**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Anoka American Legion Anoka, MN – Sunday, August 3, 2024**

**9:00 A.M.**

Judy Ackerman, Department President called the meeting to order at 9 am.

**Attendance:** Department President Judy Ackerman, 1st Vice President Robin Dorf, 2nd Vice President Linda Kelly, NEC Jean Walker, Dept Past President Sharon Cross, Parliamentarian Raleen Tolzman, Department Secretary Christie Avant, Department Treasurer Shannon Brown, 2nd Dist. President Kollett Kaehlert, 3rd Dist. President Tamara Thayer, 4th Dist. President Sandy Gibson, 5th Dist. President Cari Lamb, 6th Dist. President Dori Hamilton, 7th Dist. President Sandy Wersal, 8th Dist. President Tamara Martin, 9th Dist. President Donna Rae Jacobson, 10th Dist. President Bethany Dickert, and 28 Chairman and guests.

**Absent:** 1st Dist. President Michelle Weaver

**There was a continuous opening:**

**OPENING PRAYER** – Robin Dorf, First Vice President, **PLEDGE** – Linda Kelly, Second Vice President, **PREAMBLE** – Raleen Tolzman, Parliamentarian

Judy Ackerman, Department President - Welcomed the DEC and guests.

Judy Ackerman, Department President installed the following 2024-2025 Department Officers: Chaplain Vida Bacon, Historian Patti Coleman, Secretary Christie Avant, and Treasurer Shannon Brown

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 10, 2024 Pre-Convention DEC Meeting

Motion by Jean Walker to approve the minutes with the corrections noted. Motion was seconded and passed.

July 13, 2024 Post-Convention DEC Minutes

Motion by Kollett Kaehlert to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

**DEPARTMENT FINANCES**

Shannon Brown, Department Treasurer Reviewed Income & Expenses for fiscal year 2023-2024 – the report will be filed for Audit.

As of 7/31/2024 close of 2023-2024 fiscal year.

US Bank Balance $83,703.37

Wealth Management Balance $2,483,733.29

We had to take $75,000 drawn on our investments at the end of the fiscal year to help us cover our expenses until the new year’s membership starts to come in. Department staff recommends not reinvesting the $75,000 so we don’t accrue penalties. Shannon to investigate money markets for the $75,000 and present at Fall Conference.

Carl Moon, Department Commander and Legionville President brought greetings to the DEC. He looks forward to working with President Judy.

**DEPARTMENT OFFICE REPORT**

Christie Avant, Department Secretary, gave a short update on what the office is working on. She then went over the following items that were in the 10 District President’s folders.

DEC 101 – Roles & Responsibilities of the DEC Members Constitution – Standing Rules – ByLaws – Policies Booklets - Unit Mailings – Minnesota Legionnaire – External Communications – Facebook, Website, Zoom Meetings

Group took 10 minutes to fill out the 2024-2025 forms in their packets.

**Approval of the District Presidents’ Themes and Projects with approximate cost for 2024-2025.**

**1st District President – Michelle Weaver**

**Theme:** Empowering Children, Strengthening Families

**Symbol:**

**Project:** Child Welfare Foundation

**Goal: no amount submitted**

Motion was made by Tamara Martin to approve Michelle’s theme, symbol and project. The motion was second and passed.

**2nd District President – Kollett Kaehlert**

**Theme:** Serving those who served our country

**Symbol:** Helping Hands

**Project:** Memory bench at the Luverne Veteran’s Home

**Goal: $7,000**

Motion was made by Kollett to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $7,000. The motion was second and passed.

**3rd District President – Tamara Thayer**

**Theme:** Bringing smiles to Veterans

**Symbol:** Smiley Face

**Project:** 3 Free Dental Clinics for Veterans

**Goal $5,000**

Motion was made by Tamara T to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $5,000. The motion was second and passed.

**4th District President – Sandra Gibson**

**Theme:** Let Freedom Soar

**Symbol:** Eagle carrying American Flag

**Project:** Game night at Minneapolis VAMC, Supplies for the Fischer House and special meal for 1 building at the Mpls Veterans Home

Motion was made by Sandy to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $5,000. The motion was second and passed.

**5th District President – Cari Lamb**

**Theme:** Racing to Help Veterans

**Symbol:** Race Car

**Project:** **is not sure at this time**

**Goal: is not sure at this time**

There was no motion, Cari’s project and fundraising will need to be approved at Fall Conference.

**6th District President – Dori Hamilton**

**Theme:** Support our Military service members, past, present & future

**Symbol:** Poppy

**Project:** Funds for theatre seating at the Bemidji Veterans Home

**Goal: $10,000**

A person standing in front of flags

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Motion was made by Dori to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $6,000. The motion was second and passed.

**7th District President – Sandy Wersal**

**Theme:** Veterans have a special place in our hearts

**Symbol:** Poppy

**Project:** Montevideo Veteran’s Home

**Goal: $3,00**

A person standing in front of flags

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Motion was made by Sandy to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $3,000. The motion was second and passed.

**8th District President – Tamara Martin**

**Theme:** Bee Kind, Bee Friends, Bee the One

**Symbol:** Winnie the Pooh

**Project:** Funds for Silver Bay Veterans Home

**Goal: $1,000**

Motion was made by Tamara M to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $1,000. The motion was second and passed.

**9th District President – Donna Rae Jacobson**

**Theme:** Be a light for our veterans

**Symbol:** Flashlight

**Project:** Raising funds for the new National Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery in

Fargo, North Dakota and the Fergus Falls Veterans Home.

**Goal: $5,000**

Motion was made by Donna Rae to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $5,000. The motion was second and passed.

**10th District President – Bethany Dickert**

**Theme:** Lift Each Other Up

**Symbol:** Hot Air Balloon

**Project**: Magnus Mental Health fund

**Goal: $7,000**

Motion was made by Bethany to approve her theme, symbol, project and fundraising goal of $7,000. The motion was second and passed.

**Auxiliary Program Plans - Department Chairmen**

Department President Judy went over how the process works and that the Chairman should make the motion if they want to solicit funds.

# Americanism - Kollett Kaehlert

Kollett gave an overview of the 2024-2025 Americanism program. Promoting Flag etiquette in all Minnesota schools, encourage District Chairman to really promote the programs. No solicitation of funds.

# Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Brandi Christenson

# Brandi is planning to hold the AEF Silent Auction and Bake Sale at Fall Conference. She hopes to get 1-2 volunteers from each district.

A motion was made by Kollett Kaehlert to approve the solicitation of funds for the AEF program.

The motion was second and passed.

# Children & Youth - Anne Steffen

# Anne gave a short overview of the program for the year. Youth Crime Watch, National Family Partnership.

A motion was made by Sharon Cross to approve the solicitation of funds for Child Welfare

Foundation. The motion was second and passed.

A motion was made by Robin Dorf to approve the solicitation of funds for Legionville. The motion

was second and passed.

A motion was made by Robin Dorf to approve the solicitation of funds for The Temporary Financial Assistance, a Legion program. The motion was second and after a question passed.

SAL Detachment Commander, John Wiess brought greetings to the DEC. Brought greetings from PDP DeeDee Buckley as well.

# Community Service - Becky Olson

# Becky gave a short overview of the 2024-2025 Community Service program. What local units can do volunteer at food shelf. Send in articles to the chairman. No solicitation of funds.

# Constitution and Standing Rules - Marsha Bible

# Marsha gave a short overview of the 2024-2025 focus for Constitution and Standing Rules. Local units should ensure they have current and properly written governing documents. The 10 Districts should also review and make sure their documents are updated as well. No solicitation of funds.

# Education – Sharon Volz

Sharon presented an overview of the program. Would like to support the Veterans that want to go back to school. Encourage the Units to participate in the box top program. Challenge to all the Districts, the District and Even/Odds that donate the most to Give 10 will receive small gifts.

A motion was made by Kollett Kaehlert to approve the solicitation of funds for the Department scholarships. The motion was second and passed.

There was a long conversation regarding an easy program for 3rd grade students that Sharon would like to promote.

A motion was made by Cari Lamb to approve the solicitation of funds for the National scholarships. The motion was second and passed.

# Finance - Norma Tramm

Norma talked about what the finance committee is looking at. They met this morning and are trying to be very good with the Department money. Doubling up on meetings and holding ZOOM meetings.

Tamara Martin moved to approve the Poppy Contest prize money for Fall Conference. It was second and passed. (1st/$20, 2nd$15, 3rd/$10 times two contests)

Kollett Kaehlert moved to approve $300/person up to 3 people up to $900 for ALA Girls State Conference in Indy. It was second and passed.

Sharon Cross moved to approve the ongoing necessary Department operating expenses until the final budget is approved at Fall Conference. It was second and passed.

Tamara Martin moved to approve $400 per person up to 4 people (Dept Pres., NEC, Alt NEC, and National Chairman) for the National Presidents Homecoming to come out of the National Leadership Fund. It was second and passed.

Tamara Martin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the American Legion Family Hospital Association. The motion was second and passed.

Tamara Martin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Foundation. The motion was second and passed.

Tamara Martin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for Brain Science Foundation. The motion was second and passed.

# Girls State - Wanda Prescher

After a successful Girls State in 2024, the goal this year is to grow our program to 300 students and 3 counties. 2023. The committee proposes to raise the fee from $300 to $350. Some of the areas the committee is looking at is developing a new dress code, hold Zoom meetings for the District Chairman and staff and expand the script program.

A motion for the continued support funds for Girls State was made by Patti Coleman. The motion was second and passed.

Jean Walker moved to approve the increase of the Girls State fee to $350. The motion was second and passed.

Linda Kelly moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the Girls State program. The motion was second. There was a short discussion clarifying what would be solicitated. The motion passed.

# History - Patti Coleman

Patti is putting out 3 challenges to the Units. 1) Keep accurate records 2) Choose a Past Unit President to research and share what you found out 3) interview a current long-term member and record

No solicitations.

# Junior Activities - Jean Walker

Jean gave an overview of the 2024-2025 Junior Auxiliary program.

No solicitation of funds.

(Junior Project was approved in July.)

**Americanism – Kollet Kaehlert**

Promoting Flag etiquette in all Minnesota schools, encourage District Chairman to really promote the programs. No solicitation.

# Leadership - Carol Kottom

Carol’s goal this year is to hold 3-4 leadership classes this year. She would like to have one special guest speaker in each class. She has several ideas for the classes. She would like to include the Juniors as well. No solicitation.

# Legislation - Linda Kelly

# Linda gave a short overview of her program. She encouraged members to participate in the program and to encourage and help our Veterans to participate as well. No solicitation.

# Memorial - Vida Bacon

Vida encourages everyone to send your prayers, verse, and/or songs with her. She would like to create a Department Book of Prayers and Devotionals.

Linda Kelly moved for the approval for Vida to create and sell a Prayer Book. The motion was second and passed.

# National Security/Armed Forces Service Center - Mary Kuperus

The purpose of the program is to promote a strong National defense. One way is by supporting our military service members and their families. One way Minnesota does this is by supporting the Armed Forces Service Center.

A motion was made by Bethany Dickert to approve solicitation for the Armed Forces Services Center. The motion was second and passed.

Lunch Break –

20 minute break to grab lunch then we will have a working lunch

# Parliamentarian - Raleen Tolzmann

The meaning of Parliamentarian is someone who provides guidance to an organization to run smoothly and in an orderly manner. No solicitation.

# Past Presidents Parley - Shirley Frederick

# Shirley was absent. President Judy read her report.

Bethany Dickert moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the Past Presidents Parley Healthcare Scholarship. The motion was second and passed.

# Poppy - Lorinda Kies

Lorinda reviewed the Poppy program for 2024-2025. Setting up Poppy making classes in the Department. Work on increasing the number of Veterans making Poppies.

Robin Dorf moved to approve to solicit funds for People’s Choice Contest at Fall Conference and Department Convention to go to the Department President’s Project. The motion was second and passed.

Sharon Cross moved to allow other people to be Poppy Makers other than our Veterans. The motion was second and passed.

Kollett Kaehlert moved that we continue to allow the Units to purchase Poppy kits for $250 to make and keep and no postage to be covered by the office. The motion was second and passed.

# Public Relations - Cari Lamb

Cari would like everyone to focus on Branding. Please, send Cari pictures and articles.

No solicitations.

# Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation/Service To Veterans - Robin Dorf

* Continue to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families
* Promote Auxiliary members to become VA voluntary service (VAVS) volunteers at VA Healthcare
* Promote Units and Districts to volunteer
* St Cloud VAHCS Creative Arts Festival Sept 9th-12th
* Educate Members

Robin moved for the approval to solicit funds for the American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Program. The motion was second and passed.

Robin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the $5 Bill gift shower. The motion was second and passed.

Robin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the VA&R Overall Program. The motion was second and passed.

Robin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the Minnesota Fisher Houses. The motion was second and passed.

Robin moved to approve the solicitation of funds for a silent auction to be held at the Department Convention to raise funds for the VA&R program. The motion was second and passed.

# Gift Shop - Sandy Wersal

# Sandy gave a short overview of the program.

Sandy Gibson moved to approve the solicitation of funds for the Gift Shop program. The motion was second and passed.

President Judy went over the Department President visit form and a few dates that she is not available.

She also reviewed the calendar. She reminded the District Presidents to send in their District Officers list.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing to note

NEW BUSINESS

Units having problems - How can Districts help?

President went by District and went over missing officers list. Asked the District Presidents to check with the Units.

Ad Hoc Committee update –Lawyer working on contract. Will have update at Fall Conference. Patti Coleman suggested adding Peggy Tesdahl to the committee.

President Judy went over the chairman expectations for Fall Conference.

No Grand March, we will have a challenge making Poppies.

National President will be here at our DEC meeting and speaking Thursday night.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM - Hope Wilson, Department Membership Chairman

**Member-opoly - “Finding Members in Everyday Places”**

Hope went over the new goals for 2024-2025. The Department Membership Team met with Hope this morning.

President Judy introduced the Department Merit Initiative that National President Trish is promoting. She briefly discussed the key elements and what the Department can receive.

Discussion on Units struggling with 990 issues. About 25% of our Units are out of compliance. The District Presidents have the list.

Volunteers that will help Unit:

Jill Davis

Kollett Kaehlert

Sharon Cross

Shannon Brown

Jen Stolz

Tamara Martin

Closing remarks by President Judy and thanked everyone for coming and learning everything that they could today.

Closing Prayer – Robin Dorf, 1st Vice President

Colors Recognized.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christie Avant

Department Executive Secretary