

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Colorado
Pre-Convention Department Executive Board Committee Meeting
Sky Ute Casino Hotel and Conference Center
June 29, 2023 @ 4:30 pm**

Call to order	<p>President Bettina Kossow called the meeting of the Pre-Convention Executive Committee will come to order.</p> <p>Chaplain Judy Sadler offered the prayer.</p> <p>President elect Janelle Mendelson lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.</p> <p>Vice President Casey Rigerman lead us in reciting the Preamble to the Constitution.</p>
Roll Call	<p>Secretary Terry Lena will take the roll call.</p> <p>Executive Board in attendance: NEC Laurie Kuntz, President Bettina Kossow, President Elect Janelle Mendelson, Vice President Casey Rigerman, Secretary Terry Rose Lena, Parliamentarian/Chaplain Judy Sadler, Immediate Past Department President Theresa Brandt. By Zoom Historian Nancy Diefenderfer.</p> <p>District Executive Committee in attendance: District 1 - Absent; District 2 - Alison Arnold by Zoom; District 3 - Betty Picket, District President acting on behalf of DEC Regina Prentice; District 4- Karen Boehler; District 5 - Cat Apadaca, District President acting on behalf of Janelle Mendelson; District 6 Deb Davis; District 7 - Jackie Bowen; District 8 - Pat Steranka; District 9 Ashley Flores on behalf of DEC Patricia Cooper; District 10 - Sue Patterson; District 11 - Deb Jackson; District 12 Vacant; District 13 - Jennifer Avery by Zoom; District 14 absent.</p> <p>Past Department Presidents in attendance: Donna Thompson, Chris Harvey, Sue Patterson, Pat Steranka, Rhonda Larkowski, Karen Boehler, Diane Erickson, Evelyn Espinola, Ann Ritacco, Lauri Kuntz, Tracy Trujillo, Theresa Brandt</p>
Minutes approval Committee	<p>President Kossow stated if there is no objection; Shelley Mclatchie Diane Erickson, and Donna Thompson are appointed to the minutes approval committee.</p> <p>There being no objections, the appointments to minutes approval committee are approved.</p>
Committee Reports	<p>President Kossow stated the next order of business are the reports of the following committees:</p> <p>Audit Committee - Chris Harvey gave the report. The Audit Committee consisted of Chair Rhonda Redgate, with Chris Harvey and Edrie Obrien. All 4 quarters of the audit reviewed and all info up to date and accurate. There were no discrepancies. Everything was excellent and in good order.</p>

Finance Committee- *Pat Steranka*, Chair gave the report. The committee consists of Rhonda Larkowski, Judy Sadler, Deb McBride, Diane Erickson. During Mid-year we went over the budget and reviewed for next year. One of main goals was not to raise Colorado Department dues. In excess of the \$6 National increase. We based the budget on 4,000 members. The Membership team did an excellent job, they managed to get so many units and districts over 100%. Terry keeps within the budget. Next year if everything goes according to the way we set up should be okay.

Judy Sadler had a question about obtaining a 501c3? Tracy is looking inquiring about it for Unit 2 when she has all the information, it should apply for Department. Unit 1 also applying for 501c3. *Laurie Kuntz* clarified that it would be in addition to 501c19. *Jackie Bowen* checked with Past National Presidents, and they said the only thing that can be with a 501c3 is the Foundation. Judy contacted the IRS before unit 1 started and they said it was okay so long as paperwork was in order. Jackie went on to say we need to follow National rules. Currently, the NVCAF can't put in grants without a 501c3 and has to go through the Foundation to do it. Diane Erickson stated this could be helpful to Girls State. *Jackie Bowen* asked how Boys State got a 501c3. They are separate as an LLC. Discussion tabled until more complete information is obtained.

Resolution Committee-Chairperson *Judy Sadler* stated there were not any resolutions at this time.

Standing Rules - I Department Organization

Tracy Trujillo stated this is a mandate from National. A protocol for chain of communication. NW division to Department Chair to President to Secretary. The chain of information is set. Discussion ensued.

Karen Boehler questioned what kind of information originating from units does not have to go to national. Can it stop at district depending on the information? *Laurie Kuntz* questioned which leadership, there are many different NW divisions chairmen. *Shelley McLatchie* questioned membership emails. Is this stopping me as membership chair? Tracy stated to let the Unit President and District President copied as a courtesy into that communication.

Cat Apadaca said that this is confusing, when she sent out emails to everyone, she received nothing but complaints. They did not want to receive all the emails. Chris Harvey tried to clarify that it is to keep National from being inundated from members to go straight to them v.,hen it should stay in their Department. *Debra Jackson* announced that this was brought up 3 years ago. *Donna Thomson* made the motion to review the minutes and table this standing rule until the Post DEC meeting. Jackie Bowen seconded.

Judy Sadler spoke about two housekeeping rules. Tracy Trujillo and Donna Thompson were on the C&BL committee. Second, we have a 2-minute time frame for speeches and discussion. You can only speak twice after everyone has spoken once.

Karen Boehler made a statement that in the past, several people had C&BL and were making changes. Only the Department Secretary would update our Bylaws, put in page numbers and date of updates. Need to review Post Con meeting of 2013.

Standing Rule VI one-year appointment.

The \$500 for Children & Youth was in the budget and originally for a project. No one has asked for the funds for several years. The last time it was used was at the Miracle Party. You can always reach out to the Finance Committee for certain funds. *Melissa Jaure* asked how it will be reallocated and it will not, it is to clean up the budget. *Judy Sadler* clarified on who can speak. Only DEC, Executive Board can speak, and vote and PDP has a voice without a vote.

The motion before you is to strike out the allowed \$500 for a special project. The vote was a tie 8 for and 8 against. *President Kossow* broke the tie to strike out the allowed \$500. The Amendment has passed.

The Standing Rule will now be read as:

4. Children and Youth

Article 3 VI - Committees Section 4 #2 A thru D

Propose to add -

If the Director and/or Assistant Director of Girls State is unable to attend the Girls State Conference, another member of the Operations Committee can attend to represent the program. Girls state made the motion no second is needed, there was no discussion. A vote called all in favor were 13, 2 were against and one abstained. The Amendment has passed.

The Standing Rule will now be read as:

2. Colorado Girls State Operations Committee - (CGSOC) shall consist of the four-member CGS Steering Committee, (each serving four-year terms), the newly appointed Colorado Girls State Director, the Assistant CGS Director, the Department Secretary/Treasurer, and one at-large member, each of whom shall serve a one-year term. All members of the CGSOC must be members in good standing of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado.

A. The CGSOC at-large member will be appointed by the incoming President and ratified by the DEB at the Department Convention. She must be able to commit to serving the full week at the upcoming CGS program.

B. This committee shall have responsibility for organizing and preparing all phases of the upcoming Girls State Program. All funds for CGS shall go through the Department Secretary/Treasurer. All contracts shall be

negotiated by the CGSOC and signed by the Department Secretary/Treasurer.

C. If the Director and/or Assistant Director is unable to attend the Girls State Conference another member of the Operations Committee can attend to represent our program.

D. In the event of an unexpected vacancy in the Colorado Girls State Operations Committee, the Steering Committee will recommend a replacement to the Department President, subject to approval by the DEB.

XV Finance Committee

B Ex-officio members

Need a vote on a question from Laurie Kuntz requested a vote on the question and Casey Rigerman seconded it. 16 voted against. The amendment does not pass.

XVI - Financial Expenditures to Officers, Committees, and Members

Striking out Children & Youth, VA&R, Children & Youth Chair.

Pat Steranka clarified that the chairs are now zoomed in for the National Convention and they are not needed. Pat made the motion, no second needed. Bettina called for a vote. 13 were in favor of striking out the above referenced, 3 were opposed. The amendment passed.

The Standing Rule will now be read as:

1. Department Chairman submitting contest entries to the National Auxiliary Committee Chairman shall be reimbursed for the cost of postage upon presentation of the postage receipt to the Department.

IXXX Ethics #G

Inserting the word debate. Karen Boehler stated it does not need to be clarified, the words have the same meaning. Donna Thompson stated it is clarifying; this puts it in a section where we will not debate on anything that will benefit directly or indirectly. Laurie made a motion for a vote and Casey Rigerman seconded. There were 3 in favor, 12 against, and 1 abstained. This amendment does not pass.

XVI Financial Expenditures to officers, committees, and members #15 Department Chaplain

Judy Sadler read this to DEC as it was not submitted 30 days prior. Department Chaplain receives \$500 to go to the National Chaplain Conference. The amendment is to change it to help pay for the Department Chaplains retreat up to a maximum of \$500.

Cat Apadaca objects that the Children and Youth money was removed, and Chaplain still has the \$500.

Pat Steranka amended the amendment.

	<p><i>Judy Sadler</i> read the change that if the current Chaplain cannot attend or chooses not to attend the National Conference, then the \$500 will go towards the Department Chaplains Retreat. All in favor of amending the amendment. 9 were in favor and 7 were against.</p> <p>Discussion: <i>Karen Boehler</i> stated she went to the Chaplains National Conference, and it was well received, and she has lasting friendships from it. <i>Evelyn Espinola</i> agreed with what <i>Karen</i> said as she too had a similar experience, however she also went to the Department Chaplains Retreat and thought that was also a worthy program and well received.</p> <p>There was a call for a vote for the new verbiage. There was 9 in favor, 6 against with 1 abstained. 2/3 vote was needed; The amendment did not pass.</p> <p>New standing rule being put out comes directly from standing rules of national does not need to be voted on we are according to our bylaws adding an ethics code committee per national C&B</p> <p>Discussion: <i>President Kossow</i> read requirements. Page 23 on National Bylaws. <i>Laurie Kuntz</i> stated this has been an ongoing project, it not a requirement to follow. They have a committee, and they are not members.</p> <p>Need 2/3 vote, no motion needed <i>President Kossow</i> calls for a vote. 11 were in favor and 5 opposed. The amendment passed. <i>Laurie Kuntz</i> suggested it goes to a committee to rewrite it so it will be applicable to our department.</p> <p>The amendment passed but not added until it reviewed with Post DEC meeting.</p> <p><i>Donna</i> moved to refer the adopted motion to a committee to be determined by the incoming president. <i>Laurie Kuntz</i> made the motion <i>Jackie Bowen</i> seconded. 15 yes 1 abstained.</p>
<p>Nominations of Officers for 2023-2024</p>	<p>President The next business in order is the endorsements for officers for 2023-2024. if you have an endorsement to read, please come forward and be ready 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, <i>Laurie Kuntz</i> was endorsed for NEC During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Pat Steranka</i> was endorsed for NEC</p>

	<p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Casey Rigerman</i> was endorsed for President Elect</p> <p>President Kossow asked if there any further endorsements?</p> <p><i>Dawn Valdez</i> endorsed for President Elect by Unit 2, District 8.</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Shelley Mclatchie</i> was endorsed for Vice President.</p> <p>President Kossow asked if there any further endorsements?</p> <p><i>Judy Sadler</i> was endorsed for Vice President by Unit 1 District 6</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Judy Sadler</i> was endorsed as Chaplain. <i>Judy Sadler</i> has removed herself from the Chaplain election.</p> <p>President Kossow asked if there any further endorsements?</p> <p><i>Ashey Flores</i> was endorsed by Unit 113, District 9 <i>Donna Rae Smith</i> was endorsed by Unit 38, District 7</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference, <i>Nancy Diefenderfer</i> was endorsed for Historian. 1879 unit 4</p> <p>President Bettina Kossow asked if there were any further endorsements?</p> <p>Deb Davis was endorsed for Historian by Unit 1 District 6</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p> <p>During the Mid-Year Conference <i>Cat Apodaca</i> was endorsed for Sgt at Arms by Unit 22, District 5</p> <p>There were no further endorsements.</p>
<p>Unit Updates</p>	<p><i>Secretary Terry Lena</i> gave a list of units who were delinquent on assessments. Units 14, 77, 90, 115, 203 were all suspended last year for inactivity and non-payment of assessments. None of these units have been revitalized and did not pay their assessments this year. In addition to these the following active units did not pay their assessments: Unit 53, Monte</p>

<p>Closed Charter with funds</p>	<p>Vista, Unit 187 Fort Collins, Unit 911 Palmer Lake, Unit 2000 Loveland, and Unit 2527 Bailey.</p> <p>It was discovered that there was an open bank account with funds in it from the closed charter of Unit 31. The amount was a little over \$8,000. The question was where this "found money" should go. It was decided that the funds should stay in the general account.</p>
<p>Membership updates Revoke Charters</p>	<p><i>Shelley Mclatchie, Chair of Membership Committee</i> gave an update on less than 10 members, revoke and pending new charters.</p> <p>Congratulations on 100% membership.</p> <p>Units less than 10 members: Hayden-89 Holyoke 90 - 8 members. Laurie said we have been working with Holyoke to for revitalization. Unit 67 has 2 members Unit 53 - Mont Vista has we would like to propose revitalization process. Evelyn Espinola stated most live out of state and the ones that are there are elderly. She suggested moving them into Unit 113. The Membership team will reach out to them.</p> <p>Unit Recommended to Revoke: Last year Units 77 Simla, 115 Rye, 203 Pueblo City, and 14 Silverton were suspended for revitalization. There was 2 other units 187 Fort Collins with no new members, no officers and to surrender their charter. The other one is 2000 Loveland which some have already moved to Unit 15.</p> <p>Unit 2527 asked to give them another year. Laurie recommends putting them on a revitalization list.</p> <p>Shelley made motion to revoke bundle charter. Deb Jackson second no discussion. All in favor 16 yes</p> <p>In total it would be 6 units to revoke. Unit 77 Simla, Unit 115 Rye, Unit 203 Pueblo City, Unit 14 Silverton, Unit 187 Fort Collins, and Unit 2000 Loveland.</p> <p>New charters - Windsor submitted charter to National incorrectly we will be working on it, have a president and 15 applications.</p> <p>Flagler - next year will have 20 new members.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>President Kossow asked if there was any new business to come before this Executive Board meeting? <i>Donna Thompson</i> has a resolution. Resolved to move the American Legion Executive Board appoint a site selection committee. Donna Thompson, Diane Erickson, Tracy Trujillo, Pat Steranka to be charged for 2 years with obtaining a meeting room requirement for Mid-Year and Year End Convention.</p>

	<p>Discussion - <i>Deb Jackson</i> wanted to know who decided the people to be on the committee? And why are they all on the eastern slope. Why was there no one from the Western slope considered? <i>Donna</i> answered these were the ones that she thought would be interested but anyone who wants to be part of it can be added to.</p> <p><i>Chris Harvey</i> asked if this will be on going or while the legion gets their charter back? <i>Donna</i> stated yes and the committee can be discharged sooner.</p> <p><i>Laurie Kuntz</i> thinks this is a little pre-mature until we know what is going on with the legion. It is recommended that this should be a Post-Con discussion and it may need to be revised.</p> <p>No object postponed.</p>
Closing	<p><i>President Kossow</i> asked <i>Chaplain Judy Sadler</i> to offer the closing prayer. There being no further business to come before us, the meeting is adjourned.</p> <p>The meeting is adjourned.</p>

Terry Rose Lena

Terry Ro<elena (Jul 19, 2023 14:32 MDT)

Terry Rose Lena, Secretary Treasure

Date

Donna Thompson

Donna Thompson (Jul 18, 2023 15:15 MDT)

Donna Thompson, Minutes Committee

Date

Diane Erickson

Diane Erickson (Jul 19, 2023 14:25 MDT)

Diane Erickson, Minutes Committee

Date

Shelley McLatchie

Shelley McLatchie (Jul 19, 2023 14:28 MDT)

Shelley McLatchie, Minutes Committee

Date