

**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
2021 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

**Day One of Convention
Friday, June 18, 2021**

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett opened the convention with a welcome at 9:15am. She introduced President Bert Lema who extended her welcome.

The invocation was delivered by Caroline Wisniewski, Chaplain.

The Pledge was led by Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach.

Roll Call of Officers: by Secretary Nancy Middleton. All Officers were present with the following exceptions (all excused): Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson, PRO Kathy Jo Johnson, Ann Arbor Rep Pat Krzesowik, Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith, District VII President Barb Robare.

First Credentials report was given by Karen Harmon. 2 Auxiliaries are not in good standing - #79 and #110 - neither submitted a revalidation for 2021/2022. The totals are as of Thursday - 24 registrations / 22 votes / majority 12 / 2/3rd 14.

Since District V President/Battle Creek VAVS Faye Richardson-Green was excused from the pre-SEC, she did her report this morning. She introduced Nancy Woodwyk, President of #126 and Pam Lein, member of Aux. #23.

Faye told about the "Party in a Box" program started in Tampa FL. All supplies needed for a party (plates, cup, snacks, etc.) are put in a tote bag and distributed to the residents. Volunteers are needed. Faye is doing bags for the 4th of July.

President Bert stated Pat Michalski is filling in for the Parliamentarian for this convention. Pat, as NEC Woman, submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately. President Bert asked Faye Richardson-Green to fill out Pat's term which will end at convention 2022. (both approved at the pre-convention SEC meeting)

Pat Michalski read the Convention Rules from the convention book.

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall to approve the Convention Rules, CARRIED**

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Bert has her report in the Convention book. She stated there are so many people who need help because of Covid-19. The Veterans also need help. She thanked everyone who is volunteering in any way they can.

1st Vice President Kathy Keizer presented awards from the membership contests. There were 5 new member winners who received \$20 each (Tamara Williams #23, Sonya Spoor #120, Luanne Heidinger #1978, Julie DePree #1988, Tracie Ann Rosenberg #1988. There were 3 Early Bird renewal winners at \$25 each (Lorraine Tolard, #22 - Nancy Smith, #1957 - Shelba Sutherland, #3720). Two locals were 100% renewed by 12/31: Aux #115 and Aux. #4064 The 10 locals who reached the goal of 100% renewed or equivalent to last year's totals were : #22, #52, #93, #110, #120, #122, #123, #1957, #1988 and #3720. They all received certificates.

President Bert appointed Deb Davis as the convention timekeeper. Deb is transferring to Aux. #57 from MAL.

****Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Peggy Liss to accept the appointment of Deb Davis as the Convention timekeeper. CARRIED**

Carol Pickett also pointed out Deb is dealing with the attendance prizes in the morning.

2nd Vice President Rose Solak said 12 reports were received. There were 109 volunteers, 213 programs and \$1,774 hours for a total evaluation of \$48,415. \$1,049 in gift cards was given to Penrickton.

3rd Vice President Wendy Lynema has her report in the Convention books. She talked about the "Name a Litter" project through PAWS. She made a list of several names (all lakes in Michigan) and the copies are in the front cover of the convention book. Wendy asked everyone to look over the (3) lists and circle their top 6 names in each column. The lists should be returned to Wendy so she can compute the winners.

Secretary Nancy Middleton has something she needs brought up. Some of the committees were allowed to hold their meetings in the office. Several individuals have been 'dropping in' to the office to eat lunch, chat, relax whatever. This is fine most of the time. The big complaint is Kathy Keizer and Nancy are not your cleaning ladies. They are getting pretty tired of cleaning up empty water bottles, pop cans, candy wrappers, food bags, etc. Also, this is not a storage room. It is a working office and the table is needed for sorting, collating, etc. If you must leave your personal belongings, leave them at the back of the room.

President Bert reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones.

Penrickton's Kurt Sebalý came to the Auxiliary floor. He talked about the building addition, refurbishing and changes made. There is still a restriction on visits but things are slowly getting back to normal. Rose presented Kurt with a check from our Auxiliaries for \$3,117.

Reatha Houck arrived and was escorted into the room. Reatha was Dept. President in 1969-1970. She just turned 99 last week. She looked fabulous!!

Treasurer Gloria Hall was in attendance after her visit to the hospital. She said she was doing ok - but was very quiet! Her report is in the Convention book. There was a budget meeting yesterday and Gloria reported they could not complete it because too much information is missing to make a proper budget (Fall Conf. expenses, status of Secretary, next year's convention, etc.). We will vote on what we have at tomorrow's session.

The AMVETS have not reviewed our books for two years. We have a problem getting an accountant. Gloria did it last year but it was difficult. Faye Richardson-Green gave Gloria the name of someone who may be able to help.

Gloria reported we are starting up Texas Hold'em's again. We have 2 scheduled in July (1st thru 4th and 15th thru 19th). The supplier is giving us a \$500 signing bonus because of the urgency in getting the paperwork done. Deb Davis asked where these are held - Kings Room in Grand Rapids.

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski reported the Memorial Service will be tonight (Friday) and no alcohol is allowed.

Sgt-At-Arms Becky Kovach - report in the book. She had nothing else to report.

Americanism Pat Michalski has all the Americanism Contest winners listed in the Convention Book. District I and District II participated. There will be no awards ceremony at this convention, but the Joint Americanism Committee is planning on doing one at the next Convention.

Hospital Harriet Biela distributed hospital pins and bars plus one certificate. Those receiving pins were Arlene Cicala (#121) 100 hours; Ellen Brougham (#126) 100 hours; Diana Lammott (#1988) 500 hours; Linda Marshall (#22) 500 hours, Gloria Hall (#23) 500 hours; Faye Richardson-Green (#23) 500 hours; Kay Kemp (#93) 100 hours pin and 2,500 bar, Robert Lane (#121) 100 hours; Clarice Poisson (#126) received a 2,755 hour certificate.

President Bert announced Harriet's resignation as the VAVS from John Dingell effective 6/20/2021. She has served our hospitalized veterans for 42 years.

Scholarship Linda Marshall announced 2 scholarships were given this year. She will announce the winners tomorrow.

NEC Woman Faye Richardson-Green is looking forward to the NEC meeting at National Convention. She likes to hear what is happening across the country. She encourages everyone to go to a National Convention if they get a chance.

She also talked about the major drop off of Jr. AMVETS in Michigan. We need to encourage our young people to get involved. This is an opportunity for growth.

President Bert said Aux. #57 has Jr. AMVETS

Ways & Means Bonnie Rojaski thanked those who donated nice prizes. Our members have been amazing.

Personnel Chairman Kathy Biela stated there have been 5 meetings but no decision yet on the handbook for a Dept. Secretary.

PRO/Historian Kathy Jo Johnson has her report in the Convention books. She is working on President Bert's book and wants to take photos of the Dept. Officers this week.

She announced President Bert's testimonial will be on July 18th.

Honors & Awards Kathryn Schultz. The reports have been judged and will be given to the Secretary to make the certificates.

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Peggy Liss (inaudible)

District I President Cel Rose Solak - no report at this time.

District II President Peggy Liss announced District II members who are candidates for Dept. Offices: Linda Marshall for 2nd Vice; Rosemary Perdue for 3rd Vice; Kay Kemp for Hospital.

District V President Faye Richardson-Green announced District V members who are candidates for Dept. Offices: Gloria Hall, 1st Vice; Pam Lein, Americanism.

Dept VAVS/Home Representative (all Reps had their reports turned in and are in the Convention Book).

Aleda E Lutz VA - Linda Marshall - nothing more to report

John Dingell VA - Harriet Biela - nothing more to report

Grand Rapids Home - Clarice Poisson - nothing more to report.

Nancy Woodwyk, President of Aux. #126 (4 years) asked for a point of personal privilege and presented the Secretary with a beautiful, framed poem and a picture of Nancy and Bob. It was extremely thoughtful.

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett announced the Memorial Service is in Salon B at 6pm. The banquet is tomorrow night. Tickets are \$35 and available at the registration desks. The AMVETS are also doing a 50/50 raffle.

Americanism Pat Michalski announced the Joint Americanism Committee has tickets for the Americanism Raffle.

Announcements

- ★ Standing Rules #5 State of Emergency Review. Propose to move to the Bylaws
- ★ Bylaws: proposed changes were distributed. Extra copies will be available in the Aux. Office on the large table.
- ★ District V Proposed changes were passed out and will be voted on tomorrow.

Dismissed - the Personnel Committee will meet after lunch.

Day Two of Convention Saturday, June 19, 2021

The 2nd session was called to order at 9:15AM by President Lema.

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett welcomed the Past Dept. Presidents in attendance.

The opening prayer was delivered by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

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

Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Nancy Middleton. All in attendance with the exception of 3rd Vice Wendy Lynema, Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson, Ann Arbor VAVS Pat Krzesowik, Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith and Dist. VII President Barb Robare - all excused.

Second Credentials Report by Karen Harmon showed a total registration of 35 and a total vote of 31 with a majority vote of 16 and a 2/3's vote of 20.

The Department budget for 2021/2022 was distributed yesterday and now brought to the floor for discussion and voting. It was hard to try come up with a budget when costs/expenses were not known. The committee suggested passing/adjusting what we could and then finish up the other items at the Fall SEC when we should be aware of what we need to budget.

National Convention total proposed budget of \$2,100.

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Kathy Keizer to approve budget of \$2,100 for National Convention - CARRIED**

Fall Conference/SEC (2021)

Because information was not available for room costs, etc., it was suggested by the Finance Committee we put in an estimated cost of \$2,000

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Kathy Keizer to approve estimated budget for Fall Conference for \$2,000. CARRIED**

Spring SEC

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Peggy Liss to discuss/approve this at the Fall SEC meeting.
CARRIED**

NEC Meeting (2022)

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Peggy Liss to discuss/approve this at the Fall SEC meeting.
CARRIED**

Dept. Officer's Postage/Supplies proposed \$920

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Kathy Keizer to approve \$920 for the Dept. Officer's budget for postage/supplies. CARRIED**

Department Expenses

There were a couple items increased (Past President's Pin from \$25 to \$50) and nothing budgeted for Secretary's Compensation because we haven't had a decision on who will be the Department Secretary.

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Peggy Liss to discuss/approve this at the Fall SEC meeting.
CARRIED**

Department Convention Expenses (June 2022)

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Becky Kovach to discuss/approve this at the Fall SEC meeting. CARRIED**

National Donations (May 2022)

****Gloria Hall/2nd Cel Rose Solak to keep this at \$350 and it will be an expense from the Texas Hold'em fund. CARRIED**

Budget will be completed in October.

Gloria announced we were just about to get 2 dates for Texas Hold'ems in July. The 1st-4th and the 15th - 19th. This will be the first Texas Hold'em held in Grand Rapids held for over 1-1/2 years. We don't know what to expect but the supplier said if we can get the two in July approved and staffed, he will give us a \$500 signing bonus on each of them. (NOTE: normally it takes 6 to 8 weeks to get a license. We have less than 4 weeks!)

Acting Parliamentarian Pat Michalski discussed moving the State of Emergency from the Standing Rules to the By-Laws to make it permanent.

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall to move the State of Emergency from the Standing Rules to the By-Laws. CARRIED**

Carol Pickett questioned the by-laws which says we (AMVETS & Aux.) meet at the same time and place for convention. During the pandemic, the Auxiliary voted not to meet. The AMVETS didn't like it - even though National said each group can decide on how they want to deal with pandemic issues.

This was the portion of the convention where we voted on the proposed changes to the by-laws. The Parliamentarian took the minutes of the meeting. Subsequently, she was injured and was taken to the hospital. No one knew where the copies of the minutes were. I was hoping the by-laws would be on the website by the time I got to this section of the minutes. They are not there yet. I apologize, but I just do not have the full list of changes to convey to

AMVET Executive Director Carol Hebert came to the floor. She thanked the Auxiliary for all they have done for Veterans and AMVETS. Today was her last day as Executive Director. She has tendered her resignation. Tomorrow she will be seeking the office of Dept. Commander.

Announcements:

The Sons of AMVETS will have a lunch consisting of Sloppy Joes from 10 to 2pm. \$8 for one - \$10 for 2.

The meeting room tomorrow will be Salon E

Deb Davis was thanked for taking care of the attendance prizes.

Scholarship winners were announced by Linda Marshall:

Grace Sayles submitted by Aux. #22 and \$4,153 to Branden Berridger (?) also from Aux. #22. Linda will handle sending out the checks to the winners.

We broke for lunch at 11:30am to 1:30pm

Session resumed at 1:35pm

Election Rules were read by Acting Parliamentarian Pat Michalski.

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall to accept Election Rules.**

****Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Nancy Middleton move to amend rule #4 and put the President elected first for this year only. Amendment CARRIED**

(Note: Nominating speeches and election of Department Officers will be in the following order: 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Chaplain, Sgt. At Arms, Americanism Officer, Hospital Officer, Scholarship Officer, Treasurer (2 years, elected in the even years), NEC Woman (2 years, elected in the even years) and Department President.)

****Original motion carried as amended**

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to delete Rule #11 for this year only Motion CARRIED**

(Note Rule #11: Election of Officers shall be by roll call vote. Local Auxiliary numbers shall be placed in a hat and a number shall be drawn. Roll call will start with the Auxiliary number drawn and will proceed in order)

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to approve the Election rules as amended. CARRIED**

First Nomination of Officers for 2021/2022

President:

1st Vice Gloria Hall nominated by PDP Clarice Poisson / 2nd PDP Peggy Liss

2nd Vice Linda Marshall nominated by PDP Clarice Poisson / 2nd PDP Kathy Biela

3rd Vice Rosemary Perdue nominated by PDP Allison Aldrich / 2nd PDP Peggy Liss

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski nominated by PDP Peggy Liss / 2nd PDP Kathy Biela

Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach nominated by PDP Maribeth Wescott / 2nd Nancy Woodwyk

Americanism Pam Lein nominated by PDP Faye Richardson-Green / 2nd PDP Pat Michalski

Hospital Kay Kemp nominated by Karen Harmon / 2nd Bonnie Rojeski

Scholarship Karen Harmon nominated by Kay Kemp / 2nd Bonnie Rojeski

Nominations will remain open until tomorrow's election.

Vouchers are available in the office for those Officers and Delegates who need to fill them out so the Department can pay a portion of their hotel rooms.

The benediction was given by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

The salute to the colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach.

An Honors and Awards program will begin in 30 minutes at the close of this session.

Day Three of Convention Sunday, June 20, 2021

The 3rd session was called to order at 9:07AM by President Lema.

The opening prayer was delivered by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

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

Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Nancy Middleton. All in attendance with the exception of Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson, Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith, Ann Arbor VAVS Pat Krzesowik and Dist. VII President Barb Robare - all excused.

PDP Kathryn Schultz presented the service awards which couldn't be done last year because of the pandemic cancelled Convention.

The winners were:

PDP Kathy Biela Child Welfare Award - winner #93 / runner up #115

PDP Wendy Lynema Child Welfare Award - winner #23 / runner up #57

PDP Pat Witcher Penrickton Award - winner #93

Dist. II (memory of Bernie Robinson) Com. Serv. - winner #57 / runner up #22

PDP Maureen Jackson Com. Serv. Award - winner #93 / runner up #122

Dist. V Paws With A Cause Award - winner #93 / runner up #57

Dept of MI Hospital Award - winner #122 / runner up #93

Dept. of MI Hospital Award - winner #57 / runner up #126

Dept of MI J Wedyk Award - winner #7 / runner up #126

PDP Doreen Pierce Scholarship Award - winner #121 / runner up #22

PDP Neva Colley Scholarship Award - winner #126 / runner up #23

PDP Carol Pickett SOS Award - winner #93 / runner up #57

PDP Allison Aldrich Americanism Award - winner #93 / runner up #121

PDP Pat Michalski Americanism Award - winner #57 / runner up #23

(NOTE from Secretary: I think I got them all - if not I apologize - it was pretty hectic at that time.)

Third Credentials Report by Karen Harmon showed a total registration of 36 and a total vote of 32 with a majority vote of 17 and a 2/3's vote of 22.

Faye Richardson-Green, as President of the Gavelieres, donated \$50 to Penrickton in memory of Dennis Butler and Joe Musial.

Discussion on voting.

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall for secret ballot for the Office of President. Sgt-at-Arms will collect the ballots and Deb Davis and Roberta Robertson will count them. CARRIED**

2nd Vice Wendy Lynema discussed the Name a Litter project. There were 28 responses. She will calculate them and put the results in the newsletter.

The Secretary announced there were several convention books left over. If anyone knows of someone who registered and didn't attend, they can pick up a book for them. All other extra books will be distributed and trashed.

Carol Pickett announced the guest speaker at the banquet, Sawyer Hendrickson, received a donation from the Service foundation in the amount of \$1000. There was a challenge to match funds of \$500 to add to the \$1,000. The final donation to Sawyer was \$2,000. She is a 12-year-old with a 501(C3) nonprofit status with the IRS. She sends out 25,000 care packages and 10,000 stockings at Christmas to our active-duty service personnel.

Faye Richardson-Green stated shipping is the biggest cost. After hearing Sawyer speak, the Bartenders at the banquet donated to her program. Sawyer can be found on Facebook and she also has a website. Sawyer works out of her Mom's Shop.

Pat Michalski talked about her ill daughter. She has been on a ventilator for 3 weeks in the ICU. Please say a prayer for her.

Pat Michalski said she was first President in 1980-81 which was 40 years ago. 33 years later she again became President (2013/14) She is donating \$40 for each service program.

The amount of money the Auxiliary paid towards the delegates and Officers room cost at this year's convention was \$1,318.

Bonnie Rojas announced there were no bills for this year's raffles, drawings, etc. Everything was donated.

ELECTIONS

The President has chosen to vote this year. She asked the two candidates for President to speak on why they want to be President and what their goals are. Kathy Keizer was first, followed by Cel Rose Solak. (Note: Rose was asked to leave the room when Kathy spoke).

The election rules were read by the acting Parliamentarian.

****Motion Faye Richards-Green/2nd Peggy Liss move any office with more than one candidate will be elected by secret ballot for this year only. CARRIED**

2nd round of Nominations:

There was only one office with nominations in this 2nd round:

President: Kathy Keizer nominated by PDP Nancy Middleton / 2nd PDP Allison Aldrich

Cel Rose Solak nominated by PDP Kathy Biela / 2nd PDP Seletha Robertson

Results of the election:

President Cel Rose Solak by election

1st Vice Gloria Hall by affirmation

2nd Vice Linda Marshall by affirmation

3rd Vice Rosemary Perdue by affirmation

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski by affirmation

Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach by affirmation

Americanism Officer Pam Lein by affirmation

Hospital Officer Kay Kemp by affirmation
Scholarship Officer Karen Harmon by affirmation

The question was asked about the office of Treasurer. It was stated by acting Parliamentarian Pat Michalski, this would be an appointment by the incoming President.

A discussion was held about the office of Secretary. Nothing has been finalized yet.

****Motion Kathy Biela/2nd Faye Richardson-Green: the current Secretary will keep her office until Fall Conference so the new (Personnel) Committee can get everything finished. CARRIED**

****Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Peggy Liss to destroy the election ballots. CARRIED**

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett presented President Bert with several gifts from the Department and local Auxiliaries.

President Bert handed out gifts to those who did not get one after the convention banquet on Saturday night. She gave some remarks regarding the meaning of her Officer's gifts.

President Bert gave her final remarks as the Dept. President to the Convention body.

The Benediction was delivered by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

The Salute to the Colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach.

The Bible was closed to end the session and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.

The New Officers were installed by PDP Pat Michalski.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Middleton
Dept. Secretary.
August 28, 2021

Approved by Immed. Past President Bert Lema with corrections, etc. 9/1/2021

The minutes were approved by acting Parliamentarian Pat Michalski with corrections