

**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
MINUTES-FEBRUARY SEC 2023**

Friday February 17, 2023 -First Business Session

Call To Order by Madam President, Deborah Beck at 8:05 p.m.

Invocations by Chaplain Wendy Luzader

Presentation of Colors by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Reading of the Preamble by 1st Vice President, PNP Patty Piening,

Aims & Purposes by 2nd Vice President, Holly Burbach

Code of Ethics by 3rd Vice President Chrissy Albright

Definition of Americanism by Dawn Stewart

Madam President, Deborah Beck: Madam President welcomed everyone to February 2023 SEC that is great to see everyone and if anyone needs help that they could ask her or anyone of the officers, hoping all to have a very successful SEC.

Roll Call of Officers, by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Approval of Agenda by PNP/PDP Dee Baggett move to approve the Agenda, second by PNP Patty Piening, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Benediction by Chaplain Wendy Luzader

Respect the Colors by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Recessed until 8:30 a.m. Saturday February 18,2023

Saturday, February 18, 2023 Second Business Session

Friday 50/50 raffle drawn

President Deborah Beck called the Second Business Session for the February 2023 SEC to Order at 8:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation by Chaplain Wendy Luzader

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Roll Call of Officers by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Minutes of the October 2022 SEC were read by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau. Robin Trudeau move for the approval, for the minutes as read and published, second by 2nd Vice President Holly Burbach, no discussion **MOTION CARRIED.**

E-Board Recommendation were read by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Recommendation from the Finance Committee read by Jerri Devoll

Jerri Devoll move the purchase of two (2) Laptops for the Treasurer and Executive Secretary with all the licenses and programs needed at the cost, not to exceed \$600.00, licenses to be paid yearly at the cost of \$510.00 for both computers. Second by 3rd Vice President Chrissy Albright, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Jerri Devoll move to be allowed to put the four (4) CDs into 13-month CD's at a higher interest rate. Second by 2nd Vice President Holly Burbach, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Audit Committee Report by PNP Patty Piening met on Thursday February 16th, she thanked her committee for all their hardwork and was happy to report all balanced out perfectly.

Introduction 1st Timers by NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek

Aux. #4 Jacqueline Richardson, **Aux. #9** Amy Taylor, **Aux. #30** Zineisha Liner, **Aux. #60** Cindy Mendez, **Aux. #81** Vicki Salas, **Aux. #442** Vickie Daniels, **Aux. #444** Korene Clemings, Lisa Frederick, **Aux. #447** Mary Higgins, Vicki Jacobs-Pratt, Jamey Frisen, **Aux. #911** Sue Schwab, **Aux. # 1992** Lisa Brooks, **Aux. #2000** Marey Abbott, Paula Gross, Renata Broolrowior, Emily Smith, **Aux. #2415** Alexa Amaral, Ronda Coen

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPORTS

President: Deborah Beck's report is in the book please take time to read it. My theme is "Dare to Leap, discover you can fly". She is looking forward to a fun & productive weekend. This afternoon they will be having a chat & mingle with the officers, she hopes to see everyone there. Also you will be receiving the forecast for awards. Please keep reporting as you all work so hard you need to be recognized. In closing, remember we as officers are here for YOU!

First Vice President: PNP Patty Piening would like to remind those who will be filling out the locals' 990's, there has been changes made by the IRS that we must follow! This can be found on our department website Amvetsauxfl.org. You must have a password, regarding passwords, at least 2 people need to have the password and anything else needed to get into the IRS Website. Make sure you scroll down the page and hit print; it may take 5-10 minutes, but you need to wait! Our membership is up approximately 500 members from this time last year. Thank you for that. Now is the time to have another membership drive, there are county fairs going on set up a booth. Most of the grocery stores will let you set up a table in front of their store for a membership drive. Ask your AMVETS & Sons to join your Auxiliary in this drive. Remember, membership is the backbone of this great organization. Again, Thank you.

Second Vice President: Holly Burbach report is in the book. Forecasts come out this weekend, please take them back and apply for the awards. You have done the work, get the reward you deserve. Also, in the forecast you will find a form for the Local Auxiliary to donate a Love Gift to Madam President for her year of guidance and leadership. You can either give it to her at June Convention or you can send to Holly Burbach to Present to Madam President at the June Convention, please make checks payable to Deborah Beck. Holly would like to take a moment to thank all of you for the love, friendship and support you have all shown her over the last 9 years ever since she started coming to SEC and Convention and 8 years of being a Department Officer. She really enjoyed working with all of you over the years, but also will miss being here with all of you. Holly will still be here in June for Convention, but that will be her last one. She Thanked everyone for making her years here the best. You all mean the world to her. It was a great honor and pleasure serving with all of you.

Third Vice President: Chrissy Albright's report is in the book. Patron's page is being passed on the floor. Also, there is a copy in the convention forecast to take to your local. March is PAWS month so please consider working to donate to this wonderful cause. Please also consider a fundraiser to support Madam President's project for Quantum Leap Farm. Remember to apply for awards. You may reach Chrissy at any time for assistance with completing your reports. As a reminder, end of year reports are due in Chrissy hands May 5, 2023. She wished Madam President a productive SEC.

Chaplain: Wendy Luzader's report was passed on the floor today, please read. She thanked ladies for submitting the deceased members notifications. It is a blessing fewer notification so far as compared to last year. Each Auxiliary sister is an important part of our AMVET family and as such, their family should know that we acknowledge when their loved one passes by a sympathy card from Ladies Auxiliary Florida. Thanked ladies for their kind words and support given to her as our Chaplain.

Americanism: Dawn Stewart's report is in the book. She thanked everyone for all the hard work in Americanism and sending in their reports in a timely manner. Year end reports are due in her hands no later than May 5, 2023. Please don't wait until the last minute to send in your reports, everyone has a deadline including her to send her report to NEC. Please apply for the two (2) Americanism awards, (1) PDP Donnajeanne Hackler Merrit "Show and Tell" Award and (2) PDP Dorothy Johns, Americanism Chairman Award. Also, she has tickets for \$100.00 a piece for sale for a chance to win- paid registration worth \$400.00 for the Freedoms Foundation Americanism Conference on October 5-8, 2023, in Valley Forge PA. This conference is for Adult AMVET family-AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons & Riders. Dawn also has a pamphlet with all the information about the conference. If you would like to take tickets to your post, let her know before the end of this weekend. Thanked everyone and hoped everyone a fantastic weekend.

Hospital: Patty Johnson report is in the book. Welcomed all to February SEC, reported that only 11 Auxiliaries have reported service reports. Please do service reports and send to her with a Reminder that all service reports must be in her hands by May 5, 2023. Thanked Madam President for a great SEC.

Scholarship: Karen Schooley's report is in the book. February is Scholarship month, reminders regarding deadlines for the following Scholarship applications are: Auxiliary Department of Florida is May 15, 2023, National Ladies Auxiliary is July 1, 2023 and Joseph L. Kee Jr., Service Award is April 30, 2023. All application for these Scholarships has been updated and appear under there appropriate websites which is listed in her report in book. In addition to these Scholarships, another scholarship has been added recently for National Riders- three (3) scholarships will be awarded from this program. Qualifications and requirements are noted on the application under website www.amvetsridersnational.org deadline is April 15, 2023. She wished Madam President a successful SEC.

NEC: PDP Sherry Marecek would like to remind everyone of our new Standing Rule #5 which reads: "In order for an auxiliary to remain in good standing, all revalidated auxiliaries shall submit a minimum of one (1) service report to Department per year." As of January 10, 2023, a total of 15 auxiliaries have NOT reported. They are Aux. #'s 2, 7, 13, 15, 16, 200, 447, 911, 1208, 1292, 1939, 1999, 2001, 2298 and 7467. I've asked the Service Officers to contact these auxiliaries, but I'm also asking you all to help if you know anyone from the above listed auxiliaries. Midyear totals, which were reported to National, had a Total Evaluation of \$464,253. As of the cut off of January 10th, Total Evaluation has increased by \$533,660. We are almost at 1 million dollars! The total is \$997,913. Great job!! May 5, 2023 is the deadline for

year-end reports. These must be in Service Officers hands by May 5, 2023 . Just a reminder, Department officers are here for you. Ask any and all questions. Our time is your time.

Alt. NEC: PDP Marylou Maslo reported need to listen to everything the NEC officers has just said as it is very important to all of us.

Parliamentarian: PNP/PDP Charlene Kee reported the Bylaws Committee met on Friday February 17,2023 with 11 guest members. Everyone should have a copy of the updated Standing Rules. These are the Bylaws Committee Recommendations:

PNP/PDP Charlene Kee move to add a new Standing Rule #8 Each local auxiliary shall submit only one (1) awards entry for any award listed in the Forecast per Auxiliary. Second by PDP/NEC Sherry Marecek, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PNP/PDP Charlene Kee move to modify Standing Rule #6. The Department Training Chair, NEC woman and Alt. NEC woman shall be a Past Department President. Second by Dawn Stewart, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PNP/PDP Charlene Kee move the Bylaws Committee recommend to all into the President Policy and Procedures, Appointed Officers of Appeals and Grievance Chairman shall be a Past Department President. Second by Holly Burbach, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PNP/PDP Charlene Kee move the Convention Chairman must have served on any committee for at least one (1) year. Second by PNP Evelyn McElvin, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PNP/PDP Charlene Kee move Bylaws- Article VIII Officers, page 3, Eliminate the position of Ways and Means. This was the 1st reading in February SEC 2023 and will be read again for vote at the Department Convention in June 2023.

Parliamentary Charlene Kee thanked everyone for approving the recommendations. Also, a special thank you to the Bylaws Committee Members PNP/PDP Dee Baggett, 2nd Vice President Holly Burbach, PDP/NEC Sherry Marecek, PNP Patty Piening and PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin. Her report is in the book. Also, Auxiliary #81 Bylaws have been approved. SEC Women and Presidents- In the envelope for your auxiliary, she has prepared a sheet listing of Guidelines, Districts and Local Auxiliaries with the date of when the bylaws are due before that year Convention.

SPEAKER ON FLOOR: National AMVETS Commander Donald McLean thanked Department of Florida for their hospitality, leadership and thanked for everyone's hard work to help our Veterans.

Executive Secretary: PDP Donnajeanne Merrit's report is in the book. Please read it as it has important information in it. In your packets you will find a roster for your membership as it stands as of February 13, 2023. It shows your current members, members that did not renew and your life members. Think about reaching out to your members that have not yet renewed. Remember if they want to renew now their designation will be "rejoin". They must requalify for membership as something may have happened during the past year that would make them not eligible such as a divorce. When renewing a member please look at their membership card as I have received Dues Remittance forms that had someone as renewing when in fact they had to come in as new as they had not renewed for the previous year or even longer. Please make your Dues Remittance forms legible and include full city or town names and zip codes. If you are providing a birthdate, I need the year or the database will not accept it. As a suggestion, please include middle initials as with so many members there are people with the same names, even in the same auxiliary. That is when a middle initial, complete address and phone numbers become important. I have also included in your packets a revalidation form when everyone will need to send me so that I receive it no later than May 20, 2023. Your Auxiliary must be revalidated in order to vote at the June Convention and be in good standing. Please do not use your Post address and emails for your officers. This makes it hard for the Department officers to get in touch with them if they need to, especially the service officers. Wished Madam President a very productive SEC.

Recording Secretary: Robin Trudeau's reported as an officer, she apologized to Madam President, all officers and members that she did not meet the deadline for the report to get in the book. Which is wrong, deadlines are for a reason again she apologized. There is an insert on the floor please insert in your book. When doing Roll Call please speak loud and clear so I can accurately record your presence. The only person that 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 a revalidation form from your Auxiliary. If you have any reports, correspondence and or acknowledgements that you have read on the floor please forward to me as this helps when I am doing the minutes for all meetings to record respectfully. This also includes all signed Motion Slips. Thanked Madam President for this appointment.

Grievance Chair: PDP/Alt. NEC Mary Lou Maslo was happy to report there is NO report, thanked everyone for all getting along or solving it at their own auxiliary. Thanked Madam President for a wonderful SEC.

Sgt. at Arms: Toni Plemmon's reported was handed out at the registration desk. Thanked all for the learning experience as Department Sgt. at Arms. She has enjoyed it and has learned so much. She wanted to also thank Claudia Thompson and Kathy for the 3 years of help and Bev Gardner for helping this weekend also to Terranna. She advised she could not have done it without all your help. Collected \$38.00 to feed the frog. Thanked everyone and to have a safe trip home.

P.R.O.: Carolyn Bain welcomed everyone to February 2023 SEC. Wished all a wonderful weekend. In need for local Auxiliaries to submit their own scrapbook at the June Convention. If you have any questions regarding the criteria, you can find this in the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Manual or you can contact her. They have not given out this Service Award for the scrapbook for several years. So, let's do it this year. Wished Madam President a very constructive and productive SEC.

Honors & Awards: PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin reported on behalf of the Department of Florida we invite each one of you to Our Quantum Leap Horse Derby Award Program. 1. Dare to apply & win. 2 Dare to take a Forecast home and share with your members. 3 Daer to enter " The Horse Derby Hat Contest" , this will happen at the end of our award program, the judges will be the Gaveliers alson with Madam President Deborah Beck. 4 Dare you all to come join us for fun, excitement and discover who becomes a winner! So come ready to Leap , Ready to Fly and Ready to Win.

Bushnell Cemetery: Claudia Thompson's reported they are still putting in the new monuments and adding more section for burials. Please go by Bushnell cemetery and check it out. Also if your there just pick a couple of the military men or woman and visit their graves and tell them Thank You for their service before you leave their gravesite you can leave a penny. Penny at a gravesite mean you visited. If a nickel is left, you and the deceased person trained at boot camp together. If a Dime is left, you served with the deceased. If a Quarter is left, that indicates you were with the deceased when he or she passed.

Local Presidents Reports: Each Auxiliary President of SEC reported on their Auxiliary and the new and exciting things they have been doing to report to Department.

Personal moment from Auxiliary #81 President Robin Trudeau reported. Auxiliary ladies as you all know we are here for our Veterans. But Auxiliary sisters are much more than that. While becoming an auxiliary sister you find welcoming conversation, regarding families, weddings, grandchildren. We do luncheons, dinners, movies together. But most of all, many have found friends for life- I know I have. Post 81 closed on September 28, 2022 to be safe from Hurricane Ian, hoping to open soon after, but Ian did far more damage to Post 81 we couldn't open and till today we still are not open. The worry was on our Veterans, Community as we do many meals to feed them, check on them. But from Day 1 when AMVETS POST 50 was able to open, Dawn Bergener Auxiliary 50 President with her commander Paul Nash called and said to come on down, have some meals, sing Karaoke. Then in November we asked if we could have our Membership Drive there at Post 50, Dawn answer was always YES of course. Then we asked if we could start having our membership meeting there , again Dawn's reply " of course". Dawn Bergener and her Auxiliary officers and members have actually changed their meeting night so we could keep some type of normalcy to our Auxiliary 81, which we have about 30 members that attend. Dawn has also invited Auxiliary 81 to do a fundraiser with Auxiliary 50. Once again Auxiliary 50 has been more than welcoming to our Auxiliary and I am most proud to be their Auxiliary Sister. Today we hand you an Appreciation Certificate, acknowledging your kindness

and hospitality. Thank you from us all at Ladies Auxiliary 81. Dawn accepted it with Heather, Rae Nash and Melinda Maner.

PNP/PDP Dee Baggett took a personal moment to acknowledge anyone has a right to speak on this floor, it is your right and privilege. Any one can run for office, delegates count on votes and you can vote for whoever you want.

Benediction: by Chaplain Wendy Luzader

Respect to the Colors: by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Recessed until Sunday February 19, 2023

Sunday February 19, 2023 Business Session

Raffle drawings prior to meeting

Friday 50/50, Saturday 50/50, Sunday 50/50

Convention Chairman Basket Raffles

Ways and Means Basket Raffles

Call to order by Madam President Deborah Beck at 8:35 a.m.

Innovation: by Chaplin Wendy Luzader

Pledge of Allegiance: by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Roll Call: by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

Continued Department Officers Reports

Quartermaster: by Toni Fox's report is in the book. She thanked Madam President for appointing her as the Department Quartermaster and for all the ladies auxiliary members for continuing to support her. It has been fun, busy as always and she is already preparing for the Convention in June 2023. Friday's sales \$2,446.00, Saturday sales \$1,505.00 for a total of \$3,951.00. As always, a special thank you to those that volunteered to help her this weekend. An audit was done on Saturday afternoon, and all is in order. Thank you to Aux #60 Sherry Miraldi and Ardith Kiser for all your help.

Gavelier's Report: by PDP/NEC Sherry Marecek begins her report by thanking Madam President for providing lunch for the Gaveliers meeting Saturday February 18,2023. We really appreciate it. We had 20 1st timers yesterday and we're so glad they were there. Please continue to come

back and learn more about AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. Be sure to sprinkle some fun in along the way. Thank you everyone for purchasing the tickets for the lottery scratch off's. you all helped us raise \$600.00 this weekend. The gaveliers have one recommendation due to our concern o the executive Secretary computer propsoed to be purchased. That concern is does theis computer have enough memory for the complete ACCESS program and Quickbooks, as both programs are large memory users.

PDP/NEC Sherry Marecek move to make a modification of the Treasurer's computer. Sherry Marecek move the Executive Secretary's computer NOT be ordered until ACCESS membership program consultant, Linda Card, agree that the computer DOES meet our needs. If it needs to be updated, the E-Board can do so. This is the Executive Secretary computer only. Second by PNP/PDP Dee Baggett, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

PDP/NEC Sherry Marecek added to her NEC report. In March 2023 She will be attending NEC meeting in Washington DC. It has been brought to the attention of a discussion being brought to the floor. The discussion will be about red shirts on Friday. The red shirts are to "Remember everyone deployed." The red is to remember & support our military servicemen and women. This is our honor as an American. We should be proud to be an American and thank our veterans every day, not just on red shirt Friday. Why would we be rewarded (such as reporting 8 hours on a service report) when you're going to get dressed anyway. Therefore, as Florida's representative she would like to be able to say NO to the motion on reporting the wearing of red on Fridays. Discussion PNP Patty Piening, you should be proud to wear red on Friday, PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin there is no need to take time to report this. PNP/PDP Dee Baggett we post our flag as an American we don't report that. Voted on the floor to agree with PDP/NEC to say NO on the floor at NEC meeting to do report for RED shirt Friday.

Ways and Means: by Donna Chaparro she apologized for report not getting in the book on time and it was passed out on the floor to put in the book. She thanked everyone who brought donations and volunteered at our October SEC. There are a few she might have left out, her apologies. Holly and Gunther, for the bottle. Fainoe from auxiliary #4 and her local Auxiliary #1992 for all their donations and support. Thank you PNP/PDP Dee Baggett for her direction and training. Also, for this February SEC so far she has received donations form Jerri Devoll a wreath for this weekend and a bottle of booze for the June Conventions' Booze Wagon. Auxiliaries #60, 67, 81, 422, 1992 and Dee Baggett for their donations. Especially to all her volunteers. Her goal is to raise \$1,000.00 at each SEC and June Convention. She would respectfully like to ask each auxiliary to please bring a bottle of booze to be placed in the "Booze Wagon" being raffled at our June 2023 Convention. Raised this weekend Bottle Raffle \$254.00, Bottle Cap/Flag \$86.00, and Basket Raffle \$515.00, total \$855.00. Thanked Madam President and wished her a productive SEC.

PDP Marylou Maslo, personal message that at the "chat session" yesterday was not meant for officers to campaign. If was for members to ask question to the Department officers.

Credentials: by Ramona Mourhess thanked Madam President for the opportunity to finish Doe's Seals term. Thanks for the confidence in her. Big thank you to Doe Seals, Kathie Mannix for all their help this weekend. We had 147 pre-Registered, 14 on-site and 18 no shows, turned in \$2,105.00 to the Executive Secretary.

Convention Chair: by Kim Clarke report is in the book. Hoping all enjoyed this SEC weekend. We raised \$1,340.00 on 50/50's, \$670.00 was turned in to the Executive Secretary. Congratulation to the winners Renae Koseck and Anna Elkins. \$214.00 raised on Baskets also congratulation to the basket raffle winners. Please be sure to pick up 50-50 tickets to take home and sell as this is our way of raising funds to assist the AMVETS in keeping our banquet cost down. Also, at this time the Department of FL SOA's have donated \$2,500.00 and Department of FL Riders \$250.00. She also like to thank Carol DellaVentura and Michelle Ousley for assistance with selling 50/50's all weekend. Thanked Madam President, Toni Fox, Auxiliary #2415 and Auxiliary #60 and all that have taken 50-50's back to their Auxiliary to sell. Thank you to PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin and PNP/PDP Dee Bagget for your guidance. Safe travels home and see you all at the June Convention.

Presidents Council: by Dawn Stewart that 21 local presidents and 8 guest attended. Everyone talked about their fundraising, what they have done and are planning on doing. One Auxiliary had a thrift store pageant. They went to a thrift store, picked out the ugly pieces of clothing. Then they would wear the clothes and walk around at their post wearing the outfits people would donate money for the outfield they liked the most. One auxiliary did a mystery theatre and dinner night, another had a petting zoo, another did a crazy bake sale made unusual desserts with unusual ingredients. Art Sale, Golf Tournament, Bra Auction and Taco Tuesday. Great conversation.

SEC Council: by Holly Burbach reported in attendance 24 SEC's, 6 Alt. SEC's and 6 guest. They had a great informative meeting. She is very proud of Auxiliary #2415, she stayed with them for almost an hour after the meeting answering their questions, that auxiliary is eager to learn more. Thanked Madam President for a great SEC.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: PNP/PDP Charlene Kee announced if you are or becoming a department officer or appointed officer , the training will be July 7,8 and 9.

Announcements:

Patty Piening intends to run for President

Chrissy Albright for 1 Vice President

Sharon Sheldon for 2nd Vice President

Jerry Devoll for 2nd Vice President

Wendy Luzader for 3rd Vice President

Dawn Stewart for 3rd Vice President

Debbie Beck for NEC

Marylou Maslo for Alt. NEC

Sherry Marecek for Treasurer

Faye Colwell for Chaplain

Toni Plemmons for Americanism Officer

Marie Rose for Americanism Officer

Patty Johnson for Hospital Officer

Karen Schooley for Scholarship Officer

Claudia Thompson for Sgt. at Arms

Angie Kidwell for Sgt. at Arms

Benediction: by Chaplain Luzader

Retirement of Colors: by Sgt. at Arms Toni Plemmons

Adjournment at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully

Recording Secretary

Robin Trudeau

