



**REPORT OF THE 99<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**EIGHTH DISTRICT , AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**GRETNA POST #266, GRETNA, NEBRASKA**  
**APRIL 10, 2021**

Joint Session 9am – 11am

Minutes of the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual District 8 Convention held on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Gretna American Legion Post 266; registration began at 8am until 9am the joint meeting began with the Dist. 8 Commander calling the meeting to order, with one tap of the gavel. The opening ceremony began with the Presentation of The Colors by the Gretna 216 Honor Guard. Invocation was given by Chaplain Michael Sheridan , National Anthem was sung by all, The Pledge of Allegiance, POW/MIA presentation given by the District 8 Commander, the chair was covered by Vice Commander Fran Shelton, and then The Preamble by all. The District 8 Commander gave his welcome speech and then called on the Post 216 Commander Loren Forged, and Unit 216 President Lindsay Brown to say a few words of welcome.

Commander Doolen Recognized the Department Officers present. Department Commander Gary Wooten, Senior Vice Commander Doug Frahm, Dept. Adjutant David Salak, NEC Bill Crosier, alternate NEC Fred Craigie, Detachment Commander Robert (Bud) Neel, Area A Commander Daryl Harrison. Past Department Commanders, James Costello, Mike Reimers, Fred Craige and Ron Ingram. And acknowledged all the Past District Commanders and Post Commanders present. The called-on District 8 President Paula Pillen, to introduce her Officers and guests. Paula introduced Department President Elizabeth Paes, NEC Kathy Mazur, District 8 Officers, vice vacant, sec/treasurer Leatrice Doolen, & ENVH Representative, Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer, and Historian Pat Gottsch.

Speakers were James Costello and Don Suchy, going out of order because they had another Convention to attend. They announced the offices they are campaigning for James for Alt NEC, and Don for Senior Vice Commander. Department Commander Gary Wooten, Elizabeth Paes and Detachment Commander Bud Neel, talked about the Gifts for Yanks program and that they are running in the red and everyone should increase their donations because the problem is there are more and more Veterans becoming residents of the homes now and that is an increase in what we hand out.

Legion Detachment Commander spoke on the membership of the Sons and the recruitment is down. We should all carry the Family application and recruit when we can for any family of the Legion. The Riders Liaison Marty Timberlake talked a bit on the riders and qualifications for the program and dates of events going on in recognition of the Veterans in the homes throughout the Nebraska Area. Bruce Husted spoke on the Memorial Garden out behind the Home, surrounding the pavilion, in the area they do cookouts, it has been going on for at least ten years, and can still be added to. The ENVH Legion Reps. Rich Klinger and John Weningham spoke about the Flagpole Lights that they are wishing to purchase; they are sixty dollars each and the home has a total of Twenty lights down the driveway. They are asking for District 8 to donate the money for the lights. Auxiliary Chairman of ENVH spoke of all that has been done by the Units and the plan to purchase at least 10 of the lights. She also spoke of the Lucynt gaming Projector and the overwhelming Effect it has had on the members. There are many still trying to figure out how it does what it does. Some don't wish to stop playing for meals.

A dedication was done for retiring Finance Officer Joe Sladky by the Past District Commanders and the Past District Presidents. He was given a Glass Trophy, and she a potted Flower. It was only for certain Past District and Presidents not all.

County Commander Reported the County Government was canceled for the Spring of 2021 but may still happen in the fall in October as always. Depending on the Covid situation.

The Post Everlasting Ceremony, Taps by Ann Guy, and Prayer by Michael Sheridan. Time to spare before lunch so a free for all talking session was held for anyone who wished to speak about any issues, or questions they had, they might what to share. The meeting was adjourned at 11am Until 1215pm .

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Leatrice J Doolen*

5/4/2021



**REPORT OF THE 99<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
EIGHTH DISTRICT , AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA  
GRETNA POST 216, GRETNA NEBRASKA**

The Auxiliary Business meeting was called to order at 12:15 pm with one tap of the gavel by District 8 President Paula Pillen. With colors in place, a hand salute was rendered followed by President Pillen, asking the Historian Patty Gottsch to place the POW/MIA flag on the chair, morning joint session all formal opening ceremony was performed. A moment of silence was held, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. The invocation was given by Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer. President Paula Pillen declared the 99<sup>th</sup> session of District 8 Annual Convention of the Department of The American Legion Auxiliary officially reconvened.

The President of American Legion Unit # 216, Lindsay Brown was asked to say a few words, a warm welcome was given to all who were in attendance. President Pillen responded with a thank you to all of Unit 216 and the Junior members for all the work setting up and the warm welcome from all. President Pillen proceeded to introduce her guests. Present were Department President Elizabeth Paes, NEC Kathy Mazur, and District 8 Officers present Secretary/Treasurer Leatrice Doolen, Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer, and Historian Patti Gottsch,

ENVH Chair Leatrice Doolen. County Presidents, Washington County Karen Keenan, Douglas

County Karen Brink and Sarpy County Patti Gottsch, Past District 8 Presidents stood To be

recognized, Louise Nichols, Kathy Mazur, Unit Presidents were asked to stand and introduce

themselves, present were Ginger Burgess, Arlington Unit #71, Lindsay Brown Gretna, Unit 216,

Annette Kay, Bennington Unit # 266, Joan Clements, Blair Unit #154, Sue Ellen Hammer,

Herman. Unit #274, Leatrice Doolen, Papillion#32, Paula Pillen, Elkhorn Unit #362. Roll call of

Units, (7) Units present and 24 District 8 members and 1 Department Officer.

With minutes of the 2020 Convention distributed to all members or available on the table. Karen Brink moved to dispense with the reading and seconded by Louise Nichols.

Treasurer's report was read by the Treasurer Leatrice Doolen (see attached on back) The motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the treasurer's report. Treasurer brought up the donations made in past years and asked if there might be a motion to do the same donations this year.

President Pillen asked for a motion to be made, A motion made by Sue Ellen Hammer and 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed by the body with no discussion, to pay the same \$1000.00 donations.

President Pillen called upon Karen Brink from Unit 374 Millard, for the Audit report. Karen reported there were no issues everything came out to the penny when audited on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2021. ( Just a note ( The -51cents was

found to be the banks error in recording a deposit. From last year report of the Audit. )

District 8 President Paula Pillen gave her Presidents report for the year (taking office For Rosie Pringle, some two weeks ago and filling in for most of the 2-year term) She spoke about her project, "Operation Home Front" which is Backpacks for the Military Children at OFFIT Air Force Base in Bellevue, NE. One backpack cost \$10.00 and filled with school supplies, if Units wish to contribute to this project, they need 200 by August backpacks. Donations can be sent to the Secretary/ Treasurer @ 630 S. Washington St. Papillion, NE. 68046

President Pillen called on County reports . Karen Keenan gave her report for Washington

County, with Covid Pandemic activities have been limited to her Units, but the Assessed donations made to Department were made by all and Unit donations to ENVH were delivered to Leatrice Doolen and taken to the home cookies from all 5 Units were donated.

Douglas County President Karen Brink reported the Units have done what they could, due to Covid as well. Boxes for the deployed Military Soldier assessed donations made to Department, units sent the money for cookies to be delivered to ENVH. Donated to the Fisher House.

Sarpy County President Patti Gottsch reported that Covid stopped a Lot of the active involvement as well, but all reported they managed to send in donations assessed by Dept. and held a few Celebration of Life luncheons, donated to the Heartland tri-city food pantry, Donated to the Fisher house, Donated 2 trash bags full of knitted hats made by a member of

their unit, purchased 3 barstools for the post lounge, members donated hours to community service, and baked for the celebration of life. Donated to the ENVH money and snacks to keep the Bingo games going, donated their time to wrap and deliver the gifts and envelopes to the ENVH for the gifts for yanks on top of what the Auxiliary and Legion Family does for them. Unit 32 gave word search books and puzzles to the Home as well.

Chairman for ENVH Leatrice Doolen spoke about the needs of the home and the and that we are still unable to get back in there, and hopefully by June or July when the numbers are down if they are down by then. Also mentioned the Lucynt Projector is going over big time , the members do not want to leave the games to eat meals. Some are still trying to figure out where and how the games show up on the table. The needs right now are 20 lights for the Flag poles along the driveway into the home. All the Units are still signing up and either delivering the cookie or sending the money so Lea can pick them up and deliver them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Census is now 105 members down from 115 from age not covid. Also , she mentioned all spaces taken for cookies from March 2021 through February 2022.

Kathy Mazur spoke a little about her post as NEC and her duties.

Department President Elizabeth Paes, talked about reports being due by April 20<sup>th</sup> and

When and where the Department Convention will be held June 24-27<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. She also mentioned that April is the Month of the Military Child, and Purple UP Day in honor of the Military child.

Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer and Patti Gottsch, held the tribute to the Gold Star Family members and gave a log stem yellow rose the 3 members were Louise Nichols, lost her brother in WWII, Joan Clements, lost her son in Viet Nam and Karen Clements lost her brother in Viet Nam.

The Little Red School House March, collection of donations for the nurse's scholarship. We collected \$90.00.

RECESS :

President Paula Pillen asked for any bills needing to be paid. She had copy receipt for \$18.36. Treasurer Leatrice Doolen asked if someone would make a motion to pay the Gretna Auxiliary the amount due for donuts provided for the Convention of \$59.95. Motion was made and second by Karen Brink and Louise Nichols in that order to pay. Past by the membership and no discussion.

OLD BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

Awards were as follows: JOHNSON - MAZUR DISTRICT 8 AWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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The Membership awards for units in four divisions determined by total membership Percentage



& Category by number of members in Units. . The Unit with the highest percentage of the current year's goal by January 31st received citations as follows:

DIVISION I: ARLINGTON UNIT #71 96.97%  
DIVISION II: Herman UNIT 274 94.55%  
DIVISION III: PAPILLION UNIT # 32 = 91.19%  
DIVISION IV: OMAHA UNIT # 1 = 79.32%

THE JOHNSON/MAZUR **"WE GIVE A HOOT' AWARD"** For the highest percentage in by 12-31-2020. Goes to: (For the Previous Year ended) Herman Unit # 174 - 110.64. % - **They hold it for one year.**

Winner

Judged by:

History Book: 1. Gretna #216  
2. Bennington #266

Patty Gottsch & Jennifer Stuttes

Prayer Book: 1. Bennington #266

Sue Ellen Hammer & Patti Gottsch

Publicity Book None entered

Sue Ellen Hammer & & Jennifer Stuttes

Poppy Corsage 1. Bennington #266

Lindsay Brown

& Centerpiece :

Election of Officers was held. The Secretary polled Units for a candidates for President and Vice President. With the rotating schedule of counties to provide; Presidency being, Douglas County, Paula Pillen, a Vice Preside from Sarpy County, being Lindsay Brown.

Department President Elizabeth Paes installed President elect Paula Pillen Vice President elect Lindsay Brown, Secretary Treasurer Leatrice Doolen, Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer.

District 8 President elect, Paula Pillen, announced her officers of the 2020-2021 year. Vice President Lindsay Brown, Secretary/Treasurer - Leatrice Doolen, - Chaplain Sue Ellen Hammer, And Historian is Vacant.

Finance Report , April 10, 2021, District 8 Convention  
Gretna Post 216.

2020 February 9 <sup>th</sup> Balance;	\$ 3615.31
2021 Per Captia dues collected -	+ \$821.00
Balance as of 4/9/2021	\$3,285.24
Donations	- \$1000.00
Engraving of Award Carth Awards	\$ 6.42
Little Red School House	\$37.90
2 Funeral donations	\$ 125.00

(Larry Mach killed in car accident with his wife)

(Rose Sheehy past in February2021)

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Department President's Project \$200.00

JR Dept President's Project \$100.00

Victory Apartments

\$200.00

EasternNebraskaVeteransva Home

\$200.00

New Vision Shelter

\$200.00

Fisher House \$100.00

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2021 - Total Donations - \$1000.00 Was paid out

Pat Gottsch read the Courtesy resolution.

With a salute to the Flag of our Country and a tap of the gavel the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Leatrice J. Doolen  
District 8 Secretary/Treasurer  
5/5/2021