

TELECONFERENCE CALL
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN S.E.C. BOARD
June 10, 2020

The teleconference meeting began at 7:05pm.

President Bert reported on the teleconference meeting called by Commander Petch for the AMVETS, Riders, Auxiliary and Sons.

Lenny Hogan discussed the modifications at the lodge and the new boat dock with more sand. There are new security cameras. The picnic tables have been painted and the soffits need repairing. The cabins/lodge will be power washed and/or painted.

It was questioned who was on this phone conference. President Bert reports the following: For the AMVETS: Commander Petch, Carol Hebert, NEC John Hoecherl, Lenny Hogan, Bill Romska. For the Auxiliary: President Bert Lema, NEC Pat Michalski, Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson. For the Sons of AMVETS: Commander Don Torr and NEC John Aldrich. For the Riders: President John Duvall.

There is no information yet on the Spring SEC but a tentative date of Feb. 20 was given. There is also no information on the 2021 convention - possibly in Grand Rapids again because we had to cancel this year's event.

The ladies weekend at Higgins Lake is also a tentative date - 4/16 to 4/18, 2021. We will have access to the entire compound: lodge & cabins.

Fall Conference is the 1st weekend in October at the Crowne Plaza in Grand Rapids.

The Secretary interjected a couple requests.

#1 A roll call vote was requested. This was done and the following Officers were present: President Bert Lema, 1st Vice Kathy Keizer, 2nd Vice/Dist. I President Cel Rose Solak, 3rd Vice Wendy Lynema. Secretary Nancy Middleton, Treasurer Gloria Hall, Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski, Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach, Americanism/NEC Woman Pat Michalski, Hospital Harriet Biela, Scholarship/Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall, Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson, PRO Kathy Jo Johnson, Fall Conf. Chairman/Dist. V President/Battle Creek VAVS Faye Richardson- Green, Higgins Lake Lodge Rep/Dist. II President Peggy Liss, Dist. VII President Barb Robare, outgoing Ways 'n Means Chair Harriet Altherr and Grand Rapids Home Rep Clarice Poisson (late). Those excused were: Incoming Ways 'n Means Chair Bonnie

Rojeski, Personnel Chair Kathy Biela, Conv. Chair Carol Pickett. Those reported as absent were Honors & Awards/Liaison Kathryn Schultz, Ann Arbor VAVS Pat Krzesowik, Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith.

#2 There was a teleconference call in May. The President said she would take notes so the Secretary did not need to take minutes. The minutes/notes have not been made available yet but there were one or two motions made and we should have something in writing concerning them. President Bert said she would take care of it.

#3 The minutes of the June 3rd teleconference have been submitted but they need the approval of the President and the Parliamentarian before they can be posted on the website.

At the June 3rd meeting a motion was made by the Parliamentarian concerning the Dept. Audit. The President has changed the date. The motion previously made needs to be removed.

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Maureen Jackson to rescind the motion made by Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson concerning the Dept. Audit of the Treasurer's books will be on June 29th. CARRIED**

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Clarice Poisson: The Dept. audit of the Treasurer's books to be held at 11am on June 22 at the home of the Secretary. CARRIED.**

Membership by 1st Vice President Kathy Keizer stated membership showed a slight increase. She is looking for options to increase membership for the upcoming year.

President Bert said this was better than the AMVETS and Sons membership totals. They had no increases.

Americanism Officer Pat Michalski said the Michigan Lottery Commission has approved the change to the Dept. Americanism drawing. It will be on Sunday, June 14 at 1pm at Post #22 (instead of at the Crowne Plaza). Because the number of tickets sold was less than expected, there will be a 50/50 drawing with one winner. The Americanism Contest judging will also be on the 14th at Post #22.

President Bert said the term for the NEC is two years. It will be the same for the extended year. Pat Michalski will stay as NEC until 2022. This was verified with the National Auxiliary. The AMVETS don't know what they will do about the NEC.

President Bert stated Bonnie Rojeski has been approved by the Poll Vote to be Ways & Means Chairman. Bonnie could not be on this call so she asked the President to request approval for a couple small raffles at Fall Conference and the Quarter Auction.

****Motion Becky Kovach/2nd Linda Marshall** to approve the request for the Fall Conference raffles and Quarter Auction. CARRIED

President Bert expressed sympathy to Harriet Altherr on the passing of her Mother.

President Bert brought up the proposed budget to be discussed which she said was one of the main purposes of this teleconference. Copies had been sent to all the Officers.

Treasurer Gloria Hall stated this budget was proposed by the Finance Committee consisting of herself as Chairman, Secretary Nancy Middleton, District I President Cel Rose Solak, District II President Peggy Liss, District V President Faye Richardson-Green and District VII President Barb Robare. They met on a teleconference call.

1st section - National Convention: Since National Convention is cancelled, there is no proposed budget for the fiscal year 2020/2021

2nd section - Fall Conference 2020. Last year budgeted \$1,910 - spent \$933.79 - proposed \$1,670. Pres. Bert asked about some of last year's budget which weren't paid. Gloria responded we budgeted for costs we did not incur so we came in under budget for this category.

3rd section - Spring SEC 2021. Last year budgeted \$700 - spent \$488.44 - proposed \$900. Maureen Jackson asked why there is an increase. Gloria responded because we do not know where we will be meeting so we don't know what mileage will be or hotel costs.

4th section - Officers postage/supplies. Last year budgeted \$1,225 - spent \$552.91 - proposed \$945. There were several questions on this section. 1st Vice Kathy Keizer had a budget of \$150. She did not use it all because she did a lot with e-mails. She is returning some before the end of the month (note: she returned \$88.25 which has since been deposited). President Bert said her \$10 didn't cover her costs. It was questioned about which costs the President had and why it wasn't part of her allotment. Harriet Biela had expenses but couldn't find her receipts. Treasurer's expenses dropped because for the 2019/2020 year she

had to order checks which are expensive. PRO chose not to take her allotment. It was also suggested if some Officers are consistently not using the money, the expense could be eliminated.

5th section - Department Expenses. Last year budgeted \$14,350 - spent \$13,359 - this year budgeted \$13,315. Discussion on lowering the President's allotment. Gloria said the committee discussed it and decided to lower it because of the pandemic the President's travel has been reduced quite a bit. She received a full allotment last year but didn't travel for the final 3-1/2 to 4 months. We don't know if there will be much traveling before October (Fall Conference) or later and she receives expenses for the Conference. Maureen felt it should not go down.

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Barb Robare to leave the President's allotment the same as last year. Under discussion Faye Richardson-Green noted Maureen had a concern but we are to be reviewing the budget and not pull out one item to vote on. MOTION WITHDRAWN**

Pat Michalski questioned why there was no expense for the tax preparation. Gloria explained the Tax Consultant went out of business just before they were to be done and she (Gloria) couldn't find someone in time so she did them herself. It was a lot of work, but she did get them filed.

Pat also recommended the \$25 National 3rd Vice hospitality expense could be withdrawn because since the National Officers are remaining the same, and the 3rd Vice will not be coming to PAWS again for an official visit. This makes the new proposed budget for Dept. expenses \$13,290.

#6 section - Department Convention Expenses (2021). Last year budgeted \$2,965 spent \$45.25 - proposed budget \$2,965. There was no discussion on this section.

#7 section - National Donations (May 2021). These donations to National from the Department come out of the Texas Hold'em account. We budget \$50 for each category. It was questioned why this is on the general budget. Gloria said she wasn't sure but it was a motion at convention to keep it there - maybe so we didn't forget to make it (??).

The budget for 2020/2021 would be \$20,270. We have approximately \$12,609 to start off our budget this year. It is hard to say how much will be brought in from Ways & Means. We also brought in \$7,800 from membership and funds from Texas Hold'em. Maureen stated we could be working 1 year ahead on next year's budget (2021/2022).

Last year W&M brought in about \$3,000. There was a discussion about Bonnie having a committee to decide what to do as fundraisers for ways 'n means. **Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Peggy Liss to give the Ways 'n Means committee permission to do whatever they want. Under discussion a friendly amendment was added: **Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Becky Kovach to add 'with AMVET approval to the motion. CARRIED with the amendment.

Maureen suggested the President, Parliamentarian and Ways 'n Means Chairman send a letter to the AMVETS asking for fundraising permission. It was pointed out this is the job of the Liaison. President Bert said she will take care of it.

President Bert requested the Treasurer send out copies of the ledgers which are usually in the convention book to all Officers and include Bonnie Rojeski in the mailing. Some of the Officers requested them before making a decision on the proposed budget.

President Bert stated we will have the audit of the Treasurer's book on Monday June 22. The auditors will be Maureen Jackson, Kathy Keizer and Wendy Lynema.

Pat Michalski asked if she should invite the National President to Fall Conference. President Bert said "Yes".

District I President Rose Solak announced Auxiliary #171 is disbanding on July 1st. President Bert asked if they had notified all their members. Secretary Nancy Middleton stated she talked with Melissa Gagnon, President and she sent out everything as stated in the disbanding instructions.

At the last teleconference, each Officer was asked if they would continue in their position for this coming year (2020/2021). Head Delegate, Liaison and Honors & Awards Chairman PDP Kathryn Schultz was not on the call. President Bert said she had contacted her but has not yet received an answer.

The Secretary stated the Donor's Rules were not updated last year. The ones on the website are those prepared by Wendy Lynema the year before. These need to be done so our locals have the correct information on applying for awards. President Bert said she will work with Kathryn on this.

The Secretary had some comments on the newsletter. At the previous meeting, after the June newsletter was sent out stating this was the last issue, it was voted to continue it for next year. The Parliamentarian stated "We" would contact the members about continuing the newsletter. I asked who "We" referred to. As Secretary I do not have e-mails for all the local Presidents. I stated the President

had sent e-mails to them in the past so she must have their addresses. Maybe she could send out the notice. The Parliamentarian said she will ask her.

Since this hasn't been done yet, I will send out a July newsletter to everyone with a notice of the subscription rate, etc. and only those subscribing (and sending in the \$10 fee), the Dept. President and each local President will receive subsequent monthly newsletters.

Officers were requested to do articles for the newsletter and to keep it fairly short. If there is a lot to say, I may divide it into one or two articles. We would like more information about what is going to happen rather than an activity report on what has already been done.

The Chaplain has agreed to do a Memorial column each month which will list the deceased members we received notices on during the month.

Since the Secretary will be doing the Newsletter/Bulletin guideline, she will also be working on calendars for each Officer. These calendars are all different and include due dates, etc. for their particular office. She is stuck on dates for next years convention, SEC, etc. and will have to put in tentative dates.

President Bert will plan another teleconference call for the budget. She will wait for papers from the Treasurer so we can vote on it.

Nancy Middleton and Pat Michalski discussed the Newsletter/Bulletin guideline chart. Officers will be asked to follow the chart, and in most cases, they will alternate between the newsletter and bulletins. Sometimes they will be requested to do both. As always, they can put in an article every month if they choose.

President Bert will notify everyone of the next conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton, Secretary
6/23/2020

Corrections made by:

1st Vice Kathy Keizer (acting for President) 6/24/2020

Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson 6/25/2020

Pat Michalski, Web Master 6/24/3030