

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CONFERENCE CALL: 4/13/2020

(Note from Secretary) The call was scheduled for 7pm on Monday, April 13. I started calling at 6:59pm. When I finally got connected, the Officers were doing the Pledge of Allegiance. I am going to assume the Chaplain did the opening prayer which was the first item on the agenda.

Answering to the Roll Call of Officers were:

President Bert Lema, 1st Vice Kathy Keizer, Third Vice Wendy Lynema, Secretary Nancy Middleton, Treasurer Gloria Hall, Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski, Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach, Americanism/NEC Woman Pat Michalski, Hospital Officer/John Dingell VA Rep. Harriet Biela, Scholarship Officer/Aleda Lutz VA Rep Linda Marshall, Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson, Ways & Means Chairman Harriet Altherr, Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela, PRO Kathy Jo Johnson, Convention Chairman Carol Pickett, Fall Conference Chairman/BCVAMC/District V President Faye Richardson-Green, Higgins Lake Rep/District II President Peggy Liss, District VII President Barb Robare.

2nd Vice/District I President Cel Rose Solak was connected just following the roll call so was counted as present.

Honors & Awards Chair/Liaison Kathryn Schultz was excused by the President.

Those recorded as absent are:

Ann Arbor VA Rep Pat Krzesowik, Grand Rapids Home Rep Clarice Poisson, Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith.

The President requested everyone put their phone on 'mute' to eliminate background noise. She thanked everyone for their calls, cards, etc. on the passing of her Mother and how difficult it was to not have closure because a funeral and memorial will need to be delayed due to the Coronavirus. President Bert talked with the Commander and the Executive Director but no decisions have been made at this time regarding Convention. They (the AMVETS) are waiting until the end of this month before making any plans.

#1 FINANCES - Treasurer Gloria Hall

The first order of business was a discussion on the finances. Treasurer Gloria Hall had sent out an e-mail discussing some of the problems. She stated because we had to cancel some Texas Hold'ems because of the virus situation, it is very doubtful we will make the budget. We could be in the red by the end of this fiscal year by approximately \$5,000. It's hard to say exactly because most donations to General Fund haven't come in yet.

Carol Pickett questioned if we don't have a convention would that help because \$2,965 is budgeted for it. Since we won't have any answers until the end of April, we will have to figure that out later.

Gloria said there are still several things which haven't been paid out yet from this year's budget. President's travel expenses, Secretary's compensation, etc. The Secretary just bought postage and thinks she has enough supplies so nothing else should be coming out of that account. Gloria also stated we cannot do any checks for next year until the budget is approved for 2020/2021.

Someone asked if we had a CD we could cash in. Answer - it is possible. Wendy Lynema asked if it would be used only on this year's budget. The President stated we will only be concerned with this year at this time.

Maureen Jackson asked about the money for National Convention for the NEC Woman, Head Delegate and Dept. President. Answer - this is from the 2020/2021 budget.

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Barb Robare to allow Gloria Hall to move funds whenever necessary.**

Under discussion it was asked where the funds would come from. It was suggested from the CD. Secretary Nancy Middleton objected to closing a CD. She felt it was better to 'borrow' the money from our Savings account. We could pay it back as funds come in later. If we close a CD, it will never be put back.

****Maureen Jackson with the approval of the 2nd, Barb Robare amended the motion to read: Allow Gloria Hall to move funds from the Savings account whenever necessary. Motion carried as amended.**

Carol Pickett asked how much we have in our savings account. Answer from Treasurer - about \$15,000.

President Bert suggested our District might try to come up with fundraisers for the Dept. She asked the Officers to also put some thought into this.

Faye Richardson-Green asked the Treasurer if the budget had been done for next year. Answer - No, not yet. One of the problems is figuring mileage and right now we don't know about where convention will be held. Gloria heard talk of Big Rapids - Sterling Heights or one other place.

Maureen Jackson recommended all funds collected this year for our service programs be sent this year. (They are not to be held until next year)

Kathy Keizer asked if it would be possible to have a budget to get us thru Fall Conference. Treasurer said "No, it has to be for a whole year."

There were questions about money for National Convention. We will talk about that on our next conference call.

Rose Solak asked about Service Officers sending out the donation checks. Maureen felt they should be mailed by the Treasurer. Faye Richardson-Green stated the money needs to be sent before the books are closed for 2019/2020.

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Linda Marshall:** The Treasurer will send our service project donation checks directly to the programs. CARRIED

Rose Solak questioned the Penrickton gift cards. It was suggested, since they were all mailed to her by May 5, she should take care of them. Rose will personally deliver them to Penrickton.

#2 WAYS 'N MEANS RAFFLE - Harriet Altherr, Chairman

There was a memo from Charitable Gaming regarding raffle licenses. If the drawing will be on a different date than is called for on the license, a form must be sent in to change the date. Pat Michalski said the Americanism raffle will be held on the date on the raffle ticket. The Americanism fund is in very good shape and there is no need to change the date.

Kathy Keizer stated the money from this raffle goes towards this budget. We shouldn't hold off until Fall to be able to sell more tickets.

Maureen Jackson asked how they can sell tickets if there are no meetings. It was pointed out many of the local Auxiliaries and Department Officers have had their tickets since February (at the Spring SEC).

Harriet Altherr stated there was no cost for the prizes so money brought in is all profit.

President Bert suggested Harriet put an article in the newsletter and website requesting the Auxiliaries send back the money for the tickets and the ticket stubs. She also stated she would take a couple more packets of tickets. Harriet asked the Secretary to send out more tickets to Bert and Judy Smith.

Wendy Lynema said it is hard to sell tickets when so many people are out of work.

President Bert asked everyone to help supply food to food banks. She cleaned out her Mother's cupboard/pantry and sent food to an area food bank. They are in need of donations.

Harriet will come to Grand Rapids on the 14th to do the drawing.

#3 AMERICANISM – Pat Michalski, Americanism Officer

The Americanism raffle will be held on 6/14/2020 at the Crowne Plaza. All money and ticket stubs need to be returned to Pat by May 20.

The AMVETS would like 3 members of the Americanism committee to be at the drawing. If necessary, Faye Richardson-Green can fill in for Pat at that time.

Pat has received the Americanism contest entries from District 1, II and V. She has also received them from local Auxiliaries #22, 23, 57, 72, 93 and 114. The judging for the Americanism contest will be sometime after April 30 if the restrictions are lifted. District Chairman will be notified of winners. National has extended the deadline to August 1.

#4 OTHER SUBJECTS

President Bert talked about the next meeting conversation with the AMVETS at the end of the month. Hopefully we will have a decision on convention. She also discussed the possibility of another conference call. Kathy Keizer suggested we wait for another call until we find out when convention will be.

Maureen Jackson ask for any by-law changes to be sent in (to her) asap.

Pat Michalski stated bulletins are due to her on Wednesday the 15th. She already has Kathy Keizer's but would like all the others by the deadline.

Linda Marshall asked about the hospital audit. President Bert said they are normally held at convention right after the SEC meeting. Plan on that date unless we learn something different.

Carol Picket has a suggestion. Because of the uncertain dates, could we combine Fall Conference and Convention in October. We already have the Crowne Plaza booked for Fall Conference. Maybe we could cover both at the same time. Something to think about.

Harriet Altherr asked about next year's Officer's. President Bert said everyone will stay in their same office until we can have the elections at convention. The AMVETS need to give a 6-week lead time to contact the hotel on a date change.

Barb Robare thanked Bert for her work and offered sympathy on the loss of her Mother.

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski delivered the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton, Secretary
4/14/2020

Corrected/approved by Parliamentarian
Maureen Jackson 4/14/2020

Corrected/approved by President Bert Lema
4/14/2020

Secretary Notes: Taking minutes of a conference call is very difficult. The President asked everyone to put their phone on mute. A couple did. There was a lot of background noise (papers shuffling, coughing, and several other sounds I couldn't identify).

Everyone was asked to identify themselves before they spoke. A couple did. I was amazed at how many people sound the same on the phone! It is also extremely difficult to take minutes when three or four people are talking at the same time.

I'm sure I will again be chastised for these observations but if we are going to be conducting meetings this way for a while, please follow the President's instructions.