

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Colorado Convention Minutes
Crowne Plaza, Denver, CO
Friday July 1, 2022**

<p>Auxiliary Opening Session Convenes at 11:00 am</p>	<p>President <i>Theresa Brandt</i> opened the convention by stating that it has been an exciting year, sometimes challenging. She thanked everyone for their hard work with the Units fulfilling our obligations to our veterans, our communities and our children and youth. She appreciates everything every Unit has accomplished.</p> <p>She asked for all new members to stand, and she welcomed them to the convention. She asked that these members be taken under our wings and invite them to be part of the team.</p>
<p>Minutes approval Committee</p>	<p><i>President Brandt</i> stated If there are no objection: Tracy Trujillo, Nancy Diefenderfer, and Ann Ritacco are appointed to the minute's approval committee. Regina Prentice will sub for Ann as she is out of the room.</p> <p>There being no objections, the appointments to the minute's approval committee are approved.</p>
<p>Roll Call</p>	<p>Secretary <i>Terry Lena</i> took the roll call.</p> <p>Roll call of Officers: NEC Laurie Kuntz President Theresa Brandt President Elect Bettina Kossow Vice President Janelle Mendelson Secretary Terry Lena Pro Temp Chaplain Judy Sadler in place of absent Chaplain Donna Rae Smith Historian Nancy Diefenderfer Appointed Parliamentarian Donna Thompson Immediate Past Department President Tracy Trujillo.</p> <p>Roll call of DEC's District 1 - Vacant District 2 – Vacant District 3 - Regina Prentice District 4 - Shelly McLatchie for Nancy Diefenderfer District 5 - Cat Apodaca in for Janelle Mendelson District 6 - Deb Davis in the Nancy Shannon District 7 - Jackie Bowen District 8 -Patricia Steranka District 9 Vacant District 10 absent District 11 Deb Jackson District 12 vacant District 13 Jennifer Avery District 14 absent.</p> <p>Roll call of Past Department President's</p>

	<p>Donna Thompson Patricia Steranka Rhonda Larkowski Susie, Bozella Diane Erickson Evelyn Espinola Ann Ritacco Laurie Kuntz Tracy Trujillo.</p>
Dispensing of the Minutes	<p>If there is no objection, we will dispense of reading the minutes from last year’s convention. Hearing no objections, we will dispense of the reading of the minutes.</p> <p>Announcements: Girls State items available for sale, Boys and Girls State silent auction, Poppy displays, and PDP displays.</p> <p>NEC Laurie Kuntz announced the flag backdrop was available and urged incoming chairs to have their picture taken for the website.</p> <p>Bettina Kossow announced the hospitality room #525 from 7 – 8 pm.</p> <p>Update on President Theresa’s Project, Crawford House. Jackie Bowen gave an update on the status of the Crawford House. Crawford House is closed, and they are currently working on selling their three buildings and forming a Foundation. Due to VA restrictions, Crawford House was losing \$50,000 a year. Crawford House has been existence for 22 years in helping veterans with an 87% success rate. President Brandt is still planning on donating to the Crawford House once the Foundation is formed. They are doing everything they can and collaborating with an attorney. They have a full board working on this,</p> <p>Introduction of all that were in attendance.</p> <p>Recess was called for lunch at 12:05. Reconvene at 1:36pm.</p> <p>Membership Chair Shelley McLatchie introduced Ada – who has been a member for 75 years.</p> <p>NEC Laurie Kuntz introduced Nebraska NEC and PDP Kathy Mazur.</p>
First reading of the Credentials Report	<p>Jackie Bowen and Bettina Kossow read the first reading of the credentials. Being no corrections to the credentials, Laurie Kuntz made a motion to accept the credentials as read. It was seconded. The motion passed.</p>
Rules and Order of Convention Report	<p><i>Donna Thompson</i> explained that if there were no questions or corrections of the Rules of Convention, they could be accepted without reading them. Deb Jackson made the motion to accept it was seconded. Motion passed.</p>
Resolutions	<p><i>President Brandt</i> asked <i>Donna Thompson</i> to present a special resolution. The resolution honoring Rhonda Redgate was presented. Resolution was adopted as read.</p>
Constitution and Bylaws	<p><i>The Constitution and Bylaws</i> Chairman <i>Donna Thompson</i> was to present the Constitution and Bylaws report.</p>

	Due to confusion in the agenda (vote on resolutions were stated to take place on Saturday) NEC Laurie Kuntz made a motion to table the voting on the resolutions until Saturday's meeting. Motion to table passed.
Committee Reports	<i>President Brandt stated</i> If you wish to have a picture with the committee chairman, you can do so after they have presented their report in the back of the room so we can keep the reports going. If every chairman present will line up in front so we may keep this moving, it will be greatly appreciated.
Americanism	<i>Americanism Chairman Judy Sadler gave</i> the Americanism report and announced the Department Winners for Americanism essay contest. Unit #137, Unit #1260, Unit #65, Unit #68, Unit #79, and Unit #209 received awards for as Group Winners. The Americanism Department winner was Unit #1260. Americanism essay awards were announced. Class 3 winner: Kathleen Whitmore, Class 4 winner: Lyle Shoemaker, Class 5 winner: Kimberly Whitmore, and there were 4 honorable mentions.
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	<i>AEF Chairman Jackie Bowen gave</i> the AEF report. The AEF report is in the Book of Reports. Certificates for donations were presented to Units #5, #23, #25, #32, #42, #68, #161, #178, #193, #209, and #2008.
Cavalcade of Memories	Cavalcade of Memories was voted to be moved to Historian duties at the Pre-Convention meeting. No report was given.
Children and Youth	Children and Youth Chairman Deb Jackson gave the Children & Youth report. Children and Youth winners were announced Units #131, #1260, #65, #2008, #21, and #209. The Department Children and Youth was Unit #209. Deb explained the National project, Project Stuff Sack. The sacks received from National will be given to District Presidents to encourage units in their districts to participate.
Strategic Planning Committee	It was approved to form a Strategic Planning Committee to make long range goals for the American Legion Auxiliary. Bettina Kossow gave the Strategic Planning Committee report. On the committee were the following: Bettina Kossow, Laurie Kuntz, Evelyn Espinola, Shelley McLatchie, Nancy D, Janelle Mendelson, Jennifer Avery, and Donna Rae Smith. The members on this committee were representatives of large and small units, and units in big cities and rural areas. The committee met between Mid-Year and Convention approximately every two weeks. The committee decided that a long-term planning committee was not needed because other committees addressing the goals were already in place. This committee reviewed the C&B, Standing Rules, Financial, Membership, Executive Committee, and Leadership. Recommendation from the committee is not to add another committee for this upcoming year. Ad Hoc Committee is automatically disbanded.
Community Service	Chairman <i>Royce Hopper gave</i> the report on Community Service. Units recognized were Units #26, #13, #2008, #209. Department winner was Unit #2008.
Education	<i>Education Chairman Susie Bozella announced</i> that the Education Report is in the book of Reports. Auston Froid won a National Education Award. Units receiving recognition were unit #1879, #189, #70, #2 and #32. Unit #2 and Unit #32 tied for Department Education honors.
VA&R Report	President—VA&R Chairman Janelle Mendelson gave the VA&R report. Janelle indicated Representatives Linda (Colorado Springs), Margaret (Walsenburg), and Terri (Fisher House) were unable to attend.

<p>Report of VA centers and Community Living Centers</p>	<p><i>Diane Erickson</i> thanked the units for the donations to Fitzsimmons. Diane explained that the residents of Fitzsimmons controlled the donations to determine what activities they would like to do with the donations. Donations were given out at the joint opening that morning. Diane highlighted Unit #23 contributions of donations and volunteer hours at Fitzsimmons. She urged everyone to take the time to volunteer at a care facility near you.</p> <p>Diane gave the report for Rocky Mountain Regional VA Center. Donations from the Units for the Christmas were distributed between the hospitalized veterans at Rocky Mountain Regional VA Center, Valor Point, and the VA CLC at Pueblo. Donations from Units were also made to the Women Veterans Baby Shower. This year donations totaled: \$3123.22. Over 300 hours were donated as regularly scheduled volunteers, and another 300 plus hours were donated by occasional volunteers. Unit #1 donated snacks to the Infusion Clinic and the Spinal Cord Department. Fisher House – Janelle read Terri Clinton’s report on the Fisher House.</p> <p><i>Theresa Brandt</i> gave a report on Bruce McCandless Veterans Community Living Center. Although shut down by the COVID pandemic, goody bags were still distributed to the 55 residents at this facility. There is room for more veterans, however there is not enough staff. Memorial Day activity was shortened due to an outbreak of COVID. At this point, this facility is completely shut down to volunteers and visitors. The funding received from the ALA will be earmarked for the individual gardens.</p> <p><i>Jennifer Avery</i> reported on the VA Medical Center in Grand Junction. The VA Grand Junction received over \$800 dollars in products and gift cards for the veterans receiving care the VA Grand Junction facility. The CLC at Grand Junction is still limiting visitation. Holidays were acknowledged by small gift bags. Unit #50 has popcorn sales every day except for Fridays and the proceeds are donated to either the VA Grand Junction or a veteran in need in their community. Jennifer reported that the CLC in Rifle received \$754.24 in products and gifts cards. Helen (the ALA Representative) was able to give the residents at this facility Enstrom candies.</p> <p><i>Evelyn Espinola</i> gave a report on Homelake. Evelyn gave a brief history of the significance of Homelake. Evelyn thanked everyone for the donations. And, due to the restrictions volunteers are still not allowed into the facility.</p> <p><i>Tracy Trujillo</i> gave a report on VA Community Living Center-Pueblo. The CLC at Pueblo has been shut down since before the COVID state shut down due to a flu outbreak over two years. No volunteers have been allowed into the facility. Unit #2 drops off goodies for holidays at the door.</p> <p>The PFC James Dunn VA Clinic-Pueblo is up and running. Veterans, caregivers, and volunteers are back to being at pre-COVID status.</p>
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	The NVCAF festival – thanks to the generosity of the Units, \$9,515 has been raised this year. The estimate cost to the ALA Department of Colorado will be \$35000 to \$40000. The ALA Department of Colorado is responsible for the swag bags for all gold medal winners and the hospitality room for 10 days – 14 hours days. When the VA is ready to form committees, those wishing to volunteer from the ALA will be notified.
Finance Committee	Finance Committee Chairman <i>Donna Rae Smith</i> could not attend the department convention; she has videotaped her report. Donna Rae's report was played.
Fundraising Committee	<i>President Theresa Brandt</i> gave a fundraising report. Since there was no Mid-Year fundraising event, she donated \$1,500 to the general fund for Department to make up for not having Mid-Year. She has raffle tickets available for the coin collection (\$5 a ticket), and a plaque (\$1 a ticket or 6 for \$5).
Presidents Project	<i>President project was the Crawford House.</i> Jackie Bowen gave an update on the status of the Crawford House prior to the lunch break.
Girls State	Ann Ritacco gave the Girls State Report. Merchandise from Girls State is available for purchase. Proceeds from the Boys and Girls State Silent Auction is currently being held. Girls State program is making changes. Unit Chairmen contact forms need to be completed and will be available on the website. Some units have not paid for their delegates yet. Youth Protection Guidelines will be put in place – it will include never a 1 on 1 conversation with a delegate, group get together instead of meeting the girls individually, and if the representative must meet with a girl individually, the parent/guardian must be present. Full and complete guidelines will be available soon.
Juniors Activities	Ann Ritacco gave the Juniors Report. Group winner were Units #1879, 1187, 2008, and department winner was Unit #1879.
Leadership	<i>Leadership Chairman Nancy D</i> gave a report on Leadership. Nancy mentioned the ALA 101, how many indicated to Be Kind to Each Other, and hosting a leadership meeting. Leadership winner Unit #209.
Legislative	Legislative Report is in the book of reports.
Membership Report	<i>Membership Chairman Shelly McLatchie</i> gave a membership report. She announced Units that reached 100% or more membership – Units #1879, #1187, #189, #2008, #178, and announced Unit #1879 was first in Department. Unit #32 had the highest number of new members at 30. Limon became a new Unit. Unit #30 Wray was winner of the Hot Air Balloon Ride or a donation of \$500.
Caretaker awards(adult/children)	<i>President Brandt</i> asked those who were caretakers or have been caretakers to stand to be recognized. The caregivers were given thank you cards. President Theresa described the Youth Caregiver awards and indicated that she has some available. Diane Erickson was honored with her many years of caretaking.
Nominations of Officers	The next order of business was the endorsements for officers for the year 2022-2023. By virtue of being the Department President Elect <i>Bettina Kossow</i> will automatically become President for 2022-2023

<p>Nominations of Officers continued.</p>	<p>During Mid-Year Conference, <i>Janelle Mendelson</i> was endorsed for President Elect.</p> <p>District 5 has nominated Casey Rigerman for Vice President.</p> <p>Donna Thompson has endorsed Judy Sadler for Chaplain Are there any further endorsements-say three times.</p> <p>During Mid-Year Conference, <i>Nancy Diefenderfer</i>, was endorsed for Historian. Are there any further endorsements?</p> <p>During Mid-Year Conference there were no endorsements for Sgt at Arms. Are there any endorsements for Sgt at Arms? NEC Laurie Kuntz endorsed Crystal Babcock for Sgt of Arms.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<p>There will be a membership breakfast at 7:00 a.m. in the Vail room. It is open to all members. Tickets are available for the PPP lunch. To purchase tickets, see Terry Lena after the meeting. We will reconvene tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>Recess</p>	<p>This meeting will now adjourn until tomorrow. We hope to see all of you at the membership breakfast.</p>

Terry Rose Lena

Terry Rose Lena
Department Secretary Treasurer

Date

Minutes Approval Committee

Nancy Diefenderfer

Nancy Diefenderfer

Date

Ann Ritacco

Ann Ritacco

Date

Tracy Trujillo

Tracy Trujillo

Date

Signature: *Terry Rose Lena*
Terry Rose Lena (Jul 21, 2022 08:37 MDT)

Email: dept.sec.alacolorado@outlook.com

Signature: *Nancy Diefenderfer*
Nancy Diefenderfer (Jul 24, 2022 15:26 MDT)

Email: nmmarti76@hotmail.com

Signature: *Ann Ritacco*
Ann Ritacco (Jul 24, 2022 16:31 CDT)

Email: bearquiltco@yahoo.com

Signature: *Tracy Trujillo*
Tracy Trujillo (Jul 24, 2022 17:38 MDT)

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MINUTES JULY 1. 2022


Final Audit Report

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