

PRE-CONVENTION S.E.C. MEETING
Thursday, June 6, 2019
Crowne Plaza Hotel – Grand Rapids Michigan

The pre-convention SEC meeting was called to order by President Kathryn Schultz at 6:19pm.

President Kathryn stated our Sgt-at-Arms was ill and asked for approval of Cel Rose Solak to be the Acting Sgt-at-Arms for the convention meetings.

****Motion Peggy Liss/2nd Clarice Poisson to accept Rose Solak as the acting Sgt-at-Arms. CARRIED**

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Linda Marshall

The Colors were presented by acting Sgt-at-Arms Cel Rose Solak.

Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Nancy Middleton showed all in attendance except for PRO Betty Petitjean. Incoming District VII President Barb Robar was seated for the convention as District VII President.

Spring SEC minutes:

****Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Bert Lema to approve the Spring SEC minutes as printed. CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report by Treasurer Gloria Hall. Gloria reported because there was a large deficit in the amount needed to balance the General Fund account and there was not enough money in the account to cover costs of this convention, she and the Secretary reviewed funds in the Restricted Savings Account and transferred \$5,190 from various funds in that account to the General Fund. This still left a balance in Savings Account #1 (restricted) of \$13,339.19.

****Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Maureen Jackson to ratify the actions of the Treasurer and Secretary of transferring \$5,190 from Savings #1 into the General Fund. CARRIED**

REPORTS:

President Kathryn Schultz turned in her activity report and Welcome letter for the convention book. She has had a wonderful year and thanked everyone for making it possible.

1st Vice President Berta Lema turned in her activity report. She has a membership bulletin in the convention book with an up-to-date membership chart. Bert discussed how some Auxiliaries are struggling to stay valid. We need to encourage leadership. She also turned in her membership/postage receipts.

Previously, Bert had requested a Fall Conference drawing which would cover one's night's lodging. At this time, she is requesting to amend the request.

****Motion Bert Lema/2nd Cel Rose Solak** to amend the drawing to include 1 nights lodging, registration, \$25 gas card and \$25 cash towards meals. CARRIED

We have another award listed in the Membership Chairman's instructions: A cash award of \$25 to each Auxiliary 100% renewed by 10/31. This year we had no Auxiliary 100% renewed by that date and only one Auxiliary 100% renewed by 12/31.

****Motion Bert Lema/2nd Peggy Liss** a certificate and \$25 be awarded, for this year, only to the Auxiliary who was 100% renewed by 12/31/2018. CARRIED

Bert thanked Secretary Nancy for her help. They worked well together!

2nd Vice President Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report and a final bulletin for the convention book. She judged service reports at the Honors & Awards meeting and was disappointed to see only ½ of the locals sent in reports.

Kathy made a couple suggestions:

#1 the next 2nd Vice encourage more Auxiliaries to apply for the Penrickton Award

#2 There be a class on reporting at Fall Conference.

She also announced Kurt Sebaly, from Penrickton, will be on the convention floor Saturday morning.

3rd Vice President Clarice Poisson turned in her activity report and has a bulletin in the convention book. She reported 17 Auxiliaries sent in service reports. Many of the locals did not explain the projects. Clarice enjoyed the year and tried to get an article in the Auxiliary Newsletter each month – she didn't get all of them – but she did manage to do most of them.

Secretary Nancy Middleton – no report at this time.

Treasurer Gloria Hall no additional report at this time.

Americanism Officer Pat Michalski turned in her activity report. The joint Americanism Committee raffle will be drawn on Sunday at 1pm. Tickets are \$10 each. The sale of raffle tickets did not go very well. The AMVETS 3rd Vice is asking what they are going to do to raise month.

The Americanism program is set for noon on Saturday. 16 winners have confirmed they will be here and there will be 35 guests. Aux. #72 and #114 were new to the program this year. Unfortunately, we had no 9th grade participants – which would give a trip to Freedoms Foundation Youth Seminar to the winner. Through the Auxiliary, we are donating \$1,390 to the joint Americanism program (which is the Department project.)

Hospital Officer Leora Williamson turned in her activity report. This year reports were received from 14 Auxiliaries. There were 757 projects, 124 volunteers, 5,391 hours and a total evaluation of \$148,884. Leora what three pins to present during the convention.

Ways & Means Harriet Altherr announced Clarice Poison won the first gas card drawing.

Scholarship Officer Maribeth Wescott has 8 scholarship applications to be judged (5 regular/3 career). She needs three volunteers: Bert Lema, Peggy Liss and Wendy Lynema each volunteered).

13 reports were submitted to the Department. There were 192 projects, 832 hours and a total evaluation of \$30,646.

Chaplain, Linda Marshall turned in her activity report and wrote a bulletin for the convention books. She thanked those who made donations to the Sunshine Fund.

Sgt-at-Arms Cel Rose Solak stated she needs color bearers and 2 pages for Sunday. Leora Williamson volunteered.

NEC Woman Pat Michalski reminded those sending correspondence to National – she is to receive a copy. She also reminded local Auxiliaries to submit for National awards. National Convention is Aug 18 through the 24th in Louisville KY. Pre-registration at \$40 each must be sent in by July 1. Onsite registration is \$45. There will be a training session at a cost of \$5. Names for the Patrons Page can be submitted for \$1 per name.

At National Convention:

Silver Helmet presentation on 8/21 from 7 to 9pm

Dinner Cruise on 8/22

Banquet on 8/23 p cost \$55

Daily 50/50 tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Freedoms Foundation raffle tickets \$1 or 6 for \$5 (this is for the seminar from Oct. 10 to 13).

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd** Linda Marshall move to request 990 requirements be deleted from the National By-Laws and the requirement to submit 990 documentation be removed from the National Auxiliary By-laws. CARRIED

There will be information about social media requirements on the National Website.

Liaison/Honors & Award Chairman Wendy Lynema turned in her activity report and has a bulletin in the convention book. The Honors & Awards committee will finish the judging tonight. The have to finish Americanism and Outstanding Auxiliary. The committee did a good job and Wendy hopes everyone will have fun and enjoy the Honors & Award program on Saturday.

Parliamentarian Kathy Keizer submitted her activity report and a final bulletin in the convention book. She stated revalidations went much better this year, but we need to keep reminding the Auxiliaries they need to send them to the Parliamentarian - NOT the Dept. Secretary (even though the forms say to send it to the Secretary). All revalidations received were sent to National Headquarters today (6/6/19)

We have lost one Auxiliary - #4250. They turned in their Charter and final bank statement. Right now, #123 is not in good standing. They only returned the back of the revalidation form. After text messages, phone calls and an e-mail, the information is still not in. There was a complaint they are not getting any help, but a detailed letter was sent last year with the information needed. This is an ongoing problem.

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Peggy Liss** to suspend the charter if the proper revalidation is not in the hands of the Parliamentarian by June 30. Also – send a copy to the AMVETS. CARRIED

The proposed by-law and Standing Rule changes were done at the committee meeting. Hopefully they will be ready to present on the floor Friday so they can be voted on during Saturday's session.

At the Spring SEC, a committee was formed to redo the District President's Instructions. After some e-mailing back and forth with suggestions, they are ready to be submitted today during unfinished business. The committee was Kathy Keizer (Chair), Peggy Liss, Faye Richardson-Green and Maureen Jackson.

PRO/Historian Betty Petitjean – excused. President Kathryn reported Betty has been having Chemo and radiation treatments. She is feeling a little better. Melanoma is not curable – but it is controllable.

Convention Chairman Maureen Jackson hopes everyone has a good weekend. She is there to help if you need anything. The Banquet on Saturday is a buffet with fried chicken, lots of good stuff and maybe chocolate cake all for \$26. See Carol Hebert to purchase your ticket. Maureen will have copies of her activity report on the back table in the morning.

She thanked Faye Richardson-Green for taking over the duties of Credentials Chairman and also thanked Carol Pickett and Doreen Pierce for handling the registration table.

Fall Conference Chairman Maureen Jackson – her activity report will be available in the morning.

Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela reported the Personnel meeting was held this morning. There was a good discussion on how to help the Secretary with her various duties. The main way to help is to follow the deadlines. Many Officers are doing a good job, but many could do better. They should read their instructions (not just call the Secretary to find out what needs to be done.) Newsletter articles should provide information to our local Auxiliaries – not just chat about weather, holidays, seasons, etc.

****Kathy Biela/2nd Bert Lema** to rehire Nancy Middleton as Department Secretary for the next two years. CARRIED

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Peggy Liss finally got to report they had not just one meeting – but two meetings at Higgins Lake. The clean-up weekend didn't happen because of rain.

She reported on a "Adopt a Cabin – or Room" project. If you have one, you need to do something. Peggy will have a list of what is expected.

Website Committee Chairman Pat Michalski reported the website has been up and running since February. She is not receiving as much information as she would like. As with the newsletter, articles need to include actual information for our local Auxiliaries. Pat would also like more pictures to put on the web.

Ways & Means Chairman Harriet Altherr has copies of her activity report and will have them available tomorrow. She apologized for not getting more newsletters and/or bulletin done but it has had a pretty bad time – health wise. They found 5 more blood clots and her emotions are ‘off the chart!’

She has pop and chips for sale for \$1. 50/50 raffles are \$1 each, 3 for \$2, 10 for \$5.

VAVS/HOME REPS:

Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall sent in her activity report. She thanks all who made donations. The balance in her account is: checking \$32.76 and savings \$1,251.63

Ann Arbor VAVS Pat Krzesowik reported a balance in her account of \$703.36. Pat thanked those Auxiliaries who made donations to Ann Arbor. Pat again asked if anyone would be willing to be a deputy to Ann Arbor VA. She really needs one. She doesn’t see very well and can’t drive. She needs help.

Battle Creek VAVS Faye Richardson-Green is thankful for all the donations received this year. She has a bulletin in the convention book and sent in her activity report. She has a balance in her checking account of \$560.32. Faye complimented her deputies – Gloria Hall and Diana Lammott who are great! Gloria has 500 hours at the Battle Creel VA and the Wyoming branch. She also received a certificate for 100% attendance at the VA meetings.

In partnership with the VFW three members work the Easter party at Battle Creek. The VFW did not have enough workers, so we volunteered to help. It was fun and we will do it again.

Battle Creek will have a Veterans Art Festival in Kalamazoo from October 28 to November 3rd. They need support – financially and with volunteers.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Clarice Poisson thanked ##23, #57, #126m, #4250 and District V for their donations to the Grand Rapids Home. For the next two years, the home will maintain about 245 beds. This amount is down due to construction which will be taking place.

The home has decided to go ahead and have a carnival this year but on a limited basis. There will be only 30 booths and only 2 volunteers per Auxiliary. Clarice thanked Lee Williamson for her dedication. She volunteers a couple times every week and has been doing it for years.

Clarice sent in her activity report. The balance in her accounts are: Savings \$105 / checking \$99.

Jacobetti Home for Veterans Judy Smith sent in her activity report. The balance in her accounts are: Savings \$6.80 and checking \$575.50. She thanked those Auxiliaries who donated.

Judy requested an addition Deputy. Barb Robare from Aux. 122 has volunteered.

****Motion Judy Smith/2nd Maureen Jackson to have Barb Robare as a Deputy to the Jacobetti Home for Veterans. CARRIED**

Linda Marshall from Aleda E Lutz VA said she would also like a Deputy if anyone is interested.

John Dingell VAVS Harriet Biela sent in her activity report. She also thanked those who donated to John Dingell. She has a balance in her account of \$512.16. They have been doing bingos, a carnival and projects for Fisher House. This is a \$3.5 million project and will be associated with John Dingell.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS:

District I Cel Rose Solak announced the District has a candidate for President – Bert Lema from Aux. #57.

District II Peggy Liss announced the guests from District II: Caroline Wisniewski, Rosemary Perdue, (Note: 2 others were introduced but as PDP's, they are voting members of the SEC and not considered guests. This is a new rule so we will need to get used to it)

District II has three candidates for Dept. Offices: Caroline Wisniewski for the office of Chaplain, Rosemary Perdue for the office of 2nd Vice President and Linda Marshall for the office of Scholarship.

District V Faye Richards-Green sent in her activity report. There is one guest from District V at this time – Becky Kovach from Aux. #1941. There are two candidates from District V: Kathy Keizer for the office of 1st Vice President and Becky Kovach for the Office of Sgt-at-Arms.

Faye announced we have lost an Auxiliary from District V - #4250 in Newaygo has turned in their charter.

District VII Barb Robare had no report at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Wendy Lynema requested everyone hold off taking photos of winners during the Honors & Awards program. Pictures can be taken in the back of the room after the program.

Harriet Altherr thanked Nancy Middleton for helping her during her illness.

Cel Rose Solak said the plaques for the Scrap Book and the Cover awards need to be returned.

Clarice Poisson won \$55 in the 50/50 drawing.

Kathy Keizer distributed copies of the new District President's Instructions which she and the committee worked on.

ARTICLE I – General Information

#1 CHANGE TO READ: Districts are considered a booster organization to help stimulate interest and to assist in carrying out the programs of the Department. As a District President, you may be asked to be a representative of the Department in handling possible issues a local may have.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Judy Smith – CARRIED**

#2 CHANGE TO READ: Thirty (30) days prior to Convention, a letter shall be sent to any local Auxiliary in your District regarding any indebtedness to the District. The letter shall state if not paid ten (10) days prior to Convention, their vote will be challenged at the Department Convention. A copy of the letter shall be sent to the Department Secretary and Parliamentarian. If the local complies, the Department Secretary and Parliamentarian shall be notified immediately.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss – CARRIED**

#3 CHANGE TO READ: You will advise the local Auxiliaries in your District that any forms and/or information needed can be found on the Department website.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Faye Richardson-Green – CARRIED**

ARTICLE II – Meetings, Visits, Reports

#1 CHANGE TO READ: You are to preside at all District meetings or make arrangements for the District 1st Vice President to preside in your absence.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Faye Richardson-Green – CARRIED**

#2 NEW AND CHANGE TO READ:

Contact the Department President no later than the Fall SEC to invite her to make her official visit to one of your District meetings.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Faye Richardson-Green – CARRIED**

#3 NEW

Make a new # 3 to read: You shall send out meeting reminders to the District Officers, local Presidents and delegates at least fourteen (14) days prior to each District meeting. The remaining will be renumbered accordingly.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Faye Richardson-Green – CARRIED**

#5 (was #3) AND CHANGE TO READ:

You shall make an official visit to each local in your District at least once during your term of office. After this visit, you will complete a Local Visitation form, make two (2) copies and send one (1) each to

the Department President and Department Parliamentarian. You shall keep a copy in your files. (You can find this form on the Department website.)

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Cel Rose Solak – CARRIED**

ARTICLE III – Elections and Installations

NEW #2 TO READ:

You shall make sure a Revalidation form is completed and two (2) copies are sent to the Department Parliamentarian within seven (7) days following the installation of the new Officers. Remainder will be renumbered accordingly.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss – CARRIED**

#4 (was #3) AND CHANGE TO READ:

You are responsible for the installation of Local Auxiliaries within your District. If a local wants to have someone other than the District President install them, they shall inform you, in writing, of the person they have chosen to replace you.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Wendy Lynema – CARRIED**

ARTICLE IV – SEC & Department Convention Requirements

#2 CHANGE TO READ:

Encourage the incoming District President to attend the Membership Committee meeting, if one is scheduled, during the Department Convention.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Linda Marshall – CARRIED**

#6 CHANGE TO READ:

Notify the Department Secretary fourteen (14) days prior to Department Convention, if the outgoing or incoming District President will be the District representative.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Peggy Liss – CARRIED**

ARTICLE V – Organization & Charter Obligations

NEW #3 TO READ

You shall attend the organizational meeting to help run the meeting and to be sure all paperwork, etc. is properly filled out and signed. The remaining will be renumbered appropriately.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Faye Richardson-Green – CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS: - None

****Linda Marshall/2nd Kathy Keizer to pay the bills. CARRIED**

Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Linda Marshall

The Salute to the Colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Cel Rose Solak

The meeting was adjourned by President Schultz at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Middleton
Executive Secretary
6/29/2019

Approved/corrected by Parl. Kathy Keizer 7/1

Approved/corrected by Pres. Kathryn Schultz 7/2/19