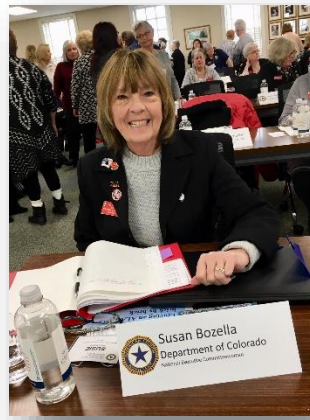


**American Legion Auxiliary  
National Executive Committee Meeting  
NEC Report  
2019 Indianapolis Mid-Year Session**

Department of Colorado  
Susie Bozella  
National Executive Committeewoman  
February 26, 2019



**What-When-Where:**

The American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee Mid-Year Session (Feb. 22-24, 2019), Indianapolis, IN

The National Executive Committee which includes the National Executive Committeewomen, National Officers, and the Past National Presidents, met in session for their first meeting of 2019. We came together at this time to do the following:

- Approve charter cancellations and national appointment changes
- National Finance Committee and Audit Committee policies reviewed and updated for renewal
  - ✓ ALA Endorsement Policy
  - ✓ ALA prepaid expenses Policy
- National Budget quarterly report approved

**1. Resolution: Unit member transfers**

- ✓ This resolution was moved by the Department of Maryland, seconded, discussed, and passed unanimously by the NEC.

The main whereas statement acknowledged: "Standing Rule X.3 potentially implies, or could be interpreted that, acceptance is automatic thus denying the unit its right to be judge of its own membership."

The added line states: "Transfer is final upon verification of eligibility, evidence of paid membership, and acceptance of the transferee by the new unit." If you need any more clarification, please contact me.

**2. National Committee Structure Proposal:** discussion in preparation for a vote by membership at the National Convention in August 2019

I have attached the eight pages of proposed drafts. Essentially, the members of the Implementation Team, and upcoming leadership are presenting the structure and soliciting feedback up to July 2019. Then the feedback will be finalized by the same groups for the changes to the National Constitution and Bylaws and National Standing Rules. The proposed changes will be distributed to all National Convention delegates.

- Basically some of the national Committees will be made smaller by removing one or more members. Six committees will remain the same, and three standing committees' functions will be moved to another committee/position and cease to exist at the national level:
  - ✓ National History Committee-(moved to National Historian)
  - ✓ Liaison to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (moved to the national C&Y committee)

- ✓ National Past Presidents Parley Committee (Unit Member of the year Award moved to the National Leadership Committee. Salute to Servicewomen moved to National Security Committee.)
- In total, 31 positions will be eliminated by reducing the size of these committees. Please read over the drafts and contact me with any input for the national committee.
- 3. Twenty National Committee Reports were received as well as reports from seven staff divisions.

### NEW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING!



We met in the new ALA National Headquarters building. National staff moved into the building this fall. It was previously a sorority house. It is quite nice, has an ALA Cavalcade of memories room and a large space where the entire NEC could meet. Some additional maintenance and upkeep will be done during the next few months.



#### Some important points from the day:

1. **The ALA Foundation** encouraged departments and units to give to the ALA Foundation as well as apply for grants to use. Consider giving to the ALA Foundation in your estate planning.
2. **The Alerding CPA group** gave an audit report on the national ALA finances. Michael Alerding stated that he thinks we do not give ourselves enough credit for what we do for our veterans and how important and large our organization is. The audit which covered 2018 showed no significant problems. However, our organization shows a risk because we are somewhat dependent on our investments. The purchase of the building and the improvements have increased expenses. Audit report was accepted unanimously.

**Main tip:** Be sure your primary activities (unit and department) go to your mission in order to avoid *mission creep!*

3. **National President Kathy Dungan** gave her report. She has visited 25 departments so far! Her project is: Women Veterans on Point! Several departments gave her a check for her project.
4. **National interim Secretary, Linda Boone**, reported about the new building and the move as well as some new hires at the national headquarters. The search for a permanent ALA National Secretary will be taken over by a "head hunters" company. But this may take a while. Also, the Unit Handbook, which will now be called the Unit Guide is being rewritten by Diane Duscheck and Sharon Canatser. It will go to printer on April 15.
5. **Membership Chairman, Ann King Smith**, reported that we are still better at recruiting than retaining. Several departments were recognized for being above where they were in membership at this time last year.

#### Tips to increase membership:

- ✓ Bring in our mission to more activities
- ✓ Be kind
- ✓ Use guest speakers at meetings
- ✓ Add something fun before or after meeting



- ✓ Employ off-site recruiting job!

Membership is everyone's

6. **Public Relations Chairman, Martha Corriher**, reported that units are jumping on social media. Many units, districts, and departments have FB pages and websites. Wear our brand so others know who we are!
7. **VA&R Chairman, Kathy Daudistel**, reported the VA hospital gift shop is the most popular activity for our veterans. There were also many stand downs across the country providing services and supplies. Approximately 40,000 veterans are homeless and a great part of these are women.
8. **Leadership chairman, Trish Ward**, reported on three focal points:
  - ✓ Identify present leaders
  - ✓ Find new leaders
  - ✓ Enhance opportunities for leadersShe also stressed having **one on one** communication and to keep information precise and helpful. Be caring and sharing and focus on mentoring members.
9. **Education and scholarship chairman, Lisa Chaplin**, reminded us of the dates for scholarships:
  - ✓ March 1, all national scholarships to units
  - ✓ March 15, unit send to department chairman
  - ✓ April 1, department chairman sends to division chairman

Remember May 6-10 is National Education Week and Year End reports due to National May 15<sup>th</sup>.

There were many other informative reports given. Well, I have 24 page of notes, so this is just a quick summary of some of the reports given at our meeting.

#### Quote of the day:

*"Never underestimate the power of a few people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only way it ever has." Margaret Mead*

#### Other things to know:

- ❖ Promote the American Legion Auxiliary's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary! Design a t-shirt and be sure it is approved if you use the ALA emblem.
- ❖ There will be something special at the 2020 national convention.
- ❖ And for the first time in a long time, each department will bring their colors to convention.

## NEW AWARD: GOOD WILL AMBASSADOR

Look on the national website for information. This will be a unit member nominated at the unit level. There will be five members from across the country selected and invited to attend the national convention. Be looking for that, **"Johnny on the spot member!"** She is the one member who is always ready to volunteer and serve where and when needed.



**Did you know?** We will begin a new strategic plan! Wow! That means five years is up. Send your ideas to: [strategicplanforalaforveterans.org](http://strategicplanforalaforveterans.org)

- ❖ Where do we want to go?
- ❖ How are we going to get there?

**Also check out...**

- ALA Academy (online)
- ALA 101 is ready to go (online)
- New Strategy planning Guide is available (online)
- DEC 101 Course available (online)
- Centennial Plan- Make it Simpler available (online)

**Resources:**

National ALA website: [www.ALAforveteran.org](http://www.ALAforveteran.org)

Department Website: [www.alacolorado.com](http://www.alacolorado.com)

ALA Foundation: [www.ALAFoundation.org](http://www.ALAFoundation.org)



*National President Kathy Dungan and me!*

**American Legion Auxiliary Mission**

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

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*On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your support these past three and half years as I have served as the NEC for the Department of Colorado. This is an amazing office to hold. The National Executive Committee serves as the governing body of the organization with fiduciary, policy, and strategic responsibility for the organization between national conventions.*

*Serving as NEC has allowed me also to travel with Ralph to many national meetings and events. And it is because of him, that I am an American Legion Auxiliary member. He is my **“One Special Veteran.”** The ALA exists to support our veterans and the American Legion.*

*Thank you all for your dedication to this organization; our veterans, children and youth, and communities!*

*Sincerely,  
Susie*

*In the spirit of service not self for veterans, God, and country.*