

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY**

Minutes of the Department Executive Committee Meeting

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey, Department Executive Committee meeting was held on **Saturday; June 10, 2023** at Wildwood Post 184, Wildwood, NJ

The meeting was opened by President **Sharon Knight**.

Color Guard presented the Colors

Department Chaplain: Lisa Mayer offered prayer

Americanism Chairman: Linda Oleszek led the Pledge of Allegiance

Soloist: Marianne Dispoto led the National Anthem

POW/MIA Chairman: Geraldine Fisher read the POW/MIA resolution and draped the POW chair

Governing Docs Chairman: The preamble was recited in unison, led by **Debbie Noble**

Color Guard is excused

Greetings: Greetings were extended by NEC Maggie McMahon, from the National Organization and a speedy meeting. Past President Parley Chairman Jane Babli extended greetings for a productive, speedy meeting and a successful year. Hospitality Chairman Dori Miller welcomed everyone and wished a speedy meeting, no phones please and Department 1st Vice President Charline Gladden wished a speedy & productive meeting and a great year.

Roll call was taken by Department Secretary Dawn Burger and noted in the attendance records. 8 Department officers were present. 16 County Presidents or representatives were present and 18 Past Department Presidents present.

Ratification of Officers:

Department Secretary: Dawn Burger given oath of office by Caroline Koveleski

Department Treasurer: Debbie Noble given oath of office by Laurel Matthews

President Sharon excused guests that came to see installation

President Sharon asked that all phones be shut off, we will start enforcing the penalty.

Minutes: were emailed. Discussion: hearing none, Motion carried. (1st Charline Gladden & 2nd Dori Miller)

President Sharon asked that in the future when 2nd a motion, that you state your name for the minutes

Treasurer's Report: was emailed. Motion to accept & report will be placed on file for audit.

Directory: President Sharon presented her committees, there are a few open committees that she would like to fill today.

Audit Committee: Lisa Natale, Annette McColley, Terry Chase & Roberta Francis

Discussion: Treasurer Debbie gave a description of what the Audit Committee duties are and consist of. If you are on Finance & Personnel, you cannot be on the Audit Committee. Debbie explained that there is an existing member on Audit with 1 years' experience, Lisa Natale would move up to Chairman. County Presidents cannot be on the committee either, as they are a voting member of the DEC.

Special Olympics: Marianne Dispoto

Elsie Bailey Grant: Alice Lewis-Early

National Presidents Scholarship: Pam Jengo

Liaison from Audit Committee to Finance: Lisa Natale

Membership Central District: Laraine Abaray

Parliamentary Advisory: Vice Chairman: Ruby Cramer

Woman Veteran of the Year: Kat Parent

Personnel: 1 year Member: Colleen Breen-Lopez

Personnel Sub Committee/Office Facilities: Maggie McMahon & Colleen Breen-Lopez

Discussion: PDP Debbie Noble: does not feel that the committee should consist of the 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents. Most were in agreeance.

Resolutions: Member: Laurel Matthews

Ways & Means Table: Vice Chairman: Maggie McMahon

President Sharon announced that all flyers need to be approved before going to Debe to Post on the website.

Color Guard: Alternate: Debbie Sewell, Alice Lewis Early, Linda Oleszek, Geraldine Fisher

Department Officers Guidance Committee: Vice Chairman: Laurel Matthews (PDP must be 5 years out)

President Sharon announced dress code and will include it in the final draft

Special Committees:

National Presidents Visit: 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Department Officers, County Presidents and NEC (Maggie McMahon)

Department Convention Committee: Vice Chairman: Maggie McMahon, Laurel Matthews, member: Doreen Gallagher & Cape May County President

Chaplain: Wreaths Across America: Lisa Mayer

Ratification of committees: 1st Debbie Noble & 2nd Ruby Cramer

Treasurer Debbie asked that unless it is a committee that is in the current book, please ask your units not to make a donation. Some committees were designed to be a 1-year committee.

Linda Carroll asked if everyone has signed the confidentiality agreement, if you have not; please see Linda before we distribute the budget.

Finance: Leila Newell presented the budget: Leila made Motion & 2nd by Jane Babli (Original Motion rescinded) Discussion:

MC Fetherman made a Motion to increase the Membership Budget to \$500.00 2nd by Debbie Noble

Laurel made a motion to removed Police, Fire & EMT awards from budget, 2nd by June McGregor

Debbie Noble: PPP awards to be removed from list of membership awards in budget, 2nd by Maggie McMahon

Maggie asked to have the increase in the budget explained for the convention/hotel expenses. Debbie Noble stated that the American Legion usually reimburses us for the President & Secretary hotel rooms, but we must budget that in case the Legion does not cover it.

Debbie Noble: Poppy program discussion: Poppy kits price has increased, but we are not making a lot of money from the Poppy Program, (\$700.00 was made this year) how will we cover the cost of the increase for the Poppy makers? Rae Ann anticipates (125,000) that we will make more Poppies next year. Last year we increased our Poppy price from \$130.00 to \$150.00, this year we are increasing the cost to \$160.00. Debbie stated that our trend has been decreasing for 10 years even pre-COVID. What is the trend based on, in support of the increase? We have less units and less people distributing Poppies. Unit 262 Camden County: Can we sell them to other Departments, as on the National Poppy Facebook page they ask if any Departments can spare Poppies for other Departments to purchase. Linda Oleszek agrees that we should give our Poppy makers an increase, and agrees that the numbers have changed since her time as chairman. If we have extras to advertise them for out of state sales. Debbie made a Motion if we are going to sell Poppies to other Departments (out of state) at \$180.00 per 1,000 plus postage. 2nd by Linda Carroll. Penny Kraus made a motion to move question 2nd by Lisa Natale

Debbie Noble: Unit member of the Year; Made a motion that in addition to paying for the room in National, we give \$50.00 Gift card as well. Motion 2nd by Lisa Natale.

Debbie Noble: Madam Chairman under Salaries: raise that to \$2,500.00 based on you May 31st Treasurers report, you will be short. Debbie Noble asked President Sharon to please have Madam Secretary step out of the room for discussion.

Doreen Gallagher: proposes to give the Convention Chairman \$250.00, currently she does not receive funds for all that she does. Doreen made a motion for \$250.00 for Convention Expenses for the Convention Chairman. 2nd by Rae Ann Wallace

Motion to accept the Budget with additional changes by Debbie Noble 2nd by Lisa Natale

Unfinished Business: hearing none

Announcements/Correspondence: Colleen Breen-Lopez: announced that Maryann Lathrop's home caught on fire while getting her roof fixed. Please keep her in our thoughts and prayers. We will send out a distribution email with Maryann's contact info. **Jane Babli:** July 30th at Veterans Haven South BBQ will now include the Auxiliary name. **President Sharon** explained that the Legion is pushing to start using the hash tags and it is on her pens as well. #bekindalanj. Please share what you are doing and use the hash tags. **Lisa Natale:** request that you cc her your Historian reports, to add to the book. **Ella Patterson:** we cannot use the poppy tags that have dates on them, unit 336 has some if you need them. **Caroline Koveleski:** Department officers we were supposed to meet after this meeting, but we will have a zoom meeting. **Laurel Matthews:** Bulletins might want to be emailed on a certain day then whenever it is sent via email. President Sharon said we will pick a day of the week to send correspondences, Dawn & I will work on that.

CMN: Supplemental report: Donna "Pumpkin" Godfrey reported that she has collected \$1,916.00 to date. She spoke with Jill Butterfield and they will be scheduling us for a tour of Mountainside and we can present them with the funds. We have donations for 2 years of Presidents.

Ella Patterson paid \$5.00 for the phone going off, and a 2nd Lynda Stadler paid as well.

Bills for Payment: Debbie Noble none reported.

New Business:

Membership: Ellie Zaleski: County Presidents, please give us your pledge number of paid by September 11th. All officers should be paid by that date. **MC Fetherman** announced that Unit 198 turns in their Charter with regrets. Accepted with regrets. **Ruby Cramer:** Juniors chairman is excited to work with Shannon and the Juniors

PDP Colleen: Parade line up is 12:15pm step off is 1pm.

President Sharon will put dress code in the directory for the DEC meetings.

Closing Prayer: was offered by Lisa Mayer Acting Chaplain

Closing Obligation: was read by Charline Gladden 1st Vice President

The POW/MIA chair cover was retrieved

Colors retired

President Sharon Knight declared the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Dawn Burger

Dawn Burger
Department Secretary