

Minutes of the  
**American Legion Auxiliary**

**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

August 27, 2023

**(National Convention – Hospitality Room)**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President April Sinclair

**ROLL CALL**

This was a mandatory meeting for all members of the Alaska Delegation to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC. All other Department Executive Committee members were excused.

**PRESENT**

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna

Alternate National Executive Committee Member Sue Diaz

President April Sinclair

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Lori Fruhwirth

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Annette Gwalthney-Jones

Secretary Anarene Robinson

Treasurer Diana Estrada

Lisa Williamson

Barbara Nath

Jane Larson

Sue Caswell

Sharon Cherrette

Robyn Downs

Beverly Eads

Brenda Fiddick

Donna Brockschmidt

Jeanne Ostnes

Jessica Blankenship

Linda Blankenship

Marge Blankenship

Debbie Brahm

Samantha Cody

Vera Delong

Davina Haywood

Erin Lamothe

Evelyn (EV) Zidar

**UNITS**

Jack Henry Unit 1, Dorman H. Baker Unit 11

General Buckner Unit 16 Kodiak Unit 17, George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20, Spenard Unit 28

Muldoon Unit 29, Peters Creek Unit 33, Susitna Valley Unit 35, C. Russell Huber Unit 57

**Not Present:** Danielle Tarjorman (E) Darlene Cordova, Michelle Stout, Barbara Zimlicki,  
Connie Kullander (E)

**MOTION:** by Sue Caswell and seconded to dispense with the Opening Ceremonies except for the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to come before the DEC at this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The only business to be brought up at this meeting must be related to National Convention or be the ratification of Committee Chairs per our current C & B.

The majority of pre-convention committee meetings were held virtually prior to the start of Convention. The only pre-convention committee meeting held in person was the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Rules Committee, Resolutions, and Credentials Committee. One Alaska delegation member was selected as the Official Representative to each pre-convention committee. Other Department members were invited to attend. The Pre-Convention Committee reports were given by the official representative.

Education (Jane Larson) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. Unit 1 from Alaska was mentioned for giving \$1000 to a JROTC unit for their trip to Normandy, France. The Department of Alaska had 71 hours, \$4,479 in donations reported as well as 16 applications for scholarships submitted for Western Division.

Legislative (Barb Nath) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. No Awards for Alaska. Award certificates will be mailed in September and our responsibility is to be heard loud and clear.

National Security (Anarene Robinson) -- There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee. Department of Alaska Unit 57 received Best Unit Award. Other information shared was Remember Red On Fridays, Blue/Gold Star Banners, Disaster Preparing, POW? MIA and DPAA.

Constitution and Bylaws (Sue Diaz) – The committee forwarded 2 amendments to the National governing documents. Proposed Amendment 1 was National Standing Rules to increase convention delegates and change delegate formula. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Proposed Amendment was a clarifying statement on the number of members required to charter a unit and keep a unit. This will not affect the Departments as Departments decide how many members are required to keep a unit in place.

Children and Youth (Robyn Downs) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska.

Leadership (Sue Caswell) -- There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. All departments/units were encouraged to take the ALA online classes.

Public Relations (Beverly Eads) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska.

Junior Activities (Sue Diaz) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee. The Outstanding Department Junior Activities Program went to Alaska. The Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program Award went to Susitna Valley Unit 35. It was noted that Alaska worked hard to share about junior activities and made it available across our state.

ALA Girls Nation (Lori Fruhwirth) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. This year, a few more states joined their Boys State program due to low numbers.

National History (Annette Gwalthney-Jones) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. It was brought up that keeping our history up to date is not going well nationwide. Everyone was encouraged to go back to their units and revitalize this program.

Finance (Anarene Robinson) -- There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee. A review of policies was recommendation. Departments were encouraged to have the following in writing to guard the department from areas of conflict. We were invited to copy National's policies and redesign them into Department policies.

- Conflict of Interest
- Whistleblower
- Document Management
- Travel and Expense Reimbursement
- Gifts and Grant Acceptance
- Endowment Spending
- Fundraising
- Minutes and Proceedings of Governing Body and Committee Meeting
- Check Signing and Business Credit Card
- Reserve Funds
- Purchase
- Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery (as it relates to Department records)
- Social Media

It is everyone's responsibility on the Finance Committee to have input and help to make the budget successful. Budget preparation must be shared with the committee to put forth to the DEC for approval.

The Finance Chairman is responsible to review the budget through to actual. This should be done at least quarterly. A professional audit is encouraged to be done at least every other year by an independent auditor.

National Chaplain (Connie Kullander) – Barb Nath read this report since Connie had not arrived yet. There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee. It was pointed out that there are not any awards for Chaplains. The main topic was about the Department of Colorado created a one- day Chaplains Retreat. This intrigued everyone. Vicki's Prayer Book was greatly appreciated by her.

Americanism (Domna Brockschmidt) -- There were no resolutions for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. ALA received a grant through Child Welfare Foundation for all departments to receive a Star-Spangled Kids boxes. The kits will be filled with flags, books, keychains, stickers, etc. and will be mailed out September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Membership (April Sinclair) -- There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee. While not released until convention, Alaska was at 102% by convention. National was at 98.5%.

Membership awards for Alaska:

**85% Goal Award – Department \$85**

Reaching 85% of the 2023 Department membership goal by March 15, 2023

**95% Goal Award – Department \$95**

Reaching 95% of the 2023 Department membership goal by May 26, 2023

**100% Goal Award – Department \$500**

Reaching 100% of the 2023 Department membership goal by July 4, 2023

## **102% Goal Award – Department \$500**

Reaching 102% of the 2023 Department membership goal by July 29, 2023

## **100% Unit Award - \$25 Emblem Sales**

Reaching 100% of their 2023 membership goal by November 10, 2022

### **\*\*\*Unit 0006 Wrangell\*\*\***

Any deceased members must be entered on the Department level. Units can sign up for full ALAMIS access after completing a 30-minute virtual training. This will have to be run through Department. While there can be two members with access to ALAMIS per unit, only one can have full access. Units are responsible to maintain the 2 degrees of separation. When a unit makes the Department/National payment through ALAMIS, they must use a credit or debit card.

Community Service (Barb Nath) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. New acronym, GNOME – Getting New and Old Members Excited.

There will be no program action plans for this or other committees. However, the purpose information for committees will be moved to Standing Rules.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Jeanne Ostnes) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska.

VA&R (Lori Fruhworth) -- There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee. The Western Division Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program was given to Art Semro Unit 28 of Washington. The Most Outstanding Department VA&R Program was given to Alaska.

Poppy (Marge Blankenship) -- There were no resolutions for this committee. ALA Department of Alaska Jack Henry Unit 1 Poppy report was mentioned. The annual Poppy and Cross placement at the veteran's grave were praised for their yearly project. There will be changes this year to the Poppy Program so all Poppy Chairs are encouraged to visit the national poppy page often so we do not miss out on those changes.

Credentials (Barb Nath) – There are no resolutions from the committee. It was recommended to approve the official count of 714 delegates which passed by a simple majority. There were no awards for Alaska. Alaska is 11th of 22 states at 100% or higher.

Rules (Ann Robinson) – There are no resolutions from this committee. It was recommended to adopt the rules as presented. Rules for Convention were printed in our convention booklet.

Resolutions (Annette Gwalthney-Jones) – There were no resolutions or recommendations for this committee, nor were there any awards for Alaska. The only Resolutions are the two for C&B.

### **Ratifications:**

Anchorage Christmas Project Jane Larson

Education: Samantha Funk

Legislative: Penny Mazonna

Anchorage VAVS Sharon Cherrette

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We have about 90 pins from the Department of Alaska which can be purchased for \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Fall Conference is October 28<sup>th</sup> at Jack Henry Unit 1 in Anchorage, Alaska.

Girl State Board Meeting and DEC are scheduled for Sunday, October 29th at Jack Henry Unit 1 in Anchorage.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to come before the DEC (National), the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Anarene Robinson  
Department Secretary