



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



99TH DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The 99th Department of NY VFW Auxiliary Convention was convened at 8:00AM by Past Department President Nina LeFrois and the Officers completing the Cross of Malta under the leadership of Conductor Charlene Carnright and Assistant Conductor Jackie Cosh. Attendees were welcomed and President Rose was presented with her Convention badge. Nina then turned the meeting over to President Rose Cooper.

The President told Madam Conductor, it would not be necessary to check current dues cards, as each member had been checked at the door by the Guard and Assistant Guard as they entered the room and were in possession of their conference badge.

Madam Secretary Chris Leavor called the roll of officers. The following were absent: Chief-of-Staff Marianne McLane, Historian Kellianne Martini – pro tem PDP Lisa Raplee, and District 2 President Gene Shaw, represented by Sr Vice President, Clarice Murphy.

Madam Secretary then called the roll of Past Department Presidents. The following Past Department Presidents were absent: Margaret Bergeron, Edith Horst, Helen Weeks, Marianne McLane, Donna Emo, Mary Kreuzer, Sharon Connolly, Kathy Zylko, Sally Gagnon, Sharlen Allen, Jackie Herbert, Denise McHugh, and Darlene Stanton.

The Secretary then called the roll of Department Chairmen. The following were found absent: Veterans & Family Support Chairman Doris Ippolito, Extension & Revitalization Chairman Marianne McLane PDP, Historian/Media Relations Kellianne Martini, Ways & Means Chairman Gene Shaw, and OTI Dean Helen weeks.

The roll of Deputy Chiefs of Staff was called with the following absent: District 1: Barbara Wasserman and Dora Burks, District 3 Lynda Essenter, and District 8 Phyllis Walker.

The Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action flag was posted by Raymond Sheldon, Sr.

The Chaplain read the opening prayer, followed by the Patriotic Instructor leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Soloist Esther Reape singing the National Anthem.

Past National President and National Representative to this Convention, Jane Reape PDP was escorted in with the colors. She expressed an emotional feeling of the pride it gives to be escorted with the colors, and how special for it to be at “home.” President Rose presented Jane with her official convention badge.

Following that, Bonnie Burgy PDP, National District Council Member #4, and Esther Reape, National Assistant Soloist, were escorted and recognized.

The Past Department Presidents were next escorted into the room and introduced.

Present were Sandra Flynn, Nina LeFrois, Cindy Campbell, Barbara Hodges, Jane Reape, Bonnie Burgy, Irene Rohde, Karen Dotson, Debbie Casella, Mary Makosky, Ruth Huber, and Lisa Raplee.

President Rose welcomed all veterans in the room and presented first-time attendees with a small gift.

The President thanked Convention Chairman, Nina LeFrois PDP, for all her hard work putting this convention together and the Council of Administration dinner held Wednesday evening at the Olive Garden. PDP Karen Dotson was the luncheon Chairman, and PNP Jane Reape was the Registration Chairman. All three were thanked for making this convention possible.

Kathy Macris, Auxiliary 6251, with the assistance of Margaret Sheldon and Deborah Fucina, presented the convention pages.

President: Charlene Favata and Dorolyn Perry

Sr Vice President: Linda Flanagan and Sharon West

Jr Vice President: Melinda Ingoglio

Secretary: Marcia West- absent due to a family emergency.

Treasurer: Denise White- absent due to a work conflict.

Chaplain: Maryellen DesForge

Conductor: Flora Becker

Guard: Debbie McCarthy

Floor Officers: Jeff Platt

District Presidents: Victoria Hilfiger

Past Department Presidents: Linda LaRosa

The minutes from the 98th Department Convention were not read as they were distributed previously. Hearing no objections, the minutes from the 98th Department Convention were approved as previously distributed.

Convention appointments were not read since they were printed and distributed in the registration folders.

Bonnie Burgy PDP, District 3 President Rebecca Sweet, and District 8 President Tina Roberts, Convention Rules Committee, gave their report.

It was moved by PDP Bonnie Burgy on behalf of the Committee to accept the convention rules as printed and distributed in the registration folders with a correction to line 3G deleting the term "Conductress". Motion approved.

PDP Irene Rohde, District 4 President Peggy Schweitzer, and Special Project Chairman Marcia Williams presented the annual report of officers and chairmen.

It has been moved by PDP Irene Rohde on behalf of the Committee to accept the 2023 2024 Officers Reports as distributed. Motion approved. The full report is available to be read on the Department web site.

The Secretary read official and other communications.

Memo from National dated 3/26/24 official notice of National dues increase for annual members from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and for annual at-large Department members it will be \$15.00. It is imperative that Auxiliaries review their own dues by June 30, 2024.

Memo from National dated 4/17/24 the Department of Illinois Secretary resigned for health reasons. The Department President has appointed Rhonda Borkgren to the position. Update your National Directory.

Memo from National dated 5/10/24 PNP Evelyn McCune has moved from FL back to her home state of Kansas.

Memo from National dated 5/20/24 Department of North Dakota President Alice Benson passed away following surgery.

Memo from National informing that the National Director of Administrative Services, Janice Criswell passed away unexpectedly on May 22, 2024. Janice had worked at the National Headquarters for more than 20 years and her loss will be immeasurable.

Memo from National dated 5/28/24 The family of Janice Criswell will be holding a private family-only funeral for Janice in Hill City KS. The Department of KS wishes to establish a scholarship in her name for the VFW Auxiliary Young American Patriotic Art Scholarship program. Donations may be sent to the Department of Kansas Treasurer Jeanette Cox earmarked J. Criswell Patriotic Art donation.

There was an email confirming the visit of Brenda Bryant to the Department of NY on September 16-19, 2024. That will be when Brenda is serving as the National President.

The Department of NY VFW sent notice on March 28th that VFW Post 307 in District 8 has voted to surrender its charter. I know we do not have an Auxiliary in that Post but find it refreshing that the VFW sees fit to keep its Auxiliary in the loop.

Finally, the Department has received written notification from Aux 4927 in District 11, Auxiliary 313 in District 7, Auxiliary 8137 in District 5, Auxiliary 357 in District 3 of their votes to surrender their charters.

The Resolutions Committee: PDP Ruth Huber, District 6 President Monica Ordway, and District 1 President Margie Ginn reported that at the joint opening the Auxiliary will be presenting proclamations to the hotel and Town of Colonie Supervisor Peter G Crummy for their continued hospitality every time the VFW and Auxiliary come to Albany.

A motion was made by PDP Ruth Huber on behalf of the Committee, to approve the proclamations of appreciation to the Marriott Hotel and Town of Colonie Supervisor Peter G Crummey to be presented at the joint opening. Motion was approved.

The next order of business was Nominations of officers. Nominations do not need to be seconded. Nominations were called for twice and left open until tomorrow.

Sr. Vice President Darlene Baker nominated President Rose Cooper. Rose declined.

PDP Karen Dotson nominated Darlene Baker for the high office of President of the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary on behalf of PDP Jackie Herbert who was unable to attend.

Justine Robles was nominated for the office of Sr. Vice President by Melinda Ingoglio.

Belinda Cole was nominated for the office of Jr. Vice President by Lynne Loga.

Kim White was nominated for Treasurer by Lisa Raplee PDP.

PDP Raplee nominated Charlene Carnright for Department Chaplain.

Marcia Williams nominated Deanna Guyette for Conductor.

PDP Debbie Casella placed the name of Craig Keitel for Department Guard.

Registration Chairman Jane Reape PNP reported 161 members were preregistered. There were 3-4 no-shows and several walk-ins. We met the 40% of Auxiliaries required for a quorum. The Theresa Klein Early Registration drawing was won by Marita Fredette.

Assistant Guard Deborah Fucina, Chairman of the 45+ year members made her presentations. There were 356 names with over 18,313 years total service to the organization. The member with the most years was Dorothy Bressette from Silas Wainright Aux 6338 with 78 years membership.

A complete list was in the registration folders. Those in attendance received certificates. Chairman Fucina said she would email a template to the Auxiliaries of those who were not in attendance for the Auxiliary to print.

Kathy Blake President of Aux to Post 9249 and Rosemary Wojick from the same Auxiliary presented the Past Department Presidents with framed poems written about their year-authored by President Rose Cooper.

PDP Cindy Campbell, District 5 President David Bennett, and District 9 President Judy Lefebvre reported regarding the Audit of the VAVS Representatives, Deputies, and Volunteers. A motion was made by PDP Cindy on behalf of the Committee to accept the report. Motion was approved.

Chairman for Mentoring for Leadership, District 9 President Judy Lefebvre presented her report and awards.

Group I 1st- Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Aux 5861, District 6
2nd- Thurston-Schramm-Reynolds Aux 8137, District 5
3rd- Van Etten-Spencer Aux 8139, District 5

Group II 1st- Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6
2nd- Albert A Gonyea Aux 3357, District 9
3rd- Robert F Garrison Aux 3350, District 10

Group III 1st- Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8
2nd- Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8
3rd- Proctor-Hopson Aux 1896, District 1

Group IV 1st- Ballston Spa Aux 358, District 3
2nd- Roosa-Fleming Aux 161, District 2
3rd- Douglas E Voss Memorial Aux 6001, District 4

Group V 1st- The Greater Mahopac Aux 5491, District 2
2nd- Lt John F O'Grady Aux 1384, District 10
3rd- Lincoln Aux 1483, District 7

Group VI 1st- Pine Valley Memorial Aux 2522, District 6
2nd- Silas Wainright Aux 6338, District 9
3rd- Little Valley Aux 8734, District 6

District President's Citation: District 8 President Tina Roberts

Chief-of-Staff and Extension and Revitalization Chairman, PDP Marianne could not be present. Her report was read by the Department Secretary. She presented the following awards:

Organizer of Stuyvesant Falls Aux 9593, District 3- Belinda Cole

Organizer of Haspel-Staab Aux 551, District 1- Justine Robles

Organizer of Mohawk Valley Aux 3275, District 3- Belinda Cole

District President Citation: District 9 President Judy Lefebvre

Next, Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Peggy Schweitzer presented awards and her report.

Group I 1st Wade-Burns Aux 7279, District 11

2nd James R Moore Memorial Aux 8726, District 8

3rd John T Kenney Memorial Aux 973, District 2

Group II 1st Albert A Gonyea Aux 3357, District 9

2nd Allan Milk Memorial Aux 7276, District 2

3rd Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6

Group III 1st John T Murray Aux 1017, District 6

2nd Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8

3rd Harlem Valley Aux 5444, District 2

Group IV 1st Ballston Spa Aux 358, District 3

2nd Upton Memorial Aux 8259, District 4

3rd Brannen Van-Den Berg Aux 8645 District 2

Group V 1st Peru Memorial Aux 309, District 9

2nd Frontiersmen Aux 7545, District 6

3rd Queensbury Aux 6196, District 3

Group VI 1st Lewis County Memorial Aux 6912, District 4

2nd Glenn A Warner Aux 1371, District 5

3rd Little Valley Aux 8734, District 6

District President's Citation District 6 President Monica Ordway

PDP Ruth Huber, Chairman of the newly established Member of the year award- which will then go on to National for entry in the National award competition- presented the award to Margaret Sheldon from Pine Valley Memorial Auxiliary 2522, District 6. Good luck at National, Margaret!

President Cooper announced that the Department of NY will again be recognized in the Circle of Excellence at the National Convention. There are a LOT of deadlines and requirements the Department must meet to achieve the Circle and it isn't possible without the hard work and cooperation of all the members and Auxiliaries, so while she will have the honor of being recognized as the Department President, it is OUR award and she thanked all for the opportunity to receive it on their behalf.

Announcements

Reminder to all delegates to register at the credentials table before 11AM Friday. The Massing of the Colors and Joint Memorial Service will begin at 1:00PM. Line officers will be seated on the Dais. Those carrying flags were told to be outside the main ballroom to line up around 12:15. The Testimonial Dinner was to be held that evening beginning with cocktails at 5 and dinner served at 6. There were Convention greetings from PDPs Jackie Herbert and Denise McHugh who were unable to be with us.



Friday, June 7, 2024
Morning Session

PDP Ruth Huber opened this session and gave Rose her gavel.

The roll of officers was called by the Secretary. The following were absent: Chief-of-Staff Marianne McLane, Historian Kellianne Martini pro tem PDP Lisa Raplee, and District 2 President Gene Shaw, represented by Sr Vice President, Clarise Murphy

Credentials Committee Chairman Lynn Halstead and her committee, Kathy Macris and Phyllis Roseboom gave their report. Delegates were reminded to register their credentials by 11:00AM Friday to be able to vote.

Veterans & Family Support, Chairman Dee Ippolito presented her report and awards.

Group 1st Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Aux 5861, District 6
2nd Samuel Cimino Aux 6472, District 6
3rd John T Kenney Memorial Aux 973, District 2

Group II 1st Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6
2nd Jayne- Lattin Aux 2913, District 11
3rd Greenwich Aux 7291, District 3

Group III 1st John T Murray Aux 1017, District 6
2nd Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8
3rd Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8

Group IV 1st Mattydale Aux 3146, District 5
2nd Clifford E Galbraith Memorial Aux 7127, District 5
3rd Vail Wolff McKenna Frye Aux 170, District 2

Group V 1st Peru Memorial Aux 309, District 9
2nd Queensbury Aux 6196, District 3
3rd Arcadia Memorial Aux 2883, District 8

Group VI 1st Dionne-Rumble Aux 7227, District 4
2nd Barben-Jones Aux 1400, District 4
3rd Glenn A Warner Aux 1371, District 5

District President's Citation: District 8 President Tina Roberts

Comrade Art Scheuneman, District 2 Trustee for the VFW National Home was escorted with the colors. He spoke about the Home's centennial, the qualifications to run for Trustee and the need for generators for the two homes sponsored by the Department of NY. A special Centennial membership is available for purchase between April 1, 2024- and December 31st.

Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman Flora Becker then presented her report and awards.

Group I 1st Frank P Curry Aux 2718, District 10

2nd Samuel Cimino Aux 6472, District 6

3rd Lake Ontario Aux 313, District 7

Group II 1st Allan Milk Memorial Aux 7276, District 2

2nd Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6

3rd Francia E Hibbard Aux 4658, District 8

Group III 1st Lt Cyrus Garnsey Aux 1323, District 8

2nd Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8

3rd Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8

Group IV 1st Edwards-Wevers Aux 7290, District 5

2nd Edward & Moses Wells Aux 125, District 9

3rd Ballston Spa Aux 358, District 3

Group V 1st Lockport Aux 2535, District 7

2nd The Greater Mahopac Aux 5491, District 2

3rd Lincoln Aux 1483, District 7

Group VI 1st Glenn A Warner Aux 1371, District 5

2nd Dionne Rumble Aux 7227, District 4

3rd Barben-Jones Aux 1400, District 4

District President's Citation: District 6 President Monica Ordway

Cancer Grant Fund Chairman, Phyllis Roseboom, reported that \$31,954.00 was raised for the Cancer Grant program.

Auxiliary News/ Webmaster Dee Dee Guyette said in her report that it is gratifying to provide a means of communication for our Department. There are almost 300 subscribers to the Auxiliary News. She also gave the answers to the web page scavenger hunt.

Official Visit Coordinator, Bonnie Burgy, PDP, reported that the official visits were 100% completed before the deadline.

Legislative Chairman Georgian Davis presented Legislative awards.

Group I 1st Mineville Aux 5802, District 9

2nd Elma, Marila, Wales, Rademacher, Aux 5861, District 6

3rd Sgt Michael J Labetti Aux 2159 District 2

Group II 1st Everett F Harrel College Point Aux 885, District 1

2nd Corrigan Kiernan Fighting 14th Infantry, District 1

3rd Evans Township Aux 5798, District 6

Group III 1st Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8
2nd Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8
3rd John T Murray Aux 1017, District 6

Group IV 1st Roosa-Fleming Aux 161, District 2
2nd The Red Hook Aux 7765, District 2
3rd Edward & Moses Wells Aux 125, District 9

Group V 1st Greater Mahopac Aux 5491, District 2
2nd Lt John F O'Grady Aux 1384, District 10
3rd Perinton Aux 8495, District 8

Group VI 1st Glenn A Warner Aux 1371, District 5
2nd Hamburg Township Aux 1419, District 6
3rd Little Valley Aux 8734, District 6

District President's Citation: District 2 President Gene Shaw

Most Outstanding Auxiliary Excelling in Legislative Education: Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649- D 8

Most Outstanding Auxiliary Excelling in Legislative Participation: Hamburg Township Aux 1419 D-6

Membership Chairman PDP Lisa Raplee reported that the Department is 100.31%! Congratulations to all. The highest percentage in the Department was 8726 in District 8, with 157%. \$100 for being 100% + was won by Frontiersmen Auxiliary 7545. The Life Membership was won by Auxiliary 8726. The \$50 for the most new Life Members went to Auxiliary 524, District 5. The \$50 award for having a Membership Drive before a certain time went to Randolph Memorial Auxiliary 6533, District 6. Ten new members, at least 5 of them Life, was won by Auxiliary 524.

Joan Barnhart presented the Scholarship Program awards.

Group I 1st LaFayette Aux 1955, District 5
2nd Thurston-Schramm-Reynolds Aux 8137, District 5
3rd Van Etten-Spencer Aux 8139, District 5

Group II 1st Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6
2nd North Shore Aux 7172, District 2
3rd Jayne-Lattin Aux 2913, District 11

Group III 1st Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8
2nd Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8
3rd John T Murray Aux 1017, District 6

Group IV 1st Levittown-Island Trees Aux 9592, District 10
2nd The Red Hook Aux 7765, District 2
3rd Sgt Edward R Miller Aux 7336, District 1

Group V 1st Peru Memorial Aux 309, District 9
2nd Queensbury Aux 6196, District 3
3rd Boyd Hilton Aux 7062, District 3

Group VI 1st Pine Valley Memorial Aux 2522, District 6
2nd Earl J Santimaw Aux 1143, District 9
3rd Dionne Rumble Aux 7227, District 4

District President's Citation: District 8 President Tina Roberts

Secretary Chris Leavor presented the Americanism awards for the Chairman, John Horsky.

Group I 1st Samuel Cimino Aux 6472, District 6
2nd Afton Memorial Aux 3529, District 5
3rd Sgt Michael J Labetti Aux 2159, District 2

Group II 1st Jayne-Lattin Aux 2913, District 11
2nd Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6
3rd Albert A Gonyea Aux 3357, District 9

Group III 1st Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8
2nd Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8
3rd John T Murray Aux 1017, District 6

Group IV 1st Levittown-Island Trees Aux 9592, District 10
2nd Upton Memorial Aux 8259, District 4
3rd Dusenberry-Flannery Aux 2064, District 2

Group V 1st Queensbury Aux 6196, District 3
2nd Webster-Hill Conklin Aux 1470, District 5
3rd Edward C Seymour Aux 1231, District 9

Group VI 1st Dionne Rumble Aux 7227, District 4
2nd Little Valley Aux 8734, District 6
3rd Barben-Jones Aux 1400, District 4

District President's Citation: District 8 President Tina Roberts

The "Braggin' Rights" award went to Ruth Huber, Auxiliary 8734, Little Valley, District 6.
The # more than letters, Prisoner-of-War/Missing-in-Action travel kit was won by Dionne-Rumble Auxiliary 7227, District 4.

Hospital Chairman, Agnes Stampp presented her awards.

Group I 1st Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Aux 5861, District 6
2nd Nissequogue Aux 5796, District 11
3rd Edward M Maier Memorial Aux 4947, District 2

Group II 1st Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6
2nd North Shore Aux 7172, District 2
3rd Jayne-Lattin Aux 2913, District 11

Group III 1st John T Murray Aux 1017, District 6
2nd William F Wigand Aux 8444, District 3
3rd Prince Wynn Aux 260, District 1

Group IV 1st Mattydale Aux 3146, District 5
2nd Clifford E Galbraith Memorial Aux 7127, District 5
3rd Upton Memorial Aux 8259, District 4

Group V 1st Victor L Bracone Aux 5913, District 2
2nd Webster-Hill-Conklin Aux 1470, District 5

3rd Lt John F O'Grady Aux 1384, District 10

Group VI 1st Little Valley Aux 8734, District 6
2nd Pine Valley Memorial Aux 2522, District 6
3rd Waterloo Memorial Aux 6433, District 8
District President's Citation: District 6 President Monica Ordway

President Rose reported the following donations: Honor Flight- \$2105.00/ Wreaths Across America- \$16,437.00/ Holiday Cheer- \$9591.00/ Stop 22- \$3306.50.

Youth Activities Chairman, Ruth Huber PDP presented her awards.

Group I 1st Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Aux 5861, District 6
2nd James R Moore Aux 8726, District 8
3rd Sheehy-Palmer Aux 6776, District 3

Group II 1st Amherst Township Aux 416, District 6
2nd Francis E Hibbard Aux 4658, District 8
3rd Pennington-Moye Aux 9251, District 8

Group III 1st Chili Memorial Aux 412, District 8
2nd Goodrich-Smith Aux 8649, District 8
3rd William F Wigand Aux 8444, District 3

Group IV 1st Brannen-Van Den Berg Aux 8645, District 2
2nd Clifford E Galbraith Memorial Aux 7127, District 5
3rd Ballston Spa Aux 358, District 3

Group V 1st The Greater Mahopac Aux 5491, District 2
2nd Frontiersman Aux 7545, District 6
3rd Arcadia Memorial Aux 2883, District 8

Group VI 1st Little Valley Aux 8734, District 6
2nd Pine Valley Memorial Aux 2522, District 6
3rd Charles N DeGlopper Memorial Aux 9249, District 6
District President's Citation: District 8 President Tina Roberts

Other awards: Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue

K-8 1st- Isabelle Passante
2nd- Avalynn Langille
3rd- Ophelia Carpenter

9-12 1st- Ella Wood

Illustrating America

K-2 1st- Breyer Huber
3-5 1st- Evelyn Wilkes
2nd Hayden Hakes
3rd- Charlotte Edenfield

6-8 1st- Lexis Kerr

PDP Debbie Casella reported for Ways & Means Chairman Gene Shaw. The winner of the \$200 drawing was Clifford E Galbraith Memorial Auxiliary 7127, District 5.

Marcia Williams Chairman of the President's Special Project- Higher Ground and Homelessness reported \$12,919.00 raised for Higher Ground and \$4564.00 for Homelessness for a total of \$17,483.00. Donations were then made from the floor, raising total donations to \$13,054 for Higher Ground.

Dee Ippolito, Co-Chair of Spring Conference delivered a report.

John Horsky, Americanism Chairman, presented 34 certificates to the Auxiliaries who participated in the Thursday massing of the colors.

The Grand of the Military Order of Cooties Auxiliary, Ruth Huber, paid an official visit to the Convention. She explained some history of the MOCA and announced that she will run for District 2 Trustee for the National Home and said she would appreciate the support of the Auxiliary.

District 9 President Judy Lefebvre spoke about the "Stars"- Gold, Blue, Silver, and White.

President Cooper then asked if there were any Gold Star Mothers in the room. We had one, Georgian Davis. She was invited to sit on the dais for the Memorial Service. The Blue Star Family Members, White Star Families, and Silver Star Families were all invited to stand and be recognized.

The Conductor then draped the charter.

The Memorial Service then followed, led by the Chaplain. 371 members went to their Heavenly Homes this year. PDP Sandra Flynn gave the Memorial address. Special musical selections "In the Garden" and "On Eagles' Wings" were sung by Department Soloist Esther Reape, accompanied by Department Musician Becky King.

Following the Memorial Service the meeting adjourned for the President's Award Luncheon

Friday Afternoon Session

June 7, 2024

PM Lisa Raplee, PDP opened the afternoon session at 2:10PM.

Madam Chaplain Belinda Cole opened the Bible.

Lynn Halstead gave the final credentials report.

It was moved by PDP Lisa Raplee seconded by Sr. Vice President Darlene Baker to accept the credentials committee report. Motion was approved.

The election of officers was then conducted. President Cooper called one more time for nominations before declaring nominations closed.

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

President: Darlene Baker

Sr Vice President: Justine Robles

Jr Vice President: Belinda Cole
Treasurer: Kim White
Chaplain: Charlene Carnright
Conductor: Deanna Guyette
Guard: Craig Keitel

The Bylaws Committee, Jane Reape PNP and Karen Dotson PDP presented their report. The Committee moved to make the following changes to the Department bylaws. The Department per capita for annual members raised to \$10.00, dues for Department At-Large annual members to \$40.00, remove references to County Councils, allow teleconferencing for administrative meetings, voting by USPS, and a procedural change for revisions of the bylaws to be approved by 2/3 vote of the delegates at Convention. Motion was approved.

OTI Dean Ruth Huber promoted OTI to be held in Binghamton in August.

Madam National President Jane addressed the members. PDP Nina LeFrois responded.

PDP Ruth Huber asked the members of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary to stand. She encouraged members interested in joining a pup tent to do so.

Before adjourning, the attendees sang Happy Birthday to create a video for Brenda Bryant when she is the National President, and when it is her birthday.

Meeting adjourned.



Saturday, June 8, 2024

PDP Irene Rohde opened Saturday's session of the convention at 8:14 AM.

President Cooper again reminded members to put their phones back on silent or vibrate and to remain still and quiet while the Chaplain is on the floor. Madam Guard and Assistant Guard were directed to please close the doors until the Bible had been opened.

Madam Chaplain opened the Bible.

The Secretary called the role of officers and PDPs. The only absences were the same ones previously noted on Thursday and Friday.

The Chaplain closed the Bible.

Sr Vice President Darlene Baker and the line officers presented President Rose with a rose-gold bracelet with an anchor on it. The District Presidents then presented President Rose and Brink with gifts for both, the main one being a bracelet with all their names and Brink's paw print.

Linda Flanagan President, Secretary, and Treasurer of District 13 spoke about District 13. Dues were then collected. Linda later reported that District 13 was 100+% with \$156 collected for the cancer fund.

President Rose Cooper, PNP Jane Reape, and Presidential Advisor Ruth Huber PDP left to visit the VFW. Sr Vice President Darlene took control of the meeting. She had her Chairmen that were in the room come to the dais to introduce themselves and their programs- most with lovely posters.

When Jane and Ruth returned, Sr Vice Baker asked the Chaplain to open the Bible. The Conductor with the colors then escorted President Cooper back to the dais amid cheers from the members. Sr Vice Baker welcomed Rose back and returned her gavel to her.

Rose expressed her pride and emotions at being escorted with the colors. She thanked the floor team for doing a great job.

Madam Guard announced that there were guests waiting?

President Cooper asked the Conductor and colors to escort our guests. We welcomed Commander Dan Kell and PNCIC William "Doc" Schmidt to the meeting. Both briefly addressed the members and were then escorted from the room.

The Chaplain closed the Bible, and a short recess was given to prepare for the installation.

Madam Chaplain Belinda Cole reopened the Bible.

The Installing Officer Karen Dotson PDP was escorted to the dais. The installing conductors introduced were Jeff Platt and PDP Debbie Casella. The President-elect's family was escorted to the dais.

The elected and appointed officers were installed- and the Deputy Chiefs-of-Staff were asked to stand at their seats to take the oath with the other officers. The following officers were not present for installation: Historian Kellianne Martini, Assistant Guard Sharon West, and the following Deputies: District 3 Lynda Essenter, District 4 PDP Marianne McLane, District 5 PDP Jackie Herbert, District 8 Phyllis Walker, and District 11 Keri Najdzion.

Following the installation President Baker had a few words for the members. She then asked the 2023-2024 officers to return to their stations.

The Secretary asked the Conductor and Assistant Conductor to escort Jr Past Department President Rose Cooper and PDP Ruth Huber to the altar. Ruth Presented Rose with her Past President's pin.

The Chaplain closed the Bible, and the PDPs went to the center of the room. They accepted Rose into their Past Presidents' Circle .

They returned to their seats and Rose returned to the dais. She had the Chaplain open the Bible.

The Secretary announced the Council of Administration meeting would be in room 718 at 3PM. and presentations to the new President would begin immediately following the closing of the Convention meeting.

Jr Past President Rose Cooper then closed the meeting according to ritual with the retiring of the colors.

**Respectfully submitted,
Chris Leavor Secretary**

Approved: June 11, 2025