

Department Auxiliary NEC Report 2018-2019

By: Susie Bozella, National Executive Committeewoman

First, I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement this year. Also, I thank God for his blessings and allowing me to serve in this great organization. Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice to our country. And thanks Ralph, for being my "One special veteran."



As NEC, I attended the 2018 ALA National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from August 25th through August 30th. This was the 98th National Convention for the ALA, but the 100th for the American Legion. The week was spent attending various meetings where decisions were made on resolutions, leadership election, and other important matters. Some highlights of this convention were - to see Evelyn Espinola, from the Department of Colorado, serve as the ALA National Chaplain. Thank you Evelyn for your dedication throughout the year! We also were able to witness Pete Sierminski, from Squadron 32 in Longmont, be sworn in as a SAL National Vice Commander, Midwestern Division. It was also at this convention when the long-time ALA National Secretary, Dubbie Buckler, surprised us all with her resignation. She leaves some very big shoes to fill.

Of course, then I attended the NEC Mid-Year conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, February 22-24, 2019. There were several resolutions passed. One dealt with the transfer of members from one unit to another. Essentially it states that the acceptance of a new transferee is not automatic, but confirmed when the new unit verifies her eligibility, has evidence of paid membership, and accepts the new transferee.

Oh, there is always a lot going on in the national organization. Change is inevitable. We don't usually like change. Because things are just dandy the way they are. Right? But if we want our veterans service organizations to survive well into this century, we need to do just that: CHANGE! Adapting our traditions and procedures to meet the younger members' needs would be a start.

As I have stated before, I truly have enjoyed serving as your NEC for nearly four years. Although it is a tremendous responsibility, it is also very gratifying. My one regret as I leave office, is that there is still ill-will in the Auxiliary of Colorado. We can all take some blame in this problem and we can all take part in finding a solution. I would highly suggest that we stop, think, and reflect before we write an email or answer an email. Perhaps we should instead call that person or meet with her. Emails in our organization should be used to conduct business. Each one of us is a representative of this organization. Everything we do or say is a reflection upon our organization. My hope is that we can agree to define the problem. Then move on to finding a solution.

One way to find a solution is for all of us to focus on the mission of the organization. Let's emphasize helping our veterans and active duty military, children and youth, and communities!