



ALA TODAY



Latest ALA NHQ News and Updates

2022 National Convention Highlights

On Aug. 26, 2022, National President Kathy Daudistel rode into Milwaukee as part of the Legacy Run, and she did it on her own motorcycle! We believe this is the first time in convention history that a national president arrived in the convention city on her own motorcycle AND opened the National Convention in full motorcycle gear – what a ride!

The 101st ALA National Convention officially opened Aug. 29. Attendees enjoyed the music of the Billy Brown Band. They also received greetings from several distinguished Legion Family and Department of Milwaukee guests and listened to informative committee reports.

Monday's session closed with a confetti-filled membership celebration honoring 21 departments that reached 100% membership goal!



2022 National Convention Highlights Continued...

Tuesday's session opened with our Past National Presidents and was followed by committee reports and reports from our national secretary, national treasurer, and interim executive director. The majority of Tuesday's session was devoted to the Constitution & Bylaws report where delegates considered 22 items affecting our national governing documents. See page 3 for more about the motions that were carried.

When the session closed, attendees and staff hurried to the SOLD-OUT Public Spirit Award Luncheon (formerly the Woman of the Year Luncheon) where we honored our award winners DTOM Veterans Ranch, Eagle's Healing Nest, and caregiver Janine Dougherty.



Wednesday's session was filled with the nominations and elections of our 2022-2023 national officers, more informative committee reports, presentations from the national historian, national chaplain, national president's scrapbook chairman, and a special award presentation from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. The session ended with a celebration of the National President's Award for Excellence winners and an announcement that the #GivingTuesday booth raised just over \$34,000, and of course the national president's report.

Installation of the 2022-2023 national officers was held on Wednesday afternoon, followed by States Dinner where winners of the silent auction were announced and nearly \$10,000 was raised for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.



Governance



National Convention Delegates...

Created Ethical Conduct Committee to review complaints against national leadership; passed other provisions to allow for discipline of any NEC member by the NEC up to termination from serving on the board.

Constitution & bylaws amendments submission deadline: put an official “submit by” date to meet the required 20 days’ notice for distribution to departments. Otherwise, they could be submitted at the literal last minute before the required 20 days’ notice. Also, amendments distributed in advance do not have to be read from the floor. Amendments made from the floor have to be read one day in advance of the vote.

Risk & Compliance is the only national committee that increased in size by adding a non-member qualified in risk and compliance to serve with voice but without voice.

Removed “suspend” and “revoke” from charter language; changed “due process” and “equal protection” to “fundamental fairness.”

Departments may now be disciplined by the NEC, not just have their charters cancelled. Departments may discipline or cancel unit charters. Only cancellation not discipline of units is appealable to the NEC. Fundamental fairness means adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard.

The National Executive Committee

- In-person committee meetings have to be approved in advance in the budget (virtual meetings do not)
- “Due process” and “equal protection” are replaced with “fundamental fairness” which means adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard
- Departments will be notified of NEC and convention governance actions
- Charter cancellations may be ratified at any NEC meeting
- Eligibility through the service of deceased veterans may be established by providing the veteran’s proof of military service
- Clarifications on elections of honorary Junior officers; if there are no eligible candidates, a position remains vacant
- Membership eligibility can be challenged, appealable to the DEC
- Membership cards reflect most recent join date
- Renewals will go out by Sept. 15 from NHQ
- New rules and procedures for cancellation of unit and department charters
- National Leadership Code of Ethical Conduct — conduct expected of national leadership
- Ethical Conduct Review Policy — procedures for how complaints against national leadership will be handled

Behind the Scenes at Convention!



ALA national staff began arriving in Milwaukee on Aug. 23 to begin executing the ALA's 101st National Convention. While onsite, we logged some really late nights and early mornings, celebrated a birthday (not naming names, but if we were it would rhyme with Dhrystal Caulton ☺), made countless FaceTime calls to our families back home, bonded backstage, ate a combined 275 lbs. of cheese, and worked alongside members to raise almost \$45,000. It was a fantastic time to see volunteers and interact with members who are working the ALA mission every day. Executive Assistant Sommer Matthews and Events Manager Jessica Symmes experienced and survived their very first National Convention (yay!), and as the interim executive director, Sara Riegel took to the podium for the first time to report on behalf of the entire NHQ staff.



Thank you, NHQ staff!

STAFF NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

September brought the departure of Development Division staff members Sydney DeLong and Zane Glotzbach. We wish them well in their future endeavors!

Finally, let's wave hello to Carmela Garcia as she returns to NHQ and jumps into her role as Accounting Coordinator. Say *congratulations* to our recent promotions:

Cindy Radcliff – Staff Accountant



Amanda Ginter – Senior Accounting Coordinator



Samantha Caudill – Senior Events Coordinator



Kristin Hinshaw – Senior Program Coordinator



In July 2022, the Development Division, along with the assistance of Mark Conyers, was awarded a Google Ad Grant. The ad grant provides the ALA Foundation with \$10,000 of in-kind advertising every month for text search ads. That is \$120,000 per year in free online ads! These text ads created by ALA staff appear at the top of Google search results when specific keywords are searched that closely relate to aspects of the ALA, ALAF, and/or our mission.

When our ads appear, the online searcher can click on the ad and be directed to our website for more information. The awarding of this grant and use of the ads will enhance our ability to raise awareness, attract donors, and much more. Did you know? It is estimated that Google has approximately 5.6 billion searches per day; imagine the possibilities and impact!

Say Hello and Wave Goodbye

On Sept. 16, 2022-2023 National President Vickie Koutz and Past National President Kathy Daudistel visited NHQ. For President Vickie, it was to say “hello” in her new role, and for Kathy, it was to say, “thank you” and wave goodbye. Staff members were treated to a thank-you lunch and were able to enjoy some time with both Vickie and Kathy while diving into another ALA administrative year.



Making A Difference

ShipThrifty is the easiest way to compare shipping prices with the major carriers and print shipping labels from anywhere. Whether you ship to family members or friends, ship for your business, or want to host a military care package event, use ShipThrifty to save time and money!

The company's founders, Rob and Michelle Williamson, are part of The American Legion Family and share our passion to serve veterans and their families. Rob and Michelle came to National Convention for a second time and gave a presentation at the NEC meeting. Since then, they've been asked to speak at 10 department leadership conferences to share information on shipping tips, military base-specific restrictions, surcharges and changes to shipping costs, savings tips, and a Q&A.

If you would like them to speak to your department or unit, please email them at contactus@shipthrifty.com or call (800) 544-4992 to set up a time for a virtual presentation. When you sign up for ShipThrifty at www.shipthrifty.com/rf/ALA and type ALA into the affiliate code at signup, ShipThrifty will donate 2% of all purchases back to the ALA. Savings and ease are just a few clicks away!



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