

Department of Minnesota Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, August 13, 2016
Buffalo American Legion Post 270

The Department Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Department President Carol Kottom on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at the Buffalo American Legion Post 270 in Buffalo, Minnesota.

The following were present: Department President Carol Kottom, Department First Vice President Donna Arends, Department Second Vice President Jean Walker, Alternate NEC Shirley Frederick standing in for NEC Chris Ronning who was excused, Department Parliamentarian Karen Thygeson, 1st District President Cindy Nelson, 2nd District President Kathy Burket, 3rd District President Marcie Baysinger, 4th District President Connie Anderson, 5th District President Bonnie Brenna, 6th District President Theresa Rudnicki, 7th District President Betty Underthun, 8th District President Anna Eells was excused and Sharon Voltz sat in for her, 9th District President Joanie Krantz, 10th District President Linda Deschene, Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch and Department Treasurer Jan Lauby. There were 21 guests present.

Department First Vice President Donna Arends offered the opening prayer, Department Second Vice President Jean Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance and Parliamentarian Karen Thygeson led the Preamble.

President Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol called upon Chris Ronning to give her report as she was ill and needed to go home.

Chris came forward to give her report for Past President's Parley. Chris' focus is to encourage all Units to establish Past President's Parley. Chris also stressed that Past President's Parley Scholarship applications must be filled out completely and it is up to the Units to make sure this happens. Chris asked for permission to solicit funds for the Past Presidents Parley Scholarship fund. Marcie Baysinger made a motion to approve the solicitation of funds was seconded and carried. Carol Kottom asked for a motion to accept the report. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried.

President Carol gave an overview of the Auxiliary year and her expectations of the Department Executive Committee. She stressed that members of the Department Executive Committee need to know and understand what they are voting on. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Finance will be coming forward with their recommendation for the 2016-2017 Auxiliary budget. If you don't understand something ask questions before it is voted on. Carol stressed that every member has the one job of working membership, it is not just the job of the Chairmen.

President Carol asked for approval for the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated July 20, 2016. Donna Arends made a motion to approve was seconded. Secretary Sandie brought forward a correction to the minutes. The per diem for National Convention is wrong. The total amount of stipend should be \$1,335.00 less the \$50.00 deduction for 2 meals, which make the total stipend to be paid by Department \$1,285.00. The motion carried as amended.

President Carol then asked for approval for the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting dated July 23, 2016. Linda Deschene made a motion to approve was seconded and carried.

President Carol called for the Election of the Subcommittee of the Executive Committee. The rule was read as follows: Article IV, Section 4, Department Standing Rules which states the Department Executive Committee shall elect three of its members, who, together with the Department President, First Vice President and Second Vice President, shall constitute a subcommittee which shall have all the power of the Executive Committee, subject to the action of that committee, and may meet four times in each fiscal year. The following nominations were taken; Connie Anderson, District 4, Theresa Rudnicki, District 6 and Anna Eells, District 8. A motion by Linda Deschene to close nominations was made, seconded and carried.

First District Cindy Nelson stated that her project this year is Minnesota Creative Arts project and the Armed Forces Center at the MSP airport, with ½ of the donations going to each project. She is looking to raise \$5,000.00. Her theme this year is The Power of One. Her symbol is the ½ dollar. A motion was made by Betty Underthun to accept her project was seconded and carried.

Second District President Kathy Burket stated her theme this year is Circle of Friendship Supporting Our Military and Veterans, her symbol is the Military Friendship bracelet and her project is collecting funds for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program to be distributed to the VA Homes and Hospitals. Kathy is hoping to raise \$4,500.00. Jean Walker made a motion to accept her project, was seconded and carried.

Third District President Marcie Baysinger stated her symbol will be the eagle and the American Flag, her theme is Freedom Means Veterans and her project is to raise funds to hire a music instructor to come in to the Hastings Veterans Home to give music lessons to veterans. Marcie wants to raise \$7,000.00 and if there is any donations left over she would like to give it to Legionville for lighting. A motion was made by Marcie Baysinger to accept this project was seconded and carried.

Fourth District President Connie Anderson stated her theme this year is When I See a Veteran I See a Star and her symbol is a star. Her project will remain the same, raising funds for fun nights at the Minneapolis VAMC in the amount of \$400.00. Connie Anderson made a motion to accept this project was seconded and carried.

Fifth District President Bonnie Brenna stated her theme is Let Freedom Ring and a bell is her symbol. Bonnie is waiting for word from the Minneapolis Veterans Home as to what they need at this time. This is a joint project of the American Legion Family. Bonnie Brenna made a motion to accept this project, was seconded and carried.

Sixth District President Theresa Rudnicki stated her symbol is the compass and her theme is Veterans Guiding Us to Freedom. Her project is a joint project with the 6th District American Legion Family to raise funds for a golf cart to carry passengers at the St. Cloud VAMC. This is in the amount of \$12,000.00. Theresa Rudnicki made a motion to approve this project, was

seconded. President Carol clarified that the St. Cloud VAMC was contacted as this is also her project and Carol was assured that they would accept both golf carts. The motion carried.

Seventh District President Betty Underthun stated that her symbol is a hummingbird and her theme is Colorfully Persist with Diligence for Our Veterans. Her project is at the Luverne Veterans Home. They are in need of two specific wheelchairs, only for a specific resident. Each chair costs \$1,500.00. Betty would also like to raise an additional \$1,000.00 to replace worn out cushions. Her total goal is \$4,000.00. Betty Underthun made a motion to approve this project, was seconded and carried.

Eighth District President Anna Eells was absent but Sharon Voltz, filling in for Anna stated that Anna's theme is Options for End of Life of Veterans, her symbol is a Ray of Sunshine with a Poppy and her project is in the amount of \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 to promote Kiler Glen (hospice care) which is an option for Veterans for end of life care. Many veterans do not know of this place. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept Anna's project, was seconded and carried.

Ninth District President Joanie Krantz stated that her symbol focuses around her theme of Join the Family Circle. Her project is a joint project with The American Legion to furnish the women's health care and lactating waiting room at the Fargo VAMC. They are hoping to raise \$5,000.00 each. Joanie made a motion to accept this project, was seconded and carried.

Tenth District President Linda Deschene stated her theme is Howling for Veterans Causes and her symbol is a wolf. Her project is Operation Comfort Warriors. Linda also has a side project of Military Mommies and will be a joint project with the 10th District Honorary Junior President to collect items for the Minneapolis VAMC Women's Center for military mommies. She is looking to raise \$15,000.00 for Operation Comfort Warriors and anything over that will be split between Commander Bonnie's project of Helping Paws and SAL Commander Larry's project of Veterans Lake. Linda Deschene made a motion to accept this project, was seconded and carried.

President Carol announced that next on the agenda is Sharing Our Auxiliary Programs. She stated that for the solicitation of funds for a program, the motion must be made by a member of the Department Executive Committee.

Carol called upon Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman Donna Redepenning for her report. Donna explained what the program is about and stated that there will be a Silent Auction at Fall Conference. She is looking for helpers at the Silent Auction. Linda Deschene made a motion to approve the solicitation of funds for the AEF program, was seconded and carried. President Carol called for a motion to accept Donna Redepenning's report. A motion was made by Sharon Voltz, seconded and carried for approval.

Margee Keller, Children and Youth Chairman was called on by President Carol for her report. Margee reported that her program will be two-fold. One is to support our Children and Youth of our Veterans and also Children and Youth of our communities. Margee asked for solicitation of funds for the Forgotten Children's Program. Donna Arends made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried. Margee then asked for permission to solicit funds for the Legionville program. Jean Walker made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried. Margee's next

request was to solicit funds for the Child Welfare Foundation. A motion was made by Theresa Rudnicki, seconded and carried to approve. Margee then asked for permission to solicit funds for Temporary Financial Assistance. Jean Walker made a motion to approve and was seconded. Sharon Voltz asked what that fund was for. This fund is for a one time assistance for children that can't go to special events because they can't afford to by formals, or equipment needed to participate. President Carol asked that Margee put more information in the first Unit Mailing regarding this program. The motion then carried. Margee asked that the funds that had been solicited for Military Children of the National Guard to go to the Minnesota Legacy Foundation which is a scholarship fund for veteran's children. The amount at this time is \$4,465.00. Military Children of the National Guard cannot accept our donations and this was a fund that originally replaced Operation Military Kids, which ceased its operations in March of 2015. Linda made a motion to donate the money to the Legacy Scholarship Foundation, was seconded and carried. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept Margee Keller's report, was seconded and carried.

Sharon Voltz came forward with her report on Community Service as Chairman. Sharon plans on promoting Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program within our communities. Sharon wants us to work together with the other service organizations to promote this program. There were no solicitations of funds. A motion was made by Joanie Krantz, was seconded and approved to accept.

President Carol called upon Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman Lori Skallerud for her report. Lori will be encouraging all Units and Districts to review and update their Standing Rules and Constitution. There are no solicitations for funds. A motion was made by Linda Deschene, seconded and carried to approve.

Diane Hayes, Education Chairman was called upon by President Carol for her report. Diane went over her focuses for this program this year. Joanie Krantz made a motion to accept Diane Hayes' report, was seconded and carried. Diane Hayes asked for permission to solicit funds for the Department Scholarship Program. A motion was made by Sharon Voltz, seconded and carried. Diane Hayes then asked for permission to solicit funds for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. A motion was made by Jean Walker, seconded and carried to approve.

President Carol called upon Governing Rules Chairman Karen Thygeson for her report. Karen stated that the Governing Rules Committee met in the morning. The committee consists of the Department President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Lori Skallerud, Sandy Fredrickson, Sandie Deutsch and herself. Karen stated that she reviewed that the Resolutions presented at Department Convention had been processed and incorporated into our Standing Rules by Department Secretary Sandie and everything was properly recorded. Karen stated that the 3 identical Resolutions that had been presented from three different Districts did not get put in to the Standing Rules, they are now part of the Finance, Current Resolutions, to be reviewed at the next Department Convention to decide if it is to be retained and dissolved. A motion was made by Joanie Krantz was seconded and carried to accept the report.

History Chairman Sally Strasser was called upon for her report. Sally stated the importance of collecting information on what was done throughout the year. There is a new History patch

available to be earned by grades 9-12. There are no solicitations for funds. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

President Carol called on Chairman of Junior Activities Pam Hoshal for her report. Pam wants to encourage all Juniors as they are our future leaders. Pam stated that Kiana Coleman-Woods, Honorary Junior President's theme this year is Juniors are the Key, Opening Doors to the Future, symbol is the key. Sharon Voltz made a motion to approve Pam's report was seconded and carried.

Robin Dorf, Leadership Chairman was called upon for her report. Robin went over her goals for this year. She wants to offer 3 Leadership workshops throughout the state this year and develop a Leadership Academy as part of the Department Strategic Plan. Robin is encouraging all members to attend the Mission Training to be held in Minneapolis in November. There are no solicitations of funds. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

Donna Arends, Legislation Chairman came forward with her report. She will be working closely with The American Legion Legislation Chairman Peggy Moon and Margee Keller who is now a part of the Legislative Mini-Council, chaired by Representative Tim Walz. There were no solicitations of funds. A motion was made by Betty Underthun to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

President Carol called upon Memorial Chairman Judy Stein for her report. Judy plans on having prayers in each of the Unit Mailings and also is putting together a prayer book for President Carol. She is asking for members to submit their favorite prayers to be included in this book. Judy asked to remember our police officers and firefighters as well as veterans in their prayers. Judy had no solicitations for funds. A motion was made by Cindy Nelson to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

President Carol stated that she did not appoint a Memory Book Chairman this year. With social media this is taken care of.

Americanism Chairman Sandy Wersal was called upon for her report. Sandy's focus is to increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest this year and also to educate on the promotion of our flag. Sandy stated the theme for the essay contest is "How does Learning About Government and an American Help you Become a Future Guardian of the Liberties of our Country. There were no solicitations for funds. A motion was made by Sharon Voltz, seconded and carried to accept this report.

President Carol called on Karen Thygeson to give her report as Parliamentarian. Karen explained what a Parliamentarian is and what this person does. She explained the history of how the Roberts Rules of Order came in to being. There were no solicitation of funds. Jean Walker made a motion to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

Karla Otterness, Poppy Chairman was called upon next. Karla explained on how the Poppy supports our veterans. She stated that there will be a wreath contest again this year at Fall

Conference and the winners will be taken to Fort Snelling at the Memorial Program in May. She will also have a Christmas ornament contest at Fall Conference as well. She will have contests at Department Convention but hasn't decided what the categories are at this time. Karla will be working very hard with her District Poppy Chairman to promote the Poppy Poster Contest. Karla did ask for permission to solicit funds for the People's Choice contest at both Fall Conference and Department Convention. A motion was made by Jean Walker to approve this solicitation, was seconded and carried. Betty Underthun made a motion to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

Michelle Leonard came forward to give her report on Public Relations. She stressed the fact that we have to promote our organization in order to grow. Public Relations must become a priority for all Units and Districts. With the approval of the Department Executive Committee, Michelle is proposing to develop a four hour training session on Public Relations which would be available to Units and Districts. Michelle had no solicitations for funds. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded. Linda Deschene asked where the funds would come from for Michelle's training sessions. Michelle has the monies in her budget. Motion carried.

Sandy Fredrickson came forward to report on Strategic Planning. Sandy introduced the Departments five champions that will be working with the Districts and Units. They are Robin Dorf, Mary Hendrickson, Karla Otterness, Michelle Leonard and Jean Walker. Sandy Fredrickson went to Finance to ask for \$3,500.00 to promote Strategic Planning this Auxiliary year. She would like to promote a custom designed bracelet with our American Legion Family and other Legion programs. It will be specific to the Department of Minnesota. If approved, the bracelets would be sold for \$4-\$5 each. The second item to be promoted is the Member Handbook that currently is in stock. Next the committee is researching the lapel pin holder. The big project in the works is a Department Cookbook in conjunction with our 100th anniversary. Sandy asked the Department Executive Committee for permission to have these fund raisers, if recommended for approval by the Finance Committee. Betty Underthun made a motion to accept the report, was seconded and carried. A motion was made by Sharon Voltz and seconded to grant permission for fund raisers. The motion carried.

Carol Kottom asked the Department Executive Committee permission to pay Sandy Fredrickson a one day per diem and her mileage to attend the August Workshop and give her report. This is not a Standing Committee and isn't on the list of those to be paid. Sharon Voltz made a motion to pay Sandy Fredrickson a one day per diem and mileage, was seconded and carried.

Shirley Frederick and Marge Machgan were called on to report on National Security and the Armed Forces Center. Shirley began with requesting everyone to join with The American Legion to host a POW/MIA ceremony on the National POW/MIA recognition day which is the 3rd Friday of September. She asked that everyone get back to their Districts and share this information. Shirley went over her points of focus for this year. Marge Machgan gave her report explaining what the Armed Forces Center is all about and who is served there. Shirley brought forward the topic of President Carol's project of pocket angels. Shirley and Marge feels that the Armed Forces Center would be the perfect place to have these angels to present to active and retired military and their families. Due to the fact the many Units don't have money to make

an additional donation for pocket angels, Shirley asked if it would be possible to have a note on the Unit donation sheet that an amount of the Unit donation could be earmarked for the pocket angel project. Shirley asked to solicit funds for the Armed Forces Center at the Minneapolis Airport with the ability to earmark a portion of their donation to the Armed Forces Center to be used to purchase pocket angels. Jean Walker made a motion for the solicitation of funds and was seconded. After discussion the motion carried. A motion was made by Sharon Voltz, seconded and carried to accept the National Security report.

After a short break President Carol called the meeting back to order and called Deb Rottman, Finance Chairman to give her report. Deb needs everyone to find ways to cut expenses and increase income. Deb asked for permission to solicit funds for The American Legion Family Hospital Association. A motion was made by Theresa Rudnicki, seconded and carried to approve. Deb requested permission to solicit funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. Linda Deschene made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Next approval for solicitation of funds for the Brain Science Foundation was asked for by Deb Rottman. Cindy Nelson made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Linda Deschene made a motion to accept the report, was seconded and carried.

Marsha Bible was called upon for the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State report. Marsha reported that the next session will be June 11 – 17, 2017 at Bethel University. Marsha asked that the reception after the inauguration ceremony to be brought back to the week. Marsha is asking that the Districts come up with \$500.00 to pay for this reception and have volunteers on site the evening of inauguration. The change would be that 2 Districts will share the responsibility each year. In 2017, Districts 4 and 7 will host the reception. Marsha requested permission to solicit funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State program. Linda Deschene made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Next, Marsha asked for permission to look into participating in Giving to the Max Day. This is online giving and it would come back to our organization. The profit is approximately 85% of the donation, 15% is administrative fees. The must be run through a 501(c)(3) account and Marsha asked to seek permission to use The American Legion Foundation in Minnesota to run these donations through. Linda Deschene made a motion to grant approval to participate in the Give to the Max Day to raise funds, was seconded and carried. This is a conditional approval based on getting permission to run this through The American Legion Foundation. Marsha also asked for permission to solicit the collection of Milk Moola bottle caps through Kwik Trip to raise funds for this program. The committee will handle all of the work involved and this will be a 100% profit for the organization. Joanie Krantz made a motion to allow the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State Committee to work with Kwik Trip on fundraisers for the program, was seconded and carried. A motion was made by Sharon Voltz to accept the report, was seconded and carried.

President Carol called on Jean Walker to give her report on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Jean explained what the program was all about and how our organization can help. Jean asked Mary Hendrickson to give her report on Service to Veterans. Mary explained what all fell into the Service to Veterans program. The stamp program and post card program is still in effect and those should be sent to the Department Office. Cindy Nelson made a motion to accept the Service to Veterans report, was seconded and approved. Raleen Tolzmann was called upon to

give her report on Gift Shop. She introduced her committee member Vida Bacon. Raleen explained the Gift Shop program to the Department Executive Committee. Raleen will be holding the distribution day on November 3 and 4, 2016 at the Osseo American Legion. Raleen had a special request for the committee. She has a person who would like to make all of the cards for the gift shops. Raleen is requesting the front cover of Christmas cards to be used. They can be brought to Fall Conference and Raleen will get them delivered. There will be no charge to the Department to make these cards. Raleen asked for permission to solicit funds for the Gift Shop. Linda Deschene made a motion to grant permission, was seconded and carried. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept the report from Raleen Tolzmann, was seconded and carried. Jean Walker came back to the podium to ask permission to solicit funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Hospital program. Sharon Voltz made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Jean then asked for permission to solicit funds for the \$5.00 Bill Shower. Cindy Nelson made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried. Next Jean Walker asked for permission to solicit funds for the Fisher House. Betty Underthun made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Jean then asked for permission to solicit funds for the overall support of the VA&R program. Linda Deschene made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Jean Walker asked for permission to solicit funds for the Minnesota Creative Arts program. Cindy Nelson made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried. President Carol asked for a motion to accept Jean Walker report. Marcie Baysinger made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried.

Zandra Kessler was called upon to give her report on Membership. Zandy stated that her goal this year is member engagement. Everyone must be happy with what they are doing and promote this. Zandy explained that National changed goal one of the Strategic Plan to Enhance Member Strength as many Units were getting frustrated with the million member march. Zandy went over the goals for our Department for this year. All information is in the Membership Handbook for 2016/2017. Zandy is asking that the ALAMIS membership program available through National be used by all Units. It has a cost of \$10.00 per year for one user. You must request this through Secretary Sandie at the Department Office. There will be no membership program or competition at Fall Conference. Linda Deschene made a motion to accept the report, was seconded and carried.

President Carol announced that she is open for all invitations except Christmas week. There is a press release and official photo available. Request must come to Secretary Sandie and she will email them as requested. Carol asked that everyone complete all forms and put them in the box provided. Deb Rottman requested that all vouchers must be turned in, in order to get paid.

Sandie Deutsch reported that a vote needed to be taken to accept the charter of Seaforth. This process began two years ago and was never voted on. The members have transferred to other Units. President Carol asked for a motion to accept the charter of Seaforth Unit. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept the charter, was seconded and carried. President Carol stated that we now have all the proper documentation from Duluth Lakewood Unit 571 and asked for a motion to accept their charter. Sharon Voltz made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried.

Carol Kottom brought back the application for grants that was previously brought up. Sandie Deutsch is working on researching on grants that apply to our organization. This is a very

lengthy process. Carol asked that if anyone knows of places offering grants to please let Sandie know at the Department Office and copy her on the information.

Carol Kottom asked if everyone had reviewed the Department budget information that had been emailed to them. Carol asked Deb Rottman if there were any changes to the budget. Deb reported that Children and Youth's request was dropped to \$50.00 as the Chairman will not be attending the National meeting. Girls State was changed to \$155,620.00. This was an increase for printing costs and copier expense and also increased the shirt shack inventory back to \$15,000.00. Sandie Deutsch asked if their income also increased due to purchasing more inventory. President Carol stated that the income line should also increase to \$15,000.00. The last change reported was for membership. The expense was increased to \$9,940.00 to cover the shipping and postage for membership packets, per diems were for rallies were decreased from \$75.00 to \$50.00 and the final change was an increase to an incentive award. The total income is \$684,150.00 and the total expenses are \$813,060.00 leaving a deficit of \$128,910.00. President Carol asked if there were any questions for Chairman Deb. President Carol thanked all of the Chairmen that worked on this new budget timeline for the first time. They did a fantastic job. Linda Deschene made a motion to accept the budget as presented, was seconded and approved.

President Carol called on Sandie Deutsch for a National Convention update. Registration materials will be ready on Friday, August 26 to pick up all of your registration information. Tickets will be included in each person's packet. All stipends checks were mailed out.

The next order of business was reviewing the Standing Rules that were presented and voted on at Department Convention. The first Standing Rule was Resolution #10. It was added to Article IX, Section 16, (l) as follows, the distribution of personal information of the American Legion Auxiliary Minnesota Girls State applicants is prohibited for use outside of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota. Next under Article IX, Section 17, (b) (20), the words Junior Convention was removed and replaced with the National Northwest Division Meeting. The same wording was changed in (20) a and b. The next change to the Standing Rules was in Article X, Section 15 is now titled Per Diem and Mileage. This was Resolution #4. Letter (a) was changed to read One day per diem will be fifty dollars (\$50.00); multiple day per diem will be seventy-five (\$75.00) per day; and mileage will be paid if stated at forty cents (\$.40) per mile. The following letters in this section were then changed accordingly. Resolution #5 was put in Article X, Section 15 (g) the words "a maximum" of two days with mileage were added. Resolution #1 pertains to Article X, Section 19 – this section was deleted completely as it was added to our Policy and Procedures file. Sandie stated that there needs to be a change to our Constitution. This pertains to the newly elected position of NEC. There wasn't a change to the Constitution, the verbiage just needed to have housekeeping done to take the expired lines out. It is in Article V Officers, Section 2. Parliamentarian Karen Thygeson agreed and approved on this housekeeping issue.

President Carol asked Sandie Deutsch if there were any announcements. Mary Ann Davis needs firm heart pillows at the Minneapolis VAMC.

Carol Kottom wanted to let everyone know of the wonderful job the St. Francis American Legion does for our veterans. They are sponsoring a new litter of pups for Helping Paws. They donate a tremendous amount of money to the St. Cloud VAMC. They have a large golf

tournament in June and this provides them with the funds they donate throughout the year. Rick from St. Francis asked if Carol could assist him in locating families in need at Christmas time to adopt. President Carol asked what area of the state he is looking for these families from. He stated Anoka County and north suburbs. Carol asked if anyone knows of families that need help in those areas, please let her know and she will get you Ricks contact information.

President Carol asked for any comments regarding Fall Conference this year. Linda Deschene feels that Fall Conference is to educate our people. Shirley Frederick felt this past year at Fall Conference was the first year she didn't take anything new away from the Conference. Sandie Deutsch asked how everyone felt about the grand march. Does our membership enjoy this? After discussion it was decided to continue with the grand march and business casual attire is approved.

President Kottom gave her closing remarks, thanked everyone for their hard work and patience with the long meeting.

Carol called on Chaplain Judy Stein for the closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Sandie Deutsch
Department Executive Secretary