

Minutes of the

Department Executive Committee
(May 15, 2023 – Teleconference – 6:30 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order by President April Sinclair at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>National Officers</u>			
NEC Member Penny Mazonna			X
Alternate NEC Sue Diaz			X
<u>Department Officers</u>			
President April Sinclair	X		
1 st Vice President Lori Fruhwirth.....	X		
2 nd Vice President Annette Gwalthney-Jones.....	X		
Secretary Anarene Robinson.....	X		
Treasurer Diana Estrada.....	X		
Chaplain Carrie Hintz			X
Historian Nina Ketelsen.....			X
Sgt.-at-Arms Frances Bedel			X
Executive Committee Member Robyn Downs			X
Executive Committee Member Josette Kinslow.....	X		
<u>Standing Committees</u>			
Alaska Girls State – Lori Fruhwirth.....	X		
Americanism – Carole Johnson			X
Audit – Sue Diaz.....			X
Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Colleen Newman.....			X
Children and Youth – Robyn Downs			X
Community Services – Shirley Shadbolt			X
Constitution and Bylaws – Sue Diaz			X
Distinguished Guests – Penny Mazonna.....			X
Education and Scholarship – Samantha Funk.....			X
Finance – Lisa Boyles.....			X
History – Annette Gwalthney-Jones	X		
Junior Activities – Nina Ketelsen			X
Leadership – Keri Black			X
Legislative – Penny Mazonna.....			X
Membership – April Sinclair.....	X		
National Security – Frances Bedel.....			X
Past Presidents’ Parley – Jane Larson.....	X		
Poppy – Marge Blankenship.....			X
Public Relations – Cheryl McKey			X
VA&R – Lori Fruhwirth.....	X		

ROLL CALL (continued)

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Units</u>			
Jack Henry Unit 1	X		
Joseph T. Craig 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
Matanuska Valley Unit 15.....			X
General Buckner Unit 16			X
Robert G. Blair Unit 17.....			X
Ninilchik Unit 18			X
George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20.....			X
Gladys M. Heintz 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		
Peter Heyano Unit 442.....			X
<u>Past Department Presidents</u>			
Eva Aulston.....			X
Lynn Bash			X
Margaret Blankenship.....	X		
Ruth Brown.....			X
Betty Bumala			X
Susan Caswell		X	
Sharon Cherrette		X	
Lavonne Collier			X
Sue Diaz.....	X		
Beverly Eads	X		
Lori FitzSimons			X
Rehta Foster		X	
Francisca Guilford			X

ROLL CALL (continued)

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Past Department Presidents</u>			
Eva Aulston.....			X
Lynn Bash			X
Margaret Blankenship.....			X
Ruth Brown.....			X
Betty Bumala			X
Susan Caswell.....			X
Sharon Cherrette	X		
Lavonne Collier			X
Sue Diaz.....			X
Beverly Eads.....			X
Lori FitzSimons			X
Rehta Foster			X
Francisca Guilford			X
June Haas			X
Laverne Kearns.....			X
Jane Larson			X
Debbie Lowndes			X
Penny Mazonna.....			X
Carolyn Null.....			X
Evelyn Oliver.....			X
Jill Pawson			X
Linda Schmitt.....			X
Jean Shandy			X
Etta Singleton.....			X
Sue Waldhaus.....			X
Lisa Williamson	X		
Barbe Wolkoff.....			X

The meeting was turned over to Girls State Director Lori Fruhwirth to provide information about the current situation with the 2023 Alaska Girls State program.

Lori explained that as of May 10th (the deadline set for having at least 10 citizens for this year’s program) there were only 8 participants. She is trying to put together a program for these 8 citizens, with the possibility of a 9th person.

She noted that if we go to a different state’s programs, we would not be able to elect a Governor or Lt. Governor and that the participants would not be able to go to Girls Nation or get scholarships.

The Girls State Board made a decision to do an adapted version and change the venue to Susitna Valley Post 35. The focus would be on debate and writing bills. The purpose of this meeting was to ratify the action of the Girls State Board of Directors.

MOTION: by Sharon Cherrette (Unit 29) and seconded to ratify the request and move the venue to Susitna Valley Post 35.

- There will be a member appreciation dinner on Wednesday night and graduation will be on Friday night.
- Adapted means that the amount of time is the same, but there would be just a Senate and no House. The program will concentrate more on writing bills and on the debate process. The dates will stay the same June 3 – June 9.
- Susitna Valley Post 35 is providing motor homes, campers, etc. for housing. We will put four citizens each in two of the motor homes with a counsellor. This will become their city.
- Lisa Williamson noted Alaska has a program in Alaska. If we send girls out to another state, Alaska would not have a Governor or Lt. Governors, but they can compete at whatever program they are attending. This gives them the opportunity to potentially get scholarships. They would have the opportunity to run for those positions and to go to Girls Nation. Oregon State and Washington State have already cancelled their programs this year. New Mexico did so today.
- There are other programs that we are looking at modeling ourselves after if we combine Boys State and Girls State. Maybe the new Director and Co-Director could shadow a co-ed program so we can come back with information for next year.
- Lisa thanked the Susitna Valley Post 35 family and wondered if we wanted to go there. She is inclined to vote on cancelling Girls State this year and come back as gangbusters for next year.
- Lori has not cancelled the campground yet, so that is still an option for a venue. She stated the campground is up for sale and may have already been sold.
- Diana reported that we have a \$500 deposit that the campground has been carried over.
- Annette Gwalthney-Jones stated the campground was sold to Alaska Healing Hearts (a veteran's program). She doesn't think they would be opposed to partnering with another veteran's group with a program such as Girls State/Boys State.

The motion was withdrawn by both parties.

The discussion turned to Departments as possibilities to join.

It was pointed out that if we went to another Department and were chosen to go to Girls Nation, they would be representing that Department, not Alaska.

Diana and Lori have been talking about tickets costing at least \$1,500 per person. That would come to a total of about \$20,000 to send our citizens out of state.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson and seconded to cancel the 2023 Alaska Girls State program.

- People don't want to see it ended this year.
- Several other states have cancelled for this year.
- We are taking the privilege away where we could give them the privilege.
- Would it be possible for this year's citizens to attend next year? They can attend, but won't be eligible for scholarships and can't hold the office of Lt. Governor and Governor.

The motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION: by Anarene Robinson and seconded to send the new Director and Co-Director to a coed event if our finances allow.

- Missouri has an amazing co-ed program (500 girls and 500 boys) which is held at a university. It is June 24th to July 1st. Lisa has contact information.
- Montana has 87 in their Girls State Program. It is July 2nd to 8th but it wouldn't provide the opportunity to see how a coed program works.
- Diana indicated there was money in gaming or girls state to cover the cost of the trip. Gaming would be the better option for this year.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the DEC regarding Alaska Girls State, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.