

SPRING S.E.C. MEETING

February 24, 2018

Crowne Plaza Hotel

The meeting was called to order at 1:04pm by President Wendy Lynema.

The Invocation was delivered by Chaplain Linda Marshall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe

PDP Kathy Keizer requested a point of personal privilege. She called up PDP Seletha Robertson and presented her with the Past President's pin. This was part of the induction ceremony at the 2017 installation but the pin was not available.

Roll call of Officers by Secretary Nancy Middleton showed all in attendance with the exception of 1st Vice Kathy Schultz (travel problems), Scholarship Officer Sally Abshire (excused), Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith (excused), District VI President Christine Keenan (absent), District VII President Betty Petitjean (excused), Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela (excused).

Minutes of Fall Conference

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Bert Lema to suspend with the reading of the Fall Conference meeting and go into corrections. CARRIED**

Clarice Poisson, GRHV Rep. stated the minutes say she did not have a report. Clarice said it was sent in. (Secretary's Note: after checking my e-mail, I find Clarice did turn in a report as Grand Rapids Home Rep. It was dated 10/4/2017 and stated different functions held at the home and showed a balance in her savings account of \$30.03 and \$181.63 in checking. My apologies to Clarice)

Correspondence: Thank you card from National President Marvel Ruppel thanking Michigan for their hospitality and all the special gifts during her visit in October.

Finance Report - Treasurer Gloria Hall

Gloria reported the Dept. has a new checking account for the Texas Hold'em funds. This is in compliance with a request from the State of Michigan (Charitable Gaming). PDP Peggy Liss questioned the finance report from the last convention. That was for the previous year 2016/2017 and those records had been audited.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Clarice Poisson to approve the finance report subject to audit. CARRIED**

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

President Wendy Lynema turned in her activity report. She attended the Veterans Day Dinner/Dance at Post #22 in Bay City and #910's 25th anniversary party in Detroit. She has 2 hospital visits scheduled - Aleda Lutz and John Dingell.

1st Vice President Kathryn Schultz arrived at the meeting in time for her report. *(The Bridge had been closed for a couple days because of ice. As soon as it opened, Kathy got across and made it in record time!)* She turned in her activity report and stated 1 Auxiliary still needs to be reinstated. Kathy also discussed the contest she had this year for a drawing from Auxiliaries who turned in 100% of their Life Member dues before 9/30.

****Motion Kathy Schultz/2nd Clarice Poisson to adopt the 100% Life Member Dues paid before 9/30 as a permanent contest. Motion DEFEATED**

Under discussion, it was stated the permanent contests are stated in the 1st Vice President's instructions. This should be a request from the 1st Vice to add it but it needs to be sent to the Parliamentarian 20 days prior to the Spring SEC. It was suggestion the incoming 1st Vice be told about the success of this contest and she may want to make it a permanent part of the instructions for 1st Vice.

2nd Vice President Bert Lema turned in her activity report. She talked about her bulletin which suggested we may find new Child Welfare programs/projects by contacting the county Dept. of Health and Human Services to see where we might help. There are also projects that could be used by Community Service. The number listed for Kent County was incorrect. If anyone tries a number and it doesn't work, let Bert know and she will check on it. Macomb Co. has some needs and Bert is meeting with Wayne Co. in March to see what they need.

3rd Vice President Allison Aldrich turned in her activity report. She stated 6 Auxiliaries did not file a midyear report. She has had only 2 Auxiliaries take Paws Prints. They are to be sold during the month of March. The deadline for her Chairman's contest is 3/31. #58 said they have a bunch at their Post. #121 is requesting some. Allison has them with her for anyone who wants them.

Secretary Nancy Middleton turned in her activity report. Has nothing to discuss at this time.

Treasurer Gloria Hall turned in her report. She stated the IRS problem has been cleared up and the \$3,000 penalty has been removed. She has a letter stating we are in compliance.

Gloria talked about the need of upcoming Officer's to think about how funds will be made to cover the budget. This is a very difficult job and plans sometimes have to be made a year or two in advance. This year we have had very successful Texas Hold'em's. Four were scheduled almost two years ago. Last year very few were scheduled and next year none are scheduled. These have to be set up at least 1 to 1-1/2 years in advance. Right now the Texas Hold'em in the Grand Rapids area is booked through 2019. Two Hold'em have been scheduled for the Department during the Fall of 2019. These cannot be scheduled without the authorization of the person who will most likely be the President and/or the Ways & Means Chairman for those years. If the upcoming President does not want them, she needs to think about how money will be made to cover all the expenses.

Gloria also discussed a problem with money in the hospital account for our allotments to the VAVS/Home Reps. Because the life membership hospital dues were paid earlier than expected, we allowed the double allotment in November which was asked for. The problem is membership is going down each year. Right now we are down about 400 members which is about \$1200 for the hospital fund.

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Clarice Poisson to take \$1500 from the Texas Hold'em account to the Hospital Account. CARRIED**

Another discussion took place concerning per diem for Officers (\$10 per day at Convention). The by-laws say we give per diem if budgeted and/or funds are available. We haven't had the funds for a few years, but we do have money now.

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Harriet Biela to disburse funds and reinstate the line item per diem (\$10) for the June 2018 convention. MOTION DEFEATED.**

Standing rule (note: #31) states there will be no outside fundraiser without the approval of the Ways & Means Chairman. Faye Richardson-Green moved to change it to the approval of the Ways & Means Chairman, President or S.E.C.

Motion died for lack of a 2nd.

Americanism Officer Pat Michalski turned in her activity report.

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Carol Pickett move to have Cel Rose Solak be put on the Americanism Committee in place of Carol Orlowski who has resigned. CARRIED**

Pat reported Joe Salvia, AMVET 3rd Vice has given her 300 tickets for the Auxiliary to sell. They are 3 for \$10. 2700 tickets were printed. If all sell, they would bring in \$9000 and the expenses would be \$6000.

All entries for the Flag Coloring, Poster and Essay Americanism Contest need to be to Pat by April 1st. The judging will be on April 7th at Post #22 in Bay City at 1pm. Letters will go out to the winners by May 1st. The Americanism program will be at noon on Saturday of Convention (June 9th).

Hospital Officer Harriet Biela turned in her activity report. Harriet reported all orders for Hospital pins and bars need to be in to her by March 1st. Local Auxiliaries pay $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost of the bars (\$3.50). The Auxiliary pays for the pin (\$10). We supply the pins/bars for AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons, Jrs. etc. Send the order to Harriet. She will forward the money and list to the Secretary for ordering.

Scholarship Officer Sally Abshire sent her report with Leora Williamson. Sally reported the wording on the Scholarship applications (Career & Regular) needs to be changed. It is confusing to the student as to which to use. The wording is the same on both. Students can only apply for one scholarship.

Sally needs judges at the Convention. Send an email to Sally if you are willing to judge. She would like one judge from each District. Her email is sallynate@aol.com and her phone number is 616/309-6326.

Chaplain Linda Marshall turned in her activity report. She needs a list of each local's deceased members before convention.

Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe turned in her activity report. She had nothing to report at this time.

NEC Woman Pat Michalski turned in her activity report. She sent in a list of those who want to serve on National committees. She will be attending the NEC in March.

National Freedoms Foundation pins are available for \$5 each.

Honors & Awards Chairman Seletha Robertson turned in her activity report. She stated the Donors Rules need a start and ending date in the Honors & Awards Chairman's files.

****Motion Seletha Robertson/2nd Pat Michalski** to put start and stop dates on the awards (Donor's rules) in the Chairman's files. CARRIED

Nancy Middleton requested a change in the Child Welfare award for 41 and over.

****Motion Seletha Robertson/2nd Peggy Liss** to approve the change to the Nancy Middleton Child Welfare Award to add "Each cash donation reported in excess of \$1,000 must be verified."

****Motion Seletha Robertson/2nd Bert Lema** to put the Jeane Wedyke Award back until the plaque is full (7 yrs.) CARRIED

District V has requested permission to take over the Paws With A Cause Award.

****Motion Seletha Robertson/2nd Clarice Poisson** to allow District V to take over the Sharon Colley Paws With A Cause award and delete the words 'in good standing with the District'. CARRIED

****Motion Seletha Robertson/2nd Peggy Liss** to approve Seletha Robertson taking over the Peggy Liss PRO/Historian award. This will be a traveling award with the same rules as Peggy's rules. CARRIED

Parliamentarian Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. Kathy reported there are a few issues at Aux. #114. She has been in contact with the Dept. Commander because of discipline by the AMVETS with no hearing.

She has sent a letter to Aux. #123 regarding their status. Also, there is a question on the status of District VI. They talked about dissolving the District but no final word on if this will happen.

District V and Auxiliary #23 had proposed a resolution regarding uniforms. It will be brought to the Department Convention for consideration.

The following by-laws are delinquent or due soon. Aux. #79 - Mar. 2018; Aux. #93 - Apr. 2018; Aux. #110 - Nov. 2017; Aux. #3720 Nov. 2017; Aux. #2273 - pending.

Ways and Means Chairman Harriet Altherr turned in her activity report. At this SEC she is doing a 50/50, a gas card raffle and a raffle on a basket of chocolate goodies (donated by Aux. #1978).

Harriet has the Dept. Convention Raffle with her and will be dispersing them to individuals who are at the SEC. Any Auxiliary not represented will receive their tickets in the Convention Digest packet.

PRO/Historian Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. She stated she needs pictures and would appreciate them now - instead of just before convention.

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett turned in her activity report. She also had a correction to the bright pink notice which was given out at Fall Conference showing all the dates for Convention/Fall Conference/Spring SEC for the next 3 years. It had the wrong date on it for the convention in 2020. It says 6/11/2017 - oops should say 6/11/2020. (The Secretary apologizes)

Fall Conference Chairman Kathy Keizer did not get many surveys back from Fall Conference. They were in the book (back cover) but without someone there to remind everyone, they were not filled out. Only four were returned and they were all good. Each of them said how much they enjoyed Faye's class.

Personnel Chairman, Kathy Biela turned in her activity report and sent a letter apologizing for not being at the meeting and the President's Testimonial. She is sick and felt it would not be good to come here and infect everyone.

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep. Peggy Liss turned in her activity report. She stated there have been no meetings or information she can share. The lodge is sold out for February and they may have some openings in March. There is still a need for items from the wish list which was in the newsletter (and will be again).

VAVS/HOME REPRESENTATIVES

Aleda E Lutz VA Rep. Linda Marshall turned in her activity report. She has \$19.12 in checking and \$657.99 in savings.

Ann Arbor VA Rep Pat Krzesowik turned in her activity report. She has a balance in her account of \$446.66.

Battle Creek VAMC Rep Faye Richardson-Green turned in her activity report. The balance in her account is \$50.98.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep Clarice Poisson turned in her activity report. She has \$5.04 in savings and \$46.70 in checking.

Jacobetti Home for Veterans Rep Judy Smith turned in an activity and financial report. She has \$266.96 in checking and \$6.88 in savings - a 1 cent increase over the past several years!!!!

John Dingell VAMC Rep Harriet Biela turned in her activity report. She has a balance in her account of \$242.00.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District I Cel Rose Solak turned in her activity report. She introduced the guests of District I: PDP Maureen Jackson #57, PDP Yvette Rusak #57, Carmen Simpson #57, Sylvia Apple #910. Rose announced Bert Lema is seeking the Dept. office of 1st Vice President and Maureen Jackson is seeking a 2nd term as National Americanism Officer.

****Motion Rose Solak/2nd Bert Lema to support Maureen Jackson in her efforts in running for National Americanism. CARRIED

District II Rosemary Perdue turned in her activity report. She introduced the District II guest, PDP Doreen Pierce, #121. Rosemary announced Peggy Liss is seeking the National Office of Scholarship, Sue Christe is seeking re-election as Dept. Sgt-at-Arms and Linda Marshall is seeking re-election as Dept. Chaplain.

**Motion Rosemary Perdue/2nd Linda Marshall to support Peggy Liss for National Scholarship. CARRIED.

District III - no Representative. It was announced District III is folding. This was decided at a meeting and they are making a donation of \$609.08 which is to be divided between Grand Rapids Home, Battle Creek VA and Aleda Lutz. It was asked about their charter. Districts do not have charters.

District V Faye Richardson-Green turned in her activity report. The guests of District V are Leora Williamson, Pres. of #23, Becky Kovach Aux. 4250 and (Faye's

granddaughter) Yah'nessah. President Wendy will make her official visit to District V on May 20th.

Auxiliary #23 sent a recommendation concerning the Department website. It is not well utilized and a waste of money. Aux. #23 and District concurred on the recommendation.

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Gloria Hall to discontinue the (Department) website and the newsletter will be the primary source of information.**

Under discussion Pat Michalski said the website needs revamping. Kathy Keizer suggested more bulletins be mailed. Maureen Jackson said she doesn't go on the website much because there's nothing new there. Nancy Middleton said there is nothing there because, with the exception of just a couple Officers, no one bothers to submit anything for the website.

Motion DEFEATED

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema to draft a committee to create a website. CARRIED**

Those volunteering to be on the committee are Bert Lema, Faye Richardson-Green, Pat Michalski, Gloria Hall, Wendy Lynema.

Faye announced Gloria Hall is enthusiastically supported for Dept. Treasurer, and Kathy Keizer has the support of her local and District in seeking the office of NEC.

Gloria Hall announced Faye Richardson-Green is a candidate for the office of National 3rd Vice President.

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Pat Michalski to support Faye Richardson-Green as a candidate for National 3rd Vice President. CARRIED**

District VI – No representative

District VII President Betty Petitjean submitted her activity report.

Bert Lema announced Allison Aldrich is a candidate for the Office of NEC Woman.

Kathy Keizer announced Kathy Schultz is seeking the office of Dept. President for 2018/19.

There was a very long discussion on the problems being encountered because of the early Department convention. Many of the items discussed did not have a solution.

The Secretary stated it takes approximately 3 to 4 weeks to do the convention books. A few of the discussions were:

1. Ask local Auxiliaries to get revalidations in way before the deadline.
2. Sending out convention status reports to each local Auxiliary 20 days prior to convention is not possible.
3. Activity Reports not be put in the convention book
4. Do not number pages in the convention book
5. Portions of the credentials sheets will need to be filled out by delegates during convention

Two motions were made. One required a Poll Vote to rescind it. This one was:

~~**Motion Nancy Middleton 2nd Faye Richardson Green move revalidations and 990's will be brought to the Department Convention for 2018 ONLY. The Parliamentarian will still check them. CARRIED~~

A poll vote was conducted a few days after the SEC because the motion was misleading. The Poll vote was approved. This is how it should have read:

"Upon receipt, the Parliamentarian will check the local revalidation forms for accuracy and bring them to the Department Convention in 2018 ONLY. This is for recording of voting strength and privileges."

~~**Motion Kathy Keizer, 2nd Bert Lema activity reports for the 2018 convention will be put on a table in the back of the room. CARRIED~~

OLD BUSINESS:

Maureen Jackson, National Americanism Officer, discussed the National Freedoms Foundation program of replacing the lighting at a cost of \$50,000. The cost per light is \$1,000. She is requesting Auxiliaries donate to this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was questioned who does the set up for the SEC. The Ways & Means Chairman did not have a table to work from. There was a lot of discussion on this - but no final decision.

Harriet Biela asked who makes new checklists for Officers files. Parliamentarian Kathy Keizer offer to update them for the next Officers.

The Proposed changes to the Officers instructions were discussed. Many Officers did not send in any suggested changes. There were also several discussions on many of the instructions.

Seletha discussed changing her instructions to say the donors will contact the Honors & Awards Chairman if they want a change to the donor's rules. Since the deadline for making changes this year was Feb. 1st, no action will take place.

Maureen Jackson suggested any changes to be updated no later than the Fall S.E.C and available no later than November 1.

Faye Richardson-Green asked if there could be some consistency regarding when things are due to the Department. Some instructions say weeks while others say the number of days. (i.e. 3 weeks before convention or 20 days before convention).

*Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to approve the proposed Officers instructions with corrections. CARRIED.

**Motion Linda Marshall/2nd Bert Lema to pay the bills.

The benediction was given by Chaplain Linda Marshall.

The flag was retired by Sgt-At-Arms Sue Christe.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Middleton, Executive Secretary.
3/14/2018

Approved with corrections by President Lynema 3/20/18

Approved with corrections by Parliamentarian Keizer 3/20/18