

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY 2024 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Rapids MI

Friday, June 21, 2024

The convention was called to order on Friday, June 21 at 12:45pm. by Convention Chairman PDP Carol Pickett who welcomed all to the 2024 convention. She introduced all the Department Officers.

Invocation Chaplain Patsy Watkins placed the bible at the front table.

The colors were posted by Sgt-at-Arm Jennifer Zelony and 2 pages. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sgt-at-Arms Zelony.

Correspondence – none at this time

Credentials were read by Jennifer Zelony. 27 registered were present. Majority vote was 14 and 2/3's vote was 18.

Readings Preamble by 2nd Vice Bonnie Rojas, Code of Ethics by 1st Vice Kathy Keizer and Aims & Purposes by 3rd Vice Pam Lein.

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green read the Convention Rules and moved for their adoption. 2nd by Kathy Keizer. Motion CARRIED

The President appointed Linda Marshall as **timekeeper of the convention.**

Secretary's report Nancy Middleton – no report at this time.

OFFICER/CHAIRMEN/REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

President Pat Michalski said when she attended the Department Convention last year, she had no idea she would be leaving the convention as President! She first was President in 1980-81, Again in 2013-14. And now again in 2023/24 Stated there have been a lot of changes in those 44 years. One of the biggest changes was the number of participants. . One of her special highlights of this year was a pinning ceremony for a Veteran celebrating his 100th birthday.

1st Vice President Kathy Keizer turned in her activity report. She stated the membership total from the end of last year was 1,583 and this year we ended with 1,611 which was an increase of 28. We have 256 new members but did not retain 213 annual members. There have been many issues with the paperwork. They must be filled out properly and the check must be for the correct amount and made payable to AMVETS Ladies Aux Dept of MI. Also, include any extra paperwork required (renew to life form/new honorary form). This will make the processing quicker and easier.

No Renew to Life member is allowed from December 31 to September 1st. National will evaluate this at the August Convention. Life member assessment is \$3 per life member to the Department.

Early Bird Renew Yourself winners received \$15 each. (renewals postmarked by 11/5/23) The winners were:

Aux. #22 – Amy Pacynski, Caroline Wisniewski

Aux. #57 – Shelly Casler, Elizabeth Gauthier, Kathy Jo Jonson, Stephanie MacCarroll

Aux. #115 – Lauren Hasselbach

Aux. #910 – Monique Chamberlain

Aux. #1978 – Carol Nemeti

Aux. #4064 – Patricia Bamber

There was a membership meeting in the morning but only 2 people attended.

2nd Vice President Bonnie Rojaski thanked everyone for their donations to Penrickton. The winner of the Chairman's Award (drawing from those who attended the Penrickton tour) was Bob Green (Penrickton shirt). Her second winner (drawing from all who donated to Penrickton) was Auxiliary #23 (awarded \$25).

3rd Vice President Pam Lein turned in her activity report and bulletin. There were 17 people at the 1st PAWS tour. A 2nd tour was set up when the National 3rd Vice came for the visit with the SOA National Commander. Pam's theme this year was "Puppies are Our Future Service Dogs in Training. There were 2 Chairman's awards

#1 for the largest donation to PAWS – winner Aux. #93. Prize was a trophy with \$20 in it.

#2 a drawing from each Auxiliary donating to PAWS – winner Aux. #2273. Prize was a PAWS dog with \$20 in the pouch. Allison Aldrich picked up the award for #2273.

Acting Treasurer Gloria Hall stated she was only given the General Fund checks by Treasurer Deb Davis. Deb's husband dropped off the Hospital and Texas Hold'em checks this morning at the hotel. There is some discrepancies with the net worth financial page which is printed in the book. Gloria passed out the proposed budget for 2024/2025 which was approved by the Finance Committee. She asked everyone to read it and ask any questions they may have before voting on it tomorrow.

Americanism/SOS Officer Karen Harmon said she bought several items for the Camp Grayling USO from the \$2,410 donated. (*Sec. note: She read a list but I didn't get all the items listed.*) The Americanism Poster/Essay and Flag Drawing Awards program will be held tomorrow. All the winners are listed in the Convention Book (page #16)

The Americanism Committee split the Auxiliary donation of \$788.40 in half with \$394.20 going to both Jacobetti and the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly for their Carillon fund.

Hospital Officer Kay Kemp stated the Auxiliary books were audited by Faye Richardson-Green, Leora Williamson and Linda Marshall for Battle Creek VA, Aleda E Lutz VA, Jacobetti Home and Grand Rapids Home. The Books for John Dingell were not available for auditing and the Ann Arbor VA books were not available since there has been no activity there. The Secretary has the bank statements for Ann Arbor but was in another meeting at the time the Hospital Committee met. She

will give copies to Kay. (*Sec. note: later the next day, Kay was given the books for John Dingell and they were audited*) The Secretary was given the books from Judy Smith (Jacobetti) and Rose Solak. Nancy will return them to each of the Reps.

Scholarship Officer Roberta Robinson thanked the committee members for the judging of the scholarship applications. There were 5 entries but 2 were disqualified. The winners were from Aux. #22, Aux. #57 and Aux. #61 (Wisconsin). Each winner will receive \$1,000 and \$458 will be left in the account to be applied to next years totals.

Chairman's Awards

#1 for Aux. which hadn't participated in the Scholarship program in the past two years. No Winner.

#2 February is Scholarship month and there will be a prize for the Auxiliary who holds a special fundraiser in February with the largest Scholarship donation. Winner Aux. #121

Roberta was asked why two of the applications were disqualified. Answer: no transcripts, no sponsor membership card, expired card.

Chaplain Patsy Watkins turned in her activity report. Patsy thanked everyone for their support for the past 2 years. She has enjoyed the Office of Chaplain.

Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony turned in her activity report and bulletin. Since she has only held the Office of Sgt-at-Arms since February, she doesn't have a lot to report.

NEC Woman Nancy Middleton turned in her report and bulletin. I received all the midyear and final National Service Reports from our 5 Department Service Officers. The midyear reports were fine, but there were corrections needed on each of the 5 final reports. I cannot sign the reports when I know something is not right. I don't think some of the Service Officers realized this. Corrections were made, I signed the forms and they were sent to the National Service Officers. I received verification of receipt from each of them.

The list of those running for National Offices are:

Cindy Rice – President
Mary Lanphere – 1st Vice
Laura Bugaj – 2nd Vice
Debra Gass and Laurie Shea – 3rd Vice
Allison Aldrich – Scholarship Officer
Sherry Maserik – Hospital Officer
Kathy Hayes and Mary McKinnen – Sgt-at-Arms

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green turned In her activity report and her bulletin which is on page 17. The By-Laws and Standing Rules suggested changes were distributed. They will be voted on tomorrow.

Personnel Chairman Wendy Lynema has her report in the book. She stated the Committee made up of herself, President Pat, Parliamentarian Faye, PDP Rose Solak, PDP Bert Lema, PDP Kathy Schultz and PDP Kathy Keizer accomplished quite a bit this year. The Secretary was invited to the meeting. After a lot of discussion, the proposed Contract and Work Instructions for the Secretary were updated where appropriate and/or requested. The new contract was signed last night.

Convention Chairman Carol Pickett has her report in the convention book. She has received – and made – many phone calls. One of our biggest problems is a lack of participation. Fall Conference is for learning and Convention is to recognize the work for the past year and elect Officers for the next year. Carol will be making a report after this convention is over.

Higgins Lake Lodge Rep Roberta Robinson thanked Aux. #22 for the donation of a stove in the lodge building. Donations were also received for two new toilets and other items. Cabin #5 has all new furniture and is completed. This makes 3 cabins which are finished. The Lodge received a grant of screen doors from Home Depot and will be getting another grant from them soon. The new rates for the Lodge have been published on the website. The court case is still pending.

Ways & Means Nancy Woodwyk said this year has been challenging for her health wise. She has several raffles going (including the Department lottery tickets drawing). After the banquet, the AMVET Family will play "Show Me the Money".

Long Range Planning Committee Bert Lema turned in her activity report and her bulletin is on page 21 in the Convention book yellow section. She asked everyone to participate in the surveys so the committee has some new ideas. Email her at lema81@wowway.com.

Fall Conference will be held on September 13-15, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Grand Rapids.

Honors & Awards Chairman Kathy Keizer. The certificates are done and the committee is ready for the program. Kathy would like all the donors in the back of the room. She reminded all Auxiliaries to turn in reports. Her finances came in at .85 cents over budget!! (but she is covered the overage!)

PRO/Historian Caroline Wisniewski says she goes everywhere with President Pat. She sees her at least 6 times a week!

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green said all Officer's Instructions are online. The calendar of when bulletins are due will be coming soon. A discussion was held on the Dept of Michigan starting a Facebook page. There was a question on who would monitor it – the Webmaster? the President?
**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Wendy Lynema to start a Facebook page. CARRIED

Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall has her report in the book. Her balance in savings is \$855.41. (did not get the checking amount). She requested a change in the Deputy for Aleda E Lutz VA.

*Motion Linda Marshall/2nd Nancy Woodwyk to have Brenda Smith replace Sue Christe. CARRIED

Battle Creek VAVS Faye Richardson-Green has her report on page 45-46. Battle Creek VA has a new building going up starting next week. The site is in Howard City and should be complete is 2025.

Gloria Hall is the Deputy at the Wyoming Clinic. Someone is needed for the Lansing, Benton Harbor and Muskegon sites. They especially need drivers and volunteers who the Veterans can call to have someone to talk with. Faye thanked the Department Local Auxiliaries for the great donations this year. A total of \$2,530 was donated to the Battle Creek VA and the Wyoming Clinic.

The Battle Creek AMVET Family picnic will be held on July 20 from noon to 3pm. It is sponsored by the Sons of AMVETS.

Grand Rapids Home Rep. Leora Williamson has been going to the home for 19 years. She always feels welcome and special. It is fun – and she loves it!!

District II President Linda Marshall has her report in the book.

District V President Gloria Hall The District has their meetings on the 3rd Sunday every other month. President Pat made her official visit in May. After the meeting, the District held their Americanism Program which was attended by 55 family and friends of the winners. After the program, there was ice cream for all. Gloria announced she has transferred her membership to Aux. #126 where her husband Jean is the Commander.

Pam Lein is seeking the Office of 1st Vice President; Kathy Keizer is seeking the Office of Dept. - Treasurer: Gloria is seeking the Office of Dept. President.

Announcements:

Roberta Robinson will be working at the AMVET table in the lobby selling Higgins Lake Lodge apparel.

The Cadillac Center is now the Duane Dewey Center.

The joint opening is at 6pm tonight followed by the Memorial Service. PDP Nancy Blok will be recognized as the only deceased PDP this year.

Tomorrow's session begins at 8:30am (Door prizes will begin at 8am)

***Motion** Cheryl Jurgess/2nd Carol Pickett to adjourn the meeting. CARRIED

Closing prayer given by Chaplain Patsy Watkins.

Flag retired by Sgt-at-Arms Jenifer Zelony.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.

Saturday, June 22, 2024

The 2nd session was **called to order** at 8:30am by Convention Chair Carol Pickett.

She conducted the **introduction/roll call of the PDP's** in attendance: 1980-81 Patricia Michalski; 1993-94 Nancy Middleton; 1999-2000 Maribeth Wescott 2000-2001 Carol Pickett; 2009-2010 Kathy Keizer 2013-2014 Patricia Michalski; 2014-2015 Allison Aldrich; 2015-2016 Faye Richardson-Green 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 Bertha Zeno Lema; 2022-2023 Kathy Keizer and last but not least 2023-2024 Patricia Michalski (again)

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Watkins

The flag was presented by Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Roll call of Officers by Secretary - all present with the exception of Treasurer Deb Davis, Jacobetti Rep Judy Smith, John Dingell VAVS Cel Rose Solak and District VII President Barb Robare – all excused.

Credentials were read by Jennifer Zelony. 38 registered were present. Majority vote was 20 and 2/3's vote was 28.

The budget for 2024-25 was distributed yesterday. Gloria went over the recommended changes approved by the Finance Committee. There were a few questions: why was National expenses lowered (answer: costs/rooms are less costly in Illinois and the NEC will not be in the Washington DC area – which is very expensive), why is the per diem eliminated (answer: was not being used as anticipated but mileage rate is being increased to eliminate the percentage based on gas prices), **Motion Gloria Hall/2nd Carol Pickett to adopt the proposed budget as printed. CARRIED
(Sec. Note: the approved budget is posted on the Auxiliary website)

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green:

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE

2024 Department Standing Rule Recommendations:

- Add the following statement: "When any Department accounts are closed or modified for any reason, approval from the Department President is required and both the Department Treasurer and Executive Secretary must be notified."

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Leora Williamson to approve - CARRIED

2024 Department Bylaw Recommendations:

- **Reformat** Article II Aims and Purposes and III Membership for greater clarity and ease of reading
 - Article III, add Section 3C: "Member-at-large dues do not apply to Life members. (clarification)"
- **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Kathy Keizer to approve - CARRIED
- Article V, Department Officers, Section 3A additional appointments and add 3D
 - Add to 3A "at least two (2) Texas Hold'em Chairmen (for the next Jan 1 – Dec 31 term), and a Long-Range Planning Committee Chairman"
- **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema to approve - CARRIED
 - Add to 3D "The Long-Range Planning Committee Chairman will be selected from amongst its current committee members and approved by the Executive Committee prior to the close of Convention. She will serve a two (2) year term renewable up to a maximum of three (3) times beginning in even years."
- **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Wendy Lynema to approve - CARRIED
- Article V, Department Officers, Section 5
 - Now reads: *The Department President shall appoint with SEC approval NO LATER THAN the Spring meeting, fourteen (14) members to serve on the Bylaws Committee.*
 - Change to read: *The Department President shall appoint with SEC approval NO LATER THAN the Spring SEC meeting at least one (1) member representing each of the Department areas currently or formerly referred to as Districts for a total of no less than six (6) members to serve on the Bylaws Committee.*
- **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Linda Marshall to approve CARRIED
- Article VI, Executive Committee, Section 2: add **Texas Hold'em Chairmen and Long-Range Planning Committee Chairman**
- **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Cheryl Jurgess to approve – CARRIED
- Article VII, Meetings and Quorum, Section 1 revision and add new Section 2 and renumber the remaining Sections 3-6
 - Section 1 now reads: *The Executive Committee may meet within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Department Convention. The incoming and outgoing Executive Committee shall meet immediately following the close of the Convention for the purpose of transferring files, with the exception of Department Treasurer, which will be done after the Department audit. Following the transfer of files, the newly elected and appointed Executive Committee shall meet to present their themes, contests, etc. and to have them approved. They shall also engage in Officer training to be completed within 30 days. The Committee also shall meet in the Fall prior to the Fall Conference and in the Spring. (6/21)*
 - Change Section 1 to read: *The Executive Committee may meet within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the Department Convention.*
 - A. *The Executive Committee may also meet within fourteen (14) days prior to the Department Convention via video conference, if needed, to finalize items for the Convention.*
- **Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Berl Lema to approve - CARRIED

- *Add Section 2: Furthermore, the newly elected and appointed officers to the Executive Committee shall meet no later than thirty (30) days after the close of the Convention and coincide with Department Officer Training:*
 - A. *The incoming and outgoing Executive Committee shall meet immediately following the close of the Convention for the purpose of transferring files, with the exception of Department Treasurer, which will be done after the Department audit.*
 - B. *Officers may present their themes, contests, etc., if being offered as Local program incentives, to be approved.*
 - C. *Mileage shall be paid to the drivers.*
 - D. *This committee shall also meet in the Fall prior to the Fall Conference and in the Spring at the meeting called at the discretion of the President.*

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Trisha Rosenberg to approve (1 'no') – CARRIED

- Article XI, Department Convention, Section 4A (Auxiliary standing) modify revalidation responsibility and add new Standing Committee as 9J:
 - 4A Now reads: *Local revalidation form submitted to the Department Parliamentarian postmarked thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention.*
 - Change 4A to read: *Local revalidation form submitted to the Department Executive Secretary postmarked thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention. She will ensure copies are submitted to the appropriate Department and National persons.*

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Diana Lammott

- Add a new 9J standing committee to read:
 - J. *The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is responsible for identifying current and future needs of the Department to enhance effectiveness, communication, and long-term viability with and for all Auxiliary leadership at all levels.*

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Wendy Lynema to approve CARRIED

1. *The Committee will be comprised of five (5) members selected by the chairman and will serve for a two (2) year term renewable up to three (3) times.*
2. *This committee would develop and oversee, in collaboration with the Department President and Parliamentarian, a department level mentoring program for Officers which could become a model for Locals / Districts.*
3. *This committee could also identify broad training / education needs for Auxiliaries throughout the Department requiring National support and refer these needs to the appropriate national officer(s).*

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema to approve – (1 'no') CARRIED

- Article XIV Local Auxiliaries, Section 7, change from Parliamentarian to Executive Secretary:
 - Now reads: *The local bylaws or standing rules shall stipulate if the outgoing or incoming Secretary is responsible for sending the completed Revalidation Form to the Department Parliamentarian.*
 - Change to read: *The local bylaws or standing rules shall stipulate if the outgoing or incoming Secretary is responsible for sending the completed Revalidation Form to the Department Executive Secretary.*

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Barb Kozlowski to approve - CARRIED**

Article XVI Uniforms, Section 1 reformatted to letters A thru G for readability and added “or white” where shoe color choice is referenced in 1D – automatic per national change

Following the votes on recommendations to By-Laws and Standing Rules, a discussion occurred regarding our National Preamble. Some found it offensive to refer to “American Veterans” and “Female Veterans” like the females were in a separate class from the American Veterans. All our Veterans are American Veterans without regard to their gender.

****Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema move the Department of Michigan send a resolution to National to eliminate the words “and female Veterans” from the Constitution’s Preamble and Article IV, Section 1, Membership and Dues. CARRIED**

The Parliamentarian also provided reminders to note from 2023 National Convention:

1. General: The National Board of Trustees (PNPs) = long range / strategic planning committee
2. Constitution: Article XII Sections 2c & 3 have had clarifying language added:
 - a. Section 2c “if an accused refuses to attend the grievance hearing, her request for an appeal should not be allowed.
 - b. Section 3, National, last paragraph (pg. 23)
3. Manual:
 - a. Page 49, Worchid is no longer recognized as a National program
 - b. Effective May 1, 2024, volunteer hours evaluation increased from \$20 to \$30 per hour and mileage from \$0.50 to \$0.65 per mile.
 - c. If not paid, platelet donations are now evaluated at \$300.
 - d. Freedoms Foundation/Founding Forward AMVETS Adult Conference now allows mileage and 10 hours evaluation to be claimed.

Membership: Kathy Keizer showed a brochure from National regarding membership. If a local would like more of them, contact National and they will send some.

AMVET Craig Robinson came to the floor to give an update on the AMVET Lodge at Higgins Lake. He thanked the Auxiliaries for their many donations and reported a lot of progress is being made. Cabins 5, 6 and 7 are completed and 2 more are almost done. We had an \$8,900 grant from Home Depot and are expecting another one soon.

Back to Kathy Keizer’s report on Membership. She forgot to hand out the certificates for 100% renewal and/or equivalent for this year. Receiving a certificate are Auxiliaries #23, #52, #72, #110, #114, #115, #121, #123, #126, #910, #1941, #2273, #3720 and #4064.

PDP Allison Aldrich **discussed the vote at National Convention** from our NEC and Head Delegate. She didn’t think it was right to have their votes mandated by the majority of the delegates from Michigan. Our NEC and Head Delegate should be familiar with the candidates and could make their decision based on that information. It was pointed out the convention body could mandate the vote. (Sec. notes: this is what the NEC Woman’s Instructions read: At the National Convention, the outgoing President and the NEC Woman are to poll the Michigan delegation and vote with the majority. The EXCEPTION would be when mandated by the Department Convention Body they are to vote as mandated.

**Motion Allison Aldrich/2nd Kathy Keizer to eliminate the restriction of voting with the majority in the Standing Rules. CARRIED

**Motion Nancy Middleton/2nd Bert Lema the Department of Michigan support Allison Aldrich in her efforts to seek re-election to the Office of National Scholarship Officer – CARRIED.

Secretary Nancy Middleton reminder to everyone that one person from each Auxiliary represented at this convention needs to pick up the packet of report forms for their local – and sign for them!

We took a short break while waiting for some of our guests to arrive.

Sons of AMVETS Commander Don Torr visited the Auxiliary and extended thanks for our help to the Sons. If we need anything, please contact them.

Hospital Officer Kay Kemp was about to read an email from the Ann Arbor VA but Commander Witte arrived to the Auxiliary floor.

AMVETS Commander Kari Witte thanked the Auxiliary for all the work we do for the AMVET Family. She was originally recruited to AMVETS by an Auxiliary member and was an Auxiliary President at one time. She is promoting change to recognize the value of all the groups.

She acknowledges the AMVET website was a disaster and a new one is being worked on. She also asked everyone not to disrespect AMVETS in public, on the website or on Instagram.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to President Pat Michalski, Convention Chairman Carol Pickett, Liaison Kathy Keizer and Higgins Lake Lodge Rep. Roberta Robinson (who had some very kind words for the Commander)

Back to Hospital Officer Kay Kemp. An email was received from the Ann Arbor VA requesting a VAVS Rep to the facility. Faye Richardson Green knows someone who lives in the area and may be interested.

**Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Kay Kemp to table the discussion until tomorrow. CARRIED

Paws With A Cause – two Representatives came to the Auxiliary floor with their Paws Dogs. It was announced a renovation for a new veterinarian clinic will start in September. It will be a 9-month project at a cost of \$5,000,000. To date, there are 198 puppies, 53 dogs have been placed with clients, 1 dog began CIA duty and 1 dog is in the Secret Service. PAWS is expanding their volunteer program. They need help with 8-week-old puppies on Tuesday, getting them familiar with metal, leashes and massages.

On behalf of the Michigan Auxiliaries, 3rd Vice President Pam Lein presented PAWS with a check for \$8,686.90 and a shirt with her theme “Puppies are Future Paws Dogs”

Penrickton Center CEO Janet Leigh addressed the Auxiliary and told them about what they do for the children. The facility has been in existence for 72 years and is a learning center for children 1 to 12 years old who are legally blind and have at least one other disability. They are funded only by donations. 2nd Vice President Bonnie Rojas presented Penrickton with a check for \$9,777.13.

Break for Americanism program and lunchtime. Session will resume at 1:30pm.

When we resumed, Convention Chairman Carol Pickett had a surprise. As a Point of Personal Privilege, on the back table was a display of cupcakes to honor Maribeth Wescott who was Department President 25 years ago and has been a member of the Auxiliary for 50 years. Our Officers and Delegates didn't hesitate. They flocked to the table to get their snack!

Texas Hold'em Co-Chair Kathy Keizer announced the next Dept. Texas Hold'em will be held on July 25 to 28th at the Bar Down restaurant in Grand Rapids from 4pm to 2am. Volunteers are needed.

Ways & Means Chairman Nancy Woodwyk said the "Show Me the Money" fundraiser will be held in this room after the banquet. There will be 15 games at \$1 each. One half of the money raised will go to the Auxiliary and the other half will go to the game winners.

Newsletter subscriptions Editor Nancy Middleton announced after many years of the monthly newsletter subscriptions at \$10 a year, it was now time we have to increase the price. During the life of the newsletter, postage has doubled, paper costs and envelopes have increased by about 60% and ink prices have gone way, way up. Because this is not a fundraiser but a tool for our local Auxiliaries and members, we find it necessary to increase the price to \$12 a year – a \$2 a year increase. This does not cover the entire cost – but it helps! The balance of the cost is absorbed by the Secretary's supply fund.

Also, the Convention Digest which is mailed in the middle of March has become very expensive. This past year it cost well over \$3 just to mail one Digest. This does not even touch the cost of ink, envelopes, paper, etc. We are asking for a little help. Not everyone wants the Digest but if you do, we are asking for \$3. This does not cover the cost but we feel if you pay \$3, it means you really want it and will read it.

The newsletter is also available on the website if you want to get it that way and print it off yourself. The Digest is not online.

Nominations

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green read the nomination portion of the Election Rules
**Motion Faye Richards-Green/2nd Trisha Rosenburg to adopt the nomination rules. CARRIED

President Gloria Hall nominated by PDP Wendy Lynema/2nd PDP Allison Aldrich

1st Vice President – *here was the biggest boo-boo of the convention. Nancy Middleton stood up and started to nominate Kathy Keizer for 1st Vice . Halfway through she realized her vast mistake and quickly apologized and sat down in utter disgrace!!!!*

1st Vice President Pam Lein nominated by Faye Richardson-Green/2nd by Roberta Robinson

2nd Vice President – no nominations

3rd Vice President – no nominations

Chaplain – Karen Krumm nominated by PDP Allison Aldrich

Nancy Woodwyk nominated by PDP Maribeth Wescott/2nd Bonnie Rojeski

Sgt-at-Arms – Jennifer Zelony nominated by PDP Bertha Zeno Lema/2nd Doni Simons

Hospital Officer – no nominations

Americanism Officer – no nominations

Scholarship Officer – no nominations

Treasurer Kathy Keizer – nominated by PDP Nancy Middleton/2nd PDP Carol Pickett
NEC Woman Faye Richardson-Green – nominated by Roberta Robinson/2nd PDP Wendy Lynema
All nominations remain open until elections tomorrow.

Short break before Honors & Awards Program

Honors and Awards

Membership:

Class “C” – Winner (3-way tie) #72, #121, #910

Class “B” – Winner #110 / 2nd Place #1941

Class “A” – Winner (2-way tie) #23, #2273

Child Welfare:

PDP Kathy Biela – Winner #93 / 2nd Place #4064

PDP Nancy Middleton - Winner #23 / 2nd Place #57

PDP Pat Witcher Penrickton Center Award – Winner #93 / 2nd Place #57

Community Service

PDP Maureen Jackson– Winner #93 / 2nd Place #4064

PDP Wendy Lynema - Winner #57 / 2nd Place #114

PDP Faye Richardson-Green Paws With a Cause Award – Winner #93 / 2nd Place #57

Americanism

PDP Allison Aldrich – Winner #93 / 2nd Place #4064

PDP Pat Michalski - Winner #57 / 2nd Place #23

SOS

Dept. of Michigan – Winner #93 / 2nd Place #121

Dept. of Michigan - Winner #126 / 2nd Place #57

Hospital

PDP Seletha Robertson – Winner #93 / 2nd Place #122

PDP Kathy Keizer - Winner #57 / 2nd Place #23

Scholarship

PDP Neva Colley– Winner #93 / 2nd Place #121

Dept. of Michigan - Winner #57 / 2nd Place #126

Auxiliary of the Year

District II Award - Winner #57 / 2nd Place #93

Auxiliary Member of the Year

No submissions

The benediction was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Wakins.

The flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26pm

Sunday, June 23, 2024

The session was **called to order** at 8:20am by President Pat Michalski.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Patsy Watkins

The flag was presented by Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Roll call of Officers by Secretary - all present with the exception of Treasurer Deb Davis, Jacobetti Rep Judy Smith, John Dingell VAVS Cel Rose Solak and District VII President Barb Robare – all excused.

Credentials were read by Jennifer Zelony. 39 registered were present. Majority vote was 20 and 2/3's vote was 26.

Elections will be held at 10am.

Unfinished business:

#1 Facebook page for Auxiliary. Monitor should be Webmaster

#2 Rep to Ann Arbor which was tabled yesterday

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Kathy Keizer to reopen for discussion. CARRIED
The Rep who is considering is Pam Lein. She is still under consideration but no decision is made. The VA does not require regular volunteers. They need help with filing, escort, coffee etc. occasionally.

#3 Service reports using correct form.

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Leora Williamson move effective 6/1/2024, only current service report forms and project evaluation sheets will be accepted. CARRIED

#4 Resolution for National

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Bert Lema move the Department of Michigan sends a recommendation/resolution to National to eliminate the words "ad female Veterans' from the Constitution's Preamble and Article IV, Section 1, Membership and dues. The resolution will be in proper form and signed by the proposer/President/Secretary. CARRIED

President Pat was charged \$5 for not having her President's pin on during the Gavelieres dinner. She was then charged \$10 for not wearing her Presidents pin at the AMVETS Family banquet. She doesn't know who to pay. Answer: Bert Lema.

Nancy Woodwyk announced the winner of the leather ladies vest – Pam Lein (who REALLY wanted that vest!). And the winner of the \$50/50 was #014678. Later it was discovered the winner was Commander Witte. The Department raffle was drawn and 1st place (250 lottery tickets) was #115 Port Hope; 2nd place (\$150 lottery tickets) was Auxiliary #22; 3rd Place (50 tickets) was Judy Smerak from Aux. #22.

Carol Pickett presented President Pat with her gift from the local Auxiliaries.

Gift bag of 'stuff' for her trip to Aruba

Red, white and blue baseball hat
Ice cream earrings (NO - not real but shaped like ice cream!).
Red, white and blue Balloon candle
New Detroit Tiger shirt which says Bay City 22 on the back
Letter from the Detroit Tigers management and a picture of PAWS (the mascot)
A Mama Ducky cup
A "land of the free and home of the brave" pillow stuffed with \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

With a little time before elections, some of our delegates were asked what improvements, comment and/or ideas they could offer for future consideration.

Karen Krumm wants to be more involved because she always feels welcome.

Roberta Robinson is thankful for all the support she has received.

Cheryl Jurgess thinks there should be more time to register.

Wendy Chamberlain enjoyed the Family Dinner but would like more time to mingle together. She also would like more time allowed for the Americanism program.

Pam Lein thought it would be good to meet others by not sitting with our own group but be divided to meet others.

Roberta Robinson also thought we should come together as a group (SOA/AMVETS/Riders) (Sec. note: I apologize if I missed someone but I can only write so fast but I liked this idea of sharing)

The winner of the Auxiliary Poster was #57.

Time for Elections. Bob Green, Jacob Reickert and Maryann Harmon were tellers for the vote counting.

Faye Richardson-Green read the election rules.

President Gloria Hall

**Motion Wendy Lynema/2nd Allison Aldrich nominations be closed and Gloria be elected President by affirmation. CARRIED

1st Vice President Pam Lein

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Roberta Robinson nominations be closed and Pam be elected 1st Vice President by affirmation. CARRIED

2nd Vice President - no nominations

**Motion Kathy Keizer/2nd Nancy Woodwyk nominations be closed and the Office of 2nd Vice President will be an appointment by the new President. CARRIED

3rd Vice President no nominations

**Motion Faye Richardson-Green/2nd Jenifer Zelony nominations be closed and the Office of 3rd Vice President will be an appointment by the new President. CARRIED

Nancy Woodwyk declined the nomination sighting health concerns.

**Motion PDP Allison Aldrich moved to close nominations and Karen be elected by affirmation. CARRIED

Sgt-at-Arms – Jennifer Zelony

**Motion PDP Bertha Zeno Lema/2nd Doni Simons to close nominations and Jennifer Zelony be elected Sgt-at-Arms by affirmation. CARRIED

Hospital Officer – no nominations yesterday.

Patricia (Trisha) Rosenberg was nominated by PDP Allison Aldrich/2nd by PDP Wendy Lynema.

**Motion PDP Allison Aldrich/2nd PDP Wendy Lynema to close nominations and Trisha be elected Hospital Officer by affirmation. CARRIED

Americanism Officer – no nominations yesterday

Cindy Wolkens was nominated by Andrea Ray/.2nd by Doni Simons

**Motion Andrea Ray/2nd Doni Simons to close nominations and elect Cindy Wolkens to the Office of Americanism by affirmation. CARRIED

Scholarship Officer – no nominations yesterday

Andrea Ray was nominated by Cindy Wolkens/2nd by Doni Simons

Dian Peacock was nominated by Catherine Lockwood /2nd by Roberta Robinson

Ballots were cast and given to the tellers.

Andrea Ray is the new Scholarship Officer

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

**Motion PDP Nancy Middleton/2nd PDP Carol Pickett to close nominations and elect Kathy Keizer to the Office of Treasurer by affirmation. CARRIED

NEC Woman Faye Richardson-Green

**Motion Roberta Robinson/2nd PDP Wendy Lynema to close nominations and elect Faye Richardson-Green by affirmation. CARRIED

Chaplain Patsy Watkins **closed the bible and delivered the benediction.**

The flag was retired by Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony and the Color Guard.

The meeting was adjourned

**Motion Linda Marsall.2nd Trisha Rosenberg move to adjourn. CARRIED

The new Officers went to the AMVET floor for the installation of Officers.

Post SEC will begin 15 minutes after installation.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Middleton

Executive Secretary

July 9, 2024

Approved with corrections by President Pat Michalski
7/10/24

Approved with corrections by Parliamentarian Faye
Richardson-Green 7/12/24