

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
FALL S.E.C. MEETING
October 10, 2020

The Fall SEC was called to order at 1:07pm by President Bert Lema on October 10, 2020 via Microsoft Team video conference.

The invocation was given by **Chaplain Carolyn Wisniewski**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach**

The President moved ahead on the agenda to allow Bonnie Rojaske, Ways & Means Chairman, the opportunity to give her report first. She is having problems with her computer and may get shut out of the meeting.

WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN Bonnie Rojaske sent her activity report to the Secretary. She discussed the October Calendar which was in the September newsletter. She has received many positive remarks about it. One Officer didn't understand what the calendar was. These fun – raisers were included in the newsletter and only those who subscribed would have received it. If it goes well, we will do it again in February. (NOTE: we have calendars ready for December and March – not February.)

President Bert remarked this calendar is fun to do and she has given copies to members of her family to do. She thanked Kathy Keizer, Nancy Middleton and Bonnie Rojaske for doing up the calendars.

Bonnie reported on the Holiday Cash Raffle. The tickets will be going out around October 15th. The license from the State has been received. Bonnie asked everyone to please help sell the tickets. There is a letter in with the ticket with all the information. If anyone wants more tickets, they can contact her and she will send them out.

Pat Michalski asked if we needed to approve this raffle. Answer: No – approval has been given for all W&M fundraisers (per Maureen Jackson, Parliamentarian.).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT President Bert Lema turned in her activity report. All the activity reports sent were forwarded to her and the Parliamentarian by the Secretary. Some Officers did not send in their reports so they must do it asap and send it to the Secretary, President and Parliamentarian. The Secretary will not be forwarding them.

She thanked Faye Richardson-Green for helping her set up this conference call with Microsoft. She thanked Peggy Liss for attending the AMVETS SEC for Carol Pickett and Kathy Schultz. And she thanked Nancy Middleton for her extra work (and sending a few laughs her way).

The Auxiliary weekend at Higgins Lake Lodge was discussed. Faye Richardson-Green had suggested doing some type of classes during the weekend because we didn't get to

have our Fall Conference. President Bert is in favor of it but also wants to add some fun activities at the same time. She is hoping we will fill the lodge and cabins with members for this event.

President Bert also said she takes responsibility for not contacting the Past Dept. Presidents about the SEC meeting.

The President complimented 1st Vice Kathy Keizer on the Membership packet she sent out to each local 1st Vice. It was very informative.

There will be another AMVET Family phone conference this coming Wednesday and President Bert will send out a report on it.

Roll Call Because we jumped ahead on the agenda, we forgot roll call. It was done at this time: All Officers were present with the following exceptions:

2nd Vice Cel Rose Solak (report submitted. Rose had computer problems and could not connect to the meeting), Honors & Awards Chair Kathryn Schultz (report submitted), Ann Arbor Rep. Pat Krzesowik (no report), Grand Rapids Home Rep Clarice Poisson (no report), Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith (report submitted, District I President Cel Rose Solak (see reason under 2nd Vice); District VII President Barb Robare (no report).

1st VICE PRESIDENT Kathy Keizer had submitted her activity report. Kathy and the Secretary have compared figures at the end of each month. This month there is some confusion with something a local chairman sent in so we are waiting for a call from her to clarify the figures. Other than the one Auxiliary, everything matches.

There has been some confusion on the Honorary Memberships. Membership are being sent from National to the Departments. Also, the Honorary Member form is only needed for NEW honorary members, not renewals. As of right now, only 3 locals have submitted their honorary members - #23, #121 and #1941. (NOTE from Secretary: by the time you read these minutes, that probably will have changed)

Kathy has sent out the prizes to the locals who won her 2 Hospital donations contest. As soon as Kathy hears from the H&A Chairman that the committee has finished judging for 2019/2020, she will forward the information about the Membership A, B and C awards. The H&A Chair can then add them to her list of needed certificates.

Since we did not have a Fall Conference this year, a \$50 consolation prize was sent to the winner of the Fall Conference contest.

Kathy requested another membership contest for this year:

Names of each NEW member (rejoins are not eligible) from July 1 thru March 31 will go into a drawing which will be done at the June 2021 Convention, for 20 winners of \$10 each.

**Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Kathy Jo Johnson to approve this contest. CARRIED

Faye Richardson-Green asked what our total membership is right now. Answer: 1510 from last year (good until 12/31) and 74 new so 1,584.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT Cel Rose Solak sent in her activity report. She has been trying to get on the conference call but it isn't working. She called the President who reported the Penrickton tour is on Nov. 7th at 11:30. Masks must be worn. Maureen Jackson said there is a limit of 10 people who can take the tour. (*Note: that limit has changed at the moment to unlimited but may possibly change again*).

3rd VICE PRESIDENT Wendy Lynema sent in her activity report. She is working on selecting names of lakes in Michigan for the Paws "Name the Puppies" Contest. We are not sure if we will have a PAWS tour this year. We may possibly have one in the Spring if the pandemic is done. There will be no National Tour this year

SECRETARY Nancy Middleton sent in her report but has nothing to report for this meeting.

TREASURER Gloria Hall sent in her activity report. She questioned when the budget would be put on the website. She sent it as her bulletin a couple months ago. Pat Michalski said she didn't get it. Gloria will send it again.

Our bank, Chemical Bank, is now TCF and we are having a couple issues with it. It was even considered changing banks. Gloria and the Dept. Secretary spent an hour and ½ with the TCF manager and worked out some problems (but not all). We will give it another try. It is just totally different than what was dealt with in the past.

We have a \$13,629.24 5-year CD which is rolling over in a couple weeks. The new rate will be .5 which is very low. At the suggestion of the TCF manager, we will roll it over for 3 or 6 months. At the end of that time we will see what the rates are. If they are still low, we will continue rolling over every 3 to 6 months until the rate is a good one for us. We do not want to lock in at the .5 rate for 5 years! We have 1 other CD coming due in 2021 and 3 coming due in 2022. We will decide what to do with them at that time. The total value of all checking and savings accounts is \$41,912. The total amount in the CDs is \$39,314.08 for a total net worth of \$81,226.08.

We have not had a Texas Hold'em since last February. All the ones scheduled for 2020 have been cancelled. We are going day by day for those scheduled in 2021.

Gloria asked if an Officer and/or an Auxiliary gets a check from the Dept. – please cash it. We just had a check cashed which was written last February. It is hard to keep books straight when there are still old checks outstanding.

CHAPLAIN Carolyn Wisniewski did not send her activity report (Note: it has since been received). Her church purchased a bible for us.

SGT-AT-ARMS Becky Kovach sent in her activity report. She has nothing to report.

AMERICANISM Pat Michalski did not send in her report. (NOTE: it has since been sent). Pat was recently informed the AMVET 3rd Vice Commander had resigned. She does not know who the replacement is. Pat has requested help from the Dept. Commander, 1st Vice and 3rd Vice asking for help in getting information from National. She has not received a response yet. Pat did find out the National AMVETS will not be judging the Americanism entries until March 2021.

President Bert said Pat has gone above and beyond in her Americanism duties. This will be expressed to the AMVETS. It says in the AMVETS SEC minutes that Pat will do the raffle tickets. More communication is needed. Pat is unaware of this because the committee has not met yet and no decision was made on a raffle.

HOSPITAL Harriet Biela turned in her activity report. She has requested a new Deputy for John Dingell VA – Rose Solak. The previous Deputy has moved out of State. Paperwork for Rose has been sent to National but there has been no response yet.

SCHOLARSHIP Linda Marshall did not submit an activity report (NOTE: has since been received). Linda is continuing the Bookworm project she started last year as a fundraiser for Scholarship. She stated the updated Scholarships should be on the website by the end of this month.

Reports are due postmarked by 11/5. Linda said there seems to be some type of problem with her email. If emails are sent to her within a group receiving them, she does not get it. You have to send hers individually.

PARLIAMENTARIAN Maureen Jackson sent her activity report. She has been in physical therapy this week. Some local officers have asked her why midyear reports need to be done when no one is doing anything. Maureen said several Auxiliaries are doing programs and projects. They are just being done a little differently than we are used to.

Maureen reminded all the Officers if they have changes to their instructions, they need to be to her by January 1st.

Maureen also reminded everyone the Americanism contest does not have to go through a school. This can be done by youth groups, Jr. AMVETS, family, etc. can enter the contests.

The Standing Rules have been sent to Pat for the website but Pat can't put them on yet because of the format. Maureen and Pres. Bert are working on fixing the setup.

NEC WOMAN Pat Michalski sent in her activity report. She has nothing to report. National is hoping to have an NEC in March but there is not information yet.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN Kathy Biela sent in her activity report. The Personnel committee had a meeting to discuss ideas for Personnel.

Nancy Middleton stated the Personnel instructions say the choice of Department Secretary is brought to the SEC for approval but the By-laws say the choice is brought to the convention body for a vote. This is conflicting. Pres. Bert asked the Parliamentarian to look into it.

PRO/HISTORIAN Kathy Jo Johnson sent in her activity report. She is still requesting things for the President's book – pictures, articles, information, etc.

FALL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN Faye Richardson-Green sent in her activity report. She said the Fall Conference was in the planning stages when it was cancelled. She would like to see some kind of session to deal with programs and projects which involves both AMVETS and Auxiliary. We need more support for this type of program.

Faye said she was working with the President on doing some type of classes at the President's Higgins Lake Week-end Retreat.

President Bert said she is hoping for a large turnout for the weekend. If we have some classes, it might encourage more to come. She also wants some fun things to do during the weekend. Ideas would be appreciated.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN Kathy Biela said she forgot to add to her report: The Exec. Secretary's two-year contract is up so there will be a hiring at the next convention.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN Carol Pickett sent in her activity report although she hasn't really done anything because of the convention being cancelled. She thanked Kathy Keizer for the nice packet she sent out about membership. It has come in really handy since it has been a long time since she held this job. She also thanked Peggy Liss for representing her at the AMVET SEC.

Carol questioned if these minutes would be sent to each Officer. Answer: No – they will be on the website after they are completed and approved by the President and Parliamentarian.

Carol announced several dates we need to put on our calendars:

- Spring SEC will be February 19, 2021 at the Ramada Inn in Grayling
- Convention will be June 18-20 at the Wyndham Suites in Sterling Heights
- Fall Conference will be October 1-3 at the Holiday Inn in Mt Pleasant

Because there was no convention, the President hadn't received her gift from the Auxiliary. Carol was hoping to present it at the Fall Conference but that too was cancelled. So all the Officers could see what was purchased, Carol made the presentation via Microsoft Team and will hand deliver the gifts to the President.

- #1 – President's life membership card
- #2 – AMVETS Auxiliary pendant

#3 - Money

#4 – Vermont Maple Syrup!! (President Bert is originally from Vermont)/
PRO Kathy Jo Johnson requested pictures when these gifts were delivered to the President. President. Bert promised to have pictures for her.

HONORS AND AWARDS Kathryn was excused by the President from this meeting. Wendy Lynema questioned if Kathryn had sent in a report about what they are going to do about the judging for awards.

Kathy Keizer said she felt the Honors & Awards committee had to meet in person to judge the 2019/2020 year and the results needs to be in the newsletter and on the website.

Maureen Jackson agreed with Kathy K. She added certificates could be made up after the judging and mailed, with cash awards, to the winners. Plaques could not be mailed. She suggested maybe the committee could meet at the SEC.

Wendy Lynema said there was not enough time to do the judging before the SEC meeting.

Pat Michalski said this was going on way too long.

**Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Wendy Lynema the Honors & Awards Committee meet as soon as possible to do the judging for the 2019/ 2020 service reports. If the Chairman is not available, the President will appoint a Chairman. CARRIED

There was a long discussion on the Honors & Awards Donor's Rules. They were not updated last year and they are not being done this year. The rules on the website were the ones done by Wendy Lynema when she was Chairman. None of the Donor's who were on the SEC team conference said they were contacted about their rules.

Nancy Middleton and Kathy Keizer volunteered to update them and see if they could find Donors for some of the awards.

President Bert said she would try to contact the Honors & Award Chairman about getting this done.

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd

Wendy Lynema moved to give Kathy Keizer and Nancy Middleton permission to update the Donor's Rules as soon as possible. CARRIED

HIGGINS LAKE LODGE REP. Peggy Liss had sent in her activity report. She reported there has been a lot of work done at the lodge. The bathroom off the veranda has been remodel along with other projects. Peggy will send a report to the website on all the work done – inside and outside, in the lodge and in the cabins.

Peggy represented the Liaison Officer by delivering a copy of the Treasurer's finance report and the Convention Chairman's report

President Bert stated the AMVETS SEC treated Peggy with respect. She also stated when she represented the Liaison Officer, the AMVETS almost didn't recognize her. She was glad things went better for Peggy.

HONORS AND AWARDS Kathryn Schultz sent in her activity report. Kathryn is excused by the President.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS REPORTS:

District I – Cel Rose Solak – excused. She could not get connected. to be on the Microsoft Team meeting. She reported (by phone) to the President - because of the pandemic, District I has had no meetings. They are hoping to have one in March. Rose has been staying in touch with all the Officers.

District II – Peggy Liss stated they have not met either. They are hoping it will start getting better soon.

District V – Faye Richardson-Green reported they have been communicating by email, text and they had their meeting by video conference. It worked well. There is one Aux. in the District which is having some challenges. They had many (30-40) new members and multiply changes in Officers. There is a lot of tension between the AMVETS and the Auxiliary. The District V Commander and Faye has had several conversations with them. They are still active at that Post in spite of the State Covid-19 order.

District VII – Barb Robare did not turn in an activity report. She was excused by the President.

VAVS/MICHIGAN HOME REPS.

Aleda E Lutz VA – Linda Marshall did not turn in her activity report (Note: has since sent it in). The balance in her accounts is \$96.58 in checking and \$1,796.40 in savings. Linda said with the pandemic, there is limited volunteering.

President Bert stated you can't blame the hospital. The covid-19 rate is going up in Michigan.

Battle Creek VAMC – Faye Richardson-Green The clinic is not having the coffee service. The facility would like greeters but Faye is not willing to do that during the pandemic. There is no one allowed on the in-patient unit because of Covid-19 infections.

Faye just had her joint review. She will be putting together gift bags during the holidays. She also sent a donation for activities in the mental health unit.

John Dingell VA – Harriet Biela did her activity report – thanked the Secretary for helping her with it (hands swollen and not able to type). She has donated candy and goodies for Halloween at John Dingell VA

Jacobetti Home – Judy Smith was excused but sent in her activity report. She has \$1,346.03 in her checking account and \$6.88 in savings.

Hospital award: Kathy Keizer would like to be the Donor of the Hospital Award for Auxiliaries with 41 or more members. She submitted her rules. It will be a cash award to be used in continuing work in the Hospital program.

**Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to accept Kathy’s Donors Rules for Hospital. CARRIED. The Rules will be in the Honors & Awards Donor’s Rule packet.

A discussion was again held about the President’s Higgins Lake Weekend Retreat. President Bert is looking for fun things to do. Maybe a pajama party with dancing, etc. She would like input for any training classes and/or fun activities.

Some of the suggestions were: Menopause the Musical, mentoring, leadership ideas, roll playing, ideas to make learning fun. President Bert may get a projector to bring. The date is April 16, 17, 18, 2021.

**Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Maureen Jackson move to pay the bills. CARRIED

**Motion Kathy Jo Johnson/ 2nd ????? to adjourn the meeting. CARRIED

The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Carolyn Wisniewski.

The flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arm Becky Kovach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm

Respectfully submitted:
Nancy Middleton
Executive Secretary
10/21/2020

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| Dept. Pres. – approved 10/23/2020 with corrections |
| Parliamentarian – on vacation N/A |
| Master Spell Checker (Pat Michalski) – 10/22/2020 |

**Following the meeting, I received our 2nd Vice President’s report. She could not connect to the meeting so I am adding her information to the end of these minutes.

Remember midyear reports must be postmark by November 5th and sent to me: Child Welfare Chairman, Rose Solak, 5655 Melbourne, Dearborn Heights, Mi 48127

*The Penrickton Tour is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th, 2020 at 11:30am. Please let me know who and how many will be attending the tour, so I can notify Kurt. There may be a limit**. All donated items for the Wish List and*

monetary donation payable to PENRICKTION, earmark WISH LIST will be delivered to Kurt on the day of the tour. A package was sent to the District Presidents, to notify and share the information with Auxiliary members in their Districts.

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear you mask and follow the restrictions associated with the COVID19 virus.

****Rose learned there will be no limits on the number who can attend (this is subject to change.)**