

Department of Minnesota Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2019
Shooting Star Casino, Mahanomen, Minnesota

The following were present: Department President Mary Hendrickson, Department First Vice President Patti Coleman, Department Second Vice President Mary Kuperus, NEC Raleen Tolzmann, Past Department President Jean Walker, 1st District Vice President Wanda Prescher, 2nd District President Robin Olson, 3rd District President Linda Kelly, 4th District President Sandra Gibson, 5th District President Mary Younkin, 6th District President Roberta Elvecrog, 7th District President Lorraine Wigen, 8th District President Susan Korhonen, 9th District Past President Pat Hanson, 10th District President Brandi Christensen, Parliamentarian Marsha Bible and Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch. There were 18 guests present.

Department President Mary Hendrickson called the meeting to order. Mary made the announcement that The American Legion made a change to the Preamble. Rather than stating Great Wars, it is changed to All Wars.

The opening prayer was given by Patti Coleman, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mary Kuperus and the Preamble led by Marsha Bible.

President Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mary called upon Cheryl Grover and Denise Milton, the Auxiliary Fall Conference Chairmen. Mary thanked them for all their hard work.

President Mary introduced our Judge Advocate Greg Colby to the podium. Greg briefed the Executive Committee on what his position is and what he does for our organization.

Jocelyn Yasis was introduced by President Mary. Jocelyn is the new administrative assistant in the department office.

Mary called on each of the Executive Committee members who gave a 2 minute recap of their year so far.

At this time Raleen Tolzmann the National Executive Committeeperson gave her report on the last NEC meeting. Raleen stated that a National Executive Director has been hired and Linda Boone will be the National Secretary as a volunteer. Males can now join the Auxiliary if their spouse is a veteran. Great-granddaughters are no longer eligible for membership per the IRS mandates. Those already members can remain. The name of the NEC will be now known as the Board of Directors.

A motion was called for the approval of the August 10 Executive meeting minutes. Sandy Gibson made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded.

President Mary brought forward the National Leadership Policy that everyone was to review and bring back suggestions and/or changes. Linda Kelly made a motion to approve the policy as written, was seconded and carried.

Mary Hendrickson expressed her concerns regarding two of the programs that were approved for funds to be solicited for at the August 10 Executive Committee meeting. They were Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre and Haven for Heroes in Anoka. Mary has concerns on how our committee comes to approving what program can have funds solicited for. We have no policy in place at this time. Mary asked for a motion to leave the two programs on our donation list for this year. Roberta Elvecrog made a motion and it was seconded. President Mary called for discussion. Secretary Sandie stated that there is no policy in the Department Office that is in place at this time on adding programs to our donations sheets. After discussion, the motion failed and the two programs will not appear on our donation sheet this year. Linda Kelly made a motion to have a policy written on how to determine on adding a new program to our solicitation list. The motion was seconded and after discussion the motion carried. President Mary appointed Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman Carol Kottom, Parliamentarian Marsha Bible and Department Secretary Sandie Deutsch to write this policy.

President Mary called on Secretary Sandie Deutsch for her office report. Sandie stated that everyone was sent a copy of the revised Constitution and Standing Rules to read over for anything that was missed. They need to be gone through again as the great-granddaughters are no longer eligible. Sandie will go back through and make those changes and forward another copy out upon completion. The Preamble change will be made as well. Sandie brought up the new position at National Headquarters of Executive Director as a paid employee as well as a National Secretary as a volunteer position. Linda Boone, National Secretary stated that her wishes are that Departments follow suit with National and have this role defined as two positions.

Sandie stated that the East Grand Forks Unit needs some help. They haven't asked but there is one person that refuses help but she states she has too much to do. They are one of the largest Units in our Department. The 9th District Executive Committee needs to come up with a plan to reorganize the Unit. Mary asked if there were any suggestions on how we can help. Jennifer Havlick offered her assistance as she is helping two Units in the 8th District. Robin Dorf suggested going into the Unit, 9th District first to see how they can help.

Secretary Sandie stated that she will work very hard in her last year of employment and will do everything she can to train the newly hired Department Secretary.

Jan Lauby came forward with her Treasurers Report. Jan stated that our investments are doing very good at this time. We have made over r \$260,000.00 since January. The National Leadership Fund has made over \$3,000.00 since January.

President Mary called upon Becky Nelson, Finance Chairman with her report. Becky stated that the Committee met earlier in the day. There were no additional requests for monies. Becky did state that Robin Dorf asked for permission to solicit funds for the Army Recruiting Battalion function in December. The Finance Committee recommended the approval of this request.

President Mary called upon the Audit Committee Chairman Suzette Maluchnik to come forward. Suzette was unable to attend but Committee member Vida Bacon came forward with her report.

Vida explained what this committee's duties are and introduced committee member Cari Lamb. The committee will be doing an assessment on the Girls State Program this year and will be meeting at the Rosetown Pearl Harbor Membership Rally on December 7.

Mary reported that her project has received \$5,655.00 to date and the Junior President's project has received \$450.00 so far this year. Mary reiterated that her project changed a bit as a donor paid to have the awning put in. She will now raise funds for a television projection device and large screen for the Great Room at the Silver Bay Veterans Home.

President Mary asked if there were any Charter turn-in's or new Charters at this time.

District One – none

District Two – Update on the Worthington Unit – they have turned in quite a few renewals. They need to find a replacement for the membership chairman and a leader in the Unit. Raleen is working on getting this issue resolved.

District Three – issue with Watertown – 3rd District Membership Kim Carlander, Karla Otterness and President Linda Kelly met with them. They do three projects each year and do well. Linda is not sure if they will be able to save this Unit. There is a possibility of a new Unit in Woodbury. Linda Kelly will work on this. Cannon Falls was interested in reinstating their Charter but it is on hold at this time due to health issues.

District Four – Unit 577's new officers all resigned due to friction from the other members. They elected new officers and an update will be given to Sandy Gibson. Membership has been turned in. Lester Tjurnlund will be turning in their Charter after this year. Virginia Whaley wants to have all her members transferred to other Units before closing.

District Five – none

District Six – Clear Lake – they now have a membership chairmen. Roberta is getting calls with bullying in Units. New members aren't able to be involved.

District Seven – Alexandria is keeping their charter at this time.

District Eight – none

District Nine – none

District Ten – Brandi is working with Dayton and will be trying to sign up some new members. New Brighton has sent in some membership. The Department Office is taking the membership payments and sending out cards to members under the New Brighton Unit number.

President Mary stressed the importance of District Presidents working with all of their Units.

Sandy Fredrickson was called upon for her Past Presidents Parley report. Sandy has a concern regarding the Health Care Scholarship. She is wondering who put it together and when it was put together. There are no guidelines in her materials. Sandy would like to put something together while she is Chairman. She brought up rule number three which states the applicant must be a member of the Auxiliary. She is wondering if now that males are eligible for membership, this would be discriminatory. After discussion it was decided to keep the application as printed.

Mary called upon Sandy Wersal to give her report on the Poppy program. Sandy is asking for permission to hold a silent auction for handmade poppy items during this Fall Conference. This

is separate from the AEF Silent Auction. She would also have one at Department Convention. The proceeds will go to the Armed Forces Center at the airport. Sandy Gibson made a motion to approve the Silent Auction, was seconded and carried. Sandy asked for help from the District Presidents on promoting the Poppy Poster contest. We need more participation. We are missing many of the grade classes, earliest grades and the older grades. She would like more participation from our Junior members to participate.

President Mary called on Robin Dorf, Children and Youth Chairman regarding her request for solicitation of funds. Robin explained the event that will occur on Friday, December 13. It is being put on by the Army Recruiting Battalion function where we will be babysitting children while they are attending their meetings and the evening ball. It will be at the Radisson Blue at the Mall of America. There will be shifts set up that will need volunteers to take care of the children. Shift 1 is 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. for set-up, Shift 2 is 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. This will be an all-day event. Robin will be having groups of 0-2 years, 3-6 years and 7 and older. This is a great opportunity to get our name out there and gain new members. Patti Coleman made a motion to allow Robin to pass the hat during the Fall Conference session in order to purchase some snacks and activities for the children to have during the day. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Employee Handbook was brought forward as the next order of business. All members were sent a copy to review. Secretary Sandie has no requests for changes. There being no changes brought forward, the Employee Handbook will remain as printed.

President Mary called upon Karla Otterness regarding the 100th Anniversary Committee. There will be surprises tonight at the cupcake reception. There will be signs for sale.

Mary asked if the DEC would like to continue with the annual gift exchange that will be held at the March DEC meeting. Jean Walker made a motion to continue the gift exchange in the amount of \$20.00, was seconded and carried. You do not have to participate. Everyone needs to grab a name and let Sandie know so she can keep a master list.

President Mary asked if there were any other questions or new business to come before the meeting.

Secretary Sandie came forward with the announcements. Sandie asked that all District President's that have blanks by their names please fill out the District Event schedule with dates and places. President Mary called upon Patti Coleman for the closing prayer.

There being no further business, Linda Kelly made a motion to adjourn, was seconded and carried.

Sandie Deutsch
Department Executive Secretary