

FALL S.E.C. MINUTES
October 14, 2022
Higgins Lake AMVET Lodge

THE SEC MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 7:16pm by President Kathy Keizer. She introduced our National President to those in attendance.

THE INVOCATION was given by Chaplain Patsy Watkins.

THE FLAG was presented by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe who led us with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kathy stated everyone should raise their hand before speaking. To help with this, she had Ways 'n Means Chairman Nancy Woodwyk explain a new game - along with the rules. Each person at the meeting was given a beaded necklace to wear. If they spoke out of turn, Nancy W. would take their necklace. If someone spoke out of turn and they had already lost their necklace, they would be fined \$1.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: by Nancy Middleton, Secretary. All Officers were present with the exception of 3rd Vice Allison Aldrich, District V President Becky Kovach (both excused), Americanism Officer Pam Lein (who will be late). VAVS/MVH Reps are not required to attend SEC meetings but those who did attend were Linda Marshall (Aleda E Lutz VA), Faye Richardson-Green (Battle Creek VAMC), Leora Williamson (Michigan Veterans Home – Grand Rapids) and Judy Smith (Jacobetti Veterans Home – Marquette).

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter was received from John Dingell VAVS Maureen Jackson submitting her resignation from the office. She also submitted her books for audit and her activity report. **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Linda Marshall: To accept Maureen Jackson's resignation with regret. CARRIED

2022 CONVENTION MINUTES – **Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall moved to dispense with the reading of the (*pre-convention, convention and post-convention*) minutes and go into corrections.

Under corrections – there are no pre-convention minutes. The notes of that meeting have disappeared. Numerous attempts to find them have failed. The convention and post-convention minutes are on the Dept. Auxiliary website.

**New Motion by Nancy Woodwyk/2nd by Faye Richardson-Green to approve the convention and post SEC minutes as written. CARRIED

REPORTS:

President Kathy Keizer: turned in her activity report. She has spent a lot of time figuring out the lodging for this Fall Conference. Some reservations came in late. Some reservations were cancelled. It was more difficult than she thought it would be. She will be working with the Parliamentarian on reviewing the by-laws, standing rules, etc.

1st Vice President Wendy Lynema turned in her activity report. Wendy submitted 3 contests for Membership. They are:

#1 Each Auxiliary submitting a D&R every month thru December will be put into a drawing (postmarked by Jan. 5) **Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Judy Smith to approve - CARRIED

#2 Each Auxiliary with 100% renewed by Oct. 31 will receive a \$25 check. Must be received by the Exec. Secretary postmarked by Nov. 5.

#3 Early Bird contest – drawing of all renewals submitted between July 1 and Oct. 31, postmarked by Nov. 5. Three (3) \$25 winners.

Wendy also read a list of National Membership awards for individual:

Signing up 10 members – emerald pin; signing up 11 to 25 members – garnet pin; signing up 26 to 40 members – gold pin; signing up 41+ members – crystal pin.

National Membership awards for Departments:

- Largest numerical gain in membership by May 31
- Largest percentage gain by May 31
- Highest percentage of annual (new/renewal) membership by 12/31 (current year) vs May 31 (previous year)
- Largest percentage of renewals by 12/31 (due to National H.Q, postmarked by Jan 31 for:
Class A 30-350 members; Class B 351-700 members; Class C 701-2500 members;
Class D members 2501+ members.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT Linda Marshall turned in her activity report. The tour of Penrickton was very good. We had a few members who have never been there before. Linda received a mailing from the National 2nd Vice. There is a card program (St Jude's Ranch project) which sounds like something we can do in our local Auxiliaries. This is a Child Welfare project – read the rules & instructions.

3RD VICE PRESIDENT Allison Aldrich: turned in her activity report. Allison was excused from this meeting. She sent in her activity report and a report. She requested a Chairman's award: Any Auxiliary post that donates to PAWS With A Cause thru the Dept. Their post number will go into a drawing for a monetary award and a special gift from me. **Motion Wendy Lynema/2^snd Judy Smith to approve the 3rd Vice Chairman's award. CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT – Deb Davis turned in the Net Worth report. As of Sept. 30, 2022, the balance in the General Fund is \$22,930.17; Hospital Fund \$792.09; Texas Hold'em Checking \$13,777.88; Savings #1 (reserved) \$33,585.72; Savings #1 (donations) \$654.44 for a total of \$71,740.30.

The Certificates of Deposit are #1 – \$18,440.48; #2 - \$2,113.64; #3 - \$13,112.16; #4 - \$6,463.93 for a total of \$40,130.21. The total net worth (as of 9/30) is \$111,870.51.

Since this report, 2 expiring CDs were redeemed at Huntington by the President and Secretary and repurchased at Lake Michigan Credit Union with a better rate.

A printout of the two Texas Hold'em was also passed out showing the results of the 9/1/2022 and the 9/8/2022 Hold'em events. Deb stated the State audited one of the Hold'em events and everything balanced.

An update of the current budget was also submitted and copies passed out to all in attendance.

****Motion Deb Davis/2nd Wendy Lynema to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. CARRIED**

CHAPLAIN Patsy Watkins turned in her activity report. She has sent cards and written articles for the newsletter.

SGT-AT-ARMS Sue Christe has nothing to report because she has just been appointed to this position.

AMERICANISM Pam Lein has not yet arrived. She is on her way. She will give her report when she arrives.

HOSPITAL Leora Williamson turned in her activity report. Lee stated Maureen Jackson needs to be replaced at John Dingell VA. Pat Krezsowik still needs a Deputy at Ann Arbor VA. This could be Pat's last year as the Ann Arbor VAVS Rep..

Lee talked with Rose Solak about possibly being the Rep at the new Chesterfield Heights facility. (no comment or response).

Lee requested a Chairman's Hospital award. The winner will be the total evaluation for the Aux. report divided by the number of members. ****Motion Leora Williamson/2nd by Rose Solak to approve the Chairman's Hospital award. CARRIED**

The books for the John Dingell VA need to be audited tonight.

SCHOLARSHIP Gloria Hall turned in her activity report. She requested approval of her Chairman's Award:

- A \$25 cash award to a volunteer listed on a correctly submitted service report
- A \$50 cash award to the scholarship chairperson who correctly submitted both midyear and final reports.
- A \$100 designated donation to the Post who succeeded in fundraising for our Department Scholarship project .

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Deb Davis to accept the Scholarship Chairman's Award. CARRIED**

N.E.C. WOMAN Nancy Middleton turned in her activity report. Her reports on National Convention NEC meetings are on the website. Nancy picked up the National President Karin Simmons at the Grand Rapids Airport and enjoyed conversations with her on the long trip to the Lodge. Nex week she will pick up the National 3rd Vice President Mary Lanphere for her visit to Paws With A Cause.

PARLIAMENTARIAN Faye Richardson-Green stated as soon as National updates the changes to the By-Laws at the past Convention, she will put those changes in the newsletter (Secretary's Note: I am assuming she will also put them on the website)

The results of the 3 Poll Votes send out at the request of the President:

#1 appointment of Sue Christe as Dept. Sgt-at-Arms – APPROVED

#2 purchase 8 coffee makers and 8 toasters for the AMVET Lodge – APPROVED

#3 approve members of the Grievance Committee (Pat Michalski, Chairman, Nancy Middleton and Bonnie Rojas) and members of the Appeals Board (Wendy Lynema, Chairman, Allison Aldrich and Kathy Jo Johnson)

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Patsy Watkins to ratify the 3 poll votes. CARRIED

WAYS 'N MEANS Nancy Woodwyk reported she has been 'gathering things' and may have 'gathered' a little too much. The overload will be taken to convention. So far, 2 calendars have been turned in. The month hasn't ended yet so more should be coming.

Nancy said a couple of the owl items were made by #126's scholarship applicant. Nancy is sending thank you notes to the many businesses who donated raffle items.

**Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Leora Williamson to give \$10 to the Ways 'n Means Chairman. After a discussion the motion was withdrawn.

HEAD DELEGATE TO NATIONAL CONVENTION Rose Solak distributed Thank You cards from National o the local Auxiliaries (Secretary's Note: I hope I have every Aux. getting the cards on this list. It went pretty fast and I apologize if I missed anyone).

Scholarship: #23, #57, #93, #126, Dist. V, Dept., #52, #121
Americanism and President's Project: #126, #114, #93, #57, #23, Dist. V, Dept.
John Tracy Center: Dept, #23, #57, #93, #121, #126, Dist. V
Paws With A Cause: Dept., #23, #57, #93, #121, #126, Dist. V
St Jude's: #23, #121, #93, #121, #126, #57, Dist. V, #115, Dept.
Rose sent her report on Convention to National

HONORS & AWARDS Rose Solak brought a proposed change requested by the Donor, PDP Bertha Z Lema to her Member of the Year Award. There was a lot of discussion on this proposal. Rose Solak stated this change of entry dates was necessary so there was time to have a plaque engraved. There were several other things in the proposal which were unclear including the name of the award. Also, there were two sets of criteria and it was not clear which set was the proposed change. **Motion Rose Solak/2nd Nancy Woodwyk to accept the proposal from Bert Lema. DEFEATED

AMERICANISM/SOS Pam Lein. Pam arrived and gave her report. She read her activity report. She also presented a new SOS project for consideration: The new USO recreation center at Camp Grayling in Michigan. **Motion Pam Lein/2nd Pat Michalski to approve the Camp Grayling USO as the Dept. SOS project. CARRIED

Pam also announced the updated Americanism forms are on the website.

FALL CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN Pat Michalski will give her report in the newsletter/website after the event is over.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN Pat Michalski has no report at this time but she asked for approval of the credentials and attendance prize chairmen. *Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Rose Solak to approve Karen Harmon as Credentials Chairman and Caroline Wisniewski as Attendance Prize Chairman. CARRIED

Convention will be June 22 to 25, 2023 at the DoubleTree in Grand Rapids.

PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN Faye Richardson-Green stated there was a change on the Executive Secretary's contract. The change was with the compensation.

Pat Michalski asked if there was a time frame listed. Answer from Faye – "No".

HIGGINS LAKE AMVET LODGE REP Roberta Robinson turned in her activity report. All the AMVETS are excited to bring the Lodge back to it's 'Glory Days'. They have hired a new housekeeper – Joan Austin. Chairman of the Lodge is Craig Robinson. Roberta asked us to consider leaving a gratuity for Joan in our rooms because she has worked hard on prepping the lodge for us.

A raffle is planned to be able to purchase some of the more expensive items needed. There is a flyer for everyone on how to make reservations. A price increase will go into effect next year. The Lodge is booked for June, July, August next year. Faye asked if there was a change on when members of the AMVET Family can book rooms/cabins. Answer: AMVETS can book anytime

DISTRICT V PRESIDENT Becky Kovach is excused. Dist. V 1st Vice, Gloria Hall, announced Becky's husband passed away recently and she is not up to traveling yet. Our Dept. President will be making her official visit to District V in May.

DISTRICT VII PRESIDENT Barb Robare had nothing to report.

VAVS/HOME REPS. Although the VAVS/Home Reps are not required to attend the SEC meeting, they do need to send in their reports.

ANN ARBOR VA Pat Krzesowik sent in her activity report to the Secretary. The balance in her account is \$1,767.82.

ALEDA E LUTZ VA Linda Marshall turned in her activity report and sent in her review.

BATTLE CREEK VAMC Faye Richardson-Green announced the services are now opening up. She has \$973.32 in her account and the bank problems have been cleared. She had her review in September.

JOHN DINGELL VA Maureen Jackson – excused. Rose Solak stated she works in the office. They donated gift cards for Uber and also donated snacks, etc. The balance in the account is \$274.90.

MICHIGAN VETERANS HOME – GRAND RAPIDS Leora Williamson has \$465 left from Clarice Poisson's account. A new account has just been opened (Members First C.U.)

MICHIGAN VETERANS HOME – MARQUETTE (JACOBETTI) Judy Smith said there has not been much participation because of COVID. She has \$428.32 in checking. There is a need for clothing at the facility.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Nancy Middleton turned in her activity report (although I don't know if it is required). There was a long discussion about the current computer. There are problems with it. It is 5 years old and is often dropping off articles/folders/files/etc. Sometimes if the computer is turned off for an hour or two, the articles/folders/files/etc. reappear – sometimes they don't. It was questioned about how much money is in the equipment fund. That information is not available at this time but it should be over \$7,000.

**Motion Rose Solak/2nd Nancy Woodwyk to purchase new computer up to \$7000 in account.

**Amendment /Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Pat Michalski to add “with an assessment of need to get the right computer” CARRIED

**Motion now reads: purchase a new computer for up to \$7000 with an assessment of need to get the right computer. CARRIED as amended.

There was much further discussion about the computer and the assessment.

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Pat Michalski to pay up to \$500 to hire Kourtney for the assessment. CARRIED (Secretary’s note: Kourtney is Kourtney Moore from Aux. #23)

**Motion Judy Smith/2nd Gloria Hall to allot \$5,000 for the new computer and \$ 500 for the assessment. CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

#1 It was questioned where the sound system is. This was purchased a few years ago. It was voted to sell it or give it to one of the VA Hospitals or Michigan Homes for Veterans. It was questioned who has it and where is it.

#2 There was a question as to when the Department Officers Instructions take effect. **Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Patsy Watkins: The Parliamentarian and the President will set up a date when Officers Instructions take effect. CARRIED

#3 A question came up about reports and if emails are accepted. Officers cannot change Donor’s Rules. If the Donor does not allow for emails, then reports have to be mailed only. If the Donor allows email, then emails must be accepted.

#4 A question was asked if AMVETS accept Associate Members. Answer: No they don’t.

#5 President Kathy stated there should be 14 members to the By-Law Committee. She only has 12 members. Rose Solak and Maribeth Wescott volunteered. **Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to accept Rose Solak and Maribeth Wescott as members of the By-Law Committee. CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Deb Davis received a receipt from Leora Williamson in the amount of \$11.21 for postage. The budget allows for \$10. **Motion Deb Davis/2nd Faye Richardson-Green to pay the \$1.21 over the budgeted amount. CARRIED by majority

Receipts in the amount of \$333.29 were turned in for the purchase of food for the weekend.

**Motion Deb Davis/ to pay Nancy Woodwyk \$333.29 reimbursement for the food purchase.

There was some confusion and much discussion on this subject. The Ways ‘n Means Chairman has a budget of \$300. She could have requested an advance. If a check is written, it would have to be from 2 accounts (W&M and misc.). In the past, any money W&Ms spends if given back to her in cash from the income generated as long as there are receipts and she has not taken an advance. There was no second to the motion. This subject will be discussed later and the Treasurer will take care of the receipts.

President Kathy wanted to point out two items in the by-laws which might be considered for a change at the next convention.

#1 3 signers are required on the bank accounts for the Hospital Checking account. Why? In a recent opening a new account because of a new Rep. There was a problem figuring out who should be on the account as signers. #1 the Rep; #2 the Exec. Secretary and #3???? If there is no Deputy, who would be the third person?

#2 The By-laws require 14 on the committee? Why so many?? Could we lower it a little?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President reminded all Officers they need to have any suggested changes for their instructions to the Parliamentarian by 1/1/2023.

MVH-Grand Rapids Rep. Leora Williamson stated the Home has removed coffee pots and irons. There cannot be anything which gets hot. She also mentioned she had someone who wanted to be her Deputy but could not fill the restrictions placed on a Deputy at this time. She must commit to 1 visit every week and a few other requirements.

Nancy Woodwyk, President of Aux. #126 announced Veterans from the Grand Rapids Home will be visiting their Post on Nov. 10th at 5pm. They will have dinner, play bingo and be allowed 2 draft beers if restrictions allow.

President Kathy asked National President Karin if she would like to address the group. Pres. Karin said she enjoyed the meeting. She left home EARLY in the morning – had a long layover – and arrived in Grand Rapids about 3:30pm. After landing, she waited for her luggage. Once retrieved she went outside and immediately got in Nancy’s car and was on her way to the Lodge. She also talked about her President’s Project – Fisher House. This is a place where free temporary lodging is provided for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. Military and/or Veterans may stay when their Veteran is having medical procedures done. There are 92 Fisher Houses located in the US, Germany and the United Kingdom. (Michigan has 2). President Karin asked the Auxiliaries in Michigan to consider donating to this amazing program. She passed out folders about the Fisher House Foundation. Pat Michalski, President of Aux. #22, presented the National President with a check for her National Project.

The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Watkins

The Flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45pm.

Respectfully submitted
Nancy Middleton, Secretary
10/31/2022

Corrections made – approved as correction:
President Kathy Keizer. 11/1/2022

Correction of typos/etc. – Pat Michalski (PPR)
11/1/2022

Suggested corrections received from Faye
Richardson Green, Parliamentarian 11/7/2022