

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
FALL SEC MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

The SEC meeting was called to order in Grand Rapids at 6:30pm by President Gloria Hall who requested all phones be silenced. A \$1 fine to Ways & Means will be charged to ringing phones.

The invocation was delivered by Chaplain Karen Krumm.

The salute to the Colors was led by Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony.

Roll Call by Secretary Nancy Middleton showed the following Officers/Chairmen present and/or excused or absent:

**PRESENT:** President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice, Treasurer, Americanism/SOS, Hospital, Chaplain, NEC Woman, Parliamentarian, Ways & Means, Fall Conference and Convention Chairman, Personnel Chair, IPDP/H&A/Liaison, Long Range Planning Chair, Aleda Lutz VA, John Dingell VA, Grand Rapids Home Rep, Dist. II President, District V President, PRO.

**EXCUSED:** Scholarship, Higgins Lake Lodge Rep, Battle Creek VA, Jacobetti Home, Dist. VII President.

Approval of Convention Pre-SEC minutes, Convention minutes, post SEC minutes.

***\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson//2<sup>nd</sup> Trisha Rosenburg to approve the minutes as posted online. CARRIED***

**REPORTS:**

**President Gloria Hall.** Our elected NEC Woman Faye Richardson-Green has been elected as the National Americanism Officer during the National Convention in Springfield IL. As such, she had to resign her duties of Michigan's NEC. Because we had no 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice at our Dept. convention, Pat Michalski volunteered to accept the office until a replacement could be found. PDP Maureen Jackson volunteered to accept the position. There was no PRO approved at the Post Convention SEC meeting. Kathryn Cross, Aux. #126, has agreed to take this office. President Hall had a Poll Vote sent to all SEC Officers requesting approval of Pat Michalski (NEC), Maureen Jackson (3<sup>rd</sup> Vice) and Kathryn Cross (PRO). 100% of the SEC Officers approved the Poll Vote.

**\*\*Motion Kathy Keizer/2<sup>nd</sup> Trisha Rosenburg to ratify the poll vote. CARRIED**

Appointments to the Grievance Committee are Kathy Keizer, Maureen Jackson and Pam Lein.

***\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Lein to approve the Grievance Committee. CARRIED***

Appointments to the Appeals Committee – Faye Richardson-Green, Trisha Rosenburg and Roberta Robertson.

***\*Motion Pat Michalski/2<sup>nd</sup> Pam Lein to approve the Appeals Committee. CARRIED***

Appointments to the By-Law Committee are Chairman Bert Lema, Nancy Middleton, Patsy Watkins, Maureen Jackson, Pat Michalski, Kathy Keizer, Pam Lein and, Jennifer Zelony.

**\*Motion Maureen Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trisha Rosenburg to approve the By-Law Committee. CARRIED**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pam Lein** read her activity report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nancy Middleton** turned in her activity report. She is strongly promoting 100% Auxiliary participation in reports. Last year 11 Auxiliaries out of 23 send in reports. That is not acceptable! We need to be supporting our children. Under a discussion about the Penrickton Tour, the majority of SEC members preferred next Spring. This year in October and November there seems to be many things scheduled. We will try for April. Penrickton will be contacted and the date will be in the upcoming newsletter and website. Because Nancy already gives the Child Welfare award at convention, she will not have a Chairman's award. Something will be planned later for all those submitting reports.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Maureen Jackson** was just appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice so doesn't have anything (YET) for an activity report. BUT she has quickly set up the PAWS tour. It will be on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the PAWS Headquarters which is being renovated. National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Deb Gass will be attending. Paws will have lunch for us during the tour, so a headcount is required by Oct. 10th. Maureen's theme this year is "PAWS is My Cause".

**Treasurer Kathy Keizer** turned in her activity report. She started off with a report on the 2023/24 audit report. *(The report was quite long - 2 pages. I will try to condense it without leaving out much of the material).*

The audit was scheduled for 7/2/24 at 1pm at the home of the Dept. Secretary. Upon arrival, we were informed the Treasurer Deb Davis had called a few minutes earlier and she had a family emergency and would not be available. When the IPDP arrived a few minutes later from Bay City, she was informed. With no records, we could not do the audit. We did go to the credit union to make the changes of names on the Department accounts. Since we did not have a checkbook, we got counter checks for mileage and advance funds for National Convention. We set up a new date (July 11) for the audit but were told Deb couldn't be there because she would be gone for 2 weeks.. Kathy ended up driving to get the records, statements, transmittals and vouchers from Deb's neighbor so we could have the audit. Attending the audit were PDP Pat Michalski, President Gloria Hall, Secretary Nancy Middleton, NEC Woman Faye Richardson-Green and Caroline Wisniewski.

The audit found the following:

- Missing vouchers
- No running balances in the General and Texas Hold'em account checkbooks
- Several deposits and checks not listed for Texas Hold'em account register
- Many outstanding checks including 1 from the 2023 Convention

Kathy took everything she had and spent many, many hours going over the past two years records to get the starting amounts to work with this fiscal year. As of August 31, she happily says we have a correct running balance for the General fund going forward.

Kathy then gave our net worth report (copies to all at the SEC meeting):

- General Checking Account \$23,285.70
- Hospital Checking Account \$4,827.07
- Texas Hold'em Checking Account \$5,964.88
- #1 Savings (reserved) 23,301.37
- #2 Savings (Donations) \$462.67
  - ❖ Totals Accounts – \$57,841.69
- LMCU CD (maturity 10/17/25) \$20,876.01
- LMCU CD (maturity 9/15/25) \$19,348.32
- LMCU CD (maturity 2/1/25) \$25,000.00
  - ❖ Totals CD's - \$65,224.33

**TOTAL NET WORTH - \$123,066.02**

An update of the budget line items was also distributed to everyone. Bottom line:

2024/2025 approved budget:	\$33,125.00
2024/2025 disbursed to date	\$7,842.79
2024/2025 balance	\$25,282.21

Maureen Jackson commended Kathy on a wonderful job getting us a finance report. (applause all the way around!!)

***\*Motion Pat Michalski/2<sup>nd</sup> Leora Williamson to accept Treasurer's report as presented. CARRIED***

**Americanism Cindy Wolkens** turned in her activity report. She stated her husband is doing well and he is here at Fall Conference. She thanked everyone for the cards and prayers.

**Hospital Officer Trisha Rosenberg** turned in her activity report. She reported the Hospital Committee held a meeting today before the SEC meeting. They voted to increase their quarterly allotment from \$1 to \$2 per resident. There is a contradiction between the Hospital Officers instructions and the by-laws which needs to be corrected at convention. In the meantime, there was a motion to add to the Standing Rules.

***\*Motion Trisha Rosenberg/2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Marshall the Hospital committee will determine their allotment in agreement with the Treasurer. Majority "Yes" – one "No"***

**Chaplain Karen Krumm** turned in her activity report. She has given out one Sunshine gift so far this year. Recipient was Riley Fitzgerald, life member of #1988. Worked on Fall Conference class for Chaplain.

**Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony** turned in her activity report. Prepared for training class at Fall Conference.

**NEC Woman Pat Michalski** turned in her activity report. Since she has just been appointed after the National Convention, her activities obviously have been limited! She does have a sheet to send around to this meeting for anyone who wants to sign up for committees at National Convention in August 2025 in Greensboro NC. In the absence (excused) of our previous NEC, Pat reported the Quartermaster for the National website is [amvetsnationalquartermaster.com](http://amvetsnationalquartermaster.com) . (all one word) It is located in Ohio. Pat also reported the Michigan resolution to remove the word 'Female' from the preamble when referring to Veterans (i.e. American Veterans and Female Veterans) was voted down by the AMVETS. Also reported was the Founding Forward "Spirit of America" Youth Leadership will be held November 7 to 10, 2024.

**Parliamentarian Bert Lema** turned in her activity report. She would like any changes to instructions sent now but no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WAYS & MEANS CHAIRMAN PATSY WATKINS** will turn in her activity report. She is looking for donations of good items for Chinese Auctions for the Spring SEC meeting in February and the Convention in June. The Quarter Auction will be Saturday night. We have some great prizes and we hope to see everyone attend.

**Personnel Chairman Kathy Keizer** nothing to report. But reminded the President she skipped Fall Conference Chairman.

OOPS!

**Fall Conference Chairman Nancy Middleton** turned in her activity report. Worked with instructors pass out information ready for classes. We have a good program (we think) with some old and some new instructors – Kathy Keizer, Bert Lema, Jennifer Zelony, Karen Krumm and me. We are covering many topics. This has been a very challenging year and sometimes getting information was not easy. We are also giving great incentives to those attending which have been approved. It is a little disappointing, with all these incentives, we haven't gotten more participants. We are having free lunch at the Pizza Ranch and I think everyone will like this place. It is a lot more than Pizza.

I have not done anything for Convention yet. It was also discussed about doing something for Fall Conference next year. We talked about the problems and cost. We could probably take over the entire lodge cheaper. There was no comments or resolution on the subject. We went on to the next report.

**Immed. Past President/Liaison/ Pat Michalski** turned in her activity reports (plural) She distributed certificates/envelops to Auxiliaries from National:

Paws With a Cause to #57, #93, #121

John Tracy Clinic to Dept – District V

St Jude - #57 – Dept - #23 - #52 - #93 - #121 - #126 - #Dist. V\_

Founding Forward – Dept. – Dist. V - #23 - #57 - #93 - #121

**Long Range Planning – Bert Lema, Chairman** turned in her activity report. The Long-Range Planning Committee held conference meetings. Surveys were sent out, but we need more responses. The committee requested a budget. \$400 was allocated at Convention under Fall Conference budgeted items. Since this money was designated for incentives agreed upon by the Long-Range Planning Committee, it will not be used at this Fall Conferences. Bert prepared for training classes on Saturday.

Somehow something got out of order, and we started discussing Department awards. We got back to the agenda after this discussion.

How and Who gives awards (at Convention). Answer – PDP can have an award for 10 years. It was asked where it was written – answer in the Immediate Past Presidents instructions. #16 says only PDPs and Districts PDPs for 10 years (can be renewed) and District for 3 years (can also be renewed unless a PDP wants it). The Department will do all Membership awards.

***\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2<sup>nd</sup> Kathy Keizer a local Auxiliary can take an award in memory of a Past Dept. President if not taken by a PDP and can be renewed again. CARRIED***

NOTE: this will need to be approved at the Spring SEC for inclusion in the Convention Digest.

BACK TO THE AGENDA

**Aleda E Lutz VA - Linda Marshall, VAVS Rep.** turned in her activity report. She has had her joint review. There is \$327.26 in her checking account and \$988.43 in savings.

**Ann Arbor VA – no VAVS Rep.** Nancy Middleton reported the Ann Arbor VA has a little over \$3,000 in checking. It has taken quite a while to get this straightened out at the bank (Chase) but it is ok now. A question has yet to be answered. The statement says if the account goes below \$2,000 there will be a \$15 monthly service fee. We can make small donations until this is clarified.

***\*\*Motion Nancy Middleton/2<sup>nd</sup> Maureen Jackson to send \$200 for the Women's Vets fund and \$200 for the Activities fund. CARRIED***

**Battle Creek VA - Faye Richardson-Green VAVS** no report

**Grand Rapids Home – Leora Williamson Rep.** turned in her activity report. She had to write it out because her printer is not working. She has \$421.58 in checking and \$7.36 is Savings.

**John Dingell VAMC – Rose Solak, VAVS Rep** turned in her report. Only reported \$441.16 in checking and \$707.86 in Savings.

**Jacobetti Home – Judy Smith, Rep.** Turned in her activity report.

**DISTRICT PRESIDENTS:**

**District II – Pat Michalski** turned in her activity report. Problems with 2 Auxiliaries #52 and #72

**District V – Patsy** Watkins turned in her activity report Just took over as President. District V has meetings every other month. We have one Auxiliary who does not participate.

**District VII – Barb Robare** turned in her activity report

**PRO Kathryn Cross** (who was left off the agenda because she was just appointed in August and we forgot to add her – SORRY Kathryn) – turned in her activity report – yes she did have something on it!!

**Webmaster – Pat Michalski** turned in her activity report even though she was left off the agenda again! Articles are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month She gets some information off Face book. These should also be sent to her for the website. Pat reported the Department of MI has a new Facebook page – Amvets Ladies Auxiliary, Dept. of MI. Pat reported there was something on the AMVETS Aux. Dept of MI Facebook that PDP Carol Pickett was playing golf and got a hole in one. NM asked if it was miniature golf or a real golf course. Answer: a REAL golf course. Way to go Carol!!!

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Kathy Keizer - Everyone who needs checks must complete a voucher.

Kathy Keizer had a list of dates for Convention, Fall Conference and Spring SEC.

#### **2024:**

Convention: June 20-23 – Grand Rapids

Fall Conference: October 19-20 – Grand Rapids

Spring SEC: February 17-18 at the lodge

#### **2025**

Convention June 19-22 – Grand Rapids

Fall Conference: October 18-19 – Grand Rapids

Spring SEC February 22-23 Higgins Lake Lodge

As we can see the dates for 2024 were changed sometimes with very little notice. Several talked about the problems this causes with local events.

A motion was made – and then rescinded in favor of another motion.

***\*\*Motion Maureen Jackson/2<sup>nd</sup> Rose Solak the 2025 Fall Conference be held at the Higgins Lake Lodge on the 3-4-5 of October, if available. CARRIED***

Nancy Middleton volunteered to make the call to the Lodge to see if it was available. Results will be in headlines of the website and newsletter.

Kathy Keizer remarked about the Officer's Training in July. It was not what was expected. Kathy would be willing to work with a committee to make it actual training for the Department Officers. (Note: no action on this one way or another)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nancy Middleton asked everyone to be 'gentle' with 2 of the new Officers who will be doing Fall Conference training for the first time.

Chairmen for the 2025 year Texas Hold'em needs to be appointed. Kathy Keizer said she would be willing to continue as Chairman.

***\*Motion Maureen Jackson/Trisha Rosenberg for Kathy Keizer to be the Chairman for the 2025 Texas Holdem's. CARRIED***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Oct. 5, 2024 – Festival Post 4064, Perry Michigan
- Oct. 17, 2024 - PAWS Tour, call Maureen by Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 586/598-8285 if you plan on going
- Oct. 31-Nov 3, 2024 – Dept. Texas Hold'em in Grand Rapids
- Nov. 5, 2024– deadline for postmarked/e-mail midyear reports
- Feb 22, 2025, Spring SEC (subject to change)
- April 25-27, 2025, Auxiliary Weekend at Higgins Lake Lodge. Call 616/322-2520 for pre-reservations / headcount
- May 5, 2025, deadline for final reports.
- June 19-22, 2025 Dept. Convention- Grand Rapids (subject to change)
- July 11, 2025, Dept. Audit.

Benediction by Chaplain Karen Krumm

Retire Colors – Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Nancy Middleton, Executive Secretary  
October 6, 2024

Corrections and/or approval

President: Gloria Hall approved w/corrections 10/9/24

Parliamentarian: Bert Lema approved w/corrections 10/8/24

Eagle-eyed Pat Michalski, typo checker – 10/7/2024