**Fall SEC Meeting**

**September 30, 2016**

The Fall SEC meeting was called to order by President Seletha Robertson at 7:04 at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids Michigan.

National President Evelyn McElvin was introduced by President Seletha and escorted in by acting Sgt-at-Arms Clarice Poisson.

The opening prayer was given by Chaplain Sue Christe.

The Salute to the Colors was led by acting Sgt-at-Arms Clarice Poisson.

Roll Call of Officers: all present with the exception of Bert Lema, Sgt-at-Arms who will be arriving late because of bad weather condition and slow traffic. The following Officers were not in attendance but were all excused by the President: Judy Smith, Jacobetti Rep. , Pat Krzesowik, Ann Arbor VAVS, Dis.t III President Rebekah Pickrel, Dist. VII President Lois Jurewich and PRO Denotra Jackson.

There was no correspondence.

The reading of the 2016 convention minutes of the 2016:

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to dispense with the reading and go into corrections.

District I President Rose Solak corrected the misspelling of two names in her report: *Kami* Domanski and Victoria *Schaaf.*

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to approve the minutes as corrected. CARRIED

Treasurer’s Report – Gloria Hall

Gloria reported the total in all four of our accounts is $30,151.37. The total held in CDs is $31,413.89 for a total need worth of $61,,565.26 Gloria also passed out a sheet with an up-to-date report on our 2016-17 budget. Because our NEC Woman was unable to attend the National Convention, she returned the allotment she received from the Department.

OFFICER’S REPORTS

***President Seletha Robertson*** gave the following reports:

#1 She assisted with the Golden Age Games at John Dingell VA.

#2 She also just completed a visit to the UP.

#3 Recently a poll vote went out about the Americanism Committee Auxiliary members. The responses (negative) were to be returned to the 1st Vice because one of the Committee members under consideration was the Dept. Parliamentarian.

#4 President Seletha also brought up the insurance plan from National AMVETS giving our members $3,000 in accidental death benefits free of cost. The Insurance agent assigned to us has been harassing Seletha for several months because they want the names and addresses of all our members in Michigan. Since this is a National AMVETS program, it was suggested Seletha call the National AMVETS and ask them to stop the insurance company from harassing our members.

#5 She asked each Officer to please read their instructions. It is very important!

#6 The Auxiliary weekend is October 21-23 at the Higgins Lake Lodge. If you are attending, bring snacks to share and beverages you would like. There will be a talent show on Saturday night. Dinner will be at Post #13 on Friday night – burgers/fries for $5. Please come for the weekend and get to know each other.

***1st Vice President Wendy Lynema*** turned in her activity report and made the following reports:

#1 The appointments considered for the Americanism Committee were Faye Richardson Green, Pat Michalski, Cel Rose Solak and Diana Lammott. There were no negative votes.

\*\*Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Maureen Jackson to ratify the President’s Poll Vote for the Americanism Committee. CARRIED

#2 The first two winners of her Chairman of the Month Contest were:

 July – Suzette Ripepe from Auxiliary #57

 August – Clarice Poisson from Auxiliary #126

The September winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

***2nd Vice President Kathy Schultz*** turned in her activity report. She also reported on the visit to Penrickton. There was a nice group of ladies (count not given), 2 AMVETS, 1 Sons of AMVET and 1 Jr. AMVET.

**3rd Vice President Martha Popour** turned in her activity report. She announced the PAWS Tour is October 3rd in Grand Rapids at 11am. If anyone needs a hotel, try the Comfort Inn South at 7644 Caterpillar Ct 616/301-2255. Mention PAWS and you can get the corporate rate of $65. They are expecting about 20 people.

**Secretary Nancy Middleton** turned in her activity report. She read correspondence from Judy Smith regarding PDC Jim Smith. Nancy had a list of all Officers from each local Auxiliary distributed to each Dept. Officer and Chairman.

**Treasurer Gloria Hall** turned in her activity report. We had the Department audit in July. Her books were $1.50 off. Other than that – everything is fine.

**Chaplain Sue Christe** turned in her activity report. She would like to be informed if anyone needs cards sent to them.

**Sgt-at-Arms Bert Lema** will be late. She is stuck in traffic.

**Hospital Officer Harriet Biela** turned in her activity report. She requested the extra allotment for Christmas (Nov. allotment) for all the VAVS/Home Reps.

**Scholarship Officer Sally** Abshire questioned the wording on the Scholarship applications. Parliamentarian suggestion: we need to get them online. We will deal with the wording next year if changes may be necessary.

A raffle for scholarship (50/50) was discussed

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Biela to have a Scholarship raffle 50/50 at a cost of $15.

There was a lot of discussion about this because Standing Rule #16 says: The only raffles to be held at Department Convention, Fall Conference and S.E.C. meetings are to be by Ways & Means. Maureen Jackson/Kathy Biela withdrew the motion.

It was suggested the Scholarship Officer come up with a different idea for fundraiser. A Poll vote can be conducted. Information can be put in the newsletter.

Carol Pickett questioned why the Scholarship Memorial cards are not discussed more. Aux. # 57 stated they use the cards. The Scholarship Officer did not have cards with her but President Seletha said she will get cards from her and bring them to PAWS if she is told who needs them.

**Americanism/SOS Carol Orlowski** turned in her activity report. She reported there is a survey on AMVETS.org to vote for new themes for the Americanism Essay/Poster contest.

The 1st and 2nd place winners will be invited to the Convention in June. AMVETS #910 will donate 26 flags for the Americanism program.

Bert Lema (had arrived) and reported Tony Lema is having the tickets printed for the Americanism raffle. There will be 1,500 tickets and the price will be 3 for $10. SOA Steve Dunn will handle the tickets and the money and send a report to Barry Abshire. With one person handling the sale, there should be a more accurate count.

We had 2 Nat’l. winners in the Americanism Contest – from #23 and #22.

A question was raised about the funds collected last year for the SOS program. There was no project approved at the 2015 Convention or at the Fall SEC meeting. The money collected has been put in the savings account until a determination can be made about what to do with it. As of right now, there is also no SOS program approved for this year.

\*\*Motion Carol Orlowski/2nd Maureen Jackson to approve the Selfridge Relief Program for the SOS project and the funds collected last year will be added to this year’s donations. CARRIED

**NEC Woman Pat Michalski** stated Faye Richardson-Green picked up the National President in Grand Rapids and brought her to Fall Conference.

There were several certificates received at National Convention: #9, #23, #57, #114, #121, #269, #1988, #4064. (Several of the Auxiliaries were mentioned more than once but there was no mention as to which category the certificates and/or thank you notes were for). There were Youth Volunteers for #22 and #57.

Certificates were presented for the Sign a New Member contest: Mary Lou Mendowski, Nicole Scott, Charlene Rodgers, Joyce Fox.

**Parliamentarian Pat** Michalski turned in her activity report. She reported there were some problems caused by comments made by the Dept. AMVET Judge Advocate. He told an Auxiliary their by-laws were not valid because HE didn’t approve them. He also stated all the problems at a local Post were created by the Auxiliary and they were not complying with the tax code because the Auxiliary is a 105(c) 3. This is incorrect. We are a 105(c) 19.

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Peggy Liss that the Department Ladies Auxiliary Liaison go to the Dept. AMVETS and verify if the AMVETS JA IS TO REVIEW Ladies Auxiliary By-laws (Department only or all Local Auxiliaries) and then they are to be approved by the SEC; and if this is correct, it be added to the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Dept. of Michigan By-Laws. CARRIED

Per the National President, the National JA is working hard to clear up some of these problems in Michigan.

A discussion was held on Auxiliaries not in good standing. Right now we have two of them - #1978 and #72. Our by-laws state if they are not up to charter in January, the Auxiliary has until Department Convention to be in good standing or they will not be seated at Convention. By not being in good standing, the Auxiliary does not receive newsletters or have their membership processed. The District President’s for these Auxiliaries are aware of the problem and trying to work them out.

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski, 2nd Clarice Poisson to suspend the charter of the local Auxiliaries not in good standing with the Department until such time as they have resolved their issues and have become an Auxiliary in good standing.

\*\*Nancy Middleton/2nd Peggy Liss requested an amendment to include the date “by Nov. 1st”.

*Under discussion,* Nancy has been in contact with #72 and they should have their issues resolved soon. They are sending their revalidation and copy of the e-postcard within the next week to 10 days. We should give them the chance to fix the problem before we jump in and suspend them.

AMENDMENT CARRIED AND ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED.

***Suggestion by Parliamentarian****. A certified letter to the local Auxiliary from the Dept. President, with a copy to the District President, stating the Department is suspending their charter until they have the proper documentation that they have filed the IRS990 Form or E-postcard, and their Revalidation Form. They would be given until Department Convention to get things in order or the Charter will be revoked and picked up, along with all money, official records and property by the District President and will be held in trust for a period no longer than three (3) years by the Department of Michigan.*

Another problem was brought up. An Auxiliary member was on Facebook using vulgar language and being disrespectful. What can be done? This is a local problem and needs to be handled there.

**Ways & Means Lenore Uhl** stated she will have 50/50 raffles, Chinese Auctions, Quarter Auction, etc. She is in room 115 if anyone has anything for her.

There was a discussion about Post #1941 in Big Rapids planning a dinner which pulls people away from one of our major fundraisers (Quarter Auction). #1941 should be asked to do something different – or at a later time so there is no interference.

**Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela** turned in her activity report. Her e-mail needs to be added to the Department Officers list.

The Office of Department Secretary is up for selection at the 2017 Dept. Convention. Kathy has no files – no applications – contracts - etc. She will make up a generic application with the Secretary’s instructions. (Note: Secretary has not had a contract for 3 years)

There will be a meeting right after this SEC for Service Officers ONLY. There is some important information that needs to be discussed.

**PRO/Historian Denotra Jackson**. She needs pictures and information sent to her. She is also requesting $200 from the budgeted PRO expenses. She has index cards for the talent competition at the Ladies Higgins Lake Weekend.

**Liaison/Head Delegate/Honors & Awards Chairman Faye Richardson-Green.** She will need another Officers list because she gave her’s to Kathy Biela, who was forgotten! (Ooops – taken care of immediately)

**Liaison Faye** explained why the finance report was not given to AMVETS. Exec. Director Carol Hebert didn’t know why they needed it. Faye noticed no other organization makes this available (SOA/Riders/etc) so she didn’t send it.

**Head Delegate Faye** - when Pat Michalski was unable to go to National Convention and President Seletha was going to be late, Faye polled the delegation. The group voted to have Peggy Liss as our acting NEC. When President Seletha arrived later in the week, she would continue to be the Alternate NEC. This was done in accordance with the National rules (Article 5 Section 9A).

\*\*Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Clarice Poisson this body approve my request that Pat Michalski return any funds advanced her for representing Michigan at the 2016 National Convention and redirect those funds to Peggy Liss for acting as our NEC Woman. CARRIED

(Note, Pat Michalski had returned the advance as stated in the Treasurer’s report)

Michigan received several awards at the National Convention: Membership certificate for 1 new Auxiliary (#4250); PNP Mary Barrow Hospital Award – Dept. 2nd place. Our local Auxiliaries also received awards:

#9 1st place – PNP Brenda Kilgore Hospital Award; 1st place – PNP Barbara Guth Nursing Home Award; appreciation for PAWS donation; Freedoms Foundation recognition

#23 Recognition from PAWS, St Judes and Freedoms Foundation

#57 – Recognition from PAWS

#121 – Recognition from St Judes

#269– Recognition from St Judes

Maureen Jackson questions recognition of a $100 donation by Jr. AMVETS to St Judes. Faye does not have a certificate for it.

Faye reminded everyone to apply – apply – apply for National Awards!

**Honors & Awards – Faye** will be confirming all Donors Rules with the donors.

**Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Peggy Liss** will have a lodge wish list in the next newsletter. They need white sheets – white towels –utensils. There is a cleanup scheduled for October 15-16. There is no charge for rooms for those coming to work.

**Fall Conference Chairman Maureen Jackson** talked about the instructors, instructions and fun contests this weekend. Everyone should check their book for ‘special angels’. They are (of course) bears and there is one very special angel which has a ‘fabulous’ prize and 3 booby-prize angels.

10 minute break time

**VAVS/Home Reps:**

**Aleda Lutz VA – Linda Marshall** turned in her activity report. She has $74.77 in checking and $80.85 in savings.

**Ann Arbor VA Rep Pat Krzesowik**. Pat was excused but turned in her activity report. She reported a balance in her account of $473.52.

**Battle Creek VA Rep Faye Richardson-Green** turned in her activity report. She has $473.52 in her account. Her Sept. review has been postponed until October 6.

**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep Clarice Poisson** turned in her activity report. She has $300 in Savings and $182.72 in Checking. She will be submitting a needs list for the GRHV to be put on the web site. They are starting a Rampage Football fund for residents.

Right now Clarice has 2 deputies – Dori Colley and Lee Williamson. She does not feel she needs two, and has not seen or talked to Dori is a couple years.

\*\*Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Kathy Keizer to remove Dori Colley as the Deputy for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. CARRIED

Harriet Biela will do a form to remove Dori.

Clarice thanks Aux. #23 for the $600 donation which Lee distributed to the requested areas.

**Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith** – excused. Judy sent in her report. She has $366.36 in checking and $8.66 in savings.

**John Dingell VA Rep Harriet Biela** reported on upcoming bingo and pizza party. They try to plan something each month. The balance in her account is $298.09.

Harriet presented President Seletha with a beautiful award from John Dingell VA for volunteering at the Golden Age Games.

**District Presidents**

**District I President Cel Rose Solak** had no recommendations. She announced their guest – Carmen Simpson.

**District II President Rosemary Perdue** turned in her activity report. She introduced their guests – PDP Doreen Pierce, PDP Carol Pickett, Marcella Schmidt. Rose’s new e-mail address is roseperdue3057@gmail.com

**District III President Rebekah Pickrel** was excused. She did not turn in an activity report.

**District V President Kathy Keizer** turned in her activity report. She had no recommendations. The District V guest is Becky Kovach from 4250.

**District VI President Christine Keenan** thanked Parliamentarian Pat Michalski for her help during their Auxiliary troubles.

**District VII President Lois Jurewich** – excused. Her activity report was turned in.

**Unfinished Business**

The Officers instruction committee was discussed.

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Maureen Jackson to continue the committee with Allison Aldrich, Pat Michalski, Maureen Jackson, Kathy Biela, Nancy Middleton, Faye Richardson-Green and Seletha Robertson. CARRIED

At this time PDP Faye Richardson-Green was asked to step forward. PDP Cel Rose Solak presented Faye with her Past Department President’s pin.

On behalf of last year’s PRO Lee Williamson, PDP Kathy Keizer presented Faye with her PRO book.

Bert Lema recommended Office Max/Office Depot for copies. She saved a bundle of money using the information from the AMVET website on member benefits.

Maureen Jackson discussed problems with Fall Conference. Because of last minute scheduling and the changing of dates, the cost of the rooms went from last year’s rate of $87 to $118. We might need to start thinking about doing Fall Conference separate from the AMVETS. As it is now, we don’t know where Fall Conference will be held until a couple months before. We also have no say as to where we will gather. We are then at the mercy of the hotel on costs, amenities, etc.

We are not required to hold our Fall Conference at the same time and place as the AMVETS. We should discuss other options. There are several places we could get lodging at a better price and with more convenience.

Announcements

President Seletha presented National President Evelyn McElvin a gift. President Evelyn said this was her 3rd trip to Michigan. She expressed condolences on the passing of PNP Janice Marie Hapner. She also congratulated PDP Peggy Liss on her election as the new National Chaplain.

Her project this year is the John Tracy Clinic preschool program. She asked us to all work together – especially on our #1 program – membership. National has contests this year for the highest percentage of renewals based on the size of the Department. Class A is 30 to 350 members; Class B is 351 to 700 members; Class C is 701 to 2500 members; Class D is 2501 and over membership.

There is also a $100 reimbursement to Departments for local membership prizes and awards. These are for building and sustaining membership.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss to pay the bills. CARRIED

Because of the length of time of this meeting, Kathy Biela and Faye Richardson- Green will not have the meeting for Dept. Service Officers after this meeting. They will meet with them one-on-one in the next day or so.

The Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Sue Christe.

The flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arms Bert Lema.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Approved with corrections – President Seletha Robertson 11/14/2016

Approved with corrections – Parliamentarian Pat Michalski 11/15/2016

Nancy Middleton, Secretary.

November 11, 2017