**DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, October 24, 2024, 12:30 PM**

**Rivers Edge Convention Center, Bell Room**

**Minutes**

Judy Ackerman, Department President called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

**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, 1st Dist. President Michelle Weaver, Kaehlert, 2nd District Parliamentarian Vida, Bacon, 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 21 Chairman and guests.

**Absent:** Department Treasurer Shannon Brown, 2nd Dist. President Kollett

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.

**District Presidents reports:**

**8th District President Tamara Martin:**

Had a Fall Meeting this year. Concentrating on “Back to the Basics” this year. December 19th the Department will be presenting the charter for the new Unit.

**7th District President Sandy Wersal:**

Have visited a couple of Units. Will be on the radio for Veterans Day.

**1st District President Michelle Weaver:**

1st District recently had their Fall meeting. Encouraging Units to reach out to members that have not been to a meeting for a while.

**3rd District President Tamara Thayer:**

Just had the 3rd District Fall Family gathering. 1st dental clinic is November 11.

**2nd District President Kollett Kaehlert:**

Vida Bacon sitting in for Kollett. Kollet has a broken wrist.

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

Has visited several places so far. Went to Post 21 for a VA program.

**5th District President Cari Lamb:**

Had first District meeting last month. Attended two breakfasts so far.

**6th District President Dori Hamilton:**

Went to Junior Fun Weekend. Had first district executive committee meeting. Helped with District fish fry at Legionville. Has went to several Units already.

**10th District President Bethany Dickert:**

Held District DEC meeting, went to 1st National Convention, took family to Legionville, had a Junior Fall Fun Day, attended 10th District Membership Dinner.

**4th District President Sandy Gibson:**

Just had District meeting. Really would like to build the district. Played BINGO at MPLS VA for the 1st time in 4 years.

**2nd VP President Linda Kelly:**

Went to the National Convention and to the National President’s Homecoming. Started to attend the Commander’s Task Force. Linda is also the 3rd District Poppy chairman.

**1st VP President Robin Dorf:**

Went to the National Convention, went to Legionville, held the HHR Annual Meeting, the National President’s Homecoming, went to 8th District for their fall meeting and participated in the Fall Ruck.

**Immediate Past Dept. President Sharon Cross:**

Went to the National Convention, life is much quieter

**NEC Jean Walker:**

Went to the National President’s Homecoming, enjoyed traveling with the others. Went to NEC meeting after national convention. National appointments were approved. She also found out that at National young SAL members can join in the Mission Trainings.

**Parliamentarian Raleen Tolzmann:**

Went to National President’s Homecoming

**Department Executive Secretary Christie Avant:**

Attended the HHR Meeting, really enjoyed the meeting and learned a lot.

**Department President Judy Ackerman:**

Judy shared several of the events/meetings that she has attended. Great year so far.

**National President:**

Judy extended a welcome to our special guest Trish Ward, 2024-2025 National President from the Department of Kansas.

National President Trish addressed the group. She only said a few words because she will be addressing the Department this evening. She introduced all the individuals that hold National appointments. One of her focuses will be to stop the slide. She looks forward to introducing the Department of Excellence Initiative. Trish showed the Challenge Cards. This is a great way to help members learn about the programs. They will be available for all members to purchase.

**Unfinished Business**

**5th District President Cari Lamb project approval -**

Cari moved to approve her project and fundraising goal of $1,500 for TVs for the MPLS VA Home. The motion was second and passed.

**New Business**

No minutes or investment report. The investment report will be sent out.

**Office Report – Christie Avant**

Office is busy every day. The team is really trying to learn and grow to meet the Department’s needs.

**Finance Report** - **Norma Tramm, Chairman**

Norma Tramm addressed the group. Copies of the budget had been handed out. Norma asked if there were any questions. The DEC reviewed what had been handed out. There were a few clarifying questions.

Norma introduced the members of the Finance Committee: Mary Hendrickson, Cavalene Regan, Tonia Betterman and Jill Davis

Bethany Dickert moved to approve the budget as presented. The motion was second and passed.

**Announcements – Christie Avant, Department Executive Secretary**

Registration is in the lobby until 6:30 pm tonight.

The National President’s presentation is at 6:30 pm in our general session meeting room in the

convention center.

Breakfast and lunch – will be served by the pool and in the convention center area by the

**Department Office**

Christie went over how the DEC would draw for names for the March gift exchange. A list will

be kept in the office in case anyone forgets who they picked.

Christie went over the AEF silent auction hours.

**Girls State Committee Solicitation Request** **- President, Judy Ackerman**

President Judy explained the proposed quilt raffle and MN Girls State All Stars.

PDP Sharon moved to approve the request to hold a raffle for a quilt. The motion was second and passed.

After a short discussion and clarifying questions, Robin brought up the fact that the MN Girls State All Stars fundraiser would fall under the solicitation motion that was passed at the Fall Workshop. The DEC had a recommendation that the form be changed slightly. President Judy will talk with Wanda.

**Report on the Department President’s Project - President Judy Ackerman**

Has sent out over 30 thank yous. Her car is full of donations for the Friday night project.

**Annual Report Process – President, Judy Ackerman**

The annual report process will be the same as last year. Please encourage the units to fill out the program reports and submit them to the District and Department Chairmen. These reports can be emailed to the chairman. Encourage the Narrative reports so we know what the units are doing. Submit pictures so the Department Chairman will have something to put on the big screen at Department Convention.

There will also be guidelines given to the Department Chairman for the President’s Excellence Award.

**New Unit possibilities/Charter concerns -**

District 1: St. Charles – no response all PUFL members

Ostrander – this was the first time on the list, Michelle will follow up

District 2: No concerns for 2nd District

District 3: Lester Prairie disbanding – need paperwork

District 4: Units 451 & 606 are disbanding

District 5: No concerns currently.

District 6: St. Cloud would like to disband. Working on paperwork.

Wadena & Akeley are not responding to calls.

Dori & Sharon will work together on contacting the Units.

District 7: Wheaton, only one officer. She has been the only officer for the last 4 years.

Balaton, only one officer.

Elbow Lake working with Hope.

District 8: No concerns currently.

District 9: Pelican Rapids, Donna Rae & Denise Milton spoke with 2 members and they will be disbanding.

Halstad, not sure what they are doing, they change their mind.

Fertile, will check with the Unit President.

Mahnomen is disbanding.

District 10: Stacy, one officer.

Champlain in the disbanding process. Waiting for a bank statement.

Sandy Wersal moved to approve the disbanding of Unit 175 Villard. The motion was second and passed.

Tamara Martin moved to approve the disbanding of Unit 306 Vesta. The motion was second and passed.

Sandy Gibson moved to approve the disbanding of Unit 451 St Paul, Lester T Ternlund and Unit 606 St Paul, Attucks Brooks. The motion was second and passed.

President Judy thanked everyone for coming and participating.

Sharon Cross moved to set the limit to our Spring gift exchange to $20.00. The motion was second and passed.

Closing Prayer – Robin Dorf, 1st Vice President

Colors Recognized.

Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Christie Avant**

**Department Executive Secretary**