American Legion Auxiliary-Department of MN

Department Executive Meeting

New London American Legion Post

August 13, 2022

Meeting called to order 9:26 AM August 13, 2022, by President Mary

All 2022-2023 Officers were present. District Presidents: 1st – Tonia Bettermann, 2nd – Robin Olson, 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.

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

Welcome by President Mary and congratulations on the election and a new year. Welcomed the first-time elected District Presidents. She stated that she wanted to make this day informative, productive, and educational for all. Reminding them that they are all district sisters and she, Mary was their mom.

Mary explained the year and what she was looking forward to, what each of the District President’s should look forward too under this administrative year as “Serve and Honor Every Day”. Lunch will be served at 12:00 when we will take a break and then reconvene and continue. Mary wants everyone to serve as a team and especially a family. There will be disagreements, but positive conversations and debates if needed, we need to serious most of the time, but we need to have some fun too.

Mary explained the change to monthly unit mailing and that the office was working on updating the email and paper lists.

Mary stated that she hoped everyone had been informed of the passing of Dolly Zitur last week. She was elected as the new 6th District President at convention and that Beverly Grose will be stepping into that position once elected and approved by the 6th District.

Installation of the following Department appointed Officers by Carol Kottom, Past Department President. Chaplain, Donna Barbknecht, Historian, Margee Keller, and Interim Secretary/Treasurer Cathy Radil.

Approval of the minutes from the July 13th, pre-convention meeting were reviewed. Noting grammatical errors to be corrected and amended, a motion made by Patti seconded by Bev to accept the minutes as corrected.

Approval of the minutes from the July 16th, post-convention meeting were reviewed. Noting a grammatical error and the addition of 6th Dist 1st VP Patti Gunderson was representing the sixth district to be corrected and amended, a motion made by Jenny seconded by Jill to accept the minutes as corrected.

President Mary then explained that next on the agenda was for each District president in a three-minute time frame explain their theme, symbol, and project with approximate goals.

10th District Lorinda Kies

-Auxiliary Members Helping Women’s Veterans

-Turtle

-Haven for Hero’s – Women’s cottage #4, furnishings, lighting etc. and men’s cottage #3 for exercise equipment.

-$7,200

Motion by Lorinda, seconded by Patti to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

9th District Cheryl Grover

-Mentor and Great Things WILL Happen

-Family in the palm of a hand. Pins with a cross & American flag.

- Raising funds for the new National Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery in Fargo, North Dakota to build a chapel and the New Bemidji Veterans Home.

-$2,500 for each project

Motion by Cheryl, seconded by Zandra to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

8th District Zandra Davenport

-Soaring into Our Future

-Eagle

- An outside tent/canopy and sponsoring the Friday Fish Fry’s at the Silver Bay Veteran’s Home. Also, an outdoor tent with branding.

-$600

Motion by Zandra, seconded by Cheryl to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

7th District Wanda Seidler

-Standing Strong, Serving Others

-Oak Tree

- The Eagle’s Healing Nest, garden needs which could include flower or vegetable seeds, gardening tools and supplies, etc.

-$1,000

Motion by Wanda, seconded by Jill to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

6th District Bev Grose

-Prayers for Our Veterans, Community Service & Youth

-Praying Hands

-Things for the women veterans at the St. Cloud VA and the women veterans at the Eagle’s Healing Nest.

-$7,000-8,000

Motion by Bev, seconded by Cheryl to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

5th District Jill Davis

-Revving our engines-raising the spirits of our Veterans and the entire American Legion Family

-Motorcycle

- Raising funds for -4- round tables that support an umbrella, from By the Yard for Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. Project is joint with the 5th Dist American Legion and SAL.

-$3,500

Motion by Jill, seconded by Bev to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

4th District Jenny Nelson

-Healing Hearts in Motion

-Healthy Heartbeat

- Outdoor Summer Activity Items for Eagle's Healing Nest. Balls, Bats, Gloves, Badminton, Nets, Volleyballs, Tennis Rackets/balls, Soccer Balls, Water Toys, Slip n Slide, Bird feeders, Bikes, Skateboards, Water Balloons, Horseshoes, Kites, Bubbles, Corn Hole Boards, Croquet, Ladder Golf, Telescopes for Stargazing... Anything Summer!

-$3,000

Motion by Jenny, seconded by Jean to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

3rd District Kim Carlander

-Freedom Is Sweet

-Red, White & Blue Cupcake

-The Heart & Mind Connection in Anoka. An organization built for those struggling with addiction, trauma, mental wellness, and recovery issues, run by those who have lived experiences in all these areas.

-$3,000

Motion by Kim, seconded by Wanda to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

2nd District Robin Olson

-Sprinkling Our Veterans with Love

-Poppy

-project to be announced at Fall Conference

1st District Tonia Bettermann

-Leading Veterans to a Home of Happiness

-Lavender

-Military plaque showing all branches of the service to be placed at the MN Veterans Home in Preston

-$4,800

Motion by Tonia, seconded by Robin to approve this project. Carried, all in favor.

Treasurer’s Report by Department Treasurer Cathy Radil

-Reports distributed to all members in attendance:



-Discussion regarding finding a new bank, the financial history of the Jr Fun Weekend, the Department & Past President’s Scholarship Fund balances. Addressing other items as brought to the Treasurer’s attendance: any thoughts on raising the mileage reimbursement for volunteers? The 2023 Department convention is to be held at Jackpot Junction and Mike Maxa has asked if the Auxiliary is willing to pay $4,000 of the $8,600, they are requiring before they will commit.

Amotion was made by Jenny and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approving Cathy to research & find a new bank. Carried. All in favor.

A motion was made by Jill seconded by Jenny to approve moving the $2,000 donation from 2021-2022 year from the Glenville Unit for use with the new Veterans homes, to the 2022-2023 President’s Mary’s project which is the same. Carried. All in favor.

Discussion regarding the changing of the telephone hours in the office to 8:30 to4:00. A motion was made by Bev seconded by Jenny that the telephone hours change to 9 am to 4 pm. Carried. All in favor.

Break for lunch.

Meeting resumed at 1:00 pm.

Department Chairman – Program Plans

Public Relations – Brandi Christensen: The goal as Public Relations Chairman is to get units to increase and revamp their communication with members, future members, and community. “Who we are, What we do, Why we matter”.

No Solicitations.

Poppy – Linda Kelly: Poppies are an important part of the American Legion Auxiliary. Most units participate poppies every May and making them available to the public. I plan to incorporate this challenge as one of the two poppy contests that will be held at Fall Conference. Linda asked for funds to purchase poppies for her projects, permission to collect funds for the Presidents project via one of the poppy contests.

A motion made by Bev seconded by Jenny, All in favor. Carried.

Memorial – Donna Barbknecht: Donna will be requesting Pocket Prayer Squares. These are 3x3 or 4x4 crocheted, knitted or sewn pieces. Each prayer square has a note reading “Pocket Prayer Square You are loved and appreciated. As you carry this prayer square may you be reminded that you are never alone. We prayer for your protection and that God’s love gives you peace and bring you home safely.”

She also asks that she be notified when a unit member passes away so that a card can be sent to the family.

No Solicitation of funds.

Leadership – Pam Gades: Pam’s goal is to hold three Leadership workshops, two in-person and one zoom meeting. A focus will be to also work with the District President and Leadership chairmen to hold leadership classes throughout Minnesota.

No Solicitations of funds.

Girls State – Peggy Tesdahl (in place of Chairman Yolanda Dailey): After a successful, albeit smaller Girls State in 2022, the goal this year is to get our program back to full capacity in 2023. One way to do this would be for MN ALA Girls State a webpage of their own that can be a source of information, inspiration and guidance for our units, schools and Girls State Citizens and parents. Girls State wishes to take back the script program which is a way to continue soliciting funds. Girls State would like to continue to solicit funds for the support of the Girls State program over and above the registration fees.

A motion for the continued support funds for Girls State was made by Patti, seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried

A motion approving the Girls State Website and taking on the script program was made by Patti and seconded by Jill. All in favor. Carried.

Risk & Compliance Committee – Cari Lamb: The program formally named Audit. The purpose is Risk Aversion. The committee is responsible to review the external Audit of the Department Financial records and then present the audit to the DEC prior to making the information available to the membership.

No Solicitations of funds.

Americanism – Bethany Dickert – ABSENT

Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Kollett Kaehlert: Auxiliary Emergency Fund is a National Grant assistance program that provides temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Who have endured financial setbacks as the result of an act of nature or another crisis.

Kollett is requesting funds for the Silent Auction Grab bags and for $5 donations towards a wildlife quilt at the end of the silent auction.

Motion was made to allow the grab bags and $5 donations for the quilt by Sharon, seconded by July. All in favor. Carried.

Children & Youth – Karla Otterness: To promo the “Who I am program” a wonderful idea shared at the convention by Sharon Voltz. Hero awards, Good Deed Awards. Purple up thought at our appreciation rally, ask people to wear purple to promote on Facebook, website, newspaper.

A motion was made to solicit funds for Legionville by Judy, seconded by Jill. All in favor. Carried.

A motion was made to solicit funds for the Child Welfare Foundation by Tonia seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried.

A motion was made to solicit funds for the TFA by Zandra, seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried.

Community Service – Robin Dorf: “Volunteering is all about becoming the change you wish to see in the world.” This year’s focus is on “doing.” 9-11 National Day of Service, Make a Difference Day – there will be an event at Fall Conference. Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service and National Volunteer month – April.

No Solicitation of funds.

Junior Activities – Renee Suess: This year the Junior Activities program will be focusing on revitalizing, recruiting, and promoting the Junior program. There will be a monthly Junior Activities article sent to all units. They will be spotlighting each District junior program monthly. Also, District officers. Honorary Jr. President Sydney’s project funds were approved at the July 16th Post Convention meeting.

No Solicitation of funds.

Education – Tricia Pagel: This program includes scholarships, give 10 program, teacher appreciation & education weeks, veterans in the classrooms, military children and much more. Tricia is still working on new ideas for the year and will send them out as soon as she has them ready. On of which will work hand in hand with the veterans in the classrooms.

A motion was made to solicit funds for the Department Scholarship by Judy, seconded by Tonia. All if favor. Carried.

A motion was made to solicit funds for the Legacy Scholarship Fund by Jill, seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried.

History – Margee Keller: All I ask of each of you is to encourage your units and districts to strive for 100% participation. For local units and districts now is the time to get started and get organized. Utilize the resources from our unit guide and National Website. They are a handy tool.

No Solicitation of funds.

National Security – LuAnn Marschel: This program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families. Strong and safe homes and communities help us all to have peace of mind. This year I am asking Units to Adopt a Military family and/or serviceman. If we as members can do anything to make their journey easier, we must try. Include the junior members in all activities. Friday Sept 16th is POW/MIA Recognition Day, promote this day.

A motion was made by Wanda, seconded by Bev to solicit funds for the Armed Forces Servicemen’s Center. All in favor. Carried.

Constitution, Standing Rules & Bylaws – Carol Kottom: Again, this year Carol will be contacting the District Constitution & Standing Rules Chairmen in October/November and meeting as needed to review any issues that arise or are needed. Everyone has received a copy of the new governing documents, please take the time to become familiar with them.

No Solicitation of funds.

Finance – Cheryl Schauman: Our committee is responsible for putting together the budget for the Department. Being fiscally responsible for the funds in our organization and how they are used.

A motion for solicitation of funds for the American Legion Family Hospital Assn made by Judy, seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried

A motion for solicitation of funds for the ALA Foundation was made by Robin, seconded by Kim. All in favor. Carried.

A motion for the solicitation of funds for the Brain Science Foundation was made by Sharon, seconded by Zandra. All in favor. Carried.

Legislation – Judy Ackerman: The Legislative program of the American Legion Auxiliary provides information to our members so we can be advocates for the legislative agenda of the American Legion. As members stay informed, they are able to communicate with our legislative representatives on the local, state and national levels. We need to communicate that the veterans’ issues need to stay at the top of the priority list and not get buried under other legislative bills.

No Solicitation of funds.

Parliamentarian – Norma Tramm: Parliamentarian procedure – helpful hints. As a District President and member of the department executive board you have many responsibilities. How to conduct a meeting, how to make a motion, how to write minutes. Your Parliamentarian is as valuable prior to the meeting as she/he is during the meeting. You should consult your parliamentarian when preparing your script. Ask questions to obtain assistance as you through the year. We are still learning. NO ONE knows everything.

No Solicitation of funds.

Past President’s Parley – Jean Walker: Promote the Past President’s Parley Health Care Scholarships as Past President we are here to mentor, answer questions and help develop knowledgeable leadership with our units. We are here to help build a stronger future for our organization.

A motion to solicit funds for the Past President’s Healthcare Scholarship made by Jean, seconded by Cheryl. All in Favor. Carried.

VA & R – Sharon Thiemecke: The VA & R program promotes our mission to enhance the lives of our veterans, military, and their families. This is one of our largest programs that includes not only VA&R but also Service to Veterans, Gift Shop, and the hospital & home representatives. Be sure to send your donations to the department office and not to the facility. Our members have many opportunities to assist veterans in their communities thru various services and activities in their own homes.

A motion to solicit funds for the American Legion Hospital program made by Sharon, seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried.

A motion to solicit funds for the $5 Bill Shower was made by Sharon, seconded by Judy, All in favor. Carried.

A motion to solicit funds for the ALA Hospital program made by Sharon, seconded by Robin. All in favor. Carried.

A motion to solicit funds for the MN Creative Arts program by Sharon, seconded by Kim. All in favor. Carried.

A motion to solicit funds for the Minnesota Fisher Houses, made by Sharon, seconded by Wanda. All in favor. Carried.

Gift Shop – Suzette Maluchnik: Due to the pandemic the program has changed drastically in the past few years. After consulting with the VA&R Chairman Sharon and with input from President Mary, it has been decided to continue to provide merchant gift cards, account credits for the facility canteen where appropriate for veterans and their eligible family members. Hope to be flexible for those facilities that wish to have gifts. To allow to continue to fund a Christmas party at each facility.

A motion to solicit funds for the Gift Shop by Sharon, seconded by Zandra. All in favor. Carried.

A motion to accept the continued exception to Art 9, Section 20B 36 made by Jill, seconded by Tonia. All in favor. Carried.

Membership -Sandy Wersal - “Mighty Minnesota Membership” & Paul Bunyan are this year’s theme. We are asking that everyone wear plaid shirts for the rallies. Memberships chairmen will be earning badges(pins) as they go along. Discussed the rally dates & locations. 5-minute variety show will be held at Fall Conference. District Chairmen drew the theme earlier today and will share it with you.

MN Goal 28,957 and shoot for 100%, no get 100%. Focus on Juniors members and male members.

ALAMIS – 2 people per District?? Cathy will have to check this out. District membership will be set up next week.

Discussion on the dues increase that is on the agenda at the National convention. Past President Patti explained the increase to National of $6 and asked that people explain what they are hearing from their units & districts.

Discussion on the packets provided:

 President’s Invites

 22-23 Calendar

 District Officer’s list

 Mailing Lists

 Forms

 Q & A

Unfinished Business – December DEC Meeting will be in March either the 18th or the 25th, in St. Paul at the Department office.

Oct 12-17 will be the National President’s Homecoming. Evansville Indiana.

Membership odd-Sharon, even-Judy.

ALAMIS

Convention at Jackpot, DEC 12th

National President is coming May 1st.

Make sure to make sure that your District Chairmen position are filled.

New Business

Annual reports – Carol Kottom is creating a universal, fillable form that they can send in at any time.

Impact Reports from the Units, those will all be sent to the District Presidents to be completed and you will send your totals as a District, and you will send that into the Department office. Call or email to any units that you do not hear from.

Fall Conference discussion. Dec Mtg 1:00 p.m. Annual reports will be part of Thursday night. There will be two activities possibly a poppy painting and making a gnome. Will know more after the St Cloud visit.

Grand March will include the family. Friday night the 28th.

2nd portion of the President’s project, clothing for the St Cloud VA Clothing Room. Bring new clothing items per the list to Fall Conference. A motion was made and seconded to approve this action. All in favor. Motion carried.

Member handbook, there were issues and Norma fixed those, have the new books been printed?? Cathy will check on this. If the corrections were made, new copies need to be made.

Closing remarks by President Mary-Mary explained her project and thanked everyone for coming and learning everything that they could today. When traveling share your knowledge and also know your governing documents.

Closing Prayer – Sharon Thiemecke, 1st Vice President

Colors Recognized.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Radil

Interim Department Secretary.