**PRE-CONVENTION SEC MEETING**

**June, 26, 2015**

The pre-convention SEC meeting was called to order at 3:15pm by President Allison Aldrich.

***The invocation*** was given by Chaplain Sue Christe.

***The salute to the colors*** was led by Sgt-at-Arms Lenore Uhl.

***Roll call of Officers*** showed all in attendance with the exception of Personnel Chairman Jan Hapner, excused; PRO & Grand Rapids Home Rep. Sharon Colley, absent; Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith, excused; District VII President Lois Juchemich (Carlson), absent.

President Allison had requested PDP Kathy Biela to fill the office of Personnel at this convention for Jan Hapner who is ill. Kathy answered roll call for that position.

***Minute of the Spring*** SEC by Secretary Nancy Middleton

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

There were no corrections. (there was no motion to approve as written)

***Treasurer’s Report*** by Treasurer Gloria Hall

PDP Kathy Biela questioned the Treasurer’s estimated mileage. Gloria explained she pulls up 3 maps on her computer (google/mapquest/and ???). She takes an average of those mileage figures to determine the mileage from the Officers home to the meeting site.

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Erica Szegda: the vouchers are to be filled out by the Officer and that is the amount that will be paid. Motion carried by majority vote.

Gloria stated $60 needs to be added to the Scholarship fund for memorial donations from Past Presidents and/or their family members.

The finance committee met and the budget will be distributed in the morning on the convention floor. The Parliamentarian, Pat Michalski, stated the agenda says the budget will be presented on Saturday morning and voted on in the afternoon session on Saturday. The by-laws say they must be presented 1 day prior to voting. If they are passed out on Saturday, the vote must be on Sunday.

***OFFICERS REPORTS:***

President: Allison Aldrich

A poll vote had been sent out requesting Pat Michalski be approved to finish out the term of Parliamentarian on the passing of PDP Mary Leach. It was approved.

Another poll vote was sent requesting Leora Williamson be approved to finish out the term of Hospital Officer after the resignation of Trisha Cieremans. It was approved.

\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Keizer to ratify the poll votes (both). CARRIED

1st Vice President Faye Richardson Green

Faye’s activity report is on page 51 of the convention book.

2nd Vice President Seletha Robertson

Seletha’s activity report is on page 53 of the convention book.

3rd Vice President Wendy Lynema

Wendy’s activity report is on page 55/56 of the convention book and her bulletin is on page 43.

Secretary Nancy Middleton

Nancy’s activity report is on page 61/62 of the convention book. We had a Past Commander pass away this year (Bert Blok). According to our Standing Rules, a donation is made in his memory to the AMVETS Medical Scholarship. After talking with the Exec. Director and the Chairman of the Service Foundation, there does not seem to be an AMVET Medical Scholarship any more. Nancy talked with Bert’s widow Nancy and she requested the donation be made to the AMVET Family picnic at the Battle Creek VAMC.

\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Keizer to donate $10 to the AMVET Family Picnic fund in memory of PDP Gilbert Blok. CARRIED

Treasurer Gloria Hall

Gloria’s activity report is in the book and also her finance report. Because of the high room cost to the Auxiliary at the hotel for the 2 hour Spring SEC meeting, it might be a good idea to investigate a different location for the Spring SEC. In the past we have met at the Veterans Bldg. in Lansing (free of charge). A second option would be holding at the Perry Post. Both these locations are centrally located.

It was also mentioned at this time, the AMVETS will be voting on changing the Fall Conference to Big Rapids – this year.

Parliamentarian Pat Michalski

**Recommended Changes to Standing Rules:**

**1 A. Now Reads:** In the event of the death of an elected or appointed Officer, Past Department President or their immediate family (spouse, child or parent), a scholarship card is to be sent by the Department Chaplain and a $10.00 donation is to be made to the Department Scholarship Fund within 15 days.

**1 B. Now Reads:** In the event of the death of a Past Department Commander or their immediate family (spouse, child or parent), a $10.00 donation shall be made to the AMVET Medical Scholarship Fund.

**Change to Read:**

***1 A.*** *In the event of the death of an elected or appointed Officer, Past Department President or their immediate family (spouse, child or parent), a scholarship card is to be sent by the Department Chaplain and a $10.00 donation is to be made to the Department Scholarship Fund. These donations are to be done by June 1 each year.*

***1 B.*** *In the event of the death of a Past Department Commander or their immediate family (spouse child or parent), a $10.00 donation shall be made to the AMVET medical Scholarship Fund. These donations are to be done by June 1 each year.*

***Reason for Change: Under A*** *– There is a time limit to make the donation and B does not have a time limit. Suggest the time limit be deleted from A and add a sentence to each that reads: These donations are to be done by June 1 each year.*

A question was raised on the Scholarship donations from the Department on the passing of a PDP, PDC or family member. It was stated Doreen’s daughter passed away and no donation was given. A death notification was given for Violet Cook but neither the Secretary nor Treasurer were aware this was Doreen’s daughter. An additional $10 will be transferred to Scholarship.

Diana Lammott suggested the Standing Rule concerning the donation upon the passing of a PDC be sent to the AMVET Service Foundation instead of the Medical Scholarship.

\*\*Motion Diana Lammott/2nd Peggy Liss moved to change standing rule to donations upon the passing of a PDC be sent to the AMVET Service Foundation. CARRIED

**3 Now Reads:** The Department shall establish a “Memorial and Sunshine Fund”.

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Faye Richardson Green to take out the word ‘Memorial”. CARRIED

**16 – Now Reads:** The only raffles to be held at Department Convention, Fall Conference and S.E.C. meeting are to be Ways & Means.

**Change to Read:** The only raffles to be held at Department Convention, Fall Conference and S.E.C. meetings are to be **for** Ways & Means.

Under discussion, the word ‘for’ was changed to ‘by’

\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Faye Richardson Green to change S.R. #16 to read: The only raffles to be held at Department Convention, Fall Conference and SEC meetings are to be by Ways & Means. Carried

A discussion followed about the PAWS table that is set up next to the Ways & Means table during Fall Conference. Some felt this interfered with Ways & Means.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Diana Lammott: Kathy Biela will talk with Deb Davis about this problem. CARRIED

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to put in the Standing Rules there will be no outside fundraiser without approval of the Ways & Means Chairman. CARRIED

Chaplain Sue Christe has her activity report in the convention book on page #57.

Sgt-at-ArmsLenore Uhl does not have her activity report in the convention book. She misread her instructions and brought three copies. She will get copies and distribute them.

Americanism OfficerBonnie Rojeski has her activity report in the convention book on pages 65 and 66.

Hospital Officer Leora Williamson has her activity report in the convention book on page #63. Her bulletin is on page #45.

Scholarship Officer Kathy Schultz has her activity report on page 67.

Kathy discussed a problem with the Official Transcripts

\*\*Kathy Schultz/2nd Peggy Liss to add Official transcripts must come from the school or local to the Department Officer. Computer generated transcripts are not acceptable. CARRIED

Kathy need 3 people to serve as judges after the Memorial Service. Linda Marshall, Erica Szegda and Lee Williamson volunteered.

NEC Woman Peggy Liss has her report on page 69 in the convention book.

PRO/HistorianSharon Colley – absent

Ways and Means Chairman Maureen Jackson suggested some Ways & Means activities for next year so we could start thinking about them. All activities will be in the 1st mailing: raffles, cash blast (out in July), Green Auxiliary Manual pre orders $9 / on site sales $12, mock horse race, yearbook, quarter auction, etc.

Maureen could use a little more help on the tables tomorrow.

Liaison/Honors & Awards Pat Michalski. As Liaison, Pat sent all the information requested to the AMVETS.

\*\*Pat Michalski/2nd Kathy Biela to use Mary Leach’s donors rules for the Americanism award this year. CARRIED

A certificate will be given.

There are no scrapbooks to judge this year. The following awards will be retired this year and new Donors are needed for next year. #1 Lorraine Beedon Hospital, #2 Marilyn Boring Community Service, #3 Mary Leach Americanism

There was also a discussion on where filled plaques go if there is no designation by the Donor.

\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Faye Richards-Green: if not designated by the Donor, all plaques will be retired to the Auxiliary which won it the most.

Personnel (acting) Chairman Kathy Biela

As acting Chairman of the Personal Committee, Kathy met with the following members: Pres. Allison Aldrich, Wendy Lynema, Gloria Hall, Faye Richardson-Green, and Seletha Robertson. They discussed several items.

#1 Specific deadline dates for articles, etc. to the Secretary. The President and Secretary should come up with the dates.

\*\*Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Wendy Lynema to approve. CARRIED

#2 Bring back the monthly newsletter. One copy will be sent to the local at no cost. If anyone wants to purchase the newsletter, it is $10 for one year.

\*\*Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Carol Pickett to approve. CARRIED

#3 The President put together a committee of PDPs and meet within 60 days to set up a training committee.

\*\*Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Lee Williamson to accept. CARRIED

The committee recommends hiring Nancy Middleton as Department Secretary.

\*\*Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Kathy Keizer to hire Nancy Middleton for another term (2 years) as Department Secretary. CARRIED

Fall Conference Chairman Pat Whitcher has her activity report on page 79 of the convention book.

Convention Chairman Kathy Keizer has her report on pages 75/76 of the convention book. Kathy announced the regular check out is at 12 noon. If you would like to request a late check out (2:00pm) check with the front desk. The hotel has requested no posters or signs be put on the doors or walls.

There will be a hot breakfast buffet available on Sat. & Sunday morning in the Hummingbird Restaurant and lunch will be served there from 11am til 2:30 with a limited menu. Dinner is available in the Valencia Club from 4:30 til 6:30pm.

Kathy has put page paddles at each table and asked everyone to place them in a tote bag near the door so they don’t get thrown away.

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep. Diana Lammott reported her activity report is on page 81 of the convention book and she has a bulletin on page 47.

Aleda E Lutz VA Rep Linda Marshall has her activity report in the convention book on page 83. Linda has a new e-mail – lindamarsh01@charter.net She has $368.06 in her savings account and $315.90 in her checking account.

Ann Arbor VA Rep. Pat Krzesowik has her report on page 85. The balance in her account is $453.51.

John Dingell VA Rep Harriet Biela has her report on pages 91 and 92. She has $791.68 in her account.

Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith has a report on page 90 of the convention book. She mailed her ledger and check book to the Dept. Secretary who brought it to the convention for auditing.

District I PresidentCel Rose Solak had her report in the book. The District has no recommendations. She introduced the guests of District I: Bert Lema, PDP Yvette Rusak, Carmen Simpson and Pat Tune from #57. Seletha Robertson is running for 1st Vice President.

District II President Carol Pickett has Carol Orlowski from #93; PDP Doreen Pierce from #121; Rosemary Perdue, Anne Schmidt and Marcella Schmidt from #22. Rosemary Perdue is seeking the office of Scholarship and Lenore Uhl is seeking re-election to the office of Sgt-at-Arms.

District V President Kathy Keizer has no recommendations from the District. The following members of District V are seeking election to offices:

 Faye Richardson-Green, President; Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice; Leora Williamson,

 Chaplain; Sally Abshire, Scholarship.

The outgoing President, Lee Williamson, from District V has her report in the convention book.

District VI President Erica Szegda has no recommendations from the District. The guest from District VI is Bertha Dewey from #1988. Kathy Schultz is seeking the office of 3rd Vice President.

***OLD BUSINESS***

There was a discussion about the rule in the officer’s instructions stating if you do not have your activity report in the convention book you must make 100 copies and you will not receive mileage. This is not a by-law or Standing Rule. If Lenore gets copies to the floor tomorrow, she should get mileage.

\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Bonnie Rojeski to make 50 copies and have them on the convention floor tomorrow. CARRIED

Report on Auxiliary #1978. There were several communications sent to #1978 and multiple attempts to contact them concerning the EIN and 990. 1st Vice Faye Green sent a certified letter to the President notifying them they had until 6/24 to respond or their charter would be suspended. A copy was also sent to the Commander of #1978. After many conversations with our Parliamentarian, it was discovered they did have an EIN and filed a 990 last year. They just did not send it in because they didn’t realize they had it. Now they can reactivate, elect Officers, send in a revalidation form and send in memberships.

***NEW BUSINESS***

At this time, we have no candidates for Hospital or Americanism.

Diana asked for it to be researched as to when the Higgins Lake Lodge Reps term is up. Every year it seems she is told she has one more year left on her three year term. She thinks it should have been up a year ago.

\*\*Motion Diana Lammott/2nd Linda Marshall to pay the bills. CARRIED

***ANNOUNCEMENTS:***

Diana Lammott announced the AMVET Family picnic at the Battle Creek VAMC is July 18th.

Kathy Biela announced her room number and asked people to drop off the door prizes for tomorrow morning.

Pat Michalski stated plaques are to be returned by tomorrow to the Sgt-at-Arms

\*\*Motion Cel Rose Solak/2nd Diana Lammott to adjourn. CARRIED

The Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Sue Christe

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

The meeting was adjourned by President Allison Aldrich at 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton

Secretary

INSTRUCTIONS APPROVED W/CORRECTIONS

President Allison Aldrich 7/7/2015

Parliamentarian Pat Michalski 7/8/2015

7/5/2015