**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA**

**DISTRICT 3 90TH CONVENTION MINUTES**

**Saturday, March 19, 2022 - Pender, Nebraska**

**American Legion Family Joint Session**

District 3 Commander Mike Ellis called the Joint Session of the 90th District 3 Convention of the American Legion Family to order at 9:03 a.m. With the colors being in place, hand salute. The Invocation was given by Nebraska Department American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain Pat Wiseman. Mark Merrick, Jr. of Macy Post 139 offered prayer and a blessing for all who attended. District 3 Vice Commander, Nick Tramp presented the POW/MIA Resolution followed by the placement of the POW/MIA flag by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Larry Armbright from Post 376.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by American Legion Auxiliary District 3 Vice-President, Beverly Neel and was followed by the National Anthem. An Umonhon Tribal Flag Song was then presented by the Macy Post 139 Motown Drum Group. Commander Ellis recognized Macy Post 139 as the newest post in District 3. Ellis also recognized Pender Sons of American Legion Squadron 55 as the newest American Legion Sons Squadron.

District 3 Vice Commander Nick Tramp led the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion and Auxiliary.

Commander Ellis introduced American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary distinguished guests; American Legion Senior Vice Commander, Don Suchy; National Executive Committee Alternate, Jim Castillo and Addresses were given by American Legion Senior Vice Commander Suchy, and National Executive Committee Alternate and Past Department Commander Castillo.

Ellis also introduced Area A Vice Commander, Mike Sheridan and, Burt County Veterans Service Officer, Penny Warren, who addressed the group and encouraged veterans and their spouses to contact their Veteran Service Officer with questions regarding VA Survivors Pension, Veterans Benefits that are available to all veterans and encourage veterans and their spouses to visit with her or their local Veterans Service Officer with any questions.

District 3 President Vicky Gullicksen shared greetings and welcomed the members and special guest American Legion Auxiliary Department President Barbie Meyer to the joint session.

Commander Ellis introduced representatives: Activities Coordinator, Deb Becker and Activity Specialist, ­­­­­­­­­­­Stephanie Eckert from the Norfolk Veterans Home. Becker and Eckert shared that the Home currently has 111 residents and is getting back to normal after COVID. They are now admitting new residents, the Home is open for visitors and for organizations to come in the Home to assist with Bingo and other activities. Visitors no longer need to be vaccinated or tested.

Mary Wiltgen, a Siouxland Freedom Park representative gave an update on their fundraising efforts.

Daryl Harrison, representative of the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway Foundation, recognized Past Department Commander Gene Twiford as the Father of the Medal of Honor Highway as it was his vision to honor the Medal of Honor recipients from Nebraska. Last year Harrison and Ken Hanel walked Highway 20 from the Wyoming boarder to the Iowa boarder in honor of the Nebraska Medal of Honor recipients.

Sons of American Legion Rider, Jesse Wiseman shared there are 12 chapters of the Sons of American Legion Riders in Nebraska with a total of 1200 members. Funds that are continuously being raised are in support of the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Pender City Council representative, Chris Reha gave greeting and welcomed the American Legion Family on behalf of the City of Pender.

Following the presentation, The South Sioux City Post 307 conducted the Post Everlasting and

Cheryl Schultz, Beemer Unit 159, assisted by Adeline Hanel and Beverly Neel conducted the Auxiliary Memorial Service.

Larry Armbright Post 376 presented the POW/MIA Remembrance Service. Closing prayer was recited by Department Chaplain Pat Wiseman.

Following the joint session meetings, the group recessed for lunch at the Pender Community Center. The noon meal was prepared by the Winnebago Unit 363; the chicken was donated by Macy Post 139; and the meal was served by members of the Thurston units.

Meeting recessed at 11:06

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DISTRICT 3 CONVENTION**

At 1:00 pm Pender Unit President Ellen Lander gave the welcome and presented District 3 President Vicky Gullicksen with her gavel to open the Auxiliary session. After the salute to the colors an opening prayer was given by District 3 Chaplain, Cheryl Schultz, and the 90th meeting of District 3 American Legion Auxiliary was regularly convened.

President Gullicksen called on District Secretary Adeline Hanel to read the Rules of the District 3 Convention. District Vice President Neel moved to dispense with the reading of the Convention Rules as a copy was available for everyone to read. Megan Kumm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Gullicksen gave the welcome and thanked Thurston County for hosting the Convention. President Gullicksen requested permission to deviate from the order of the program to accommodate all. Deenette Von Minden moved to allow President Gullicksen permission to deviate from the program. Sharon Pucket seconded. Motion carried.

Gullicksen introduced her distinguished guest Department President, Barbie Meyer. Members of District 3 who currently hold Department/National positions were recognized: Beverly Neel, Department Membership Chairman, Past Presidents Parley Chairman, and member of Department Advisory Committee; Pat Wiseman, Department Chaplain; Adeline Hanel, member of the Department Finance Committee and Jacki O’Neill, Department Parliamentarian.

Gullicksen also introduced the officers of District 3. Gullicksen is the President and a member of Coleridge Unit 114; District Vice President, Beverly Neel is from Winside Unit 252; Secretary/Treasurer, Adeline Hanel is from West Point Unit 70; Parliamentarian, Jacki O’Neill is from Jackson Unit 175. Past Department Presidents attending were Deenette Von Minden and Beverly Neel.

Past District 3 Presidents in attendance were: Ruth Greenough, Adeline Hanel, Cheryl Schultz, Jacki O’Neill, Pat Wiseman, Jane Dillon, Beverly Neel, Deenette Von Minden. County Presidents attending were Burt County – Pam Nelson, Dakota County-Pat Wiseman, Dixon County – Megan Kumm, Thurston County - Ellen Lander, Wayne County – Laura Novak. President Gullicksen expressed her thanks for their service

Gullicksen called on Vice-President Neel to report the roll call. Thirteen units answered roll call with 34 members and one guest in attendance: Allen 3, Beemer 1, Belden 1, Carroll 0, Coleridge 2, Craig 3, Dakota City 0, Decatur 2, Emerson 0, Homer 1, Jackson 4, Laurel 0, Newcastle 1, Pender 6, Ponca 0, South Sioux City – 0, Thurston 0, Wakefield 0, West Point 1, Winnebago 7, Winside 2 + 2 Junior members, Wynot 0. President Gullicksen thanked all for coming.

No Gold Star Mothers or Sisters were present and there were no memorials or obituaries to share with the group. Special mention was made of Beverly Neel’s mother, Phyllis Gallop who passed away on March 5th,2022. Beverly indicated it was a very special moment during the Auxiliary Memorial Service when Beverly’s mother’s name was read and Beverly placed a poppy in her memory.

President Vicky asked Secretary Hanel to read the minutes from the 2021 meeting. Vice- President Beverly moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes since all units were sent a copy of the minutes and a copy of the minutes were made available for all to read. Pam Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Hanel was asked to give the finance report. Hanel reported on the activity from February 29, 2021 through February 28, 2022. (Complete statement is attached)

The Treasurer’s report was accepted as presented by Hanel. A correction/typo was noted on the copies that were distributed to the Convention attendees. Hanel indicated the District 3 American Legion Auxiliary books were audited and were found to be in good order. A copy of the audit confirmation will be filed with the permanent records.

President Vicky read correspondence from Siouxland Freedom Park in appreciation for our contribution and from the Norfolk Veterans Home in appreciation for the American Legion Family sponsoring the coffee and rolls activity.

Secretary Hanel was called on to read the minutes from the March 5th Executive Committee meeting via Zoom. Beverly Neel moved to accept the minutes of the DEC meeting as they were emailed to members of the DEC and were also presented to all those attending this meeting. Laura Novak seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gullicksen stressed the importance of having someone from each county attend the DEC meeting. If a county president is not present for the DEC the President may send a member of that county to represent the county.

District 3 President Gullicksen shared that the past year was very busy with family medical issues as well as other issues. She was able to attend the Cuming County meeting in October, but was not able to attend any unit meetings, President Vicky was able to keep in touch and was able to visit with many of the unit presidents by phone. Gullicksen expressed her appreciation and felt she had a very good two years.

Vice President Neel updated the Department Constitution and made the necessary changes to the District Constitution and Bylaws that were approved at the 2021 District Convention. Neel made copies and provided them to the members.

Membership – As Department Membership Chairman Beverly shares membership standings every Wednesday that shows where we stand. Several units in District 3 have attained 100% or greater. Neel appreciates what the Units do and if there are ever any questions, contact her.

Old Business

President Gullicksen asked Treasurer Hanel to report on the Per Capita Dues. Hanel noted the balance is $397.00. Hanel indicated that 3 units paid their dues today ($429) but 2 units are still outstanding. It is important that members understand that Per Capita Dues are not optional. They need to be paid by each unit to maintain their charter.

Update on District flag. A new white District 3 banner can be purchased with Third District imprinted. It would be nylon, double sided with fringe and will need to be a special-order item. Cost is $119.00 plus shipping for a total of $143.72. Sufficient funds are available from the 2018-2019 (Greenough) Presidents Project. We should have the flag by Department Convention. Megan Kumm moved that the flag should be ordered. Pam Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Gullicksen shared that with her Presidents Project which was an elevated garden planter for The Norfolk Veterans Home, the Home provided the soil, seeds, plants fertilizer etc for the flower bunk. President Gullicksen would like to make a donation to the Norfolk Veterans Home with the remaining funds. The remaining balance in her Presidents Project Fund is $570.64. Laura Novak moved that the remaining funds in President Vicki’s fund be sent to the Norfolk Veterans Home to be used for their flower bunk planting expenses. Sandy Landholm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Special guest, Department President, Barbie Meyer shared Department information and events. At this time District 3 is in 6th place with membership.

President Meyer encouraged members to send pictures to Department Historian, Angie Foster, of activities in your units. Your pictures will be scrolling on a screen during the Department Convention in June.

Membership cards will not be mailed out this year. If you are unable to attend Department Convention, you may request that someone you know who will be attending can pick up your unit’s membership cards, or you can send $10 to Department and the cards will be mailed to you.

This year the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska is 100 years old. Since we did not meet in 2019 and 2020 nor did we have a major fundraiser last year, but there are still bills that must be paid. To balance the budget, a 100th Birthday donation request was sent to each member and each unit requesting donations. Any amount will be appreciated.

The Little Red Schoolhouse March collected a total of $130.01, which will be sent on to Department for the nurse’s scholarship.

President Gullicksen reported the District 3’s share of the annual fundraiser that was held in Carroll in October was $991.16. After some discussion Cheryl Schultz moved and Deenette Von Minden seconded the motion to donate $500.00 to the Siouxland Freedom Park and $500 to the Norfolk Veterans Home to be used toward some of the items listed on the Donations or Dedications sheet. Remaining balance of the Fundraiser account is $119.93.

Vice President Neel gave the registration report. 18 units registered with 34 senior members 2 juniors and two guest in attendance. First time attendees= 3 from Craig, 3 from Pender and one from Dakota City. President Gullicksen recognized June Wilhelm as the oldest member in attendance. Gullicksen reported that all 7 counties were represented. President Vicky reminded members it is important when new officers are elected that a list of the new officers be sent to the District President and to the Department.

President Vicky gave a special thank you to Ellen Lander, all those that helped with the registration as well as all the members who helped with the set-up and the meal.

Election of officers of District President and Vice-President.

The 2022-2023 District 3 President nomination was Beverly Neel. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed for the office of President. After a unanimous vote Beverly Neel was duly elected District 3 President for 2022-2023.

Nominations from the floor for District 3 Vice President were Laura Novak and Sandy Landholm. A paper ballot was conducted and tallied indicating the Laura Novak was duly elected District 3 Vice President for 2022-2023.

Neel announced her appointment for District Secretary/Treasurer was Adeline Hanel, Chaplain Cheryl Schultz and Parliamentarian Jacki O’Neill. Department President Barbie Meyer volunteered to install the new officers.

Candidate Financial Support – District 3 Standing Rules #12 states: the sole purpose of the Candidates Fund savings account is to give financial support to a member of District 3 who is a candidate for office of Department President. At this time, District 3 does not have anyone vying for the office of Department President.

Recognition Awards and Contest Results

Vice President Beverly announced that the Rosewood Gavel Certificate was presented to Unit 363 – Winnebago for having the highest percentage of membership paid and in to Department by September 1st.

Neel announced the units who have reached 75% goal by December 25th 2021 and certificates are in their packets. Neel proposed the adoption of the Courtesy Resolutions. Laura Novak seconded. Motion carried.

The contest winners were:

History Book – Jackson 175 (1st place)

Publicity Book - Jackson 175(1st place)

Prayer Book – Jackson 175 (1st place)

Poppy Centerpiece -Jackson 175 (1st place)

President Gullicksen thanked the distinguished guest for attending

Vice President Neel extended courtesies on behalf of District 3 Officers: Vicky Gullicksen, Adeline Hanel and Beverly Neel.

Thurston County for hosting the convention.

Ellen Lander and her Unit for all their help in getting everyone together to make it a successful convention.

Cheryl Schultz for serving as Chaplain

Thank you to distinguished guests:

Barbie Meyer – Department President

Beverly Neel –Past Presidents Parley Chair – Member of Advisory Committee – Department Membership Chair, Past Department President

Pat Wiseman – Department Chaplain

Adeline Hanel – Department Finance Committee

Jacki O’Neill – Department Parliamentarian.

County Presidents

Unit Presidents

Winside Unit for judging the History books

Coleridge Unit for judging the Prayer books

Decatur Unit for judging the Publicity books

Winside Junior Members for judging the centerpieces and corsages

Cheryl Schultz and her assistants for conducting the Memorial Service at the morning session.

President Gullicksen announced the following:

Poppy orders are in. Please pick them up before you leave.

Girl’s State orientation is virtual this year. It will be held via ZOOM on the weekend of April 9th to 11th

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska Convention will be held at the Ramada Inn in Columbus - June 23 – 26, 2022

District 3 Fundraiser will be hosted by Burt County at Tekamah Post/Unit 15 on October 30, 2022.

The 2023 District 3 Convention will be held in Wayne County at Winside.

District Oratorical Contest will be Sunday, November 6, 2022

Chaplain Cheryl Schultz recited the closing prayer.

Members saluted the colors and President Vicky Gullicksen declared the meeting of the 90th District 3 American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska adjourned.

Adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adeline Hanel

District 3 Secretary/Treasurer

**Third District**

**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Financial Statement**

Beginning Balance February 29, 2021 (Checking) $2,295.95

Receipts

Per Capita Dues $ 397.00

President’s Project $ 848.77

District Fundraiser $ 991.16

Convention Registration $ 81.00

Children & Youth-Coleridge Unit 114 $ 26.17

Little Red Schoolhouse $ 76.06

Interest Income $ 1.55

Total Receipts $2,421.71

Disbursements

Pres. Project (2019-2020) $ 36.05

Pres. Project (2020-2021) $ 288.13

ALAMIS $ 10.00

Officer Expenses $ 272.90

Convention Expenses:

Host Unit $ 100.00

Meals $ 48.00

Prize Money $ 33.00

½ Program Printing $ 14.62

Little Red Schoolhouse $ 76.06

Donation-Medal of Honor Found $ 75.00

Children & Youth $ 26.17

Transfer to Candidates Fund $ 50.00

Total Disbursements $1,029.93

Ending Balance February 28, 2022 $3 687.73

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Candidates Fund beginning balance Savings Account $ 406.96

Transfer from Checking - $ 50.00

Ending balance February 28, 2022 $ 456.06

(Candidates Fund)