

**AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
MINUTES-OCTOBER SEC 2022**

Friday October 28, 2022 -First Business Session

Call To Order by Madam President, Deborah Beck at 8:00 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 October 2022 SEC. She wished all a very successful SEC to learn, but also have fun. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask her or any Officers.

Roll Call of Officers, by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau

NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek move to change the time of School of Instructions from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Second by PNP Patty Piening, 1st Vice President, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda by NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek moved to approve the Agenda as corrected. Second by Dawn Stewart, 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 October 29,2022

Saturday, October 29, 2022 Second Business Session

President Deborah Beck called the Second Business Session for the 2022 Fall SEC to Order at 8:30 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

Draping of the Charter for PDP Meltonia Presley and Fran McGurk, Jr. AMVETS Co-Ordinator by Madam President Deborah Beck & Chaplain Wendy Luzader

Minutes of the June 2022 Convention were read by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau.

Robin Trudeau moved for the approval for minutes as read and published, second by 3rd Vice President Chrissy Albright, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

E-Board Recommendation were read by Recording Secretary Robin Trudeau:

Jerri Devoll moved the purchase of a land line phone for the Executive Secretary up to \$125.00 purchase. Second by Holly Burbach 2nd Vice President, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Jerri Devoll moved the purchase of dual set of microphones for the floor for the SEC's and Convention up to \$600.00 purchase. Second by PNP Patty Piening 1st Vice President, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Chrissy Albright 3rd Vice President moved that the finance committee investigate purchasing laptops with operating systems and Microsoft office for all officers that need them in their official capacity of their position and bring back to you, at the February SEC meeting, the cost of supplying them to officers and to be passed on to the next officer. Second by Beverly Gardner, no discussion. MOTION CARRIED.

Holly Burbach 2nd Vice President moved that Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary donate \$50,000 to the AMVETS Department of Florida Service Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. Second by PNP Patty Piening, no discussion MOTION CARRIED.

Chrissy Albright 3rd Vice President moved that the Department of Florida Ladies Auxiliary donate \$200.00 annually per our Bylaws to PAWS, but any other monies donated be directed

towards the purchase of a PAWS dog within the State of Florida. Second by NEC/ PDP Sherry Marecek, DISCUSSION, PNP/PDP Evelyn McElven questioned; is that for length of time or just one year, Madam President advised just for this year, NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek advised to all auxiliaries that we sent up last year to National \$24,000 with no recognition in Florida, no further questions, MOTION CARRIED.

Madam President announced that she was going into the AMVETS business meeting to deliver the donated check for \$50,000, from the Department of Florida AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary to the Department of Florida Service Foundation Disaster Relief fund. Madam President asked if anyone would like to join her, they were more than welcomed. Madam President presented the \$50,000 check to Department of Florida AMVETS Commander Eddie Bullock and PDC A.J Johns, Service Foundation 1st Vice, with all our ladies auxiliary by her side.

Audit Committee Report by PNP Patty Piening, Finance Committee met on Thursday October 27th and was happy to report that it was balanced and in line. Also, she thanked her committee, Holly Burbach 2nd Vice President, Chrissy Albright 3rd Vice President.

Treasure/Finance Report by Jerri Devoll, her report is on page 19, balance sheets and other financials are on pages 20-24 to finish out the 2021-2022 year. The Financials for the year July 2022-2023 are on pages 25-29, these figures are through September 20, 2022. A copy of the Budget overview is on pages 30-32. She introduced her committee 3rd Vice Chrissy Albright, 2nd Vice Holly Burbach and 1st Vice PNP Patty Piening.

Introduction of 1st Timers by NEC /PDP Sherry Marecek

Aux. #4 Yolanda Bray, Tajuana Gland-McKenzie, **Aux. #17** Sabrina Melton, **Aux. # 21** Pam Poineau, **Aux. #26** Tina Digrugilliers, **Aux. #33** Nancy Lawrence, **Aux. #35** Kim Sampson, **Aux. #98** Kristen Mandell, Patricia Cook, **Aux. #444** Judy Hunsingen.

National Convention Report by Madam President Deborah Beck, her Report is on Pages 56-59 please read it, there is a lot of information from our National Convention 2022. In your packets are the motions that were passed on the floor. There will be some changes to the ByLaws' and Manual. National Awards and Certificates were passed out from National Convention 2022. Madam President was very proud with all the hard work that they all had achieved.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS REPORTS

President: Deborah Beck's report is on page 8. Read it at your leisure. She thanked PNP/PDP Charlene Kee and 1st Vice Patty Piening for helping her during Hurricane Ian when she was unable to access anything electronic for approximately 10 days. Her theme this year is "Dare to leap and discover you can fly". Her Project this year is The Quantum Leap Farm in Odessa Florida, they have many programs for Veterans, Children and Adults with PTSD. Please help and

support her with her project. She thanked everyone for their support and reaching out to her this past month during this difficult time.

First Vice President: PNP Patty Piening's report is on page 9-12 read at your leisure. The score card located on pages 10-12 reflect the membership received in Department Headquarters as of October 2, 2022. She would like to challenge each Local Auxiliary to reach 100% membership renewals by February 2023 and recruit new membership. IRS changes for submitting your 990s for 2022 is 4 pages long. Patty cannot stress enough the importance of submitting your 990s. You can be fined \$600.00 or more for not submitting your 990s. Also, you need to wait and print the Confirmation number Page, it will state PRINT this page. Please put your auxiliary number on the top of the copy that you mail to her. Patty thanked each and every one of you ladies who reached to her and their prayers after she had a mini stroke in National Convention In New Orleans, TPA drug was giving to her in time with no residuals effects and it will take time for speech and strength on ride side to come back.

Second Vice President: Holly Burbach's report is on pages 13-15 read at your leisure. In the packets you will find our National 2nd Vice President's letter and information on John Tracey Center, please share with your Auxiliary. April is John Tracey Center month. Don't forget that Mid -Term reports must be in her hands by November 5th. She wished Madam President a wonderful and productive SEC.

Third Vice President: Chrissy Albright's report is on pages 16-18 read at your leisure. She reminded everyone that Madam President project for Quantum Leap Farm, which is Community Service report, looking forward to seeing all the reports from local auxiliaries. If you know of any members of the AMVET family impacted by Hurricane Ian, The AMVET Dept. of FL Service Foundation has applications for assistance through their Disaster Relief Fund on their website, which is FLAMVETSSFL.ORG. Mid-year reports are due in her hands by November 5th. Wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Chaplain: Wendy Luzader report is on page 43. Last year she received 67 deceased member notifications, to date we have received 12. Celebration of Life for Fran McGurk will be held on Friday November 4th at 6:30 p.m. at Post 26 in Valrico. She advised Madam President it is always an honor and pleasure to serve with her under her leadership. Thanked her for encouragement and being a fearless leader.

Americanism: Dawn Stewart's report is on Page 33 read at your leisure. Thanked all the auxiliaries for their hard work and dedication to the Americanism projects. Our National President's project is the Fisher House. When donating to her project the money will go to National and may not go to the Fisher House of your choice. If you would like to donate to a Fisher House of choice, please earmark that on your check. Hoped everyone a great SEC.

Hospital: Patty Johnson's report did not make it to the book due to impact of Hurricane Ian. Thanked the auxiliaries who had sent in reports, keep up the good work. November is St Jude's month and St Jude Children's Research Hospital is our National Hospital project. Please visit the

website ST.jude.org. The bulk of our voluntary service is given to the VA Medical Centers across the county, this includes medically staffed nursing and convalescent homes of hospitalized Veterans. Midterm reports are due in her hands by November 5th. Wished Madam President a successful SEC. and remember “you must weather the storm before you can see the rainbow”.

Scholarship: Karen Schooley’s report is on page 36, if you have any question, please call her. February is Scholarship month. She encouraged all local auxiliaries to get the reports in. There are 4 Scholarships available, College, Career, Dept and Joseph L Kee. Each of these can be found on our website. Also, received notice that the National Scholarships are currently being updated and will revise soon. As soon as she is aware that the updates have been completed, she will pass this information accordingly. Wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Jr. AMVETS Coordinator: Sarah Baca reported to streamline communication they have created an email for our Dept. Juniors Coordinators. Should you have any questions regarding the Juniors at your Post, etc., please use this email to contact her: juniordeptofflorida@gmail.com. They have 4 Posts with AMVETS Juniors in our State, Post 17, 26,30 and now 113 in Bunell! New Juniors Charter 113 was sworn in on July 2, 2022. All the new Juniors were provided with Covers and Shirts. She thanked Post 44 for their generous donation of \$2,000.44 and Post 78 for \$100.00 to the Dept of Florida Juniors. These donations help to provide uniforms for the Juniors. If your Juniors will be attending the February 2023 SEC, please email the Dept Juniors email listed above with a total count from your post by Nov 15th. Also please remember that they must have a parent/guardian consent form completed and on file for every Junior attending. Mid-year reports must be submitted, and post marked by December 31, 2022, even if you have nothing to report. Please wrap Post 26 in your thoughts and prayers as they celebrate the life of our loving Fran McGurk on Friday November 4th, 6:30 p.m. at Post 26. Many Juniors, current and former will be attending as she was integral part of shaping their lives. She will be missed more than words.

NEC: PDP Sherry Marecek reported it is great honor to represent the Dept of Florida as our NEC. In August she went to National Convention in New Orleans, her report is on pages 40 & 41. November 5th is the deadline for Service Reports to the proper Service Officers. Anything received by November 5th will be included in the Mid-year totals that she sends to National. Remember our new Standing Rule, for our Auxiliary to remain in good standings you must submit at least 1 Service Report per year. The Youth Certificates are in your packets for Aux. #21 Bryonna Merrick, Aux. # 26 Natalie Rosado, Rose Comar, Joseph Comar, David Baca, Makenzie Baca, Jamel Wigfall, Johnathon Wigfall, Jovan Rosado, Jeremiah Rosado, Aux. # 88 Preston Chase, Jack Irvin and Shane Ungerbuehler. So, when you get home thank them for their Service. Wished Madam President an easy and successful SEC.

Parliamentarian: PNP/PDP Charlene Kee reported that the Bylaws Committee met on Friday with 5 guests. The committee consist of; Immediate Past Parliamentarian PDP Gloria Jasinski, Madam President Deborah Beck, 1st Vice PNP Patty Piening, 2nd Vice Holly Burbach, NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek, PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin and PNP/PDP Dee Baggett. She advised she had an

awesome team to work with this year and thanked each of them for accepting to serve on the committee. The Dept. Bylaws was approved by the National Parliamentarian.

The Bylaws are on sale with the Quartermaster. Please bring your Bylaws and Manual to the Training this afternoon. Her report is on page 45. In the SEC Package it says "In order for an Auxiliary to remain in good standing, all Revalidated Auxiliaries shall submit a minimum of one (1) Service Report to the Department per year. Also, that Auxiliary 893 Bylaws are approved. Noted that Madam President mentioned that in the SEC Packet are a list of motions passed at the National Convention regarding the National Constitution and Bylaws. She would like to point out local Auxiliaries may grant two Honorary Membership per year.

Executive Secretary: By PDP Donnajeanne Merritt's report is on Page 46, please read it as it has very important information in it. In your envelope you will find a current Revalidation Form, a Dues and Remittance Form, and a roster of all your current (some past members). The roster lists all your annual, life and honorary members, the date they joined and the date of renewal. Since some past members are listed, a committee could be formed to try and contact them to see if they want to rejoin (they would have come in as new). Please remember that Life Membership cards, Life replacement cards and New Honorary cards come from National and that there may be a delay in those coming to you. You will most likely receive your New and Renewal cards from me sooner than the cards that come from National. Do not hold membership, send it as soon as you have members either New or Renewing. Please make sure the information on the form is legible, this is very important! Double check math regarding the check that you send with membership. The check must have 2 signatures on it. If the amount is wrong everything will be sent back to you for any correction needed. Make sure that the person on the form has not already become a new member or already renewed as this will also cause a delay because the check is wrong. If you have a change in officers during the year you need to submit a revalidation form. You only need to fill out the top of the form and the new officer (s) only. You do not need to list the officers that have not changed. On Revalidation forms do not use your Post address, phone number or email as it most likely will delay getting information to you or contacting if a Dept. Officers need to reach a Local Officer. Please do to page 62 and change date to February 17, June 9th and October 27th. Received an email from National Executive Secretary Carol King, rumor has it that some people think National Headquarters is going to start accepting online membership come January 1st. She hated to be the bearer of bad news, but that's not happening. We are still in the process of beta testing the new database and have other processes to work on such as roster and pre-print card parameters, the financial aspect of how to accept membership online and more. Rome was not built in a day, and neither will the new database. But within a few years, we will have a modern updated system that will serve us well into the future. Will have better idea on dates at the Spring NEC. Wished Madam President a very successful SEC.

Recording Secretary: Robin Trudeau apologized her report did not make it to the book as we were affected by Hurricane Ian. Roll Call has amazing women's names in it who have walked the chairs and made a wonderful path for us. But not only the woman on Roll Call but each one of you out there are amazing too! When you speak on the floor, please use the microphone so I can put in the minutes correctly as what you say is important. Any motions, need to fill out motion slip signed and returned to me asap. Any reports that are read on the floor, forward to me asap. Thanked Madam President for this appointment and wished her a very successful SEC.

Benediction: by Chaplin Wendy Luzader

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

Recessed until Sunday October 30,2022

Sunday October 30, 2022 Business Session

Raffle drawing prior to meeting

Friday 50/50

Saturday 50/50

Sunday 50/50

Call to order by Madam Present 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

Credentials: by Doe Seals, her report is on page 48. There were 139 pre-Registered which included Department Officers and 8 on site. There were 35 no shows. Thank you to Kathie Mannix, Ramona Mourhees always a great help and a special thanks to Tammy Waring for joining us, she did a tremendous job. She turned in \$1,795.00. Thanked Madam President for a superb weekend and thanked our Gaviliers for a very informative School of Instruction.

Convention Chair: by Kimberly Clarke thanked Beverly Gardner Aux. #8, Carol Della Ventura and Susan Leverone Aux. #81, Auxiliary 86 Keystone Heights and Auxiliary 2415 Cocoa Beach for their assistance in decorating, selling 50/50 and basket tickets, also for bringing in baskets to sell. Raised \$408.00 on 50/50, Sunday's 50/50 winner \$174.00, Saturday winner \$153.00 and Friday winner \$81.00. Also raised 280.00 on baskets. Thanked Madam President for a great SEC.

Honors and Awards: by PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin report is on page 50, read it at your leisure. Awards program is "Take a leap and discover you can fly". Time to start turning in your Service Reports by Nov 5th. Happy to hear that Scrap book is starting back up. Follow all criteria's and when they are due. Thanked Madam President for a great weekend, and everyone to have a safe trip home.

Sgt-at Arms: by Toni Plemmons report is on 44 read at your leisure, like to thank everyone involved in this conference it was a success. Special thanks to Kathie Trump and Claudia Thompson for their assistance, thank you whom donated candy, NO money collected due to talking or cell phones, no money to turn in.

Special Guest: AMVETS PNC Joseph Piening along with PDC AJ Jones and the AMVETS Trustees with the Service Foundation came over to thank us for our generous donation. They were amazed on how the Department of Florida Ladies presented the generous donation and was very proud to witness it. On behalf of the Trustees and President/PDC Larry Arnett thanked the ladies.

Quartermaster: Toni Fox thanked Madam President for the appointment. Total sales on Friday, \$3,194.00, Saturday sales \$1,110 with the total of \$4,304.00. She also noted the thank Ardy from Auxiliary #60 for helping her all weekend. She will not be selling paper copies of Department or National Manuals, Constitution or Bylaws the cost is too much. She does have the Flash drive with Department Bylaws but does not have the latest National updates yet, as she gets them, she will update, Madam President did speak at this time and advised in our packets is the latest of National changes in it. Toni wished everyone a safe drive home.

Ways and Means: Donna Chaparro report is on 55, read at your leisure. She thanked her volunteers Krissy Shay from Auxiliary 2415, Faye Caldwell from Auxiliary 4. Thank you to Holly and Gunther Burbach for the 2 bottles donated, also Post 26 for 2 bottles donated. The 4 bottles donated raised \$300.00, The quilt and Crown Royal raised \$660.00. The baskets raised \$355.00 with a total of \$1,315.00 for the Ways and Means. She is looking for assistance for baskets & donations from all our Auxiliaries. She is looking for a bottle brought back to February SEC to be placed in a collapsible Booze Wagon in June Convention. Donna asked please don't be afraid or intimidated by these women, the Department of Florida Officers, they have so much experience to assist us when we may be struggling, please reach out and ask the question. Remember a dumb question is the one not asked. She apologized for her absence on Friday night, she wasn't feeling well. Wished Madam President a very successful SEC, Upcoming SEC and Convention in June.

Gavaliar's Report: NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek thanked Madam President for the Gavaliars luncheon on Saturday. The Gavaliars could purchase the screen, projector stand and 25' extension cord for less than what we would have been charged for the use of the Hotels screen. So, because of your continued support in buying Gavaliars tickets, we purchased the items for the Department. Therefore, these items are now part of Department Equipment Inventory list.

There were 10 first timers at this meeting. Thanked them and hoped to see them again. She then called up Carey Wagner from Auxiliary 2006, welcomed her as a first timer transferred from Pennsylvania. At her meeting they voted to purchase their own computer for the Officers, Training chairmen. That will be one less computer the Department will have to purchase.
Recommendation from Gavaliers:

NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek moved to add new standing Rule #6, The Department Training Chair shall be a Past Department President, second by PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin, no question, MOTION CARRIED.

NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek moved to add new standing Rule #7: the Quartermaster shall provide hard copies of Department Bylaws for purchase by members at every SEC and Convention., no questions, MOTION CARRIED.

President Council: by Dawn Stewart advised she had 15 Local Presidents and 4 guest attended. Spoke about the Purple Bag Project and the different projects and fundraisers the auxiliaries are going. Also spoke about ways to encourage more members to volunteer to help on projects and fundraisers. She thanked Madam President and safe travels home.

S.E.C Council: by 2nd Vice President Holly Burbach had a great SEC Meeting, there was a lot of participation, talked quite a bit about reporting & some of the problems they are having. Thanked Madam President and everyone have a safe trip home.

Bushnell Cemetery: by Claudia Thompson apologized she did not get her report in on time. She stated everything is going good with the upgrading and to when they are getting the next phase of monument. When you have time or you're in the area come and visit the cemetery even if you do not have a family member or friend there. You can always donate money to Florida National Cemetery.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: Madam President let everyone know she has the Disaster Relief application to see her after the meeting. Thanked Gavaliers for a great job this weekend.

Jerry Devoll thanked Madam Present for a great weekend along with all the Officers.

Benediction: by Chaplin Wendy Luzader

Retirement of Colors: By Sgt at Arms Toni Plemmons

Adjournment at 9:25 a.m.