**SPRING S.E.C. MEETING**

**February 20, 2016**

**Causeway Bay in Lansing Michigan**

The Spring SEC was called to order at 1pm by President Faye Richardson-Green

The Invocation was delivered by Dept. Chaplain Leora Williamson

The Salute to Colors was led by Acting Sgt-at Arms Sue Christe

Roll call of Officers showed all in attendance with the exception of 1st Vice President Seletha Robertson, excused; Sgt-at-Arms Lenore Uhl, excused; Hospital Officer Harriet Biela, excused; Americanism Officer Carol Orlowski, excused; Personnel Chairman Jan Hapner, excused; District III Presdident Rebekah Pickrel, absent; District VII President Lois Juchemich, absent; Ann Arbor VA Rep Pat Krzesowik, absent; Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith, excused.

Minutes of Fall SEC Meeting

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/second Cel Rose Solak to approve the Fall SEC minutes as written. CARRIED

Treasurer’s Report, Treasurer Gloria Hall

Gloria had copies of the finance report distributed.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Sally Abshire to approve the Treasurer’s Report subject to audit. CARRIED

Officers’ Reports:

President Faye reported traveling across the State of Michigan. Among places and/or events she attended were the Brotherhood Night in Mesick, District VI meeting, District III meeting, Aux. #57’s PAWS fundraiser (which was awesome!); the Veterans Day Dinner at Post #22 in Bay City (which was unbelievable).

President Faye asked for approval of temporary appointments for this meeting: Sue Christe as acting Sgt-at-Arms and Pat Michalski as acting Americanism Officer.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss to approvel Pat Michalski as acting Americanism Officer and Sue Christe as acting Sgt-at-Arms for this meeting. CARRIED

President Faye gave a report on poll votes which were taken during the past few months:

Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Kathy Schultz to ratify the President’s Poll Votes:

 #1 Gloria Hall as Deputy to Battle Creek VA

 #2 Clarice Poisson as Representative to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

 #3 Leora Williamson as Deputy to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

Motion CARRIED

A clarification was given regarding the Higgins Lake Lodge Representative. After doing research, the Parliamentarian determined Diana Lammott’s term concludes in June at the 2016 Convention.

First Vice President Seletha Robertson – excused

President Faye read a membership report submitted by the Secretary. Total membership as of 2/19 is 1581 (685 life paid; 710 renewals; 178 new members (which includes annual members paying late); 8 annual members renewing to life members.

An up to date membership chart was distributed to all present at the SEC.

There are still 23 life members who have not paid their hospital donations and are considered “not in good standing” – including one Department Officer.

There have been 18 deceased life members reported and 15 annual members deceased. 3 members transferred to MAL or another Department.

In January, the 1st Vice sent letters to each Auxiliary with life members owing and she sent a roster to each Auxilairy with requests to send back any corrections, errors, etc. To date (2/19) three have been returned. This is because A.) Everything is perfect in 24 Auxiliaries or B.) the request was not acknowledged.

One of the main errors is the amount of dues sent in for memberships. As of January, all annual memberships (both new and late) are $28 each.

Second Vice President Wendy Lynema

Wendy reminded everyone about the (paper) flower sale for Penrickton. Paper flowers were distributed at Fall Conference to sell at the local Posts. The flowers could be hung in the Post Home (with permission) and then returned to Convention this June. All money from the sale of flowers is to be sent to the department specifying *Flower Sale* before 5/3/2016. This flower sale money is separate from the donation required for Penrickton for recognition at the Honors & Awards Program.

Third Vice President Kathy Schultz

Kathy reported Barb Valley, National 3rd Vice President toured PAWS Headquarters with us in October. Kathy has PAWS Prints for sale. It works basically like the paper flowers for Penrickton. Please bring the paw prints to convention for a special drawing.

Maureen Jackson asked if these should also be separate donations (PAWS prints & required donations). Answer – Yes. Kathy Keizer pointed out this needs to be returned to the Department postmarked by May 5th to claim it on the service reports.

Secretary Nancy Middleton

Nancy reported there are very few Officers submitting articles for the website. The newsletter seems to be doing ok – but again there are some Officers who never submit anything. There should be information from every office provided to our lcoal Auxiliaries.

Nancy reported sending out letters for the President on her candidacy for the office of National Americanism . After these were mailed, she thought about other Officers who are seeking National offices. Since the Secretary did the Presidents letter and mailed it using Dept. Secretary’s funds, Nancy felt other candidates should be reimbursed for the money they spent on stamps and envelopes.

An estimate of the cost was $65. In the future, it will be determined how these letters should be distributed and include the process in the Standing Rules and/or instructions so whatever the system is, it is done equally for each member.

\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Keizer to reimburse Peggy Liss $65 for the approximate expenses for sending out candidacy letters. CARRIED by majority vote.

Parliamentarian Pat Michalski

Pat reported working on Officers Instructions. It is a very big job and she is not finished with it yet. She will discuss it further under old business.

Chaplain Leora Williamson

Lee stated she had received several names for the Prayer List when she first started it, but now she has none. She encourages everyone to call her with names.

Lee was given $30 as budgeted for stamps, cards, etc. To date she has spent $54.59 (with receipts).

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Hale to reimburse the Chaplain $25.49

\*\*Nancy Middleton/2nd Clarice Poisson with a friendly amendment to increase the amount to the Chaplain to $50. CARRIED

Original motion now reads: The Chaplain be reimbursed $50. CARRIED

Maureen Jackson requested a Sunshine check made out to Kathy Biela in the amount of $20: one Sunshine gift for Val Krotkiewicz and one for Harriet Biela. Approved by Chaplain

Clarice Poisson requested a Sunshine gift for Jan Hapner. Approved by Chaplain

Acting Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe

Sue reported Sgt-at-Arms Lenore Uhl turned in an activity report

Hospital Officer Harriet Biela – excused

Harriet turned in a report to be read at the SEC meeting. She sent her activity report to the meeting with Maureen Jackson. She reminded everyone they have time to apply for hospital pins and bars. Request must be sent to Harriet postmarked by March 1st. The request must be signed by the local Hospital Officer and the local President.

The Dept. President will make her official tour of John Dingell VA in April. There is $348.50 in the hospital account. A New Years Party is being planned and there will be a spaghetti dinner at Post #57 for 100 patients from the VA. (no date available)

Scholarship Officer Sally Abshire

Sally stated she sent her activity report to the Secretary. Secretary did not receive anything from the Scholarship Officer. It was explained each officer is required to bring their own activity report to the meetings unless they have been excused by the President.

Sally needs a list of local Scholarship Officers.

Americanism Officer Carol Orlowski – excused

Carol’s report was unreadable based on the program she used.

Pat Michalski is representing Carol at the Americanism Meeting. There was a financial report from Carol Hebert which showed $3,134.84 in the Americanism fund. The cost of the awards is $3,050. Tickets for a raffle are available at a cost of 3 for $10. The drawing will be at the June convention.

 NEC Woman Peggy Liss

Peggy has not received any letters yet regarding those running for National offices. There is also a question on the AMVET Quartermaster having Auxiliary hospital and PDP pins. (NOTE: there is one PDP pin in the Secretary’s files.) When she gets information, she will put something in the newsletter.

Peggy asked if there was anyone going to National Convention who wanted to be on a National committee. If so, let her know. She will be leaving for NEC on March 1st. Maureen Jackson asked about National Convention raffle tickets.

Convention/Fall Conference Chairman Kathy Keizer

Kathy was asked about where Fall Conference will be this Fall. She does not know. The AMVETS do not vote on it until Convention in June.

At this Convention, we will have round tables. We will also have a separate billing and a block of rooms for the Auxiliary. Please state you want to use the Auxiliary block when reserving your room.

There will be a tentative agenda and a lot of information in the Convention Digest which is sent out the middle of March. She requested any Officer who would like to hold a meeting at Convention, inform Kathy so she can get it on the final agenda. Anyone wanting this type of meeting will need to hold it in their own room because we do not have rooms available for individual meetings.

The rooms being used for this year’s Convention is the same as last year (except round tables). The only thing on Thursday evening will be Honors and Awards meeting. Check the agenda because there are some changes.

Kathy reminded the President,Treasurer and Ways & Means Chairman to let the Secretary know if they want her to reserve their room. (NOTE: only the President has made the request).

Ways & Means Chairman Sue Hennigar

Sue stated Ways & Means Dept. raffle tickets will be mailed out when she figures out the best means for distribution. 1st prize is a 40” TV; 2nd prize is a 32” TV; 3rd prize is $50.

There was a question about the scarves Carmen was selling for Ways & Means. They are $10 each and come in a small bag. The money will be turned over today to Ways & Means. Sue questioned why the Dept. raffle tickets are only $1 (or 6 for $5). Answer - this is the selling price stated in the Ways & Means Chairman’s instructions.

Personnel Chairman Jan Hapner – excused

PRO/Historian Lee Williamson

No report to give. She turned in her activity report.

Honors & Awards Chairman Allison Aldrich

Allison turned in activity reports for her 3 offices: Head delegate/H&A/Liaison. She sent a letter to the AMVETS as outlined in her instructions. There are still awards without donors – Membership 10 to 24 members; ~~Community Service 41 and over; Americanism 10 to 40 members;~~ Hospital 10 to 40 members; Scrapbook; Scrapbook Cover. If anyone would like to take these over, please contact Allison.

Allison was given permission by the SEC Board in the Fall to take over the Americanism 10 to 40 members. She will basically keep the same criteria but will add mid year and final report to the Department by the due date; contribute to the Americanism project; be in good standing with the Department. She will also be presenting a plaque instead of a monetary award.

\*\*Motion Allison Aldrich/2nd Peggy Liss to approve the criteria os the Allison Aldrich Americanism Award. CARRIED

District II has requested to be the Donor ofthe Community Service 41 and over award. They would like to have it in memory of PDP Bernie Robinson.

\*\*Motion Kathy Hale/2nd Cel Rose Solak to allow District II as the Donor of the Community Service Award in Memory of PDP Bernedette Robinson. CARRIED

\*\*Motion Allison Aldrich/2nd Kathy Hale for awards without donors to keep the same criteria until new donors are found. CARRIED

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Diana Lammott:

Diana turned in her activity report. She suggested the term for the Higgins Lake Rep be 2 years instead of 3. She would also like to see the Auxiliary, Sons and Riders have a vote. President Faye had taken this request to the Dept. Commander. He will bring it to the AMVETS for discussion about the Auxiliary, etc. having a vote.

\*\*Motion Diana Lammott/2nd Clarice Poisson to make the Higgins Lake Lodge Rep. a 2 year term and to be appointed in the even years. CARRIED

The lodge has a wish list and the top items they need are mattress pads for the lodge – twin and doubles.

We took a well deserved 10 minute break!!

District I President Cel Rose Solak:

Rose introduced the guest from District I – Carmen Simpson. Rose also announced Seletha Robertson is a candidate for Department President.

District II President Kathy Hale:

Kathy introduced the guests of District II – Rosemary Perdue and Sue Christe. She also announced Pat Michalski is seeking the office of NEC Woman.

District II will have their Americanism program in Bay City on April 3rd. The meeting will begin at 12:30 and the program at 2pm. The also have a bowling tournament on March 12 at Total Sports beginning at 1:00pm. Cost is $20. The profits are split between the Service Foundation and Americanism.

A Representative from Wreaths Across America has asked to speak about the program to District II Auxiliary.

District V President Kathy Keizer:

Kathy has only visited one Auxiliary so far this year – Aux. #23. So far, no others have been scheduled.

The Department President will make her official visit to District V in May.

Kathy announced Wendy Lynema is seeking the office of Dept. 1st Vice President, Gloria Hall is seeking re-election to the office of Dept. Treasurer and Faye Richardson Green is seeking the office of National Americanism.

Because there was no representative from District VI, Kathy announced Kathy Schultz is seeking the office of Dept. 2nd Vice President.

District VI President Erica Szegda – excused

District VII President Lois Juchemich – absent

Aleda E Lutz VA Rep Linda Marshall:

Linda turned in her activity report. She stated the Department President has visited Aleda Lutz in November. They are now in the process of building a pavillion which should be done in August. There is $307.53 in checking and $99.89 in savings.

Ann Arbor VA Pat Krzesowik

Pat sent her activity report to the Secretary. She has no recommendations at this time. There is a balance in her account of $374.22.

Battle Creek VA Rep – Faye Richardson Green

Faye is having a blast as the new Rep! She is learning about the VA Medical Center, 4 clinics and a homeless center. She has visited almost all of them and is planning a visit to Lansing in March.

Faye is looking for people to represent AMVETS at the clinics. Gloria Hall & her husband, Jean (AMVETS) and Diana Lammott & her husband Bill Chiddester (SOA) are seeing what they can do as a group. $150 was given for a Veteran from Baldwin for a trip to Washington DC in January.

John Dingell VA Rep Harriet Biela – excused

Harriet turned in her activity report. The balance in her account is $348.50. The Dept. President’s visit to John Dingell is being planned.

Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith

Judy sent in her activity report and a note thanking AMVETS 79 for the $250 donation and Auxiliary #114 for the $400 donation. The balance in her account is $602.96 and in savings $6.87.

Grand Rapids Home Rep. Clarice Poisson

Clarice thanked President Faye for her appointment to this office. She sent information to Harriet Biela on the account she has opened at Option One Credit Union. Clarice wants to do bingo games on the individual floors instead of in the big rec. room. At Christmas time she donated $100 in Meijer gift cards and $100 in movie gift cards. T he balance in her savings account is $580 and 158.08 in checking.

Unfinished Business:

President Faye gave an update on the Officer’s Instructions committee. They are Maureen Jackson, Allison Aldrich, Pat Michalski, Kathy Biela and Nancy Middleton. Judy Smith declined. They met in August at Post 4064 and again in October at Fall Conference. Three committee members did some discussions at the Auxiliary retreat. Harriet Biela, PDP’s Peggy Liss & Kathy Keizer also gave some input. Pat has been working on getting it put together but it is not done yet. The instructions are to be voted on for approval at the Spring SEC. They are not ready yet.

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Peggy Liss to accept changes recommended by committee members be approved and the final manual be distributed at the Convention post SEC.

After much discussion a vote was taken. Ten for approval – 6 for disapproval. CARRIED by majority vote.

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Maureen Jackson Officers receive only their individual instructions. A complete set will be kept by the President, Secretary, Parliamentarian and on line.

CARRIED by majority vote.

Maureen Jackson’s e-mail is kdgmo2@gmail.com

A discussion was held on Fall Conference Chairman’s site visit. Because the site was changed it was necessary for her to make a couple different trips.

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Diana Lammott to reimburse Fall Conference Chairman for additional site visit. CARRIED

AMVET Growth/Planning.

Copies of the summary were given to the Secretary to e-mail to those with e-mail addresses or hard copies to those without e-mail. It is also on the website.

A discussion on a Long Range Planning Committee is not feasible at this time.

AMVETS talked about a Strategic Planning Committee. They hope to get people thinking and get information out to members and the community.

At this time there are three Auxiliaries not in good standing. A discussion was held about Auxiliary #269. If they are not going to continue as an Auxiliary, they need to turn in their charter and assets to the District I President who will forward them to the Department to be held in trust for three years.

The John Dingell hospital account needs to work at getting the Secretary on the account. Per the by-laws, the Secretary needs to be on all accounts. John Dingell is the only one she is not on.

Allison Aldrich reported the Sons are chartering a new unit in Midland.

Maureen Jackson announced AMVETS #57 will be celebrating a 70th anniversary this year.

Kathy Hall announced AMVETS #52 will also celebrate 70 years on August 6th.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Diana Lammott to pay the bills. CARRIED

The benediction was given by Chaplain Lee Williamson.

The flag was retired by acting Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm

Respectfully submitted

Approved by Parliamentarian (with corrections) 4/2/2016

Approved by President (with corrections)

 4/2/16

Nancy Middleton, Secretary

April 1, 2016