

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF OREGON**

**SPRING DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2021**

**Department President, Kathi Karnowski, called the DEC to order.**

**Prayer was given by Allice Redding, District 1 Chaplain**

**Department Americanism Chairman, Donna Hartwell, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.**

**Department Parliamentarian, Pam Seelye, led us in the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.**

**Department President, Kathi's Welcome**

**Roll Call**

**Department Officers**

**Department President, Kathi Karnowski**

**Department Vice President, Debra Godwin**

**Department Secretary, Linda Liebenow (excused)**

**Department Treasurer, Helen Hisaw**

**Department Chaplain, Angie McKinney (excused)**

**Department Historian, Gea Clausier**

**Department Parliamentarian, Pam Seelye**

**National Executive Committee Person, Pam Seelye**

**Alternate NEC, Trudie McGriff**

**Department Sgt-at-Arms, Barb Sumner**

**Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms, Linda Bullock**

**Staff**

**Cindy Hillyard, Department Administrative Assistant (excused)**

**District Presidents**

<b>District 1</b>	Catherine Brockmann	VP, Jody Marsh
<b>District 2</b>	Gregoria Hernandez	VP, Glena Smith
<b>District 3</b>	Suzanne Driver	VP, Roberta Peebler
<b>District 4</b>	Cindy Soria	VP, Donna Hartwell
<b>District 5</b>	Ginny Williams	VP, Vacant
<b>District 6</b>	Maggie LaMont	VP, Mary Ward (absent)
<b>District 7</b>	Vacant	Vacant
<b>District 8</b>	Angie McKinney (excused)	VP, Carole Kaufman (absent)
<b>District 9</b>	Krisann Owens (excused)	VP, Betty Adams
<b>District 10</b>	Linda Schmidt	VP, Shirley Torrey

**Past Department Presidents**

Cyndi Dahl, PDP (2008-2009), Past Presidents Parley, Leadership  
Trudie McGriff PDP (2010-2011), National Security, Alternate National Executive Person (2018-2021)  
Jody Marsh, PDP, (2011-2012), Admin Committee Chairman, Convention Chairman  
Pam Seelye, PDP (2012-2013), National Executive Committee Person (2016-2021), Department  
Parliamentarian, Department Children and Youth  
Virginia “Ginny “Williams, PDP (2013-2014), District 5 President, Distinguished Guest Chairman  
Helen Hisaw, PDP (2017-2018), Department Treasurer, Finance Chairman, Member of Admin Committee  
Gea Clausier, PDP (2019-2020), Department Historian, Member of Finance Committee, Girls State  
member

**Department Chairman and Commission Members**

Administrative Committee	Jody Marsh, Chairman; Helen Hisaw, Member
Americanism	Donna Hartwell
Children and Youth	Pam Seelye
Convention Chairman	Jody Marsh
Distinguished Guest	Ginny Williams
Finance	Helen Hisaw, Chairman Maggie LaMont, Gea Clausier, Members
Girls State	Gea Clausier, Member
Leadership	Cyndi Dahl
Junior Activities	Tawnya Lege
Membership	Debra Godwin
National Security	Trudie McGriff
Past Presidents Parley	Cyndi Dahl
Poppy and Poppy Poster	Cindy Soria
Public Relations	Yvonne Drury
Strategic Planning Committee	Jody Marsh, Chairman Linda Schmidt, Member

**Rules of the DEC**

**Article V**

**Department Executive Committee**

Section 2) The Department Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Department President, Department Vice President, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, the District Presidents, National Executive Committee Person, Alternate National Executive Committee Person, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt-at-Arms and Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms.

The Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt-at-Arms, Department Assistant Sgt-at-Arms, shall be members of the Department Executive Committee with all rights except the right to vote. All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be members for life of the Department Executive Committee with all rights except the right to vote.

### **Minutes**

President, Kathi, you have received minutes of the Mid-Winter DEC Zoom, January 16, 2021. If there are no objections or corrections, the minutes will stand approved as printed.

Past Department President, Pam Seelye, noted the incorrect spelling of her last name in two different places.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

### **Ratification of Department Chairman and Commission Members.**

Department President, Kathi asked for consent of ratification for:

District 5 Vice President, Denise Mitchell

Department Leadership Chairman, Cyndi Dahl

Consent given.

### **Reports from Department Officers**

#### **Department Secretary, Pro tem, Jody Marsh**

Madame Secretary provided the following information: Please take what you want out of the binders but leave the dividers and the binder. You have new membership applications plus some in the back of the room for the audience. In the forms section of the binder are: Impact Report for District and Unit (the Unit forms will be emailed out later with extra copies in the back for the Units that don't have email), Unit Chairman Report 2021-2022 (will be emailed also), Officer Installation Report (also emailed), and Caucus Report Form.

All of the officers have a new Policy Book in the binder. Please take these so that you have the information but bring them back to convention to pass them on to your successor.

It is very important to have a written copy of any of your floor remarks.

#### **Department Treasurer, Helen Hisaw**

Are there any questions about the Budget to Actual thru March 31, 2021? Only a few minor questions were asked.

Are there any questions about the Review and 990?

What is the \$1,732.00 in Girls State? It is the storage unit and half of the fee for Girls Nation as requested from National.

The expense for bonding should be averaged out over the 3 years. This will start next year when we receive the bill.

What was the \$17,549.00 released from VA&R? This was money spent from the programs restricted funds.

Does the money for gift shops come from the VA&R funds? Yes

Where did the inventory for Girls State come from and why was it not on previous Audits? We have had the inventory for a couple years now, it will be on future Audits or Reviews.

Why is the printing higher on the Review than on the budget to actual? The auditor combined printing cost with mailing cost. The cost of the printing at Department will remain the same.

There are misspellings of names and incorrect wording on the 990, those changes will be submitted to the CPA previous to filing.

## Pending Approval

Because of the short period of time to look over these very important documents, it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to hold a vote for a zoom meeting to be held within 10 days.

The recommendation was accepted. Are there any other questions for me today?

The DEC requested that all District Vice Presidents be added to the emails concerning the DEC as well as the District President.

We will be meeting soon to prepare next year's documents, please look these documents over and share with your Units.

Thank you very much for the opportunity.

### **Department Historian, Gea Clausier**

My report is in the Book of Reports.

### **Department Chaplain, Angie McKinney**

Angie was unable to attend but sent a report that was read by Lori Sherman.

I hope this finds you all safe and well. It certainly has been an interesting year for all of us, with all meetings and activities cancelled for the "unforeseeable" future. Even so, it is a time when we need to stay connected with our Auxiliary family. A simple phone call, text, email, or card, or even a thought or prayer for our Auxiliary members, is especially important now. Now is the time to take a minute and remember others.

As we work our way through the unprecedented time of COVID-19, we must stay strong keep working and praying for our Legion family that is having difficult times. I had the following given to me and I feel it applies to the times in which we are living and adjusting to.

Do You Pray?

I love the interpretation of a prayer. What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When we hug a friend, that's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends, that's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, "drive safely" or "be safe", that's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy, you are praying. When you forgive someone, that is a prayer. Prayer is vibration, a feeling, a thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. Keep praying always. From the Mind Journal

So, until we meet again and hug again in our meetings, keep our members in your thoughts and prayers.

### **National Executive Committee Person, Pam Seelye**

I want to make you aware of three By-law amendments that will be voted on at National Convention. These are in my report in the Book of Reports.

The first one is to change the name of the NEC to Board of Directors. The reasoning is that in today's culture, board of directors is the most commonly understood name for a governing board. Most businesses do not understand the concept National Executive Committee. It also would align more with the Indiana corporation statutes. (This does not affect our Department DEC name)

The second one is to add the position of Executive Director. It creates the position of Executive Director, its duties, authority, and to whom this position is responsible to.

The third one establishes the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee. This committee will review, research, and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action, and address and act on time sensitive matters subject to ratification by the NEC.

Chris Dickey a Professional Registered Parliamentarian that National hires for NEC meetings and the National Convention presented different examples from several Department Constitution and By-laws on how meetings are held. Do they allow for other ways of meeting beside face to face? Due to the Pandemic every unit and our Department needs to review if their governing documents allow for alternate types of meetings. If not, you should address this issue so in the future we have options that allow us to hold meetings during crisis or emergency.

Department Chairman when you do your year-end reports for your National Chairman attach the 2019-2020 report if one was submitted to your 2020-2021 report. If not, include the information for the years 2019-2021. Each yearly report is not to be over 1000 words.

**Department President, Kathi:** How many dual members to we have with us today? We have four dual members with us. Thank you for your service and thank you for being an Auxiliary member.

**Department President Kathi's Report.**

This year has created challenges for all of us and in being a challenge, we all should have learned more about ourselves and others. Before COVID, I thought I knew what my strength and weaknesses are, but I learned that what I consider a strength, others consider a weakness and vice versa. I try to treat every member as if they were my friend, so I take phone calls, answer emails, texts and talk face to face when possible. I think this is my strength, but I have been told I was a soft touch and let someone else take care of that member. I choose NOT to do that if a member reaches out to me, as that is who I am. I stay true to who I am and if I do something to hurt a member or our organization, I want to correct that and do the right thing. I always try to do what I think is best and if someone shows me a better way, I will make that change. I realized from the start of this year that I or anyone, will never please everyone and to just do your best. Are giving your best? Are you doing what will benefit our organization? Are you willing to make that change if it proves to be the best alternative?

Many times, I have heard members talk about being "invested" and some are more invested than others. We become invested by volunteering our time and money and for each of us, that is different. You might view your investment differently than what I or others see it as. No matter what YOUR investment is in the ALA, it does not give you ownership over anything done in our organization. We all have a right to our opinion, and we should be able to discuss our differences and come to a decision of any issue.

I want to make it clear as to why we did not have the National President visit in March and why we did not reschedule it in July or August, which were the other dates given to us. COVID restrictions made us unable to have her visit in March and looking ahead, I could see we still would have restrictions into possibly May or June. When things opened, units would be trying to get their Posts up and running and start planning events, so I made the decision there would be no visit this year. The dates given to us ran into the next fiscal year and we do not know what our budget will be for next year so we could not

## Pending Approval

commit. I have struggled all year when I look at our budget and see that we have been spending more money than we are taking in. We must find other income to continue doing what we want to do, not what we need to do. Before Convention, we all need to look long and hard at what our future will be.

I would like to leave this for all of us to think on: what we do at the unit, district, and department level, must be for the good of the Auxiliary, not for personal interests or benefits. The Legion always says, "For the Good of the Order". So should we.

District 6 President Maggie LaMont has an update from Unit 24 that wasn't in her Book of Reports. Unit 24 has been meeting monthly for January, February, and March. Laurie Harvey is acting president since Lynda Drydan moved out of the area. The Unit had a New Year's Eve party to celebrate the ALA's 100 years. They are currently planning their yearly yard sale to raise funds for scholarships. They will be having election of officers at their meeting in April. They do intend to keep their Unit open as they have 25 paid members. Unit 24 had already raised over \$4000 in a joint yard sale and the Unit's half was donated to the victims of the fires last fall.

### **Department President, Kathi,**

I skipped over the District President's reports, are there any other District Presidents that want to add to their report.

Cyndi Dahl, PDP

District Presidents, it is almost time for year-end reports. Please, make sure that ALL of your Units report even if they have no activity. That way the chairman knows so that they can report to National. Also, be sure the Units follow the rules for awards. There are guidelines to follow, and many Units do not do this.

### **Reports from Chairman**

#### **Department Membership Chairman, Debra Godwin**

I hope that everyone understands that membership is what runs our budget and without membership coming in, we don't have the funds to run the Department.

I focused on new members this year and do have to say that there is one Unit that is on fire. Did you do your week of Caring and Sharing? Did you reach out to any of your members? Please, call and check on your members. We still have members that don't feel comfortable with going out. They always love hearing from other members of the Auxiliary.

Don't sit on membership. One member paid her dues in October and wanted to know how long it takes to get your membership card. I called the office and asked if the membership had been received and she said yes, I just got it yesterday. That was two weeks ago. Make sure that membership chairman is in touch with your Treasurer and get your membership turned in. Put the right people in the right place as your officers to get the job done. It takes a team.

I have a couple of awards to give out that should have been given at Mid-winter DEC, but we were virtual.

Evelyn Ogilvie PDP Membership Award, given to the Unit over 100 with the greatest numerical gain into Department by December 31, 2019 compared to December 31, 2020 and it goes to Crook County, Unit #29. They had 82.42% increase.

## Pending Approval

Estelle Kroeger Memorial Award, given to the Unit under 100 with the greatest numerical gain into Department by December 31, 2019 compared to December 31, 2020 and it goes to Newport Unit #116. 75.26% increase.

Unit Data Forms should have been to Department by April 1 even if you are not changing your dues.

Bonding fees should have been turned in also.

District Impact Reports are due by May 15.

New member recruiting award is for the Unit recruiting the most new members 30 days before convention

Units 10-50 tied Washington Unit #2, Milton-Freewater Unit #24, Hermiston Unit #37 (all have 3 new members)

Units 51-100 is Newport Unit #116, 12 new members.

Units 101-150 is North Eugene, Santa Clara #83, 8 new members.

Units 151-200 is La Pine #45, 24 new members.

Units 201 and above, Milwaukie #180, 10 new members.

In the National standings Washington is still just behind us, only 1.9% behind us. We can't let Washington win; we don't want to pay them this year.

Any questions for me?

Canby Unit #122 is the newest Unit to make goal. We currently have 14 goal Units.

### **Admin Committee Chairman, Jody Marsh**

My committee members are Helen Hisaw, Department Treasurer and Linda Liebenow, Department Secretary.

Pam mentioned the review of the Constitution and Bylaws, National has provided an opportunity for Departments to receive \$200 for reimbursement towards the cost of having their C&B professionally reviewed. We have considered and think that it would be a good idea for a group of us, Patty Cooper a past Department Parliamentarian, Pam who is the current Parliamentarian and some of us go through and find out what we think needs to be added. And, also, do a review of the C&B. The revision that we had a couple of years ago was swift and moved a lot of things through. So, we thought that we would take advantage of the National offer, but we would do some legwork first before sending it off to a paid person to do that. We don't know how much this would cost but National seems to think that the \$200 would cover the expense. The Admin Committee recommends that we take that step to have our C&B reviewed by a professional person.

President Kathi, we have a recommendation from the Admin Committee to do an overview by a Parliamentarian of our Constitution and Bylaws, not to exceed the \$200 offered by National. Is there any discussion?

Suzanne Driver, District 3 President, I'm talking about tightening the budget, so I know that \$200 is provided but do we have any idea if there will be an additional cost?

Jody, we don't anticipate any additional expense. We have until August to apply for this so we will do some research on our own. Then divide the C&B and different people will look at smaller sections. We probably dropped things that we didn't want to in the last revision because there were so many changes. And while we do this, we can also research on the cost of a Parliamentarian in our area. We need to do it right and maybe undo some of the things that we changed last time.

Suzanne, I am in favor of this and I also appreciate all the legwork that will be done on this. So, if you think that the \$200 will cover it, then check and see where we go with it.

## Pending Approval

Pam Seelye, Department Parliamentarian, National has done some research on this and \$200 should cover it. The reason that this is coming up is that we need to look at our documents and see if we are covered if we can't have an in-person convention. We need to look at Oregon statutes and the Governors recommendations because if our C&B does not cover virtual conventions then we can refer to Oregon laws. So far, I have only found in Oregon statutes that we can have Board meetings virtual but have found nothing, so far, about convention.

Helen Hisaw, Department Treasurer, would the Department like volunteers to help with the changes to the C&B? Yes

So, anyone that would like to volunteer to be on those committees contact Jody.

Cyndi Dahl, PDP, what would be the timeline because you have to vote on C&B changes at a convention. Jody, so obviously there is no way that we will get it done for this June. The offer expires in August of 2021, so our plan is to do this and have the review and then take it to next year's convention knowing that we have covered our bases.

Department President, Kathi, when National sent this out they listed two different Parliamentarians that you could contact and it has been suggested that we don't get someone from the Legion, Judge Advocate, we want someone that knows.....

We need to get the reimbursement to National by August 1<sup>st</sup> to get the \$200 back.

Any more discussion?

All those in favor in pursuing this say "Aye", all those opposed say "Nay"

Recommendation carried.

Jody, I will restate that the DEC has approved the \$200 reimbursement with a virtual or email vote if there is a new estimate or higher cost.

The Admin committee has been invited to participate in the budget and I want to thank Madame President and the Department Treasurer for that opportunity. It helps when we are all together and working together. So, one of the things that we are responsible for is employee review. So we are at the point now where we do a review once a year. Not just the employee we have now but any employee. One of the things that would be really helpful for the Admin is that you as a member of the Auxiliary, give us feedback on when the employee has been helpful and gone out of their way and done great things. We need to know when there is a conflict or something that is not getting handled in a timely manner so that we can correct it. All of this information is good when it comes to the annual review.

We continue to work for the betterment of the Department.

### **Convention Chairman, Jody Marsh**

At this point the convention is being planned as in-person at Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville, June 23-26, 2021.

We need people to place advertising for the Convention Book, from Posts and Units, local businesses and statewide businesses like Les Schwab or State Farm.

The meetings for the Legion and Auxiliary will start at the same time. The Americanism lunch will be scheduled for two hours. The Legion Foundation will be having a mixer on Thursday night with bean bag toss game and hors d'oeuvres. The Banquet is scheduled for Friday night.

Any questions? None

**Girls State Member, Gea Clausier**

Girls and Boys State will be combined this year with a virtual two-day program. Packets were emailed to the members. If the schools in your area will still be in session, let Krisann know, and she will work with the school district. They are working on getting speakers lined up.

Any Questions?

Yvonne Drury, Stevens-chute Unit 4

In March of 2020 on an ALA blog there was a plea from the Girls Nation Director looking for female Veterans to make a single poppy and send to her to be used in 2021 or 2022 poppy wreath to be placed by Girls Nation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery. I called her to get one kit and she sent 10 kits which were distributed to female Veterans, in our community, some dual members and some Legion members. At the time she said she had heard from no one in Oregon.

Did anyone else participate?

No one knew of this project.

**Department Poppy Chairman, Cindy Soria**

Cindy did a presentation on the Poppy contest. She presented District 1 President, Catherine Brockmann with a Certificate of Participation in the Centennial Poppy Special Project 2019-2021. National asked for a poppy from each Department to be put on a map of the United States.

**Department Children and Youth, Pam Seelye**

The Children & Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of Veteran's and military families.

One of the items that is being stressed this year is the Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards. This is a way to recognize youth 18 and younger in our communities who demonstrate good citizenship, either through a brave physical act or a good deed. Membership in the American Legion Family is not a requirement.

Monitor your local newspapers, TV and neighborhoods for children and youth who have performed a heroic act of physical valor, such as performing CPR, helping evacuate in the event of a fire, calling 911 for an emergency. Work with your Unit to nominate them for a Youth Hero/Good Deed Award.

Once a child has been identified as a Youth Hero/Good Deed applicant, complete the nomination form. Have the form signed by two Unit members, and then submit the form to our Department Secretary, Linda. Once the award has been processed by National Headquarters, try to contact your local media along with the child's parents and plan for a public presentation of the award if it can be done safely. We currently have one application into National for a Good Deed Award and are working on getting the information needed to fill out the Good Deed forms for 2 other children. This is more difficult than we thought due to protecting children and their information. Do not let this deter you in your efforts to recognize these special children.

Fill-in applications can be found on the National website ALAforVeterans.org and I have copies with me. Since we did not have an in-person DEC in January this information is not going to help you much, I am sorry, but I did want to pass it on to you. April is Children and Youth Month. Encourage everyone to wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple Up! For Military Kids day. This is a wonderful visual to honor these children that due to circumstances beyond their control, sacrifice time with one or both of their parents.

## Pending Approval

Try to plan a special event for April, since it is recognized as Children and Youth Month by the American Legion Auxiliary. We as a Department have an award for the best Children and Youth activity done in the month of April.

A lot of our Posts do a POW/MIA table. Do you know that we have a Military Childs table that is very similar to the POW/MIA table just with different items? I have a copy of this on the back table.

Also on the back table is a copy of the Jet Nose Art Contest. This is open to Oregon military children 17 years and younger. The design must be submitted by April 25, 2021. The winner will have their design displayed on an F-15 Fighter Jet Aircraft.

### **Communication**

None

### **Old Business/Unfinished Business**

Thank you to the Post and Auxiliary for all you have done. Everything was great. The Moose members were called out so that they could be thanked by everyone. The hat was passed for donation for the Moose.

### **New Business**

If you are declaring your candidacy for a Department or National position, we are going to give you 2 to 3 minutes to speak.

Alternate National Committee Person, Jody Marsh from Seaside Unit #99. I don't have a letter of endorsement from my Unit, and I am hoping that they will do that. I am asking for your support and I will be getting a letter out from my Unit.

National Executive Committee Person, Krisann Owens Bay Area, Unit #34. Her letter of endorsement was read by Gea Clausier.

Department Vice President, Cindy Soria, Glenn Morrison, Unit #70. I have copies of my endorsement letter if you would like a copy. Please vote for me at convention. Thank you.

Department President, Debra Godwin, McMinnville, Unit 21. Debra had Jody read her endorsement letter.

### **Upcoming Events**

Purple Up! For Military Kids, April 15, 2021

Department Blood Drive May 27, 2021 9am-2pm, reservations required, redcrossblood.org

Girls and Boys State, June 14 and 15, 2021, virtual

Convention, June 23-26, 2021, Seven Feathers Casino

### **Is there any further business to come before this meeting?**

Cyndi Dahl, PDP, on behalf of all Past Department Presidents, thank for a wonderful meeting.

Closing Prayer was read by Alice Redding, District 1 Chaplain.

Gracious Father, we thank you for the opportunity to meet together today.

## Pending Approval

As we leave this meeting place, surround us with Your love.  
May we see Your beauty, feel Your love, know Your wisdom, and experience Your power.  
May we find the comfort we desire in You and the strength we need in Your name.  
May Your presence be with us every hour of the day.  
May Your love be the passion in our hearts.  
May Your joy be our strength when times are hard.  
May Your presence be the place that overflows in our lives.  
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

Till we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our Country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the Community, State and Nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom, Loyalty and Democracy.

Please join me in rendering a Salute to the Flag.

I now declare this meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Executive Board, Department of Oregon, adjourned.

Shannon and David from the Moose came up and Kathi presented them with \$113.50.