

American Legion Auxiliary
 Department of Colorado Convention Minutes
 June 26, 2021 @ 9:00am
 Hotel Elegante – Colorado Springs, Colorado

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| President will call to order | President Tracy Trujillo called the convention back to order at 9:05am. She announced that Donna Thompson was absent due to illness and that Judy Sadler will be the Convention Parliamentarian. The secretary was present. Chaplain Donna Rae Smith offered the prayer. |
| Credentials Final Reading | The next business in order will be the Final reading of the credentials. The credentials committee read changes from yesterday’s report. Nancy Diefenderfer called changes to Units 22, 65, 70, and 209. A motion by Chris Harvey was made to accept the changes. Nancy D. seconded it. All were in favor. The updated credentials report was adopted. |
| Constitution and bylaws | <p>The following amendments to the department constitution and bylaws were adopted engross.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Constitution section</p> <p>ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS was amended to read:</p> <p>Section 1. This constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation in attendance, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary-Treasurer to the Units and members of the Department Executive Board, via email or United States Post Office at least thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.</p> |

Bylaw section

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS was amended to read:

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any Department Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation in attendance, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary-Treasurer to the Units and members of the Department Executive Board, via email or United States Post Office at least thirty days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS was amended by adding a new item G to read:

Section 1. DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT:

It shall be the duty of the department president to:

G. Supervise all salaried department employees and volunteers.

H. Perform such other duties as are incidental to the office.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS was amended to add a new item N to the secretary' s duties to read:

N. Shall supervise any part time employees when authorized by department finances or volunteers under the supervision of the department president.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS - Section 5. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN was amended to read”

It shall be the duty of the department chaplain to:

D. Be responsible for the memorial services in conjunction with The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

**ARTICLE V DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE BOARD,
Section 2. Duties was amended by adding a new
section C.**

Section 2. Duties - C. The department executive board may discipline a unit for failure to discipline a member.

**ARTICLE V - DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE BOARD
was amended by adding a new section 7:**

Section 7. Electronic Meetings and Voting

Midyear, preconvention, and postconvention meetings.

Electronic meetings and electronic voting will be allowed. Special rules governing the conduct of meetings utilizing either teleconference or other electronic means such as Zoom will be established and located in the standing rules section.

**ARTICLE VI DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE was amended by adding a new section
A”**

Section 7. Electronic meetings and voting.

A. Midyear and preconvention meetings.

Electronic meetings and electronic voting will be allowed. Special rules governing the conduct of meetings utilizing either teleconference or other electronic means such as Zoom will be established and located in the standing rules section.

ARTICLE VII - DISTRICTS OF THE DEPARTMENT was amended to read as follows:

Section 3. District officers shall be elected at each annual district convention for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and installed.

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| | <p>Section 4. District presidents shall be eligible to serve two (2) terms consecutively or until their successors are elected and installed. District presidents are encouraged to only serve two (2) terms consecutively.</p> <p>ARTICLE VIII - DISTRICTS OF THE DEPARTMENT was amended to read as follows:</p> <p>Section 5. -</p> <p>B. Alternates to the district executive committeeman shall be the presidents of their respective districts or the district senior vice president of their respective districts.</p> |
| <p>Resolutions</p> | <p>The next business in order will be consideration of proposed resolution. The Poppy resolution for VA Creative Arts Festival. 25 % goes to unit 75% to dept. The money sent to department will be retained in department in a special restricted fund to be used to defray cost of 2024 Creative Arts Festival.</p> <p>This came from the committee, there is no need for a second. All were in favor, motion carried.</p> |
| <p>Elections of 2021-2022 Department Officers</p> | <p>The next business in order will be the election of officers for 2021-2022 year.</p> <p>For the office of NEC with more than one nomination (Ann Ritacco and Laurie Kuntz), we will defer balloting until after the unopposed candidates are elected.</p> <p>The following members were endorsed for office:</p> <p>President Elect: Tina Cooper has been nominated for President Elect. There being no</p> |

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| | <p>further nominations, the chair declared nominations closed and Tina Cooper elected President Elect by acclamation.</p> <p>Vice President: Bettina Kossow has been nominated for Vice President. There being no further nominations, the chair declared nominations closed and Bettina Kossow elected Vice President by acclamation.</p> <p>Chaplain: Donna Rae Smith has been nominated for Chaplain. There being no further nominations, the chair declared nominations closed and Donna Rae Smith elected Chaplain by acclamation.</p> <p>Historian: Nancy Diefenderfer has been nominated for Historian. There being no further nominations, the chair declared nominations closed and Nancy Diefenderfer elected Historian by acclamation.</p> <p>Sergeant-at-arms: Cathy Barger has been nominated for Sergeant-at-arms. There being no further nominations, the chair declared nominations closed and Cathy Barger elected Sergeant-at-arms by acclamation.</p> <p>The election team will consist of Pat Steranka, Chair, Cat Apadaca, Cheryl Rogers, and Regina Prentice. Chris Harvey gave the election oath.</p> |
| <p>Voting</p> | <p>At approximately 10:30 am we began the ballot vote and President Trujillo read the ballot instructions. After the explanation and distribution of ballots. The room was secured. We recessed during the voting, no one was allowed to enter or leave the room during the voting.</p> |

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| Schedule Adjustment | Judy Sadler made a motion to adjust the agenda. The Juniors, Department Officers and President Elect Theresa Brandt's report will be done before lunch. |
| Department Officers Report | <p>President Trujillo called Chaplain Donna Rae Smith to report. Donna Rae stated there was not a lot of information to give due to Covid. She requested that units go to their Chaplains who can contact her when a unit member is sick, passed or a family member needs prayer. She would like to start a prayer chain. She is available 24/7. She looks forward to working with everyone another year.</p> <p>Tina Cooper was called to give a verbal report. Tina stated last two years has been trying but she thanked all the units who were able to donate to the VA. She did not get to visit as many units as she wanted to but plans to be visiting many this year.</p> <p>Ann Ritacco was called to give a verbal report. Ann stated her abbreviated report is in the Book of Reports, but it was long, so the entire report is in your unit packets. She asked all to review and be prepared to vote at the National Convention.</p> <p>President Trujillo stated Donna Thompson is not here but noted she is a Registered Parliamentarian. She charges \$250.00 per hour and has never charged us a dime. She is called upon for her expertise and is just a phone call away. She wrote a book titled A-Z Conventions. A standing ovation was given to Donna to recognize her hard work. Please keep her and her son Scott in your prayers.</p> |

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| | <p>President Trujillo reported about her 765 days. It has been an experience and an adventure. The good outweighed the bad. She thanked everyone for being her sisters and the memories, adventures, and challenges.</p> <p>President Elect Theresa Brandt was called to do a verbal report. She repeated what she stated in her book of reports. We have had to reinvent the wheel. We have found new ways to communicate. Even though we could not meet, we still accomplished a lot even with the challenges. She went on to say that her own community held a God and County Festival, there was a parliamentary class was held at post 2, and a homecoming luncheon at department. They did bags for Bruce McCandless. She attended the National Leadership virtually. Her theme will be Keep our hearts on the task at hand. We have become so involved with being right and disagreeing that we forget the task at hand. We need to be Colorado proud. We are a team, and we cannot do it divided.</p> <p>Terry Rose Lena was called to give the Secretary report. She stated that being new was a challenge but that she is easily accessible and will respond to emails almost immediately. If you have a question, she will answer and if she does not know the answer, she will find it and get back to you.</p> |
| <p>Juniors</p> | <p>Juniors arrived Ann Ritacco spoke how they have been doing great for the past two years. They met via zoom and in person. Kailey Fobare spoke about the projects. They made poppy pins and a flag which they will present to our Madam President. Each star represents the original 13 colonies and the</p> |

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| | <p>year it became a state. They collected clothing and blankets to give Crawford House.</p> <p>Ann has 1 award to give out to Junior Member of the year, Kira Welch</p> <p>Kira Welch started a candle business. She has been the Department of CO Jr Treasurer since 2019. She earned the Children of Warriors National Presidents patch 2020. She is working on poppy and leadership patches and hopes to do this while still a junior. She placed 3rd in the Wyoming Oratorical 2021. She held an online candle party, and she also has them for sale today. She donated her artwork which she won to the POW/MIA silent auction. She competed in taekwondo and is 2nd degree black belt and a member of FFA. She has a GPA of 4.0 and is a member of National Honor Society. Kira loves meeting people and learning their background. She thanked everyone for such an honor and is grateful to be part of the American Legion Auxiliary Jrs. She hopes to continue in the Auxiliary.</p> <p>2021- 2022 Honorary Jrs. installation. Ann Ritacco installed the following Juniors. President Kailey Fobare, Vice President; Lexi Wilson, Sergeant-at-arms; Kira Welch, Historian / Chaplain Adrianna Huggins, Treasurer; Leanne Fairby, Secretary; Katy Holman.</p> <p>The Juniors President Project will be collecting feminine products so female military members do not have to go without.</p> |
| <p>Election Results</p> | <p>Pat Steranka the election chair was recognized and gave a report. The election was won by a majority vote. Pat had stated that they had verified 148 tallies and had counted it at least 5 times to make</p> |

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| | sure of the correct count. The winner of the NEC election is Laurie Kuntz. |
| Past President's Parley Lunch | PPP Lunch 12 – 1:30 A report will be given by Ann Ritacco |
| Return to Convention | President Trujillo called the convention back to order. |
| Girls State | <p>Susie Bozella, Steering Committee chair was called to give a verbal report on Girls State. She thanked everyone for their support during the Virtual Girls State held June 7th – 10th, 2021. Marissa Sotomayor was the Director; Nelly Moran was the Assistant Director. Many of the traditional elements were included. Rise was the theme. Cities were named for important “values” such as Passion, Strength, Perseverance, Confidence, and Compassion. President Trujillo opened the ALACGS Session with greetings and the poppy story. Each day the delegates participated in legislation, committee meetings, panel discussions by elected leaders, and other speakers. We received 27 bills and 3 were passed by house and senate and signed by governor. Last, each city elected a mayor.</p> <p>Samsung scholarship winner was Lauren Elvington. Sarah Chaman and Shreya Krisman were elected as the Girls Nation Delegates. The 2021 ALA CGS Governor was Sofia Kamal.</p> <p>Sofia gave a short speech about her experience at the Virtual ALACGS session. President Tracy gave her a small gift and certificate.</p> <p>2021-2022 Rachel Van Houten was recommended to the Steering committee until 2025. Kaylene Khosla is recommended as Director, and Megan</p> |

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| | <p>Valliere for Assistant Director. Member at Large is Debra Herrick serving a one-year term.</p> <p>Susie made a motion to allow seniors who attended the 2021 ALACGS virtual program to apply for the 2022 Program as Junior Counselors or as delegates again. Second by Deb Jackson. Motion carried.</p> |
| <p>Apportionment of National Convention Delegates</p> | <p>The next business in order will be the apportionment of National Convention delegates.</p> <p>We will now have the apportionment of delegates for the national convention. Moved and approved to fill vacancies with available attendees. Northwest Division VP; Rhonda Larkowski, Vice Chair Junior Activities; Ann Ritacco, Outgoing President; Tracy Trujillo, Incoming President; Theresa Brandt, Secretary Treasurer; Terry Rose Lena, Southern Chair ALA Girls Nation; Chris Harvey, Incoming NEC; Laurie Kuntz. We will start by Districts with the highest membership percentage to give us 10 delegates and 10 alternates. There was no one in District 9. District 3; Betty Pickett will be an Alternate. District 4; Karen Boehler Delegate, District 14; absent. District 10; absent. District 7; Jackie Bowen Delegate, District 5: Janelle Mendelson Delegate, District 8; Pat Steranka; Alternate, District 13; absent. District 6; Judy Sadler, Alternate. District 11; Deb Jackson, Alternate. District 4 Susie Bozella: Alternate, District 7 Tina Cooper Alternate, District 5: Cat Apadoca Alternate, District 8: Bea Martinez Alternate, District 4: Nancy Diefenderfer Alternate, District 7: Bettina Kossow Alternate,</p> |

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| | <p>It was noted that if you cannot attend as a delegate or alternate to let President Trujillo know asap. A motion was made by Royce Hopper and seconded by Donna Testorff to accept delegates. All were in favor, there were opposed. Delegates were adopted.</p> <p>President Trujillo went on to say there were only 8 tickets to the banquet and they were already taken. There will be 14 state dinner tickets for the Auxiliary. Information will be sent out via email.</p> |
| <p>Veterans Report</p> | <p>The next business in order will be a report by Judy Sadler who is the department representative for Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. She along with Diane Erickson are their representatives. She read a note from Diane who said hello to everyone and that she misses you all. She thanked everyone for their support and generosity. It allowed us to donate 2020 gift / snack bags, and Christmas donation. She stated volunteering your time is precious and the vets appreciate all that you do. She recommends members to volunteer at Fitzsimmons or a clinic near you to make a difference.</p> <p>Evelyn Espinola is Homelake's representative. She stated they lost 20 residents in 2020 and 2021 they lost 17 more but none were from Covid. She says they keep them happy by decorating doors and getting the patients involved. Every holiday brings something new for the residents to participate in. Veterans day they did an indoor/outdoor parade and had a guess the hand contest which was fun and interesting way to learn about the veteran. She asked everyone to go on YouTube and look for the Homelake veterans center poppy dance.</p> |

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| | <p>She said they are in desperate need of catheter bag covers. Please keep them in your prayers.</p> |
| <p>Courtesy Resolutions</p> | <p>The next business in order will be the Courtesy Resolutions read by Judy Sadler. The Courtesy Resolutions were adopted as read.</p> |
| <p>Proclamation for President Tracy Trujillo</p> | <p>The following proclamation was read to the delegates.</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy Trujillo has served with distinction as our American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado President for two years (2019 -2021);</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy hired a new secretary treasurer for the Department of Colorado;</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy has agreed to be the chairman for the 2024 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival;</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy has served as a “peace maker” for the Department of Colorado by answering many questions from auxiliary members and solving many problems;</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy became the proud parent of a new fur baby, Finn;</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy served as Department President during an unprecedented pandemic (Covid-19) that threatened to disrupt the normal American Legion Auxiliary business;</p> <p>Whereas, Tracy was able to perform all the tasks described above with honor, grace, and dignity that described her love for our veterans, our country, fellow auxiliary members, and the American Legion Auxiliary;</p> |

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| | Therefore, be it resolved that: The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado declare, Saturday, June 26, 2021, Tracy Trujillo Appreciation Day and mark it with their signatures to this proclamation. The reading was followed by a standing ovation for President Tracy Trujillo. |
| Newly Elected President | Newly elected Department President Theresa Brandt read a poem by Mother Theresa titled Anyway. Her theme is, "Keep our hearts on the task at hand." |
| Installation of 2021-2022 Department Officers to include DEC's Installing officer | Ann Ritacco installed the department officers for 2021-2022 to include all DEC's: |
| Announcements | President asked if there were announcements from the floor. There were no announcements. There will be a DEC 101 which Ann Ritacco will give to be held after adjournment. |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm. There will be a cocktail reception tonight at 6:30 PM followed by the dinner banquet at 7:00 PM. The Post Convention meeting will begin tomorrow at 10:00am after the memorial service. |

Terry Rose Lena

 Terry Rose Lena
 Department Secretary Treasurer

7/20/2021

 Date signed

Minute's approval names and dates of approval

Tina Cooper

 Tina Cooper

7/20/2021

 Date signed

Patricia Steranka

 Pat Steranka

7/28/2021

 Date signed

Susie Bozella

 Susie Bozella

7/23/2021

 Date signed