**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023, 10:00 AM**

**Veterans Service Building - 5th Floor**

2022-2023 Officers present: District Presidents: 1st – Tonia Bettermann, 2nd Robin Olson, 3rd – Kim Carlander, 4th – Jenny Nelson, 5th – Jill Davis, 6th via Zoom – Bev Grose, 7th – Wanda Seidler, 8th – Zandra Davenport via Zoom, 9th – Cheryl Grover, 10th – Lorinda Kies, 2nd Vice – Judy Ackerman, 1st Vice – Sharon Thiemecke, Acting Parliamentarian – Carol Kottom, President Mary Kuperus, NEC – Jean Walker, Past Department Patti Coleman, Treasurer Cathy Radil, Executive Secretary Christie Avant and 5 visitors present.

9:30 a.m. Meeting was called to order with a a continuous opening:

Prayer Sharon Theimecke Dept. 1st Vice Pres, Pledge by Judy Ackerman Dept. 2nd Vice Pres, Preamble by Carol Kottom, Acting Parliamentarian

President Mary welcomed everyone to the Spring meeting. She introduced the new Executive Secretary Christie Avant. She also noted that joining the meeting remotely was 5th District President Jill from Indiana, 8th District President Zandra and the 8th District’s 1st Vice President Sharon Voltz from Grand Rapids just in case Zandra’s connections didn’t work, 8th District had representation the meeting either way.

President Mary also welcomed the 5 guests attending the meeting.

President Mary called forward Past Department President Patti Coleman as the Installing Officer for the purpose of installing the new Executive Secretary Christie Avant.

Department Executive Secretary Christie Avant conducted roll call. See attendance listed above.

Tim Engstrom, the editor of the Legionnaire addressed the DEC. He talked about possible changes to the schedule of the Legionnaire and the current cost to produce a monthly issue. One way to save cost is to cut back to 9 issues. The Legion is also looking into a dedicated website for the Legionnaire. Tim answered a few questions from the attendees.

President Mary asked each person at the table to introduce themselves and tell what has been happening in their district. Each of the members of the DEC gave an update.

Unfinished Business:

Approval of meeting minutes:

October 27, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes by Robin Olson. Second by Bev Grose, no discussion, motion carried.

Feb. 1, 2023, Executive Committee Meet, Zoom Call

Motion to approve the minutes by Bev Grose. Second by Tonia Betterman, no discussion, motion carried.

Investment/Finance Report: Treasurer Cathy Radil, the report was filed for audit.

Department Office Report: Department Executive Secretary Christie Avant

Christie had a very short presentation because she had only been on the job for 2 weeks.

Report on the Department President’s Project

As of 03/24/2023: $23,172 had been donated to the Department President’s Project. President Mary asked that any funds left over from the costs for the Meditation Rooms, would be divided equally to the Activity Funds of the other five veteran homes.

Motion by: Judy Ackerman 2nd by: Sharon Cross Motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Department Awards

Units should submit their activities as they happen by emailing a short synopsis of the event to the District & Department Chairmen. Please use the new form. National is also using an electronic form with drop down menus to help with award submissions. All National Awards will be submitted by the Department Chairmen, units will need to get the appropriate information to the Department Chairmen to be included for a national award. Units should include mission in action photos and the cover sheet stating for which award category they are applying. This will replace our existing individual program annual reports. Units will still be required to complete the Unit Impact Report. The Unit Impact report will be sent to the District President. They will add up the numbers and then send it to department.

New Business

New Unit possibilities/Charter concerns -

District 1: St. Charles? Byron – membership is still working with them. Preston – membership team will reach out to them. They were not aware they wanted to disband.

District 2: Ceylon Unit 529 – Paperwork is in, remaining members should be transferred to Easton. Motion to disband Ceylon Unit 529 and move members to Easton.

Motion by: Tonia Bettermann 2nd by: Jenny Nelson Motion passed.

District 3: Nothing to report.

District 4:\_ Nothing to report.

District 5:\_\_Gopher Unit is looking at disbanding but at this time they are uncertain.

District 6: Wadena district membership team is working with the unit. Hopefully they will not disband.

Staples Unit 70– Paperwork is in, remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Staples Unit 70 and move members to Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Bev Grose 2nd by: Sharon Cross Motion passed.

District 7: Boyd Unit 198 completed disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Boyd Unit 198 and move members to Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Wanda Seidler 2nd by: Sharon Cross Motion passed.

District 8: Babbitt Unit 535 completed the disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Babbitt Unit 535 and move members to Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Jill Davis 2nd by: Patti Coleman Motion passed.

Orr Unit 480 completed the disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Orr Unit 480 and move members to Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Robin Olson 2nd by: Bev Grose Motion passed.

Proctor Unit 106 completed the disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Proctor Unit 106 and move members to Fergus Falls Unit.

Motion by: Bev Grose 2nd by: Lorinda Kies Motion passed.

Mountain Iron Unit 220 completed the disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Mountain Iron Unit 220 and move members to Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Lorinda Kies 2nd by: Bev Grose Motion passed.

District 9: Lake Bronson Unit 315 completed the disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Lake Bronson Unit 315 and move members Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Cheryl Grover 2nd by: Lorinda Kies Motion passed.

District 10: Eden Prairie Unit 409 completed the disbanding process; remaining members should be transferred to Unit At-Large 1982. Motion to disband Eden Prairie Unit 409 and move members Unit At-Large 1982.

Motion by: Lorinda Kies 2nd by: Patti Coleman Motion passed.

President Mary Thanked all the District Presidents and the membership team for the hard work they have done.

Ad Hoc Committee

Employee Handbook Review –

Jill Davis-on zoom

Lorinda Kies

Jenny Nelson

The committee reviewed the corrections and updates. President Mary thanked the committee for the work they did.

Jenny will complete the changes and send the final copy to Christie.

With no other Unfinished Business, we moved to New Business

New Business

NEC Report from Spring Meeting –

Jean Walker gave a short report of things happening at the National office.

Proposed changes to Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules –

Carol Kottom presented the proposed changes. See attached form.

Proposal #1 Standing Rules ART III Finance Section 16 (k)

Proposal #2 Standing Rules Labels Article VIII Section 2

Proposal #3 Standing Rules Section 13 (a) Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (b) Gift Shop (6)

Resolution #4 National Standing Rules II National Convention sec 2 – page 28

Resolution #5 Standing Rules Art IV National Convention, Sec 1 (a)

Sharon Cross asked for permission to start planning the upcoming Auxiliary year.

Ashley Stai talked about ways to use social media to help get information out to the public.

With no further business the DEC members had a gift exchange.

Secretary Christie made announcements.

Department Junior Conference Hosted by 3rd District

Saturday, April 15 in The Park Ballroom, New Prague

Friday, April 14th Junior Fun Night

Department Membership Appreciation Rally at The Park Ballroom, New Prague Post 45 4:00 Membership Turn In

Department President’s Testimonial April 22, 2023, in Spicer. Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00, short Program to follow, “Custom Made” Band

National President’s Tour May 1-3

Closing

President Mary Thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the Executive Committee meeting.

Recognized the Colors in place.

Adjourned

Submitted by,

Christie Avant

Department of Minnesota

Executive Secretary