

American Legion Auxiliary
104th Department Convention
April 23-25, 2026
Wasilla, AK
Corrected

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

Joint opening ceremonies were held with The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.

After opening ceremonies, the American Legion Auxiliary was released to attend their meetings which were held at Jody's Great Room in Wasilla, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Annette Gwalthney-Jones at 2:57 p.m.

ROLL CALL

National Officers

National Executive Committee Member Penny Mazonna
Alternate National Executive Committee Member April Sinclair

Department Officers Present

President Annette Gwalthney-Jones, 1st Vice President Nina Ketelsen, Secretary Barb Nath, Treasurer Pam Cawley, Chaplain Carrie Hintz, Historian Frances Bedel, Sgt-at-Arms Sabrina Schmidt, Executive Committee Robyn Downs, Executive Committee Brenda Fiddick

Units Present

Jack Henry Unit 1, Joseph T. Craig Unit 3, Seward Unit 5, Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6, Dorman H. Baker Unit 11, Sitka Unit 13, Matanuska Valley Unit 15, Robert G. Blair Unit 17, Ninilchik Unit 18, George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20, Spenard Unit 28, Muldoon Unit 29, Con Miller Unit 30, Peters Creek Unit 33, Susitna Valley Unit 35, C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Standing Committee Chairs Present

ALA Girls State Nina Ketelsen, Children and Youth Mary Scaturchio, Constitution and Bylaws Lisa Williamson, Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna, Finance Sabrina Schmidt, Historian Fran Bedel, Leadership Colleen Newman, Legislative Patty Mazonna-Jones, Membership Robyn Downs, National Security Brenda Fiddick, Past Presidents Parley Lori Fruhwirth, Poppy Jena Arntzen, Public Relations Lisa Williamson, Risk and Compliance Pam Cawley

Past Department Presidents Present

Beverly Eads, Rehta Foster, Lori Fruhwirth, Penny Mazonna, Barbara Nath, April Sinclair, Lisa Williamson

April Sinclair gave the invocation

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Alternate NEC April Sinclair introduced National President Pam Ray and her husband Butch. She shared details from the National President's biography which was included in the Convention Handbook.

The National President's mission is the Auxiliary mission. This Saturday (April 25) is American Legion Family Day. It occurs each year. She expressed her hope that there are Units that will be hosting this event.

Purple Up Day is a day to recognize that the children of our military are important. President Pam encouraged members to be sure to recognize them whenever you have the opportunity to do so.

Our National President's special project is the Honor Flight. She took her father on the flight in 2011 and the flight changed their lives. They learned a lot about each other. Her dad ran into a gentlemen on the Kentucky Honor Flight and found out they had served in the same place. She greets Honor Flight participants when they return and asks how it was. Everyone was very excited about going. The welcome home is a big reason for their joy because there are always a lot of people to welcome the flight home. The welcome home is what it was supposed to be like when they came home from the war. She took part in an all-female veterans Honor Flight with participants from all over the country. They had dinner, went to Washington DC and went to many memorials and museums. When the veterans walked through the doors of the navy museum, they commented that it brought back memories. Pam was a nurse for 47 years and loved the job. That flight had nine nurses and two medics on board. They went to the Vietnam Nurses Memorial. There is an exhibit of three nurses that represent hope, faith and charity. Each nurse on the visit had a different opinion of which nurse represented each of them. Each participant received a folder with a picture of the nurses memorial on one side and the individual nurse's picture and story on the other side.

Another project is the Spirit of Youth Scholarship. Every department can have an entry and they receive \$1,000 and in each division, one of those in that division receives an additional \$5,000. Last year there were 34 departments that didn't even apply. She encouraged our department to make it happen next year. She is raising funds to make this a self-sustaining scholarship.

Pam is excited to see our Junior Auxiliary members in the room.

Butch and Pam each received an American Legion family sweatshirts.

INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEMBERS

President Annette recognized Past National President Lisa Williamson and Past Western Division National Vice President Beverly Eads as well as our National Executive Committee members Penny Mazonna and April Sinclair.

There were nine members attending the convention for the first time. President Annette recognized the Juniors in attendance and indicated they would be staying with us for today's meeting.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Credentials..... Barb Nath, Frances Bedel and Erin Lamothe
Rules.....April Sinclair
Constitution and Bylaws Lisa Williamson
She had Jane Larson and Lisa Rittinger assisting before the Convention
Resolutions Shayla Teague, Nina Ketelsen and Robyn Downs
Finance Sabrina Schmidt, Brenda Fiddick and Pam Cawley
Nominations Cary Weseman (33)
Plus Unit President/Delegate from each Unit in Attendance
Erin Lamothe (1), Jena Arntzen (3), Debbie Van Tassel (5), Barbara Hommel (6),
Carrie Dionne (11), Allan Polk (13), Jenny Lahti (17), Chris Calabrese,(18),
Lisa Klemisch (20), Cathy Pefley (28), Nina Ketelsen (35) Sandy Toenies (57))
Parliamentarian..... Beverly Eads
Distinguished Guests..... Penny Mazonna/April Sinclair
Risk and Compliance..... Sabrina Schmidt, Brenda Fiddick, Fran Bedel
History and ScrapbookFrances Bedel, Kathleen Christenson (5), Mackenzie Nicely (28)
Poppy Book.....Jena Arntzen, Marilyn Mork, Allan Polk
Chaplain Prayer Book Carrie Hintz, Sue Martin, Jane Grady
Balloting..... Lisa Williamson, Madeline Thompson, Rehta Foster
Education and Scholarship none received
Unit Member of the Year/Salute to Service Member Beverly Eads, Lori Fruhwirth
Brend Fiddick (National Security), Colleen Newman (Leadership)

Rehta Foster introduced National Vice Commander Benjamin Header. He was glad to see male auxiliary members. He brought greetings from the National Commander. He spoke about family members and how they have also “served” even if not as a military member. They are home and surviving. The American Legion Auxiliary does the same thing, side by side with The American Legion to make sure our mission is met and seeing what we can do as a family. We accomplish more “as one” instead of individually.

READING OF CONVENTION RULES

1st Vice President Nina Ketelsen read the convention rules

MOTION by Nina Ketelsen (Unit 35) and seconded to approve the convention rules.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS REVISIONS

Lisa reviewed changes that had been suggested for each document. The original recommendations were sent out for review. Then there was a zoom meeting to go over them with about 20 people in attendance. Any changes made at that meeting were incorporated into the documents and the final recommendations were sent out on March 15. She reminded those present that anything passed at the National level is automatically incorporated into our governing documents. The only real changes are to make our governing documents agree with what we are actually doing (current practice) and some updating to eliminate restrictive items (such as how much can be spent which can be changed based on the location of the meeting, etc.). The Finance Committee will present those actual amounts in the annual budget, with DEC ratification.

RECESS

The meeting recessed to committee meetings at 3:00 p.m.

RETURN FROM RECESS

The meeting returned from recess at 3:50 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nina Ketelsen (Unit 35) shared swag for ALA Girls State. It's a great way to get information out about ALA Girls State.
- Lori Fruhwirth (Unit 11) asked that those planning to attend the Past President Parley Luncheon see her to sign up and pay. She reminded Units to bring their mystery items for the silent auction.
- Unit 29 brought a large basket to raffle Saturday night at the Post.
- Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) shared that she had a few long sleeved Be the One t-shirts for sale at \$35 each.
- Unit 15 has raffle tickets for Bear Mountain meats.
- Erin Lamothe (Unit 1) stated that they are doing a calendar raffle
- Jena Arntzen (Unit 3) reminded those present that Post 3 was lost in an arson fire in 2023. It is the oldest post in Alaska. They have had many challenges and it will cost over \$1.2 million to rebuild the Post. At this time, they have about \$500-600,000 from insurance. They have 233 bricks for a fundraiser. Recently they were informed that Holland America and Princess Tours are giving them \$175,000. They also wrote a grant and were informed that they will receive \$16,000 for flooring. That brings their total up to \$900,000.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Annette Gwalthney-Jones at 9:13 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Opening ceremonies were conducted which included a prayer and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Preamble.

ROLL CALL

Department Officers Present

President Annette Gwalthney-Jones, 1st Vice President Nina Ketelsen, Secretary Barb Nath, Treasurer Pam Cawley, Chaplain Carrie Hintz, Historian Frances Bedel, Sgt-at-Arms Sabrina Schmidt, Executive Committee Robyn Downs, Executive Committee Brenda Fiddick

Units Present

Jack Henry Unit 1, Joseph T. Craig Unit 3, Seward Unit 5, Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6, Dorman H. Baker Unit 11, Sitka Unit 13, Matanuska Valley Unit 15, Robert G. Blair Unit 17, Ninilchik Unit 18, George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20, Spenard Unit 28, Muldoon Unit 29, Con Miller Unit 30, Peters Creek Unit 33, Susitna Valley Unit 35, C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Standing Committee Chairs Present

ALA Girls State Nina Ketelsen, Children and Youth Mary Scaturchio, Constitution and Bylaws Lisa Williamson, Finance Sabrina Schmidt, Historian Fran Bedel, Junior Activities Elizabeth Clausen, Leadership Colleen Newman, Membership Robyn Downs, National Security Brenda Fiddick, Past Presidents Parley Lori Fruhwirth, Poppy Jena Arntzen, Public Relations Lisa Williamson, Risk and Compliance Pam Cawley

Past Department Presidents Present

Beverly Eads, Rehta Foster, Lori Fruhwirth, Barbara Nath, Lisa Williamson

FIRST READING OF NOMINATIONS

President:	Nina Ketelsen, Unit 35
1 st Vice President:	April Sinclair, Unit 57
2 nd Vice President:	Diana Estrada, Unit 35
Chaplain:	Vera Hart, Unit 29
	Carrie Hintz, Unit 35
Sgt-At-Arms:	Sabrina Schmidt, Unit 29
Executive Committee:	Patty Mazonna, Unit 35
Executive Committee:	Margaret Claussen, Unit 57
Historian:	No nominations received

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS REVISIONS

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded to approve the revisions to the Constitution as presented.

There was a clarification to page 18 regarding the Fall Conference. We want to ensure that the Fall Conference doesn't interfere with the Fall Meetings that Legion members are required to attend.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded to approve the revisions to the ByLaws as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded to approve the revisions to the Standing Rules as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded to approve the revisions to the Policy/Procedures as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) thanked Jane Larson and Lisa Rittinger as well as the Department President and anyone else who assisted with their review of these documents.

RECESS

The meeting recessed for committee meetings at 9:48 a.m.

RETURN FROM RECESS

The meeting returned from recess at 10:54 a.m.

PARADE OF CHECKS

The original amounts raised from the parade of checks was:

Juniors	150
VA&R	328
Poppy	291
Dept AEF	1,635
National AEF	1,528
Children and Youth	3,018
ALA Girls State	2,705
TOTAL	9,655

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded to present \$500 to the National President for her fundraising focus – the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund.

It was suggested to increase the amount to \$750.

AMENDED

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded to present \$750 to the National President for her fundraising focus – the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ATTENDANCE AT THE 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The following people indicated they would be attending the National Convention in 2026

Annette Gwaltney-Jones, President
Nina Ketelsen, 1st Vice President
Pam Cawley, Treasurer
Frances Bedel, Incoming Secretary
Barb Nath, Outgoing Secretary
Lisa Williamson, Past National President
Beverly Eads, Past WDNVP/Past Department President
April Sinclair, Alternate NEC
Hilary Ott, National Historian
Jena Arntzen
Darlene Cordova
Robyn Downs
Brenda Fiddick
Lori Fruhwirth
Jenny Lahti
Erin Lamothe
Mary Scaturchio
Michele Stout
Sandy Toenies
Sylvia Whipple

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded to approve the list of attendees for the 2026 National Convention.

It was noted that Penny Mazonna would be attending as our National Executive Committee member.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

RECESS

The meeting recessed to the PPP Luncheon at 11:35 a.m.

RETURN FROM RECESS

The meeting returned from recess at 2:05 p.m.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY LUNCHEON REPORT

Several Legionnaires joined us for this luncheon. There were approximately 70 people in attendance. Past Department President Sue Waldhaus was honored in a memorial service. The silent auction raised a total of \$1,565 for the Future Development Fund. Instead of giving gifts this year, Unit 1 donated \$100 to the Department AEF.

Clare Sullivan from Unit 5 was selected as the Unit Member of the year. She will be recognized on the platform during the National Convention. There will not be a separate luncheon this year.

FINANCE/BUDGET

Sabrina read her fourth quarter report. For the next year, Sabrina and Brenda will continue on the Finance Committee. There is an opening for a new member. They must be detail-oriented, fiscally-minded and able to be bonded.

Sabrina reviewed the budget for the next year, asking for any questions. She reviewed the budgets for the following accounts:

- Gaming
- General
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- Rehabilitation
- ALA Girls State

It was pointed out that most Units are not paying the 15% to Department for poppy sales. This will be changed on the final budget.

CONTEST WINNERS

The winners were announced for the different contests.

- History – Susitna Valley Unit 35 with their winnings donated to ALA Girls State.
- Scrapbook – Ketchikan Unit 3 with their winnings donated to the Poppy Program.
- Poppy Project – C. Russel Huber Unit 57 with their winnings donated to Poppy Program.
- Chaplains Prayer Book – Jack Henry Unit 1 was the winner. Carrie will make sure information about putting together a Chaplains Prayer Book is available to anyone interested.

JUNIOR PRESENTATION

The Juniors made a mural to present to Wasilla Area Senior, Inc. (WASI). Pictures were taken

The Juniors will be doing the Military Child's Table at the Children and Youth Luncheon. Because we only have four juniors in attendance, they requested help with this event. Mary Scaturchio and Cathleen Hall agreed to help.

2027 NATIONAL CONVENTION

It has been requested that anyone who thinks they might attend the 2027 National Convention please make it known. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

ALA GIRLS STATE PROGRAM

At ALA Girls State, the citizens are divided into city groups. For this year, there are two cities: Caswell and Williamson. We anticipate two more cities in the future: Larson and Blankenship.

We have 15 girls at this time. Each day there is a full schedule. We are going to have one legislative house only – the Senate. Special committee meetings have been added. Reporters will be doing a podcast instead of a newsletter. It will be on Spotify, Pandora and any other platform that is free. Charlene Martin will be teaching the reporters how to do a podcast. Throughout the week, everything is done by the citizens with advice as needed. This year, the girls interested in going to ALA Girls Nation will be nominated and interviewed with the staff making the final decision as to who will go to ALA Girls Nation. One of the highlights is that they will get to visit the White House. The Department pays for both girls to attend at a total of about \$800. There will be two service projects this year. They will write notes to the veterans on the Honor Flight and they will make community care kits. The community care kits will be distributed at Fall Conference. Nina will put together a wish list of items needed. Instead of an appreciation dinner, we will have a legislative luncheon followed by a question and answer session. We have asked legislators to tell why they got involved. This will be followed by a legislative session so they can see how we conduct them and maybe give advice. ALA Girls State is from June 1st to June 6th with graduation on June 5th.

President Annette stated it is important to get conversations going about ALA Girls State so people will be aware of the program. There is a young girl at West Point who did not know about ALA Girls State. Attending would have given her a few more points. She found out about it from her sister. This young girl showed up at the oratorical contest. She didn't know anything about it, but will be participating next year.

Last year there was a quiet, shy young girl attending ALA Girls State. It was unknown as to whether or not she would be able to build relationships. When President Annette showed up for graduation, this young lady was totally changed – running, laughing, and having a good time. Her parents were in tears.

RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 2:55 p.m. until Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by President Annette Gwalthney-Jones. A prayer was offered by Chaplain Carrie Hintz.

ROLL CALL

Department Officers Present

President Annette Gwalthney-Jones, 1st Vice President Nina Ketelsen, Secretary Barb Nath, Treasurer Pam Cawley, Chaplain Carrie Hintz, Historian Frances Bedel, Sgt-at-Arms Sabrina Schmidt, Executive Committee Robyn Downs, Executive Committee Brenda Fiddick

Units Present

Jack Henry Unit 1, Joseph T. Craig Unit 3, Seward Unit 5, Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6, Sitka Unit 13, Matanuska Valley Unit 15, General Buckner Unit 16, Robert G. Blair Unit 17, Ninilchik Unit 18, George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20, Spenard Unit 28, Muldoon Unit 29, Con Miller Unit 30, Peters Creek Unit 33, Susitna Valley Unit 35, C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Standing Committee Chairs Present

ALA Girls State Nina Ketelsen, Children and Youth Mary Scaturchio, Constitution and Bylaws Lisa Williamson, Finance Sabrina Schmidt, Historian Fran Bedel, Leadership Colleen Newman, Membership Robyn Downs, National Security Brenda Fiddick, Poppy Jena Arntzen, Public Relations Lisa Williamson, Risk and Compliance Pam Cawley

Past Department Presidents Present

Beverly Eads, Rehta Foster, Barbara Nath, Lisa Williamson

SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

There were three resolutions for second reading.

Resolution 2026-1 – This resolution was thanking Jody's Great Room for the use of their facility

MOTION: by Shayla Teague (Unit 28) and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-1 for Jody's Great Room.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2026-2 – This resolution was thanking the Post, Unit, Squadron, and Riders of Post 35 for hosting the 2026 Department Convention.

MOTION: by Shayla Teague (Unit 28) and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-2 for the Post, Unit Squadron, and Riders at Post 35

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 2026-3 – This resolution was thanking Annette Gwalthney Jones for her service as the Department President for the 2025-2026 Administrative Year.

MOTION: by Shayla Teague (Unit 28) and seconded to approve Resolution 2026-4 for Annette Gwalthney-Jones.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Barbara Nath reported on her time as the temporary Department Secretary. Taking over in October, the biggest challenge was remembering how to do things. Most of it came back easily, but there were some things that required assistance. She thanked Lisa Williamson for all her help assuring that she was keeping everything done correctly.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Pam Cawley gave her report earlier in the day. She did not give another report.

NATIONAL DIGNITARIES

National Dignitaries visited us on Thursday and have already addressed the group. They won't be coming a second time.

BUDGET

The line item for poppy funds will be listed as a straight \$500, not a percentage.

Jena Arntzen (Unit 3) asked about payroll taxes. They are less for the next year than the current year. Sabrina responded that this was because some employees had requested more deductions.

MOTION: by Shayla Teague (Unit 28) and seconded to approve the budget as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MICROSOFT 365

At our last meeting, a motion to purchase Microsoft 365 user permissions was tabled. Currently, the Department Secretary is unable to get into documents on the Secretary's computer.

We are becoming more and more technological. There is a family option for 5 licenses at \$130 per year. The Secretary, Treasurer and ALA Girls State will all have access. Microsoft 365 has been added to the budget being reviewed. This program has TEAMS so we can use it for DEC meetings. It functions like Zoom. Whoever is acting as host has to have TEAMS and they can invite anyone they want to attend meetings.

No motion was necessary as it was already in the budget and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the beginning of the year, President Annette invited each of us to join her in a shared vision of revitalization, engagement, and lasting service. That vision has guided her year – through moments of growth, challenge, and unwavering dedication. Highlights included:

- She had the honor of representing our Department and participating in events that reflect the heart of who we are as the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Fairbanks was selected as the host location for the Fall Conference. It was a meaningful and impactful time where members gathered for business and connections, training and mission focused work.
- The Be the One initiative was supported throughout the year. This initiative works to reduce veteran suicide and eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health. The Columbus Lighthouse Project Suicide Prevention Training was provided, which equipped those in attendance with tools to identify risk factors, understand warning signs and communicate effectively with individuals who may be at risk.
- Supporting the Last Frontier Honor Flight was another meaningful highlight President Annette participated in greeting our veterans home and witnessing the powerful and emotional moments that define that experience. She also got to see more than a dozen veterans receive their Quilts of Valor. We must not let the opportunity pass to recognize those who have given so much, as these gestures carry profound meaning and lasting impact.
- In March, she was invited by the Legion Director of the Oratorical Program to serve as a judge for The American Legion Oratorical Contest. She felt privileged and encouraged anyone who has not attended or participated to do so.
- In February, she also had the opportunity to participate in the ALA Girls State process by interviewing an applicant. What made this experience especially meaningful was the opportunity to meet this same young lady while judging the Oratorical Contest prior to her interview. While she did not get to participate this year in the Oratorical Content, she has every intent to do so next year.
- This year also brought unexpected challenges that tested our resilience as a Department. We received the resignation of our Department Chaplain and our Department Secretary. Through these challenges, she was fortunate to rely on the guidance of trusted mentors and past leaders. With their support, she reached out to individuals who exemplify dedication and service. Barbara Nath stepped forward to serve as Department Secretary, Carrie Hintz answered the call to serve as Department Chaplain, and Diana Estrada once again took on the critical responsibility of statewide membership processing. Each of these individuals answered without hesitation, demonstrating what it truly means to live the principle of Service Not Self. Their willingness required the convening of an emergency Department Executive Committee meeting, where their appointments were formally approved. Months later, we faced another transition with the resignation of the Department Historian. Once again, our Auxiliary family responded with Frances Bedel stepping forward to serve, adding to her existing

responsibilities as Alternate Sergeant-at-Arms. This appointment was also confirmed through Department Executive Committee action. These moments, while challenging, revealed the strength of our organization, as members continued to rise to meet the need while balancing family, careers, and service.

- Throughout the year, she received official requests for visitation, and while it was not possible to fulfill those requests due to the demands of her schedule and family obligations, she remained committed to supporting our Units whenever possible. She had the opportunity to attend and support events such as Unit 28's Alaska Fest, which was an incredible and engaging community event, as well as Unit 29's breast cancer awareness auction, where members of our Legion Family came together to raise funds and awareness. These moments reflect the strength and heart of our organization at the local level and the dedication of our members to causes that matter.
- She has witnessed firsthand the dedication, compassion, and resilience of our members. Whether stepping into leadership roles during times of transition, supporting community initiatives, or advancing our mission through programs and outreach, members have demonstrated what it truly means to serve. While not every plan unfolded as expected, the spirit of connection, service, and commitment remained strong.
- Only together can we make a difference. This year has reaffirmed that truth in every way. Through unity, service, and a shared commitment to our mission, we have continued to make a meaningful impact in the lives of veterans, their families, and our communities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Many Department Committee Chairs reminded Units that they have not sent in their committee reports to the Department Committee Chair. Please be sure to do that as the Department Committee Chairs have to submit a report to National by May 15th.
- There is a virtual 5-K Poppy Run which can include running, biking, swimming, etc. It was suggested that a recommendation be made to Units. Be sure to take pictures and the first 700 completed get a medal.
- Sabrina Schmidt shared that Unit 29 realized at the end of February that St. Patrick's was coming up fast so they did a fundraiser. They hung shamrocks at the Post. People could make a donation and put their names on the shamrock. She challenged every Unit here to use shamrocks for St. Patty's day and give the funds raised to the poppy fund. They also did an auction of different items raising funds for breast cancer awareness which raised over \$2,000. She asked that Units share any fundraisers they are doing for breast cancer awareness. As Sgt-at-Arms, she gave her thanks to everyone at the Department Convention for their consideration of speakers and not having to make people pay attention.
- Lisa Williamson reminded everyone that Alaska's Auxiliary website is alaskalegionauxiliary.org The National website is alaforveterans.org. Emails sent through the website will be forwarded to the Department Chairs as well as the Department Secretary.

- If you submit a Unit report you can submit for an award online. Brenda as National Security will also be submitting reports for nomination. At pre-convention meetings, we listen to see if Alaska gets any awards. Submit your reports for recognition. These are due June 1st at 5 pm Eastern time (1 pm Alaska time).
- Pam Cawley reported that we have department pins for sale (\$5). She also has blank membership card sheets (\$1 each).
- Carrie Hintz shared a “Be the One” moment. The night before last at Post 35, she was sitting next to a young woman who said she didn’t want to be here. Carrie asked where she wanted to be. She responded she wanted to die. She asked if she had a plan and she responded that she did not. She wasn’t going to die, she just didn’t want to be here. Carrie then shared the song “God Knows.”
- Annette reminded people about the Be the One training available and to let Lisa know if they were interested.

POPPY PROJECT AUCTION

There were several items from the Poppy Project that were auctioned off to raise funds for the Spirit of Youth Scholarship which is National President Pam Ray’s project this year.

- Unit 35 poppy boots – \$125 sold to Unit 18
- Unit 57 picture – \$275 sold to Shayla Teague
- Unit 1 poppy boots – \$75 sold to Nina Ketelsen
- Jena’s concept picture – \$107 sold to Kathleen Christian Unit 5

The total raised from the auction was \$595.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m. for the Children and Youth Luncheon

RETURN FROM RECESS

The meeting returned from recess at 2:26 p.m.

JODY’S GREAT ROOM

Jody from Jody’s Great Room was presented with her resolution.

ELECTIONS

ROLL CALL

Department Officers Present

President Annette Gwalthney-Jones, 1st Vice President Nina Ketelsen, Secretary Barb Nath, Treasurer Pam Cawley, Chaplain Carrie Hintz, Historian Frances Bedel, Sgt-at-Arms Sabrina Schmidt, Executive Committee Robyn Downs, Executive Committee Brenda Fiddick

Units Present

Jack Henry Unit 1, Joseph T. Craig Unit 3, Seward Unit 5, Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6, Matanuska Valley Unit 15, General Buckner Unit 16, Robert G. Blair Unit 17, Ninilchik Unit 18, George H. Plumley Memorial Unit 20, Spenard Unit 28, Muldoon Unit 29, Con Miller Unit 30, Peters Creek Unit 33, Susitna Valley Unit 35, C. Russell Huber Unit 57

Standing Committee Chairs Present

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Past Department Presidents Present

Beverly Eads, Rehta Foster, Barbara Nath, Lisa Williamson

All members are present and have the necessary credentials.

VOTING STRENGTH

Members with individual votes must be present to have a vote.
There is only one vote for each Senior member, not one for each position.

<u>UNIT NAME</u>	<u>30 DAY MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>UNIT STRENGTH</u>	<u>CHARTER VOTE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Jack Henry Unit 1	240	24	1	25
Joseph T. Craig Unit 3	50	5	1	6
Seward Unit 5	167	17	1	18
Merlin Elmer Palmer Unit 6	47	5	1	6
Dorman H. Baker Unit 11 (ABSENT)	31	3	1	0
Lynn Canal Unit 12 (ABSENT)	99	10	1	0
Sitka Unit 13 (ABSENT)	48	5	1	0
Matanuska Valley Unit 15	151	15	1	16
General Buckner Unit 16	104	10	1	11
Robert G. Blair Unit 17	136	14	1	15
Ninilchik Unit 18	72	7	1	8
George H. Plumley Unit 20	142	14	1	15
Gladys Heintz Unit 27 (ABSENT)	7	1	1	0
Spenard Unit 28	262	26	1	27
Muldoon Unit 29	131	13	1	14
Con Miller Unit 30	18	2	1	3
Peters Creek Unit 33	209	21	1	22
Chappie James Unit 34 (ABSENT)	12	1	1	0
Susitna Valley Unit 35	214	21	1	22
C. Russell Huber Unit 57	221	22	1	23
Peter Heyano Unit 442 (ABSENT)	7	1	1	0
TOTAL UNIT STRENGTH.....				231

VOTING STRENGTH (continued)

NATIONAL OFFICERS

NEC Penny Mazonna (EXCUSED)	0
Alternate NEC April Sinclair (EXCUSED)	0
TOTAL NATIONAL OFFICER STRENGTH	0

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

President Annette Gwalthney-Jones	1
1 st Vice President Nina Ketelsen	1
2 nd Vice President Charlene Martin (EXCUSED)	0
Secretary Barbara Nath	1
Treasurer Pam Cawley	1
Historian Frances Bedel	1
Chaplain Carolyn Hintz	1
Sgt-At-Arms Sabrina Schmidt	1
Executive Committee Member Brenda Fiddick	1
Executive Committee Member Robyn Downs	1
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OFFICER STRENGTH	9

STANDING COMMITTEES

ALA Girls State Nina Ketelsen (already has a vote)	0
Americanism Nancy Deaver (ABSENT)	0
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Charlene Martin (EXCUSED)	0
Children and Youth Mary Scaturchio	1
Community Service Susan Stepsicst (ABSENT)	0
Constitution and Bylaws Lisa Williamson (already has a vote)	0
Distinguished Guests Penny Mazonna (EXCUSED)	0
Education/Scholarship Samantha Funk (ABSENT)	0
Finance Sabrina Schmidt (already has a vote)	0
Historian Frances Bedel (already has a vote)	0
Junior Activities Elizabeth Clausen	1
Leadership Colleen Newman	1
Legislative Patty Mazonna-Jones	1
Membership Robyn Downs (already has a vote)	0
National Security Brenda Fiddick (already has a vote)	0
Past Presidents Parley Lori Fruhwirth (ABSENT)	0
Poppy Jena Arntzen	1
Public Relations Lisa Williamson (already has a vote)	0
VA&R Charlene Martin (EXCUSED)	0
TOTAL STANDING COMMITTEE STRENGTH	5

PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS

Margaret Blankenship (ABSENT)	0
Susan Caswell (EXCUSED)	0
Sharon Cherrette (EXCUSED)	0
Lavonne Collier (ABSENT)	0
Sue Diaz (ABSENT)	0

VOTING STRENGTH (continued)

Past Department Presidents (continued)

Beverly Eads	1
Lori FitzSimons (ABSENT)	0
Rehta Foster	1
Francisca Guilford (ABSENT)	0
Laverne Kearns (ABSENT)	0
Jane Larson (already has a vote)	0
Debbie Lowndes (ABSENT)	0
Penny Mazonna (already has a vote)	0
Barbara Nath (already has a vote)	0
Carolyn Null (ABSENT)	0
Evelyn Oliver (ABSENT)	0
Jill Pawson (ABSENT)	0
Linda Schmitt (ABSENT)	0
Jean Shandy (ABSENT)	0
April Sinclair (EXCUSED)	0
Lisa Williamson	1
Barbe Wolkoff (ABSENT)	0
<i>TOTAL PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT STRENGTH.....</i>	<i>3</i>

TOTAL DEPARTMENT VOTING STRENGTH..... 248

SECOND READING OF NOMINATIONS

Department President – Nina Ketelsen (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared Nina Ketelsen the Department President for the 2026-2027 year by acclamation.

Department 1st Vice President – April Sinclair (Unit 57) has been nominated for this position. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared April Sinclair the Department 1st Vice President for the 2026-2027 year by acclamation.

Department 2nd Vice President – Diana Estrada (Unit 35) has been nominated for this position. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared Diana Estrada the Department 2nd Vice President for the 2026-2027 year by acclamation.

Department Historian – Kathleen Pefley (Unit 28) has been nominated for this position. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared Kathleen Pefley the Department Historian for the 2026-2027 year by acclamation.

Department Chaplain – There were two nominations for Department Chaplain: Carrie Hintz (Unit 35) and Vera Hart (Unit 29). Both nominees were given the opportunity to speak. The vote was held by ballot. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared Carrie Hintz the Department Chaplain for the 2026-2027 year.

Department Sgt-at-Arms – Sabrina Schmidt (Unit 29) has been nominated for this position. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared Sabrina Schmidt the Department Sgt-at-Arms for the 2026-2027 year by acclamation.

Department Executive Committee – There are two Executive Committee positions for the Department. Patty Mazonna-Jones (Unit 35) and Margaret Clausen (Unit 57) have been nominated for this position. President Annette Gwalthney-Jones asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, President Annette Gwalthney-Jones declared Patty Mazonna-Jones and Margaret Clausen the Department Executive Committee members for the 2026-2027 year by acclamation.

GAMING PERMIT

MOTION: by Lisa Williamson (Unit 57) and seconded to keep the gaming permit where it is.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OFFICERS

The Junior Auxiliary has approved the following officers for the 2026-2027 administrative year.

President – Melanie Rodeheaver (Unit 35)
1st Vice – Adah Shepard (Unit 35)
2nd Vice – Marlie Sherman (Unit 35)
Chaplain – Azalia Chya-Folmar (Unit 35)
Historian – Alize Coyle (Unit 35)

MOTION: by Rehta Foster (Unit 28) and seconded to approve the Junior Officers for the 2026 -2027 administrative year.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

JUNIOR PROJECT

The Juniors displayed their finished mural to be given to the Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. (WASI). The mural had all the branches of the military represented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Impact reports are due May 15
- Patty Mazonna-Jones asked for love notes for Sue Caswell who is still in the hospital.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Brenda Fiddick (Unit 57) and seconded to adjourn the 104th American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Nath

Barbara Nath
Department Secretary