**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024 – 11 am**

**Montgomery Post 79**

Sharon Cross, Department President called the meeting to order at 11am.

**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 Shannon Brown, 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 8 guests.

**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.

**Installation:**

President Sharon conducted the installation of the mew Department Treasurer Shannon Brown.

**Introduction/Updates:**

President Sharon 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.

**10th District President Anne Steffen:**

Anne has enjoyed parades, supporting different things around the 10th Dist., such as activities held by the SAL and TAL and Riders and the JR Auxiliary. Helping at the VA Christmas event was the best thing this year. Enjoyed seeing the younger SAL members join the JR Auxiliary members at a few events. Raised 10,000 for the joint project.

**4th District President Tamara Micheals:**

Year challenging, looking for better communication.

**6th District President Patti Gunderson:**

Very good year met a lot of people. Has went to Unit Mtgs, Kimble fish fry, delivered quilts to the new Bemidji home and had tour. Volunteered at Feed My Starving Children packaging food packages.

**8th District President Sharon Voltz:**

Busy, new this year Grand Rapids Christmas Event (like Bentonville) 100 cars came through and guests were invited into workshop. Auxiliary parked cars, gave gifts & greetings, sold food. Honor veterans of 35 yrs. on the color guard.

**2nd District President Kollett Kaehlert:**

Full year, venison feed at Luverne Home, mid-winter, traveled southern MN trying to reach as many units as possible.

**7th District President Hope Wilson:**

New Montevideo Veterans Home, Valentines Day did BINGO with Vets. Crafts for the veterans at the as well home. Brandon youth shooting sports, many dinners, and meetings.

**5th District President Cari Lamb:**

Venison dinner & pheasant dinners, mid-winter was a good turnout.

**9th District President Becky Olson:**

Newsletters, fighting (competing against) with the 6th District for items for the Airport, Moorehead carolers went to the VA and sang for a gentleman. Midwinter in Detroit Lakes

**3rd District President Deanna Meyer:**

Poppy Making Day in the 3rd. Karla held a leadership meeting in Kimble. Thirty-one people attended mid-winter. Going to Faribault for lunch. District JR will have their conference on March 30th.

**1st District President Michelle Weaver:**

No communication in the 1st. JR conf 3/16, midwinter started with Dept Sharon and ended with the 3 candidates, struggling to fill chairmanships. Toured Preston, the new Veterans Home.

**2nd VP President Robin Dorf:**

One highlight was traveling to the Mid-winters and having pictures with all 10 District Presidents, attended the JR National Meetings in Rhode Island and Nebraska

**1st VP President Judy Ackerman:**

Went to Lincoln for the JR National Meeting and was proud to be there for her granddaughter the JR NW Division Honorary Vice President. Was in Hawaii to celebrate her brother’s life. Judy shared about her visit to Pearl Harbor.

**Immediate Past Dept. President Mary Kuperus:**

National Northwestern Division Junior Activity Chairman she attended the National meeting with 35 Junior Members. She went with Norma to the American Legion Washington Conference.

**NEC Jean Walker:**

Attended several Zoom meetings for National both special meetings and the normally scheduled spring meeting. Went DC Conference because Carol Kottom was unable to attend as the Department National Security Chairman. Went to Las Vegas to the for the divisional training. Traveled with President Sharon to Lincoln’s Pilgrimage.

**Parliamentarian Peggy Tesdahl:** She works and goes to Fish Frys.

**Department Executive Secretary Christie Avant:**

Thanked everyone for the well wishes while she was out.

**Department President Sharon Cross:**

Enjoyed her trip to the President Lincoln’s Hometown for Lincoln’s Pilgrimage. It was remarkably interesting.

**Minutes from the October 26, 2023, Department Executive Committee Meeting at Fall Conference were presented by Department Executive Secretary Christie Avant.**

**A motion was made to approve the minutes.**

**Motion by: Michelle Weaver**

**2nd by: Cari Lamb**

**No Discussion. Motion Passed**

**Investment/Finance Report:**

Treasurer Shannon Brown, the report was filed for Audit.

**Department Technology Update:**

Approval to upgrade to Quickbooks on-line, to replace the unsupported older version of Quickbooks.

**A motion was made to approve the minutes.**

**Motion by: Anne Steffen**

**2nd by: Sharon Voltz**

**No Discussion. Motion Passed**

Risk and Compliance Report: Chairman Roberta Elvecrog joined the meeting by phone to present the Audit Report. The committee along with the Department Treasurer, Department President, Department 1st and 2nd Vice President, and the Department Secretary had a Zoom meeting with the accountants. Overall, the findings were good. They were in the process of filing the Department’s taxes and 990.

**A motion to approve the 2022-2023 Audit as presented.**

**Motion by: Hope Wilson**

**2nd by: Anne Steffen**

**No Discussion. Motion Passed**

**Secretary’s Report:** Department Executive Secretary Christie Avant

**Viking Swag approval to make items using AUXILIARY.**

**Motion by: Michelle Weaver**

**2nd by: Tamara Micheals**

**No Discussion. Motion Passed**

**Report on the Department President’s Project**

As of April 1,2024: 13,882 has been donated to the Department President’s Project.

**President Sharon asked for approval to adjust her project.**

**A motion to to purchase one player piano for Bemidji and split the remaining funds between Montevideo and Preston for their Activities and Recreation Fund.**

**Motion by: Anne Steffen**

**2nd by: Deanna Meyer**

**No Discussion. Motion Passed**

Honorary Junior President Taylor has received$14,859 towards her project.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Unit possibilities/Charter concerns/General Unit concerns-**

**District 1:**

Unit 190 St. Charles – Still no officers, 10 members left/ 4 paid 2024 dues/6 paid 2023 dues

Unit 119 Byron – Still no officers, 17 members left/ 13 paid 2024 dues/ 4 paid 2023 dues

**District 2:**

Unit 486 Delavan – Final disbanding paperwork received October 26. All members have transferred out of the Unit.

**There was a motion to disband Unit 486 Delvan.**

**Motion by: Sharon Voltz**

**2nd by: Judy Ackerman**

**No Discussion Motion Passed**

Other Comments – Vesta Unit 306 would like disbanding instruction. Office to this out to the Unit.

**District 3:** Nothing to discuss.

**District 4:**

**Unit 606 –** no officers, 9 members

**District 5:** Unit 511 Mpls Aviation - they are trying to revitalize; Christie spoke with a member recently.

**District 6:** Boy River Unit 458 – final disbanding paperwork was received in the (not voted on in Oct)

**There was a motion to disband Unit 458 Boy River.**

**Motion by: Patti Gunderson**

**2nd by: Kollett Kaehlert**

**No Discussion Motion Passed**

**District 7:**

**Unit 321 Elbow Lake, President Hope is working with them to revitalize the Unit.**

**Unit #638 is in the process of Disbanding**

**District 8: Nothing to discuss.**

**District 9:**

**Unit 17 Pelican Rapids – 28 members / none of them have paid 2024 dues – The Department office had a note from mid-2023 that they may Disband.**

**Unit 376 Rothsay – emailing with Tracy, final paperwork should be in Department soon**

**Unit 402 Halastad – Disbanding procedures sent to Amber Oien October 4. All 5 members have paid 2024 dues. – Still no news if they are Disbanding or not**

**Unit 539 Euclid – No official word about disbanding but President Sharon thought she had heard they were disbanding. – No news from the Unit, 21 members left/ 2 paid 2024 dues/ 19 paid 2023 dues – Margie will call to see if she can figure out what is going on.**

**Unit 315 Halma/Lake Bronson – final disbanding paperwork was received in the Department Office (not voted on in Oct)**

**There was a motion to disband Unit 315 Halma/Lake Bronson.**

**Motion by: Sharon Voltz**

**2nd by: Judy Ackerman**

**No Discussion Motion Passed**

**District 10: A brief discussion about Princton Unit 216, they are having issues with the membership chairman. The District President and Membership Chairman are working with them.**

**New Business**

**Proposed change to Constitution:**

Becky Nelson, Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman presented the proposed change to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary and a resolution. Proposal #1 will be presented at Department Convention to be passed on to National. The Resolution should be presented at the District Conventions.

Proposal #1 – Article VI – National Convention – New Section 7

Resolution from MN Legion College – Uniform Cap Options

(this is an FYI to the Districts)

**Ad-HOC Committee for Council**

There was a conversation regarding the lack of progress. Christie will schedule a Zoom meeting. The DEC approved a retainer of $20,000 in October 2023. There was discussion on the approval process. It was determined that the DEC could make the decision.

**2024-2025 Membership Chairman Airfare to DLNC** – Judy Ackerman

ALA Standing Rule, Article VII- Finance, Section 16 (i) that is on Page 13 of my 2022-2023 copy does state that Expenses not paid by National must be budgeted to be reimbursed under the National Leadership Fund.

Each Department will have a suite so there is plenty of room for the membership chairman to share the room. The only expense will be airfare. This is something we will ensure is in the budget for 2024-2025.

Estimated cost - $349

**Motion to approve for the in-coming Membership Chairman to attend DNLC as outlined above.**

**Motion by: Sharon Voltz**

**2nd by: Michelle Weaver**

**Discussion regarding meals or per diem.**

**Sharon Voltz moved to add meal per diem.**

**2nd by: Michelle Weaver**

**No Discussion**

**Motion Passed**

**Amended Motion – Motion to pay for airfare and meal per diem.**

**Motion Passed**

**Poppy Discussion**

There was a long discussion about the state of our Poppy program. The bottom line is we are short over 90,000 small Poppies and 2000 large Poppies.

**Kollette moved to approve the making of Poppies by purchasing a kit for the 2023-2024 Auxiliary. Poppy Kit cost $250 plus shipping.**

**Motion by: Kollette Kaehlert**

**2nd by: Becky Olson**

**No Discussion Motion Passed**

Christie read a note to the DEC from Rollie. He’s made 400,000 Poppies over the last 10 years.

Mary started a collection for VISA cards to give to him as a Thank you.

**First Vice President Judy Ackerman asked permission to hold a silent action during Department Convention to raise money for the VA&R program for the 3 new hospitals.**

**Motion by: Robin Dorf**

**2nd by: Anne Steffen**

**No Discussion Motion Passed**

**Interest Forms:**

**First Vice President Judy Ackerman asked permission to contact possible chairmen for the 2024-2025 year if she is elected Department President.**

**Motion by: Michelle Weaver 2nd by: Tamara Micheals No Discussion Motion Passed**

There was no further new business, announcements were made by Christie Avant, Department Executive Secretary

Department Junior Conference Hosted by 9th District, Detroit Lakes Unit 15 at the post home, Saturday, April 13th, Friday, April 12th is the Junior Fun Night

Department President’s Testimonial April 27th, in Melrose. Social Hour 5:00, Dinner 6:00, short Program to follow.

National President’s Tour April 29th-May 1st

**Closing Remarks** - Department President Sharon

**Closing Prayer** – Judy Ackerman, First Vice President

**Recognized Colors in place.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Gift exchange followed the meeting.

Submitted by

Christie Avant

Department of Minnesota

Executive Secretary