**FALL S.E.C. MEETING**

**October 6, 2017**

**Sterling Heights MI**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President Wendy Lynema. Our National President was escorted into the room.**

**The Invocation was delivered by Chaplain Linda Marshall**

**The salute to the Colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe**

**Roll Call of Officers showed all in attendance with the exception of Scholarship Officer Sally Abshire (excused) and GRHV Rep. Clarice Poisson (excused).**

**Minutes of the 2017 Convention: minutes were not read.**

**Correspondence:**

1. **Email from Leora Williamson, President of Aux. #23 announcing Kathy Keizer is seeking the office of NEC Woman at the Dept. Convention.**
2. **request from Clarice Poisson to be excused from this meeting.**

**Finance Report by Treasurer Gloria Hall**

1. **We just received a bill from the last convention at the Causeway Bay.**
2. **Ways and Means from last year did not send the finance report to the State of Michigan for the convention raffle license. This needs to be done right away or we won’t be able to get a license for this year.**
3. **Gloria would like to open a separate checking account for Texas Holdems as recommended by the State of Michigan.**

**\*\*Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Faye Richardson Green to open a Texas Holdem account with Gloria and Nancy Middleton as signers. CARRIED**

1. **Gloria would like to use $4,300 from the savings account to open the account and it will be returned after the next Texas Holdem.**

**\*\*Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Peggy Liss to borrow $4,300 from savings to open the account. CARRIED**

**Kathy Keizer questioned the amount listed for the site visit for the Fall Conference Chairman. She has it approved for $50 at Convention. The Treasurer’s budget says $30. The Treasurer will check on it.**

**OFFICERS REPORTS:**

***President Wendy Lynema* turned in her activity report. She is happy to welcome our National President Marvell Ruppel to our Fall Conference.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***1st Vice President Kathy Schultz* reported there has been a good response from Auxiliaries getting their hospital donations in by September 30. WE have 14 of the 27 Auxiliaries life members 100% paid.**

**Kathy requested a couple variances on her membership contests.**

**#1 Kathy would like to increase the 1st place amount to $50 and add a 2nd place in the amount of $25 for the 100% of life members hospital donations paid by September 30, 2017.**

**\*\*Motion Kathy Schultz/2nd Linda Marshall to increase the prize for the 100% life members paid donations to $50 and add a $25 2nd place. CARRIED**

**#2 Because of the problems getting member cards from National, we can’t have a drawing for September. Kathy would like to adjust the prize structure for the individual drawings for renewals paid to: October 31 from $75 to $100; November 30 from $50 to $75; December 31 from $25 to $50.**

**\*\*Motion Kathy Schultz/2nd Kathy Biela to drop the September drawing (for renewals paid) and change October 31 to $100, November 30 to $75 and December 31 to $50. CARRIED**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***2nd Vice President Bert Lema* turned in her activity report. She reported there were 24 members of the AMVET Family at the Penrickton tour. Several members from Aux. #93 were there and provided lunch for those attending.**

**Bert thanked Kathy Keizer for asking her to be an instructor. She is really looking forward to it.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***3rd Vice President Allison Aldrich* turned in her activity report. There were 18 Auxiliary members, 3 AMVETS and 1 Sons of AMVETS joining Joan Sirek, the National 3rd Vice President, as she toured Paws With A Cause headquarters. It was a nice tour and everyone enjoyed seeing all the puppies that has just arrived.**

**Allison would like to have a contest for the Post selling the most Paw Prints and the money turned in to the Dept. by March 31st. This will be a monetary prize.**

**\*\*Motion Allison Aldrich/2nd Linda Marshall to approve the contest for selling Paws Prints and the money turned in by March 31st. CARRIED**

**Bert Lema announced Allison Aldrich is running for the Office of NEC Woman.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Secretary Nancy Middleton* – turned in her activity report. She has nothing else to report at this time.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Treasurer Gloria Hall* – turned in her activity report. She has nothing else to report at this time.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Americanism Officer Pat Michalski* has the following on the Americanism Committee: Rose Solak/Diana Lammont/Christine Keenan/Lee Williamson. The Americanism Contest forms are on the Auxiliary website and they were also passed out at the registration desk with the Fall Conference book.**

**Pat would like a poll vote for her Chairman’s award.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Hospital Officer Harriet Biela* turned in her activity report. She stated the VAVS/Home Reps have requested a double allotment for the holidays. Harriet’s theme is: Let our feet have wings as we serve our hospitalized veterans.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**Maureen Jackson, National Americanism Officer, talked about the National Americanism project of replacing the lighting at Freedoms Foundation. They need to replace 48 lamp posts and add some additional lighting. The cost is $50,000 and the goal of the Auxiliary is to raise $30,000. Maureen also stated she and Rose Solak will be attending the Freedoms Foundation Auxiliary Seminar.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**BACK TO OFFICER’S REPORTS:**

***Scholarship Officer Sally Abshire* – excused. No report submitted.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Chaplain Linda Marshall* turned in her activity report. She has sent out 24 cards since July.**

**Carol Pickett requested information on the Sunshine Fund.**

**This is available to any ill/injured member who meets the criteria (hospitalized at least 2 days or an extended illness). One request per year, per individual is allowed. Someone needs to be responsible for purchasing and delivering the $10 gift on behalf of the Department. The Chaplain is the contact person for this fund. She will make the decision if the gift is to be made. She will then contact the Secretary who will get a check from the Treasurer and send it, with a card, to the person responsible for the delivery of the gift.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe* turned in her activity report. No other report at this time.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***NEC Woman Pat Michalski* has a sign-up sheet for National Committees. She has youth certificates for #57 youth volunteers. She also has the new brochure from National on membership with an application. Pat picked up Joan Sirek (National 3rd Vice) for the Paws tour.**

**Wendy Lynema was our acting NEC Woman for National Convention. She presented Pat a gift from the National President.**

**Wendy announced Aux. #9 won 1st Place for PNP Brenda Kilgore Hospital Award and the PNP Barbara Guth Nursing Home Award. Michigan won the PNP Betty Lawson History Book AWARD and Auxiliary #23 won the PNP Beverly Box Scrap Book Award. Aux. #57 was runner up for the Hospital Award. #57 won the Americanism Award and the Auxiliary of the Year Award.**

**There were several certificates and/or thank you notes which were passed out for donations:**

**John Tracy Clinic: #23 - #121 – Department**

**Freedoms Foundation: #23 – Department**

**Paws With A Cause: #9 - #23 - #57 - #126 – Department**

**Scholarship: #57 - #121 - #23 - #126 - #4064 - #114 – Dept.**

**(There were done very fast and all the Auxiliary numbers may not have been recorded)**

**Faye Richardson-Green reported she has submitted the head delegate report from National Convention to National and President Wendy for approval.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Immediate Past President/Liaison/Honors & Awards Seletha Robertson* thanked everyone for the cards sent to Richard while he was having medical problems.**

**Seletha announce PDP Neva Colley has asked to take over the Jan Hapner Hospital Award.**

**\*\*Motion Seletha Robertson/2nd Judy Smith to approve. CARRIED**

**A list of the criteria was asked for. When it was read, it referred to Scholarship.**

**\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Keizer to rescind the previous motion and look into this further. CARRIED**

**After a discussion it was determined Neva Colley had requested the 10 to 40 member Scholarship Award in memory of Jan Hapner. The requirements are:**

**#1 10 to 40 members**

**#2 one or more Scholarship programs**

**#3 Contribute to the Dept. Scholarship fund**

**#4 Midyear and final report submitted on time on regulation form.**

**#5 Auxiliary must be in good standing**

**In case of a tie, hours only will be the determining factor.**

**\*\*Motion Judy Smith/2nd Bert Lema to approve the Neva Colley Scholarship Award in memory of Jan Hapner. CARRIED**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Parliamentarian Kathy Keizer* turned in her activity report.**

**At the Dept. convention we had 6 Auxiliaries not in good standing: #13, #110, #122, #123, #171, and #1978. Since that time #110, #171, #122 and #1978 are now in compliance. #123 is almost there. #13 has turned in their charter. District I is now back and their revalidation is in. Cel Rose Solak is the President. District VII needs to elect a President.**

**There has been no time for the Parliamentarian and President to get together with the Officer’s Instructions.**

**A letter was written to the National Parliamentarian Betty Lawson to get an answer – in writing – concerning elected and/or appointed officers. This is the reply from the National Parliamentarian:**

*On Oct 2, 2017 7:42 PM, <*[*law846@comcast.net*](mailto:law846@comcast.net)*> wrote:*

*Hi Kathy,*

*To your question about officers elected and appointed.  If you are having an election and you cannot get any to be nominated to an office and you have to leave the office vacant, it then becomes an appointed office at a later date. If you have someone who is in an elected position who is willing to take the responsibility of the appointed office, she can be appointed and approved by the executive board or members present at your meeting. Otherwise, the office would be vacant for the entire year if it could not be filled down the road.*

*I know the bylaws says you cannot hold 2 elected offices, however, when it becomes an appointed office due to lack of interest,  it can be filled as an appointed office. This officer would have 1 vote for the elected office only.*

*You may also check Roberts Rules of Order. I hope this resolves the problem you are having.*

*.*

*PNP Betty S, Lawson, National Parliamentarian*

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Ways and Means Chairman Harriet Altherr* turned in her activity report. At this Fall Conference she is having the Quarter Auction, 50/50 raffles, gas card raffles, mystery drawings and she is selling Coke/Pepsi/etc.**

**Harriet asked for approval of the following for the Department Raffle in June: $150 State lottery tickets / $75 lottery tickets / $25 lottery tickets. These 3 prizes will be put on bears (large/medium/small) which are being donated by the Dept. Secretary.**

**\*\*Motion Harriet Altherr/2nd Peggy Liss to approve the $150/$75/$25 lottery ticket Department raffle for Dept. convention. CARRIED**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***PRO/Historian Kathy Keizer* would like all the officers to go to the stairway after the meeting to have their picture taken in a group shot. If you have something from your Auxiliary for the Dept. PRO book – send it asap. You don’t have to wait until May to send things in.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Convention Chairman Carol Pickett* turned in her activity report. She had a list passed out of all the Convention, SEC meetings and Fall Conference for the next three years. Each will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. Those dates are:**

**2018: Spring SEC 2/24 / Convention 6/7-10 / Fall Conf. 9/28-30**

**2019: Spring SEC 2/16 / Convention 6/6-90 / Fall Conf. 9/27-29**

**2020: Spring SEC 2/15 / Convention 6/11-14 / Fall Conf. 10/2-4**

**Carol would like to give a prize at convention following elections. Auxiliaries having more delegates than last year (2017) will be in a drawing for a prize.**

**\*\*Motion Carol Pickett/2nd Kathy Biela to approve a Convention Chairman’s drawing for Auxiliaries with more delegates than the previous year. CARRIED**

**\*\*Motion Carol Pickett/2nd Bert Lema to approve PDP Pat Whitcher as credentials chairman. CARRIED**

**Doreen Pierce will be in charge of door prizes.**

**The room rate at the Crown Plaza will be $98 + tax. ($112.78)**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela* turned in her activity report. She announced Secretary Nancy Middleton ‘has not been too shabby…so far’.**

**Carol Pickett discussed the salary of the Executive Secretary. The starting base is $2,000 a year and it should be in writing in case a new Secretary comes in. They should know what the starting rate is going to be.**

**Nancy Middleton suggested a salary increase be in place which would be a percentage based on productivity.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

***Higgins Lake Lodge Rep. Peggy Liss* turned in her activity report. She stated a meeting had been scheduled, then cancelled, then rescheduled, then cancelled again. There was a quick meeting today (10/6/2017). They have two new heaters. The Riders picked up the tables and dock for the winter. All the lights have been replaced with LED’s. The wish list is the same.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**VAVS/HOME REPRESENTATIVES:**

***Aleda E Lutz VA Rep. Linda Marshall* turned in her activity report. She has $67.09 in her checking account and $535.84 in savings. There will be a Veterans Benefits Fair on 11/2-3 and they will be gathering to meet the needs of Veterans.**

***Ann Arbor VA Rep. Pat Krzesowik* turned in her activity report. Pat has serious eye problems and could not be at some of the VA functions. She has $554 in her account.**

***Battle Creek VAMC Rep. Faye Richardson-Green* turned in her activity report. She had her annual review on 9/11. There has been a decrease in volunteers, but a 37% increase in hours. Marie Rorrio, National Auxiliary VAVS sent a training manual which is now on the Department website. Faye has $199.98 in her checking account.**

***Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep. Clarice Poisson* is excused. She did not send a report.**

***John Dingell VA Rep. Harriet Biela* turned in her activity report. She had her joint review. On October 20th, they will have their Country Store project. She has $583.56 in her account. The atrium at John Dingell no longer has a waterfall. It is now filled in with plants.**

***Jacobetti Home for Veterans Rep. Judy Smith* turned in her activity report. She has three members of her Auxiliary here at their 1st Fall Conference – Barb Robare, Terri Young, Lois McIntyre. Auxiliary #122 will be sponsoring a picnic/bingo/music (date not noted) at their Post. Jacobetti is requesting better cordless shavers (3 head) for their residents. Judy has $291.96 in her checking account and $6.88 in her savings. (For those keeping track, the savings account has an increase of 1 cent. This is the first change in many, many years!)**

**Christine Keenan stated her Auxiliary #114 raised funds of $2,000 for the Jacobetti entertainment fund. This was sent directly to Jacobetti.**

**~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~**

**DISTRICT PRESIDENT’S REPORTS:**

***District I President Cel Rose Solak* – no report. Her activity report was turned in at the end of the meeting because the District has just reactivated.**

***District II President Rosemary Perdue* turned in her activity report. The guests of District II are Caroline Wisniewski and Marcella Schmidt. Rosemary announced Pat Michalski will seek re-election to the Office of NEC Woman and Peggy Liss is running for National Scholarship.**

***District V President Faye Richardson-Green* turned in her activity report. She reported Aux. #1978 is back and excited to be active. They have two members at this Fall Conference ( Michelle and Teresa) and are talking about going to Pigeon Forge for more Auxiliary training.**

**Faye is doing two workshops at this Fall Conference. One is about the office of President and the other is Getting Along With Others which is open to the entire AMVET Family.**

**Faye introduced Evelyn Davis who is visiting from Indiana. Since Evelyn is a Sackett, she was given the proper ‘welcome’.**

***District VI President Christine Keenan* turned in her activity report. District VI currently only has 2 active Auxiliaries, Elk Rapids #114 and Baldwin #1988. Baldwin is talking about withdrawing from the District. Christine has tried to develop fundraisers but most of the Auxiliaries don’t participate.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Faye Richardson Green questioned why we didn’t have any action on the Convention minutes.**

**\*\*Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Pat Michalski move to accept pre-convention SEC minutes, Convention minutes and Post Convention minutes as printed. CARRIED**

**Nancy Middleton noticed the Dept. received a check at the National Convention for the Dept. History Book award in the amount of $25. This was a personal check from donor Betty Lawson. It was dated 8/10/2017. Checks need to be turned in sooner – and cashed within a reasonable amount of time.**

**Parliamentarian Kathy Keizer discussed the bulletins and activity reports for the next Department Convention. We will need revalidations, activity reports and bulletins submitted earlier than in the past. She proposed the following by-law changes:**

**Article IX – Department Convention**

**Section 4 now reads:**

**All local Auxiliaries, to remain in good standing must have:**

1. **Revalidation form submitted to the Department Parliamentarian, postmarked by May 20.**

**Change to read:**

1. **Revalidation form submitted to the Department Parliamentarian,**

**postmarked by May 5.**

**Officers will need to have their activity reports in to the Dept. Secretary by May 5 and bulletins in by May 15 – not postmarked.**

**By-law changes will be submitted at Spring SEC for voting.**

**Allison Aldrich suggested a by-law change for the Secretary’s room to be paid at Fall Conference. Secretary stated she is not in favor of this.**

**Kathy Schultz asked the National President to pick the winning Auxiliary for the 100% life hospital donation contest. The winning Auxiliary is Aux. #122 ($50) and the 2nd place winner is Aux. #9 ($25).**

**Seletha Robertson questioned why she has not received a corrected life membership card. It was ordered with the name Seletha Robertson – and came back Seletha Robinson. A correction was requested by National. A 2nd request will be made. Seletha still does not have her Past President’s pin.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Becky Kovach from Auxiliary #4250 said her Post, along with the VFW Post, is raising money to purchase a wheelchair for the Grand Rapids Home. They are holding a Corn Hole Tournament on October 21 starting at noon. Cost is $20 per team.**

**Nancy Middleton asked everyone to “Save the Date”. A joint testimonial will be held for the Department Commander and President on February 24, 2018. This is at the same hotel, Crowne Plaza, and follows the Spring SEC meeting in Grand Rapids. Ticket costs have not been determined yet, but the committee is trying to keep the prices more affordable. The event is sponsored by AMVETS Post #126, AMVETS District V, AMVETS Auxiliary #23 and AMVETS Auxiliary District V.**

**\*\*Motion Linda Marshall/2nd Allison Aldrich to pay the bills. CARRIED**

**National President Marvell Ruppel was introduced for her comments. She stated National has an incentive program for early renewals. It is in the National Lines. She recognized National Chaplain Peggy Liss and National Americanism Officer Maureen Jackson.**

**She answered the question from several members about the colors she was wearing. Normally you see the National President all in white or a white suit with a gold blouse. Marvell chose to wear a white suit with a beautiful red blouse. The Nat’l President is allowed her choice of colors and Marvell chose the red blouse because it is Friday and she always wears red on that date to show support for the “Never Forget” movement. (Note: it was stunning!)**

**Her theme is Never Forget” and her project is Freedom’s Foundation. She discussed some facts regarding the Youth Seminar at Freedom’s Foundation. 95% of the youths attend, register to vote. 88% of those attending, volunteer regularly. 95% of teachers think their students have benefited from the program.**

**National Convention will by 8/5-11/2018 in Orlando. Rooms are $119 + tax and the number for reservations is 407-238-8000.**

**Pat Michalski announced Post #22 will sponsor the Department Veterans Day dinner/dance on Saturday November 11, 2017. Doors open at 5:30. Dinner is at 6pm. The program starts at 7pm. Music will follow the dinner. Cost is $10 and reservations must be in by November 5th.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**There will be a reception for the National President following the Quarter Auction on Saturday night in room 263.**

**Auxiliary #57 will hold their annual Paws Silent Auction on 11/4 at 6pm. Cost is $15 and includes food, drinks, demonstrations, etc.**

**Auxiliary #57 will hold a Toys Fund Drive on December 12/2. Entry fee is $7 and a new unwrapped toy. The toys will be donated to the Family Readiness program and Selfridge Air Force Base.**

**The Auxiliary Higgins Lake Weekend is October 20-22.**

**The Spring SEC is February 24, 2018**

**National Convention is Aug. 2-13, 2018 in Orlando Florida**

**The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Linda Marshall.**

**The Flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Nancy Middleton, Executive Secretary**

**10/22/17**

**Approved by the Dept. Parliamentarian 10/23/17**

**Approved with corrections by the Dept. President 10/30/17**