

Pre-Convention S.E.C. Meeting June 23, 2023

The pre-convention SEC meeting was called to order at 9:05am by President Kathy Keizer.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Watkins

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.

Roll Call of Officers was read by Secretary Nancy Middleton. All Officers were present except for 1st Vice Linda Marshall, Jacobetti Home Rep. Judy Smith and Dist. V President Becky Kovach – all excused. Becky just had surgery and Dist. V is represented by Gloria Hall, incoming President. Dist. VII President Barb Robare was absent.

Officer's Reports:

President Kathy Keizer:

- Report in convention book.
- We received a certificate from the Higgins Lake Lodge Committee thanking us for the coffee makers and toasters for each cabin and the lodge.
- President made 4 visits to Auxiliaries with problems - 3 in areas with no Districts and 1 in Dist. V
- She and the Parliamentarian spent a lot of time on the by-laws, Standing Rules and Officer Instructions.
- She made her official visit to District V.
- Attended the Veterans Day Dinner (1st time!)
- Attended Post 22's 75th anniversary.

2nd Vice President Pat Michalski:

- report in convention book.
- Penrickton will be visiting us tomorrow (Saturday). Kurt Sebaly who normally visits has retired.

3rd Vice President Allison Aldrich

- has report in convention book.
- Paws With A Cause will visit tomorrow (Saturday).

Treasurer Deb Davis

- has her report in the convention book.
- The finance Committee met yesterday (Thursday).
- The proposed budget will be passed out at the 1st convention session today.

Americanism Officer Pam Lein

- has her report in the convention book.
- She has visited the Camp Grayling USO two times.
- Two of the USO's needs are personal care products and bath shoes.
- She attended President Kathy's Official Visit to District V and got to meet Sawyer Hendrickson for the 1st time.
- The Americanism program will be at noon tomorrow (Saturday). There will be about 15 winners there and a total of 31-35 people.
- After the program there will be a luncheon for the winners, their families and the Americanism committee.

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Biela to issue the SOS check to Pam so she can purchase the needed requested items.** Under discussion it was explained all donations to USO's must go through

their national office and they (Nat'l. office) decide where the funds can be most useful. We want the items for Camp Grayling USO. [Motion CARRIED](#)

Hospital Officer Leora Williamson

- Has her activity report and bulletin in the convention book.
- Reps are needed at some of the newer clinics (Chesterfield, etc.) and Ann Arbor VA

Scholarship Officer Gloria Hall

- Turned in her activity report and bulletin.
- There were 3 scholarships submitted with 2 winners – 1 career and 1 regular
- Three judges: Gloria Hall, Patsy Watkins, Pam Lein

Chaplain Patsy Watkins

- Sent out many sympathy cards to families and get well or thinking of you cards to members.
- 3 Sunshine gifts

Sgt-at-Arms Sue Chrste

- The activity report is in the convention book but there was a problem with the bulletin. Article and/or reports **MUST** be emailed. They cannot be pictures from a phone and the bulletins cannot be an article from a book or magazine which is sent as a phone picture.

NEC Woman Nancy Middleton

- Nancy thanks Faye Richardson-Green for filling in as NEC at the March meeting. She explained why she could not attend. When the information came out and the prices were raised exorbitantly, it would have cost her over \$1,000 out of pocket to go. Living on a fixed income, it would be impossible. Nancy will be going to the National Convention.
- Her report to National is in the convention book.

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green

- Her activity report and bulletin is in the convention book.
- She has worked with the President on many items.
- At the By-Law meeting yesterday (Thursday), 12 of the members who signed up to be on the committee were in attendance. There were also 3 guests.
- Proposed changes to by-laws and standing rules will be passed out today and be voted on tomorrow.

Ways & Means Nancy Woodwyk

- There are snack items in the hallway.
- Nancy received a \$200 advance. She spent \$177.

Fall Conference Chairman Pat Michalski

- Report is in the convention book.
- There were a lot of 1st timers at Fall Conference.

Convention Chairman Pat Michalski

- We are here!!
- National 2nd Vice President Cindy Rice and her sister will be visiting us this weekend.

[**Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Pat Michalski to purchase banquet tickets \(Saturday night\) for Cindy Rice and her sister from the miscellaneous fund. CARRIED](#)

[**Motion Pam Lein/2nd Allison Aldrich to comp Americanism luncheon for Cindy Rice and her sister. Motion rescinded – already taken care of and no motion is needed.](#)

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep. Roberta Robinson

- Activity report and bulletin in the convention book.
- Roberta has a power point presentation for anyone interested.
- Thanks to Aux. #22 for Weber gas grills
- Picnic tables are being updated.
- Thanks for all donations.

President Kathy stated Roberta has worked very hard this year. Maybe we could see if the Power Point could be shown on the convention floor. Also, the total donation from our Auxiliaries will be presented at the opening ceremony.

Personnel Chairman Faye Richardson-Green

- The committee met yesterday (Friday) for review of the Secretary.
- Some PDPs are upset because they are automatically assigned to this committee.
- Seletha Robertson has resigned from the committee because of health problems with her and her family.
- Committee proposes oversight of Officers.
- Identify the roll of the Exec. Secretary.

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Wendy Lynema propose removing the minutes from the Executive Secretary and have a volunteer do the pre-convention SEC minutes – the Convention minutes – the post SEC minutes, Fall SEC and Spring SEC as a recording Secretary on a trial basis.**

After much discussion – **Motion defeated**

Honors & Awards Chairman Cel Rose Solak

- Does not know the Membership winners (Secretary will go home at noon to get copies of the membership chart. Using new computer at this convention and information on old computer at home. Did not know this had not been done previously)
- Questioned monetary award for the Neva Colley Scholarship Award and the Clarice Poisson Scholarship Award. (Secretary suggested Rose talk to someone from #126 about this)
- Yvette Rusak (Charvat) wishes to retire her award because she now lives in Florida.

Cindy Rice and sister Kathy Pasquela arrived at our convention.

Battle Creek VAVS Faye Richardson-Green

- The Battle Creek VA is in need of volunteers.
- Faye has posters showing the need of volunteers and their duties
- On 7/15 there will be a Toby Keith look alike show at the VA

John Dingell VAVS Cel Rose Solak

- There was a discussion about John Dingell VA. Rose Solak is the Rep and has been having problems opening an account with a bank. She has been trying for several months.
- She and her deputy have been using their own funds for projects and programs.
- She is still waiting for the check after the closing of the previous John Dingell account which was received by the Department in February in the amount of \$410. Not sent yet by Treasurer.
- Allotment checks are being held by Rose.

Nancy Middleton stated something needs to be done about this situation. We can't continue to ignore it. Maybe they need to open the account in a different bank. It is suggested accounts are not closed when there is a change in VAVS Reps. Just add the new name to the present account. No solution was made for this problem.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Rep. Leora Williamson

- A donation of "\$1,500 was given to the Home for plants and landscaping.
- One of the nicest advantages of the new buildings is no steps and no elevators.

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith

- Judy's report is in the convention book.
- She sent her books to Leora Williamson for auditing.
- She has \$367.80 in savings and \$766.93 in checking.

District II Auxiliary Pat Michalski

- We are B – A – C – K!!!!
- They dissolved because of lack of Officers.
- They are not recertified with a full slate of Officers.
- There are 4 members of #93 seeking Department Offices:
 - Bonnie Rojas for 2nd Vice
 - Karen Harmon for Americanism
 - Kay Kemp for Hospital
 - Roberta Robinson for Scholarship

District V Auxiliary Gloria Hall

- Gloria was elected President at the May meeting during the Dept. Pres. Official visit.
- Since the outgoing District V President is not able to be here, Gloria is representing.
- Gloria is on pain medication right now and when it takes effect, she slows down a little.
- There are 2 members of District V seeking Department Offices:
 - Pam Lein from #23 for the office of 3rd Vice President
 - Patsy Watkins from #126 for re-election to Chaplain.

Unfinished Business

- Rose Solak questioned why she was not informed about finding the lost John Dingell books. President Kathy said she didn't need to be informed because the books are closed. Leora Williamson has them.
- General Officers Instructions

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Pat Michalski to approve the General Officers Instructions. CARRIED**

- Poll Vote – Allison Aldrich approval to run for National Scholarship Officer.

****Motion Faye Richards-Green/2nd Gloria Hall to approve the Poll vote requesting approval for Allison Aldrich to seek the office of National Scholarship. CARRIED**

New Business

- Kathy Keizer is in Suite 102 and 122. Two nights were covered by the AMVETS
- Sue Christe needs 2 flag bearers for the opening session of the Auxiliary
- The 1st convention session will begin at 12:45pm

****Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Deb Davis to adjourn the pre-SEC meeting. CARRIED**

Closing prayer by Chaplain Patsy Watkins.

Retirement of Colors by Sgt-at-Arms Sue Christe.

Adjourned at 11:10am

Nancy Middleton
Executive Secretary
7/2/2023

Approved with corrections – Pres. Kathy Keizer 7/2/23 Corrections made by Pat Michalski 7/3/2023 Approved with corrections 7/5/2023
