

American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
Spring Conference DEC Meeting  
Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta  
Duluth, GA  
March 22, 2018

President Anita Owens called the Spring Conference Executive Board Meeting to order at 6:03pm.

President Owens asked Chaplain Singleton for a prayer.

President Owens asked for the Pledge of Allegiance. All present did the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

Roll call was given by Secretary Hawkins. Department Officers present were President Owens, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lawrence, 2nd VP Brown-Debro, Historian Hall, Chaplain Singleton, NEC Stein and Secretary Hawkins. District Presidents present were 1<sup>st</sup> T. Pierce, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deanna Nichols (filling in for M. Thomas), 3<sup>rd</sup> Robin Shreve (filling in for M. Richards), 4<sup>th</sup> M. Patten, 5<sup>th</sup> M. Breeding, 6<sup>th</sup> A. Alexander, 8<sup>th</sup> Carol Williams (filling in for Boatright), 9<sup>th</sup> G. Ramey, 10<sup>th</sup> K. Alexander, 11<sup>th</sup> P. Jones and 12<sup>th</sup> P. Morgan. District President absent were 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Thomas, 3<sup>rd</sup> M. Richards and 8<sup>th</sup> C. Boatright. PDP present were Tillie Davis, Deedy Harrell, Joann Meadows, Susie Mash, Betty Grist, and Gabriele Barnett and Miriam Stein. PDP absent Sara Mitcham, Emily Kline, Lula Smith-Rachels, Linda Brock, Janet Clotfelter, Joanne Wilson, Hazele Hutcherson, Juanita Todd, Kay Kelly, Betty Turley, Dot Thornton, Gloria Johnston, Betty D. Williams, Lola Reed and Rosa Scott .

Secretary Hawkins declared a quorum was present.

President Owens stated the minutes from the Fall DEC meeting had been circulated. She asked if there were any correction. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as circularized.

President Owens called upon Finance Chairman Ramey for the Finance Report. She stated we had not taken the monies out of Edwards Jones yet, but would be soon. She had several recommendations, she needed to make.

Recommendation 1 - Permission to move monies left over from the History/Cavalcade of Memories after the name plates are purchased and put on the Past Department President Plaque to the General Funds. Motion made by Thelma Pierce to approve moving of the funds from History/Cavalcade of Memories to the General Funds after Valarie Debro project finished, Motion was seconded and approved.

Recommendation 2 - Permission to remove the Obligation History/Cavalcade of Memories off our Obligation sheet and do away with this Obligation. Motion made by Susan Hall to remove and no longer have this obligation. Motion was seconded and approved.

Recommendation 3 - Permission to change Hostess Party funds from recommended amount of \$45 to \$20. Deedy Harrell made a motion to change Hostess Party amount from \$45 to \$20. Motion was seconded and approved.

Recommendation 4 - Permission to change the language to not state if a Unit wants their check refunded to host their own party to say NO CHECK WILL BE REFUNDED IN ORDER TO GET CREDIT. For this Obligation you must have a signed validation as to where, when and how much was spent from the VA Rep/or Hospital Representative. It must be sent into the department headquarters for our files. Motion was made by Phyllis Jones to accept the changes. It was seconded and approved.

Recommendation 5 - We budget \$400 per month starting in July with receipts. Motion made by Angela Alexander to give the Department President \$400 for her expenses to use, not to exceed more than \$400 a month, to be based upon receipts and not to exceed \$4,800 a year. Motion seconded and approved.

Recommendation 6 - Motion made by Deedy Harrell to remove the earmark this year only for the funds marked Chaplain and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Leadership) to be used for what needs for the General Funds. Motion seconded and approved.

President Owens spoke on the Online Membership Payment, we send out check every three months. She asked for any recommendations from the DEC. It was voted to stay the way we are doing it at the present time.

Gail Ramey asked to speak. District 9 has in their Constitution/By-Laws that the District President has to step down after one year unless there are extenuating circumstances. This year they have some circumstances and would like permission for her run for 9th District President again. The DEC voted to give their permission.

President Owens asked Gabriele Barnett, Constitution/By-Laws Chairman to speak. Chairman Barnett said the Constitution/By-Laws have not been review since 2016. All the Department Officer and District President have been changed to reflect the current year officers and District Presidents. We have been having a hard time having members wanting to come up the ladder to serve the 5 years. **Purposed changes** requested to be **changed are Article IV. The positions of Chaplain and Historian will be appointed by the incoming President with the approval of the Executive Board; they can be held for no more the two (2) consecutive years. If this change is voted on then it effects the By-laws Article 11, would then read - Election of the following officers shall be by secret ballot; Department President, Department First Vice-President, and Department Second Vice President. Nominees must be in good standing and have held the positions of Unit President and District President. Take Out: (Department Chaplain, Department Historian). Member holding the position of Department and /or Historian is eligible to be nominated. The positions can be held for no more than one year.** A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. When there is but one (1) candidate for an office the nominee shall be elected by voice vote. These requested changes will be read two (2) times and voted on at the Department Convention.

Chairman Barnett stated that there is a **purposed change to Standing rule #21** is to be changed to read the following; **All candidates for State Office shall file with the Department Headquarters their intention on running for the NLT April 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be published in the April Newsletter and sent by E-Blast to all members and posted on the Department web site. Department will certify that candidates are eligible to run for office, i.e. dues current, etc. and let candidate know.**

**Removing:** All candidates for State office shall use standard size announcement cards (no larger than 4 ½" by 5 ½") with American Legion Auxiliary Emblem at the top - printed in dark blue ink. The candidate for Department President shall be allowed to send her announcement first and use her discretion in announcement used. All other candidates for office will wait until they have received the President's announcement before mailing their own through the U.S. Postal Service.

**Motion # 7** was made by Susan Hall. The standing rules #21, All candidates for the State office shall file with the department headquarters their intention on running for office NLT April 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be published in the April Newsletter and sent out by E-Blast to all members and posted on the department web site. Department will certify that candidates are eligible to run for office, i.e. dues are current and let candidate know. Motion was seconded and approved.

Unfinished Business:

President Owens gave 12<sup>th</sup> District President Pat Morgan to speak. DP Morgan is requesting Unit 536 Fitzgerald charter be pulled. This unit is not in good standing, they are not in compliance with the IRS and no reports have been submitted into Department showing any activity. No Obligations have been paid to department or district. Membership has not been paid for 2018 from the unit. There has been no response from the President after numerous calls and letters. Joyce Jenkins, President/ member of Unit 536 as to speak. She said she did not the charter to be pulled. Joyce said she had been working very hard to keep this unit going. No motion made to pulled charter, it is dead to pull charter.

**MOTION #8** made by Gail Ramey to place Unit 536 Fitzgerald to be placed on suspension. The unit will be evaluated at the department convention in June 2018 and decision will be made at that time if charter is to be pulled. Motion was seconded and approved.

President Owens asked Secretary for announcements.

President Owens called upon Chaplain Phyllis Singleton to close the meeting with prayer.

President Owens stated the Girls States meeting would follow this meeting and she adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patty Hawkins