

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Colorado Convention Minutes
Crowne Plaza, Denver, CO
Saturday July 2, 2022**

Call to order	President <i>Theresa Brandt</i> called the meeting to order at 8:32
2nd Reading of the Credentials	Jackie Bowen and Bettina Kossow read the first reading of the credentials on 7/1/22. There were no corrections. A motion was made to accept the credentials, it was seconded. Being no changes, there was no need to read the credentials a second time.
Constitution and Bylaws	<p>Donna Thompson reviewed the C&B Amendments:</p> <p>Article III: Section 2 - Motion Carried Section 2. Department President-Elect It shall be the duty of the President Elect to: Assist the Department President. Perform the President’s duties when the President is absent or is unable to serve the President. Serve as ex officio member of the department committee. Assume such other duties as are assigned by the department President.</p> <p>Article III: Section 3 - Motion Carried Section 3. Department Vice President: It shall be the duty of the vice president to: A. Perform the duties of president when the president or president elect are absent or are unable to serve as the president or president elect. B. Serve as ex officio member of the department membership committee. C. Assume such other duties as are assigned by the department president. D. Become familiar with the purpose, process, and programs of The American Legion Auxiliary</p> <p>Article III: Section 6 - Motion Carried Section 6. Department Historian: It shall be the duty of the department historian to: A. Attend the executive board meetings, midyear, and convention. B. Compile the historical records of the year and assist unit historians when requested. C. Maintains the pictures of past department presidents, and other written accounts and memorabilia housed at department headquarters. D. Assume such duties as may be required or are incidental to the office. E. Report to the national historian regarding the national president’s visit to Colorado.</p> <p>Article XII Delegates to National Convention Section2. By virtue of their office, the retiring President, the President Elect, the Department Secretary Treasurer, the incoming National Executive Committee person, the incoming Northwest Division Vice President or candidate will be delegates to the next national</p>

	<p>convention. Discussion was held regarding the difference between delegates, alternates, and guest. Motion Carried by two-thirds vote,</p> <p>Donna walked up and made a motion after President Elect Kossow's speech to add a provision to Article XII for it not to become effective until 10/21/22. Ann Ritacco seconded it. After discussion, there was a stand-up vote count. Thirty yes to twenty-three no. The motion was passed.</p>
Resolutions	Donna Thompson presented the resolutions. Resolution to recognize Rhonda Redgate for her work in obtaining the ERC credit which gave the department over \$27,000 was accepted.
Election of Officers	<p>All officer positions were uncontested.</p> <p>Bettina Kossow – President Janelle Mendelson – President Elect Casey Rigerman – Vice President Nancy Diefenderfer – Historian Judy Sadler – Chaplain Crystal Babcock – Sgt at Arms</p>
Constitution and Bylaws Recognition	Donna Thompson presented the awards for Constitution and Bylaws. The following Units were honored: #103, #82, #50, #5, and #2. Department winner was Unit #5.
Girls State Director	Ann Ritacco gave a Girls State Report. Ann stated that sixty-eight girls attended this year's session. The theme was Be Bold. And the theme song, Party in the USA by Miley Cyrus. Girls State received two grants: the Daniels Fund Grant – totaling \$100,000 which will be split between Boys and Girls State. They also received a grant from the ALA Foundation for Auxiliary banners that were placed in every Girls State city and floor. Girls State has a FB page and Instagram account. Royce Hopper, Kellie Hayes, Pat Weaver, Susie Bozella, were recognized by Ann for their support at Girls State. If you are interested in becoming counselor or helping with program, please look for staff application in the December time period.
Girls State Governor	The Girls State Governor: Dana Ko gave a report on her experiences at Girls State via video. They then went on to show the video of Miley Cyrus singing Party in the USA. They also showed a slide show of pictures from the week at Girls State right after the membership meeting.
Poppy and Plaque	<p><i>Poppy Chairman Evelyn Espinola gave a Poppy report. Report is in the Book of Reports. The following Units were recognized Units #1879, #82, #50, #68, #75, #178. Department winner was Unit #75</i></p> <p>Unit 75 chosen for their outstanding poppy program receiving notification from National.</p> <p>Poppy posters were acknowledged. Unit #134 sponsored both winners. Jonathan Foster and Jesse Naegele were the winners.</p> <p>Poppy Centerpieces – Marilyn Miyazima judged the entries. First place was Unit #23, followed by Unit #68, and Unit #161.</p> <p>Poppy pins made by the veterans living at Homelake were distributed.</p>
National Security	<i>National Security Chairman Laurie Kuntz gave a report on National Security. The National Security report is in the book of reports. The</i>

	Department earned \$525 with the RED shirt/sweatshirt fundraiser. Laurie spoke on how to report different activities under National Security – report how many individuals wore red on Fridays (not hours), etc. The following units were recognized for their National Security program; Unit #1879, #13, #189, #23, and #178. Department winner was Unit #13.
Public Relations	<i>Public Relations Chairman Laurie Kuntz</i> gave a report on Public Relations. The Public Relations report is in the book of reports. Laurie spoke on the PR subjects such as wearing your emblem, creating flyers. She spoke about the newsletter in Constant Contact, monthly zoom meetings on the 4 th Thursday of the month, the website calendar, and the backdrop in the convention hall. She asked everyone to get their picture taken to update website. The Units recognized for their Public Relations programs were #26, #13, #54, #2008, and #32. Department winner was Unit #26.
Girls State & Girls Nation	Ann Ritacco announced the Samsung Scholarship winner, from the Unit #1260, was Kimberly Whitmore. Ann spoke regarding the two Colorado Senators to Girls Nation Alice Canonico from Unit 4 and Dana Ko from Unit 209.
Audit Report	Donna Thompson indicated that there were no recommendations from the Audit Committee.
Juniors Report	Ann Ritacco reported that there no juniors in attendance at this Convention, therefore no Junior elections were held. Ann gave the formal Junior report the previous day.
Prayer Book	Judy Sadler, on behalf of Donna Rae Smith, announce that the winner of the Prayer book contest was Unit #1.
Chaplain Report	Judy Sadler gave the Chaplain report on behalf of Donna Rae Smith. The Units receiving recognition were Units #26, #1980, #65, #68, and #209. The Department winner was Unit #68.
History Report	The History report was presented by the Department Historian, Nancy D. The unit's receiving recognition was Unit #68, #178, #209, #1, and #32. The Department winner was Unit #68.
District Presidents Reports	<p>District Presidents giving a report were District #1, Angela Davis, District #11 Deb Jackson, District #8 Tracy Trujillo, District #6 Deb Davis, District #5 Cat Apodaca, District #4 Shelley McLathie, and District #7 Royce Hooper.</p> <p>Deb Jackson; District 11: We have come so far and have membership up. We are supporting each other and getting together wherever there is a need. She took the opportunity to shout out to say you girls rock keep going.</p> <p>Tracy Trujillo; District 8: We are spread out large area. We have a fabulous group of women. Our gals in Walsenburg taking care of the state veterans facility. They are small but mighty. Unfortunately, we voted to suspend Rye.</p> <p>The District President reports were suspended when NEC Tom Florez requested privilege of the floor to introduce the representative form Sky Ute Resort in Ignacio to speak about next year's convention. Next year's convention will be held June 22 – 24. Rates will be \$140 a night and there will be ample space for motor homes.</p>

	<p>No conceal carry on Indian reservations leave weapons in room or in car carry permit</p> <p>Deb Davis; District 6: It has been an exciting 2 years. It has been difficult with Covid not being able to visit the first year. Every unit submitted their year-end reports. We just celebrated the 75th Woman’s Veterans luncheon There was over sixty-five in attendance. We will continue to do that every year. She acknowledges Unit 23 with their monthly gifts in kind to Fitzsimmons and introduced Edrie O’Brien as the new President of District 6.</p> <p>Royce hopper; District 7: She stated she is the Vice President of District 7 as the President was unable to attend. We have several active units that are outstanding. Units 5, 13, 25, 38, 39, 911, 1980, 2008, and 209. We are working with 38 who are struggling to get them back together. All our units are great and keep promoting membership. If you are a female veteran explore getting spouse in as an aux.</p> <p>Angela Davis; District 1: There has not been leadership for quite a while her goal is to get as many members active as she can.</p> <p>Shelly McLatchie; District 4: Speaking for current President Karen Boehler, she spoke about how she put out a newsletter. Shelly stated she as the upcoming district President, would like to continue to do this as well as sharing of ideas, care packages etc.</p> <p>Cat Apodaca; District 5: Cat stated she came in half year due to Kim Davis resignation. She has done a few visitations and they are all working hard. Two units made 100%. Janelle Mendelson is our DEC, Susan Abeyta is Vice President, and Ivy Garcia is Sergeant in Arms for the 2022/23 year.</p>
Recess for the PPP lunch	
Meeting Reconvened Installation of Officers	<p>Diane Erikson, the installation chair installed all officers – DEC officers Deb Davis, Pat Steranka, and Jennifer Avery were sworn in. Department officers had a candle lighting swearing in ceremony and were given large flowers as a gift. Commander Chip Kossow pinned his wife, Bettina Kossow new Department President badge on her.</p>
President Bettina Kossow	<p>Newly sworn in Department Bettina Kossow addressed the assembly. Bettina is looking forward to working with everyone. She plans to visit as many units as possible. She thanked everyone for their support.</p>
National NW Division Vice President Dee Dee Buckley	<p>Dee Dee began by presenting a gift to President Brandt. It was a picture frame of all seven Department President’s in the NW District.</p> <p>She acknowledged previous NWDVP; Pat Steranka who was VP in 2013/14 and Rhonda Larkowski who had a two-year 2019/2021 due to covid. She also acknowledged National appointment NWD Children and Youth Chair; Tracy Trujillo and Vice Chair of the National - National Security committee; Ann Ritacco. CO is still in first place in NW Division. 96.12 percent which she acknowledged Shelly McLatchie for doing an awesome job. Its</p>

	<p>everyone’s job to do membership. You are never fully dressed unless you carry an application with you. She thanked Royce hopper from an email regarding holistic medicine for PTSD vets. Remember our mission statement for those who are not remind legionnaires spirit of service not self. Support American legion honor sacrifice those who served both home and abroad. Promote patriotism. To the newly elected officers she wished them good luck and have a wonderful year. She ended with a statement about marketing. If the circus is coming to town and you paint a sign saying, 'Circus coming to the Fairground Saturday', that's advertising. If you put the sign on the back of an elephant and walk it into town, that's promotion. If the elephant walks through the mayor's flower bed, that's publicity. And if you get the mayor to laugh about it, that's public relations. If you did all of this on purpose, that's marketing. We need new blood. Who will we give all our experience to? Lastly, the only time to look down is to admire your shoes.</p>
<p>PPP</p>	<p>Ann Ritacco gave the PPP report. The PPP report is in the book of reports. The Units receiving recognition were #137, #1980, #68, #75, and #32. The Department winner was Unit #68.</p> <p>Ann discussed the Member of the Year. The Member of the Year Award will be moved to the Leadership Committee since the Executive Board voted to disband the Department PPP Committee. Ann reminded the assembly of the basic requirements were to nominate a member. This year there was only one application received. From Unit #23, Sherry Puls was declared the Member of the Year.</p> <p>Laurie discussed the PPP scholarships would be moved to the Education Committee. It was decided at the PPP lunch that two scholarships would be given. Members for the Units in Fort Morgan and La Junta received the scholarship funds. Susan Fisher and Rylee Givens and will receive \$1,500 each.</p>
<p>Officers Reports</p>	<p>NEC Laurie Kuntz – The NEC report is in the book of reports. Laurie spoke she has two distinct levels of duties one from National and one from Department. She said there will be a dues increase presented for vote at National. The department raised their dues two years ago so right now we are ahead of the game.</p> <p>VP Janelle Mendelson – Janelle indicated that the VP report was in the Book of Reports.</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer Terry Lena – Terry thanked everyone for their support. Terry talked about Constant Contact and how it has made things easier to blast out, and the idea of having a member spotlight in Constant Contact. Terry spoke that if there was a problem or question, to please contact her directly. She asked that you make sure all forms are completed before sending to department so as not to delay in processing. Terry indicated that she had been working with our organization for 2 years.</p>

	<p>Chaplain Pro Temp Judy Sadler – gave the Chaplain report on behalf of Donna Rae Smith. Donna Rae posted inspiration quotes on our social media, started prayer chains, and sent cards to those in need. Judy said going forward she hopes to serve as well as she did.</p> <p>Historian – Nancy Diefenderfer: Her report is in the book of reports. Nancy spoke regarding the history books and the need to be more careful with the correct preamble. Nancy discussed the tri-fold displays that some PDP supplied for this convention. They are your mentors and have done some amazing things during their year. Nancy showed the PDP project that she had via email – The PDP submitted their theme, project, picture and copy of their pin. She said to keep scrap book UpToDate.</p> <p>President Theresa Brandt – Theresa indicated that her report was in the Book of Report. Theresa thanked everyone. Theresa indicated that she had a great year. Theresa distributed cards and glass flowers to her team members.</p>
<p>Appointments to the National Convention</p>	<p>Terry Lena announced that Department of Colorado was entitled to eight delegates and eight alternates.</p> <p>The delegates selected by virtue of their office: NEC Laurie Kuntz - Theresa Brandt (out-going president) Bettina Kossow (in-coming president) Terry Lena (Secretary/Treasurer) Ann Ritacco (National Vice Chairman for National Security)</p> <p>Three delegates were chosen based on the highest percentage of membership per our governing documents: Susie Bozella (District #4) Jackie Bowen (District #7) Edrie O’Brien (District #6)</p> <p>The Alternates Casey Rigerman (District #5) Betty Pickett (District #3) Pat Steranka (District #8) Judy Sadler (District #6) Janelle Mendelson (District #5) Bea Lucero-Martinez (District #8)</p>
<p>Courtesy Resolutions</p>	<p><i>Donna Thompson</i> read the Courtesy Resolutions. Courtesy Resolution #1: To <i>TAL</i> Commander <i>Chip Kossow</i> Courtesy Resolution #2: To Detachment Commander <i>Bobby Jones</i> Courtesy Resolution #3: To the Past Department Presidents and the courtesy also stated that the Convention book would be sent to those PDP that were unable to attend. Courtesy Resolution #4: To all the Committee Chairs Courtesy Resolution #5 Terry Lena and the Department Headquarters staff, Susan Abeyta and the recently retired Adjunct Pat Smith, Elaine Bock, and Tom Bock.</p>

	Courtesy Resolution #6: To the pages, distinguished guest committee, and the citation committee. Courtesy Resolution #7: To Theresa Brandt
Remarks	<i>Bettina Kossow stated her</i> theme is Colorado Family Serving Together President's Project: Fisher House Membership: Racing to the Top She will be focusing on membership, leadership, and fiduciary responsibilities. Gift from Unit #2008 of \$500 for the President's Project. Membership Turn in: Unit #32, and Unit #68 (100% in membership)
Announcements	Cocktails at 6 pm Banquet at 7 pm 8:30 am Four Chaplain Memorial 9:30 am Post Convention meeting
Adjournment	This meeting is now adjourned at 4:30pm

Terry Rose Lena

Terry Rose Lena
Department Secretary Treasurer

Date

Minutes Approval Committee

Nancy Diefenderfer

Nancy Diefenderfer

Date

Ann Ritacco

Ann Ritacco

Date

Tracy Trujillo

Tracy Trujillo

Date

Signature: Terry Rose Lena
Terry Rose Lena (Jul 21, 2022 08:37 MDT)

Email: dept.sec.alacolorado@outlook.com

Signature: Nancy Diefenderfer
Nancy Diefenderfer (Jul 24, 2022 15:25 MDT)

Email: nmmarti76@hotmail.com

Signature: 
Ann Ritacco (Jul 24, 2022 16:29 CDT)

Email: bearquiltco@yahoo.com

Signature: Tracy Trujillo
Tracy Trujillo (Jul 24, 2022 17:39 MDT)

Email: t_trujillo1968@yahoo.com