

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY CONVENTION JUNE 2023 MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY JUNE 9TH 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CONVENTION CHAIR PDP MARY LANPHERE @ 9AM

INTRODUCTION OF PDPs BY CONVENTION CHAIR

INTRODUCTION OF DEPT OF NEW YORK PRESIDENT SUSAN GARDNER

INVOCATION GIVEN BY DEPT CHAPLAIN MARY GILBERT

PRESENTATION OF COLORS LED BY SGT AT ARMS VIKKI KEECH

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY SGT AT ARMS

PREAMBLE RECITED BY 1ST VP LINDA "CHICKIE" GEORGE

CODE OF ETHICS GIVEN BY PDP LAURA BUGAJ

AIMS AND PURPOSES READ BY 2ND VP DEBI FEARY

DEFINITION OF AMERICANISM READ BY AMERICANISM OFFICER MARY LOU LAPOINT

ROLL CALL

OFFICERS; ALL OFFICERS PRESENT WITH EXCEPTION OF PDP ROSALEE WAID (EXCUSED), VAVS BATH PDP CANDACE CLEMENS (EXCUSED), VAVS BATAVIA JESSICA WINSTEL (EXCUSED)

LOCAL AUXILIARIES; PRESENT: 4,8,14,18,72,245,262,265,282,726,897,1174,1997

1ST TIME ATTENDEES

PAM MARCINEK AUX #14, SANDRA BOLGO AUX #897, ANGIE FOSTER AUX #265, KIBA BENTLEY AUX#1997, KIMBERELY LAUBER AUX #897

CONVENTION RULES READ BY PDP LAURA BUGAJ

CREDENTIALS REPORT GIVEN BY 1ST VP LINDA GEORGE

APPT OF TIMEKEEPER BY PRESIDENT SUSAN GARDNER BETH PARKER

APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE BARABARA CHAPMAN, AND DEBI FEARY

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS AT 11AM

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT- thank you to all auxiliaries for their hard work this year. Thank you to those who came to my testimonial dinner. Most of all, thank you for your support to my Project.

1ST VP- Linda George...Thank you for your support this year and doing a wonderful job with membership.

2ND VP- Debi Feary... It was rewarding to see all the wonderful projects done for Child Welfare. 11,306 volunteer hours, 82 projects, total evaluation was 254,435.00. We also had 4 auxiliaries that had 24 Youth volunteers for an

evaluation of 2,623.00. GREAT JOB. Thank you to those who served on my Child Welfare committee, and those Auxiliaries that applied for my Chairmans Award. Im happy to report that we did have a few children that participated in the AADAA contest. I will be meeting with the Dept Drug & Alcohol Abuse Chairman this weekend and we will have the entries signed and sent to National.

3rdVP- Janell Ashman... Community Service holds a special place in AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary as we continue to volunteer and strengthen our Local and Global communities. We had 16 Auxiliaries report for a total of 278 projects, 240 volunteers donated 9,712 hours, for a total Dept evaluation of 368,514.00. 5 Auxiliares reported 36 youth volunteers for an evaluation of 9,202.00. I am honored to serve as your 3rd VP this year. I am amazed by the creative and effective projects that Local Auxiliaries conducted to benefit the Community. Many fundraisers hel to benefit PAWS WITH A CAUSE, out National Service Project. Auxiliries cleaned up parks, and highways, donated clothing and household items, delivered Meals On Wheels, food drives, blood drives, donated to local fire departments. I would also lie to thank the AMVETS family for donations this year benefitting the Broome County Council of Churches CHOW Program. With your support, 2,500.00 in monetary donations and over 600.00 in food was collected at out Spring SEC.

SECRETARY/ CONVENTION CHAIR- PDP Mary Lanphere. A reminder to please remove any campaign posters after the election. Any issues concerning the hotel, please contact me.

As a reminder, all donations to Dept or National are to be sent to me for processing. Also, memberships new or renewals are also sent to me for processing. Any memberships sent after June will not be processed until Sept. Any questions, please contact me.

FINANCIAL REPORT- PDP Shirley Sochia. In house audit will be done in the Fall. We are in the process of changing banks. COPY OF FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 1,2023-JUNE 1, 2023 HANDED OUT TO MEMBERSHIP. Total Funds 79,409.43, Total Unrestricted 65,864.42, Spendable in checking 58,299.43. Restricted 13,545.23 M&T Money Market 7,564.77

Motion by PDP Laura Bugaj to submit 3 full page color ads to the National Convention Book. 2nd by Ashley Kubiak, M/C. This is in support of our three National candidates.

Motion by Janell Ashman to donate 200.00 to each National Program with exception of the National President's Program (donation was given to National President's Project at SEC) 2nd by PDP Deborah Stondell. M/C

NEC- PDP Donna Smith. The reports by the Auxiliaries reflect their dedication and hard work. Evaluations for Community Service was 365.514. Child Welfare 254.435. Hospital 132,887.00. Scholarship 25,531.00. Americanism 398.480.00. Look at the National Honors and Awards packets and apply for awards that are available. The packet is also available on the National website. I have received letters from the Dept of Michigan asking for our support for Allison Aldrich for National Scholarship Officer, and the Dept of Kentucky for our support for Theresa Adkins for Scholarship. The Dept of Maryland is asking our support for Donna Tolland for Hospital Chairman. We have 3 candidates from New York running for National Offices. Mary Lanphere for National 2nd VP, Laura Bugaj for National 3rd VP, and Shirley Sochia for National Chaplain. Thanks to all the 2022-23 Officers for your service and dedication, and to all incoming Officers for the coming year.

HOSPITAL- PDP Deborah Stondell. Thank you Madam President for the opportunity to serve as your Hospital Officer. 14 Auxiliaries reported. 5185 hours reported, for a total evaluation of 132,887.00. Please check your numbers when doing service reports. Thank you to my committee members, Barbara Chapman, Donna Smith, Michelle Hayes, Penny Wickwire.

VAVS- Northport Josephine Pearl. I have been in contact with the Volunteer Service Specialist for VAMC Northport. We discussed the current situation and the available options for volunteering. In May 2023 the President announced that COVID is no longer a National emergency. The CDCE (The Center For Development and

Civic engagement) has not received any additional guidance regarding group visits by organizations to the facility. Expectations are that additional information will be available at our next Voluntary Service Committee Meeting. Until then, the facility remains closed to "occasionally" volunteer visits. Northport will continue to accept donations and process regularly scheduled volunteer applications. Frank Marcinek, AMVETS VAVS Rep Northport is busy planning outdoor activities. March 30, 2023 I attended a Zoom Committee Meeting. It highlighted changes to the availability of health care benefits, extension of time to file or re-file a claim, and changes to the income limitation. Recent changes include: The PACT Act- changes to health care for Veterans with toxic exposures to Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post 9-11 era. COMPACT Act- emergency suicide crisis care. The Celand Dole Act- for WWII Veterans. We have made 2 trips to this facility with donations of letters, cards, music, and clothing for our female Veterans, personal hygiene and grooming items.

VAVS BATH PDP Candace Clemens. It is my pleasure to announce our new VAVS Rep for Northport Josephine Pearl. She has been a deputy in the past. Thank you for your service to the Northport Veterans. We are still in the need of a VAVS Rep and Deputy for the VAMC Buffalo. Please contact me if you need more information or interest. Congratulations to our VAVS Rep Jessica Winstel who recently gave birth to their baby boy, Leo. Welcome to the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary family. Thank you to president Sue Gardner and our slate of Officers for a good year. Due to the continued protections in place for Veterans, staff, volunteers and visitors, we are still not having VAVS meetings. 3 volunteer luncheons were held in April to recognize work of our volunteers. I attended one in Hornell NY. In the CLC (Community Living Center), the VA has continued to have their usual activities such as bingo, trivia, reminisce groups, music therapy, and bowling. Unfortunately these have been held without our regular volunteers. The neighborhoods were decorated in colorful memorial Day decorations, thanks to the nursing staff. Restorative nursing did flower arrangements with the residents. In the domiciliary, they have continued to offer groups of classes from art to yoga. The greenhouse, fishing, and the bike program continue to be popular with the Veterans. The Bath VA also held their VA-wide VA2K walk. This helps raise awareness and gathers donations to help with the struggle of Veteran homelessness. Collections of self care items, non-perishable goods and clothing were donated. Tuesday, May 9th, I participated in a Zoom meeting and training through the Bath VA called OPERATION S.A.V.E. VA S.A.V.E. will help you to act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in suicidal crisis. S.A.V.E. stands for Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized....Ask the most important question-are you thinking about suicide. Validate the Veterans experience...Encourage treatment and encourage help. Presently, I am waiting on info concerning a project called "Pen Pals With A Purpose" providing weekly written correspondences to Veterans. The Bath VA hopes to be calling back volunteers for assignments who have patiently waiting and/or indicated an interest. Right now the VA has a need for DAV drivers and Red Coat Ambassadors and patient escorts for the hospital.

AMERICANISM- Mary Lou LaPoint. Thank you to three Auxiliaries who sent Service zReports. 14 were turned in. We also had 7 Auxiliaries who had a total of 62 youth volunteers. It was wonderful seeing this. Thank you to my committee that helped judge my awards. I received several Americanism Flag, Poster and Essay entries. Thank you to AMVETS Americanism Officer John Turner for doing the judging. Thank you to mentors Donna Smith and Laurs Bugaj for encouraging me to be Americanism Officer for 1022-23. I appreciate the opportunity. Total donations to Freedom Foundation was 1391.00, with the largest donation coming from Aux #14 of 481.00.

SGT AT ARMS- Vikki Keech. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Sgt at Arms. Thank you to Ashley, Chrissy, Dawn, Donna, and Brenda for your help setting up the rooms, doing the 50-50, and this week, being my pages, flag bears, and escorts. Please remember to wear the appropriate uniform according to the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary dress code. And most all, when you pass by an American flag, remember to pay respect, stop and salute.

PRO/HISTORIAN- Valerie Harrington. Thank you to everyone that supported my effort to make our President, Susan Gardner's scrapbook, memorable one. The history of this past year has been captured and finishing touches are yet to be done. I hope everyone had fun making your own scrapbook for your auxiliaries. It is a wonderful project to show future Auxiliary members what was accomplished that year.

SATURDAY JUNE 10TH 2023

9AM- CONVENTION RECONVENES

Meeting Called to order by President Susan Gardner

Invocation given by Chaplain Mary Gilbert

Pledge of Allegiance led by Sgt at Arms Vikki Keech

1st Time Attendees: Christine Richards Aux 265, Kida Bentley Aux 1997, Deb Relyea Aux 2000

Visit by PDC Dave Feary from the Service Foundation. Thanked Auxiliaries for all their work. Presented a check to the Ladies Aux of 5,000.00.

Roll Call of Officers by PDP Mary Lanphere. All present with exception of Parliamentarian PDP Rosalee Waid (excused) VAVS Bath PDP Candace Clemens (excused) VAVS Batavia Jessica Winstel (excused)

Roll Call of Auxiliaries- Present. Auxs 1,4,8,14,18,72,245,262,265,282,726,897,1174,1887,2000

Credentialing Report given by 1st VP Linda "Chickie" George.

Motion made by PDP Laura Bugaj that elections be moved up to 930am. 2nd by PDP Mary Lanphere. M/C

Seating of Delegates by Linda George and Sgt at Arms

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS/CAUCUS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS- President- Linda "Chickie" George..... 1st VP Debi Feary..... 2nd VP Janell Ashman.... 3rdVP Vikki Keech.... Treasurer Shirley Sochia.... Sgt at Arms Josephine Pearl.... Chaplain/Scholarship Mary Gilbert..... NEC PDP Donna Smith (this is the 2nd yr of a 2 yr term)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS We no longer support the Amerasian Child. It was looked into to see if there was another cause to donate the annual donation of 350.00. **Motion made by Janell Ashman to donate to "FOLDS OF HONOR" A Non For Profit that provides educational Scholarships to children and spouses of fallen or disabled American military service members and first responders. 2nd made by PDP Donna Smith. M/C**

Maria Pelletier gave report on basket raffle. 19 baskets donated. 1,020.00 made from raffle

Ashley Kubiak gave report on the hat raffle. Winner to be announced at President's luncheon.

PDP Laura Bugaj reports 2nd flash raffle made 160.00.

PDP Deborah Stondell reports she has received several handmade blankets to be donated to St Jude.

NEW BUSINESS PDP Shirley Sochia made motion to pay bills, 2nd by PDP Deborah Stondell. M/C

Motion by PDP Shirley Sochia to pay AMVETS 200.00 for Covention pins. 2nd by Valerie Harrington. M/C

Motion by PDP Mary Lanphere to donate 250.00 towards the AMVETS hospitality room, 2nd by Ashley Kubiak. M/C

PDP Shirley Sochia reports that previous money donated by Service Foundation for AMERICANISM be kept in a restricted account by Auxiliary for future Americanism projects. This was suggested by PDC Dave Feary. The amount is 2400.00. **Motion made by PDP Laura Bugaj that 2,000.00 be donated to Freedoms Foundation to send additional students to the Youth Conference. 2nd by Debi Feary.** During discussion, it was asked if this would be for youth in New York only. Laura stated it could be used for any youth from any state. **Vote taken, motion denied.**

Motion by PDP Donna Smith that anyone going to National Convention, and voting, will have their registration paid for. 2nd by PDP Mary Lanphere. M/C. Treasurer requests that receipt of registration be provided for reimbursement.

It was suggested for National Convention that New York delegation wear their black shirts on t-shirt day, and the blue ones for leisure. Sons of AMVETS have red shirts that can be purchased for 25.00. See Rich Beaulieu PDC.

Motion made by PDP Cindy Queyor that Linda "Chickie" George be Dept delegate for National Convention, 2nd by Donna Smith. M/C

Motion by PDP Deborah Stondell to remove from Standing Rule, the requirement that all Local Auxiliaries attend bi-annual training. 2nd by Valerie Harrington. After discussion **motion made by PDP Shirley Sochia that this be tabled, 2nd by PDP Donna Smith. M/C**

Motion by PDP Shirley Sochia that we have 2 flash raffles at Fall SEC, 2nd by Vikki Keech. M/C PDP Laura Bugaj will chair.

Benediction by Dept Chaplain

Retirement of Colors by Sgt at Arms

10:38 am **Motion to close meeting by PDP Donna Smith, 2nd by PDP Deborah Stondell. M/C**

50/50 210.00 total winner 105.00 _____ 105.00 Dept

2023-24 OFFICERS LIST

PRESIDENT	LINDA "CHICKIE" GEORGE	1 ST VP	DEBI FEARY
2 ND VP	JANELL ASHMAN	3 RD VP	VIKKI KEECH
TREASURER	SHIRLEY SOCHIA PDP	SECRETARY	MARY LANPHERE PDP
SGT AT ARMS	JOSEPHINE PEARL	PRO/HISTORIAN	DAWN FLAVIN
CHAPLAIN	MARY GILBERT	PARLIAMENTARIAN	LAURA BUGAJ PDP
AMERICANISM	ROSALEE WAID PDP	HOSPITAL	MICHELLE HAYES
NEC	DONNA SMITH PDP	CONV CHAIR	MARY LANPHERE PDP
VAVS BATH	CANDACE CLEMENS PDP	VAVS BATAVIA	JESSICA WINSTEL
VAVS NORTHPORT	JOSEPHINE PEARL		

MINUTES OF MEETING TO BE APPROVED AT FALL S.E.C.

Respectfully, *Mary A Lanphere PDP/ Sec*

