

**AMVETS LADIES' AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
MINUTES-OCTOBER SEC 2023**

Friday October 27th, 2023-First Business Session

Call to Order by Madam President Patty Piening at 8:15 p.m.

Invocation by Chaplain Faye Caldwell

Presentation of Colors by Sgt. at Arms Claudia Thompson

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. at Arms Claudia Thompson

Preamble by 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright

Aims & Purposes by 2nd Vice President Sharon Sheldon

Code of Ethics by 3rd Vice President Wendy Luzader

Definition of Americanism by Americanism Officer Toni Plemmons

Madam President, Patty Piening welcomed everyone to October 2023 SEC. and nice to see everyone here. Her Program will be for the Department of Florida Service Foundation. Madam President Patty donated and will be raffling off a Kate Spade purse, all proceeds from the sells this weekend will go towards her program. Madam President is challenging all Auxiliaries with the most purchased tickets will get a Gift Card at Sunday mornings business meeting.

Roll Call of Officers, by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Approval of Agenda by 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright moved to approve the Agenda, second by Ramona Mourhess No discussion, MOTION CARRIED.

Benediction by Chaplain Faye Caldwell

Respect the Colors by Sgt. at Arms Claudia Thompson

Recessed until 8:30 a.m. Saturday October 28th, 2023.

Saturday, October 28th, 2023, Second Business Session

President Patty Piening called the Second Business Session for the 2023 Fall SEC to Order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation by Chaplain Faye Caldwell

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. at Arms Claudia Thompson

Roll Call of Officers by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Draping of the Charter for PDP Gloria Jasinski Auxiliary 9 by Madam President Patty Piening and Chaplain Faye Caldwell.

Minutes of the June 2023 Convention were read by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau.

Ramona Mourhess moved for the approval for minutes as read and published, seconded by Dawn Stewart, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Eboard Recommendations from the Officers Training in July 2023.

PDP Sherry Marecek moved to appoint PDP Sherry Marecek, Wendy Luzader and 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright as Department of Florida's equipment committee to check prices and determine whether equipment needs to be repaired or replaced, seconded by PDP Debbie Beck, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PDP Marylou Maslo moved to roll over 2 CD's, 7-month term each, seconded by PDP Debbie Beck, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PDP Sherry Marecek moved to add line in Treasurer's budget to \$600.00 Convention Chair for 50/50 Tickets and add a line for \$100.00 Ways and Means, seconded by 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Eboard Recommendation were read by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin move to accept appointment of Jan Northcutt (Aux. #67) as VAVS Rep for Bay Pines VA, seconded by 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

At this time Jan Northcutt asked for personal privilege to challenge all auxiliaries to have a fundraiser for the VA or Veterans Homes and she award them at the end of year.

PDP Sherry Marecek moves to destroy the executive secretary's existing computer after the new computer is set up and confirmed working, seconded by Ramona Mourhess, no discussion, MOTION CARRIED.

Beverly Gardner move the treasurer's computer to be wiped clean after the new computer is set up and confirmed as working. The treasurer may then make a donation to the auxiliary to transition the old computer for personal use, seconded by PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PNP/PDP Charlene Kee move that we add to Standing Rule #6 the positions of Grievance Chair and Appeals Chair. It shall read "the Dept Training Chair, Grievance Chair, Appeals Chair, NEC and Alt. NEC shall be a Past Department President, seconded by PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin, no discussion MOTION CARRIED. PDP Marylou Maslo asked that someone explain the reason

behind this decision, PNP/PDP Charlene Kee advised with the organization and seriousness and knowledge of the process of grievance, procedure of appeals, Department Presidents have come up the chairs, they become President for their acknowledgment of all.

Debra Pate move that we delete standing Rule #3, that reads “The Department Officers budget, shall not include reimbursement of color cartridges.” Seconded by PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin, discussion was from PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin reason behind this is some of the new printers will not work without a color cartridge. No other discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Communications by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau. A thank you card from PDP Karen Powers on the untimely death of her granddaughter Isis. Thank you letter from PAWS /Valparaiso and a card to 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright personally for all her support with PAWS. Thank you letter from VA Hospital Douglas T. Jacobson. Thank you letter from Bay Pines VA. Thank you letters from Ronald McDonald House in Northwest Florida, Tampa Bay, Central Florida. PDP received a Challenge Coin from Department of Veterans Affairs in Gainesville, North Florida, and North Georgia for donation of 8,755.00.

Special Guest speakers Fl Amvets Commander Doug Ferguson, National 1st Vice Horace Johnson, Cmdr AJ John and Patty. Patty wanted to give an award to Past President Auxiliary #86 Nancy Heffner who has just recently passed, she called up Sally Reinhardt to accept the National Americanism Award for Nancy Heffner Auxiliary #86.

Finance Report by Treasurer PDP Sherry Marecek that her report is in the middle of the book. The report includes Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement through September 30,2023. Also included is a Budget vs Actual. This is just an easier way of seeing how much has been spent per line item and what remains in that line item. As mentioned in the minutes, the two (2) 7 months CD's have been rolled over and now expire May 10,2024. All 4 new CDs now expire either in April or May 2024. This will give her a little more time to explore interest rates. Please remember, before you write a check to the Amvets Ladies Auxiliary, Check! What she means if your check bounces not only will your bank give an NSF, but you will also be required to reimburse via cashiers check or money order the total of original check, plus bank fee we are charged plus additional \$30.00 for the check being returned. If any of the local treasurers need assistance or have questions, please let her know she is there for you, that goes for any member. She wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Audit Committee Report by Committee Chair 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright. She thanked 2nd Vice President Sharon Sheldon, 3rd Vice President Wendy Luzader for being a part of the audit committee. They Audited the accounts on October 26, 2023, Thursday afternoon, all accounts are in order, there were no discrepancies.

Charter Presentation for AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary #420 by NEC/PDP Debbie Beck, PDP Donnajeanne Merritt, and PDP Sherry Marecek.

Introduction of 1st Timers by Gavelier's PDP Donnajeanne Merrit, **Aux. #35** Paula Harris, **Aux. #50** Jessica Huber, **Aux. #60** Becky Philbrook, Kare Cleveland Welch and Valorie Hicks, **Aux. #86** Tina Sorano, **Aux. #98** Faith Rio and Janice Draper, **Aux. #420** Lela Emerson and Debbie Gerheuser, **Aux. #444** Kiersten Clemings, **Aux. #2000** Carmen Dunning and Peggy Montagano, **Aux. #2006** Virginia Benderman, **Aux. #2415** Evelyn McKee, Michelle Carmen, and Linda Atcher.

Department Officer Reports:

President: Patty Piening reported that this has been an honor to represent Department of Florida, has been a learning experience. Florida is a strong state, when you go to a National or NEC meeting, they listen to Florida. Madam President theme is **"Make a Difference by Volunteering"**. You can usually change someone's life and or attitude when someone is having a bad day, and they see you and talk to you, . Volunteers can reach out to someone; who has a very bad mental or emotional state of mind. You can make a big difference in your community, library, VA's, hospitals. They need you to be there to listen, to hold a hand. It makes a big difference in someone's mindset. Let's increase our volunteering. Her project is Disaster Relief Fund, and her goal is to raise \$100,000 by May 1st, 2024. As of today, already raised \$20,000! Will be raffling off a Kate Spade purse this weekend with a challenge that the auxiliary with the most purchases will get a Gift Card on Sunday morning at the business meeting after the purse is raffled off. She needs help to raise funds to reach her goal on this, she can't do it on her own, asking for all auxiliary to go back to your locals and ask for support. Thanked all her officers for their support and the Parliamentarian for her guidance. All the officers are here for you, you elected us to be your leader, that's why we have the learning session. Hope you all have a productive weekend.

1st Vice President: Chrissy Albright advised in your Packets contains a letter from National 1st Vice President Cynthia Rice as well as a copy of her article from the Department website which outlines the membership awards, and copies of all the membership forms. Remember the annual membership card is valid until December 31st each year. The early bird renewal deadline is November 4th 2023, mailed to the Executive Secretary. The deadline to file your local auxiliary 990 with the IRS was September 15, 2023. You must file and send a copy to her for your auxiliary to remain in good standing. It is her responsibility to validate the 990's not her responsibility to retrieve them all. The AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary website houses the National Lines under the publications tab: www.amvetsaux.org. The AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida website has membership forms under the forms tab: www.amvetsauxfl.org. She encourages you to access these resources. If you need any help, please reach out to her for assistance. Wished Madam President a productive SEC.

2nd Vice President: Sharon Sheldon thanked everyone for all the reports they have sent in with the current evaluations of \$45,463 in Child Welfare. April is John Tracy Center Month. There is an Award "the Delia Kreiling-Riley Award", this award is given to the Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work for John Tracy Center, Including the amount donated to John Tracy Center. In our manuals Section 5, you should be using the updated list dated Oct/2021 for the Service

Reports Guidelines for Evaluation (ex: Cake \$12.00, per \$15.00) etc., just a reminder Mid-Year reports are due in her hands by November 5th, 2023. If you have any questions to please call her.

3rd Vice President: Wendy Luzader, her report is on page 23. She stated you work hard so please report, many of our awards are based on your report totals. Total evaluation for Community Service as of today is \$162,349. In your SEC packet you will find a letter from our National 3rd Vice President Laura Bagaj, informative handout titled “what are assistance dogs” and a paw print to use as at a local fundraiser. Our very own PDP Gloria Jasinski introduced Paws with a Cause years ago, please continue to support her legacy. Mid-Year reports are due in her hands by November 5th, 2023. Please review National changes located in the back of your SEC book and use our auxiliary website forms that are now fillable. Wished Madam President a successful, productive SEC.

NEC: PDP Debbie Beck welcomed everyone to October SEC. She attended the National Convention in Pittsburg and was happy to report that the Dept. of Florida won several awards. We won the following awards: PNP Charlene Kee Scholarship, PNP Lynda Taylor Community Service Award, PNP Heidi Dineed-Serpi runner up Americanism Award, and saving the best for last “Florida was Department of the Year”. Thank you to all our members for helping us achieve this great accomplishment. Also, Auxiliary 88 was the Auxiliary of the Year. To make it easier for the Department Service Officers you might want to send your Service Reports once a month instead of just before the cutoff. This gives the Service Officers time to review your reports and reach out if they have any questions. Waiting until just before the deadline could mean your reports will not appear in the book. We now have a service training tool on our website amvetsausfla.org. Mid-Year reports are to be in the Service Officers’ hand by November 5th, 2023. One Final reminder, Standing Rule #5 states: in order for an auxiliary to be in good standing, all revalidated auxiliaries shall submit minimum of one (1) service report to the Department of Florida per year. Wished Madam President a successful and productive SEC.

Alt. NEC: PDP Mary Lou Maslo report on page 4, one quick thing, it’s an honor to be here among all her sisters, PDP Debbie Beck did a great job, remember all your deadline dates.

Chaplain: Faye Caldwell congratulated all the new local Chaplains, thanked them for their dedicated service to the ladies and their families. Encouraged all to attend as many training sessions as they can and to share the wealth of knowledge with your local auxiliary. Thanked all who submitted Deceased Member Notification in a timely manner.

Hospital: Patty Johnson’s report is in the book, read at your leisure. Welcomed all, advised the National Project for Hospital is ST Jude’s, please visit their website @ stjude.org. While writing your reports please write them legibly, if you go to website, they are fillable now, much easier to read. Don’t wait till the last minute to get your reports to her, send them in as soon as you get them, so she has a chance to review.

Americanism: Toni Plemmons visited Freedoms Foundation, 75 acres of beautiful scenery, lots of information about Americanism. Would love for more of our ladies to attend in 2025. Also traveled to New York City 911 memorial & museum as well as the JP Morgan Library Museum. All the places were very interesting, if anyone is interested in going next year to contact her, also you can claim 10 hours on reports if you go to Freedom Foundation. Few auxiliaries have reports in, most have not. It is mandatory that you have at least one report per year to remain in good standing. You do the work, report it, be proud. Apply for any or all Americanism awards, read the requirements, be in the running for the awards. Reports are due in her hands by November 5th, 2023. Wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Scholarship: Karen Schooley advised February is scholarship month and encourage you all to start early, coming up with ideas to raise scholarship funds. Recently the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary has added a new scholarship: AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Trade School Scholarship has been set up to aid those entering the trades. The applicant must be entering the trades, The applicant must be entering an accredited skill trade school, and the applicant must be an auxiliary member or the son, daughter, stepchild, grandchild, or step-grandchild of a current member of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary who has been accepted into an accredited Trade School. They will give two (2) \$500.00 Scholarships. The trade school applications have been set-up and appear on the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary website www.amvetsaux.org. All other scholarships have been updated as well and appear under their proper websites which I have listed in her report on page 36. Wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Delegate of National Convention: Patty Piening stated what transpires at National Convention with all the programs, workshops at National to bring back to you and your local. Take the time to read and highlight what's important to you, for example: the point system with applications, easier equal across the board to be equal for small auxiliaries and the larger auxiliaries. The system they use to figure it out by dividing the members, same as we do here in Florida. The National Parliamentarian is very important, but it is your responsibility to read and know the Constitution and Bylaws. Read them and absorb what you are reading, this will make you more successful in this organization and how you all can work together. Understand the Constitution and Bylaws. The Department of Alabama sent in a resolution to change the Auxiliary name to "AMVETS Auxiliary". It was rejected due to our charters and eligibility of members.

Parliamentarian: PNP/PDP Charlene Kee, the Bylaws Committee met on Friday October 27th with 8 guests. Thank you for attending and always remember that our meeting is always open to anyone who would like to attend. We are reviewing the bylaws and will be updating the changes from National. Thanked Madam President for appointing her as Parliamentarian and approving the following members to serve on the committee, PNP/PDP Dee Baggett was excused, NEC/PDP Debbie Beck, PNP/PDP Eveyln McElvin, PDP Sherry Marecek and Karen Schooley. We will truly miss PDP Gloria Jasinski, who was the immediate Past Parliamentarian! She also served on the Training Committee. Gloria was a great asset to this organization, and she will truly be missed.

The Auxiliaries listed in the chart, bylaws are due to PNP/PDP Charlene Kee no later than May 15th, 2024. Please use the bylaws cover sheet, a copy is in the local SEC packets, three (3) copies of the bylaws signed by the President and Parliamentarian if you have one, and one (1) copy of the minutes approving the bylaws, must be sent to her the Parliamentarian. Please read the Department Delegate Report by President Patty Piening. There's a lot of changes in the Constitution, National Bylaws, and Manual. She would like to point out in her report that's changed in our Constitution, Article XII "Problems from the Posts Clubroom are under the jurisdiction of AMVETS or licensing laws and shall be handled by AMVETS. Violation of the canteen rules is disciplined by AMVETS. More serious infractions such as conduct unbecoming an auxiliary member are handled through the Auxiliary Discipline procedure". PNP/PDP Charlene Kee contact information is at the top of her report in book, if there is ever a question or concern regarding parliamentarian procedures.

Executive Secretary: PDP Donnajeanne Merritt's report is on Page 42 in your book. Please read it as it has some important information in it. Early bird renewals are due in her hands by November 5th, 2023. All renewals are due by December 31st, 2023, and in her hands by January 7, 2024 (no exceptions). The website has been updated and has a lot of helpful information on it. The Website is amvetsauxfl.org. Please note all forms on the website are now fillable, which should make things easier for you. In addition, the website now has a power point presentation on how to fill out reports. The Webmaster currently is Cogan Henson from the AMVETS sons #98. He has suggested that we have an auxiliary member be the webmaster and he would train them, if anyone is interested, please see her after the meeting today. Katelyn Atkins from Auxiliary #32 is interested, she has a Bachelor's Degree in Cyber Security. Madam President will meet with her after the meeting. there have been several items that have been mailed out returned to her. If your address changes you need to notify us. Ladies remember when sending in your Due Remittance forms to send the correct amount of money. Annual members \$24.00, Life Members \$350.00 and Honorary are \$20.00. Just to let you know National will no longer accept renew to life from January 1 through August 31st. Anyone wanting to renew to life must do it between September 1st and December 31st. New Life members can come in as a life member at any time. Wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Honors and Awards: PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin explained back in June 2023 Convention, there were many changes to the criteria of the awards. You work hard for these awards, let's make sure you send them in correctly. Forecast's go out in February; this will be all about the June Convention and the awards that you can apply for. We have 5 services and 5 officers; the Service Officers already have this information. Please refer to the June Convention 2023 minutes with the Motions that passed for the changes in criteria for the awards. When you get the forecast, follow the deadline dates, any questions please contact an officer. Madam President theme is Volunteer, which is so very important to this organization, at the Awa.

SPEAKER: Department of Florida Riders, 1st Vice Bob Olivera asking us to support the Riders by buying a Calendar for \$20.00.

Benediction: by Chaplain Faye Caldwell

Respect to the Colors: by Sgt-at-Arms Claudia Thompson

Recessed until Sunday October 29th 8:00 a.m.

Sunday October 29th, 2023

Raffle Drawing Friday 50/50, \$81.00, Saturday 50/50, \$164.00 Kathy Ferguson, Sunday 50/50, \$252.00 Dawn Stewart.

Purse Drawing, winner Tara Dean Aux. #26, Pursued raised \$1,957, the Auxiliary that bought the most tickets was Aux. #4 they received a \$50.00 Gift Card

Gavaliers raffle ticket winner was Carol Stanton

Basket from Ways and Means winners are Pat Lindsey Aux. #9

Call to order by Madam President Patty Piening at 8:45 a.m.

Innovation by Chaplin Faye Caldwell

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt-at-Arms Claudia Thompson

Roll Call by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Continued Department Officers Reports

Convention Chair: Kim Clarke announced they have raised with 50/50 ticket, \$497.00 to the winners and \$501.00 to department. She thanked Susan Leverone Aux. #81 and Carol Della Ventura Aux. #81 for selling them all weekend and how they have done this in the past, really appreciate all their help. Meeting on Friday with the Convention Chairs, the theme at the June Banquet will be Dancing through the Decades 50,60,70 and 80 theme, cost of food has increased, and the Rosen Hotel is charging \$78.00 a plate, total cost will be about \$16,000. The AMVETS are willing to pay \$8,000.00 and they are asking the Auxiliary and the Sons to pay \$4,400.00 which will bring the cost of tickets down to \$35.00 a person.

Kim Clarke moves the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary to donate our portion of \$4,400.00 towards the cost of the June Convention Banquet to the AMVETS to bring the cost down to \$35.00 a person per ticket, 2nd By Jan Norcutt, discussion; Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau questioned will the Riders be donating to this also? Kim Clarke response was they were going to their membership to ask. PDP Marylou Maslo questioned if we pay \$4,400.00, we still must pay \$35.00 a ticket? Kim Clarke response was yes, we still must pay for a ticket for banquet. Madam President Patty Piening asked Kim Clarke for her to understand, if Auxiliary and Sons pay the \$4,400.00 then the tickets will be \$35.00 and if not, the tickets will be \$78.00 a ticket. Kim Clarke response is Yes, that is correct. Madam President questioned so AMVETS is paying the \$8,000 and AMVETS wants the Auxiliary, Sons, and Rider to pay the

difference, Kim Clarke response was yes that is correct. PDP Donnajeanne Merrit question was the Motion was, if the AMVETS pay \$8,000.00 and Auxiliary pays \$4,400.00, sons pay \$4,400.00 and riders were asked for \$2,000.00 that equals \$17,000, I believe the numbers are not correct we should table this. Aux. #44, who is also a Rider has confirmed that Department Riders are giving \$2,000. Parliamentarian PNP/PDP Charlene Kee should be to sell raffles and if we come up short, then we can ask Department Auxiliary for the money, I believe we should Amend the MOTION Kim Clarke response is they don't need money till June, AMVETS is looking for a commitment.

Kim Clarke withdraws the motion, Jan Norcutt withdraws her motion.

PDP Karen Powers, the Convention chair needs our support in what she is raising 3000.00 for June Convention.

Lastly auxiliaries please pick up tickets to take home and sell bring back in February 2024 SEC Thank you for the appointment and drive safely.

Grievance Chair: by Sherry Marecek A reminder for everyone, filing a grievance is a very serious matter. Personality Conflicts are no reason to file a grievance on anyone. Before you even start the process, be sure to read the National Constitution, Article 12 entirely and understand it. Also, keep your Code of Ethics and Aims & Purposes close at hand. If your Auxiliary does file a grievance against one or more of your members,

She is always available to answer any questions you may have. Wished Madam President for this appointment and a very successful SEC.

Appeals Chair: by PDP Marylou Maslo's report is on page 46, There was one incident, and everyone was a trooper and conducted themselves gracefully. Thanked her committee 1st Vice President Chrissy Albright, Chaplain Faye Caldwell, and PNP/PDP Charlene Kee for their support and giving up their Saturday.

Equipment Committee recommendation: 1st Vice Chrissy Albright moves to retain our current webmaster under our existing agreement. Once the auxiliary has determined the vision and scope of future website development, we would investigate options for website selections. Second by PDP Debbie Beck, no questions, MOTION CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Robin Trudeau's report is in the book. The fortunate part of being the recording secretary, when I am doing the minutes after SEC's or Convention, I get to type everything that has happened on the floor. Listening to each of your accomplishments, goals, concerns, well being really comes to heat of how everything that makes this a great organization all pull together. Again, when doing Roll Call please speak loud and clear so I Can accurately record your presence. The only person who can excuse a President or SEC woman is the Department President. Remember no one can answer roll call for you. An Alternate SEC woman may answer roll call if the SEC is not present, and they must be listed on the revalidation form for your Auxiliary.

Gavaliere Report: PDP Sherry Marecek thanked Madam President for the wonderful lunch she provided for the Gavaliere. We really appreciated your thoughtfulness in allowing us to use your suite for our meeting. Yesterday we had 17 first timers, she thanked them for coming to our SEC and hoped they had taken home knowledge and made new friends. Most of all hope to see them again and again. Reminder to Officers and Chairmen no individual award are given by any officer or chairman. The only individual award given or has the authority to do so is Madam President. This is a reminder in reference to the challenge made yesterday. Concerns have been brought forward regarding wearing jeans on the floor. Of course, we would prefer that if you have an auxiliary uniform that you would wear it. However, you may wear jeans, as long as there are no holes, sloppy looking, etc. It is not written anywhere in our Bylaws. In fact, the only mention of jeans is in the National Standing Rules. Thank you to all who purchased Gavalier tickets, this is the only money raised to aid the Department of Florida. Also, an extra "go Girl" is given to PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin for selling 6 bags of Gavalier tickets. Also, would like to welcome our new "Raffle Princess", PDP Debbie Beck.

Credentials Chair: Kathie Mannix report is on page 48, please read at your leisure. We had 159 pre-registered and 17 on-site registrations. Pre-registration total is \$2,040.00, On-site registration total \$340.00, total turning in is \$2,365.00. They had 17 First Timers and 17 No Shows. Please remember to list anyone attending in February in the right place on the form. Only list them once, please print the names so the name tag will be with the correct spelling of your name. Thanked Ginger Downs Aux. #23 and April Higgins Aux. #60 for all their help this weekend.

P.R.O.: Nikki Anderson's report is on page 53 and on page 63 you will find the proposed changes from National. Please email or text any pictures of Madam President visiting your local so she can put them in her scrapbook. On page 58 of our manual, you will find the judging criteria for local scrapbooks, we would really like to increase the entries for Department and National.

President's Council: Anna Elkins reported that they met on October 28th, 2023, with 18 local President and 2 guest. Lot of auxiliary's challenges are to get volunteers within their local. Was just informed about the Dollar Tree, which they give School supplies and Stocking stuffers, go to their website Operationhomefront.org and sign up for the stores near you. Also, games to play at fundraisers, google "minute to win it" lots of good ideas.

Bay Pines: Patty Piening announced she is stepping down as the representative for VAVS and that Jan Norcutt was highly recommended for this position and thanked her for stepping up to the plate. Please go back to your locals and ask for Volunteers to have an ice cream social for our Veterans, read to them, help them write out cards, especially this time of year. Give our Veterans 3 hours of your time, it is so needed.

Bushnell Cemetery: Claudia Thompson's report is in the book, please read it when you have a moment. Please, if you have a moment, visit a Veteran in the cemetery and leave a penny, not just to Bushnell to any cemetery with a Veteran is laid to rest.

Sergeant of Arms: Claudia Thompson has asked whoever is at the door, checking badges, to be kind and do not get upset if she stops you to see your badge, because she is doing her job. Thanked Peg Moran and Beverly Gardner for their assistance this weekend. At the meetings, please dress accordingly. Please donate to the Frog for chocolates in February.

SEC Counsel: Leslie Long reported that she had the largest group with 26 SEC woman, 7 Alt SEC women and 7 guest attended. They were able to decide what categories on reports to use. One question that did get answered by PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin. The question was if we buy a Christmas present for a Veteran and their children is it Americanism, child welfare, or community service, Answer is If you are buying a gift for just a Veteran it is Americanism, if you are buying a gift for the children its Child Welfare and If you are buying a gift for the whole family, it is Community Service.

Quartermaster: Toni Fox thanked Madam President for appointing her as her Quartermaster and for all the ladies' Auxiliary members for the continued support, it has been fun and busy as always. Friday's sales \$2,896.00, Saturday Sales \$1,131.50 for a total of \$4,027.50. Special thank you to those who Volunteered the help this weekend, Marci Oliveri and Sheri Minaldi. Her report is on page 52.

Ways and Means: Donna Chaparro's report is on page 51. Wanted to thank all that purchased the grab bags and raffle tickets for the Relaxation Set. Special thank you to PDP Karen Powers, Dawn Stewart and Judy Cottrel for their help this weekend. Thanked Auxiliary #1992, #78 and #4, for their donations. The grab bag raffle totaled \$645.00 and the Basket totaled \$205.00, total turned in \$850.00.

PDP Marylou Maslo moved to turn in \$3,917.00 check back to Service Foundation, second by PDP Debbie Beck, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Unfinished Business: Kathie Mannix said she has left over books if anyone wants to take them back to their auxiliary.

Benediction: by Chaplain Faye Caldwell

Retirement of Colors: by Sgt-at-Arms Claudia Thomspon

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted

Robin Trudeau

Recording Secretary