

SPRING S.E.C. MEETING
Post 4064 in Perry, Michigan
Saturday, February 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Keizer at 1:10pm

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Watkins.

The salute to the Colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.

The first order of business was to ratify the Poll Votes:

- Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Linda Marshall to ratify the poll vote making Rose Solak the VAVS for John Dingell VA. CARRIED
- Faye Ricardson-Green / 2nd Linda Marshall approving Barbara Hall for Deputy VAVS at John Dingell, CARRIED
- Faye Richardson- Green/2nd Cel Rose Solak putting Linda Marshall to the Office of 1st Vice President. CARRIED
- Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Pat Michalski to allow Faye Richardson-Green to serve as the NEC Woman at the March NEC meeting. CARRIED
- Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Nancy Woodwyk to approve Pat Michalski as the Dept. 2nd Vice President. CARRIED

Faye was asked how these Poll Votes are determined. She explained 17 Officers received the Poll Vote. Not all respond but if the majority (51%) of those voting respond yea – the poll vote passes.

Roll Call of Officers: Secretary Nancy Middleton: All mandatory Officers were present except the District VII President.. One PDP was in attendance. District V was represented by their 1st Vice. The Treasurer was present on Video Chat.

Fall Conference SEC Minutes:

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Linda Marshall to approve the Fall Conference SEC minutes. CARRIED**

President Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. She read the SEC rules. If you wish to speak, raise your hand to be called on. There will be a 25 cent fine for those talking out of turn.

1st Vice President Linda Marshall. Linda turned in her activity report. She listed the 10 largest Auxiliaries in Michigan:

#1 - 1988	#5 – 57	#9 - 52
#2 - 23	#6 – 22	#10 – 4064/1941
#3 - 120	#7 - 126	
#4 - 1957	#8 - 2273	

(Secretary Note: the figures were read fast and I was not able to get the membership count.)

Linda reported Auxiliary #110 is not in good standing. They have not paid the life member hospital dues and many of their Officers have not renewed their membership. Many attempts have been made to fix this problem. It was suggested the President and Parliamentarian make a visit to a meeting at #110 and discuss their options. They will try to make the visit. In the meantime, memberships will not be processed, mailings/newsletter will not be sent.

2nd Vice President Pat Michalski turned in her activity report. Pat reported Kurt Sebaly from Pennrickton Center is retiring after 44 years of service.

3rd Vice President Allison Aldrich turned in her report. Allison's Chairman Award will be a drawing at Convention from each Auxiliary which makes a donation to PAWS thru the Department.

Allison would prefer all local Auxiliaries to send their final reports to her via USPS. Under discussion, the Donor's Rules state they can be sent by email, but Allison is not saying they can't use email – she is only requesting report senders to use USPS if possible.

Treasurer Deb Davis did not send in an activity report. Deb reported we have 2 C.D.s at Lake Michigan Credit Union and 1 at Huntington Bank.

There will be a Department Texas Hold'em on March 2 through 5, 2023 at the King's Room. A sign-up sheet was distributed. Deb said there were different times on this new schedule.

There were questions about when hospital allotments are sent out. They are supposed to be on the 1st of August, November, February and May.

It was questioned about the General Ledger. Where did the money go for the subscriptions of the newsletters. On the Secretary expenses, it shows the balance in the fund is very low. The Secretary stated she should be made aware when the fund is getting low. She has many things to get before the convention digest and the convention book, etc. The newsletter subscriptions is not shown as an addition to the Secretary's expenses. The Treasurer wasn't aware of where the money went.

It was also questioned why the net worth sheet was over two weeks old. It should be done a day or two before the SEC meeting.

****Motion Pat Michalski/2nd Nancy Woodwyk to accept the net worth sheet. CARRIED There was one "No" vote (because the report was not up to date.)**

Chaplain Patsy Watkins reported the President sent a get-well card to Becky Kovach. The Chaplain wasn't aware she was ill.

Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe had no report.

Americanism/SOS Officer Pam Lein turned in her activity report. There has not been much activity to report about from the meetings (Joint Americanism Committee).

PDC Bob Green has ordered the flags which will be used during the Americanism Awards program.

Rose Solak has said the program has not been good for the past couple years. There was not enough room, there were no flags, etc.

We have not received many donations for the SOS project – the Camp Grayling USO. Pam is hoping there will be more donations at the end of the fiscal year.

Hospital Officer Leora Williamson turned in her activity report She attended the Flags Across America program at the Grand Rapids Home. Lee put an article in the newsletter about hospital pins and bars. She has not received a response yet.

Scholarship Office Gloria Hall turned in her activity report. She has been corresponding with the National Scholarship Officer, Deb Gass.

Gloria received questions about Scholarship Memorial Cards. She only has 35 left. The Secretary has 10 or 20 but not positive about how many. Gloria has an order for some but needs to verify the price: \$5 for 10 cards if they are picked up. \$7 for 10 cards if mailed. Do we want to get more cards? (Secretary note: since Spring SEC, all the remaining cards have been sold.) We would need to determine the cost. There has been an increase in the cost of materials. Gloria asked how much was in the Savings account for purchasing more Memorial Cards. There was no answer.

Although there was a BIG discussion about the Scholarship Memorial Cards, there was no decision on continuing or discontinuing the memorial cards.

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green turned in her activity report. She led a discussion concerning Poll Votes. A few Past Presidents questioned why they were not included in the Poll Votes. According to the by-laws, PDPs have a vote at Conventions or at the SEC meetings. They do not have a vote at Poll Votes. Only

members of the Executive Board and/or Executive Committee have a vote for Poll Votes.

Poll Votes need a response with a Yes or No answer. They must be in before the deadline. Also, every poll vote has the instruction – Do Not Reply to All!! This is often in big letters and/or the color red so it is noticeable. Surprisingly every Poll Vote has some Officers who still reply to all.

The Secretary found several things which were not in her S.O.W. The Parliamentarian will meet with the Secretary to review the instructions and then call a Personnel Meeting before convention.

There was another discussion about the costs involved in attending these meetings. There is mileage to the driver but with food, raffles, and various other expenses, this is getting costly. We have money in our account and it would be good if we could offset some of these costs.

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Linda Marshall to add to our standing rules: When funds are available, each driver will receive mileage and each voting member will receive \$15 per diem. CARRIED.**

It was asked what is “funds available”? - money under budget.

There was a discussion about the Sunshine Fund. Right now there is \$1,054 in the fund. \$20 is sent for a gift for an ill or hospitalized member. Right now we do 2 or 3 a year. It was suggested either put the fund on hold or eliminate it.

****Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Leora Williamson to stop requesting Sunshine donations until the current funds are down to \$200. CARRIED**

In the by-laws and/or standing rules, there are some committees with District Presidents on them. Since there are only 2 Districts at this time, changes should be proposed to these areas.

Roberta Robinson talked about growing our membership. There is going to be an Expo in Grayling and maybe we could get in it.

Carol Pickett suggested we get together and talk about what we can do. We need new, younger people and (her words – not mine) not the same ‘old people’.

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/second Roberta Robertson to establish a recruitment committee. CARRIED**

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Cel Rose Solak to select Roberta Robinson to Chair the Recruitment Committee. CARRIED**

Faye Richardson-Green and Nancy Woodwyk would both like to be on the committee.

Ways ‘n Means Chairman Nancy Woodwyk Nancy asked permission for the following Department Raffle prizes:

1. Family Fun Cooler (filled with donated bottles of cheer, games, snacks, etc.)
2. Wooden American Flag
3. \$50 cash

Tickets would sell for \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

****Motion Nancy Woodwyk/2nd Nancy Middleton to approve the Family Fun Cooler, wooden flag and \$50 for the Department Raffle prizes. CARRIED**

Nancy would also like a special raffle at the Convention for a Radio Control Harley Davidson – approximately 3 feet long.

****Motion Nancy Woodwyk/2nd Patsy Watkins to have a special (2nd) raffle at convention of a Radio Control Harley Davidson. It will sell for \$5 a ticket. CARRIED**

There was quite a bit of discussion about who gets the tickets. The instructions say each Dept. Officer will get no more than one book of tickets (unless more are requested). Each District President will get 5 books of tickets to distribute to their locals. Since there are only 2 Districts that is a total of 10 books. There is nothing stating whether the local Auxiliaries will also get tickets. This discussion went on andfinally..

****Motion Patsy Watkins/2nd Gloria Hall to send 10 special tickets (Harley Radio Control) to each local in with the Convention Digest. Carried (Secretary’s Note: this was not done because tickets were not licensed yet – they will be sent later closer to convention)**

****Motion Nancy Woodwyk/2nd Sue Christe to send each local Auxiliary 10 books of tickets for the Convention Raffle. CARRIED**

Honors & Awards Chairman Rose Solak reported this committee met in the morning and it went well. Maureen Jackson would like to change her award from Community Service to the Hospital Award in memory of Jeane Wedyke. If a change is made, the Donors rules must be approved by the SEC at the Fall SEC for the 2024 convention.

For some reason the donor’s rules were put on the Website and not given to the Secretary for the Convention Digest. The Parliamentarian suggest it be taken off the website and sent to the Secretary.

Yvette Charvat's Membership Award expires this year. She will not renew it because she lives in Florida.

Remind locals to include the Youth Volunteer form for kids who volunteer.

Also remind locals to bring plaques they may have won last year to this year's convention.

The Auxiliary Member of the Year Award – Donor Bert Lema – was defeated at the Fall SEC. It was discussed again but will need to be re-presented for next year. There was confusion because two versions were presented and no one knew which one Bert wanted approval for.

Fall Conference Chairman Pat Michalski said the 'old people' did a great job. We had many members attending for the first time. There were many compliments and it was a very successful event.

Convention Chairman Pat Michalski stated there were many messages sent concerning Convention – but only one response. It will be at the DoubleTree in Grand Rapids. Copies of the paperwork for 3 years of contracts were finally sent – but none of them were signed!

Personnel Chairman Faye Richardson-Green will be reviewing the contract with the Secretary.

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Roberta Robinson Roberta gave an update on the lodge cleanup project. Cabin #6 has been painted top to bottom, There is a new shower head, refrigerator, window treatments, etc. Reservations can now be made online. There is a flyer on the AMVET website and they have applied for a Home Depot grant.

There is a 50/50 raffle for the lodge. The tickets are \$10 each. If all tickets are not sold, it will be a 50/25/25 raffle.

Webmaster Pat Michalski stated the due dates for bulletins are listed on the website. Many of the Officers are not sending them in. Bills for the website were paid - \$120 in January, \$30 in January, \$50 in February (late). There are a lot of pictures on Facebook. Some could be sent to Pat to be put on the website.

District V 1st Vice Gloria Hall reporting At the joint meeting with the AMVETS in January, the District was visited by Craig Robertson, Chair of Higgins Lake Lodge, Dept. Commander Lenny Hogan and the Aux. Rep. to Higgins Lake Lodge, Roberta

Robertson. The District V Auxiliary donated \$1,500 to the lodge. The Dept. President will be making her official visit to District V in May.

Balances in VAVS/MI Homes:

- ★ Aleda E Lutz Linda Marshall - \$35.75 in checking and \$704.25 in savings
- ★ Ann Arbor Pat Krzesowik – no report
- ★ Battle Creek VA Faye Richardson-Green – roughly \$184.00
- ★ John Dingell VA – Cel Rose Solak complained because she has been spending money out of her pocket. She wanted to know why she has not been sent the balance of the funds from the account Maureen Jackson closed for John Dingell. Answer: the money order from Maureen was received on 2/17/2023 (yesterday) and hasn't been deposited into the bank yet. Will be done on Monday, then the Treasurer can issue the check to Rose.
- ★ Grand Rapids Home Leora Williamson - \$621.66 in Checking and \$31.79 in Savings. There is a special fund to purchase a bike for the residents at the home at a cost of approx.. \$1,500.
- ★ Jacobetti Home Judy Smith - \$556.92 in checking and \$567.81 in savings.

Executive Secretary Report – Nancy Middleton Nancy reported the difficulties of the past two years. Membership has been very hard. Two years in a row there have been no 1st Vice for 2/3's of the years. The Dept. computer has not been working well for several months but there are stipulations tied to the purchase of a new one – although there are more than enough funds in the equipment account. In the meantime, information has been disappearing. Restrictions have been placed on the Secretary. As the Secretary since 2003, it seems there suddenly is a lack of trust on her ability to do the job without constant guidance and supervision.

It was suggested we ignore the motion on the record since the Fall 2022 SEC. We cannot ignore motions; we can only reconsider them and/or rescind them. But it seems only those who made the motion can do so.

OLD BUSINESS

A question came up again about the Sound System we purchased a few years ago. Some think it is at Post #57. This will be looked into by.....?????

President Kathy reminded everyone about the National President's Project – Fisher House. You can go online to get more information. Donations are encouraged.

Deb Davis stated Fall Conference mileage was \$156 under budget.

NEW BUSINESS

The Auxiliary weekend will be April 21-22-23 at the Higgins Lake Lodge. Information will be out in the next newsletters and the convention digest. Send emails to President Kathy if you are interested.

Auxiliary 126 will be having a Spaghetti Dinner at the Post (date not submitted). 80% of the profits will be donated to the Dept. Ways & Means.

The Benediction was given by Chaplain Patsy Watkins.

The colors were retired by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Middleton, Dept. Secretary
April 16, 2023

The minutes were approved with corrections:

Pat Michalski, 4/16/2023

President Kathy Keizer 4/17/2023

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green 4/18/2023