonne Lamm (Unit 33) that anyone using the wrong terminology during the American Legion Auxiliary sessions be fined \$5.

**AMENDED**

**MOTION:** Friendly amendment noting that the charge would only occur one time per person.

Zona Gregg (Unit 6) felt this was very steep. Carolyn Null (Unit 28) agreed with Zona and felt that people wouldn't talk if they were afraid of getting fined.

Sue Caswell (Unit 33) felt we need to explain to everyone that we are not part of the Post or the VFW. We need to refer to ourselves as Units not Posts. She knows the money is needed for AEF, but felt a dollar would be more appropriate.

Call for the Question

The motion is for a one-time, five dollar fine. If you vote yes that is what will happen.

On voice vote, the vote was too close to call. A raise of hands was taken for the vote

For – 9

Against – 10

The motion failed.

**MOTION:** by Jackie Norvell (Unit 16) and seconded by Juanita Coursen (Unit 6) that we pass the hat and those that can afford to donate can put in an amount they can afford instead of making this a learning experience.

The vote was again conducted by a raise of hands.

For – 5

Against – 13

The motion failed

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) showed off her new coat. It reminded her a lot of Wrangell and Haines. At the Washington DC conference, this was part of their tour package. Alaska has the opportunity (through National President Mary Davis) to possibly be able to order them and sell them. National President Mary Davis decided her Department needed to raise fund. She got permission to sell them. If 6 or less are purchased, the cost is \$35. The funds (over and above the cost) raised will stay in our Department. She will need orders before the end of July and will do one group order. Costs will go down based on how many she needs to order. She requested a non-refundable \$10 deposit and will provide an order form. Several Units were interested. Lisa Williamson will coordinate this effort. Alaska will pay the actual cost of the jacket and the balance will stay with the Department. Sizes are from Small to 3X. We do not know the turnaround time, but anticipate having them by the DEC/Fall Workshop. The key is that the more we order, the lower the base price and the more we get to keep in Alaska.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Past President Parley Luncheon will be on Saturday and the cost is \$12.50 each. It is open to all American Legion Auxiliary members. It is believed that the menu will be soup and a sandwich. Each Unit usually has a little item to hand out at the Past President's Parley Luncheon. The fundraiser is a tablecloth auction. Checks for the luncheon on Saturday should be made payable to the Department of Alaska or you can give cash (turn them in to Penny Mazonna). Money has to be turned in by end of the day Friday. Let Penny know if you are thinking of coming so she has a good head count. If someone doesn't have the funds to pay for the luncheon, we will look for donations.

The Member of the Year applications must be submitted before Saturday.

We are honoring four Past Department Presidents who have passed on.

We are honoring Women Veterans also. There will be a fundraiser.

The joint opening ceremonies are at Post 12 at 9:00 a.m. Thursday. There is a shuttle service. Pick up will be out in front of the hotel.

American Legion Auxiliary and Junior Auxiliary members will be dismissed to the Aspen Hotel immediately afterwards (shuttle service also) for their Convention.

Penny has a card for the following people. Everybody needs to sign.

- Linda Schmitt for going above and beyond what is expected or required.
- Gloria Olson's sister passed away and this is for Leona Schank
- There is a member who was involved in the fire in Spenard in February. Katie is the mother who threw her three children to safety. She was pregnant at the time. They did an emergency c-section. She has not seen her baby because she is in the hospital and the baby is in NICU.

There will be a silent auction conducted by the Junior Auxiliary. Penny Mazonna will transport items to wherever the auction is set up. All items have to be turned in by the end of the day on Thursday. Renee and Kyrsten as well as a couple of other people will be selling tickets for the auction.

Poppy project items, scrapbooks, and history books should be on the table by the close of business on Thursday.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) reported that she will be taking a step back at the National level. The incoming National President did not give Lisa an National appointment this year. She did ask her to stay on with the Strategic Plan. Lisa was heartbroken. She is passionate about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. She is not apologizing for being passionate. She hopes to continue doing this. National President Mary Davis has appointed her to a special committee regarding the centennial celebration. Lisa hopes that she will be back as a National Chairman in the future, but until that time, she hopes to stay active on the National level. She thanked everyone for their continued support. She will be informing others during the Convention, but wanted the American Legion Auxiliary to be the first to know.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The DEC meeting adjourn at 8:14 p.m.