

Department of Minnesota Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday August 11, 2018
Silver Star American Legion Post 428, Waite Park, Minnesota

The following were present: Department President Jean Walker, Department First Vice President Mary Hendrickson, Department Second Vice President Patti Coleman, NEC Shirley Frederick, NEC Raleen Tolzmann, 1st District Vice President Wanda Prescher in for Michelle Weaver, 2nd District President Kristen Donnelly, 3rd District President Vice President Linda Kelly in for Lynn Duffy, 4th District President Lynn Olson, 5th District President Cari Lamb, 6th District President Sharon Thiemecke, 7th District President Pam Gades, 8th District President Zandra Kessler, 9th District President Lynn Carr, 10th District President Sandra Locker, Parliamentarian Carol Kottom and Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch.

Department President Jean Walker called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain Margee Keller, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mary Hendrickson and the Preamble led by Patti Coleman.

President Jean welcomed everyone to the meeting. She gave an overview of the upcoming year and expectations for everyone.

A motion was called for the approval of the July 18 Pre-Convention meeting. Kristen Donnelly made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, was seconded and were approved.

A motion was called for the approval of the July 21 Post Convention meeting. Raleen Tolzmann made a motion to accept approved was seconded and carried.

President Jean 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; Sharon Thiemecke, District 6, Kristen Donnelly, District 2 and Zandra Kessler, District 8. A motion by Mary Hendrickson to close nominations was made, seconded and carried. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to approve these three individuals, was seconded and carried.

President Jean stated that we will have some of the Committee Chairmen give their reports early as they have to leave early. Cheryl Nymann, Public Relations came forward with her report. Cheryl will focus on pushing social media and publishing all events on our website and Facebook pages. She will be working with Leadership and Membership in giving training at sessions to be held throughout the year. There are no solicitations for funds. A motion was made by Pam Gades, seconded and carried to accept the program.

Linda Deschene came forward with her Gift Shop program for the upcoming year. Linda reported that she will again have Russell Stover candy, gifts, wrapping supplies and gift cards. A

motion was made by Patti Coleman to allow solicitation of funds for the Gift Shop, was seconded and carried.

First District Vice President Wanda Prescher reported that President Michelle Weaver's project will be monies for Girls State in the amount of 2,500.00. A motion was made by Wanda Prescher to accept Michelle's project was seconded and carried.

Second District President Kristen Donnelly stated her theme this year is Calling all Volunteers for Service to our Veterans, her symbol is the old telephone and her project is a joint project with the District Commanders for Pergola and picnic tables at the Luverne Veterans home along with the Fire Fly Program. This is a continuation of last year's project. Kristen is hoping to raise \$15,000.00. Kristen Donnelly made a motion to accept her project, was seconded and carried.

Third District Vice President Linda Kelly reported that President Lynn Duffy's theme is Hooked on Veterans and her symbol is a fishing pole. Her project is the CRRC through the VA which is a program for homeless or at risk veterans. It Lynn is looking to raise 3,000.00 for jeans and 3,000.00 for other clothing and hygiene bags for female veterans. A motion was made by Linda Kelly to accept this project was seconded and carried.

Fourth District President Lynn Olson stated her theme this year is Honor Female Veterans - She Chose to Serve and her symbol is combat boots and high heels. Her project will be raising funds for fun nights at the Minneapolis VAMC in the amount of \$360.00. Lynn Olson made a motion to accept this project was seconded and carried.

Fifth District President Cari Lamb stated her theme is We Flip for Veterans and flip flops are her symbol. Her project is to raise 10,000.00 for a new piano at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. Cari made a motion to accept this project, was seconded and carried.

Sixth District President Sharon Thiemecke stated her symbol is the number One and her theme is One Team, One Vision, One Goal. Her project is collect about 11,000.00 for vacuum cleaners for Legionville and use 10,000.00 to train Patriot Assistant dogs for Veterans. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve this project, was seconded and carried.

Seventh District President Pam Gades stated that her symbol is the Unicorn and her theme is Land of the Free because of the Brave. Her project is to raise 2,000.00 for the Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre - Women's Building and 400.00 to digitize the 7th District historical records. Pam Gades made a motion to approve this project, was seconded and carried.

Eighth District President Zandra Kessler theme is Getting on the Write Path for Helping our Veterans, her symbol is a writing pen and her project is to raise 2,000.00 for VA & R. Zandra Kessler made a motion to accept her project, was seconded and carried.

Ninth District President Lynn Carr stated that her theme is Keeping the Pieces of the Family Together. Her symbol is a quilt piece. Her project is a joint project with the 9th District Commander to furnish the Dakota Room at the Fergus Falls Veterans Home with furniture and

accessories. Additional funds will be go the Red, White & Blue Quilters. Lynn made a motion to accept this project, was seconded and carried.

Tenth District President Sandra Locker stated her theme is Veterans Sacrifices and Honor and her symbol is the flag. Her project is to raise 8,000.00 for the Anoka Eagles Healing Nest in conjunction with the District Commander and Junior President. Sandra Locker made a motion to accept this project, was seconded and carried.

President Jean announced that will continue 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.

Chris Ronning who is the Armed Forces Service Center Representative for the American Legion Auxiliary came forward with her report. The Center will be moving into the secured area of the airport. Money is needed for food and other items to sustain the Center. Chris asked that members bring backpacks for children to Fall Conference and she will take them to the Center. Kristen Donnelly made a motion to solicit funds for the Armed Forces Center, was seconded and carried. Patti Coleman made a motion to accept the Armed Forces Center program, was seconded and carried.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman Teri Richardson was called upon to give her report. Teri went over what the AEF is all about. There will be a Silent Auction at Fall Conference. Teri will be asking for help for the Silent Auction. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to approve holding the Silent auction, was seconded and carried. Teri asked permission to solicit funds for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion for approval of solicitation of funds for the AEF, was seconded and carried. Zandra Kessler made a motion to accept the program, was seconded and carried.

Sandy Wersal, Children and Youth Chairman was called on by President Jean for her report. Sandy asked to solicit funds for the Forgotten Children's Fund. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Sandy then asked to solicit funds for American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Sandy asked for permission to solicit funds for Legionville. Pam Gades made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Sandy then asked for permission to solicit funds for the TFA – Temporary Financial Assistance. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Sandy's focus will be on the programs offered by National. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve the Children and Youth report, was seconded and carried.

Theresa Rudnicki came forward with her report on Community Service as Chairman. Theresa talked on with the program focuses on. She stated that we need to promote who we are and what we do in the Community. Theresa will be using social media to promote ourselves to the Community. There were no solicitations of funds. A motion was made by Lynn Carr, was seconded and approved to accept the Community Service program.

Linda Kropuenske, Education Chairman, came forward to give her report. Linda stressed to encourage students to apply for scholarships and let them know they need to look for deadline

dates and follow the instruction. Linda asked for permission to solicit funds for the Department Scholarship Fund. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Kristen Donnelly made a motion to accept the Education program, was seconded and carried.

President Jean called upon Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman Marsha Bible for her report. Marsha went over what her role is. Marsha stated that the changes to the Standing Rules and Constitution voted on at the Department convention have all been updated correctly. Marsha stated that Resolution 10 from Department Convention explains the submission of mid-year reports. Zandra Kessler made a motion to accept the program, was seconded and carried.

Beverly Otterness standing in for Chairman Carol Barbknecht, who had to leave, was called on for her report on Finance. The finance committee would like everyone to be aware of membership, finding new members and reminding them that dues will increase in 2020 on the Department level. Bev stated that we need to support our Auxiliary programs first. Bev asked for permission to solicit funds for the American Legion Family Hospital program. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Bev then asked for permission to solicit funds for the ALA Foundation program. Patti Coleman made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Bev asked for permission to solicit funds for the Brain Science program. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Bev asked for permission to make an announcement of a correction to the budget. The stipend for the National Convention was changed as a line item was doubled in the original amount given. The proper stipend to be given is \$820.00. If the District has given out funds to anyone it is up to them to contact the District and get that changed as well. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to accept the Finance program, was seconded and carried.

History Chairman Karla Otterness was called upon for her report. Karla is asking permission to solicit funds from the Units to continue the restoration of our historical documents. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to allow the solicitation of funds for photo restoration purposes, was seconded and carried. Patti Coleman made a motion to accept her program, was seconded and carried.

Jan Lauby was called on as she had an announcement on the white binders that were handed out at workshop. They are to be turned in at the next Department Convention. Do not add any of your information to them. That is to go into your program Blue Book.

Kristen Donnelly, Junior Activities Chairman came forward to give her report. The program will be working with other programs to strengthen and grow the Junior program. Kristen asked for permission to have Honorary Junior President Harley Donnelly come forward and state her project. Harley would like funds to give to the Veterans Homes and Hospitals for their activities fund. Kristen Donnelly asked permission to solicit funds for the Honorary Junior Presidents project. Patti Coleman made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve the Junior Program, was seconded and carried.

Dee Dee Buckley Leadership Chairman was called upon for her report. Dee Dee will again be holding a minimum of 3 workshops this year, along with Membership and Public Relations, with places to be announced. Thursday night of Fall Conference will be a hint of what is to come. It

will have everything from A-Z on the Auxiliary programs. There are no solicitations of funds. Lynn Carr made a motion to approve the program, was seconded and carried.

Mary Hendrickson, Legislation Chairman came forward to give her report. Mary went over what the Auxiliary's responsibility to this program is. Please post the Meet the Candidates nights. There were no solicitations of funds. A motion was made by Kristen Donnelly to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

President Jean called upon Memorial Chairman Margee Keller for her report. Margee asks that each Unit have a Chaplain at each meeting. All meetings are to include prayer. There should be a ceremony for deceased members as well. Margee will be collecting prayers in order to put a book together for President Jean at the 2019 Convention. She will be putting these on some sort of flash drive so everyone can download them and have them at all times to use as needed. Margee will have a basket at Fall Conference for members to drop their prayers off. There are no solicitation of funds. Linda Kelly made a motion to approve the program, was seconded and carried.

President Jean announced that she is having a memory book this year. Karla will be putting all of the pictures on a flash drive and moving frame. Karla Minnick has been asked by Jean to be the Chairmen for this project. Kristen Donnelly made a motion to accept Karla's project was seconded and carried.

President Donna called on Carol Kottom to give her report as Parliamentarian. Carol stated that everyone just behave. There were no solicitation of funds. Patti Coleman made a motion to accept this report, was seconded and carried.

Shaaron Barnes, Poppy Chairman was called upon next. Shaaron will be concentrating on all members wear some sort of poppy to promote the program. There will be contests of wreaths and centerpieces at Fall Conference and Department Convention. She will also have the Poppy Poster contest. Sharon wants to ask members at Fall Conference what their favorite poppy contests are. At Fall Conference the contests will be focused on Veterans, one on a picture and bio of a veteran and the other, using a patriotic star and the Presidents theme a corsage. Shaaron asked for solicitation of funds for People's Choice at Conference and Conventions for the Poppy contests. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to approve the Poppy program, seconded and carried.

Past President Parley Chairman Karen Thygeson was unable to attend but sent her report to be read by Secretary Sandie Deutsch. Karen explained what the Past Presidents Parley is and what its function is. Sandie asked permission to solicit funds for the Past President Parleys Healthcare Scholarship Fund. Kristen Donnelly made a motion to approve was seconded and carried. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to accept the Past President Parley program, was seconded and carried.

Strategic Planning Chairman Kandy Regan was called upon to give her report. Kandy went over the history of the Department's committee so far. She is hoping to implement everything we have worked so hard to put in place. We need to pass this information all the way to the Unit

level. The committee wants to work with all levels to get them to incorporation Strategic Planning in their Districts and Units. Sandy Locker made a motion to accept this program, was seconded and carried.

President Jean asked for a motion to pay Kandy Regan per diem and mileage for calling her in to this meeting. A motion was made by Sandy Locker, seconded and carried.

President Jean called upon Bethany Dickert for her report on the Americanism program. Bethany will be promoting the flag. She will be teaching etiquette, disposal and other parts of the flag. There are no solicitations of funds. Lynn Carr made a motion to accept the program, was seconded and carried.

President Jean now called upon Girls State Chairman Mary Kuperus. Mary stated that Girls State will be held June 9-15, 2019. It will be held again at Bethel University. The fee will be \$300.00. Mary introduced her Girls State Committee, Bethany Dickert is the Americanism Chairman, Peggy Tesdahl is the Director, Amelia Tesdahl is the Education Director, Kelli Frederickson and Lesley Christoffer are committee members. Mary asked for solicitation of funds for the Girls State Program. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Patti Coleman made a motion to accept the Girls State program, was seconded and carried.

President Jean called on Patti Coleman to give her report on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Patti explained what the program was all about and how our organization can help. Patti Coleman asked for permission to solicit funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Hospital program. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Patti then asked for permission to solicit funds for the \$5.00 Bill Shower. Linda Kelly made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried. Next Patti asked for permission to solicit funds for the Fisher House. Mary Hendrickson made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Patti then asked for permission to solicit funds for the overall support of the VA&R program. Sandy Locker made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Patti Coleman asked for permission to solicit funds for the Minnesota Creative Arts program. Pam Gades made a motion to accept, was seconded and carried. Patti then asked for solicitation of funds for the Legacy Scholarship program. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Patti made a motion to solicit funds for the Eagles Healing nest. Sandy Locker made a motion, was seconded and carried. Patti then asked for approval of the VA & R program for the year. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to approve, was seconded and carried. Jean Pederson came forward as the Service to Veterans Chairman. Jean explained what all fell into the Service to Veterans program. Keep cutting the stamps and send them to the Department Office. Linda Kelly made a motion to accept the Service to Veterans report, was seconded and approved.

President Jean called upon Carol Kottom to read a letter that was received in regards to supporting the WWII Medal of Honor awardees final state funeral. Zandra Kessler made a motion to approve supporting this and it was seconded. After explaining what the request was actually about, Zandra Kessler withdrew her motion. Further discussion brought forward that this state funeral is a tribute to all Medal of Honor winners upon the death of the last person. Lynn Olson made a motion to support having the state funeral upon the death of the last Medal

of Honor winner, which in effect honors all Medal of Honor recipients from World War II. This motion was seconded. A vote was taken by a show of hands. After a count, there was a tie of 7-7. President Jean cast the tie breaking count. Jean voted aye and the motion carried.

Robin Dorf was called upon for her membership report. The theme is Together We Shine for Membership. The symbol is a star. Robin wants to focus on supporting all members, not just Units in the top places. We must continue to use social media. Tamara Opland is the NW Division Membership Chairman. Recognize all members equally. Try to contact all expired and former members to see if they will rejoin. The goals will be left the same as last year for the Units. There will be a membership payout at Fall Conference. The American Legion Family will all be participating. It will not be a monetary payout. Robin will get this information out to everyone. A motion was made by Mary Hendrickson, seconded and approved to accept the membership program.

President Jean called on NEC Shirley Frederick for her final report. Shirley stated that there will be no amendments to the Standing Rules being proposed this year. All members are invited to the Constitution/By-Laws meeting at National Convention.

President Jean announced that her Testimonial date is May 18, 2019 at the Warren Post. It will start at noon.

President Jean asked if there were any Charter turn-in's or new Charters at this time. Zandra Kessler stated that she is working with Mountain Iron to keep them going.

Jean called upon Beverly Otterness who is standing in for Chairman Carol Barbknecht for the final budget presentation with changes for approval. The changes are as follows: Gift shop was increased from \$60,000.00 to \$65,000.00. Junior Activities was increased from \$2,000.00 to \$2,800.00. Leadership was increased from \$2,000.00 to \$2,280.00. Public Relations was increased from \$360.00 to \$660.00. The Strategic Planning was approved at 1,500.00. 805,405.00 is the new total for expenses. The Finance Committee recommended that this be approved. Bev stated that the budget does have a deficit again this year and everyone must be careful on their spending. Sandy Locker made a motion to accept the budget for the 2018/2019 Auxiliary year. President Jean asked for discussion. Kristen Donnelly asked what the \$1,500.00 for Strategic Planning will be used for. Bev explained that the Champions attend District rallies, if the Districts approve to give a class on what Strategic Planning is all about. Zandra Kessler asked if the monies that Strategic Planning made on their fundraisers would cover this. Secretary Sandie explained that they have no money of their own. The monies earned is to be used for the better of the organization. Linda Kelly asked how the deficit would be covered. Secretary Sandie stated that we have investments and we are solvent. After seconded the motion carried. Bev reiterated that the National Convention stipend is \$820.00 this year.

The next order of business was reviewing the Standing Rules that were presented and voted on at Department Convention. All of the changes are in everyone's packet and highlighted. The Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman approved all of the changes to be correct as printed.

Secretary Sandie was called upon for announcements. Sandie went over a conference call she had with the National President and National Secretary regarding the resolution that was

submitted to National on the title to be given to Helen Hughes Hielscher. Sandie then discussed all of this with Parliamentarian Carol Kottom. National is asking that this not be presented as a resolution to the National Convention. Mrs. Hughes did run for the 1st National President office and was defeated. There is no precedence to bestow a National title to someone who has never was a National Officer. She was only a Department President. National would like to give Dr. Hielscher an award as she was instrumental in the VA & R program implementation. There would be a plaque to hang in the Department Office. The Minnesota DEC must make a decision today as to how they want to proceed. National would call this a Trailblazer Award. President Jean called for a motion. Sharon Thiemecke made a motion to make this an award rather than a Resolution and it was seconded. Marsha Bible stated that this would make more sense to have this award presented at the Auxiliary's 100th anniversary next year in Indianapolis. Raleen Tolzmann from the Second District stated the District is in favor of the award, as they are the District who submitted the Resolution. Sharon Thiemecke amended her motion to have the award presented at the 100th anniversary of the Auxiliary to be held in Indianapolis in 2019, was seconded and carried. A vote was called for the original motion as amended, and carried.

Lynn Duffy from the 3rd District went through our Standing Rules and found entries still showing By-Laws. As we no longer have by-laws can this be a housekeeping clean up or will this need a resolution. Per Parliamentarian Carol Kottom, she will write resolutions for the next Department Convention.

President Jean called on Sandie Deutsch for a National Convention update. Registration materials will be ready on Friday, August 24 & Saturday, August 25 to pick up all of your registration information. Tickets will be included in each person's packet. If you arrive later you will have to contact Sandie to get materials. The parade information was given out. All stipends checks will be mailed out on Monday.

President Jean gave everyone her thanks for their participation and patience.

Jean called on Chaplain Margee Keller for the closing prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Sandie Deutsch
Department Executive Secretary