

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY**

2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION MINUTES

The Annual Department convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, was held on June 8th and 9th, 2023 under the leadership of Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez.

The opening convention session was held on Thursday June 8, 2023 and was called to order by Convention chairman PDP Laurel Matthews.

The opening processional included the Department Sergeant at Arms, Department Pages, 2022-2023 County Presidents, Past Department Presidents and Department Officer's.

Department Officers:

Department Sergeant at Arms	Geraldine Fisher
Department Chaplain	Lisa Natale
Department Historian	Trish Muller
Department Secretary	Dawn Burger
Department Treasurer	Debra Noble
Department 2 nd Vice President	Charline Gladden
Department 1 st Vice President	Sharon Knight

President Colleen's Personal Page preceded Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez, escorted by TAL Vice Commander Dennis Duddie.

The Chair was assumed by President Colleen, who opened the convention with regular ceremonies:

Honor Guard is dismissed and Advancement of Department Colors led by Department Sergeant at Arms Geraldine Fisher.

Invocation was offered by Department Chaplain Lisa Natale.

A Moment of Silence observed for all fallen soldiers and deceased members;

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Americanism Chairman Trish Muller;

National Anthem was led by Soloist Claire Prevot;

Preamble to the Constitution was led by Governing Documents Chairman/PDP Debbie Noble;

The Color Guard was dismissed and the Department convention was convened and ready for the transaction of convention business.

The POW-MIA chair was draped by Department POW/MIA Chairman Lisa Natale.

Greetings were extended by the following:

PDP Maggie McMahon and Convention Committee.

Chaplain Lisa Natale gave tribute to PDP Dolores Gonzales

Cape May County President & PDP Charlene McConville & PDP Penny Kraus

Convention Chairman PDP Maggie McMahon, who introduced the convention committee and then called upon PDP Charlene McConville from Cape May County for presentation of a corsage to President Colleen on behalf of Cape May County and PDP Penny Kraus presentation of a corsage to Convention Secretary Dawn Burger from Unit 184 in memory of Dottie Harris. PDP Penny Kraus presentation of corsage to Treasurer Debbie Noble.

Greetings: PDP Ruby Cramer gave greetings and wished President Colleen a wonderful convention. Department 1st Vice President Sharon Knight gave greetings to Department President Colleen; we wish you a speedy Convention. Marybeth Berry gave greetings and wish her a successful & speedy convention.

President Colleen asked:

All Committee Chairmen to please stand and be recognized

All County President's stand and be recognized

All Past Department President's please stand and be recognized.

Personal Pages please stand

All Department Officer's stand and be recognized

The Call to Convention was emailed.

Motion to accept the minutes from last year as distributed, Motion carried

Ratification of Elections AND Resolution Committees:

Election Committee:

Chairman: PDP Debra Noble

Tellers: PDP Lynda Stadtler and PDP Penny Kraus

Inspectors: PDP Laurel Matthews and Leslie Woodward

Motion made to accept Trish Muller in place of Mary Schafle, Motion made by Colleen & 2nd by Charline Gladden. Ratification was approved.

Resolutions Committee:

Chairman: PDP Caroline Koveleski

Members: PDP Laurel Matthews, Sharon Knight & PDP Ella Patterson

Nominations of 2023-24 Department Officers was held with the following being nominated by their respective counties:

President Sharon Knight	Union County
1 st Vice President Charline Gladden	Ocean County
2 nd Vice President Trish Muller	Middlesex County
Historian Lisa Natale	Monmouth County

No endorsements received in the office for Department Chaplain, Secretary Dawn made roll call for each County, asking if they have any endorsements:

Chaplain Lisa Mayer	Ocean County
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Nominations will remain open until the end of our session. Introduction of Candidates.

Convention Rules Committee- 1st Vice President Sharon Knight made a motion to accept the Convention Rules as printed. 1st by Dori Miller & 2nd by Trish Muller. Motion carried.

Credentials: PDP Doreen Gallagher read list of credentials

249	Delegates
48	Alternates
<u>43</u>	Delegates at Large
340	Total

Convention Secretary Dawn Burger announced the following voting strength:

Atlantic	10
Bergen	31
Burlington	14
Camden	30
Cape May	12
Cumberland	1
Essex	12
Gloucester	7
Hudson	2
Hunterdon	2
Mercer	2
Middlesex	22
Monmouth	26
Morris	21
Ocean	36
Passaic	11
Salem	5
Somerset	8
Sussex	14
Union	19
Warren	<u>7</u>
Total Voting Strength	292

CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Resolution Committee: PDP Caroline Koveleski Chairman, PDP Laurel Matthews, Sharon Knight & PDP Ella Patterson. Read 5 courtesy resolutions:

1: Resolution for Endorsement of Jeffery E. Hicks for National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion

WHEREAS, Jeffery E. Hicks is a 19-year member of The Sons of The American Legion; and is a charter member and Honorary Life Member of Squadron 526 of Burlington County; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery served as Burlington County Commander of The Sons of The American Legion in 2012-13; Past County Adjutant; Past Detachment Executive Committeeman; and continues to serve as the County Finance Officer; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery served as Detachment Commander in 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery has continued to demonstrate his commitment to The Sons of The American Legion program serving as National Assistant Adjutant; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Burlington County Commander of The SAL Jeffery was committed to raising funds to install a Gold Star Mothers' black granite monument at the Veterans Memorial Park in Burlington Township. This monument was dedicated on Memorial Day in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Jeffery's Detachment Commander's project exceeded his fundraising goal of \$25,000 and were merged with TAL Commander's and ALA President's project to finance needs across the various NJ Veterans' facilities, and

WHEREAS, Jeffery has been recognized by his community for the past six year as an exemplary patriot by serving as Master of Ceremonies for Southampton Township's annual Memorial Day parades in Vincentown; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, at our 103rd annual convention held in Wildwood, NJ on June 8-9, 2023 fully support Jeffery E. Hicks for the high office of National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to The American Legion, Department of New Jersey, the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of New Jersey and to Jeffery E. Hicks to show our support.

Guest Speaker:

John Lynch, Wildwoods Convention Center Director of Sales. Presented Colleen with plaque & presented Sharon with gavel.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governing Documents: PDP Debbie Noble Chairman; we still have pending approval for Units 105, 136, 310, 253, 306, 401. Approved Units: 39, 70, 166, 232, 455, 17, 133, 57, 171, 524.

The Committee has received a number of questions:

First question: Can you make nominations from the floor?

Answer: yes, you can make nominations from the floor (as you heard this morning, when the President asked if there were any further nominations), at any time while nominations are open, you have the right to make a nomination from the floor while the nomination of office are open

Second question: Endorsement vs Nomination

Answer: you do not need an endorsement letter from your unit and county to run for Department office. Anyone can run at any time from the floor; as long as your dues are paid, you have the same right as anyone else. Yes, you can have an independent candidate who could not get a letter of endorsement from her unit or county, but she can run from the floor. Endorsement is simply an endorsement letter of support, that is all that it is.

Third question: Are appointed officers considered officers to have a quorum at a meeting?

Answer: Some of your documents say you have to have 3-7 officers to have quorum, first and foremost she is a member first, and yes, whether she is appointed or elected, she is still an officer.

Fourth question: No member that holds a public office, can hold an elected or appointed office in Auxiliary?

Answer: that is not true. You cannot use your American Auxiliary membership as a stepping stone to further your position in local/county government.

Standing Rules can be changed at any unit, county or Department meeting, only changes our Department Constitution & By-laws need a Convention action.

Americanism: Sharon Knight Chairman; read the winners for each category:

Essay Group 1	Ava Kharel	Passaic	\$25.00
Essay Group 2	Justin Calvo	Hudson	\$25.00
Essay Group 3	Chase Harrison	Hudson	\$25.00
Essay Group 4	John Huth	Passaic	\$50.00
Essay Group 5	Julia Huth	Passaic	\$50.00
Essay Group 6	Demetrious Stachia	Hudson	\$25.00

Book of Prayers: Lisa Natale Chairman; Camden County, Annette McColley winner

Education: Ellie Zaleski Chairman; 10 Counties and 30 Units give to “Give 10 for Education”, I have awards for them.

Atlantic: 28, 158 & 469

Bergen: 69, 117 & 136

Gloucester: 252

Middlesex: 65, 253 & 306

Monmouth: 346

Morris: 27, 91, 249, 344, 390 & 423

Ocean: 129

Passaic: 8, 174, 227, 238, 289 & 347

Somerset: 327

Union: 3, 5, 102, 328 & 499

National President’s Scholarship: Children of Warriors: Rae Ann Wallace Chairman: received 25 applicants; we submitted one from Sussex County and that winner won \$5,000.00 Quinn Gonzales.

Claire Oliphant Grant: Kathie Lofland Chairman; announced the winner; \$2,500.00 winner from Middlesex Sarah Biondi

Elsie Bailey Grant: Heather Mullary Chairman; announced the winner; Abigail Den Bleyker \$2,500.00

Department Scholarship: Jamie Cangialosi-Murphy Chairman; announced the winners \$1,000.00 each:

North: Julia Huth

Central: Jack Tully

South: Colton Del Collo

Finance: PDP Leila Newell Chairman, Presented \$500.00 to President Colleen’s Project from Unit 12. Calander raffle \$10,000.00 total, \$5,000.00 was sent to each winner, \$4,600.00 is the balance to the Department. We are working on our Convention Trio, please see us outside if you would like tickets.

Jersey Girls State: PDP's Laurel Matthews and Debbie Noble, Co-Directors; Remind your delegates that registration is on Sunday 8-10am at Georgian Court College. This year the Girls will be doing a Salute to Veterans, we have put out flyers at the Legion Convention and the date is Tuesday 6pm. The Girls will be putting on a show and having a BBQ. As of today, every delegate has registered, we are good to move along and have a full staff for 200 Girls. If anyone would like to volunteer for registration on Sunday, be there at 7:30am.

Guest Speakers:

Evan Graham, Legion Riders Chairman (Post 281), Joe Fricker; Interim Regional Director, Fannie Reagan; Interim Assistant Director & Wayne Walker Regional Director (Post 493). Legion Riders welcomed us to Convention. President Colleen presented them with packets.

S.A.L. Committee: PDVC Anthony "Tony" Gladden NJ Department SAL Committee Chairman, Michael Smith; SAL Vice Chairman, Sophia Dmoch; County Commander Liaison SAL State.

Mark Natale; Detachment of NJ SAL Commander, C. David Page PDC, Henry Hassalhan ANEC, Kent Hahl PDC, Bill "Murph" Murphy; Detachment Vice Commander, DEC Bob Philips, National Vice Commander Ernest "Ernie" Laberge & Keith Barnes leading Candidate for SAL Detachment Commander. SAL Commander Mark Natale presented President Colleen with a check for her project \$5,000.00.

Department of NJ VFW Auxiliary President; Noreen Locacio

Legislative: Adele Gimon Chairman; apologized to Ocean County for not getting them into her final report, she will send updated report (as of the typing of these mins, have not received report)

National Security: Lisa Mayer Chairman; thanked President Colleen for the appointment

Past Presidents Parley: PDP Ruby Cramer Chairman; Ocean County donated \$310.00 for the Nurses scholarship. We have not received any applications; I did receive one; but it was not complete. PDP Ruby will be working with the PPP committee next year, to see if she can open the scholarship up to others.

Poppies: Rae Ann Wallace Chairman; Thanked everyone for their hard work & thanked President Colleen for the appointment

Poppy Contest: Carol Palangi Chairman; Announced the Poppy winners:

Centerpiece-Junior	Rosie Widmer	\$25.00 Camden 262
Centerpiece-Senior	Gloria Meier	\$25.00 Middlesex 65
Poem-Senior	Karen Pittman Fields	\$25.00 Burlington 336
Poem-Junior	NO ENTRIES	
Corsage-Junior	Rosie Widmar	\$25.00 Camden 262
Corsage-Senior	Sharon Martin	\$25.00 Bergen 136
Poster-Class 1	Sarah Manley	\$25.00 Hudson 165
Poster-Class 2	Angelina Gomez	\$25.00 Hudson 165
Poster-Class 3	Merna Eskandar	\$25.00 Hudson 165
Poster-Class 4	Parnika Agarwal	\$25.00 Hudson 165
Poster-Class 5	NO ENTRIES	
Poster-Class 6	NO ENTRIES	

Wreath-Senior	Kelly Daley	\$25.00 Middlesex 243
Wreath-Junior	Rosie Widmar	\$25.00 Camden 262
Song	NO ENTRIES	\$25.00

PPP Unit Member of the Year: PDP Shirley Beck Chairman; announced winner:

Mary Ann Woollen Unit 281 Camden

Girls State: PDP Debbie Noble Chairman; PDP Marion Heller's estate/Will made a donation to her favorite program; Girls State, so we have decided that each year, we would pick a worthy Alternate and promote her to delegate and pay her Girls State fee. The Alternate we picked is: **Samantha Pappas**

President Colleen announced; We will take a 5-minute break

Membership: MC Fetherman Chairman; Top 6 Counties: Cape May, Somerset, Essex, Atlantic, Hunterdon & Mercer, and Ocean County after close of books, 51 goal unit as of close of book. 274 shy of goal.

Birthday Citation Awards:

Atlantic: 28 158 270 352 396
 Bergen: 69 106 136 139 171 310
 Burlington: 336
 Camden: 262 281 286 370 473
 Essex:
 Cape May: 524 184
 Cumberland: 82
 Gloucester: 252
 Middlesex: 62 211 243 263 306 401 435
 Hunterdon: 113 120 284
 Hudson:
 Monmouth:
 Mercer: 314
 Morris: 27 43 249 342 390
 Ocean: 129 232 348 351 455
 Passaic: 227
 Sussex: 157 278
 Somerset: 12 327
 Union: 102 499
 Warren: 131

PPP Award: Unit 262 Camden (140%)
 Dottie Tupper: Unit 352 Atlantic County (increased 20 members)
 Florence Mathers: Cape May (increased 19 members)
 Sailors Trophy: Somerset County (2021-22) & Mercer County (2022-23) (% increased Memorial Day)
 Wings & Wizards: Unit 262 Camden County (1st Goal Unit)
 Comp. Heart Award: Atlantic County 93.95% (Highest % paid by Valentine's Day)
 Bluebird Trophy: Camden County (highest new Juniors) & Ocean 348 (increased 5 juniors)
 Department Golden Award: Somerset County (Under 200) Cape May County (201-559)

(over 600) No Goal Counties

Lisa Natale: New Unit 105 please stand and be recognized. All new members please stand and be recognized

We will receive National Awards for 85% & 95% at Charlotte NC

President Colleen announced that herself & Officers' will be leaving our Convention to go to Legion Convention, Secretary Dawn will continue with Convention.

Public Relations: Anastasia Goldberg Chairman; gave report for awards:

Newsletter Navigator	Unit Award	\$25.00	Passaic County Unit 238
Media Star	Unit Award	\$25.00	Ocean County
PR Performance	Unit Award	\$25.00	Middlesex County Unit 253

Announcement: Secretary Dawn read announcements.

PDP Laurel Matthews reminded everyone that 7:45am is line up for Memorial Service.

Sgt. at Arms Geraldine Fisher, anyone that attends Memorial service wear all white, no shorts or tank tops. Memorial service starts at 8:30am.

PDP Leila Newell is going to come in with the raffle tickets to see if anyone would like any, please stay in the room.

Donna "Pumpkin" Godfrey announced the CMN Walk-A-Thon is Saturday morning.

MC presented Secretary Dawn with a gift for help with Membership. PDP Lynda Stadtler read the message on the cup.

PDP Lynda Stadtler asked if anyone wanted to sign songs.

PDP Leila Newell & Tara Goldstein (back of the room) will be selling raffle tickets.

PDP Maggie McMahon announced that anyone with the incoming Department Presidents pins, bags & etc., please do not wear them/use them until after Saturday.

President Colleen & Officers, are back from their visit to the Legion & SAL

VA&R: Charline Gladden Chairman; received 2 additional supplemental reports. Charline thanked everyone for their reports & the committee's hard work. President Colleen thanks Charline for her hard work and dedication to the committee.

Resolution Committee Continued:

2: Courtesy Resolution

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, is convened in their 103rd annual convention in June 2023, and

WHEREAS, this body meets in the Wildwood Convention Center, and

WHEREAS, the Greater Wildwood Convention Center staff have been so courteous and willing to work with our committee to make this a good experience for all of us and,

WHEREAS, they have made it a joy to work with them in making plans for our annual convention, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Convention Center thanking them for all courtesies extended to the American Legion Auxiliary once again this year.

3: Courtesy Resolution

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, is convened in their 103rd annual convention in June 2023, and

WHEREAS, it encompasses a lot of planning and work by a committee to pull everything together for all members to have a successful convention, and

WHEREAS, we all enjoy the labors of the committee to learn what all counties and units are doing for our great organization during the year,

WHEREAS, it takes so much time put forth by those few for the rest of us to sit back, relax and learn more about our programs that therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we thank our Convention Committee by a loud standing ovation

4: Courtesy Resolution

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, is convened in their 103rd annual convention in June 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Past Department Presidents have served their year leading this Auxiliary, and

WHEREAS, they still continue to attend meetings and serve on committees, and

WHEREAS, they still continue to mentor their peers, and are there to answer all questions asked of them; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we thank and show them all our appreciation by a loud applause for continuing to be leaders of our organization.

Greetings from the PDPs: PDP Caroline Koveleski; All PDPs please come up. President Colleen reminded everyone that PDP Stella Madey turned 99 in January. PDP Caroline extended that the PDP's are here to help support our members and our organization, thank you. PDP Jane Babli was receiving an award from the Legion. We will take a picture tomorrow morning, but we will take a quick picture right now.

Guest Speakers:

Chuck Robbins; Past NEC, introduction of: Augustina Mallows; Miss New Jersey 2022, Elizabeth Mendel, Miss Avalon & will be competing for Miss New Jersey

American Legion Department Commander; Steve Fisher, Burley Hanna Jr.; NEC Department of NJ, Mike Wilson; Judge Advocate Department of NJ & PDC. Commander Fisher announced that the American Legion, now has an American Legion website up and running and a section for the TAL Family (S.A.L & Aux.) and gave the site name to send pictures or flyer for events as: socialnjamericanlegion.org. The American Legion website is: njamericanlegion.org.

President Colleen announced final call for further nominations; hearing none, nominations are closed for all offices.

Election Committee: PDP Debbie Noble Chairman, went over the delegates, as follows:

Automatic Delegates are:

Colleen Breen-Lopez (outgoing President)

Sharon Knight (incoming President)

Charlene McConville (Cape May-Page)

Leila Newell (Somerset-Page)

Debe Free (County President)

Charline Gladden (2nd VP)

Lisa Natale (Chaplain)
Geraldine Fisher (Sgt. at Arms)

Delegates: 11 total

Doreen Gallagher (PDP)
Jane Babli (PDP)
Dori Miller (County President)

President Colleen announced: are there any other Auxiliary Members wishing to be an Alternate to National Convention

PDP Debbie Noble stated: County Presidents are entitled to be delegates, they take precedence over Dept. officers and PDP's

Alternates:

Laurel Matthews
Theresa Gail Mickens
Jane Keeley
C Terry Morrissey Leach

Will the alternates please come forward.

PDP Debbie reminded everyone: PDP Debbie went over the rules for the ballots. No one can leave or enter the room and no talking or discussions during voting. You will have 15 minutes to complete your voting.

President Colleen spoke about her experience with Legion Family appearance on Fox News for National Poppy Day.

PDP Debbie announced that elections are closed.

President Colleen announced today's convention is adjourned until tomorrow mornings session

FRIDAY SESSION
June 9, 2023

President Colleen opened/reconvened today's convention session.

The 2022-2023 Memorial Service: Department Chaplain Lisa Natale. PDP Doreen Gallagher, PDP Ella Patterson & PDP Lynda Stadtler read a Memorial tribute in honor of PDP E. Dolores Gonzalez; a tribute rose was placed in her honor.

A special tribute was given for all deceased members, Past Unit, County & Department Members, Past Department Presidents, Gold Star Mothers', POW/MIA, Junior & SAL Members, and our deceased Veterans.

County Presidents & Chaplains please come forward in remembrance of your deceased County members.

All were remembered in prayer and song.

Chaplain Lisa Natale presented President Colleen with her Book of Prayers.

President Colleen gave a 5-minute break to disassemble the Memorial setup

President Colleen reconvened convention session

Guest Speakers:

Jacqueline Hinker; (DAV) Department of Veterans Affairs "PACT Act"
Karmella Allen; Department Juniors President (Unit 455), PDP Caroline Koveleski gave words of support to Karmella from the PDP's.

Election Committee: PDP Debbie Noble Chairman, gave election results as follows:

1st Alternate: Laurel Matthews

2nd Alternate: Jane Keeley

3rd Alternate: Theresa Gail Mickens

4th Alternate: C. Terry Morrissey Leach

PDP Debbie Noble thanked the committee for their help and thanked President Colleen for the appointment

Guest Speakers:

C.O.T.A. Rick Lofgren & The Ward Family, Doug Herrin (Post 148) C.O.T.A. Liaison American Legion Dept. of NJ

President Colleen asked if there were any donations: Unit 346 from Monmouth County made a donation.

President Colleen announced the newly elected Department Officers, as follows:

President: Sharon Knight

1st Vice President: Charline Gladden

2nd Vice President: Trish Muller

Historian: Lisa Natale

Chaplain: Lisa Mayer

President Colleen asked that newly elected President Sharon please come to the podium. President Sharon asked for ratification of her Sgt. at Arms: Donna "Pumpkin" Godfrey.

Unfinished Business:

Resolutions: PDP Caroline Koveleski read 5th Courtesy Resolution:

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, is convened in their 103rd annual convention in June 2023, and

WHEREAS, a member is normally elected for one year to serve as our Department President, and

WHEREAS, as the leader of all our members and overseer of all committees, she takes a lot of personal time away from family, and

WHEREAS, it is such a fulfilling year, with both good times and bad times, and

WHEREAS, President Colleen Breen-Lopez has shown leadership and dedication to our organization during her 2022-2023 term; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that we thank Department President Colleen and show her our appreciation by a standing ovation.

New Business:

Joann Weber from Unit 524 made a \$10,000.00 donation to President Colleen's Department Presidents Project.

President's Report: President Colleen thanked everyone for her appointment. President Colleen announced that she will be the new National Eastern Division Education Chairman. We need to go back to traditions, but into the 21st Century. Communication is key, and we need to do that moving forward, follow the protocol from Unit, County and Department.

Announcements: PDP Maggie McMahon announced we have 2 other National appointments: PDP Debbie Noble is Girls Nation Member & PDP Doreen Gallagher is Eastern Division Children & Youth Chairman. Be here for the installation to win the lottery (blue tickets), you have to be here to win. PDP Leila announced for today's installation, there will be some reserved seating, as follows: the first 5 rows on the left side will be reserved for the Union County American Legion Family. The right side will be first row is for special guest and Past County Presidents, the next two rows will be for the County Presidents that will serve with Sharon and the 2 rows will be reserved Honor Guard. Please incoming County Presidents meet with her in the Hallway. We will take a 1 ½ hour break after the basket raffles, please be back at 12:30pm.

PDP Maggie reminder: Counties and Units please leave the flags here for installation, you have sign out your flags after installation.

President Colleen announced we will need runners for the raffle.

President Colleen recessed for the basket raffle

PDP Leila Newell announced the grand total collected for the Basket Raffle & Trio \$4,944.00. Thank you to all of the runners and the members selling tickets. Thank you to the Finance Committee for their help.

President Colleen announced, we are recessed until Installation.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
2023-2024

The Installation ceremony for the 2023-2024 Department Officers was conducted by Past Department President Leila Newell.

The Department Officers presented for installation were:

Retiring Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez escorted by PDP Doreen Gallagher
Department Sergeant at Arms Donna "Pumpkin" Godfrey escorted by PDP Debe Noble
Department Chaplain Lisa Mayer escorted by PDP Ruby Cramer
Department Historian Lisa Natale escorted by PDP Maggie McMahon
Department 2nd Vice President Trish Muller escorted by PDP Debe Free
Department 1st Vice President Charline Gladden escorted by PDP/PNC Caroline Koveleski
Department President Sharon Knight escorted by Dept. Master at Arms Randy Gizzard

Past Department President Doreen Gallagher presented retiring Department President Colleen Breen-Lopez with her ribbon & PDP pin; PDP Maggie McMahon assisted.

Department Officers presented for Oath of Office:

Department Sergeant at Arms Donna "Pumpkin" Godfrey given oath by PDP/PNH Debra Noble
Department Chaplain Lisa Mayer given oath by PDP Ruby Cramer
Department Historian Lisa Natale given oath by PDP Doreen Gallagher
Department 2nd Vice President Trish Muller given oath by PDP Debe Free
Department 1st Vice President Charline Gladden given oath by PDP/PNC Caroline Koveleski
Department President Sharon Knight given oath by PDP Leila Newell. Dept. Master at Arms Randy Gizzard presented her with the Department President pin and ribbon.

Acting Department Chaplain, Debbie Noble offered prayer

Played President Sharon's song. Everyone is invited to join us for the reception later.

President Sharon thanked Department Officers, Union County and everyone for attending today.
President Sharon's theme is "Be Kind". Sharon's Department project is: Joint project with The American Legion

Played President Sharon's song (Be A Light)

Presentation of gifts to President Sharon

American Legion Department Past NEC Chuck Robbins for the purpose of the flag ceremony

Color Guard present Department Colors

Outgoing President Colleen & President Sharon come forward for the passing of Department Colors

Outgoing President Colleen gave final message to the Auxiliary, thank you all for the great honor

Presentation of gifts for outgoing President Colleen

Past Department President's please stay in the room after the session
President Sharon wants to remind everyone of meeting Saturday at 9am

Benediction: Department Chaplain Lisa Natale

Recessional: Convention Committee

2022-2023 Sergeant at Arms and Chaplain

2022-2023 Department President, Sharon Knight

2021-2022 Department Officers

2021-2022 Department President, Colleen Breen-Lopez escorted by

Color Guard retired Department Colors.

Adjournment of Department Convention

Dawn Burger

Convention Secretary

