

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
2021 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

PRE-SEC MEETING
June 17, 2021

The pre-convention SEC meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Bert Lema.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski.

The salute to the colors was led by Rosemary Perdue.

Roll Call of Officers showed all in attendance with the exception of **Treasurer Gloria Hall / **Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson / **Cel Rose Solak (who did arrive late) / **PRO Kathy Jo Johnson / **Battle Creek VAVS Faye Richardson-Green / Ann Arbor VAVS Pat Krzesowik / Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith / District VII President Barb Robare.

***there was a collision in the hallway involving Maureen Jackson and Gloria Hall. They were both injured and taken to the hospital by ambulance. Rose, Kathy Jo and Faye went to the hospital with them.*

Correspondence: the Secretary read a letter of resignation from Hospital Officer/ John Dingell VAVS Harriet Biela.

**Motion Kathy Keizer/ 2nd Peggy Liss to accept Harriet's resignation. The motion was carried and Harriet was commended for her many years of service to our hospitalized veterans.

Officer's Reports:

President Bert Lema requested permission for Pat Michalski to serve as Parliamentarian in the absence of Maureen Jackson.

**Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Peggy Liss to accept Pat Michalski to serve as Parliamentarian for Maureen Jackson. CARRIED

President Bert read correspondence from various States announcing candidates for National Officers:

Wisconsin - Joan Sirek for National President

Ohio - Cindy Rice for National 3rd Vice President

Michigan - Peggy Liss for National 3rd Vice President

Alaska - Karin Simmons for National 1st Vice President

Pat Michalski who is currently serving as NEC Woman for 2020-2022 has been elected District II President and submitted her resignation as NEC.

****Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Kathy Biela to accept Pat's resignation as NEC. CARRIED**

President Bert requested approval of Faye Richardson-Green to finish the term of NEC.

****Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Peggy Liss to approve Faye Richardson-Green as the NEC Woman. CARRIED**

Kathy Keizer has been in touch with Faye Richardson-Green who is at the hospital with our injured members, Gloria and Maureen. They are both going through tests to see if there are concussions or other serious injuries.

1st Vice President/Membership Kathy Keizer reported at this time 2 locals are not in good standing, #79 and #110. There are 2 locals who were 100% renewed by 12/31/20 and 10 locals who reached 100% equivalent or more of their ending total by 6/2021. Each of these Auxiliaries received certificates.

2nd Vice President/Child Welfare Cel Rose Solak reported on the 2019/20 winner of the Chairman's Award - Aux. #121. The winner of the 2020/21 Chairman's Award is District I.

Rose presented a check in the amount of \$3,117. The total donations from the Chairman's Contest (gift cards) and the cash donations is \$6,097. Kurt Sebaly from Penrickton was very surprised and thankful for our support.

3rd Vice President/Community Service Wendy Lynema stated her report is in the convention book. She has an envelope in the front pocket of the book which has the "Name the Puppy Litter" form. She asked everyone to circle 6 names in each column and return the form to Wendy so she can calculate the top choices. (the rest of the report was inaudible)

Secretary Nancy Middleton had nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer Gloria Hall the Finance Committee met and had a hard time with the budget because of no information about costs for the coming year. The proposed budget will be

distributed tomorrow with a couple recommendations.

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski (inaudible)

Americanism Officer Pat Michalski reported on the Americanism Joint Committee meeting which was held earlier today. Next year there will be an Awards program and a lunch for the winners. It had to be cancelled for this year.

The Americanism raffle sold 300 tickets. The prizes are 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$200., 4th thru 8th place - \$20 each.

Hospital Officer Harriet Biela said the audit of the VAVS/MVH books will be done tomorrow. Carol, Clarice, Rose and Peggy will be on the auditing committee.

Scholarship Officer Linda Marshall stated her report is in the convention book. She needs 2 more volunteers to judge after the SEC. Rosemary Perdue and Clarice Poisson volunteered.

Acting Parliamentarian Pat Michalski said the by-laws suggested revisions will be available tomorrow. (rest was inaudible)

Ways & Means Bonnie Rojas has been holding raffles, basket drawings, etc. *(Everyone in the room agreed Bonnie is doing a great job!!)*

Personnel Committee Kathy Biela the committee has been working on a manual for employees. They have had many meetings and looked at the Secretary's instructions to help with the handbook. The committee is Kathy Biela, Chairman / Bert Lema / Kathy Keizer / Cel Rose Solak / Wendy Lynema / Gloria Hall / Maureen Jackson. The project is not yet completed.

The committee recommends the Personnel Committee be made up of the six Past Department Presidents with the oldest (in terms of office) being the Chairman. This would be a change to By-Laws Article 9 Sect. H. (If approved this would be Allison Aldrich as Chairman, and committee members Faye Richardson-Green, Seletha Robertson, Wendy Lynema, Kathryn Schultz and Bert Lema.)

The committee also recommended in the future they take the word "Nancy" out of the discussion. This needs to be for anyone who will be doing this job.

PRO/Historian Kathy Jo Johnson is still at the hospital with Maureen Jackson.

Fall Conference Chairman Faye Richardson-Green is still at the hospital with Gloria Hall.

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett had a birthday card for PDP Reatha Houck and asked everyone to sign it. Reatha will be at convention in the morning. Carol also reported PDP Doreen Pierce has been in and out of the hospital and is now in rehab.

Carol talked about the banquet on Saturday night. Cocktails at 5:30 dinner at 6pm. Chicken pancetta will be served. Tickets are available at the registration desks at a cost of 35.

Honors & Awards Kathryn Schultz said the service reports were judged today (Thursday) and the winners will be given to the Secretary. Kathryn will discuss with the Secretary on which certificates need to be done for last year.

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Peggy Liss said her report is in the convention book. The Lodge committee will meet tomorrow at 4:30pm for about an hour.

District I President - Cel Rose Solak - inaudible

District II President Peggy Liss - guests from District II are Rosemary Perdue from #22, Karen Harmon, Karen Rapp and Roberta Robinson from #93.

Candidates for Dept. Officers are Rosemary Perdue, 3rd Vice President / Linda Marshall, 2nd Vice President / Kay Kemp, Hospital.

Pat Michalski has been elected as District II President for 2021/2022.

District V President Faye Richardson-Green is still at the hospital with Gloria Hall. Nancy Woodwyk announced all District V Officers have been elected and installed with the exception of the District President.

Candidates for Department Officers from District V are Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President and Pam Lein for Americanism Officer.

District VII President Barb Robare has her report in the book. She is not at convention.

Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall reported things are looking better at the facility.

Ann Arbor VAVS Pat Krzesowik is excused but has her report in the convention book.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep. Clarice Poisson reported the home has been doing hallway bingo since March 2021. Clarice has been donating juice boxes, ice cream cups, etc. She is hoping the President can go on a tour during her official visit to District V.

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith is excused. Her report is in the convention books.

Old Business:

There was a big discussion about the P.A. Sound System the Auxiliary owns. It is too big and too heavy for most of us to transport. The microphones need batteries. To rent a PA system at this hotel it is \$130 a day. It was suggested we sell the system on Ebay.

****Motion Carol Pickett/2nd Linda Marshall** to purchase a feasible sound system and sell the current one.

Under discussion: We need something because it is very difficult to hear most of those talking. It was suggested we sell what we have and buy something manageable from the sale by Fall Conference.

Motion Carried

(Secretary Note: as far as I am aware, there was no talk about who would be in charge of this sale and what a fair price would be. Also, who would be purchasing new equipment and where would it be stored.)

Motion Clarice Poisson/2nd Becky Kovach to adjourn the meeting. CARRIED

Chaplain Caroline Wisniewski gave the benediction.

The Colors were retired by Sgt-at-Arms Becky Kovach.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton
Dept. Secretary.
August 1, 2021

Approved with corrections by President Bert Lema

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Michalski 8/3/2021