

SPRING S.E.C. MEETING

Virtual Meeting

February 20, 2021

This meeting was called to order at 1:05pm on Saturday Feb. 20th by President Bert Lema.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

The Salute to the Colors was led by Cel Rose Solak.

The roll call of Officers was read by Secretary Nancy Middleton. It is noted on the list which Officers were present (P), excused (EX), Absent (A) or not required (NR) to be in attendance and which one turned in activity report (Y or N) which is required of all.

President Bert Lema (P) (Y)

1st Vice Kathy Keizer (P) (Y)

2nd Vice Cel Rose Solak (P) (Y)
(Y)

3rd Vice Wendy Lynema (EX) (N)

Secretary Nancy Middleton(P) (Y)

Treasurer Gloria Hall (P) (Y)

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski (P) (Y)

SGT-at-Arms Becky Kovach (EX) (N)

Americanism Pat Michalski (P) (Y)

Hospital Harriet Biela (P) (Y)

Scholarship Linda Marshall (P) (Y)

Parliam. Maureen Jackson(P) (Y)

W&M Bonnie Rojeski (P) (Y)

H&A Kathryn Schultz (P) (Y)

Personnel Kathy Biela (P) (Y)

PRO Kathy Jo Johnson (P) (Y)

Conv. Chair Carol Pickett (P) (Y)

F. Conf Chair Faye Richardson-Green (P)

Higgins Lake Rep Peggy Liss (P) (Y)

Aleda E Lutz Rep Linda Marshall (P) (Y)

Ann Arbor Rep Pat Krzesowik (NR) (N)

BCVA Rep Faye Richardson-Green (P) (Y)

GR Home Rep Clarice Poisson (P) (Y)

Jacobetti Home Judy Smith (NR) (Y)

John Dingell Rep Harriet Biela (P) (Y)

Dist. I Pres. Cel Rose Solak (P) (Y)

Dist. II Pres. Peggy Liss (P) (Y)

Dist. V Pres Faye Richardson-Green (P) (Y)

Dist. VII Pres. Barb Robare (EX) (N)

Also joining the SEC as a voting member is PDP Maribeth Wescott.

Correspondence: Secretary Nancy Middleton

The Secretary received no correspondence. President Bert received a letter from Aux. #51 in Kentucky announcing the candidacy of Barbara Guth for re-election to the Office of National Treasurer. Pres. Bert also read an email from Carol King at National Headquarters stating National was behind in processing membership. She offered to forward the email, but the Secretary already had a copy. National may be behind, but Michigan is doing fine.

President Bert also stated she has been having problems with her email and had to get a temporary email until the problems are resolved. The temporary email to use for her is bmzaml73@gmail.com

Reports:

President Bert Lema: has made no trips so far this year because of the pandemic. Since the Posts are now open to 25% capacity, she will send out email concerning future visits.

The “Roll to Remember” will be in May (no date given) Fall SEC will be October 1-3 at the Mt. Pleasant Holiday Inn Suites.

The Department AMVETS are trying to get a small business loan.

President Bert has been making several donations to food banks and shelters

1st Vice President Kathy Keizer: reported she is not sure if the \$5 waiver for 30 days on late renewals helped but we had an increase in renewals by 214 from 12/31 until 2/10. It is recommended we use postmark dates and not dates for when the paperwork needs to be in the hands of the Secretary.

The total membership as of 12/10/2020 is 1202. There are a few D&Rs yet to be processed. We still have 272 annuals who did not renew plus 31 life members from #171 who chose not to transfer to another local.

We have 4 locals who missed the 100% renewal by 1 member. They thought they should be on the 100% list because they knew a member would not be renewing so it shouldn't count! Even with repeated emails, newsletter articles, bulletins, phone calls and the special membership packet Kathy sent in the early Fall, there are 1st Vices who are still not filling out the paperwork properly. We have also had many new 1st Vices. One local has had at least 3 changes this year.

Kathy plans on sending emails and writing newsletter articles/bulletins about passing all information on to the next person taking the Office. This should be encouraged for ALL offices – not just membership. A couple copies of the membership packet will be forwarded to 2 of the newer ladies who volunteered to do membership. We still have some ladies who have held the office for several years and are still not following the procedures. The Secretary spent 7 hours on just one D&R 0 trying to figure it out and finally had to redo it so National could understand it.

2nd Vice President Cel Rose Solak: last years Chairman's project was gift cards to Penrickton. \$1,432 cards were delivered. This year (2021) the project is the Penrickton wish list. There is still time to get items. They will be delivered to Penrickton during the tour which is now scheduled for 11am on Saturday, April 10. All members of the AMVET Family are invited. If you will be going on the tour, let Rose know how many will be going so she can notify Penrickton of the count. Masks are required and temperatures will be taken.

Honors and Awards will meet on Thursday 2/25 to go over the reports from 2019/2020 and determine the winners. The final reports for this year must be postmarked by May 5th. Please follow the Donor Rules for the awards for 2020/2021.

3rd Vice President Wendy Lynema Wendy was excused from this meeting.

Executive Secretary Nancy Middleton: The Convention Digest will be coming out next month. Items should be sent to Nancy around the 1st of March. The following should be in the Digest: 1) revalidation forms with instructions 2) donation sheets for 2021 3) hotel information from the Convention Chairman 4) pre-registration slips 5) tentative agenda from President 6) donor rules 7) Bulletins regarding convention information or issues from: a) President b) 1st Vice c) 2nd Vice d) 3rd Vice e) Secretary f) Treasurer (finance report) g) Americanism Officer h) Hospital Officer i) Scholarship Officer j) Parliamentarian k) Ways & Means l) other Officers who have convention information they wish to share.

A suggestion was made to include bios from announced candidates for Dept. Offices. There seemed to be interest in having this added to the Digest.

Treasurer Gloria Hall: gave the finance report.

General Fund - \$16,956.92
Hospital Fund - \$2,323.29
Texas Hold'em Fund - \$3,391.59
Restricted Fund - \$21,907.46
Savings #2 (donations) - \$1,273.37
Total of 6 CD's - \$39,518.00

For a total net worth of \$85,370.63

Americanism Officer Pat Michalski: National will not be selecting the winners of the 2019/2020 contest until the next National Convention this August.

There was a phone conference call with the Joint Americanism Committee on 2/16/2021. They discussed the Americanism Raffle tickets – the printing and distribution. The tickets will be \$2 each or 6 for \$10. Prizes will be 1st place \$400; 2nd place \$300; 3rd place \$200; and 4th thru 8th place \$20 each. If enough tickets are not sold, it will revert to a 50/50.

There will be no Awards luncheon at this year's convention. Prizes will be mailed out to the winners. Hopefully there will be a luncheon at the 2022 convention.

Pat said there are AMVET masks available. If you want one, contact her. Pres. Bert bought Auxiliary masks and made certificates and mailed them to each Auxiliary Dept. Officer. She hopes everyone liked them. She also got some to donate to Ways & Means.

Hospital Officer Harriet Biela: sent all the final reports from 2019/2020 to the NEC Woman for judging because she cannot be at the meeting.

Harriet is still trying to get a letter from National VAVS Officer Marie Rorrio stating Rose Solak has been approved to be the Deputy at John Dingell VA. This was approved by the SEC but confirmation has not been received. Rose Solak said she received a letter from Marie stating she has been approved. Harriet needs a letter for her files.

Scholarship Officer Linda Marshall: the Scholarship applications are on the website. Completed applications are due to Linda postmarked by 5/21/2021. She has Scholarship Memorial cards which sell for.... (NOTE: Linda said 5 for \$10 but I think it is 10 for \$5.). Linda reminded everyone about her 'bookworm' project as a fundraiser for Scholarship.

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski: said 2 people sent her blank cards. She could use more 'thinking of you', 'sympathy', etc.

NEC Woman Pat Michalski: sent in her Michigan reports for the NEC meeting will be held virtually on March 6, 2021. She also received some thank you notes for several Auxiliaries for their National Donations last year which need to be distributed to the Aux.

At this year's National Convention, the 2019/20 awards will be judged on August 14 and the 2020/21 awards will be judged on Monday.

It was announced that Peggy Liss is running for the office of National 3rd Vice.
***Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall to support Peggy Liss as she runs for the Office of National 3rd Vice President. CARRIED*

Honors & Awards Chairman Kathryn Schultz: announced the Honors & Awards judging (for 2019/2020) will be held on Feb. 25 at 1pm in Bay City. Wendy Lynema and Harriet Biela will not be in attendance. They have mailed their reports to Pat Michalski. The judging will be done by Peggy Liss, Allison Aldrich, Cel Rose Solak (2nd Vice), Pat Michalski (Americanism/SOS), Linda Marshall (Scholarship).

***Motion Pat Michalski (2nd not identified) to approve Allison Aldrich and Peggy Liss to Honors & Awards in place of Wendy Lynema and Harriet Biela. CARRIED*

Pat Michalski discussed paying mileage to the judges and reimbursing the cost of postage to those who mailed their reports. A long discussion was held because these are last years expenses and that budget was closed in August 2020 after the audit. Also, each Officer has a (small) budget for postage expenses. It was also stated Pat Michalski and Linda Marshall would not get mileage because they live in Bay City.

***Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Kathy Biela to pay mileage (at .15 per mile) to Kathryn Schultz, Cel Rose Solak, Allison Aldrich and Peggy Liss for travel to the H&A meeting.*

The Secretary questioned where these funds would come from. After more discussions, the Treasurer said we had money in the miscellaneous fund. This needed to be made part of the motion. The new motion read:

***Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Kathy Biela to pay mileage (at .15 per mile) to Kathryn Schultz, Cel Rose Solak, Allison Aldrich and Peggy Liss for travel to the H&A meeting and funds to be taken from the miscellaneous fund. CARRIED*

The Treasurer will forward vouchers to Pat Michalski.

Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson: All voting members of the SEC were sent copies of requested changes to the Officer's Instructions plus a Standing Rules recommendation by the District V Auxiliary.

Each member received the copies with the exception of the Dept. President, who has issues with her mail. The following changes were voted on:

ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICER'S GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Article I – General Information

#4: Officer's instructions may only be changed if:

- c. You will be contacted **via email or phone call** by the Department Parliamentarian by December 1st to remind you to submit recommendations for changes to instructions for your Department Office. You must submit those recommendations in writing to her no later than January 1st.
- e. All revisions to the Department Officers' instructions will be brought to the attention of the **Spring** SEC for discussion and vote. Following approval, you will be contacted by the Department Parliamentarian to discuss any required changes to your instructions.

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes. CARRIED*

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS

Article III – Elections and Installations

1. You shall make an official visit to each local's meeting in your District at least once during your term of office. **~~Installation does not count as a local meeting.~~ Installation without a formal Auxiliary meeting does not count as an official visit.** After this visit, you will complete a local visitation form, make two (2) copies and send one (1) each to the Department President and Department Parliamentarian. You shall keep a copy in your files. You can find a copy of this form on the Department website.

(NOTE: original suggestion has been crossed out and replacement wording was put in.)

***Motion Cel Rose Solak/2nd Clarice Poisson to approve the changes. CARRIED*

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER'S INSTRUCTIONS

Article III – Scholarship Judging

1. The judging charts which reflect the criteria shall be used by the judging committee. Blank charts shall be left in the file for the next year. The judging criteria shall be as follows: **Need 40%, Academic 30%, Goals 20%, Grammar and Punctuation 5%, Volunteer work 5%**

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Clarice Poisson to accept the change. CARRIED by majority vote (2 opposed)**

DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS

Article I – General Information.

4. In your final bulletin Be sure you send a reminder no later than 15 days prior to convention to the District Presidents and Department Executive Secretary they are required to attend your Membership Committee meeting, if held. Urge local Membership Chairmen and other members they are all welcome to attend.

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept change. CARRIED**

7. You will send renewal notices to the annual MAL members **no later than September 30**. You will ~~collect payments from these annual MAL members and complete the D&R to include with this notice as well as inform the member to send her check and the completed D&R to the Department Executive Secretary. Forward the D&R and payments to the Department Executive Secretary.~~ **(Bylaw – Article III, 3-B)**

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Pat Michalski to approve change. CARRIED**

New #8. In May, you should receive copies of the local Revalidations from the Parliamentarian. Be sure to place them in your files. They will need to be passed on to the next 1st Vice President. They have important information which may be needed time to time

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Pat Michalski to approve change. CARRIED**

Article II – D & R'S and How to Compile Reports

1. D & R's, deceased member notices and various changes will be sent to you frequently from the Department Executive Secretary, as she receives them from the local Auxiliaries. You will keep a roster of each Auxiliary with their current members by name and current membership status. Be sure to make changes on the roster when Change Forms or other corrections are received from the Department Executive Secretary. Retain copies of all documents in **a separate folder for each local auxiliary.** ~~alpha or date order, whichever is most appropriate depending on the type of document received.~~

4 To remove a Life member from the roster, proof is needed that the whereabouts of the member is unknown. This is done by the Local Auxiliary. They **shall** send a letter to the member using the **last known** address **they have in their files.** ~~from the National roster.~~ If the letter is returned by the Post Office with "address unknown", the Local 1st Vice makes a copy of the envelope for the local files and forwards the original envelope to the Department Executive Secretary with the completed transfer form for MAL (member at large).

5. Keep an official Department membership chart listing prior year ending totals as your beginning year totals as well as columns for: renewals, new, **rejoins**, renew to life, new life and life members. Update this chart ~~frequently~~ as you

update your membership rosters. Compare your records and totals with the Department Executive Secretary at least monthly – more frequently if needed. Your goal is to always have your records and the Department Executive Secretary's records match.

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes to #1, #4,#5. CARRIED*

Article III – Auxiliary Rosters

1. You ~~shall~~ **will** receive two sets of the National Roster printout of current Michigan local Auxiliary members from the Department Executive Secretary. One set is to be separated by local Auxiliary and mailed to the local 1st Vice President of each local Auxiliary or designated Membership Chairman within five (5) days of receipt. ~~Enclose a letter stating if there are any errors on the printout, the local Auxiliary Representative needs to advise the Department Executive Secretary immediately.~~ Keep the second set of National rosters in a binder or file for your records.
 - a. **A letter shall be enclosed with each roster advising the local 1st Vice to make corrections where needed, copy each page which has corrections and mail those correction pages to the Department Executive Secretary by the deadline date.**
 - b. National Rosters are to be reviewed, corrected and returned to the Department Executive Secretary within fifteen (15) days.

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes CARRIED*

Article IV – Reports

1. You ~~should~~ **shall compare your chart figures** with the Department Executive Secretary **monthly** so ~~both~~ your records and hers ~~are correct~~ **match** before ~~doing~~ the Department Mid-Year (12/31) and Final (5/31) membership charts **are sent to the locals with their current roster**. These charts **may be used as** ~~are~~ your reports.

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes. CARRIED*

- 3 No later than ~~January 10th~~ **December 30th, 15th**, you shall ~~send letters or notify e-mails to~~ each auxiliary with Life members still owing hospital donations ~~after December 31st~~ **via email or by phone**. Advise these local auxiliaries they ~~are now~~ **will be** considered not in good standing until the donation(s) have been received by the Department Executive Secretary. ~~which must be postmarked no later than January 5.~~ Inform the Department President, Department Parliamentarian and the Department Executive Secretary to whom ~~the letters~~ **reminders** have been sent.

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes. CARRIED*

Article V – Membership Contests

2. **You shall set the deadline for each of your contests but it should be no later than May 31.** ~~The membership contest deadline will be May 31st for an Auxiliary to be eligible for the various membership awards.~~

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes. CARRIED*

Article VI – Convention and pre-Convention Responsibilities

- 2 Be sure you have an award to be presented for each of your membership contests, **if you have not already awarded them**. You will present ~~them~~ **any contest awards not yet presented** during your Membership report on the Convention floor. The Department Executive Secretary will make the contest award certificates for you if you give her the information no less than fourteen (14) days prior to Convention, unless the contest is a drawing which will be held at Convention.

***Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Keizer to accept changes. CARRIED*

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS

Propose to eliminate the Secretary instructions and continue with the following:

#1 As a paid employee under the direction of the Personnel Chairman, I should be presented with an Employee Handbook which would outline all the duties of the Secretary. It would also include benefits, a code of conduct, dress code, pay schedule, disciplinary action, etc.

#2 As a paid employee, I would not be considered an Officer of the Department and as such, would not carry a vote as the Department Secretary.

#3 I would be issued a 1099 form each January and be required to file taxes on my paid position.

#4 From the National By-Laws: ARTICLE VIII. HEADQUARTERS STAFF SECTION 1: The Headquarters Staff shall: (a) Consist of such personnel necessary to provide the services required to meet the needs of headquarters operation, as defined by the National Executive Board. Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President, the Executive Committee, or as found in the Policy of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary and Headquarters Staff job descriptions and procedure.

Please consider these changes to the "Instructions to the Department Secretary". I think it is time to get this issue resolved.

Several discussions were held on the subject. The Secretary has been informed by a few different accountants she should be filing a 1099 for tax purposes with the IRS. Compensation is the same as payment for work. Faye Richardson-Green concurred with that statement. She said compensation is payment for work performed and should be claimed as income to the IRS. It was also pointed out that employees normally do not have to reapply every two years to keep their job. It is normal working practice to have your job until you quit, retire or are replaced/fired. Paid employees should not be Officers of the organization.

***Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Cel Rose Solak moved to table the recommendation until the Personnel committee can meet. CARRIED. By approving a motion to 'table', all discussion ends on a subject and no further action can be taken.*

RECOMMENDATION FOR INSERTING INTO OUR DEPT. STANDING RULES

The following recommendation originally came from Aux. #23 and was adopted by the District V Auxiliary for presentation to the Department. It would give us guidelines on how to continue our Auxiliary in a State of Emergency.

Recommendations for an addition to the Dept. Standing Rules

FROM District V

Recommendation to the Department from District V to add the following language to the Department Standing Rules regarding "State of Emergencies" per letter received from National Parliamentarian, Heidi Dineen-Serpis, via email, on March 17, 2020, until the time we can include them in the Department Bylaws.

1. *In the event of a state of emergency which results in the cancellation of Convention and our elections cannot be held in person, voting may be done by mail or email.*
 - a. *A date for a virtual SEC meeting will be set by the President to announce the results of the election. Past Department Presidents shall be invited to be included in this meeting.*
 - b. *The ballots will be opened and counted by an Election Committee the day before this meeting. (See #4)*
 - c. *The results will then be posted on the website and sent to each local president, via email or US mail, within three (3) days.*
2. *Anyone wishing to serve as a Department Officer will need to contact the Department President unless she has previously announced at an SEC meeting her intentions.*
 - a. *All candidates shall send a written biography of information to the Executive Secretary no less than 20 days prior to the election date. If this is not done, the candidate will be dropped from the ballot.*
3. *Members from the locals will be required to make a request for a ballot by registering for Convention materials, with a small fee charged to cover expenses, from the Executive Secretary, by the deadline date set by the President and Parliamentarian.*
 - a. *The Convention materials will include biographies of the candidates running and a ballot*
 - b. *Department officers and Past Department Presidents who are not serving on the SEC, will not be required to register per Convention rules and will receive the Convention materials, including a ballot, from the Executive Secretary.*
 - c. *Ballots must be filled out and returned to the Election Chairman, postmarked no later than seven (7) days prior to the election.*

4. *An election chairman and committee will be appointed by the President no less than twenty (20) days prior to the virtual meeting, with approval of the SEC.*
 - a. *The Chairman and committee members shall be from a District or area with the fewest or no candidate(s) and be from at least three (3) different locals.*
 - b. *The ballots will be checked for the proper postmark, opened and counted the day prior to the virtual meeting set by the President.*
 - c. *The Election Chairman will forward the results of the election to the President as soon as possible following the committee meeting.*
5. *During a state of emergency, virtual meetings shall be set when any business of the Department needs to be addressed, as soon as possible, with no less than a seven (7) day notice.*

Approved at the November 15, 2020, District V virtual meeting.

****Motion Maureen Jackson/2nd Kathy Biela to approve this addition to the Dept. Standing Rules. CARRIED**

The Parliamentarian had a couple other changes to discuss but we had nothing in writing so they would not be read and/or considered until we could have written copies. A couple of the subjects had to do with by-laws so this subject was invalid because by-laws can only be handled at convention – not at an SEC.

Ways & Means Chairman Bonnie Rojeski thanked everyone for their support of the Holiday Raffle (which brought in over \$3,000) and the fundraising calendars in October and December. (which brought in over \$500). The 3rd and final ‘fun’ calendar is in March and Bonnie is hoping this will also be a big success (even though it picks on the Irish!!)

There was a discussion about the Dept. Raffle. 1st Prize would be a large cooler on wheels with adult beverages in it. 2nd prize would be \$100 in lottery tickets. Bonnie questioned if we needed a 3rd prize. The majority didn’t think so because the cost of the 1st prize is questionable. If we can get several ‘adult’ beverages donated, it will be helpful but if Bonnie needs to buy a lot, the cost will go up. Tickets will be \$2 each or 6 for \$10.

****Motion Bonnie Rojeski/2nd Gloria Hall to approve the 2 prizes (1st cooler with adult beverages and 2nd \$100 lottery tickets) CARRIED**

Bonnie is planning gas cards raffle and mystery prizes. She would also like to have a basket raffle each day of the Convention.

Peggy Liss said although the March Irish calendar was to pick on Carol Pickett (NOTE: Bonnie is also Irish so it was intended on getting her money too), she is planning on doing her share because she is also Irish. It was suggested because she is a red-headed Irishman like the leprechauns – maybe she should pay double throughout the calendar!!)

Secretary Nancy -presented a plan to help sell the Dept. Raffle tickets. She proposed the following for the newsletters for July 2021 through June 2022.

With the exception of the Dept. President there will be NO free newsletters – this includes no free copies to the local Auxiliaries. BUT we will give a free one-year subscription to anyone who purchases a packet of raffle tickets and completes a “free subscription ticket”.

Each individual who now receives the newsletter will be sent one packet of tickets at a cost of \$10. There will be a ‘free newsletter’ ticket attached. When they sell or buy the packet of tickets, they fill out the newsletter ticket to whoever they want to get the newsletter. Return the raffle tickets with the payment and include the newsletter ticket.

Each local and District Auxiliary will be sent 3 to 10 packets of tickets (depending on their size) at a cost of \$10 each. There will be a ‘free newsletter’ ticket attached to each packet. When they sell or buy the packet of tickets, they fill out the newsletter tickets to whoever they want to get the newsletter. Return the raffle tickets with the payment and include the newsletter ticket. In this case, if an Auxiliary buys six packets – they can delegate who the 6 newsletters go to (President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Secretary, etc.). The more ticket packets redeemed, the more free newsletters they can get.

The raffle stubs and newsletter ticket must be returned to the Dept. Ways & Means Chairman prior to the start of the Dept. Convention

The purpose is to increase the sale of tickets and promote the newsletter. The more people who get (and read) the newsletter, the better informed they will be. This could easily increase participation in Dept. events and promote Officers special projects and programs. Maybe more locals will promote their projects in the newsletter!

***Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Biela to accept this free newsletter project for 2021/2022. CARRIED*

Our Ways & Means Chairman Bonnie Rojaski had a successful Holiday Raffle, but it could have been better. 3 of 4 Districts purchased tickets, 13 of 23 Auxiliaries bought tickets. 22 of 23 Officers bought them. 105 packets were sent out but never returned. This could have been an additional \$1,050.

PRO Kathy Jo Johnson: announced the President’s testimonial will be held at the Harper Woods Post (#57) on May 22, 2021,

President Bert said the Auxiliary Higgins Lake weekend is set for April 17-18-19 She is looking forward to a good weekend and hopes to have all the lodge rooms and cabins full!

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett: was informed the 2021 convention will be at the Marriot Auburn Hills/Pontiac on June 17-20. The room rate is \$124 plus tax. The AMVETS have signed a contract but we don’t have a lot of information. Carol will try to get some answers for us.

#1 How much is the meeting room cost?

#2 How many rooms need to be booked to get a break on meeting room cost?

#3 How much are the rooms when the tax is added in?

#4 Is there a parking fee?

There was a discussion on the cost and a worry that this would discourage people from attending.

President Bert stated the contract calls for 125 rooms to be booked. The AMVETS will need to pay for any rooms under the 125 rooms. They would like all receipts from the hotel expenses from each person (rooms, food, etc.). This is from everyone – AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders.

Kathy Jo Johnson talked about the hotel. She lives fairly close to it and said it is a very nice hotel - but expensive.

It was also announced Exec. Director Carol Hebert will be retiring after this convention.

Carol Pickett asked who is the Gaveliere President. Faye Richardson-Green said Seletha Robertson.

Fall Conference Chairman Faye Richardson-Green: as we had no Fall Conference, she has nothing to report.

Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela: has a problem seeing everyone on her screen. Faye Richardson-Green suggested she needs to go to the Gallery section and select large gallery.

Kathy suggested the Personnel committee get together to discuss the Secretary instructions suggestions. (Note: a time and date were not noted.)

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Peggy Liss: had nothing to report at this time. She is hoping applications for renting cabins in April will be a draw and everyone can attend.

Web Master Pat Michalski: asked the W&M Chairman if she would like the March fundraising calendar on the website. ANSWER – “Yes”.

Pat also commented she has been seeing several photos on Facebook for Auxiliary programs/events. She asked that photos be sent to her so she can put them on the website. Faye Richardson-Green asked if we can link to our website from Facebook. Pat will check on this.

President Bert asked everyone to send information to Pat for the website.

Pat reminded everyone the schedule for newsletter articles and website bulletins are on the website and also in the individual calendars which were sent to every Officer at the beginning of the Aux. year.

VAVS/Home Reps if in attendance:

Battle Creek VAMC Rep Faye Richardson-Green has not done much at the VA because most of their services are still shut down. The balance in the account is \$360.88.

John Dingell VAVS Harriet Biela: Rose Solak is the Deputy for John Dingell. The balance in the account is \$1,454.88.

Aleda E Lutz VA Linda Marshall: says everything is at a standstill. The balance in her accounts are Savings \$1795.40 and checking \$252.32

Grand Rapids Home Clarice Poisson: The balance in her account is \$305.16 in savings and \$94.20 in checking.

District President Reports

District I Cel Rose Solak: District I will be holding a virtual meeting on March 13 at 1pm. Rose stated she is keeping in contact with the local Auxiliaries.

District II Peggy Liss: the District will have an in-person meeting on March 7th at Post #72 in New Haven.at 1pm. This will be their first meeting since November. Peggy also announced Kay Kemp will be running for Dept. Hospital Officer and Linda Marshall will be running for Dept. 2nd Vice President.

District V Faye Richardson-Green: stated Dist. V has had virtual meetings every other month since July. We have not been able to have any fundraisers which is a slight hardship. There is a committee working on the Dept. President's visit in May if it will be an in-person visit.

We had some problems earlier in the year between an Auxiliary and their AMVETS but that seems to have calmed down.

One of our Auxiliaries sent in 4 copies of their new by-laws last year in February (2020). The local Parliamentarian finally received them in October 2020 (8 months later). It was not the original she mailed to the Dept. Parliamentarian. It was a photocopy reduced in size to about ¼ page. What happened to the 4 originals sent? Why should an Auxiliary send in 4 copies if they are not getting one returned to them – signed.

Kathy Keizer said as of 2 weeks ago, they still don't have the proper paperwork back..

Faye Richardson-Green is asking the Dept. Parliamentarian to return one of the four they sent to the Department – with signatures.

Faye also announced the candidacy of two members of District V:

Kathy Keizer for the Office of Dept. President
Gloria Hall for the Office of Dept. 1st Vice President

Because there is no District VI, Faye was asked to announce the candidacy of Pam Lein from Aux. #114 for the Office of Dept. Americanism.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Nancy Middleton wanted to discuss the room rates at the upcoming convention. She felt something must be done to help our locals with those high fees. Nancy suggested she would be willing to work with a committee to see what they could come up with. She suggested Treasurer Gloria Hall, Kathy Keizer and Faye Richardson-Green because they all live fairly close and could meet quickly to come up with some suggestions. Nancy also said when the committee has ideas – hopefully within a week – the President could set up a virtual meeting of the Officers to approve some type of arrangement.

****Motion Linda Marshall/2nd Harriet Biela to have the committee for considering costs at convention. CARRIED**

Announcements:

Maureen Jackson announced the candidacy of Cel Rose Solak for the Office of Department President.

Peggy Liss questioned why the announcements of Past Department Presidents were made if they could not announce until Sunday of Convention.

Nancy Middleton questioned when the by-laws were changed. The original motion for the subject stated PDPs couldn't run for Service Officers but if no one ran, they could be appointed. There was a change but Nancy thought it still applied to Service Offices. Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson read from the by-laws which states, 'Any office'.

*******see notation at close of minutes.**

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

****Motion Maureen Jackson/ Kathy Biela to Adjourn CARRIED**

****Benediction by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski**

Retirement of Colors by Cel Rose Solak

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton, Executive Secretary

February 24, 2021

****from the 6/16/2017 Dept. Convention**

Article V Section 10

NOW READS:

Past Department Presidents shall not be allowed to run for a Service Office, Second Vice President (Child Welfare Officer), Third Vice President (Community Service Officer), Americanism Officer, Hospital Officer, and Scholarship Officer. However, a Past Department President may be appointed to a Service Office, if not filled at Election, by the newly elected President.

CHANGE TO READ:

Past Department Presidents may be nominated for any Department level office on the day of elections provided there have been no nominations made for the office on the first day of nominations.

**Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Maureen Jackson to approve the change. CARRIED

Add new Article V Section 10 A.

No member may seek the office of President, 1st, 2nd or 3rd Vice Presidents without serving on the Executive Board for 2 years including 1 year as a Department Service Officer.

Approved by President Bert Lema- with corrections
2/25/21

Approved by 1st Vice Kathy Keizer - with corrections
2/24/21 P

Approved by Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson = with
correction 2/26/2021