

American Legion Auxiliary
 Department of Colorado Convention Minutes
 June 25, 2021 @ 1:00 P.M.
 Hotel Elegante – Colorado Springs, Colorado

Call to order President	President Tracy Trujillo called the convention to order at 1:10pm The secretary was present.
Roll call	Secretary Terry Rose Lena called the roll call. The following were in attendance: NEC Ann Ritacco, President Tracy Trujillo, President Elect Theresa Brandt, Vice President Tina Cooper, Chaplain Donna Rae Smith, Parliamentarian Donna Thompson, and Laurie Kuntz most recent past Department President. Absent from Executive Board: Historian Marilyn Miyazima, and Sergeant-at-Arms Catherine Barger. DEC's in attendance District 3 – Regina Prentice, District 4 - Nancy Diefenderfer, District 5 – Lynn Cody, District 6 – Nancy Shannon, District 7 – Jackie Bowen, District 8 – Pat Steranka, District 11 – Debra Jackson. The following Past Department Presidents were in attendance: Donna Thompson, Chris Harvey, Pat Steranka, Susie Bozella, Evelyn Espinola, Ann Ritacco, and Laurie Kuntz.
Minute's approval committee	Without objection, Susie Bozella, Pat Steranka and Tina Cooper were appointed to the minute's approval committee.

<p>Special Speakers</p>	<p>Sarah El Hage, recreational therapist for Veterans Administration in Denver spoke. She is the local post coordinator National Creative Arts Festival in 2024. She gave a brief summary about the competition. She introduced two local veteran artists: Karen Wilson and Fred Farris. Karen spoke about her experience in having PTST and how writing helps her to deal with it. She shared her writing and Fred showed his wood working art. Karen stated in the U.S. only 0.4% of the population have served in armed forces and of this only 14% are women. Many veterans struggle with disability, PTST, and feel alienated. For veterans art can stimulate parts of the brain which are not activated during conflict.</p>
<p>First reading of credentials</p>	<p>The credentials committee will now report. Nancy Diefenderfer and Shelley McLatchie reported on the credentials. There were questions regarding rounding up, department officers, and if PDP did not have to pay to qualify for the extra delegate. Laurie Kuntz moved that we allow units to pay for delegates that were not aware they could pay for. Seconded by Chris Harvey. Motion passed. There will be a second final reading tomorrow before the election.</p>

<p>Standing Rules</p>	<p>President Trujillo stated the next order of business is the adoption of the standing rules. Donna Thompson asked if everyone looked at the rules. Everyone agreed that the rules will not be read. The rules committee moved adoption of the standing rules as printed. There were 2/3 affirmative, rules of convention are adopted.</p>
<p>Adoption of Program Agenda</p>	<p>The convention program was adopted by a unanimous vote.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>President Trujillo stated the next business in order is reports of the committees.</p> <p>Constitution and By-laws – Donna Thompson stated many units did their best to survive during the pandemic and encouraged them to read your documents.</p> <p>The proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws were explained by Committee Chairman Donna Thompson</p> <p>Chairman Thompson reported there was one resolution for the VA Creative Arts Festival which will come tomorrow. 25 % goes to unit 75% to dept. The money sent to department will be retained in department in a special</p>

restricted fund to be used to defray cost of 2024 Creative Arts Festival.

Audit Report – The chair of the Audit Committee, Rhonda Redgate was absent. Chris Harvey, a member of the committee gave the audit report on her behalf. She stated the books are in good shape everything matched. She noted that there is an outside audit being conducted now and will be distributed once received.

Finance – Janelle Mendelson reported on the Finance committee. The committee consisted of herself, Donna Rae Smith Pat Steranka, Diane Erickson, Tracy Trujillo, Theresa Brandt, Tina Cooper, and Terry Lena. The budget will be presented Sunday morning. She thanked Nancy and her team for membership. The organization is a dues basis. We were conservative with the budget. We lose appx 200-500 members each year. Some by people leaving, some by death. The QuickBooks audit is in process. We have not done an outside audit for a long time. Internal audits are done quarterly. Karen Zuppa is the bookkeeper from Denver tech who is evaluating the books. We will be transferring QuickBooks to online for a significant savings. Karen recommended bill.com to pay bills. With online, anyone can be on the finance committee as they

can review and approve without travel. We also will be doing a direct deposit for payroll. This company handles taxes and checks. Diane Erickson has agreed to view checks online and verify them as correct. Janelle has had conversations with the incoming Finance Chair, Donna Rae, on how to proceed with financial changes such as QuickBooks and paying bills online. Finance needs to have quarterly meetings. Financial reports are distributed monthly. We have tweaked them to be more user friendly by giving just the month. Next year the new members will be Donna Rae Smith Chair, Pat Steranka, Rhonda Larkowski, and Judy Sadler will be member at large one year. Janelle will be moving to the audit committee.

President's Projects –

President Trujillo introduced Judy Sadler who went on to explain the 24 stickers handed out. It is a brand-new fundraiser for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. You can donate 24 pennies, 24 nickels, 24 quarters, 24 dollars etc. whatever your unit can do on a monthly basis. We have 3 years, and it will go by fast. This is a \$30 to \$40 grand undertaking. 10 days in the hospitality room. 500 people a day, opening and closing ceremony, additional thousand

	<p>plus caregivers, 150 vets, 150 VA reps, staff, and ALA National headquarters team. VFW and other organization are stepping up to help. This will be good advertising and good will.</p> <p>President Trujillo went over ideas on the A-Z fundraiser. These can be used for anything in addition to the VA Creative Arts Festival.</p>
<p>Question from the Floor</p>	<p>A member asked why was there a virtual Girls State when there will be an in-person Boys State? President Trujilla asked Susie Bozella to come up and explain. Susie stated it was a decision that was made in January and if you recall back in January, things did not look like they do today. The college had restrictions. There were concerns for the safety of counselors and girls. We would have loved to have it in person. There will be more of this report tomorrow.</p>
<p>Nominations</p>	<p>President Trujillo announced that the next business in order will be the nominations of officers for 2021-2022.</p> <p>Yesterday the following members were endorsed for office:</p> <p>NEC – Ann Ritacco and Laurie Kuntz President Elect – Tina Cooper Vice President – Bettina Kossow Chaplain – Donna Rae Smith Historian – Nancy Diefenderfer</p>

	Sergeant-at-arms – Cathy Barger
Announcements	President Trujillo asked if there were any announcements from the floor? With no additional announcements, there was a small break, and we will reconvene for the Unit Awards Recognition Reception.
Year End Awards Ceremony Dessert Reception	<p>The Education Report is in the book of Reports. Susie Bozella gave a short introduction to the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship winner, Grace Williamson. She was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. Grace then shared some information about herself and thanked the ALA for the award. President Tracy gave a small gift and a certificate to Grace.</p> <p>The Americanism report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Americanism is Unit 2.</p> <p>The Chaplains Book Department winner of the Eaglewing Memorial Chaplains Award went to Unit 161.</p> <p>The Children and Youth report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Children and Youth is Unit 23.</p> <p>The Constitution & Bylaws report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Constitution & Bylaws is Unit 209.</p>

The Education report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Education is Unit 32.

The Historian's Book Department winner went to Unit 209.

The Junior report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for the Thelma Gardner Junior Activities is Unit 2.

The Leadership report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for the Paulette Ross Leadership Award is Unit 2.

The Legislative report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Legislative is Unit 1879.

The National Security report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for National Security is Unit 209

The Past President Parley report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Past President's Parley is Unit 23.

The Poppy report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Poppy is Unit 2. The Poppy Display winner was Unit 38.

The Public Relations report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for Public Relations / Press Book is Unit 13.

The VA&R report is in the Book of Reports. The Department winner for VA&R Page | 9 Service to Veterans award went to Unit 2.

The AEF report is in the Book of Reports. The following certificates were given out to units who donated to the AEF:

Units 1, 2, 23, 32, 68, 96, 134, 151, 161, Post 206, and Donna Thompson.

The following certificates were given out to units who had reached 100% or more in Membership:

Units 4, 5, 10, 20, 26, 28, 32, 54, 67, 68, 75, 90, 100, 110, 113, 134, 180, 187, 209, 1187, 1879, 1980, and 2000.

The following certificates were given out to units who had donated to the President's Projects:

Units 2, 15, 21, 32, 54, 68, 161, 209, District 10, Sons of the American Legion Detachment, and Judy Sadler.

	<p>The following certificates were given out to units who had donated to the Veterans Care Facilities:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Units 1, 2, 5, 15, 21, 22, 23, 30, 32, 68, 75, 110, 111, 137, 151, 161, 178, 193, 204, 1985, 2008, and District 5.</p> <p>The following certificates were given out to thank the following members who were judges in the Girls State Samsung Scholarship:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ann Ritacco, Diane Erickson, and Ann Diaz.</p>
Recess	<p>The meeting is recessed at 5:45pm. We will reconvene tomorrow morning, June 26th at 9am in Salon C</p>

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