

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary  
Dept. of Michigan  
Teleconference Call 8/12/2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Bert Lema.

A roll call vote was taken. Officers not on the call were 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Kathy Keizer; Scholarship Officer/Aleda E Lutz Rep. Linda Marshall; Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson; Ways & Means Bonnie Rojas; Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela; PRO/Historian Kathy Jo Johnson; Convention Chairman Carol Pickett; Higgins Lake Rep/District II President Peggy Liss; Grand Rapids Home Rep Clarice Poisson; Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Officers called to be excused. The President chose to have all of them listed as excused from the meeting. A discussion followed but it is the President prerogative to excuse members.

President Bert reported on Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson. She is home from the hospital after surgery but have some other health issues. She is receiving home therapy and is on oxygen. She needs plenty of rest.

President Bert discussed Fall Conference. It has been cancelled. The Fall Conference Chairman Faye Richardson-Green agreed with the cancellation. Right now, the Michigan Governor has meetings restricted to 10 people. We cannot do training classes based on that amount.

President Bert talked about possibly doing a training session in with the Spring SEC. A decision will be made at a later time. She also talked about the Fall SEC. She is leaning about not meeting in person because of the number of people in the high-risk category. Maybe we could do it on a conference call.

Faye Richardson-Green suggested having an educational program in conjunction with the Presidents Higgins Lake retreat (Aux. weekend). President Bert said she would give it some thought.

(There were several discussions/comments but it is hard to note them when everyone talked at one time and did not identify themselves.)

President Bert said she talked with Ways & Means Chairman Bonnie Rojaschi about several ideas for fund raisers. The President asked the Secretary to elaborate on some of the ideas because Bonnie had been in touch with her about some of them.

Secretary Nancy Middleton discussed a raffle for the month of December which Bonnie would like to do. It would be 5 drawings - one on each Wednesday evening in December. Tickets would be \$10 each and would be eligible for all 5 drawings. The prize for the first 4 drawings would be \$100. The final prize for the last drawing (Dec. 30) would be \$250. The President asked if we needed a poll vote for this. Nancy replied since the Ways & Means Chairman has approval to do any type of fundraiser, it wasn't necessary. BUT we all need to get behind Bonnie and support her projects because we are really struggling to make the budget without Fall Conference, Texas Holdem's, etc. Many of the board members expressed their willingness to help. (again, comments all at one time with no identification in most cases.)

Nancy also reported she has filled out a raffle application for the State of Michigan. In an effort to get this in as quickly as possible, Gloria Hall, as Treasurer, has already signed the application and Kathy Keizer will be signing it tomorrow (Thursday) so it can go out in the mail quickly. These signatures would replace sending the forms to the President, having her sign it and then forward it to the Michigan Lottery in Lansing. With many people experiencing slow mail because of the pandemic, this could take a couple weeks. We don't have time if we are going to do this in December. Tickets will go out with the newsletter. Those Officers we don't get the newsletter will have it sent separately.

Another project in the works is a calendar with different things on each page with a small fee for each day. Nancy and Kathy Keizer are working on it and with the approval of Bonnie Rojaschi, it will be distributed in the September newsletter for the month of October. If it is fun (and successful) we could possibly do it for a couple more months. Again, everyone's support is needed.

Another project mentioned was the "Word Game" which many of the long-time members remembered. More on this later.

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President Bert reported on the Commander's 'AMVET Family Conference Call'. It was held in the morning of Aug. 12. The Commander was not on the call. President Bert had informed the AMVETS the Auxiliary will not be doing a Fall Conference

this year. According to our Constitution, the Auxiliary does not have to meet with the AMVETS in the Fall and Spring. This information was not met with pleasure.

There was a discussion during the Family Call about several ladies not wanting to go to Posts because of the Covid-19. When they asked for guidance, the Commander said to follow the "Chain of Command". This was confusing. The Dept. JA Romska discussed the rules for District VI and VII but not all District have the same eligibility. There was discussion about the State rule for bars and restaurants which says alcohol sales cannot exceed 70% of the income. Food, lottery games, etc. must be over 30% of the income. Many of the Posts are not in that category.

Social distancing, masks, sanitizers, etc. must also be used according to guidelines.

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Pat Michalski reported MLLC Inspectors are starting to go around to some of the Posts and so far, two of them (Post #13 and Post #110) have been shut down for not following the guidelines. They did not receive a fine - just shut down.

It was also stated if you look at social media which is posted, many of the AMVET functions show: No masks - No distancing

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President Bert reported she sent a packet to each local President. It contained a cover letter, Social media guidelines, her website bulletin and a copy of the Code of Ethics. If a person used her own website, this is freedom of speech but they still need to be considerate of what they say. If a person is using the AMVET and/or Auxiliary website - they need to follow the guidelines set by National.

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President Bert asked if the game calendar could be put on the website. The Secretary responded it will be up to the Ways & Means Chairman if she wants it there.


President Bert also reported AMVET Exec. Director Carol Hebert said the lodge at Higgins Lake is sanitized after every use.

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Secretary Nancy Middleton brought up a suggestion she heard from Faye Richardson-Green. Could we possibly have the SEC meeting at Post #126. It would be just a meeting - no other functions. Officers could come to the meeting and then go home. No hotel costs, etc. #126 has a huge Bingo hall which would make

social distancing easy. Nancy said she hates the thought of an SEC meeting done by phone.

President Bert said maybe she could send out a poll vote at a later time.

  
There was no other business to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned (note: I didn't get the time written down - probably around 8pm)

Respectfully submitted:  
Nancy Middleton, Secretary  
8/15/2020

Approved with corrections by: President Bert Lema 8/15/2020 Webmaster Pat Michalski 8/16/2020
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