

SPRING S.E.C. MEETING
February 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm by President Pat Michalski. The meeting was held at AMVETS Post 4064 in Perry Michigan.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Watkins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jennifer Zelony from Aux. #1988. In the absence of the Dept. Sgt-at-Arms, President Pat appointed Jennifer to fill the office for the meeting.
**Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Bert Lema to accept the President' appointment. CARRIED

Roll Call of Officers showed the following Officers present:

President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Treasurer, Chaplain, Americanism/SOS, Hospital, Scholarship, NEC Woman, Parliamentarian, IPDP)/Honors & Awards Chairman, Fall Conference Chairman, Convention Chairman, Higgins Lake Lodge Rep, PRO, Webmaster, District V President, Battle Creek VAVS, MVH/GR Rep

The following Officers were excused from the meeting by the President:

Sgt-at-Arms, Ways & Means Chairman, Personnel Chairman, District II President, District VII President, Aleda E Lutz VAVS Rep, Ann Arbor VAVS Rep, Jacobetti Home Rep, John Dingell VAVS Rep.

Correspondence: None

Approval of 2023 Fall SEC minutes: Carol Pickett noted Linda Marshall, District II President was recorded as the District I President. Correction noted.

**Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Bert Lema to accept the minutes as corrected.

REPORTS:

President Pat Michalski turned in her activity report. She has been very busy so far this year. She has not made any official visits to any Districts yet. She does have one schedule for District II in March and another for District V in May.

1st Vice President Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. Membership is down from last year's totals in February. This year 1,504 – last year 1,568. All the life members assessments have now been paid. There have been many errors on the D&Rs and the payment checks. Just this past week, 2 checks had to be returned for corrections.

2nd Vice President Bonnie Rojeski turned in her activity report. Since being elected to the Office of 2nd Vice, Bonnie has received permission for 2 Chairman's awards / read her instructions / did several things for the Penrickton Tour (sent letters to each Post, invited Dept. Commander, planned a luncheon before the tour, etc.) / sent in articles for the newsletter and bulletins for the website monthly / contacted Penrickton for pamphlets / wrote activity report and made copies.

3rd Vice President Pam Lein Pam turned in her activity report. She made 2 trips to PAWS for tours. (one for Department and one for National 3rd Vice). She received about 12 midyear reports, which is about half of the Auxiliaries in Michigan. She received one midyear report which had one project, but they broke down everything they did and it filled about 5 pages. It was still just one project.

Treasurer Deb Davis turned in her activity report. She had a Net Worth sheet passed out to everyone. The amount of each of the accounts as of January 31 are:

General Fund - \$24,060.05
Hospital Fund - \$6,614.89
Texas Hold'em Fund - \$14,217.28
Savings #1 - \$47,546.41
Savings #2 - \$989.29
CD - \$18,996.11
CD - \$20,402.80

2 of the CD's are coming due in March and April.

**Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Leora Williamson to let both CD's roll over when they are coming due. CARRIED

Deb was asked by Kathy Keizer where the updates were on the budget and the breakdowns in the individual accounts in Savings #1. Deb responded by saying she didn't do those reports because it is not in her instructions.

Chaplain Patsy Watkins turned in her activity report. She reported attending the Fall SEC meeting and Fall Conference / sent 2 sunshine funds out / sent Sympathy, Get Well and Thinking of You cards / Attended the Veterans Day Program / wrote news articles / bought Sympathy cards / went on the Paws Tour / worked Texas Hold'ems / plans to attend Dept. convention and help with the Memorial Service.

Patsy also asked for donations of greeting cards: sympathy, get well and thinking of you. Nancy Middleton and Leora Williamson have several they will donate.

Deb Davis asked if sunshine gift cards had been purchased. Yes, Patsy has some.

Americanism/SOS Officer Karen Harmon turned in her activity report. Karen is still waiting for the AMVETS raffle information for the Americanism Program. Karen thinks the AMVETS are looking into ways to distribute them.

Hospital Officer Kay Kemp turned in her activity report. She stated she attended Fall Conference / took part in 2 zoom meetings / spoke with the Treasurer about hospital allotments which were due / sent Service report to NEC Woman / wrote newsletters / will be attending SEC meeting in Feb along with an Honors & Awards meeting. Kay will also be awarding a \$25 for total hospital evaluation at convention after final reports are recorded.

Scholarship Officer Roberta Robinson turned in her activity report Roberta reported she is personally doing a fundraiser for scholarship by selling Koozies. She also visited Post

#120 in Mesick to review the Department Scholarship program. February is Scholarship Month.

N.E.C. Woman Nancy Middleton turned in her activity report. She sent a Spring NEC report to national but received a call from Carol King (headquarters) saying she didn't get it or she lost it. After several attempts to attach it to an email, it finally had to be cut and pasted to the actual email. Carol received it and will take care of the problem. In the report, it was mentioned the National President Amy Stopyra visited Michigan and so did the National 3rd Vice, Laura Bugaj. The report also included our Officers were disappointed in the low number of Auxiliaries who submitted midyear reports. It was asked if other Departments have this problem and what, if anything, they are doing to fix the problem.

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green turned in her activity report. A poll vote was sent out a few months ago regarding the appointment of Kathy Keizer and Nancy Middleton as chairmen of the Texas Hold'em for 2024. There were 15 responses – 14 yes and 1 no.

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Deb Davis to ratify the results of the poll vote. CARRIED

Standing Rules #12 A&B was tabled at the Fall SEC meeting.

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema to take it off the table. CARRIED

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema – change the date of June 1 to '*when info received by the Department*' on Standing Rule #12 A&B. CARRIED.

**Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Kathy Keizer – add Sons of AMVETS Cmdr. to Standing Rule #12A. CARRIED

**Kathy Keizer/2nd Bert Lema to add the words "*or special projects*" to #12 A
Carried

Officer Instructions the Parliamentarian received the following Department Officer Instructions with no changes: Treasurer, District Presidents, Americanism, Child Welfare, Hospital, Community Service and Website.

President: **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Gloria Hall move to add Texas Hold'em Chairmen to the Presidents instructions. CARRIED

The question was asked when instructions can be changed – answer: next January.

Incoming President instructions: remove the by-law committee from the instructions because this is done at the Spring SEC.

#1 add the wording Head Delegate, Liaison and Honors & Awards Chairman.

#2 – add auditors if needed.

The 1st Vice President's instructions have many changes including a procedure to processing memberships..

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Roberta Robinson to accept the changes. CARRIED

Faye is working with the Personnel committee to update the Executive Secretary's contact and work instructions. She is also preparing a job performance form.

The Scholarship Officer has many questions which may be brought up at convention.

Aux. #52 has their by-laws dues in March this year. Others are due in April or May. Some of the Auxiliaries (#110, #114, #1988) have Officers who have not renewed.

Scholarship Officer Roberta Robinson would like to have a separate fund for the scholarship money so she can keep track of it. Right now all donation money is in the Savings #2 account. We do not have a breakdown from the Treasurer on this account at the present time. Several members talked against this idea including the Treasurer, Secretary and 2 past Dept. Treasurers. Treasurer Deb Davis said any time Roberta wants to know what is in that account for scholarship, all she has to do is call Deb and she can find out what is available.

Ways & Means Chairman Nancy Woodwyk (excused) **no activity report submitted**. Allison Aldrich made some small bags of treats (cookies and/or Chex mix) for sale with the profits to Ways & Means. President Pat donated cans of pop to be sold.

Honors and Awards Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. The H&A Committee had a good meeting earlier in the day. They talked about the program – and of course, it will be Red, White & Blue!

Updated Donor's Rules will be in the Convention Digest.

Convention Chairman PDP Carol Pickett turned in her activity report. She had one message for the AMVETS – "Talk to me!" The convention will be 6/20 to 6/23 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Grand Rapids. The room rates are \$108 plus tax. More information will be in the Convention Digest which will be sent out around the middle of March. Articles are due by March 1st. The hotel phone number is 616/957-0900. If anyone has problems or complaints, contact Carol and she will try to work it out.

Personnel Committee Chair Wendy Lynema **no activity report submitted**. Faye Richardson-Green reported on a few items at the request of Wendy. The members of the Committee are Wendy Lynema, Chairman, Faye Richardson-Green, Kathryn Schultz, Bert Lema, Cel Rose Solak and Kathy Keizer. The committee held zoom meetings and invited the current Secretary to attend one of them. The committee is proposing the Auxiliary appoint a recording Secretary to take minutes of the SEC meetings and Convention minutes.

Secretary Nancy Middleton spoke against this idea. First, this was proposed last year at convention and the delegates defeated the motion. Now the committee is proposing the change again. One of the reasons is it took too long to submit the Fall SEC minutes. For some reason, the committee took out the deadline for doing the minutes in the instructions and put in the wording "as soon as possible".

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Roberta Robinson turned in her activity report. She stated it is a little slow at the lodge because of the seasonal changes – there is no ice for ice fishing and no snow for snowboarding.

Home Depot has installed storm doors in the cabins and the lodge. Roberta read a long statement from Craig Robinson, Chairman and Finance Officer for the lodge. It listed many improvements which have been made. (Note: I can't write fast enough to get all of them written down.). Cabins 6 and 2 are completed. Roberta also gave a report on the Lodge raffle.

PRO Caroline Wisniewski turned in her activity report. She requested pictures of local projects/events for the President's scrapbook. This book is to be of the entire Department, not just what the President does. Caroline will be taking pictures of Officers after this meeting.

Webmaster Pat Michalski turned in her activity report. Discussed lack of bulletins sent in by the Department Officers. There is a chart for submissions on the website but very few follow it.

District II President Linda Marshall (excused) **did not submit an activity report.** Kay Kemp reported the Dept. President will be making her official visit to District II on March 3rd. It will include their Americanism program. Kay also announced Barb Kozlowski will be seeking the Office of Americanism at the next Convention in June.

District V President Gloria Hall announced President Pat will be making her official visit to District V in May. There will also be an Americanism Awards program. Gloria announced PDP Kathy Keizer will be seeking the Office of Department Treasurer and Pam Lein will be seeking the Office of 1st Vice President.

District VII President Barb Robare (excused) submitted her activity report for June through January.

Aleda E Luz VAVS Linda Marshall (excused) **did not submit an activity report.** President Pat reported she has \$600 in the savings account and \$100 in checking.

Ann Arbor VA – Nancy Middleton reported after several trips to JP Morgan/Chase Bank, she finally got the Ann Arbor account straightened out. In the future the statements will go to Nancy until a new VAVS Rep is appointed and can be added to the accounts. Pat Krzesowik will remain as a signer on the account. Checks have been ordered and donations will be coordinated with the Department Hospital Officer. Pat and Frank Krzesowik have been notified of the change – and are relieved! The balance in the checking account is approximately \$2,962.82.

Battle Creek VAMC Rep Faye Richardson-Green turned in her activity report. She volunteers every Monday at the facility. There is \$327.82 in the checking account.

John Dingell VA Rep Cel Rose Solak (excused) turned in her activity report. .

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith (excused) turned in her activity report. She has a balance in her checking account of \$486.96 and \$568.35 in savings.

MVH-Grand Rapids Rep Leora Williamson turned in her activity report. One of the most fun things is she gets to escort members on bus trips to places of interest. She has worked several Dept. Texas Hold'ems, wrote newsletter articles and helped with holiday parties at the home. Her checking account balance is \$354.44 and the savings balance is \$506.78. She is currently looking for a special project she can do for the Home.

Report of the Executive Secretary Nancy Middleton passed out copies of the Newsletter/Website Bulletin chart which is on the website. She explained the headings and when articles were due (the 15th for both – news & web) For instance, the January newsletter is due on December 15 ; the February newsletter is due on January 15. This gives time for putting the newsletter together, making copies and mailing them so they are received by the 1st of each month. There is no newsletter in March. The Digest takes the place of the newsletter.

Nancy stated this year has been a really difficult year with many errors on D&Rs, checks and memberships in general. She and the 1st Vice have spent a lot of extra time on this problem. Nancy felt one of the problems may be the local Officers are not reading their instructions which are on the website. Years ago, after receiving the local revalidation form, the Secretary sent each local officer a copy of their individual instructions. She suggested we might want to try doing this again because the current way is not working. Also, many of the Officers just say “No changes” to the current instructions and don't take the time to update them.

Another suggestion was regarding the membership forms. It used to be the responsibility of the District President to distribute membership form packets to each of their local Auxiliaries. Each packet contained updated D&Rs (10), Change of Name/Address forms (4-5), Death notices (2-3), Life Member Card forms (2-3), Honorary Member forms (2), Life Replacement Card forms (2), etc. This could be handled at convention.

There was no discussion, comments or motion on these suggestion so we just went on to something else.

Unfinished Business:

President Pat announced it looks like Rose will finally be getting an account for John Dingell VA with the Lake Michigan Credit Union.

New Business:

#1 Long-Range Planning Committee Chairman Berl Lema turned in her activity report. The committee members are Bert as Chairman, Roberta Robinson, Gloria Hall and Wendy Lynema. Some of their main goals are helping people learn about their offices, promoting membership, training and how to deal with changes to instructions.

The following is a proposed change to the Department Standing Rules: Miscellaneous

****Motion Bert Lema/2nd Faye Richardson-Green:** With SEC approval, changes to the Officers instructions may be updated outside of the standard timeframe when recommended by either the Personnel or Long-Range Planning Committee. Such changes would be recommended at such time as is deemed necessary to meet Department Auxiliary organizational needs and/or to provide critical assistance to the Department President. CARRIED

#2 Allison Aldrich is seeking another term as National Scholarship Officer.

****Motion Nancy Middleton (NEC)/2nd Kathy Keizer** move to support Allison Aldrich's efforts in seeking reelection to National Scholarship CARRIED

#3 Pam Lein showed a dog biscuit she recently received. 100% of the profits go for adults with disabilities. She thought some Auxiliaries might like to purchase some of them and donate them to Paws With a Cause.

#4 Convention Chairman Carol Pickett asked who the President of the Gavelieres is. Answer Bert Lema. Carol also needs to know what Officers want committee meetings at convention.

#5 President Pat stated Linda Langland, our Sgt-at-Arms, has medical issues and has not been able to attend meeting. She is going to have a discussion with Linda about this position. Depending on the outcome, a replacement will need to be approved.

****Motion Bert Lema/2nd Roberta Robinson** to approve the appointment of Jennifer Zelony as Sgt-at-Arms pending the outcome of the discussion with the (current) Sgt-at-Arms. CARRIED

Mark Your Calendar

Department Texas Hold'em 3/21-3/24 2024

NEC Meeting 3/9/24 – Bethesda Maryland

Auxiliary Weekend – 4/12-14/2024 – Higgins Lake

Department Convention 6/20-24/2024 DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Rapids

National Convention 8/5-10/2024 Springfield Illinois

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Roberta Robinson** to adjourn. CARRIED

Benediction was given by Chaplain Patsy Watkins

Retirement of Color by acting Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Submitted by

Nancy Middleton, Executive Secretary

2/20/2024

Corrections made by President - 2/20/24

Corrections/additions made by
Parliamentarian 2/25/2024