**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Melrose American Legion**

**Melrose, MN**

**Sunday, August 13, 2023**

**9:00 A.M.**

Sharon Cross, Department President called the meeting to order at 9 am.

Attendance: Department President Sharon Cross, 1st Vice President Judy Ackerman, 2nd Vice President Robin Dorf, NEC Jean Walker, Dept Past President Mary Kuperus, Parliamentarian Peggy Tesdahl, Department Secretary Christie Avant, Department Treasurer Cathy Radil, 1st Dist. President Michelle Weaver, 2nd Dist. President Kollett Kaehlert, 3rd Dist. President Deanna Meyer, 4th Dist. President Tamara Michaels, 5th Dist. President Cari Lamb, 6th Dist. President Patti Gunderson, 7th Dist. President Hope Wilson, 8th Dist. President Sharon Voltz, 9th Dist. President Becky Olson, 10th Dist. President Anne Steffen, and 27 Chairman and guests.

There was a continuous opening:

OPENING PRAYER – Judy Ackerman, First Vice President, PLEDGE – Robin Dorf, Second Vice President, PREAMBLE – Peggy Tesdahl, Parliamentarian

Sharon Cross, Department President - Welcomed the DEC and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March DEC meeting, July Pre-Convention DEC meeting and Post-Convention meeting were reviewed. Corrections were discussed and noted. The corrected minutes will be filed.

**March 25, 2023 DEC Spring Meeting** **-** Motion by Judy Ackerman to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded and passed.

**July 12, 2023 Pre-Convention DEC Minutes** **-** Motion by Becky Olson to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded and passed.

**July 15, 2023 Post-Convention DEC Minutes -** Motion by Mary Kuperus to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded and passed.

DEPARTMENT FINANCES Cathy Radil, Department Treasurer Reviewed of Income & Expenses for 2023-2024 – the report will be filed for Audit.

As of 8/11/2023

South Metro Credit Union Balance $39,617.92

Wealth Management Balance $2,584,462.81

2022-2023

Budgeted Income $587,970.00 – Actual $580,804.57 (deficit -$7,165.43)

Budgeted Expenses $880,919.00 – Actual $698,729.65 (deficit -$179,779.35)

DEPARTMENT OFFICE REPORT Christie Avant, Department Secretary reported on twhat the office staff was working on. She also informed the DEC that the search for a new treasurer started. Cathy will be retiring.

Greetings were brought to the DEC by Paul Hassing, Department Commander, John Weiss, SAL Detachment Commander, Carl Moon, Legionville President.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS’ THEMES, PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING GOAL

Each District President presented their Theme, Symbol, Project and Fundraising Goal for 2023-2024.

**1st District President – Michelle Weaver**

**Theme: No Theme**

**Symbol: Butterfly**

**Project:** **Believe It and Arm Forces Center**

**Goal: $5,000**

Motion was made by Michelle to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $5,000. The motion was second and passed.

**2nd District President – Kollett Kaehlert**

**Theme:** Serving those who served our country

**Symbol:** Helping Hands

**Project:** Raising funds for the 13 County Veterans Service Officers of District 2 and MN American Legion Foundation Fund 85

**Goal: $7,000**

Motion was made by Kollett to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $7,000. The motion was second and passed.

**3rd District President – Deanna Meyer**

**Theme:** With God’s Guidance We Serve Veterans

**Symbol:** Soldier kneeling by a Cross

**Project:** Religious supplies for the Hastings Veterans home and the St. Peter Treatment Center.

**Goal $3,000**

Motion was made by Deanna to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $3,000. The motion was second and passed.

**4th District President – Tamara Michaels**

**Theme:** Honoring Veterans Past, Present & Future

**Symbol:** Serviceman’s dog tag with a flag & paw print

**Project:** Believet Canine Service Partners & Eagles Healing Nest

**Goal $2,500**

Motion was made by Tamara to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $2,500. The motion was second and passed.

**5th District President – Cari Lamb**

**Theme:** Veterans are our precious diamonds

**Symbol:** Diamond

**Project:** Every Third Saturday, a program assisting homeless veterans

**Goal is $2,000**

Motion was made by Cari to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $2,000. The motion was second and passed.

**6th District President – Patty Gilbertson**

**Theme:** Brightening the days of our Veterans & Communities

**Symbol:** Sunflower

**Project:** The activity/recreation program at the new Bemidji Veteran’s home.

**Goal: $7,500**

Motion was made by Patti to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $7,500. The motion was second and passed.

**7th District President – Hope Wilson**

**Theme:** Rekindle, Renew & Remember

**Symbol:** Phoenix

**Project:** Montevideo Veteran’s Home Art’s program

**Goal: $3,000**

Motion was made by Hope to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $3,000. The motion was second and passed.

**8th District President – Sharon Voltz**

**Theme:** Soaring to great heights for our Veterans

**Symbol:** Eagle

**Project:** Clothing items for the veterans at the Silver Bay Veterans Home

**Goal: $1,000.00**

Motion was made by Sharon to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $1,000. The motion was second and passed.

**9th District President – Becky Olson**

**Theme:** Be a light for our veterans

**Symbol:** Flashlight

**Project:** Raising funds for the new National Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery in Fargo, North Dakota and the Fergus Falls Veterans Home. **Goal: $5,000**

Motion was made by Becky to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $5,000. The motion was second and passed.

**10th District President – Anne Steffen**

**Theme:** Inspire to flourish thru Selfless Service

**Symbol:** Red, White & Blue Ribbon

**Project**: Operation Welcome Home at the Ironwood Spring Ranch in Stewartville, MN

**Goal: $5,000**

Motion was made by Anne to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $5,000. The motion was second and passed.

Auxiliary Program Plans –

The chairman presented their plans for the 2023-2024 year. The plan forms will be filed with the minutes.

**Americanism, Mary Kuperus**

Solicitations: None

**Auxiliary Emergency Fund Margee Keller**

Margee Keller moved for approval to have a fundraiser at Fall Conference. The motion was second by Kollett Kaehlert and passed.

**Children & Youth Brandi Christensen**

Brandi moved to ask for donations for small activity bags for the St. Cloud VA. The motion was second by Cari Lamb and passed.

Judy Ackerman moved to approve solicitations for Child Welfare Foundation. The motion was second by Robin Dorf and approved.

**Community Service…………………………………………………………..Wanda Seidler**

Wanda did not ask for Solicitations.

**Constitution and Standing Rules…………………………………………Becky Nelson**

Becky did not ask for Solicitations.

**Education Lorinda Kies**

Kollett Kaehlert moved to solicit funds from Unit and/or Districts for the Department Scholarship Program. The motion was second by Anne Steffen and passed.

Judy Ackerman moved to approve solicitations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Mary Kuperus second the motion, motion passed.

**Finance Jody Hassing**

Robin Dorf moved to approve solicitations for the American Legion Family Hospital Association. Motion was second by Judy Ackerman and passed.

Jean Walker moved to approve solicitations for the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Foundation.

The motion was second by Robin Dorf and passed.

Robin Dorf moved to approve solicitations for the Brain Science Foundation. Sharon Voltz second the motion and it passed.

**Girls State Linda Kelly**

Jean Walker moved for the approval of a $300 registration fee. The motion was second by Robin Dorf and passed.

**History Renee Suess**

No Solicitations needed.

**Junior Activities Sally Straaer**

Our Honorary Junior Presidents program of focus was already approved at the July 15, 2023. The funds are for Believe It.

**Leadership Karla Otterness**

Karla did not ask for Solicitations

**Legislation Robin Dorf**

Solicitations - None

**Memorial Robin Olson**

Solicitations - None

**National Security/Armed Forces Service Center……………………….Carol Kottom/Chris Ronning**

Kollett Kaehlert moved to approve solicitations for the Armed Forces Service Center. The motion was second by Michelle Weaver and passed.

**Parliamentarian Peggy Tesdahl**

Solicitations- None

**Past Presidents Parley Donna Barbknecht**

Patti Gunderson moved to approve solicitations for the Past Presidents Parley Healthcare Scholarship. The motion was second by Robin Dorf and passed.

**Poppy Marsha Bible**

Marsha moved to solicit donations for the People’s Choice Contest at Fall Conference and Department Convention. The motion was second by Patti Gunderson and passed.

**Public Relations Sharon Hammon**

Solicitations - None

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation/Service To Veterans Judy Ackerman**

Judy moved for the approval to solicit funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program. The motion was second by Mary Kuperus and passed.

Judy moved for the approval to solicit funds for the $5 Bill gift shower. The motion was second by Kollett Kaehlert and passed.

Judy moved for the approval to solicit funds for the VA&R overall program. The motion was second by Mary Kuperus and passed.

Judy moved for the approval to remove Minnesota Creative Arts Festival from the donation request form for the 2023-2024 year due to the large amount of money in the fund. The motion was second by Robin Dorf and passed.

Judy moved for the approval to solicit funds for the Minnesota Fisher Houses. The motion was second by Patti Gunderson and passed.

**Gift Shop**……………………………………………………………………...**Beverly Grose**

Judy Ackerman moved to approve solicitation for the Gift Shop program. Motion was second by Mary Kuperus.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Units having problems - How can Districts help

There were 2 Units that need to have follow ups, Boy River and Rothsay. All other Disbanding Units at this time have been completed and all members transferred to 1982.

President Sharon went over the Department Fall Conference . She asked each chairman to have a PowerPoint and presentation board. The powerpoint should be emailed to Mary Kuperus and Christie Avant by October 17th.

2021-2022 Budget Approval ………………………**Jody Hassing, Finance Chairman**

Jody asked all the Chairman to make sure they turn in their forms before leaving. The Finance Committee will be meeting in September to work on the budget. Budget will need to be approved at Fall Conference DEC meeting.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM…………**Jenny Nelson,** **Department Membership Chairman**

Solicitation - None

Jenny went over the 2023-2024 Membership Program – “Cruising the Sea for Members”. The membership team met on Saturday and everyone is excited for the year.

Is there any further business to come before this meeting?

CLOSING REMARKS - Department President Sharon

Department President Sharon went over a few additional items that were in the the packets.

Department President visit form, Sharon will not accept any invitations during the following dates:

September 26-October 1 for the National Presidents Home Coming, October 13 & 14th for a wedding, May 14th – 18th for granddaughter’s graduation

She asked that the District Officer Lists be sent into the Department Office, there are only 3 Districts that have sent them to date.

President Sharon remined everyone that Mailing lists are for your use only and for American Legion Auxiliary business only. Sharon asked everyone to turn in their forms if they had not done that yet. the forms yet, do so before you leave.

Please feel free to reach out to me or the Department Office if you need to. We are here to help you be successful. This has been a great meeting. Thank you for being here!

Closing Prayer – Judy Ackerman, First Vice President

Recognize Colors

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by

Christie Avant

Department of Minnesota

Executive Secretary