



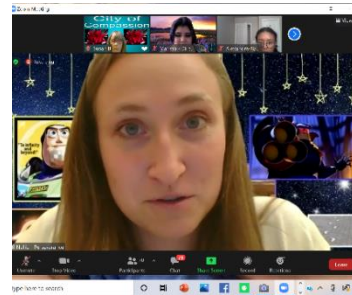
American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State 2021 "Rise"

Thanks to the Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado, for your support of the 2021 Virtual ALACGS Program.

The 2021 Virtual American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State session was held June 7-10, 2021. There were 61 delegates and 13 staff members. Our Director was Marissa Sotomayor and the Assistant was Nellie Moran. They led us through unknown territory, and we came out the other side completing a successful ALA Colorado Girls State program. Even though it was virtual, many of the traditional program elements were included.



CGS Director Marissa Sotomayor



Assistant CGS Director Nellie Moran

The decision to go virtual was made in January of 2021 when we had to decide what was best for the safety and wellbeing of our staff and delegates, as well as meeting the COVID restrictions required by the University. So, after the difficult decision was made, we forged ahead planning a virtual program.

Director Marissa chose "Rise" as her theme. How apropos! Yes, let us rise up from the pandemic and find ways to continue offering a program teaching delegates about our form of government and promoting patriotism.

The city names were representing important "values" such as Strength, Perseverance, Passion, Confidence, and Compassion.

ALA Department President, Tracy Trujillo, helped to open our 2021 session with her greetings, history of the ALA, and the poppy story. That day we also heard from the Colorado Secretary of State, Jena Griswald, who spoke on the electoral process. A panel of County Commissioners

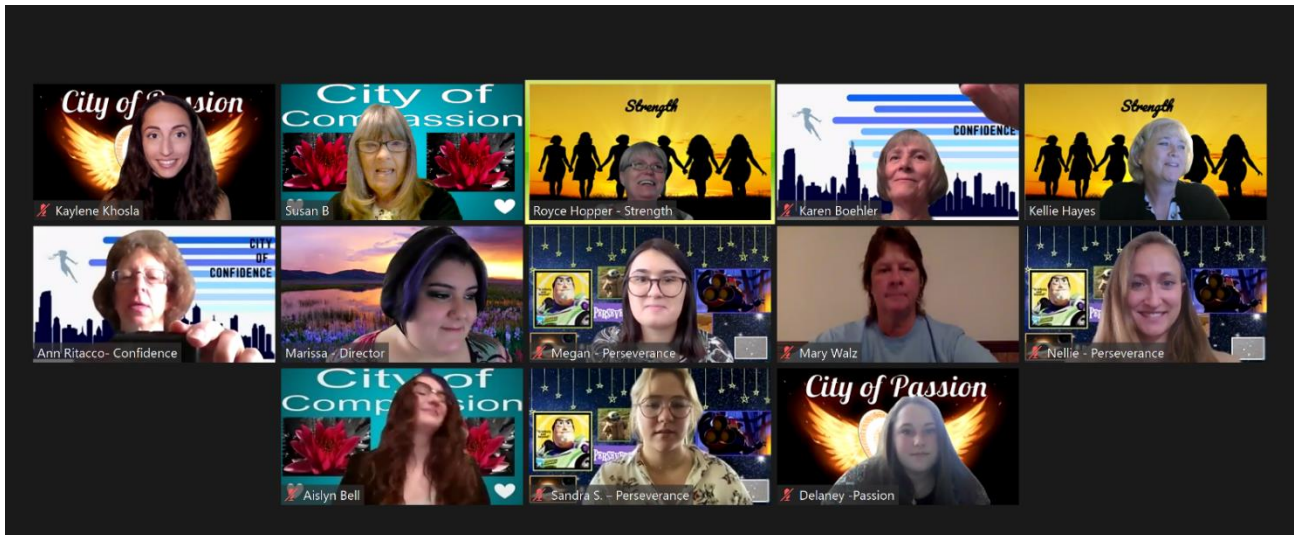
spoke on being a locally elected official. After that we went right into legislative elections and committee meetings.

The delegates were asked to submit bills before the program began and we received 27! Three of the bills were passed by the House and Senate and signed by the CGS Governor. The four half days were filled with legislative sessions, city meetings, speakers, panels, open forum, and getting to know each other via zoom. Every city elected a mayor, and the full assembly also elected a governor. The two Girls Nation delegates and two alternates were chosen through an interview process to represent Colorado at ALA Girls Nation in July. Finally, the ALACGS Samsung Scholarship winner was awarded a scholarship and entered into the ALA Northwest Division Samsung competition.

Each delegate will receive a package with a certificate, ALACGS tee-shirt, ALACGS pin, and other items.

Wow! It just goes to show you what can be accomplished when ALA members put their heads together even when it's something completely new and different.

Thanks again to our leadership, Marissa and Nellie!



2021 ALA Colorado Girls State Virtual Staff!