FALL SEC

October 3, 2014

Grayling, Michigan

***The SEC meeting was called to order*** by President Allison Aldrich at 6:35pm. President Allison introduced the National President Sylvia Rowland who was escorted to the head table by Sgt-at-Arms Lenore Uhl.

***The opening prayer*** was given by Chaplain Sue Christe.

***The Flag*** was presented and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms Lenore Uhl.

***Roll Call of Officers*** by Secretary Nancy Middleton showed all Officers in attendance with the exception of Faye Richardson-Green, 1st Vice (President explained Faye would be late so she is excused for the time being), Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith, excused, District VII President Lois Carlson, absent.

***Convention minute by Secretary Nancy Middleton***

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Peggy Liss to dispense with the reading of the pre-convention, convention and post-convention minutes and go into corrections. CARRIED

The only correction reported was Barb Bateman was left off as a guest of District I in the pre-convention minutes. This will be corrected.

Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Kathy Biela to accept minutes as corrected. Carried

***Finance Report by Treasurer Gloria Hall***. Gloria showed the balance up to date on all accounts. She also had a copy of the current budget and the amounts spent in each line item and/or the amount remaining in the fund. There were no questions.

\*\*Motion PDP Pat Michalski/2nd Kathy Schultz to accept the report. CARRIED

**OFFICER’S REPORTS**

***President Allison Aldrich*** – turned in her activity report. She has been very busy and has not had many ‘free’ weekends since taking officer. She attended National Convention and also made her official visit to District III. Other District visits scheduled will be included in the announcements.

***First Vice President Fay Richardson Green*** will give her report when she arrived.

***Second Vice President Seletha Robertson*** turned in her activity report. She had the tour of Penrickton and it was very nice. She will be going to their kickoff dinner on October 17th. Seletha pointed out Penrickton is privately funded and are putting our donated money to very good use.

***Third Vice President Wendy Lynema*** turned in her activity report. She read her instructions and contacted the Parliamentarian about missing information. Wendy attended the Penrickton tour and enjoyed it very much

The tour of Paws With A Cause will be on Friday, October 24 at 11am. Marvell Ruppel, the National 3rd Vice President will be coming in on Thursday night and will be staying at the Baymont Inn on 84th St. Wendy asked everyone to let her know if they will be coming on the tour and/or if they wish to meet at dinner on Thursday night. We will be taking the National 3rd Vice to dinner at the restaurant attached to the hotel. She reminded everyone of small contest she is having. The winner will be the Auxiliary with the most number of Post members (this includes AMVETS, Sons, etc.) who attend the PAWS tour.

Rose Solak asked about the date. They can’t come from District I because they have their Hospital Country Store that day. Wendy stated the date is selected by the National 3rd Vice President based on 2 or 3 available dates submitted to her.

***Secretary Nancy Middleton*** turned in her activity report. She read an e-mail from Judy Smith concerning the health of PDC Jim Smith. She had no other report.

***Treasurer Gloria Hall*** turned in her activity report. She also stated that she has 25 cents too much (compared to the bank figures) – but she will find it!!!

***Chaplain Sue Christe*** turned in her activity report. She sent out several sympathy and get well cards. She also went to National Convention for the 1st time.

***Sgt-at-arms Lenore Uhl*** turned in her activity report. She had no other report at this time.

***Americanism Officer Bonnie Rojeski*** turned in her activity report. She redid the Americanism applications. The date the essays/posters/flag drawing need to be back to her is April 1, 2015. The AMVETS voted to have a raffle for Americanism. The tickets will be available at the Spring SEC and the drawing will be at convention. There will be no Americanism program at this upcoming convention. The AMVETS voted to dispense with it.

***Hospital Officer Trisha Cieremans*** did not have an activity report. She stated she was not aware she needed one. She was given the Hospital plaque from #126 to bring back to be presented to the new winner. It was won by #22 at the past convention. A letter was read concerning hospital from the National Hospital Officer, Barb Valley.

***Scholarship Officer Kathy Schultz*** turned in her activity report. Her theme is “Scholarship Now – Winner for Life”.

She read a special card from Mary Firack, a winner of a Scholarship at the last convention. Mary thanked the Auxiliary for the Scholarship and said she wished her grandpa was here to see her accomplish her dreams.

Kathy Has memorial cards with her for sale.

Kathy Biela complimented Kathy on the nice letters she wrote to the Scholarship winners.

***NEC Woman Peggy Liss*** turned in her activity report. She announced Michigan has a great year at National Convention!

Department of the Year – Michigan

Auxiliary Member of the Year – Pat Michalski

Local Americanism Officer of the Year – Pat Michalski

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Peggy also passed out several thank you cards from National to individual local Auxiliaries for their donations to National programs/projects.

Maureen Jackson stated #57 had two 1st place winners in the AADAA Program one at National and one from the Department.

Good job.  Hope you don't have to go thru this again.

***National President:***

Pat Whitcher reported the National President was not properly introduced at this meeting. There was some confusion so President Allison re-introduced her.

President Sylvia said if it wasn’t for some old friends in Michigan – like Rose Solak and Jan Hapner, she would not be here today as the National President. She congratulated the Dept. of Michigan for being the 2013/14 Auxiliary of the Year. She also said she had never seen Pat Michalski speechless before – until she was announced as the Auxiliary Member of the Year.

President Sylvia said the National Officers are working hard to get information to everyone so please share things they send. We all need to work together. As far as she is concerned – she has plans for “a hell of a good year!!”

***PRO Historian Sharon Colley*** does not have her activity report. She left it home. Sharon questioned how many Auxiliaries do PRO books. Last year we only had one or two turned in for judging on the Department. This does not mean you will automatically win 1st or 2nd place. You must still do the book right or it will be disqualified.

***Ways & Means Chairman Maureen Jackson*** turned in her activity report. She has tickets available for the Flurry of Cash Raffle. The first drawing will be Saturday night at the quarter auction. The 2nd drawing will be Sunday at the Meet & Greet. This will continue for 28 more days. Tickets are $10 each. Winnings are $20 for drawings held Monday through Saturday. Sunday drawings are $50 and the final drawing will be for $400.

During Fall Conference (& SEC there will be 4 Mystery Drawings. Tickets are $1 each. There will only be 25 tickets for each drawing. Pops is also for sale at $1 per can. If anyone has items for the Quarter auction/raffle etc., please get them to Maureen’s room. There will be a Chinese Auction tomorrow. The Auxiliary $5 luncheon (hot dogs & Sloppy Joes) will be in room #148.

Maureen asked for the following items for the Dept. Raffle which will be held at the Dept. Convention in Lansing next June: 1st place – Kindle Fire; 2nd place – GPS; 3rd place - $50 bill.

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to approve the items for the Department Raffle. CARRIED

***Immed. Past President Pat Michalski*** turned in her activity report. As Liaison, she turned in a report to the AMVETS for their SEC. She also received the Finance Report from Treasurer Gloria Hall and gave the AMVETS a copy.

As Honors & Awards Chairman, she has nothing yet to report.

As Head Delegate, she reported National Convention was AWESOME!! Many of our local Auxiliaries won awards. #57 won the Americanism award. #9 won the Sandy Aultman Award. Aux. #9 was runner up for the Hospital award and won the Brenda Kilgore Nursing Home Award. Michigan also received a check from National in the amount of $75 as Department of the Year. There were several Americanism winners and they are all listed on the website.

Pat passed out cards thanking Auxiliaries #9, #23, #57, #121 and #126 for their donations to National programs.

***First Vice President Faye Richardson-Green*** arrived at the meeting. She turned in her activity report. To date she has received 3 Death Notices for life members and 1 for an annual member; 1 transfer; hospital donations from 183 life members; 1 new life member; 28 new members. We still have 552 life donations due and 1,110 renewals due. Nancy Faye and Gloria separated all the cards that were received from National Headquarters. Faye reported she mailed each Auxiliary their renewal card forms and a copy of their Auxiliary National Roster. This was sent to each local 1st Vice President.

National President Sylvia said she was 1st Vice last year – and doesn’t want to ever do it again! It is a tough job. One of the things National is asking us to do is check to see if some of the members do not want the mailing from National. It is very expensive and we pay for it with our dues. If a member doesn’t want it, put “NO MAIL” by their name on the National Roster.

Dist. II President Carol Pickett asked when the National Lines goes out. The National President said they are going to the printer now and should be back in about 2 weeks.

***Personnel Chairman Janice Marie Hapner*** turned in an activity report. She is in contact with the Secretary often and didn’t have any problems to report at this time.

***Fall Conference Chairman Patricia Whitcher*** turned in her activity report. We have 52 preregistered and 7 registered tonight. The instructors have a lot of information to share and they hope to have fun tomorrow.

***Convention Chairman Kathy Keizer*** turned in her report. She had a lot of information about the hotel, rooms etc. She is putting on the website. She and Secretary Nancy Middleton will be going to the hotel checking things out.

Kathy is also aware that the Treasurer does not have a copy of the signed contract yet. That should be taken care of when they visit the hotel with the AMVET Executive Director. We will be going to the same hotel for three years so any ‘kinks’ should be worked out during the first year and the final two years will be easy.

Because of the added expense of renting a podium from the hotel for $50 a day (4 x $50 = $200) the Auxiliary purchased one for $100 and it will be one we can use for many years to come.

***Higgins Lake Rep Diana Lammott*** turned in her report. The AMVETS have rewritten the bylaws for the AMVET Higgins Lake Maintenance Committee and all meetings will be held at the lodge. Her instructions may need to be changed. Aaron Ricketts is the Chairman of the Board and he needs to approve her reports before she can send them to the Auxiliary.

***#1988 won a Mystery gift***

***Parliamentarian Mary Leach*** turned in her activity report. She contacted the National J.A. to question the legality of the AMVETS by-laws regarding the Testimonial Dinners. He told Mary the by-laws are not in conflict with National.

Mary asked the District Presidents to remind every local Auxiliary that they received a letter where changes are to be made in their by-laws. She is still getting by-laws that have not been updated with the changes.

Revalidations now must be in to the Dept. Secretary by May 20 (***not*** June 1)

Dept. Officers must go by the instructions given to them at the Department Convention but be aware of the changes that were made at convention.

Dist. II President Carol Pickett asked if this is done every year. (answer – yes).

There was a problem with some corrections from #121. They didn’t get correction although the Parliamentarian said she sent them the changes that need to be made. Aux. #121 stated they did not get those changes. This has happened twice so the Parliamentarian will send them certified.

**VAVS/MICHIGAN HOME REPS**:

***Aleda E Lutz VA Rep. Marcella Schmidt*** has her joint review. She has $285.50 in the savings account and $435.50 in checking. Marcella will be retiring at the end of this month.

***Ann Arbor VA Rep. Pat Krzesowik*** turned in her activity report. She just had her joint review. The balance in her account if $408.88

***John Dingell VA Rep Harriet Biela*** turned in her activity report. She also had her joint review. The balance in her account is $273.99. They will have their Country Store open on October 24th.

***Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep Sharon Colley*** turned in her report. The balance in her account is $265.00. Sharon is now taking part in a new program at the Home, “No Member Dies Alone”. There has been a lot of positive feedback from Hospice and the Nursing Staff.

Sharon thanks President Allison and Sons Commander John for working the Grand Rapids Home Carnival in July for the 2nd year in a row.

***Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith*** excused. Judy sent in her activity report and report. The balance in her checking account if $146.38 and in savings she has $687.

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT’S REPORTS**

**District I President Rose Solak**turned in her activity report.Rose went to National Convention and said the highlight of the entire convention was the tour of St Jude’s Hospital. She urged Auxiliaries and individuals to make donations to this great organization.

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The guest of District I at this SEC were (from Aux. #9) Kathy Biela, Norma Duran, Barb Bateman, Alice Swiatkowski: (from Aux. #910) Lorrine Porter; (from Aux. #57) Marie Christ, Carmen Simpson, Pat Tune, Nancy Jones.

***District II President Carol Pickett*** turned in her activity report. District II has not scheduled the President’s visit yet – but they are working on it. The guests from District II are Linda Marshall, Doreen Pierce, Kay Rosbrock, Pat Pacynski, Linda Elsey, Carol Orlowski, Sue Hohner.

Carol questions the redistricting done by the AMVETS. The Department Auxiliary has received no information about this – but we were just informed that Auxiliary #79 is now a part of District VI.

Carol also asked about Jr. AMVETS. As of right now, only 57 has Junior AMVETS. #1988 had talked about starting back up but decided not to and turned in their charter. No word on District V.

***District III President Elaine Curtis*** did not have her report available because she could not print it. She stated that Auxiliary #4064 and District III were privileged to have Allison as the Department President, who made her official visit to the District on Sept. 28.

***District V President Leora Williamson*** turned in her activity report. There were no quests from District V. There were several members at the SEC but they were all Officers.

***District VI President Mary Leach*** turned in her activity report. Their District meeting is Sunday, Oct. 5 and President Allison will be making her official visit at that time. District VI had one guest – PDP Maribeth Wescott. They are very happy to welcome Auxiliary #79 to District VI.

***District VII President – absent*** With permission of the President, Kathy Schultz reported on district VII. PDC Jim Smith is back in the hospital. He has had a lot of health issues in the last year or so. The guests of District VII are Sandi Hebert, Betty Petitjean and Barb Adams (Secretary’s Note: Betty and Barb are from #79 which is District VI – unless that has not taken effect yet.)

***OLD BUSINESS***

Pat Michalski asked about the Officer’s themes and or Chairman’s awards. Several stated they would have this at the SEC. Kathy Schultz is the only one to do it. Pat stated they need to have approval

Linda Marshall as requested the appointment of Aleda E Lutz VAVS.

\*\*Motion Rose Solak/2nd Maureen Jackson to accept the President’s appointment of Linda Marshall as Aleda E Lutz VAVS Rep. CARRIED.

Under clarification, this would take effect November 1, 2014.

Carol Pickett mentioned the new column on the Auxiliary website “Bad News and Sad News”. She liked the column but wasn’t sure she liked the name – but couldn’t think of anything else!

Rose Solak announced she just found out Jeannette Zagata passed away in August.

***NEW BUSINESS***

Parliamentarian Mary Leach presented a proposed standing rule change:

Standing Rule #20 now reads: Solicitation of funds by any Department Service Officer/VAVS/MVH, must have approval of the S.E.C. A complete report, with receipts shall be forwarded to the Department President and is to be reviewed by the S.E.C.

CHANGE TO READ: Solicitation of funds by any Department Officer must have approval of the S.E.C. A complete report shall be forwarded to the Department President who shall give the results to the S.E.C. All funds received shall be forwarded to the Department Executive Secretary on a weekly basis for deposit.

Under discussion there were several wording changes and revisions.

\*\*Motion Peggy Liss/2nd ???? to table the proposed change to the Standing Rules until the Spring SEC

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Dianna Lammott to pay the bills. CARRIED

***ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

Auxiliary #57 has their PAWS Silent Auction on November 1, 2014. $12 per person which includes food/beer/wine/entertainment/PAWS demonstration. Doors open at 6pm and we should be done by 10pm. There will be several raffles and the silent auction with some great prizes.

President Allison gave a list of upcoming events:

10/9-12/14 – Auxiliary Higgins Lake Weekend.

10/18/14 – Brotherhood Night - #120 Mesick. Starts at 5p with dinner at 6:30p

10/ 10/14 – Post #13 (Higgins Lake) will have a hamburger/fries night

2/21/15 – Spring SEC 1:00pm Lansing

5/17/15 – District V official Visit.

Kathy Biela questioned why the Auxiliary weekend date was picked. Answer – no other choice. This was the only time available. The earliest the Auxiliary is allowed to book the Lodge is 6 months before the event. In the past we scheduled year to year. New rules in place do not allow this.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Sue Christe.

The flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arms Lenore Uhl.

The meeting was adjourned.

Immediately following the adjournment, we had a small (but fun!) birthday celebration for our National President whose birthday was the day before (Oct. 2). We had party hats, presents and delicious chocolate cake (yes – a white cupcake was provided our chocolate hating President!)

Approved by:

President Allison Aldrich – 11/30/2014

Parliamentarian Mary Leach -

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton, Secretary

November 29, 2014

A sincere apology for the lateness of these minutes. You would not believe the problems involved in getting them typed up. This is the 3rd typing of the minutes!