

**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
FALL S.E.C. MEETING  
9/27/2019**

The Fall SEC meeting was called to order by President Bert Lema at 6pm.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

The flag was presented by Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach.

Roll Call of Officers showed all in attendance with the exception of Pat Krzesowik, Ann Arbor VAVS; Kathy Jo Johnson, PRO/Historian – both excused – and Peggy Liss, Higgins Lake Lodge Rep and District II President – absent.

Minutes of Convention Pre-SEC/Convention/Post SEC

**\*\*Motion** Maureen Jackson/2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Keizer to approve the minutes as printed.  
**CARRIED**

Correspondence: letter from National President Dee Baggett apologizing for not being able to attend our Fall Conference. This is the same weekend as the National Officer's meeting. She also asked for support of her project – a generator for the MacArthur Building at Freedoms Foundation. There is a flyer on the National website (amvetsaux.org)

**REPORTS:**

**President Bert Lema** stated the year started slow but is now speeding up. She is working with the AMVETS trying to solve internal issues at a few Posts.

Her activity report has been submitted. She had a great time at National and will be returning some of the allotment she did not use. The President is also please at the number of pre-registrations at this Fall Conference. It is about double from the past years registration.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kathy Keizer** reported the life hospital donations have been coming in. As of 9/23/2019 our next years membership is 563 with 73 of them as new members. While we always welcome new members, we can't forget the renewal of current members.

Kathy is happy to report Aux. #123 is back. They have their revalidation in and are sending in memberships.

A bulletin was received from National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Joan Sirek. Her theme is Building Membership. Kathy will use parts of the bulletin in the Dept. newsletter and Dept. website. We seem to be off to a good start after the 'mess' with honorary membership changes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cel Rose Solak** turned in her activity report. She has the theme of Focus on Children. Rose discussed the Gift Card Shower for Penrickton. She has already received a few cards and is looking forward to presenting them for an 'added surprise'. She included a wish list from Penrickton with various places they could use gift cards. Please get the cards to Rose at the Spring SEC or mail to her by May 5.

The Penrickton tour will be October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

The midyear reports are due postmarked by Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. Please mail them to Rose. She does not have a computer.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Wendy Lynema** has the theme "Help Me Help Someone Who Needs Me". She turned in her activity report.

There are about 17 confirmed for the PAWS Tour on Monday, Sept. 30 at 11am.

**Secretary Nancy Middleton** had nothing to report at this time. She turned in her activity report. Nancy now has a smart phone, but she's not smart enough to use it – YET!

**Treasurer Gloria Hall** submitted her activity report. She also submitted a final finance report closing out the 2018/2019 year. A current up-to-date report was distributed on expenditures from the current budget.

**Chaplain Carolyn Wisniewski** turned in her activity report. She has been sending out cards and questioned the deceased member forms she has received from local Auxiliaries and who she is to send copies to. The Chaplain is only to receive deceased member forms from the Dept. Secretary. Locals are to send them directly to the Secretary who will then mail copies to the Dept. Chaplain, National Headquarters and the National Chaplain. President Bert asked Carolyn to address this information about Deceased Member Forms in the Dept. newsletter and the website bulletin.

Carolyn also just got a smart phone!

**Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach** turned in her activity report. She just turned in a newsletter article about proper uniforms based on specific rules from National.

President Bert noted her husband presented her a pearl necklace when she became President. She thanked him for the gift. Since it didn't come with earrings, President Bert went out and bought a pair – and then thanked her husband for those too!!!

**Americanism Officer Pat Michalski** turned in her activity report. She reported Michigan had three winners at National for the Poster/Essay Americanism contest:

6 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	from Aux. #114	certificate and \$50 gift card
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	from Aux. #22	certificate and \$75 gift card
11 <sup>th</sup> grade	1 <sup>st</sup> place	from Aux. #22	certificate and \$200 gift card

National has changed their prize structure, but the amounts are not listed on the applications. Pat e-mailed the National AMVETS trying to find out the amounts but has not received any information. She cannot update the Americanism Contest forms until she gets a clarification from National AMVETS.

During the joint Americanism Committee meeting, the Americanism raffle was discussed. This year the tickets will be \$5 each and the prizes will be: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$400, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$200 and 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> Place \$20 each.

**Hospital Officer Harriet Biela** turned in her activity report. Her theme this year is "Smiles are contagious – Be a Carrier". Harriet received a bulletin from Cindy Rice, National Hospital Officer. She is having a fundraiser for St. Jude's but Harriet needs more information before she does the project. It would be selling paper hands at the Post level and the money raised would go to St. Jude. Harriet said last year it cost her quite a bit to mail out the prints and it was more than her budget allowed. Since the budget is approved at convention by the delegates, we can't just increase it. One suggestion was to have everyone trace their own hand, sign it, and hang it in the Post. Harriet will get back with everyone when a decision is made on how this will be handled.

**Scholarship Officer Linda Marshall** turned in her activity report. There was a Scholarship meeting earlier with Linda, Pat Michalski, Faye Richardson-Green, Doreen Pierce, Clarice Poisson and Bonnie Rojeski. They made a few revisions to the Scholarship application.

**\*\*Motion Doreen Pierce/2<sup>nd</sup> Clarice Poisson** the revisions made by the committee to the Scholarship application be approved and the changes will be on the website. CARRIED by Majority vote.

Linda would like to distribute copies of "Book Worms" to be sold for scholarship.

**\*\*Motion Linda Marshall/2<sup>nd</sup> Clarice Poisson** to sell book worms for scholarship. CARRIED

**NEC Woman Pat Michalski** passed out Youth Volunteer Certificates from National to Aux. #57 and #122.

"Thank You" cards were distributed, for a variety of National Donations, to several Auxiliaries. They were passed out so quickly it was impossible to record all of the Aux. numbers. Rather than leave one or two out, they will not be listed in these minutes.

Pat has forms to sign up for National committees at next year's National Convention. Nancy Middleton asked why we need to sign up a year in advance when this year all you had to do is show up to the committee and you are 'in'.

**Back to Scholarship Officer Linda Marshall:** Linda was asked about the Scholarship Memorial cards. She said to get them from the Secretary. The Department Chaplain is the one who has the cards.

Maureen Jackson explained how the Scholarship cards are used. There was a lengthy discussion about this. Many of the locals who use the cards keep the money in their own Scholarship program. Carol Pickett commented about memorial donations used to be listed in the convention book. The Secretary explained only one Auxiliary (#121) sends in memorial donations and so the separate page was eliminated because there are not enough of this type of donation to have a separate page. Possibly something else could be worked out for the Aux. who does memorial donations.

**Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson** turned in her activity report. #123 has been revalidated. PDP Judy Smith and District VII President Barb Robare were very instrumental in getting this accomplished.

Several Auxiliaries have by-laws which need to be done in the coming year:

- Aux. #23 – August 2019
- Aux. #52 – October 2019
- Aux. #120 – November 2019
- Aux. #110 – August 2018
- Aux. #1941 – September 2019
- Aux. #1957 – September 2019
- Aux. #4064 – October 2019
- District V – May 2019

Harriet Biela requested a change in the Dept. Hospital Officers instructions regarding the wording about local Auxiliaries requesting hospital pins and bars. The wording states the local shall have applications for pins and bars to you.....

It was noted Dept. instructions are changed at the Spring SEC in February. Since this does not affect instructions to the local Hospital Officers, that change can be handled at the appropriate time. Harriet can just remind the locals she needs the list (signed by the Hospital Officer and President) by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The AMVETS give an AMVET of the Year and a local Post of the Year. It was stated there was a resolution from District I regarding an Auxiliary Member of the Year. Copies of the resolution were not made available. From comments made this is what was discussed. There would be a panel of Past Department Presidents who would select the Member of the Year. Current Department members are not eligible. Carol Pickett asked if Honorary members would be considered as some of them work very hard.

**\*\*Motion Wendy Lynema/2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Smith** to refer to a work group made up of Past Department Presidents for the purpose of refining the Member of the Year criteria. CARRIED by majority

The volunteers for the committee are Cel Rose Solak, Doreen Pierce, Carol Pickett, Judy Smith, Clarice Poisson, with Wendy Lynema acting as Chairman.

Parliamentarian Maureen stated she and the President have been working hard on trying to solve problems.

**Ways & Means Chairman Harriet Altherr** stated she has been working to get donations for the Department Raffle. So far, she has a \$50 gift card for Home Depot and a Weed Wacker donated by Home Depot. She discussed possibly getting lodging at this hotel for a prize.

**\*\*Motion Harriet Altherr/2<sup>nd</sup> Clarice Poisson** to try to get a one night's stay plus a \$25 food gift card from this hotel.

After a discussion and a suggestion from Judy Smith, the motion was withdrawn.

**\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Smith** to approach Lenny Hogan, Chairman of the Higgins Lake Lodge Board for a weekend cabin stay for the 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Department Raffle. CARRIED

**\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Marshall** to accept the \$50 Home Depot gift card as 3<sup>rd</sup> prize and the weed wacker (value \$120) as the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for the Department raffle. CARRIED

Doing another yearbook was discussed. The Department Secretary stated if they were going to do this, it should have been decided at Convention in June. It is too late in the year to start this project. Information should be out by now if it was going to be done.

**Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela** complimented the officers for getting their newsletter articles and bulletins in. They are doing a great job. She also complimented the President for a nice meeting.

Nancy Middleton, Dept. Secretary said she was unhappy with some of the Officers who wrote in their articles not to contact her (Nancy) because she is busy. They should contact other Department Officers. This came about because she (Nancy) complained about Dept. Officers constantly calling her about information they could find in their instructions but didn't want to take the time to do it. At no time did she say she did not have time to help a local Auxiliary and many times she just needed to give them the proper person to contact because they just weren't sure. This is part of the duties of the Dept. Secretary – to help locals find answers to their questions.

**PRO/Historian Kathy Jo Johnson** – excused. Kathy Jo did turn in her activity report. Maureen Jackson stated a Department book differs from a local book because it is a history of the entire Department year. It should include picture of local events even if the Department President is not there. Please send pictures of local functions to Kathy Jo.

**Honors & Awards Chairman Kathryn Schultz** turned in her activity report. She reminded everyone all reports must be sent in on time or they would be disqualified.

As Dept. Head Delegate to National Convention, Kathryn passed out an award from Freedom's Foundation to Wendy Lynema (from 2018). There was also a bag for Aux. #23 which included a Freedoms Foundation statue, cup, book, pin and notebook.

Kathryn also passed out certificated from Paws With a Cause to the Department, Aux. #23, Clarice Poisson, Aux. #57, #121, #126 and #4064.

Kathryn has no changes to any Donor Rules since June.

**Fall Conference Chairman Faye Richardson-Green** turned in her Activity Report. Faye was gone most of August to mid-September. She thanked the Secretary for attending a meeting with the hotel for her. She also thanked the instructors (Kathy Biela, Pat Michalski, Nancy Middleton) for listening to her and trying something a little different this year. Faye hopes everyone will enjoy it and learn something new. Thanks to Leora Williamson and Tricia Cieremans for handling registration. Each person, as they pick up their items at registration, will have a red or blue dot on their badge. This tells them which class they will be in at which time. There are three classes offered and each person will be getting all three learning sessions.

A Deli lunch will be held in the atrium for \$16. (a wide variety of sandwiches with all the fixings, salads, chips, cookies, soups, etc.). The cost is \$16. Carol Hebert will be selling the tickets.

There will be a Taco Bar in the restaurant from 4:30 to 6pm (after the classes and before the Quarter Auction) for a cost of \$12.99. No tickets required. This is a hotel event to speed things up for us.

The Quarter Auction doors will open at 6pm and the auction starts at 6:30. This is a big fundraiser for the Dept. Auxiliary and we appreciate your attendance.

**Convention Chairman Carol Pickett** – no report required

**Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Peggy Liss** – absent – no report given.

#### **District Presidents:**

**District I President Cel Rose Solak** introduced the guests from District I – PDP Seletha Robertson from Aux. 910 and Cathy Dixon from Aux. #57.

**.District II represented by Linda Marshall** introduced guests PDP Doreen Pierce from Aux. #121 and Carol Orlowski from #52. Linda announced Peggy Liss is seeking the office of National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

**\*\*Motion Linda Marshall/2<sup>nd</sup> Clarice Poisson** the Dept of Michigan support Peggy Liss for the office of National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice. CARRIED

**District V President Faye Richardson-Green** turned in her activity report. Faye told of the trip she and Lee Williamson made to Aux. #122's picnic for Jacobetti Home veterans. The Post camp is in the middle of "God's Country" and they had a delightful time. The food was great! Judy was a great hostess and opened her home to them.

Faye reported she had been elected National Snappiest at the National Convention. This news was followed by "boo's" and the traditional pounding of the table!!

Faye, as a member of the PAWS board, made a special announcement which was just discussed. PAWS is considering how they may be involved with PTSD service dogs.

There are no recommendations now but would like to know if donated money could be made available for research.

There are also going to have a "Name a Litter" contest. Guidelines will be on their website.

Faye announced Auxiliary #23 in District V has 2 members seeking Department Offices: Kathy Keizer is seeking Department President and Gloria Hall is seeking 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

Gloria Hall announced Faye Richardson-Green is seeking the office of National Americanism at next year's National Convention.

**\*\*Motion Clarice Poisson/2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Marshal to support Faye Richardson-Green's candidacy for National Americanism Officer. CARRIED**

**District VII President Barb Robare** turned in her activity report. She reported the District is starting a new project – Save Change for Veterans. Aux. #79 has a program to help veterans with food or whatever they may need. Barb and Judy Smith have been working with Aux. #123 (going to meetings, explaining reports and Dept. projects, answering questions, etc.). The guests of District VII are Terry Young, Aux. #122; Deb Mannila, Aux. #122 and Lois McIntyre.

Judy Smith added Aux. #123 didn't have a clue on how to run a meeting. They are learning.

#### **VAVS / Home Representatives**

**Aleda E Lutz Rep Linda Marshall** turned in her activity report. They have held 3 bingos so far this year. President Bert will make her official visit to Aleda E Lutz on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The balance in Linda's checking account is \$177.31 and in her savings is \$1,151.81.

**Ann Arbor VA Pat Krzesowik** was excused. *(Note from Secretary: when I returned home from Fall Conference, Pat's activity report was in my e-mail. Copies were sent to the President, Hospital Officer and Parliamentarian. The balance in Pat's account is \$403.36)*

**Battle Creek VAMV Representative Faye Richardson-Green** submitted her activity report. There have been 4 regular volunteers from 6/1 thru 8/31 for a total of 141 hours. The balance in the Battle Creek VA account is \$969.91

A new project is buying \$25 Uber cards for patient's transportation.

**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep. Clarice Poisson** turned in her activity report. She has not been doing weekly hours because of all the construction at the hold. She has been helping Faye Richardson-Green at Battle Creek. She has been putting bulletins on the website but would like to change the due dates from July and December to August and January because she could then include her two largest events. The home is not taking a lot of donations right now because there is no place to store them.

Clarice has \$305 in savings and \$151.76 in checking. She didn't get her last 2 months bank statements because the substitute mailman delivered them to the wrong house. She did get black & white copies from the credit union.

**Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith** turned in an activity report. The Vets from Jacobetti come to Post #122 the last Tuesday of each month during the summer. Judy has beds if anyone wants to visit. President Bert says she won't go to the U.P. during the winter months.

**Point of personal privileged** – Cel Rose Solak distributed 100 Christmas cards to each hospital Rep to give to the patients. Clarice will give hers to a nursing home.

**Auxiliary Website – Pat Michalski** apologized to Clarice for forgetting to put her article on the web. Pat is disappointed because the newsletter has functions not sent to the web. She sees stuff on Facebook but the information is not forwarded to her. There is a bill for the domain - \$30, website - \$120, SSL- \$50 for a total of \$200. It is dated January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and due February 1, 2020.

### **Unfinished Business / New Business**

**#1** Pat Michalski questioned the allotment she received as NEC Woman for Nat'l Convention. She recommended a more detailed explanation of the funds. The Treasurer and Secretary are responsible for preparing a proposed budget which is submitted to the Finance Committee at Convention. Once a budget is approved by the committee, it is passed out to all delegates/officers. They have one day to review it before it is voted on.

The NEC is allowed 4 days lodging, Head delegate & Alternate get 3 days. They all get mileage at .15 per mile, \$25 per diem and \$40 for pre-registration. Because of the limited funds brought in last year to cover the budget, it was decided we could not provide the full amount if the room/mileage/etc. is also covering others who would be using the room. Basically, the Department is paying for the room and others staying with the Officers are going to convention practically free. The officers are required to submit a reservation before getting their allotment. With limited funds, cuts need to be made.

Example – the Head Delegate shared a room with two other members. Each paid 1/3 of the cost of the room and mileage. The Head Delegates allotment was 1/3 the room and mileage cost plus the per diem and registration.

**\*\*Motion Pat Michalski/2<sup>nd</sup>** Clarice Poisson to table the discussion and refer it to the finance committee at convention. CARRIED

**#2** A discussion was held on helping the AMVETS with the cost of coffee and rolls during the Sunday morning "Meet and Greet". Our cost would be under \$200.

**\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2<sup>nd</sup>** Maureen Jackson the Auxiliary will pick up 1/3 of the cost of the coffee & rolls for the "Meet & Greet". CARRIED



**#3** The Hospital Reps & Deps had a meeting after the June Convention and discussed restructuring the allotments to \$1 per bed. The double allotment for the Hospital reps was discussed. Right now there is not enough funds in the Hospital General Fund to give the double allotment. This new amount will take place for the 2<sup>nd</sup> allotment since the first allotment was distributed in August and the Treasurer just received this notice of change. The new amounts will be – Ann Arbor 140 beds; John Dingell 225 beds; Aleda E Lutz 90 beds; Grand Rapids Home 245 beds; Jacobetti Home 190 beds; Battle Creek VA 204 beds.

**\*\*Gloria Hall/2<sup>nd</sup> Clarice Poisson** to give the double allotment to the Reps for the VA's/Homes by taking 1/2 the cost from the Texas Hold'em fund. CARRIED

**#4** Judy Smith questioned why when ordering 2 hats from National, they came under separate mailings and each included the expensive postage/handling amount.

**#5** PDP Kathy Keizer suggested those members who have white jackets which do not fit any longer, bring them to convention and/or SEC meetings. Maybe they will fit someone else who might make a small donation to Ways & Means.

#### **Announcements:**

**#1** Pat Michalski announced a Veterans Recognition Dinner on Saturday 11/9/2019 at Post #22. Dinner orders need to be placed by 11/2.

**#2** Maureen Jackson passed out flyers for the PAWS Fundraiser at Post #57 on 11/2/2019 from 6pm to ????. Donation \$15 per person includes 2 raffle tickets, beer, wine, pop and light food.

**#3** Maureen Jackson passed out a Save The Date flyer for the Dept. President Bert Lema's Testimonial on March 28, (flyer says 2019 but it has to be 2020). It will be held at AMVETS Post #57. More information to follow.

**#4** The Auxiliary Higgins Lake Lodge weekend will be on April 25, 2020. This is a weekend open to any Auxiliary member.

**\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Marshal** to pay the bills. CARRIED

**\*\*Motion Cel Rose Solak/2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Marshall** to adjourn. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Nancy Middleton  
Exec Secretary  
October 3, 2019

Approved as corrected (typos) by Parliamentarian  
Maureen Jackson 10/4/19

Approved as corrected (typos) by President Bert  
Lema 10/4/2019