



## **2023 Annual Department Convention**

### **Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, June 22, 2023**

#### **Younes Conference Center South – Kearney NE**

The 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Department Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh at 1:05 p.m.

The flag was saluted, and the invocation was given by the Department Chaplain Ruth Hietbrink. Department Historian Amanda Washburn led The Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem led by Jean Vackiner, Music Chair. Chaplain Ruth read the POW/MIA Resolution. Finance Chairperson Adeline Hanel led the Preamble.

President Ozenbaugh began by introducing distinguished guests 8&40 National Chapeau Lorene Bartos and 8&40 Departmental Chapeau Amanda Washburn.

Members with National appointments were recognized: National Security Chair Barbara Washburn, Northwestern Division Education Chair Kathy Mazur, Northwestern Division VA&R Chair Amanda Washburn and National Community Service Vice-Chair Debra Albers.

Past Department Presidents attending this meeting were Eva Nollette, Virginia Nelsen, Luayne Weisgerber, Lynne Wild, Roxanne Hiatt, Gayla Schmid, Donna Hatfield, Barbara Skillman, Barbara Washburn, Debra Albers, Kathy Mazur, Beverly Neel, Elizabeth Paes and Barbie Meyer.

Department Officers attending were Historian and Cavalcade of Memories Chair Amanda Washburn, Chaplain and Gold Star Chair Ruth Hietbrink, Secretary/Treasurer Jacki O'Neill, and Parliamentarian Barbara Washburn.

Members of the Executive Committee were introduced. Department Finance Chair, Adeline Hanel; District Presidents - District One Mary Krause, District Two Carolyn Conroy, District Three Vice-president Laura Novak sitting in for Beverly Neel, District Four Luayne Weisgerber, District Five Donna Hatfield, District Six Nancy Harrold, District Seven Nancy Niemann, District Eight Paula Pillen, District Nine Peggy Kennedy sitting in for Maria Atterberry, District Ten Cathy Webber, District Eleven Vicky Thompson, District Twelve Charlene Hobelman and District Thirteen Michelle Tiegmeier.

National Executive Committee member Beverly Neel arrived with our distinguished guest from North Dakota, National Northwestern Division Vice-President Marlene Boyer.

President Ozenbaugh thanked Lorene Bartos for accepting to serve as Sgt at Arms, Kathy Mazur for accepting to serve as election committee chair, and Paula Pillen as registration committee chair.

Permission was granted to President Ozenbaugh to deviate from the printed program.

President Ozenbaugh called for the reading of the 2023 Mid-Year Department Executive Committee meeting minutes held on January 13, 2023, in Norfolk NE. Historian Washburn moved that since the minutes were emailed to all members of the DEC prior to this meeting that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded.

President Ozenbaugh called for any corrections to the minutes. District 10 President Webber reported that the dues amount of the Junior members of Department 500 should be listed as \$26.25 not \$23.25 and that Kathy Mazur's name was not included in the list of the members with National appointments. The motion was approved with the corrections.

President Ozenbaugh called for the reading of the 2023 Pre-convention Advisory and Finance Committee meeting minutes held on May 30, 2023, at Headquarters in Lincoln NE. Chaplain Hietbrink moved that since the minutes were emailed to all members of the DEC prior to this meeting that we dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded.

President Ozenbaugh called for any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. The motion to accept the Pre-convention Advisory and Finance Committee meeting minutes was approved.

Advisory Committee chair, Beverly Neel was called on to report on the Advisory meeting. By direction of the committee, Neel recommended the adoption of a new scholarship that would combine the funds in the Averyl Elaine Keriakedes Memorial Scholarship, Roberta Marie Stretch Memorial Scholarship, Ruby Lorraine Paul Scholarship, and the Ruby Paul Campaign Scholarship into one scholarship with the title Nebraska ALA Memorial Scholarship for the new scholarship. Motion was seconded and carried.

Advisory Committee Chair Beverly called on Constitution and Bylaws Chair Amanda Washburn to bring the proposed Standing Rule changes to the DEC.

See attached addendum.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section A – Department Officers. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes to Section B – Department President. Remove 1 and 2 while 3 and 4 remain under SECTION B as 1 and 2:

1. The Department President shall have the sole authority to request an email and/or mail vote from the Department Executive Committee, with ballots to be returned "Attention -- Department President." (6-22-2017 Columbus NE)

2. A **Girls State** poppy wreath will be placed by the Department President or a designated representative at Fort McPherson National Cemetery each year on Memorial Day during the Memorial Service held at the cemetery ~~located at 12004 Nebraska 56A Spur, Maxwell, Nebraska 69151. Services historically start at 2:00 p.m.~~ For more information regarding the service contact: Fort McPherson ~~during the week at (308) 582-4433.~~ **National Cemetery.**

Standing rules that referenced money/payments were moved to SECTION M – Reimbursement – pages 30-38 with no changes.

District eight President Pillen moved to amend the wording of "The Girls State" to American Legion Auxiliary "Cornhusker" Girls' State poppy wreath. Motion was seconded and approved.

District four President Luayne Weisgerber moved to keep the addresses for the Pilgrimages in Section K. The motion was seconded and approved. Washburn moved to adopt Section B as amended. Motion was approved as amended.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section C – Department Vice-President and to re-number the following sections. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~D~~ –C - Department Secretary-Treasurer. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~E~~ – D -General. District four President Weisgerber moved to add upon request after Committee chair. The motion was seconded and approved.

Washburn moved to accept Section D as amended to read - Reports of contributions received at Department Headquarters shall be sent to the appropriate Committee Chairmen upon request. Motion was approved as amended.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section F – Americanism. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~G~~ E– American Legion Auxiliary - The Star. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~H~~ F- Unit Annual Reports. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~G~~ -County Government. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section J – H Courtesy for hospitalization or death of an official family member. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section K – I Lincoln/Truman/Eisenhower Pilgrimages with the previous amendment to add the addresses. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section L – J - Funds. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section M – K – District Meetings. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section N – L - Membership.

After much discussion on # 5, District Five President Hatfield moved to amend “the Unit Charter shall be revoked” to read “the Unit Charter shall be surrendered” upon the request of the Unit to the District, Department, and DEC. The motion was seconded and carried.

Washburn moved to approve the motion with the amendment. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section M- Reimbursement.

District Five President Hatfield moved to amend # 8 to add - a total not to exceed two and one-half days for Mid-Year and three and one-half days for Department Convention. The motion was seconded and carried.

NEC Neel moved to add National to Northwestern Division Vice-President. The motion was seconded and carried.

District Five President Hatfield moved to remove VA from 9 I. The motion was seconded and approved.

Chaplain Hietbrink moved to move 9 I i to ii and ii to i. Motion was seconded and failed.

District Four President Weisgerber moved to amend 9 I to Representatives at the VA Medical Centers and Chairmen at the Veterans Home The motion was seconded and approved.

Washburn moved to approve the motion with the amendments. Motion was approved as amended.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section N – Awards. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section O – Committee Meetings. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section P – Conferences and Conventions. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section Q – National. Motion was carried with a housekeeping change of b to a.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section R– National Convention.

District Five President Hatfield moved to add “delegation chair if not elected NEC” to # 6a Complimentary tickets for States Dinner. The motion was seconded and approved.

Washburn moved to approve the motion with the amendments. Motion was approved as amended.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~P~~– S – Past Department Presidents. For uniformity, all Past Department Presidents’ pictures displayed at Department Headquarters shall be 8” x 10” photographs. Photographs of the current Department President and National Executive Committee ~~person~~ member shall be displayed in the Department Headquarters President’s office. The photographs of all other Past Department Presidents shall be displayed in the Cavalcade of Memories. District Five President Hatfield moved to change photographs “to be hung.” The motion was seconded and approved.

Washburn moved to approve the motion as amended and with housekeeping changes. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section ~~U~~– T – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

District Seven President Niemann moved to amend 6ii to give Christmas cards to veterans in facilities instead of letters. Motion was seconded and failed.

Washburn moved to approve Section T. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section U – Poppies. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section V – Children and Youth. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section W – Education. Discussion was held on the Little Red Schoolhouse donations. In the future the donation sheet will allow for those donations to be used for scholarships based upon demand. Specific designation will be honored. Motion was seconded and approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section X – 8 & 40. Motion was approved.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to approve the changes made to Section Y – Girls State. Motion was approved with name change from previous amendment.

By direction of the committee Washburn moved to adopt the entire Standing Rules as amended. Motion was approved.

Constitution and Bylaws Chair Washburn discussed changes that were previously made to the governing documents.

Page 6 - Section 1. Removed - ~~The legislative body of this organization shall be the Department Convention, to~~ shall be held annually at the same time as the Department Convention of The American Legion.

Changes to the June 2022 Bylaws

Page 10 - Article I – Department Executive Meeting – Section 5: Remove - If the unexpired term of office for Department President is less than six (6) months. There currently is no longer a time limit.

Page 10 – Section 6 – Changed – a new Department Secretary-Treasurer elected appointed by the Department Executive Committee upon nomination of the Department President.

Article IV – National Executive Committee ~~person~~ Member

That concluded the Constitution and Bylaws report.

Finance Committee Chair, Adeline Hanel was called on to report on the Finance Committee meeting. By direction of the committee Hanel recommended adoption of \$6,425 for the Children and Youth budget. Motion was seconded and carried.

By direction of the committee Hanel recommended adoption of \$39,590 for the Veterans Affair and Rehabilitation budget. Motion was seconded and carried.

By direction of the committee Hanel recommended adoption of \$188,152 for the General budget. Motion was seconded and carried.

By direction of the committee Hanel moved to approve \$250 for the National Delegates fee. Motion was seconded and carried.

By direction of the committee Hanel moved to approve expenses incurred by Beverly Neel for \$912.79 and Vicki Ozenbaugh for \$307.44 for the National president's visit. Motion was seconded and carried.

By direction of the committee Hanel moved to approve \$738.50 to Vicki Ozenbaugh for mileage costs incurred for coordination of the Department move and painting. Motion was seconded and carried.

By direction of the committee Hanel moved to approve bonuses of \$500 to Jacki O'Neill and \$250 to Roxanne Hiatt. Motion was seconded and carried.

Hanel read the responses to the Risk and Compliance report.

The members with National appointments and the District Presidents were asked to give brief comments.

Membership Chair Neel moved to accept the cancellation of charters from Fidelity Unit 38 of Ord in District 6, Fort Atkinson Unit 348 of Fort Calhoun in District 8 and Ralston Unit 373 of Ralston in District 8. Motion was seconded and carried.

The Convention Program was reviewed with the printed corrections notated.

Next, the Candidates for Department Offices were introduced. Those in attendance were Candidate for Chaplain Vicki Cyboron, Historian Ruth Hietbrink, Vice-President Amanda Washburn and NEC Vicki Ozenbaugh.

Debra Albers was endorsed by the Department Executive Committee as the Northwestern Division National Vice-President for 2024-2025.

With no further business to come before the DEC meeting President Ozenbaugh asked for a closing prayer from Chaplain Hietbrink. The flag was saluted, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Written by Interim Department Secretary Jacki O'Neill

Approved by Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh

**(For the August Newsletter, the two below attachments will be placed on the website - nebraskalegionaux.net.)**

Attached: Directory on Standing Rule changes by C&B Chairperson, Amanda Washburn

Risk and Compliance report responses by President Vicki Ozenbaugh and Finance Chairperson Adeline Hanel