

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Colorado
102nd Convention Agenda Script
Sky Ute Casino Hotel and Conference Center
Friday June 30, 2023
1:30 pm**

Opening session	<i>President Bettina Kossow</i> welcomed all members to the 102 nd convention at the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio on the western slope.
Minutes approval Committee	<i>President</i> —If there is no objection <i>Chris Harvey, Donna Rae Smith, and Pat Steranka</i> are appointed to the minutes approval committee. There being no objections, the appointments to the minutes approval committee are approved.
Roll Call	<i>Secretary Terry Lena</i> will take the roll call The Executive Committee In attendance: NEC Laurie Kuntz, President Bettina Kossow, President Elect Janelle Mendelson, Vice President Casey Rigerman, Parliamentarian and Chaplain Judy Sadler, Immediate Past Department President Theresa Brandt. District Executive Committee In attendance: District 3 - Betty Pickett District President on behalf of Regina Prentice, District 4 - Karen Boehler, District 5 - Cat Apadaca District President on behalf of Janelle Mendelson, District 6 – Deb Davis, District 7 Jackie Bowen, District 8 – Pat Steranka, District 9 – Ashley Florez District VP on behalf of Patricia Cooper, District 10 – Sue Patterson, District 11 – Deb Jackson, District 12 – Vacant, District 13 – absent, District 14 – absent Past Department Presidents In attendance: Donna Thompson, Chris Harvey, Sue Patterson, Pat Steranka, Rhonda Larkowski, Karen Boehler, Diane Erickson, Evelyn Espinola, Laurie Kuntz, Tracy Trujillo, and Theresa Brandt
Dispensing of the Minutes	<i>President Kossow</i> ask 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.
First reading of the Credentials Report	Jackie Bowen and Kelly Hayes will read the first reading of the credentials. There were no corrections to the credentials
Rules and Order of Convention Report	<i>Judy Sadler</i> read the Rules of Convention.
Resolutions	<i>President Kossow</i> asked <i>Judy Sadler</i> if there were any resolutions to present. Judy stated there were no resolutions to present.
Constitution and Bylaws	<i>The Constitution and Bylaws chairman Judy Sadler</i> will present the Constitution and Bylaws report. Judy noted that they will all be read tomorrow to save time.

<p>Nominations of Department Officers</p>	<p><i>President Kossow</i> stated the next business in order is the endorsements for officers for 2023-2024. If you have an endorsement to read, please come forward to read your endorsements.</p> <p>By virtue of being Department President-Elect <i>Janelle Mendelson</i> will automatically become president for 2023-2024.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, Casey Rigerman was endorsed for President Elect. <i>Jeannette Scott</i> endorsed Casey on behalf of Unit 161 and District 5.</p> <p><i>Beatrice Martiniz</i> endorsed Dawn Valdez for President Elect on behalf of Unit 2 and District 8.</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, Shelley McLatchie was endorsed for Vice President. <i>Karen Boehler</i> endorsed Shelly for Vice President on behalf of Unit 1879 and District 4.</p> <p><i>Donna Thompson</i> endorsed Judy Sadler for Vice President on behalf of Unit 1 and District 6.</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Judy Sadler</i> was endorsed as Chaplain. Judy has rescinded her Chaplain nomination.</p> <p><i>Lisa Langley</i> endorsed Donna Rae Smith for Chaplain on behalf of Unit 38 and District 7.</p> <p><i>Evelyn Espinola</i> endorsed Ashley Flores for Chaplain on behalf of Unit 2, Unit 113, and District 8.</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Nancy Diefenderfer</i> was endorsed for Historian. <i>Kathy Flaherty</i> endorsed Nancy for Historian on behalf of Unit 4 and District 4</p> <p><i>Edrie O'Brien</i> endorsed Deb Davis for Historian on behalf of Unit 1 and District 6.</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference Cat Apodaca was endorsed for Sergeant at Arms. There were no other nominations Cat Apodaca wins by acclimation.</p>
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	<p>During the Mid-Year Conference, Laurie Kuntz was endorsed for NEC. <i>Terry Willman</i> endorsed Laurie on behalf of Unit 68 and District 3.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, Pat Steranka was endorsed for NEC. <i>Tracy Trujillo</i> endorsed Pat on behalf of Unit 2 and District 8.</p> <p>There were no further endorsements</p>
Officers Report	<p><i>Laurie Kuntz</i> spoke regarding the NEC. They had several electronic meetings this year. It was a great learning experience with the Executive sessions. Some of the questions brought up was National raising dues \$6. Where is our money going? The answer being it went to many different programs such as the NVCAF in the spring of 2024. The Finance committee has cut back by paying \$2 grand for one zoom account and not spending 2 grand per person to attend in person in Indianapolis. They cut back on the magazine, texture of paper etc. They want to encourage dues to be paid online so they do not have to send out dues notices.</p> <p>The past 2 years we initiated constant contact. Not all our members are getting the proper information. This makes it so it goes directly to the member. We started doing open forum monthly training on the 4th Thursday of the month. The National pre-convention meetings will be online. If you are not a delegate, you still can attend to watch and learn. Get terrific ideas about other units from different departments.</p> <p>The Star Fish Story. As an old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a girl ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the girl, he asked why she was doing this. She answered that the starfish would die if left until the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," said the old man. "How can your effort make any difference?" The girl looked at the starfish in her hand, threw it safely into the waves and said, "it matters to that one!" We value you; you are important to the people you serve and those around you. We are a family. Talk to people and share your ideas.</p>
Committee Reports	<p>All but 4 of the Committee Reports to be listed in the Electronic Book of Reports, awards at the Celebration Lunch.</p> <p>Finance Committee <i>Pat Steranka</i>, Chair of the Finance Committee gave her report. She stated our budget is primarily membership based. This year membership was greatly appreciated. We met at mid-year and had a good meeting. We raised some and reduced some line items. We worked on next year's budget. We had a problem in May with the website going down and had to pay \$600. I think our finances are in good shape. Did last-minute Girls State budget which may need some tweaking. There were no questions.</p> <p>Girls State <i>Kelley Hayes</i> and <i>Royce Hopper</i> gave a report on Girls State Committee. 6/15 – 6/20 we had Girls State at North Eastern Junior College. We had 94 delegates and 29 staff. The cities were named after inspirational women. We received a \$50,000 grant from the Daniel's fund and \$2,500 donation</p>

	<p>of tee shirts and tote bags. The college was extremely helpful. They offered \$500 and \$1,000 scholarships to any of the young ladies who signed up for it and all the ladies who signed up would be receiving the scholarships. The food was better than in previous places. The girls passed 3 bills in the house and the Governor vetoed one of the bills. Thank you to Casey Rigerman for being the parliamentarian; Bettina Kossow was counselor in the Marie Currie city, and Deb Davis was there as a counselor as well. Katherine Schimmel, sponsored by Unit 209 became Governor. Penny wars this year we raised \$692 which was are donating to President Bettina Kossow’s project, the Fisher House. We will use the Amazon wish list. We did a poppy wreath, and another service project was a group of bunnies for the baby shower. They did veterans’ cards and every one of the girls wrote thank you cards to their sponsors. The veterans’ cards artwork was done by one of the delegates. Numbers are increasing. We were 30 more than last year after covid. We had electronic voting; everything was done online. Hoping to go back next year. It is important that the medical form go electronically to the registrar. Need to put a book together for our nurse on staff with the privacy laws.</p>
<p>Membership</p>	<p><i>Shelley McLatchie</i> Membership Chair and <i>Diana Grosz</i> of the Membership Committee gave a report. Last year’s theme started out race to the top. We began the race with a new committee. We were working as your pit crew. We promoted a tool box tips and constant communication with Districts, Units, and DEC. Also have a membership communication email coauxiliarymembership@gmail.com. Diana and Shelley created a one drive to put in all the information, agenda, and communication to share for our road map to the top. As we neared the finish line for the first time in a long time, we had 100% was in our sight. We offer sincere appreciation to all the units. National awarded us money when we reach our goals of 85% with \$85, 95% with \$95 and 100% we will receive \$500. Shelley talked about getting corporate sponsors to be used as membership money sponsors.</p> <p><i>President Kossow</i> stated membership is everybody’s business – you all reached 100% it is all of you and your hard work reaching out recruiting. Thank you.</p>
<p>National Creative Arts Veterans Festival 2024</p>	<p><i>Tracy Trujillo</i>, Chair of the NCAVF gave her report. She brought a video from the ALA Foundation from 2017 at Buffalo. The video did not load and will be posted on Constant Contact.</p> <p>She handed out information packets to explain why and where the money was going. There is data on how many veterans in the nation participate in this program affects thousands of veterans every year. The pandemic affected our veterans who used art for therapy. Veterans’ participation report tells us what to expect. The average number is 142 – we buy every single gold medalist a swag bag. The more numbers she has the more accurate it will be when we go out for quotes to define our budget. The</p>

	<p>average attendance is 114 veterans and 48 caregivers. There should be 160 plus staff and volunteers that can potentially walk into our hospitality room which we are responsible for. We are also responsible for off-site meals. If they do outings, we are responsible for snacks and beverages. 2018 – the cost was \$500,032. This is why they rely on us. She showed the donation breakdown of every dime we have received since 2021. Any little bit can help. I want to reach out to Unit 1879 where they donated \$7,500 and gave it directly to the VA. A Shout out to the Ladies from Unit 111 they turned in poppy money in total \$3,835.41. We had the blessing from ALA National Committee with special fund and use it for the festival while we just track it. Any questions reach out to me, Judy Sadler our Red coat ambassador and also on the committee is Diane Erickson VAVS representative. Our goal dollar is \$55 thousand. We do not have a date yet for spring 2024, it will probably be in May.</p>
Past Department Presidents	<i>Evelyn Espinola</i> gave a short update on the PDP Club. They met at lunch time we usually have a wish list. They offered to give the Secretary an office laptop.
Announcements	<i>President Kossow</i> announced there will be bowling from 6-8pm and tomorrow there will be a Membership Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. in Center E
Recess	<i>President</i> - This meeting will now adjourn until tomorrow.

Terry Rose Lena
[Terry Rose Lena \(Aug 3, 2023 07:59 MDT\)](#)
 Terry Rose Lena, Secretary

 Date

Chris Harvey
[Chris Harvey \(Jul 25, 2023 11:10 MDT\)](#)
 Chis Harvey, Minutes Committee

 Date

Donna Rae Smith
[Donna Rae Smith \(Aug 3, 2023 06:59 MDT\)](#)
 Donna Rae Smith, Minutes Committee

 Date

Patricia J Steranka
[Patricia J Steranka \(Aug 3, 2023 07:56 MDT\)](#)
 Pat Steranka, Minutes Committee

 Date