**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**

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

**June 26, 2014**

**The pre-convention S.E.C. was called to order by President Pat Michalski at 6:40pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids..**

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

**The Salute to Colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Martha Popour.**

**Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Nancy Middleton showed all in attendance with the exception of: 3rd Vice President Rosemary Perdue, Personnel Chairman Janice Marie Hapner, Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith, District VII Lois Carlson, (all excused) and Dist. III Pres. Jackie Bain (absent).**

**The Spring SEC minutes**

**\*\*Motion Mary Leach/2nd Gloria Hall to disburse with reading the minutes and go into correction. CARRIED**

**\*\*Motion Cel Rose Solak/2nd Kathy Biela to approve the minutes as printed. CARRIED**

**Treasurer’s Report – Gloria Hall**

**Last year’s budget is in the book and has been brought up to date so everyone can see where we are financially. The finance committee met today and we will have copies of the proposed budget for everyone on the floor tomorrow. It has been difficult but we worked to lower the budget for next year.**

**Gloria reported we have a Future National Convention Courtesy reserved fund. There is $1,366.88 in that fund. We decided a few years ago to stop putting money in that account because we don’t know if there will ever be a National Convention in Michigan again. Gloria suggested we eliminate the account, put $1000 in the equipment fund and leave the rest where it is.**

***\*\*Motion Diana Lammott/2nd Maureen Jackson to transfer $1,000 from the National Convention Courtesy to the equipment fund and leave the balance in the reserved account. CARRIED***

**Officer’s Reports:**

**President Pat Michalski reported she has traveled over 14,000 miles this year. She also reported the website is going well but we have only had three Officers who have consistently turned in a report for the web each month. We should still be writing bulletins and reports of activities. There will be a schedule for the next year and it will be in each Officer’s instructions.**

**President Pat also stated the room we were using is not set up like we would like, but we will live with it because the hotel charges quite a bit to change it. The Secretary will walk around during the break on Saturday spraying febreze – because the hotel charges $100 to ‘freshen up’ the room!!!**

**Scholarship, PRO and Membership will have short committee meetings after this SEC.**

**The PAWS Tour is tomorrow (Friday). We will be dressed casual. After the joint meeting, when everyone should be in uniform, we will have time to go to our rooms and change.**

**1st Vice President Allison Aldrich reported her activity report is on page 53 and the membership chart is on page 31. We have 1861 members (note: this does not include MALs) which includes 264 new members. Allison attended the by-law and the finance committee meetings today.**

**2nd Vice President Faye Richardson-Green stated she is ‘delighted’ with the Child Welfare reports she received. Her Chairman’s Award will be presented at Honors and Awards on Saturday. Also on Saturday, Kurt Sebaly will be here from Penrickton to accept the donation from the Auxiliaries in Michigan..**

**Secretary Nancy Middleton reported she has received 27 letters back in the mail as undeliverable. These are local instructions that are mailed to local Officers based on the addresses provided on the local revalidations.**

**Nancy apologized to Rose Solak for listing her Auxiliary wrong in the convention book – for the 2nd year in a row! The form on Nancy’s computer has been undated so it shouldn’t happen again! The yearbooks for 2013/2014 are in the Auxiliary office and can be picked up after the convention sessions.**

**Parliamentarian Mary Leach announced the By-Law Committee needs to meet for a short session after we adjourn. Should take about ½ hours.**

**Chaplain Sue Christe announced her activity report is on page 63.**

**Sgt-at-Arms Martha Popour had submitted her report and it is in the book.**

**Americanism Officer Bert Lema announced the drawing for the Americanism 150 club drawing will be drawn on Sunday. The tickets are $20 each. 1st prize is $500, 2nd prize is $300, and there are 7 $25 prices. The AMVETS are also having a picnic tote raffle for Americanism for $1 each or 6 for $5.**

**The joint opening with the Americanism winners and their families will start at Noon.**

**Hospital Officer Harriet Biela has her report on page #45. There will be an audit of the Hospital Reps books after the SEC meeting. Linda Marshall (#22), Gloria Hall (#23) and Yvette Rusak (#57) have volunteered for the audit committee.**

**Scholarship Officer Kathy Schultz has her report on page #47 and her activity report on page 69-70. Eleven scholarship applications were received but only five were qualified. Some of the reasons for the disqualifications were wrong applications, incomplete applications and no original school transcripts. The judging will be held after the SEC. The judges will be Betty Petitjean (#79), Martha Popour (#115) and Doreen Pierce (#121).**

**NEC Woman Maureen Jackson has her activity report on pages 75 and 76. Section 7 in the convention book consists of the Michigan service reports, Maureen’s report to National plus all the forms the local Auxiliaries need to apply for local awards. There is a correction to the Child Welfare service report because of a late receipt of a local report. The totals now read: 550 projects, 283 volunteers, 6856 hours for a total evaluation of $202,392. Letters were received from the following candidates for National Offices: Barb Valley (Ohio) for Hospital; Marvel Ruppert for 3rd Vice, Leslie ??? for Scholarship; Bev Studebaker (Mass), Karen Spittlemeister (Wisc.) and Maureen Jackson (Mich) for Chaplain; Dawn Dennie (Ind.) and Dee Baggett (Florida) for Americanism; Evelyn McElvin (Florida) for 2nd Vice President.**

**Maureen announced there will be no caucus at National Convention. There will be a “Meet the Candidate” session. During Focus there will be a “Meet the Officers” program.**

**There will be a tour to St Judes and reservations are filling up fast. Faye Richardson-Green said she signed up but has not received a confirmation yet.**

**Maureen has National raffle tickets. A 5 day packet is $5. She also has Sackette 50/50 tickets which are 6 for $5.**

**PRO Sharon Colley has her activity report on page #81. She is still in need of news articles, pictures, etc. for the President’s book.**

**Ways and Means Chairman Harriet Altherr has her report in the convention book. Maureen Jackson reported on the cash blast. The 2nd drawing will be on Saturday the 28th. She thanked Lenore Uhl (@#115) for selling $200 worth of tickets.**

**Personnel Chairman Janice Marie Hapner was excused.**

**Honors & Awards Chairman Peggy Liss has her activity report on page #83. The committee met this morning and they have ‘big plans’ for Saturday afternoon.**

**Convention Chairman Dori Burton turned in her activity report late so it is not in the book. She thanked the volunteers at the registration desk. She asked if anyone brought attendance prizes to please turn them in to her.**

**Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Diana Lammott has her report on page #99. The AMVETS have submitted new by-laws for the board.**

**Aleda E Lutz Marcella Schmidt has $293 in her checking account and $335.95 in savings. Marcella announced she will be retiring from this office after over 30 years effective October 31. She also announced her deputy Anne Schmidt will also be retiring at the same time.**

**\*\*Cel Rose Solak/2nd Harriet Biela move to accept Marcella and Anne’s resignations with regrets. CARRIED**

**Ann Arbor VA Pat Krzesowik has her report on page 89. Pat will be doing a country store at Ann Arbor VA on October 21. She also stated she would really like to have a Deputy. She hasn’t had one for a long time. She has someone in mind but does not have a commitment from her yet. Harriet Biela suggested she bring the name to the Fall SEC for approval and then we can send it on to National.**

**Battle Creek VA, Diana Lammott, Deputy reminded everyone of the AMVET Family picnic on 7/19 at noon. President Pat questioned if we can have a deputy to a VA if there is no Rep. National President McGriff suggested we contact the National VAVS Patti Piening.**

**John Dingell VA Harriet Biela has her activity report on pages 93-94. She has a balance in her account of $320.88.**

**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Sharon Colley has her activity report on page 95. She has a balance as of the end of May of $564.93. She is saving this for the Carnival in July.**

**Jacobetti Home Judy Smith – excused. Nancy Middleton brought Judy’s books to the convention to be audited.**

**Jr. AMVET Coordinator Neva Colley will be meeting in room 351 30 minutes after the joint opening to try and start up the Jr. AMVETS again.**

**The first 50/50 was won by National President Linda McGriff.**

**District I President Rose Solak has her report on pages 101-102 of the convention book. She announced Maureen Jackson is running for National Chaplain. The guests of District I at this SEC are: PDP Yvette Rusak, Seletha Robertson and Lorine Porter.**

**District II President Carol Pickett has her report on page 103 of the book. The guests of District II are: PDP Doreen Pierce, Linda Marshall and Lenore Uhl. Candidates from District II for Dept. Offices are: Peggy Liss, NEC; Martha Popour, 2nd Vice President; Sue Christe, Chaplain; Lenore Uhl, Sgt-at-Arms. Linda Marshall is interested in the VAVS position.**

**District II will have a reception for President Pat and the National President on Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 in room 406.**

**District III President Jackie Bain was absent.**

**District V President Leora Williamson has her report on pages 105/106. She introduced guest PDP Kathy Keizer. Lee announced the following for Department Offices (all from Aux. #23); Trisha Cieremans / Hospital; Wendy Lynema / 3rd Vice President; Gloria Hall / Treasurer; Faye Richardson-Green / 1st Vice President.**

**District VI President Mary Leach has her report on page 107. She reported she is still waiting for the Beaver Island Aux. #46 to finalize the relinquishing of their charter.**

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

**It was announced the new District III President is Elaine Curtis from Aux. #4064 and she has asked to be excused from this SEC.**

**PRO judging. No PRO books had been turned in so there will be no judging.**

**American Income Life Insurance has sent out mailings for free $3,000 life insurance for Aux. Members. So far, President Pat has received over 200 cards back.**

**Parliamentarian Mary Leach read proposed Standing Rule changes.**

**#4 now reads: The National President is to be invited to make her official visit to Michigan at our Fall Conference or Department Convention.**

**Change: Delete the choice and just make it Fall Conference.**

**\*\*Motion Mary Leach/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to approve. CARRIED**

**#26 reads: The registration fee for convention shall be $15 for delegates, alternates and guests. Pre-registration can be purchased for $10 on forms provided by the Department Secretary but must be submitted 15 days prior to the convention date. Refunds of pre-registration will be made only in case of an emergency.**

**Change: delete $10 and insert $20. Delete $10 and insert $15.**

**\*\*Motion Mary Leach/2nd Cel Rose Solak to approve. CARRIED**

**#27 now reads: The registration fee for Fall Conference shall be $10. Pre-registration shall be available through the Department Secretary as a cost of $8; however it must be received at least fifteen days prior to the Fall conference. Refunds of the pre-registration will be made in the case of an emergency.**

**Change: delete $10 and insert $15, delete $8 and insert $13.**

**Motion Mary Leach/2nd Rose Solak to approve. CARRIED**

**Add a new Standing Rule: If there is no award donor for one of our service programs, the Honors & Awards Chairperson will obtain a certificate from the Department Secretary to present to the winning Auxiliary. The Honors & Awards Chairperson shall make up the rules for the award and shall present same to the Spring SEC meeting for approval and will copy to the Department Secretary to be included in the Convention Digest.**

**\*\*Motion Mary Leach/2nd Rose Solak to approve**

**Under discussion: it was suggested the membership categories be included in this motion.**

**\*\*Motion Peggy Liss/2nd Kathy Keizer to amend the motion to include membership. Motion CARRIED**

**It will now read: *If there is no award donor for one of our service programs or membership categories, the Honors & Awards Chairperson will obtain a certificate from the Department Secretary to present to the winning Auxiliary. The Honors & Awards Chairperson shall make up the rules for the award and shall present same to the Spring SEC meeting for approval and will copy to the Department Secretary to be included in the Convention Digest.***

**PDP Yvette Rusak stated she was not aware there was no Donor for the Class B membership. She asked if she would be able to pick it up this year or if she would have to request giving the award at the next convention.**

**\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Nancy Middleton to approve Yvette Rusak as the donor of the Class B Membership Award. CARRIED**

**A certificate will be available for Yvette to present this year. The Secretary and 1st Vice will get together tonight to determine the winner.**

**Because there was no District III Representative at this meeting, Faye Richardson-Green announced Allison Aldrich is seeking the Office of Department President.**

**National President thanked the Auxiliary for the invitation to come to our Department convention. She said the Headquarters staff is doing a great job and working very hard for us.**

**Gloria Hall, Treasurer informed us the AMVETS gave us a bill for $450 from Fall Conference for room costs. We have never had a bill before from Fall Conference for our room for the training session. This is one of the reasons we had to increase some of the costs. We did not have this budgeted and will have to add it to our next budget.**

**\*\*Motion Dori burton/2nd Maureen Jackson to adjourn the meeting.**

**The benediction was delivered by Sue Christe, Chaplain.**

**The Flag was retired by Martha Popour, Sgt-at-Arms.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Nancy Middleton,**

**Secretary**

**7/3/2014**

**Approval with Corrections:**

**President Pat Michalski – 7/4/2014**

**Parliamentarian Mary Leach – 7/4/2014**