

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Colorado
102nd Convention Agenda Script
Sky Ute Casino Hotel and Conference Center
Saturday, July 1, 2023
8:30 am**

Everlasting Memorial	Chaplain Judy Sadler gave a memorial to honor the members who have passed onto the Everlasting Unit.
Reconvene	<i>President Bettina Kossow reconvened the department meeting.</i>
2nd Reading of the Credentials	There were no corrections, the credentials were finalized.
Constitution and Bylaws	<p><i>Judy Sadler gave a Constitution and Bylaws report.</i></p> <p>Judy announced her committee members, Tracy Trujillo, and Donna Thompson.</p> <p>Three items were postponed. With no access to minutes of the 2013 convention, it will be postponed until next year. Same with the code of ethics. An ad hoc committee will be established</p> <p>Article 5 Department Executive Board. The adoption is as follows: To strike out without vote for Past Department Presidents. President Kossow asked if there was any questions or discussion. Everyone has two minutes to talk and can only talk twice after everyone has talked once. Jeanette Scott of 161 asked if National is changing in their bylaws and will the districts and units have to change in theirs. Judy responded that the National by laws do not reflect it and it does not go against what they have, this is specific to CO, you would not have to change it in your constitution. This only affects the department and will not affect DEC.</p> <p>Cat Apodaca of District 5 is concerned that the PDPD will outnumber the districts and could outvote the DEC.</p> <p>Chris Harvey made an amendment. The PDP get a vote but in no way be able to outvote DEC. They should always be one shy vote of the DEC voting strength., The PDP will be done in seniority. Rhonda Larkowski seconds the motion. Laurie Kuntz stated the Legion had this same issue revoked because of drama with PDC.</p> <p>Donna Thompson of Unit 1 – agreed with it due to up until now if she wanted to vote on the board, she would have to run for DEC. This prevents another member from obtaining a leadership role.</p> <p>A vote was called for the amendment. 17 were in favor with the majority against. The next vote is on the original amendment. 19 were in favor and 41 were against. The amendment failed</p> <p>Article 4 – Department Officers</p>

Amendment to insert the Secretary Treasurer serve with all rights except for the right to vote.

Discussions: *Judy Sadler* stated these are two separate bylaws. This comes from the Executive Board Committee. National has an Executive Committee but does not have a Board.

Diane Erickson understands the Secretary should not be able to vote on items directly affecting or benefiting her financially. The secretary is the person who has the most contact with all the membership and thinks she should be able to vote.

Jackie Bowen read from National C&BL – The National Secretary shall be a member of National Exec Committee when held by an employee shall serve with all rights except the right to vote. Judy reiterated the difference between Board and Committee.

Casey Rigerman asked for clarification of the Executive Board and Executive Committee. In bylaws officers

Debra Jackson feels the Secretary / Treasurer has a lot of information She should have a say but not necessarily a vote. Info should be shared.

Laurie Kuntz, National does have both committees and board. Paid employees do not get a vote, they have a voice.

Chris Harvey stated by having a job she gives up her vote.

President Kossow called for a vote. 70 members able to vote. 22 in favor of change 42 against. Motion did not pass

Article 6 – Department Executive Committee

The NEC member, Department President, Department President Elect, Department Vice President, Department Secretary Treasurer, and two DEC elected from the department executive board. The Proposed amendment is to insert Chaplain and Historian to match National.

There was no discussion. President Kossow called for a vote. It was unanimously passed.

The new wording will now read:

Article VI Department Executive Committee

Section 1. The national executive committee member, the department president, the department president elect, the department vice president, chaplain, historian the department secretary treasurer, and two DEC, elected from the department executive board shall comprise the department executive committee.

Article 7 Department Convention Section 1

	<p>The legislative body held annually at the same time and place as the American Legion. The amendment is to insert or in the event the American Legion does not fix a time and place, or an emergency situation demands additional consideration, the Department Executive Board shall fix it.</p> <p>Rhonda Larkowski stated she was not opposed in principle however she does not think it is necessary at this time. Jackie Bowen is against this due to Past Department Commander Dave Rehbein stating he thinks the Legion problems will be taken care of by the Spring of 2024. Susan Abeyta of Unit 21 Golden inquired if an emergency does happen, who appoints the committee? The Executive Board to make the decision. Deb Jackson of Unit 65 Delta is opposed. Asked who is paying for this if we were to do this.</p> <p>President Kossow called for a vote. There was 20 for and 43 against this motion failed.</p> <p>Article 8 Mid-Year Conference. – This is a conforming amendment and automatically failed with Article 7.</p> <p>Bylaws To pass, you need a majority.</p> <p>Article 3 Duties of the Officers This is a conforming amendment with the constitution, and it fails.</p> <p>Article 5 Section 1 Department Executive Board This is a conforming amendment with the constitution, and it fails.</p> <p>Article 5 Section 3 Department Executive Board This is a conforming amendment with the constitution, and it fails.</p> <p>Article 12 Delegates to the National Convention Section 2 Removing automatic delegate of Secretary Treasurer and inserting Incoming President Elect. The Secretary Treasurer spoke on behalf of herself against this change due to the fact that she is the delegation secretary. She sent out 50 emails to department secretaries of which 27 responded and of the 27, 25 stated they were attending the convention and they get to vote. There was discussion from the floor from PDP Chris Harvy, PDP, Rhonda Larkowski, and Diane Erickson all against.</p> <p>It was at this time that Laurie Kuntz decided to withdraw the amendment. No vote needed.</p>
<p>Election of Officers</p>	<p>For any office having more than one nominee, we will read the nominations and defer balloting until after the unopposed candidates are elected.</p> <p>Candidates running for Election NEC – Laurie Kuntz and Pat Steranka President Elect Casey Rigerman and Dawn Valdez Vice President Shelley McLatchie and Judy Sadler Chaplain Ashley Flores and Donna Rae Smith Historian – Nancy Diefenderfer and Deb Davis</p>

	<p>Sergeant at Arms Cat Apadaca running unopposed</p> <p>Teller’s Oath and ballot instructions given by Secretary/Treasurer Terry Lena to Election Committee Chair Debra Jackson, and Royce Hopper, Jackie Bowen, Sue Patterson, and Cathy Hengst</p> <p>After the explanation and distribution of ballots. The Sergeant at Arms secured the room. We will recess during the voting, no one will be allowed to enter or leave the room during the voting. Candidates were instructed to stay within your delegation. Each chairperson of their delegation is responsible for their delegation.</p>
Lunch Recess	<p>After the ballots were collected and given to the Election Committee, the membership recessed for the Celebration Lunch.</p>
Teller’s Report	<p>Bettina Kossow called back the meeting to order and gave the tellers report which was hand delivered to her by Debra Jackson. As per the bylaws, the ballots will be read and put in the minutes but will be blacked out for distribution and publication.</p> <p>NEC – Laurie Kuntz received 89 votes Pat Steranka received 68 votes. Laurie Kuntz has been elected as NEC</p> <p>President Elect – Casey Rigerman received 111 votes and Dawn Valdez received 46 votes. Casey Rigerman has been elected President Elect</p> <p>Vice president - Shelley McLatchie received 108 votes and Judy Sadler received 47 votes. Shelley McLatchie has been elected Vice President</p> <p>Chaplain – Ashley Flores received 121 votes and Donna Rae Smith received 35 votes. Ashley Flores has been elected Chaplain</p> <p>Historian – Deb Davis has received 136 votes and Nancy Diefenderfer received 20 votes. Deb Davis has been elected Historian</p> <p>Sergeant at Arms – Cat Apodaca wins by acclamation</p>
Appointment of National Convention Delegates	<p>Secretary <i>Terry Lena</i> will give a report on how many delegates we are allowed. Delegates are based on membership ranking. Beginning with the Highest membership ranking District and move on until all Delegates obtained. Followed by same number of Alternates</p> <p><u>Delegates</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PDP Bettina Kossow 2. President Janelle Mendelson 3. NEC Laurie Kuntz 4. Secretary Terry Rose Lena 5. Pat Steranka 6. Judy Sadler 7. Jackie Bowen 8. Susan Abeyta 9. Beatrice Martinez

	<p>Alternates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ann Ritacco 2. Tracy Trujillo 3. Pat Weaver 4. Casey Rigerman 5. Edrie O'Brien 6. Elaine Bock 7. Chris Harvey
Installation of New Officers	<i>Tracy Trujillo</i> will install the new officers.
Remarks by New President	<i>President Janelle Mendelson</i> addressed the membership. President Mendelson's theme is "Change with Integrity Honor What Matters" Her President's Project will be the Honor bell.
Announcements	<p><i>President Kossow</i> announced The Post DEC meeting will take place at 3:45 All are invited.</p> <p><i>President</i> announces at 6:00pm there will be the Cocktail reception followed by the banquet Dinner at 7:00. It will be held in Center A & B rooms</p>
Adjournment	President Kossow adjourned the 102nd ALA Department Convention at 3:15pm

Terry Rose Lena

[Terry Rose Lena \(Aug 3, 2023 08:08 MDT\)](#)

Terry Rose Lena, Secretary

Date

Chris Harvey

[Chris Harvey \(Jul 27, 2023 07:33 MDT\)](#)

Chis Harvey, Minutes Committee

Date

Donna Rae Smith

[Donna Rae Smith \(Jul 26, 2023 22:46 MDT\)](#)

Donna Rae Smith, Minutes Committee

Date

Patricia J. Steranka

[Patricia J. Steranka \(Jul 31, 2023 08:40 MDT\)](#)

Pat Steranka, Minutes Committee

Date