**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

**PRE-CONVENTION S.E.C. MEETING**

**June 20, 2013**

**The pre-convention S.E.C. was called to order by President Peggy Liss at 6:40pm at the Kewadin Resort in Sault Ste Marie.**

**The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Martha Popour.**

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

**Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Nancy Middleton showed all in attendance with the exception of: Parliamentarian Dori Colley and Lisa Rose Heckman (both excused) and Dist. III Pres. Jackie Bain (absent).**

**The Spring SEC minutes**

**\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Maureen Jackson to disburse with reading the minutes and go into correction. CARRIED**

**\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Allison Aldrich to approve the minutes as printed. CARRIED**

**Treasurer’s Report – Gloria Hall**

**The proposed budget is prepared for tomorrow’s Finance meeting. It has been revised because we will not have Texas Holdems for next year. The supplier we used had their license pulled so our income will be way down.**

**The audit of the Auxiliary books is scheduled for July 9th. The by-laws state this must be done within 15 days of convention. The 9th is the 16th day. It was pointed out there is a holiday in there so we are ok.**

**Gloria asked everyone to cash their checks asap so they will be through the bank before the audit. Vouchers must be completed for payment but Gloria has already figured out the mileage if someone didn’t check.**

**Officer’s Reports:**

**President – Peggy Liss thanked everyone for a memorable year. She has lots of memories and this year has been marvelous.**

**1st Vice President – Pat Michalski stated her activity report and the membership chart are in the Convention book. Our membership is 1,897 which is down from last year. The award presentation for the contests will be presented on the floor during the membership report.**

**2nd Vice President – Allison Aldrich had her report and bulletin in the convention book. She has enjoyed being 2nd Vice. Unfortunately Penrickton will not be able to be at our convention so the donation check in the amount of $6,600.54 will be mailed to them.**

**3rd Vice President - Faye Richardson-Green has her reports in the convention book. This has been a year of learning for Faye and she appreciates the opportunity to serve. Her Chairman’s Award was for Auxiliary blood donations. No Auxiliary applied for the award so it will not be given.**

**Executive Secretary – Nancy Middleton has her reports in the convention book. She also had a difficult time getting to convention. Just before Cadillac, the power steering pump blew out on her car. She was lucky there was no accident and a GMC dealership was located easily. Unfortunately they could not get a part for a day or two. It was necessary for her to rent a UHaul van to complete the trip. Because of the cost (over $300), Nancy had to put the rental on the Auxiliary card. She offered to pay it back over time.**

**\*\*Motion Janice Marie Hapner/2nd Allison Aldrich the cost of the van rental be paid by the Auxiliary. CARRIED (Sec. note: Thank you!!)**

**Parliamentarian – Dori Colley was not able to come to convention this year because of work. A poll vote was sent out to approve Pat Michalski as the acting Parliamentarian for this convention. Pat reported the by-law committee only took a half hour this year!**

**Chaplain – Martha Popour has her activity report in the convention book. She reported 4 sunshine gifts were sent out. We had 23 deceased members and she sent out numerous sympathy, get well, etc. cards. She urged everyone to let the Chaplain know when someone is in the hospital. Also, one copy of the Deceased Member form is to be sent to the Secretary. The Secretary will disburse the other copies. It was also recommended to add which District the member is from at the top of the Deceased Member form.**

**Sgt-at-Arms – Sue Christe requested 2 volunteers to bring in the flags at the convention opening. Faye Richardson-Green and Maureen Jackson volunteers. Sue also needs the plaques which were to be returned per the request of the Honors & Awards Chairman.**

**Ways & Means $50 gas card won by Diana Lammott**

**Americanism – Bert Lema reported her activity report is in the convention book. She thanked all the Auxiliaries who made donations to the Americanism program - $1,501.67.**

**She also reported she will be awarding her Chairman’s award on the floor. It is a drawing from among the Auxiliaries donating to the SOS Program – Military Relief. $991.67 was collected and she has given the address to the Secretary so it can be mailed out. The Director sends his thanks to the Auxiliaries for their donations.**

**The Americanism program is tomorrow. 30 people are coming to this convention. The Sons will welcome the families as they arrive but help is needed to set up the room.**

**Hospital Officer – Leora Williamson has her reports in the convention book. Lee toured all the VA’s and Grand Rapids Home. All are unique and Lee was impressed and touched by the visits.**

**Scholarship Officer – Rosemary Perdue has her report in the convention book. She received 8 applications (6 regular and 2 career scholarships). She asked for volunteers for the judging after the SEC. Lee Williamson, Harriet Altherr and Lois Carlson volunteered.**

**N.E.C. Woman – Maureen Jackson has her activity report in the convention book. Also, Section 7 of the convention book contained National information. Maureen urged everyone to send in for National Awards. Most just need a copy of the application attached to the service report. It must be postmarked by July 1st.**

**If you are applying for the Auxiliary of the Year Award, it must be in book form. It must be mailed to headquarters by July 1st or hand delivered by 9am on Monday morning of convention.**

**National has ticket books for a Freedom’s Foundation trip for $1 or 6 for $5. There is a limited amount. 2 trips are being raffled. The trip is October 11th to the 13th.**

**Maureen received a stack of letters from those running for National Office but did not have them with her at the moment.**

**Return to Chaplain’s report:**

**Martha Popour reported her new e-mail:** [**garys1stwife@yahoo.com**](mailto:garys1stwife@yahoo.com)

**PRO/Historian – Sharon Colley**

**Sharon requested judges for the PRO books after the SEC. Maureen and Peggy will judge.**

**Back to NEC**

**Maureen has an envelope and paper if anyone wants to sign up for the Patrons Page ad in the National Convention book. It is $1 per name and needs to be in to National Headquarters by July 1st.**

**Junior AMVET Coordinator – Lisa Rose Heckman – excused**

**Ways & Means – Harriet Altherr has her report in the convention book. She has really enjoyed taking everyone’s money this year and plans to continue this weekend.**

**Liaison – Neva Colley has her report in the convention book. She sent in her report to the AMVETS.**

**Honors & Awards – Neva Colley said the Post Office does not always have date stamps on envelopes. Some of the new Dept Officers have not been at an Honors & Awards meeting. They don’t really know what is expected from them. It was suggested they may need some training.**

**Dept. Convention Chairman – Mary Leach said this convention have been a real challenge – especially dealing with this hotel. Mary said if anyone if having problems please call the PRESIDENT!!! (lots of laughs!) The banquet this year will be a buffet with chicken/barbeque ribs/macaroni salad/potato salad/desert for $35.00**

**Personnel Chairman – Janice Marie Hapner stated she had received 1 request for information on the office of Secretary. She sent out an application with a list of the duties. She never heard from that person again.**

**\*\*Motion Janice Marie Hapner/2nd Pat Michalski that Nancy Middleton be accepted as the Executive Secretary for the next 2 years. CARRIED**

**Higgins Lake Lodge Rep – Diana Lammott**

**AMVETS Dept. headquarters is now located at the lodge. Diana is very frustrated because there is not a lot of communication. She really has nothing to report.**

**Fall Conference Chairman – Kathy Biela thanked President Peggy for the appointment. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at Fall Conference last October.**

**VAVS/Home Reps:**

**Aleda E Lutz – Marcella Schmidt did not turn in a report. The balance in the savings account is $218.16 and in checking $335.95.**

**Ann Arbor VA – Pat Krzesowik has her report in the book. Pat thanked District I, #57, #126 and #171 for their donations. She has been appointed to the Executive Board at the VAVS Medical Center.**

**Battle Creek VAMC – Clarice Poisson thanked #121, #57, #126 and #4064 for their donations. She has $405 in savings and $95.22 in checking. Clarice also thanked Lee Williamson and President Peggy for coming to the Battle Creek hot dog cookout which was held indoors this year (construction). She also thanked District V for their donations which allows her to serve the short term patients in Building #8 with bingos, wish lists, etc. The AMVET Family picnic will be held at BCMCVA on July 20th and everyone is welcome. There will be hot dogs, turkey, pork, corn, etc and a live band.**

**John Dingell VA – Harriet Biela has her report in the convention book. She has $453.76 in the account. She thanked #126, #57 and District I for their donations. She also thanked President Peggy and Hospital Office Lee for coming to visit John Dingel, and thanked Maureen Jackson for taking over when she was ill.**

**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans – Sharon Colley presented certificates of appreciation to the Auxiliaries who donated to the Grand Rapids Home this year. Sharon purchased scarf yarn and made 41 scarves for the ladies at the Home. Jr. AMVET Jacob Moore passed them out during the Jrs. Mother’s Day bingo. Sharon also thanked Harriet Biela for the quilted lap robes. Sharon also purchased Christmas decorations that were requested by the Home.**

**Jacobetti Home – Judy Smith has her report in the convention book. She has $491.38 in the checking account and $6.87 in savings.**

**District Presidents:**

**District I – Cel Rose Solak has her report in the convention book. She introduced the guests from District I – Jeannett Zagata and Carmen Simpson. Rose also announced Bert Lema is seeking a 2nd term as the Americanism Officer.**

**District II – Lenore Uhl has her report in the convention book. She introduced the District II guest: PDP Carol Pickett, Linda Marshall (#22) and PDP Doreen Pierce. Lenore also announce the following candidates for Dept. Offices: Pat Michlski, President / Martha Popour, Sgt-at-Arms / Sue Christe, Chaplain / Rosemary Perdue, 3rd Vice. Lenore stated Aux. #115 had the honor of hosting the Department President’s Testimonial.**

**District III – Jackie Bain – absent. In the absence of a representative from District III, Pat Michalski announced Allison is seeking the office of 1st Vice President.**

**District V – Leora Williamson (the new District V President) announced she was in the Memorial Day Parade, volunteered at the Grand Rapids Home, attended #126’s and #23’s Installation banquet and the flag retirement at Post #23. She announced Gloria Hall is the new President of #23 with 158 members, Dorothy Gillingham is the new President of #126 with 94 members, Linda Bula remains as President of #1941 with 84 members and Judy Karmolinski remains as President of #1978 with 12 members. Lee also announce Faye Richardson-Green is seeking the Office of Dept. 2nd Vice President.**

**District VI – Mary Leach introduced the guest of District VI – PDP Maribeth Wescott. She also announced one local is still working on getting their EIN straight with the IRS.**

**District VII – Lois Carlson introduced the District VII guests – Jerri Galarowic (#79) and Sandy Hebert (#122).**

**Old Business**

**There was a motion made at the Spring SEC concerning the Americanism instructions. Bert Lema stated the Americanism committee had some discussion regarding the motion .**

*This was the motion made at the Spring SEC:*

*#5 now reads: You will send out letters by June 1st to the winners, Locals and/or Districts who have sponsored them. Include in this letter an invitation to the State Convention to receive awards if possible. In the letter to the 9th grade Essay winner, send information about Freedoms Foundation and include the Executive Director’s name and telephone number as well as the 800 number of National Headquarters.*

*Change to read: You will send out letters by May 10th to the winners, Locals and/or Districts who have sponsored them. Include in this letter an invitation to the State Convention to receive awards if possible. In the letter to the 9th grade Essay winner, send information about Freedoms Foundation and include the Executive Director’s name and telephone number as well as the 800 number of National Headquarters. Inform the winner they need to contact the Executive Director to advise if they will or will not be able to make the trip to Freedoms Foundation.*

*\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Maureen Jackson to table this proposed change until there is more clarification. Carried – Motion Tabled*

**\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Bert Lema to remove the motion from the table. CARRIED**

**\*\*Motion Mary Leach/2nd Bert Lema to leave the discussion on this until Fall Conference so the committee can have further discussion on it. CARRIED**

**Pat Michalski discussed the submission of Gary Sinise for the Auxiliary Humanitarian award. Pat was told Gary does not commit further than 6 month out. Since the awards program is 8-9 months away, we cannot submit him for the award.**

**New Business**

**A clarification was asked of Diana Lammott concerning the Higgins Lake Lodge. Nancy Middleton was told that food could be served at the lodge. Diana will check on this and bring it back to the floor tomorrow.**

**Nancy Middleton discussed a phone call she received regarding the Auxiliary getting a website. If we sign up now, we get free signup and technical service. The cost will be $19.99 per month. Nancy stated she would need convention approval so they are calling her back next week Tuesday to see if we are interested. It was discussed about many of the things we could put on the website: minutes, forms, applications, newsletters, bulletins, etc. This could save the Department hundreds of dollars in postage, paper, ink, envelopes, etc. Almost everyone has internet access or knows someone who does. This will be brought up on the convention floor for a decision.**

**Kathy Biela stated PDP Kathy Mobus will not continue giving the Child Welfare Award for 10 to 40 members after this year. Kathy B. gives the scrapbook award and would like to change to give the Child Welfare Award.**

**\*\*Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Maureen Jackson that Kathy Biela take over the Kathy Mobus Child Welfare Award and relinquish the Scrapbook Award. CARRIED**

**Faye Richardson-Green questioned what we do about reports that are transmitted electronically. They do not have postmarks. Acting Parliamentarian Pat Michalski will deal with that question.**

**\*\*Motion Diana Lammott/2nd Judy Smith to pay the bills. CARRIED**

**Reminder about the committee meetings in the morning.**

**\*\*Motion Diana Lammott/2nd Harriet Altherr to adjourn the meeting. CARRIED**

**The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Martha Popour.**

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

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Nancy Middleton**

**Executive Secretary**

***PRE-CONVENTION S.E.C. MINUTES***

***Transcribed 7/3/2013***

***President’s approval: 7/3/2013***

***Parliamentarian’s approval: 7/4/2013***