**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

**Fall S.E.C. Minutes**

**October 2, 2015**

**The meeting was called to order** at 6pm by President Faye Richardson-Green.

**The invocation** was delivered by Chaplain Leora Williamson

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

**Roll Call of Officers** showed all in attendance with the exception of:

PDP Allison Aldrich – would be arriving late (note: she arrived & marked present)

Personnel Chairman Jan Hapner – excused

District III President Rebekah Pickrel - excused

District VI President Erica Szegda – excused

District VII President Lois Juchemich – excused

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith - excused

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep Sharon Colley – absent

**Minutes of the Convention minutes**

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Kathy Keizer to dispense with the reading of the minutes and go into corrections. CARRIED

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Wendy Lynema to approve the minutes as written. CARRIED

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Gloria Hall turned in her activity report. She distributed copies of the budget as it currently stands; copy of the bank statement showing current balances in all accounts; a copy of the budget tally; a copy of the Auxiliary Net Worth report which was given to the AMVETS at their request. Gloria reported the books were audited 15 days after convention. She also stated because of convention action, she has not figured out what the mileage should be for each Officer. She also remarked the total amount paid for mileage as turned in by the Officers at convention was approximately $100 more than her mileage calculations (Officers home to convention site).

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Faye Richardson-Green reported she turned in her activity report. At the Post Convention SEC a committee was appointed to review the Officers Instruction Manual (PDP Kathy Biela, PDP Maureen Jackson, PDP Nancy Middleton, PDP Allison Aldrich and Parliamentarian PDP Pat Michalski) and they are about half way through the review.

There will be a short Officers Training Session after this SEC meeting.

A Poll vote was sent out for the appointments to the joint Americanism Committee (Wendy Lynema, PDP Carol Pickett, PDP Maureen Jackson, Diana Lammott).

\*\*Motion Peggy List/2nd Cel Rose Solak to ratify the poll vote approving the Presidents appointments to the Americanism Committee. CARRIED

At the Post Convention SEC, PDP Nancy Blok was approved for the appointment as Battle Creek VAVS. Because of health issues, she is not able to do the job and has resigned. President Faye does not have anyone for the appointment and since she goes to the Battle Creek VA often she would like to appoint herself as the Battle Creek VAVS.

\*\*Motion Peggy Liss/2nd Leora Williamson to approve Faye Richardson-Green as the VAVS for the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. CARRIED

At the Post SEC meeting, Diana Lammott’s appointment as the Higgins Lake Lodge Rep ended. No one else was appointed because of the lack of use (no vote / no meetings / etc.). Lenny Hogan is the new Chairman of the Higgins Lake Lodge Committee and asked who the Auxiliary Rep would be. Some felt we should try to find someone for this position while others questioned what the duties and responsibilities would be. Peggy Liss will contact Lenny Hogan regarding this.

There was a discussion on the Auxiliary website. We are not getting people to use it for information. President Faye, Pat Michalski and Nancy Middleton will work on updating the look of the website. The website will shut down in December for this updating and should reopen in January.

President Faye reminded the Officers they need to check their e-mail more than once a week. There was a question on which Officers are to do bulletins and newsletter articles.

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Seletha Robertson turned in her activity report. She is working with the Secretary on membership, hospital and D&R’s. We have a new Auxiliary in District V. Seletha also stated she will have something in the October newsletter about the membership awards.

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**

Wendy Lynema turned in her activity report and passed out paper flowers. These are to be sold for $1 each and the idea is to have them hung up in AMVET Posts to show support for Penrickton. The money is due to the Dept. by April 30th to be included on your Child Welfare report. The flowers can be brought to convention for a drawing.

Wendy reported there was a good crowd on hand for the Penrickton tour. Marvell Rupell, National 2nd Vice President, drove in from Wisconsin to join the tour. She was really impressed with the facilities.

**3RD VICE PRESIDENT**

Kathy Schultz turned in her activity report. The tour of Paws With A Cause is scheduled for October 21 at 11am. The National 3rd Vice will be there. There will be food – the tour – and shopping. Kathy needs to know how many will be coming because she needs to let PAWS know.

Kathy will continue the PAWS Prints project – selling them for $1 and hanging them at a Post. Bring them to convention in June and prizes will be awarded.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Nancy Middleton turned in her activity report and has nothing else to report at this time.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN’S REPORT**

Pat Michalski turned in her activity report. In our current Standing Rules #1 a & b, it states in the event of a death of a current or Past Dept. Commander or members of their immediate family, a donation will be made to the AMVETS Scholarship program. Because the AMVETS no longer have the Scholarship program, Pat changed the wording to AMVET Service Foundation.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss to ratify the change in Standing Rule #1 a&b made by the Dept. Parliamentarian. CARRIED

**CHAPLAIN’S REPORT**

Leora Williamson turned in her activity report. She commented on the good job our local Auxiliaries are doing getting the Deceased Member Notifications to the Dept.

**SGT-AT-ARMS REPORT**

Lenore Uhl turned in her activity report. She had nothing else to report.

**HOSPITAL OFFICER’S REPORT**

Harriet Biela turned in her activity report. She stated the Account Verification Forms need to be updated by all the VAVS/Home Reps.

\*\*Motion Harriet Biela/2nd Kathy Keizer the VAVS/MVH Reps return the Account Verification Forms to those who need copies by 11/1/2015. CARRIED

Harriet also reminded everyone she cannot open and print documents sent to her by e-mail so make sure the service reports are sent by US mail.

Harriet asked for approval of a theme for the year and a Chairman’s award.

\*\*Motion Harriet Biela/2nd Peggy Liss to approve the Hospital Officer’s theme “Hospital Volunteers are God’s Helping Hand”. CARRIED

\*\*Motion Harriet Biela/2nd Leora Williamson to allow the Hospital Officer to have a drawing for all local Hospital Chairmen who send in midyear and final reports. CARRIED

**SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER’S REPORT**

Sally Abshire is making changes to the Scholarship application as voted on at Convention.

Sally is requesting approval of her theme: Our Future is in the Hands of Today’s Scholars” and fundraisers for Scholarship:

#1 Forbidden Word Game

#2 Bakeless Bake Sale

#3 Recycle cell phones, iPad and ink/printer cartridges.

Locals would do these fundraisers and send the money to the Dept. for Scholarship.

\*\*Motion Sally Abshire/2nd Harriet Biela to approve the Scholarship Officer’s theme and fundraisers. CARRIED

Lee Williamson stated she has several ink cartridges to donate.

Sally went to the National Scholarship Committee and they are looking for more members for that committee.

**AMERICANISM OFFICER’S REPORT**

Carol Orlowski stated the theme for the next contest is “What Does Flag Protection Mean to Me?” At today’s joint Americanism meeting it was mentioned that some parents who home school didn’t know they can have their children enter the contest. They should call Carol for instructions and/or information.

It was suggested when you go to elementary schools, talk to the Librarian. You may be surprised at the support you may get. We need to start with our little ones and work up to the big kids.

Carol announced there will be raffle tickets (600) at a cost of 3 tickets for $10. You can take tickets to sell but you must sign for them. The prizes are: 1st - $400, 2nd - $300, 3rd - $200, and 4th to 8th place $20 each.

Happily the awards program for Americanism will be back at Convention but it will be on Saturday next year.

Pat Michalski stated Michael Goodwin (AMVET Americanism Chairman) received a $1,000 pledge for the program. When tickets are sold – send in the money asap. The drawings will be at the Dept. convention on Sunday.

**NEC WOMAN’S REPORT**

Peggy Liss reported going to National Convention and attending the NEC Council meeting. Membership seems to be the biggest problem all over the country.

Peggy gave the new National President Kathy Berning an invitation to come to our Fall Conference. She had made a commitment 6 months ago to Ohio. Pres. Kathy did say she would love to come to Michigan and maybe we could have a different date.

This was discussed but our Standing Rules say we invite the National President to Fall Conference (this is for a variety of reasons: cost/activity/length of time/etc.). Peggy was directed to let the National President know we have no other date and/or time which would be good for her visit.

Peggy has letters for each Officer from the National Counterpart. She also made copies of the 1st Vice’s program and gave them to each District President to pass out to her locals. Certificates and thank you cards were also distributed to locals who donated to programs. Next year’s National Convention will be in Reno. Anyone planning on attending and wanting to serve on a committee, please let Peggy know this weekend. Committee requests need to be made before October 15th. This year Rosemary Perdue, Sally Abshire and Peggy were on the Scholarship Committee and Pres. Faye was on the Membership Committee.

Certificates were handed out to #9, #23, #57, #93, #121, #122, #126, #269, #1941, #1988. Michigan has the most names listed on the Patron’s Page. Peggy reported no one from Michigan won any 50/50 money - but she won a trip to the training session in Pigeon Forge.

Youth certificates and Hospital certificates will be sent to Peggy from National. She will mail them to the Auxiliaries.

**FALL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. She worked hard trying to make this conference a success and is excited that we are able to have more classes this year. She is also disappointed at the number of pre-registrations. We need to encourage members to attend. The instructors are Pat Michalski, Nancy Middleton, Maureen Jackson and herself. Kathy reminded the Dept. Officers to stay for the training immediately following this SEC. She also thanked those who volunteered for registration. She needed 4 – and got 9!

**CONVENTION CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Kathy Keizer (again) turned in her activity report. She has been making notes of possible changes for the 2016 Convention. It will be at the same location as the 2015 convention – the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing. She asked for approval of Credentials and Attendance Prize Chairmen for 2016.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss to approve Martha Popour as Credentials Chairman and Erica Szegda at Attendance Prize Chairman for the 2016 Convention. CARRIED

**WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Susan Hennigar reported all tickets and money needs to be turned in for the Cash Blast Raffle. The 1st drawing is on Sunday at this Fall Conference.

Susan also reminded everyone about the year book which we would like to do again and the deadline will be March 1st.

She also asked for approval of the Dept. Convention Raffle.

\*\*Motion Susan Hennigar/2nd Kathy Hale to approve items for the Convention Raffle to be a big screen TV and the 2nd and/or 3rd prize to be determined. CARRIED

We will have a Texas Holdem in Detroit from Nov. 8 through the 11th. 3 volunteers are needed each day.

**PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN – EXCUSED** (activity report was received)

**PRO/HISTORIAN’S REPORT**

Lee Williamson turned in her activity report. She will be taking pictures today. She also wants to sit down with the President to get a list of her activities.

**LIAISON/HEAD DELEGATE/HONORS & AWARDS CHAIRMAN**

Allison Aldrich turned in her activity reports. She sent a letter to the AMVETS requesting different fundraisers for Ways & Means. They (AMVETS) said we can do whatever we want!

Allison brought back certificates from National Convention – all for Auxiliary #9:

Barbara Guth Hospital Award

Brenda Kilgore Nursing Home Award

Sandye Altman Hospital Award

Pat Michalski said she just got the Maribeth Wescott Membership award from #72. It is full and two Auxiliaries are tied for who gets to keep it. It was suggested Maribeth should make the decision on what to do in case of the tie.

Pat also stated we need donors for the Marilyn Boring Community Service Award, Mary Leach Americanism Award, Lorraine Beedon Hospital Award, PRO Book Award and PRO Cover Award.

\*\*Motion Harriet Biela/2nd Kathy Keizer a local or District can pick up an award in memoriam if not picked up by a PDP. CARRIED

There was a problem last year when some of the Donors did not send in money for their cash awards.

\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Lee Williamson: If a donor has not sent in their award, a certificate will be given and the donor will be notified. If the donor does not send the promised funds, they will be removed as a donor. CARRIED

**DISTRICT I PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Cel Rose Solak turned in her activity report. She reported taking a couple Junior AMVETS to Penrickton. The guests of District I are Pat Tune (57), Carmen Simpson (57) PDP Maureen Jackson (57) and PDP Kathy Biela (9). Rose announced Seletha Robertson is a candidate for the Office of Department President at the 2016 Convention.

**DISTRICT II PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Kathy Hale turned in her activity report. Guests of District II are PDP Doreen Pierce (121), PDP Carol Pickett (121), PDP Pat Whitcher (121), Anne Schmidt (22), Marcella Schmidt (22).

Kathy announced Pat Michalski is a candidate for NEC Woman and Peggy Liss will be a candidate for National Chaplain.

President Faye will make her official visit to District II for their Americanism Program.

**DISTRICT III PRESIDENT’S REPORT** - excused – report was submitted.

President Faye will make her official visit to District III on Oct. 10th.

**DISTRICT V PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. She has been working to get Aux. #1978 back in good standing and everything should be good by the end of next week. A new Auxiliary was chartered in Newaygo - #4250. Their President, Becky LaPalm, is here at Fall Conference and their members seem to be very excited to get started. President Faye will be invited to make her official visit to District V in May.

District V reports Faye Richardson-Green is a candidate for the office of National Americanism Officer at the 2016 National Convention. She has the support of her local Aux. #23 and District V.

**DISTRICT VI PRESIDENT**  - excused

**DISTRICT VII PRESIDENT** – excused

The District President Lois Juchemich had asked if they absolutely must have a District. Since there are only two Auxiliary in District VII and they are so far apart, it is very difficult. The National Parliamentarian stated no Auxiliary is required to join a District. This led to several questions but no definite answers.

**ALEDA E LUTZ VAVS REP**

Linda Marshall submitted her activity report. She has $386.90 in her checking account and $1049.18 in savings.

Linda requested Sue Christe as her Deputy.

\*\*Motion Linda Marshall/2nd Peggy Liss Sue Christe be a Deputy to the Aleda E Lutz VA. CARRIED

**ANN ARBOR VAVS REP**

Pat Krzesowik turned in her activity report. She has a balance of $317.56 in her account. Ann Arbor will be having their Country Store on October 29th.

**JOHN DINGELL VAVS REP**

Harriet Biela turned in her activity report. She had her joint review. They will be having their Country Store program on October 23rd. John Dingell VA was just awarded the Golden II games in July, 2016. Harriet has $524.66 in her account.

**JACOBETTI HOME REP –** excused – report submitted

**GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS REP** – absent / no report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A discussion was held concerning the 2 day convention. Many felt they didn’t have enough time and they were constantly rushed. PDP Allison Aldrich said we have talked about doing this for several years and she felt we should give it a try. A vote was not taken but the room seemed divided. Officers (most) did not like it / non-Officers said it was ok. This will be more difficult to do with the Americanism Program being brought back and holding it on Saturday. President Faye will go with a 3-day convention.

The use of a PA was addressed. At the Convention Diana Lammott volunteered to bring a PA for use at Fall Conference. Most hotels charge $50 per microphone. This hotel checked $20. We are using the hotel microphones.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Auxiliary quarter auction will be held in the Grill Room downstairs.

President Faye took a few minutes to explain the AMVET Family Growth Planning Project. This is a project that she and the Commander are developing to pinpoint ways to increase membership and promote the AMVET organization. There will be a round table discussion at the Higgins Lake Lodge weekend at the end of October.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS’**

PDP Maureen Jackson announced the Paws With a Cause Auction at #57 will be on Nov. 7th from 6pm to 10-10:30pm.

PDP Pat Michalski announced the Dept. Veterans Day Dinner/Dance will be held on November 14 at Post #22 in Bay City. Cocktails at 5:30pm / dinner at 6pm / program at 7pm / music from 8pm to midnight. (note: cost is $10 per person)

The Riders will have a Designated Driver Service to anyone wishing to go to AMVETS Post #1941 from the hotel (and back again)

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Linda Marshall to pay the bills. CARRIED

Spring SEC will be on February 20 at the convention site in Lansing. The Joint Americanism committee will be at 4pm. When the start time of the SEC is determined, it will be listed on the website and in a future newsletter.

Sally Abshire requested three members to serve on the Scholarship Committee.

\*\*Motion Lenore Uhl/2nd Linda Marshall to adjourn the meeting. CARRIED

The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Lee Williamson.

The Colors were retired by Sgt-at-Arts Lenore Uhl.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton, Dept. Secretary

October 24, 2015

Note: Thank you Peggy Liss & Kathy Keizer for handing me copies of your reports. Sure was nice to have it in writing so I didn’t miss anything!

Approved with corrections:

Pat Michalski, Parliamentarian 10/24/15

Faye Richardson- Green, President 10/25/15