American Legion Auxiliary-Department of MN

Department Executive Meeting

River’s Edge Convention Center, Bell Room

St. Cloud, MN

October 27, 2022

Meeting called to order 1:00 PM, by President Mary

2022-2023 Officers present: District Presidents: 1st – Tonia Bettermann, 3rd – Kim Carlander, 4th – Jenny Nelson, 5th – Jill Davis, 6th – President elect, Bev Grose, 7th – Wanda Seidler, 8th – Zandra Davenport, 9th – Cheryl Grover, 10th – Lorinda Kies, 2nd Vice – Judy Ackerman, 1st Vice – Sharon Thiemecke, Parliamentarian – Norma Tramm, President Mary Kuperus, NEC – Jean Walker, Past Department Patti Coleman, and Interim Department Secretary Cathy Radil. Sitting in for 2nd District was Kollett Kaehlert.

Special quest Marlene Boyer, NW District Vice President from North Dakota and 17 visitors present.

Opening prayer by 1st Vice Sharon Thiemecke. Pledge by 2nd Vice Judy Ackerman. Preamble lead by Parliamentarian Norma Tramm.

Welcome by President Mary, as she also explained the seating arrange of the Executive Committee. She then asked NEC Jean Walker to introduce her special quest. Jean introduced Marlene Boyer our Northwestern Division Vice President from North Dakota.

Marlene thanked everyone for the invitation and hopes to meet and greet a lot of the Minnesota members this weekend.

Roll call was then taken by Interim Secretary Cathy. See above listing.

Mary invited the two vice presidents to come up and she presented “officers” ribbons to both Judy and Sharon and then next year they will pass them on to the new vice presidents.

Next Mary asked 6th District Incoming President Bev Grose to come forward to be installed by Norma Tramm explaining that Bev was replacing Dolly Zitur who passed away before taking office this year.

Mary asked each person at the table to introduce themselves and tell what has been happening in your district.

1st District Tonia Bettermann, she attended the Rushford picnic in August where it was great to see everyone working together. She also attended the 1st District membership rally although poorly attended, they had a very good speaker coming to the Mid-winter Jan 7th, they have a rally next month and District Christmas party Dec 11th.

3rd District Kim Carlander, she attended a family gathering last weekend in Chanhassen, she has been attending “field meetings”, she has been selling cookies vanilla & chocolate for $1, her mid-winter will be Jan 21st.

7th District Wanda Seidler, had attended several Unit meetings, 278, 156 & 29 etc. Membership chairman Sheryl has sent out letter, also been visiting and VP Hope has been calling units, Wanda stated that she has a really good team. The mid-winter will be Jan 28th in Granite Falls. ALAMIS education & leadership at mid-winter.

2nd District (Robin Olson) Represented by Kollett Kaehlert, Membership dinner, 9/22 was a Leadership training that was well attended. Mid-winter will be Feb 17 & 18th Blue Earth, and they are hoping to have Edna Thayer come and speak about completing Annual reports.

Kollett told about Robin’s President’s project: she is raising funds for the 13 County VSO’s for gift cards for veterans in need. Her goal is $5,000. Motion was made by Judy Ackerman to accept this project, seconded by Jill Davis. No discussion, motion carried.

4th District Jenny Nelson, “Healing in motion” with a healthy heartbeat. Fundraising potluck dinner Nov 16th with a Silent Auction in No St Paul. Mid-winter will be Jan 7th. She was invited to Arcade Phalen and things are going well there, she is excited to attend the mission training. 4th District is a small district with 7 units, only 3 active and they do what they can. Jenny shared her trip to Savannah GA with everyone.

5th District Jill Davis, very small district. They have held a district mtg, they have a joint project with the AL & SAL, the Legion is currently ahead. The 4th & 5th will have a joint mid-winter and Jill is hoping to have a presentation on Cyber Safety, she will also be attending mission training, The Unit and District lost a 52 year member suddenly Penny Becker who was a Past District President and very active member.

6th District Bev Grose, she has attended 3 membership dinners, been invited to Paynesville and the Morris county council Christmas party. They have a unit that has stated that they will be turning in their charter, and they are working on that. Bev has spoken to both the VA & Eagles Healing Nest regarding their needs. The VA would like yoga pants in larger sizes 2 & 3 X, sports bras and Eagles Healing Nest will be adding a spa and looking for nail polish, foot accessories anything spa related. Bev has issued a challenge to the 9th District President Cheryl, a 10 for 10 challenge thru the schools. They will be contacting the schools for their list of needs and then go back to their units for donations, totaling them up to see who wins. Mid-winter will be Feb 11th, district convention will be June 3rd.

9th District Cheryl Grover, she has accepted Bev’s challenge. Has had the honor of attending three membership dinners, Jan 14th mid-winter with no backup date as secretary will be leaving for the winter. It will be a one-day event in Bagley. She got to tour the Fargo National Cemetery, it is beautiful, everyone should stop in. Bemidji home construction is going well, both are her projects.

 8th District Zandra Davenport, 8th District has been struggling for years, they had their 8th District meeting a couple of weeks ago and it was very well attended the auxiliary attendance was 4 to 1 to the Legion. The best attendance in 10 years. Zandra was invited to a Christmas dinner but thinks it is the same day as the Pearl Harbor rally, but that is her only invite. Membership has been going well as the bulletins have shown. There will be no mid-winter.

10th District Lorinda Kies, 10th District has the Legacy Run and they stopped in the 10th District. 1st rally in Legionville, got a few memberships, for her project “Haven for Heroes” on Oct 1st the family of Nicole Burnham who committed suicide does a walk to honor everyone. Early bird dinner at Fridley and received a check for her project, also at Legionville. Mid-winter is in Anoka Jan 7th, Nov 19th Veterans Day Rally and the speaker will be Jenny’s dad and we look forward to that.

Mary announced that they were taking a break as Teresa Ash was there as the Chairman of the media-relations committee. Teresa stated that they were going to start a project/fundraiser a “Cookbook” to help with the cost of the postage for the Legionnaire, which is about $15,500k per month prior month was $14k. The Legionnaire subscription base is $25 per year & $35 for two years will be the new way.

The Legionnaire will be to a website also. They will need a committee person from each family section.

The cookbook will be a “Family” one and they will need recipes, they are looking to appoint a committee of which they would like assistance from the Auxiliary, and they will need recipes. They are looking at the cost per cookbook of $30 and hoping for less.

Mary asked if there was any objection to going along with the cookbook.

Jill Davis made a motion to support the cookbook, Bev Grose seconded it, no discussion, all in favor. Motion passed to support the project.

Just need an auxiliary representative.

2nd Vice President Judy Ackerman, good to see people again after being sick. She attended the VAR mtg and the Leadership training.

1st Vice President Sharon Thiemecke, she participated in the Legacy Run, attended the National Convention, National Homecoming.

Immediate Past President Patti, she got married, recruit juniors to the National meeting. Need more attendees only 9 registered currently. National Chairman, committee member flying in. she will be the Girls State Education Director this year. 1st meeting today. Larry has cancer and has started his treatment. He is doing fantastic.

NEC Jean Walker, she will not be able to attend mission training and so if someone wants to attend, they can take her spot. Sandy Gibson would like to go. Mary stated that her granddaughter was elected the Honorary NW Division National Jr President, Samantha. The kids are busy, the cost is a factor, etc.

She attended National convention; biggest discussion was the dues increase of $6. Post-convention meeting was attended and is looking forward to the year.

Parliamentarian Norma Tramm, business meeting you need a parliamentarian, tomorrow is a conference where the parliamentarian is not required. She brought up having a guest asking for things and whether or not you have to act on it right away or state that you will discuss it and get back to them.

Cathy Radil, Interim Department Secretary. We are just busy; membership is coming in big time, and we are keeping up. Bonding invoices were sent out and the funds coming in. Definitely keeping busy. Jill Davis commented on how nice it is to receive the Unit mailing in a timely manner this year.

Mary stated that they found out that the reason the membership notices were late due to not enough envelopes.

Department President Mary Kuperus has been to Brainerd. Legionville, Legionnaire meeting, Elk River PDP luncheon, Grand Rapids, Jewish War Veterans dinner where she was knighted by the St Paul Winter Carnival Royalty. Osseo, St Paul Veterans program, Spicer, Rochester any many places to come.

Unfinished business: the minutes of the last meeting minutes need to be reviewed and approved. Under the AEF seconded by July s/b Judy. Under the VAR solicit funds for the American Legion Family Hospital Assn. Under Gift Shop under the last statement is should read Art 6, Section 13B 6.

Under membership the last row should delete no get 100%. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Patti, seconded by Jean Walker. No discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Mary is going to pass around a sign-up sheet for your mid-winters. Also explained the request from the 9th District Band asking for a mailing list of all Unit Presidents. Mary wants your input on this. Jill Davis stated that this should come before the board each year. Linda, they could submit a letter for the Unit mailing. Patti stated that we want the units to donate to our programs as they are under funded and to give the mailing list to another organization should not be done.

It was decided to not give them the mailing list.

New Business:

Executive Secretary Search Committee:

Sharon T, Judy A. PDP Carol K, Finance Comm Chair Cheryl S and Mary will be on the hiring committee.

Motion made by Tonia to approve the committee, seconded by Kollett, no discussion, motion carried.

Department Treasurer Cathy gave the Finance Report:  She also shared the letter that was received from the MN V4V Trust Fund, summed up no funds would be given this year. A comment was made by Chris Ronning stating that Marland who was our ALA supported on this board is no longer there and he was very disappointed with this action.

No questions or comments and this report will be put on file for audit.

Next Cheryl Schauman will provide a report pertaining to the budget meeting held on Oct 8th in Howard Lake. Cheryl presented the budget making comment that the Children & Youth budget was changed following the meeting from $25 to $125.

She presented the budget with a deficit of $286,099 between income and expenses, stating that the income is down due to the lost revenue(97k) in interest on our investments. Girls State registrations (32K)

The bonding fee was voted to charge the Units $10 instead of the $25 we have charged in the past as many units do not pay.

The finance committee did cut $28K from the requested Girls State budget. Also expenses postage, paper, everything that continues to go up all contribute. There was discussion at the Finance meeting on whether or not to do some additional fund raising and definitely hope that the market turns around making the investments profitable again.

There was a motion by Bev to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Judy. Discussion-Zandy stated the V4V funds need to be taken out, changed to a motion seconded by Lorinda. This bringing the budget total to a deficit of $293,699 for the budget.

**WAS THIS APPROVED?????**

Mary called on Cari Lamb with a report from the Risk and Compliance Committee. Cari stated there was no meeting and therefore no report.

Mary then stated the amount given to her project as of 10/25/2022 $6,329.00 and for the Jr President’s project $1,485.00. Next was discussion on submitting reports for activities and applying for Department Awards. Also gave a reminder of the session tonight regarding Annual Reports.

Next Mary asked by District for reports on New Unit possibilities/Charter concerns:

1st District: Still working on St Charles and there is a meeting scheduled with Byron.

2nd District: Ceylon-Kollett talked to the President, and she was sending letters to the members. They thought they had to turn in their charter since the Legion was. They have 13 members.

3rd District: Hastings – they have new people and are coming back.

4th District: Jenny needs information on 606 and she will follow up. Also 451, has very few members and Virginia Whaley at 100 is still handling everything.

5th District: possible that Jonnie Baker will recharter.

6th District: Wadena-has been contacted. Staples is turning in their charter, transfer letters have been sent to 20 members.

7th District: Boyd?

8th District: Taconite-recharter? Proctor is disbanding, Mountain Iron & Orr s/b transferring members out, Deer River s/b ok.

9th District: Halma-Lake Bronson have voted to disband, they had 9 paid members last year. Mahnomen is continuing, has some new members. East Grand Forks has new officers and should be ok, Cheryl has a meeting planned with them.

10th District: all is good.

Mary reminded the District presidents that they and their membership chairmen should be making every attempt to work with any units that are having issues. Department Membership Chairman Sandy is also available for any assistance that is needed. If all avenues have been exhausted, make sure that all members on the unit transfer to another unit or to 1982. We do not want to lose these members.

Next, Mary explained that she wanted to appoint an ad hoc committee to review the employee handbook and asked for three volunteers.

1. Jill Davis 5th District
2. Lorinda Kies 10th District
3. Jenny Nelson 4th District

Mary would like to meet with these three members and go over the handbook. Looking for updates if needed and a report will be given at the March DEC meeting. Any suggestions should be directed to one of these ad hoc members.

A motion was made to approve these volunteers for this ad hoc committee by Tonia and seconded by Wanda. All in favor and motion carried.

Report from Jean Walker from National Convention.

Mary asked if there was any new business to bring before the committee? Hearing none, she continued with discussion of gifts at the spring DEC meeting. She asked for a show of hands on whether to continue or not, yes was the answer. Next, she asked for the dollar amount, and they agreed on $20 to $25. Everyone drew a name.

Announcements - Cathy Radil, Interim Secretary

Evening seminar for ALAMIS and Annual Reports will be at 6:30 to 7:30 and then there are two craft sessions from 7:30 to 9:00pm.

Chaplain Donna left “Thinking of you” cards in the office for everyone to stop in and sign.

Grand March is Friday, line up at 6:30 and starts 7:00pm, there will be entertainment by Curt & Michelle Vocal show with a cash bar and snacks.

Next membership rally is Pearl Harbor on Dec 3rd in Spicer 11:00 turn in.

Sweetheart Rally is Feb 4th in Osseo post 172, turn in at 10:30.

Spring DEC Meeting will be held at the Department office, 5th floor. Parking in Lot J on Saturday March 25th at 10:00 am with a catered in meal by Dickies BBQ for $15 each.

Department Jr Conference will be hosted by the 3rd District in New Prague. Friday April 14th Jr Fun Night, Sat. April 15th Conference. Quality Inn and Suites.

Department Appreciation rally at New Prague Post 45 4:00 pm membership turn in.

Closing prayer by Sharon Thiemecke 1st VP.

Recognition of the colors.

President Mary adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Radil, Interim Department Secretary.