Meeting called to order 1PM July 13, 2022 by President Patti

All 2021-2022 Officers were present. District Presidents: 1st – Tonia Betterman, 2nd – Tricia Pagel, 3rd – Cavalene Regan, 4th – Jenny Nelson, 5th – Jill Davis, 6th – Bev Grose, 7th – Wanda Seidler, 8th – Renae Snow, 9th – Cecelia Sundstrom, 10th – Linda Deschene, 1st Vice – Mary Kuperus, 2nd Vice – Sharon Thiemecke, Parliamentarian – Norma Tramm, President – Patty Coleman, Convention Secretary – Carol Kottom, NEC – Raleen Tolzmann

Opening prayer by 1st VP Mary Kuperus. Pledge by 2nd VP Sharon Thiemecke. Preamble led by Parliamentarian Norma Tramm.

Welcome by President Patti and thanks for the year. Welcomed the incoming District Presidents. Willmar Convention committee Betty Underthun and Tammy Herzog were not present.

All those present gave a brief report of their year. District Presidents introduced the 2022-23 District Presidents who were present. 1st District - repeat, 2nd District Robiin Olson (absent), 3rd District Kim Carlander, 4th District - repeat, 5th District - repeat, 6th District - Dolly Ziter (absent), 7th District – Wanda to serve her year, 8th District – Zandra Davenport, 9th District – Cheryl Grover, 10th District - Lorinda Kies.

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Minutes from March 12, 2022, were reviewed. Amended: 5th Dist recap to “attended a “Unit” Christmas party” and attended carnival in St Paul not St Cloud, typo Past President’s Section page 3 second line says “his” instead of “this year”, 10th Dist “Avery”, 1st Dist recap Tonia’s daughter’s name is “Kassy”. Motion by Jenny seconded by Tonia to accept the minutes were accepted as corrected.

***NEC Raleen Tolzmann*** stated National Executive Secretary Kathy Circle has resigned in May. Resolution will come forward at the convention to raise dues from $12 to $18 effective 2024 dues year. Junior resolution just updating wording to make it clearer and removing the repeated information. Anyone can come to the NEC meeting without vote. Only elected NEC can vote. All meetings are virtual, and everyone is welcome to attend. Northwestern Division National Vice President is our own Dee Dee Buckley. Dee Dee is not present as she is having a bad day.

***Posts/Poppies:*** Posts can order poppies provided they report their earnings to the Dept Office per our spring meeting. Interim Department Secretary Cathy was asked, and she has not received any income information from posts. President Patti asked the committee to remind their posts that if they want to distribute poppies next year, they have to submit a report. And there are criteria on how those funds are spent. As of now, no posts could order poppies because they have not submitted their report. 4th District President Jenny suggested a form should be made for them to report and 5th District President Jill offered to make the form. Form to be done in the next week or two.

President Patti asked about ***Charter Concerns***:

***1st Dist*** – hasn’t had a chance to meet with St Charles or Byron, but will do before next meeting

***2nd Dist*** - None

***3rd Dist*** – meeting Hastings with Eagan and seems better

***4th Dist*** - None

***5th Dist*** - None

***6th Dist*** - Wadena – no one can reach them. About 1/3 of the members have paid. Will continue to try to reach them

***7th Dist*** - 3 units surrendering their charter. **Starbuck** 9 mbrs and they do not meet. Asked members for help twice per letter. They had a lunch, and two other ladies came, but one would not vote. Other voted to turn in their charter. Calls made to others, no one wanted to continue. Flag will be donated. Will return the charter. $80 remaining – used for printer ink and postage. Balance now zero.

**Alexandria** struggled for a long time. Members having issues or have moved and are no longer interested. They have sent 9 letters to members with basically no response. Multiple emails to District, calls throughout the year, 5/1 letter sent with slip to vote on surrendering the charter. Out of 21, 10 returned to surrender. $875 sent to Department for Legacy Scholarship Fund. $26 credit, not incorporated, will file final filing. Credit will be transferred to one of our programs.

**Glenwood** – Dept office did this one. District President Wanda only has 6 pieces of info. Currently 68 members. Dept contacted District President Wanda with letter. Unit meeting set up with Dept members present and 7 unit members. Letters sent with 8 received back. Vote was taken – 2 wanted to continue but would not take responsibilities. Motion made by a member to surrender charter. Seconded. Dept 1st Vice President Mary picked up everything else and all monies were distributed. District President Wanda moved that the 3 units be allowed to surrender their charter. Seconded by 10th District President Linda. Motion carried. District President Wanda has handled calls regarding transferring the remaining 98 members from these 3 units. Marsha was to have sent out the 68 to go to Glenwood. Rest of the members have forms. 5/5/22 sent the final notice of surrender and transfer forms to the Alexandria members. Wanda sent the 9 to Starbuck. Glenwood was supposed to be done by letter from the Dept Office.

***8th Dist*** - President Renae – Grand Portage, Biwabik. These were accepted at the March mtg. Contact with Mt Iron & Orr. Go back to them, give them one last chance to process. If not, bring to next meeting. Deer River is also having problems.

***9th  Dist*** – Mahnomen– will hold for one year. **Battle Lake** – Cheryl met 4 of the ladies. Paperwork is done and they are disbursing their funds. Post wants to send a girl stater. Most members are transferring to Underwood. Pres Patti stated the Girl State Chairman has to belong to the Auxiliary. They can ask a neighboring Unit to put her name on. Question if it could be done through 1982 unit. 1982 does not sponsor Girl State. It is just so members can remain a member. 1st Vice President Mary questioned not accepting Battle Lake today. Under 10 members. Voting done, letters done. Cheryl visited them and they do something in the window to honor veterans. Meeting with East Grand Forks this week. District President Cecelia motioned to accept Battle Lake, District President Jill seconded. Members are not giving up their membership, will be transferring. Carried.

***10th Dist*** – concerns about Brooklyn Center**. Robbinsdale** has no one interested in doing anything. Letter sent and received back. Moved by District President Linda to accept Robbinsdale’s charter. District President Bev Grose seconded. Carried.

9th Dist Halma-Lake Bronson down to 9 or 10. No letters sent yet or anything. Let it ride for another year. 7th Dist – Boyd in trouble too. Don’t meet at all. One member holds all the offices. 9th Dist – Detroit Lakes having problems getting officers. Pres Patti suggested revitalizing.

President Patti reported nationally we are losing 21,700 members annually. She is getting requests to surrender charters often. We need to go to our members and visit. More units talking about turning in their charter because no one wants to take any positions and don’t want to meet. Discussion on helping units and focusing on community as well as veterans to put a positive light on the American Legion Family.

Interim Department Secretary Cathy stated we had 874 new members, we lost 710 deceased, still gained 164.

District President stated Granite Falls has revitalized and are doing great!

***Website:*** President Patti stated they hired Sarah and Wayne who were willing to fix modules. Questions about backup procedure. Do we have one? Couldn’t get an answer. We can get one for $50. Then domain went down. No web, no emails – nothing. Bills have not been received. Cathy reported everything is a go, but program information is being updated by Sarah and Wayne as we speak. They will then come in and train on how to put everything on the website. Jill volunteered to come in and learn how to do it. Cathy can now sign in. Motion to purchase $50 backup system by 1st Vice President Mary, seconded by almost all – Motion carried.

***New business:*** Marsha Bible is retiring effective July 16, 2022, as Dept Executive Secretary. We will be following employee handbook where she’ll get the amount specified and a plaque thanking her for her service and Happy Retirement.

***Judy Ackerman Finance Committee Chairman***: Recommendations – Policy 10. Asking DEC to rescind the policy. States that April 1st chairman get a budget and send to the chairman, April 30 supposed to be back completed. May budget completed and on and on. Where everything is done before we have the numbers from the previous year to know what our actual expenses are. Talks about Executive Director which we don’t have. Discussion. Moved to rescind/delete by Past Dept President Mary Hendrickson, seconded District President Cecelia. Motion carried.

Postage over budget. Mailings sent at library rate which we are not entitled to, plus double mailings. Go back to monthly unit mailings as no cost benefit by going to every 2 months. Moved by 2nd Vice President Sharon to go back to monthly unit mailings, seconded District President Bev G. Encourage people to do with email and don’t mail to those with email. Motion carried.

National Convention Stipend $1,462.00. Judy’s birthday – all sang “Happy Birthday”. District President Jenny moved to approve stipend, seconded by District President Cavalene. Motion carried. Question regarding who receives this stopped.

Invoice for bonding fee received from National. Dept costs per Unit $4.91. In the past units were charged $25. Finance voted to charge a $10 fee to the units for the next 3 yrs. Notice will go out in the next mailing. 2023-2025 bonding fee. 1st Vice President Mary moved for new rate, 2nd Vice President Sharon seconded that the bonding fee for the units for the next 3 years be $10.00. Motion carried.

Finance Cmt recommended the Dept Office can liquidate or sell the binding machine. No one has ever learned how to use it. Cathy explained what it is supposed to be used for. Was over $1,500 paid by a Unit in 8th Dist. District President Cecelia moved to liquidate, seconded by NEC Raleen. Motion carried.

Stamp/post card collecting. Finance recommends stopping the program as the person doing it is retiring from handling the stamp sales and the admin cost far outweigh the benefit. Cathy explained we get about $300- $400 each year ages ago now we get about $100.00. District President Cavalene moved to end stamp/post card program, seconded by District President Jenny. Motion carried.

***Convention appointment list*** by President Patti. Color bearers Ashley Stai and JoEllen Eisenberg, time keeper Lynette Wolff, Eva Burket Dept President’s page, Taylor McElroy Secretary’s page. Audio Visual – Ashley Stai. Convention rules Chairman Jean Walker, committee Michelle Smith & Jeanette Mertens. Credentials Cindy Goepferd, committee Kiana Coleman-Woods and Karla Otterness. Judge of Elections = Shirley Frederick. Tellers - Diane Hayes, Audrey Farnsworth and Jean Forbord. Michelle Lesch - Photographer, Deanna Meyer – Pianist. Resolutions Margee Keller, Carol Tillman Sgt at arms. Moved by Linda Deschene to accept the appointments,, seconded by District President Tonia Betterman Motion carried.

President Patti – explained changes to our governing documents initiated from when National Parliamentarian Chris Dickey made her recommendations. Found out our stuff is totally backwards. And In the wrong place. Chairman Carol held zoom mtgs opened to District Constitution & Standing Rules Chairman, and President if no representation.

***Carol Kottom – Const & SR Chr (All Resolutions & Proposals attached)***

***1st Resolutions*** – resolution was read in its entirety. Rationale

Discussion – this pertains to Department only. Units & districts can still have a chairman – up to them. 1st Vice President Mary recommended changing to be effective immediately. District President Linda moved for effective date change, District President Cavalene seconded to amend. Amendment carried. Moved by 2nd Vice President Sharon to recommend as amended, seconded by District President Linda to recommend the resolution. Recommendation carried.

***Proposal #1*** – Standing Rules: Article III National Convention Section 2

Read current standing rule, line added, and “If Adopted”. Rationale.

Added line: ***Should the District only be allowed one delegate, the alternate elected by the District shall go in the District President’s stead. The alternate position will then be filled by a Department Alternate-at-large at the Department Convention.***

Discussion. Moved by District President Cavalene to recommend, seconded District President Bev Grose. Recommendation carried.

***Proposal #2*** – Standing Rules: Article V Department Standing Committees Section 8(a)3

Read current, line to be added, If Adopted. Rationale

***The Educational Director shall be responsible for the education portion of the program as mutually determined by the committee***.

Moved by NEC Raleen to recommend, Seconded by District President Tricia. Recommendation carried

***Proposal #3*** – Proposal #3 Standing Rules: Article V Department Standing Committees Section 8(a)4iii

Read new rule. Rationale

New standing rule: ***To ensure that proper respect is paid to the flag, and the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited by all in attendance.***

Moved by District President Cecelia to recommend, seconded by District President Jill. Recommendation carried

***Proposal #4*** Department Standing Rules: Article VI Section 16(h) Finance - Conference and Conventions (Department and National)

Read entire current wording – added one line to two places. Rationale

***one meal per day when traveling more than 150 miles to and from the training****.*

Read indicating where the line was added.

Moved by District President Linda, seconded by District President Jenny. Recommendation carried.

***Proposal #5*** – Constitution & Bylaws: Article IX Executive Committee Section 2(b)

Constitution & Bylaws: Article IX Executive Committee Section 2(b)

Read current wording, proposed reading (parts deleted, new lines) and If adopted in their entirety. Rationale

Moved by 1st Vice President Mary, seconded by District President Cavalene

Discussion. Recommendation carried

***Proposal #6 -*** Constitution & Bylaws: Article IX Executive Committee Section 8

New resolution - Read entire. Rationale

**The Department Executive Committee may never alter the decision of the general assembly. The Executive Committee has authority limited to the power to supervise and to determine the details of implementation of the decisions of the members and, in a manner not inconsistent with such decisions, to attend to any business of the American Legion Auxiliary that cannot wait until the next meeting.**

Moved by District President Cavalene, seconded by District President Jenny Recommendation carried

***Junior Resolution*** Junior Standing Rules: Article VIII Section 2 (g) Represent to Natl NW Div

Read current reading, Read line to be added, Rationale

**The Junior receiving the second highest number of votes at the Department Junior Conference shall be Minnesota’s official alternate representative to the National Northwestern Divisional Junior meeting.**

District President Bev Grose moved to ratify, District President Wanda seconded. Ratification carried

This concludes the Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules report.

***President Patti -*** Administration changes will be done automatically and will not be read at this convention.

**Delegates/Alternates to National** are 23 – membership down. 2 delates large NEC Raleen and Northwestern Division National Vice President DeeDee So we have 25 delegates total

Parliamentarian Norma researched Delegate and Delegate at large:

Delegate at Large – someone who represents the entire organization. District President are Delegates at large for the Department. At National, we are delegates. Delegate At Large at National is Raleen and Dee Dee who are responsible to the National Organization.

We will be electing 1 delegate and up to 6 alternates. If we have more than one nomination for a delegate – there will be a ballot vote. Units will have to write down the names. Judge of Tellers Shirley will have to check how many they put down so they know how many votes they get. If more nominations than needed for alternates, we will have a roll call vote by unit.

***National Convention Appts by President Patti***:

At 98.01% of membership goal - District President Cavalene Regan will be the President’s page at National. Convention Secretary’s page is 2nd place of membership goal - District President Bev Grose. Preconvention meetings are virtual. Assignments will go out after convention. Times and dates vary from 8/10 thru 8/21 from 5 to 8:45. Everyone can attend. Must register through link. Constitution & Bylaws committee meeting will be at convention in person on Aug 27 9:30-11AM at the Hyatt. All welcome. President Patti encouraged everyone to be there. Northwestern Division Caucus 11.30 – 12.30 held by our own Dee Dee Buckley in A-B at Hyatt and immediately after that is the Dept of MN Caucus. All are required to attend. Dee Dee has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please support her.

Cathy Radil is a “rock star”. She has been working hard to get the convention together. Volunteers have helped her as much as possible. Norma Tramm, Patti Coleman, Carol Kottom, Mary Kuperus, Sandy Wersal & Jocelyn (office staff). No complaints about the convention. If something is different than done before – that’s OK. No one will know but us. Following this convention, those going will be getting the National information. The National Executive Director is no longer at National, so they are working thru issues also.

1st VP Mary asked to give out any information regarding installation. She stated clothing she asked them to wear and explained the seating in the hall. Gave time and place for group pictures. DEC meeting for new board immediately following convention at Ruff’s. Reception at the Legion hosted by GaryLee and Mary. Legion having DEC mtg immediately following convention.

Discussion regarding delegates and alternates to National Convention. President Patti stated vote will be by acclamation if no other candidates are nominated.

Honorary Dept Jr President Ashley Stai called on to bring greetings. Wished us a successful convention. She is now a Senior Member.

Friday evening there will be an ice cream social for the American Legion Family. Music will be provided by Gonzo. Will end at 9PM. Encouraged to socialize and eat the Legion as they are having bands for us also. Pres Patti’s gifts will be handed out by the VPs at the ice cream social.

Recognized Dept Chaplain Robin Dorf and Dept Membership Chairman Linda Kelly.

Chaplain Robin gave direction for the Memorial Svc. Being held Thurs at 11:30. Dept leadership will be involved. District Presidents and Commanders. Robin gave them instructions for the service.

Complete your voucher and get them turned in to Finance Chairman Judy.

District Presidents gathering at 8PM tonight.

Caucus: Cannot use Gallerias 5-7. Legion is meeting at the same time. Dept Office is at the end of the Galleries

Announcements: Camporee with Harvest Rally. District President Jill will have tickets.

Closing prayer by 1st Vice President Mary Kuperus

Recognize colors in place

Adjourned