

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
Fall Conference Department Executive Board Meeting
Friday, October 21, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Hilde Martin at the Atlanta Marriott Hotel Conference Center in Marietta, GA.

Prayer was given by Chaplain Rosa Scott.

President Hilde Martin asked Secretary Patty Hawkins for the roll call of officers. All Department Officers were present. All District Presidents were present, except 2nd, 6th and 8th districts. Kay Kelly was a stand-in for the 3rd District. There were sixteen Past Department Presidents in attendance and twelve absent.

President Hilde stated that introductions would be delayed until Saturday morning, the October 22nd meeting.

The Post-Convention DEC minutes from June 26, were circularized to everyone attending. President Hilde asked if there were any corrections. Linda Brock stated corrections needed to be made to the Trophies donations to read "Susie Mash would donate the Trophy for Units with 10-50 members, Nini Lynch 51-100 members and Kay Kelly 101 members and above." President Hilde stated the minutes would be corrected. With no more corrections the motion was made to approve the minutes with the corrections. Motion carried.

President Hilde asked Finance Chairman Deana Rowe to speak on the Department Finances. Deana talked about liabilities and funds, and stated all was not doom and gloom. It was explained President Hilde is supposed to get \$400 a month allowance, but has not been taking it. President Hilde has been turning in expense sheet, which is required by the IRS. President Hilde has only received only \$631.96 for three months, saving us quite a bit. Deana explained that every little bit saved helps the Auxiliary in getting turned around. Deana discussed the \$40,000 dollar loan from the Legion at a 3% interest rate. Deana stated we need to keep some reserve money in case an emergency should arise. This would be a cushion for the Auxiliary. Deana went over different ways we are working on saving money. Deana stated there had been questions about how some of the funds had been used. She discussed where funds raised for the loan pay off were put. She stated all the funds for the department special project and loan pay off went into the general fund to pay the bills which included the loan pay off. Deana spoke about the increase in the price of the poppies and why it had to be done. She said that it had been in the budget which had been approved. She stated that it was brought up about the poppy increase and it was a line item on the budget that had been approved by the DEC at the Department Convention in Dalton. PDP Beverly Parker said she thinks the Finance Committee had gone over the heads of the DEC. Beverly stated that when she makes a donation she expects it to go to that project. Judy Thompson, Department Special Project Chairman raised the question about where the funds raised for the Loan pay off had been put. Why it had not been used to pay against the loan as she was told when she was collecting the funds? Also who made that decision? Deana explained she was not the Finance Chairman for 2010-2011, and could not answer. Deana did state that the funds had gone into the Department's general funds. The immediate Past Department President Lola Harper was asked to speak about where the funds were put. Lola Harper said she took the advice of several people and the Legion had come to her about the loan because we were having a hard time paying the bills. She stated we had no money. There are two funds for the department (general office funds & President's Special Project). PDP, Lola stated she thinks she did tell Judy Thompson that it was to pay off the loan, but the funds had went into the general funds to pay the department bills which included the loan payments. Lola also stated the \$40,000 was not enough money to get

the department straightened out. The money had paid old items from past years. PDP Beverly Parker stated that one or two people should not be the ones making the decisions it should go before the DEC. PDP Janet Clotfelter stated that when money is earmarked for a specific project that's what it should be used for. Linda Brock made a motion to pay the \$3,365.12 raised to the American Legion to go against the loan. It was voted to pay the \$3,365.12 to the Legion by the DEC to go against the loan principal. Motion was second and carried

Anitia Owens 10th District President questioned the budget, what we are doing to make sure we can do to improve on any deficit. Deana explained the budget is reviewed each month to see where we are and what can be done to decrease any expenses.

Deana and Gloria Johnston went to visit the poppy process at the VA Hospital on August 3rd. Both were very impressed. Deana said we have a female veteran who was homeless, now making poppies and has been able to move into her own apartment. Deana said Kitty Taylor is doing a fine job and also Juanita Todd.

Deana Rowe made a motion to change the current bank account which has Kitty Taylor's name and her Social Security number to the Department's tax ID number and to include the Secretary/Treasurer Patty Hawkins name on the account. Also to start having the bank statement's come to the Department Headquarters. The motion carried.

Juanita Todd stated her name was also on the account so she can carry on with the program in case Kitty Taylor is sick. President Hilde stated there was a motion on the floor to amend the motion. The checking account will have Kitty Taylor, Juanita Todd and Patty Hawkins names on the account. A vote was called to approve and the ayes have it. The motion was amended to carry all three names.

Deana went on to explain that the budget is on web page and the 990's will also be on line. An inventory of all the items the department office has is now in a binder with pictures for insurance purposes. She also stated the mutual funds had been split. Mary Hattaway funds are now in a separate account with Edward Jones that cannot be touch. The interest from the Mary Hattaway account is going into our other account with Edwards Jones.

Deana concluded her report.

PDP Beverly Parker asked permission to have a Poppy Store at Spring Conference and it was approved.

President Hilde states that at the National Convention it was voted to raise Membership dues by \$4.00 for the year of 2013. The Department had voted and approved at the Department Convention in Dalton to raise membership by \$1 for the year 2013. This will be a total increase of \$5.00 for the year 2012-2013. The increase is for senior members only. This will not have to be voted on because National over rules the departments.

President Hilde asked if there was any unfinished business. There was not any.

President Hilde asked was there any new business?

Sarah Zingarelli, Unit 66 said she would like to donate to the Department a 3rd place Education trophy in honor of her mother Past 4th District President Ruth Zingarelli. A motion was made to accept the trophy. Motion carried.

President Hilde asked if there was any more new business. There was not any.

President Hilde asked our Chaplain Rosa Scott to say the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm