

**AMVETS LADIES' AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
MINUTES - FEBRUARY 2026 SEC MEETING**

Friday, February 20, 2026, First Business Session

Call to Order by Madam President Christina Chrissy Albright at 7:44 p.m.

Presentation of Colors by Sergeant at Arms Tajuana Gland-McKenzie

Invocation by Chaplin Dawn Stewart

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. At Arms Tajuana Gland-McKenzie

Preamble by 1st Vice President Sharon Sheldon

Aims & Purposes by 2nd Vice President Wendy Luzader

Code of Ethics by 3rd Vice President Robin Trudeau

Definition of Americanism by Americanism Officer Kim Clarke

Madam President, Christina Albright, welcomed all to February SEC 2026. Her project this year will support homeless female veterans and children and provide counseling services. Northeast Florida Women Veterans is an organization whose mission is to assist female veterans in transitioning back to civilian life.

Roll Call of Officers by Recording Secretary Dianne Zahran

E-Board Recommendations:

PDP Sherry Marecek moved to write a letter from the Finance Committee to the AMVETS Quartermaster requesting to view merchandise she may want to sell back to the Ladies Auxiliary and see the original invoice cost to the Quartermaster. Then, we will make an offer to purchase the merchandise. Second by Debbie Beck. Much discussion. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PNP/PDP Patty Piening moved to bring back to the table the discussion of the Facebook page that was tabled at the October SEC Meeting. Second by Sharon Sheldon.

PNP/PDP Patty Piening moved to table the discussion/vote on establishing a Department Facebook page for our members. Second by Lelie Long. **MOTION CARRIED**

Madam President clarified that during the 2025 Department Officers Training, the motion was tabled until June so that more documents could be presented to the Executive Board members for review, and then everyone would have more information to make a decision.

Benediction by Chaplin Dawn Stewart

Respect the Colors by Sgt at Arms Tajuana McKenzie

Madam President adjourned the joint session at 8:29 p.m. The Business Session will open at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

Saturday, February 21, 2026

President Chrissy Albright called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Invocation by Chaplin Dawn Stewart

Pledge of Allegiance by Sgt. at Arms Tajuana Gland-McKenzie

Roll Call of Officers by Recording Secretary Dianne Zahran

Minutes of the October 2025 Convention were read by Recording Secretary Dianne Zahra

Karen Schooley moved for the approval of the October 2025 minutes as published and read. Second by Ramona Morhass. MOTION CARRIED

Madam President made changes to the agenda for Saturday, February 21st, on page 2, at the bottom, to read: Minutes of October 2025 SEC, and on page 3, add Immediate Past Awards Chair to the 4:00 p.m. Honors and Awards Judging Committee Meeting.

PNP/PDP Patty Piening moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Leslie Long. MOTION CARRIED.

Communications: No communications received.

Guest: AJ John, the Service Foundation President, Tanya Marheine, AMVETS Americanism and ADAC Chairperson, as well as AMVETS District 10 Commander, presented a quilt designed by one of her Ladies Auxiliary members to Margo McConnell, in memory of the late Past National Commander Horace Johnson. A certificate of appreciation and a plaque were presented to the auxiliary member for her hard work and support.

Guest: National Commander Paul Shipley welcomed and thanked everyone for our service and gave an update on the happenings at the national level.

Finance Report: By Treasurer PDP Sherry Marecek, the report was on pages 23-29. The Finance Committee met on Thursday afternoon, February 19, 2026, to prepare the 2026-2027 budget. It will be presented for approval at the June Convention. Sherry thanked her committee, Sharon Sheldon, Karen Schooley, and Debbie Beck. She also thanked all the members for remembering her motto, "check before you write a check," and that all checks must have two (2) authorized signatures. She wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Audit Committee Report: By Sharon Sheldon. The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, and reported that the books and records balance. She thanked Karen Schooley and Debbie Beck for assisting with the Audit.

Introduction of 1st Timers: By Gaveliers President, PDP Sherry Marecek. There were 15 first-timers: Julie Williams, Aux. #19, Diane Jones, Aux. #21, Linda Hosteller and Leslie Marks, Aux. #35 Roxie O'Rourke, Aux. #50, Sharon Gubbini, Aux. #81, Judith Brown and Berdell Patterson, Aux. 312, Crystal Lee and Loretta Bernhardt, Aux. 447, Kim Syfert, Aux. 911, Candy Kenny and Cindy Salvas, Aux. 2000, Tonya Abelin and Michelle Carney, Aux. #2415.

Madam President asked for a point of personal privilege. She thanked everyone in the room and her extended auxiliary family across the state that reached out with support for her mom. She had great support from all the locals and officers. Madam President felt that every member in the room had done something to help her get through this weekend.

Department Officers' Report:

President: by Christina Albright, her report was on page 9. Her officers' report card was on page 10. Her program is the Northeast Florida Women's Veterans. They just went through a rebrand and are now called "Women's Veterans Ignited." They have great programs, but the two (2) she is supporting are HerSPACE for homeless female veterans and their families, and Operation HandUP, so the clinical social workers can then focus on military sexual trauma. If your auxiliary can help donate or do something for the project, it will be greatly appreciated. As always, we are here as your department officers to serve you. The department officers have been extremely good at helping to support the locals whenever they reach out by making sure they are getting additional help. You can also go to our Department Website: amvetsflaux.org

The Department Commander is being so gracious with his iguana project, and he's splitting his donations between his project and hers. The Commander's project is Adventure X 22, the iguana project. If you'd like to donate to the Commanders project and potentially earn naming rights and a little certificate for naming rights for the iguana, please come up front at the close of the business session. You may also donate to my project, Table (aux. 26) has the information.

1st Vice President: by Sharon Sheldon, her report was on page 11. Please read it first. She congratulated each auxiliary for completing and submitting their 990's. And as of January 27, 2026, all 990's are completed. The forecast will be released this weekend, and we have three membership awards to present. She announced that **the PNP Ruth K Nickerson Memorial Membership Award** will be given to the Auxiliary with the largest number of renewals, and that renewals are the lifeblood of your auxiliary. She wished Madam President a successful SEC

Guest speaker:

The AMVETS Junior President, Genoa Masters, greeted all. His project is the PDK. He chose this project in honor of his uncle. PDK is a deadly disease, and the foundation helps educate individuals with PDK on how to treat it and live with it. The AMVETS Juniors donated a \$200 check for Madam President's project.

3rd Vice President: Robin Trudeau, her report was on pages 20-22. She asked that everyone please read her report before the end of the weekend. Her goal is for all 59 auxiliaries to submit a community service report. The total evaluation was \$360,000 and praised the ongoing

volunteer efforts. March is PAWS month, and she encouraged everyone to have activities and fundraisers. She referenced helpful resources on reporting, such as our website, www.amvetsflaux.org, and explained how items like blood drive(s) or pill bottles factor into evaluations. Final reporting deadline is May 5th, but she encouraged earlier submissions and everyone to apply for awards at the June conference. She wished Madam President a successful SEC.

NEC: PDP Debbie Beck, report was on pages 49 – 52. The mid-year totals are following her report and stated that a scorecard was included for the service officers so they may see their progress. The forecast will be distributed at this meeting, and to please be sure to share it with your auxiliaries. As a reminder, all service reports are due in the Department Service Officers' hands by May 5th. E-mail reports are not accepted or ones that are late. The National Convention will be held at the Rosen Center August 19– August 22, 2026 with committee meetings on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026. Our National Convention Chair is **PNP Charlene Kee/Parliamentarian**. Hope to see many there. There is a sign-up sheet for committees at the National Convention and if you are interested in serving on a committee, please come see me to know what it entails. Wished Madam President a successful and productive SEC.

Alternate NEC: PNP/PNP Patty Piening report is on page 54. She welcomed members to the February SEC, noting that the reporting period is halfway complete. She reminded auxiliaries that all service reports are due to the appropriate service officer by May 5, 2026, and emphasized that each auxiliary must submit at least one. You must have at least one of the five service categories to remain in good standing. She encouraged members to take pride in their accomplishments and submit reports in a timely manner. She also encouraged attendance at the School of Instruction, noting it would be informative. She extended well wishes for the new year and wished Madam President a productive SEC.

Chaplain: Dawn Stewart, her report was on page 39. Auxiliaries that have deceased members, forms must be submitted to her no later than May 5th to ensure inclusion in the joint memorial service at the June convention. She mentioned that no names will be accepted at the memorial service and expressed well wishes for a great SEC to Madam President.

Americanism Chairman: Kim Clarke, her report was on page 30. She greeted all and reminded members to provide complete details on the backside of reports and to use the official report form available on the website. She also encouraged members to see her with any questions following the meeting or at the School of Instruction. Kim wished Madam President a successful SEC.

Hospital Officer: Jan Northcutt, her report was on pages 33-35. Thus far, 20 auxiliaries have reported and encouraged increased participation and members that all reports must be in her hands by May 5, 2026, to be included in the June convention book. She announced she will be retiring from the department in June with appreciation for the year. She concluded by noting her continued presence at upcoming events.

Scholarship Officer: Leslie Long, her report was on pages 36 to 37. She thanked the auxiliaries who submitted reports and noted that February is scholarship month. She reminded members to properly complete donation documentation, including the use of the correct cash donation

check notation and attaching a copy of the check. Further reminded members to complete the designation of donation forms and submit service reports to the appropriate service officer, and that all reports are due in hand by May 5, 2026. Leslie advised members to contact their service officer after submitting final reports to verify totals for award consideration and invited members to attend the SEC Council meeting following the school of instruction.

Parliamentarian/Trainer: PNP/PDP Charlene Kee gave her bylaws committee report. They had 12 guests. The committee reviewed the recommendations. Her report was on pages 40-46. She reported that the auxiliaries' 78 and 81 bylaws were approved, and commended auxiliary 78 on a job well done in submitting their bylaws. Charlene reported that the guidelines for Trusteeship are included in her report. Afterwards, she read the bylaws recommendations without a vote. The second reading will be read at the June Convention with a vote. **The recommendations are attached.** She thanked the Bylaws Committee: PDP Sherry Marecek, PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin, Alt. NEC PNP/PDP Patty Piening, PDP Debbie Beck, and Karen Schooley for serving on the committee and sharing their knowledge.

Training Chair: PNP/PDP Charlene Kee announced the dates for the incoming Department Officers Training. The dates are July 10 – 12, 2026, in Lakeland, Florida.

Local Presidents Report

Judy Catrell, Aux. 4 – They played bingo, and breakfast for child welfare projects for the homeless, and made gift bags for them at Christmas. They also held Fundraisers.

Danielle Miller, Aux. 8 – the president's report was on page 70. They are on schedule with all fundraisers. They participated in the Fisher House, PAWS With A Cause, supported local school drives, and celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Patty Pesky Lansing, Aux. 9 – the president's report was on page 71. It's been a good year, and they are getting a lot of new women involved.

Mary Ellen Beams, Aux. 26 – the president's report was on page 72. She highlighted that the Post held a breast cancer awareness fundraiser in October by having auxiliary ladies decorate bras and hang them up in the canteen for members to purchase ballots to vote on for the best decorated bra. There were several categories. They hosted a beauty pageant with 23 veterans, sons, and volunteers to showcase the decorated bras. The auxiliary raised over \$2,000. The money raised was donated to the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation. They also had a fundraiser with Beer Olympics in conjunction with the Veterans, Sons, and Ladies Auxiliary. It raised \$5,000 for the ROTC Scholarship fund. Post 81 was the Champions.

PDP Evelyn McElvin, Aux. 30 –the president's report was on page 73. They thank all for the grand opening visit and financial help. They also appreciate the locals' fundraiser ideas.

Patti Nichols, Aux. 32 – They have a barnyard bingo every Tuesday and have raised a lot of money. They will be doing their reports and sending the money in.

Patty Miner, Aux. 35 – Announced that this was a new position and does not have a report. They do have an event planned for every month up until May.

Laura Alberta, President, Aux. 44 – The president's report was on page 75. They are doing phenomenal, with constant fundraisers and supporting the AMVETS and Sons.

Carrie Poma, Aux. 50 – announced that she's been President for nine days, and has no report, but has events coming up to raise funds for different charities. Collected donations for school supplies and funds for Ashley House. Have a lot of things planned and look forward to completing them.

Jill Norwick, Aux. 67 –The president's report was on page 76. Jan Northcutt has done a tremendous job keeping us on track.

PDP Debbie Beck, Aux. 77 – The president's report was on page 77. They recently held a Scholarship fundraiser and raised \$1,900 for their Scholarship fund. The Child Welfare Officer did a great job with the school supplies and the Angel Tree Toy Drive. Total evaluation is up to \$42,046. She reached out to 90 foundations and schools. helped elementary, middle, and high school. They have fundraisers ahead with a Safari theme for the hospital.

Anna Elkin, Aux. 88 – Quick update. Fundraisers coming up in March. They will have a Sip and Paint, which will be a Scholarship fundraiser and a large fundraiser for PAUSE this year.

Kathleen (Larson) Walka, Aux 312 – report on page 79. The Auxiliary is flourishing and working well with the Riders and Sons.

Cindy Coffee, Aux. 420 - report on page 80. Veterans Village in Pensacola is one of their favorite projects they do every month. They serve them dinners and bring them necessities such as socks, hygiene goods, and anything needed. They supported the Ashley Angels again this year and split the proceeds between Her Space and Ashley House. They volunteered with Wreaths Across America by purchasing, placing on graves, and picking them up afterwards.

Cindy Whaley, Aux. 292 – They are doing a lot of fundraising once a month. Visited veterans at William F. Brings State Veterans Home in Bay Minette, Alabama. The members donated a lot of their time, money, and clothes to help the community. They also have reports in all service areas right now, and the mid-year total is \$82,685.

Susan Haines, Aux. 422 – report on page 17. In the book, they were at 114.5% membership. The Child Welfare Officer and President worked together and were able to give 86 children Christmas gifts. They did food baskets, Thanksgiving, and Christmas for the same families, and worked with the local schools to get it done. They will be competing in all categories. They take care of three nursing homes in our tri-state area and provide gift bags for 200 residents.

Leslie Long, SEC Aux. 444 – The president's report was on page 81. A few highlights. They gave away 150 backpacks to children and donated the remainder of the supplies. Split them between Williston and Bronson. Paper and pencil were taken to the school directly throughout the year. A scholarship bingo was held in September. This year, we're able to work for a \$1,000

Scholarships to Williston High School and then pick one for each private school. They are specifically doing trade school Scholarships. They took 180 lbs. of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. Did 35 baskets for Thanksgiving and, in December, participated in a race across America in Williston.

Kathy Connely, Aux. 1992 – the president’s report is on page 82. Please read it at your leisure.

Joanne Keldermann, Aux. 2000 – Raised money through Saturday night dinners and bingo every week. Donated backpacks to the Glen Allen School. Bought \$500 worth of tennis shoes for their shoe locker. Also contributed to a horse ranch called Integrity that does therapy for veterans. New members will be joining us.

Annette Norris, Aux. 2415 – Nikki Anderson is very proud of her auxiliary sisters, and they continue to do charity bingos and auxiliary dinners. Did an Angel tree for Christmas. They adopted 26 seniors and took them Christmas presents. They also did Advent Health Hospital and took the children out there Christmas presents as well. We adopted a little girl who has B-cell leukemia and has a single father. And raised over \$3,000 for the family.

Department Reports Continued

Executive Secretary: PDP Donnajeanne Merritt, her report was on page 47. Please read it. Requested to meet with representatives from Aux. 50 and Aux. 2298. Informed members that revalidation forms, updated rosters, and membership cost information were provided and should be given to the member Treasurer. She advised that there are currently no renewals, and any member wishing to return must requalify as a rejoin. She emphasized that personal contact information must be used rather than post-contact information to avoid communication delays. She reminded members to ensure all officer information on revalidation forms is accurate and includes officers’ e-mail addresses. She stated that revalidation forms are due in her hands no later than May 31st, 2026. She expressed appreciation for the members’ hard work, encouraged continued teamwork, and motivated members to maintain Florida's high standing. She concluded with remarks encouraging unity. And thoughtful leadership. Rather than post contact information to avoid communication delays. She reminded members to ensure all officers. Information on revalidation forms is accurate and includes officer email addresses. Stated that revalidation forms are due in her hands no later than May 31st, 2026.

District Presidents:

Nikki Anderson, District II - still waiting to get into Lake Nona. Auxiliaries 2 and 911 went to Emery L. Bennett Veteran’s Nursing Home and did a function. Raised money and donated socks, etc.

First Vice, District VI – President April Higgins was at the credentials desk. They are moving along and getting great ideas from other auxiliaries that are in our district and doing a great job.

Grievances Chair: PDP Sherry Marecek, her report was on page 61. She advised that she has been actively assisting several auxiliaries and that filing a grievance is a serious matter, and clarified that grievances should not be based on personality conflicts or hearsay and that canteen issues are considered AMVETS business. She reminded members that under national guidelines, a grievance may be required when a commander submits a formal request for

disciplinary action. She instructed members to review Article XII of the National Constitution and to keep the code of ethics and aims and purposes readily available before initiating the grievance process. She is available to assist auxiliaries with any questions regarding grievances and concluded by thanking the Madam President and wishing her a successful SEC.

Appeals Chair: PDP Mary Lou Maslo, her report was on page 62. She welcomed all in attendance to the February SEC. She encouraged members to continue submitting reports and to take advantage of the weekend to gather information to bring back to their auxiliaries. She reminded members to include the Code of Ethics and the Aims and Purposes on their agendas and to become familiar with them. She further emphasized the importance of reviewing the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Constitution, specifically Article XII on Discipline and Section 3 regarding rights to appeal. She concluded by expressing that she looks forward to seeing everyone at the School of Instructions and wished the Madam President a productive and enjoyable.

Madam President advised all to attend the school of instructions today at 1:00 pm

Friday 50/50 – Betty Winman (Aux. 9) - \$155

Saturday 50/50 (Aux. 893) - \$171

Announcements

PNP/PDP Patty Piening still has Gaveliers tickets. Mary Lou Maslo has them. 6 tickets for \$5.

PDP Evelyn McElvin asked members not to forget to pick up their forecast before exiting the room.

Sergeant-at-Arms Tajuana McKenzie asked that all members sit on one side of the room for the School of Instructions.

Benediction by Dawn Stewart

Respect to the Colors by Sgt at Arms Tajuana McKenzie

Madam President recessed the business session at 11:38 a.m. The business session will open at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 22, 2026.

Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

BEFORE THE MEETING, RAFFLE DRAWINGS WERE HELD. Winner of name the Iguana was Kierra Liske from Auxiliary 420 with the name: Sgt. Scales.

Call to Order by Madam President, Christina Albright, at 8:31 a.m.

Innovation by Chaplin Dawn Stewart

Pledge of Allegiance by Sergeant at Arms Tajuana McKenzie

Roll Call by Recording Secretary Dianne Zahran

Department Officers Report

Credentials Chairmen: April Higgins, her report was on page 65. She reported that there were 168 in attendance, 26 no-shows, 12 first-timers, and 2 guests. Financially, \$300 was collected in cash and \$275 in checks, a total of \$575. She announced some reminders that on the

registration form, the box should only be checked if someone is a first-time attendee. You should print clearly. The middle box should only be used for department officers, PDPs, or PNP. Lastly, if an SEC member is present, the Alt. SEC is a delegate.

2nd Vice President Wendy Luzader, reported that she and Kim Clarke went to a meeting at 1:00 p.m. Several auxiliary ladies were in attendance and met with Tonya Monahey, who was on the floor yesterday for the quilt presentation. Please pay attention to the poster size. If the poster size is off, it will be rejected. There will be a certificate presented for winners in each category, \$75. Bring your essays and posters to the Convention, and they will make sure Tonya gets them, but they would like to be able to present them to the AMVETS people on our behalf.

Gaviliers: PDP Sherry Marecek. She recognized 15 first-time attendees, expressing appreciation for their participation and encouraging continued involvement in future SEC and conventions. They reported that Gaviliers held a meeting and are working to improve communication by adding contact information for the PDPs to the website. They discussed exploring the possibility of implementing an online reporting system, noting that no guarantees can be made at this time. They advised that funds raised support the Department Ladies Auxiliary through the purchase of needed items and equipment and thanked members for their continued support. They announced that due to a change, tickets were 50/50 drawing with a total of \$760 collected and a \$380 payout to the winner. She concluded by complimenting Madam President on a successful weekend and wishing her continued success

Recording Secretary: Dianne Zahran; her report was on page 48. She emphasized that all motions must be written on a motion slip signed by the Madam President and Parliamentarian and returned promptly to ensure accurate recording in the minutes. She reminded members that SEC conventions are appropriate times to ask questions and seek clarification. She further instructed members to speak clearly during roll call for accurate recording

Convention Chair: Nikki Anderson, her report was on page 55. She expresses appreciation to those who supported the 50/50 and raffle efforts, recognized individuals for their contributions. She reported that raffle baskets raised \$729 and the 50/50 drawing totaled \$529, and advised members to take their book home, and noted that banquet information will be available on the website and in the forecast with a 1940s theme plan for June. She encouraged members to volunteer for the banquet and to indicate attendance for the June convention. Additional fundraising totals for the weekend were reported, including daily collection and winning amounts (02/21 {Friday}: \$156), 02/22 {Saturday} \$171) & (02/22 {Sunday} \$201).

Honors & Awards: PNP/PDP Evelyn McKelvin, Awards Chairman, welcomed attendees to the February Mid-Year SEC. She encouraged members to continue preparing for the annual awards program and to apply for both department and individual awards. She advised that the awards forecast would be distributed and should be shared. With all members, she highlighted this year's awards program theme and encouraged participation in the June awards program. She reminded members to document their volunteer work with photos and written reports to support award applications. She concluded by thanking the Madam President for the appointment and wishing her a constructive and productive SEC.

Junior AMVETS Coordinator: Sara Baca, her report was on page 57. For reference, it was reported that Junior Amvets met in Salon three with 80 juniors in attendance, including three first-time attendees. It was noted that numerous donations were received while walking the floor. The AMVETS conducted a hat pass, raising \$1,045, along with an additional \$200 donation from Post 26 Juniors and \$200 in support of Mr. President's Uncle T John Noah's project. The 50/50 winner, Kim Clarke, donated back \$175. Contributing to a total of \$590 raised for the project. Appreciation was extended to the Son's for hosting the horse races event, which raised \$1,224 to assist juniors attending nationals. In August, it was further reported that 2 new Junior AMVETS Charter Posts, 78 and Post 422, will be signed. At the Spring 2026 NEC and they look forward to welcoming them at the June convention members were reminded to continue collecting and recycling pop tabs and to notify in advance if bringing donations in June to ensure proper accommodations. Appreciation was expressed to post 45 and others for their continued support and donations.

P.R.O.: Tara Dean, her report was on page 60. She requested that any photos of the Madam President visiting Auxiliaries attending events be submitted to her with the date, event name, and names of individuals for inclusion in the official scrapbook. She reminded members to review the updated scrapbook criteria located in the National Ladies Auxiliary Manual, Section 5, pages 59 to 60, and encourage participation and communication for any questions. She further advised that all scrapbooks are due no later than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday of the Department Convention in June and expressed appreciation for everyone's cooperation and contributions.

Ways & Means: Anna Elkins, her report is on page 64. Income was reported as follows. Baked goods totaling \$634, Grab bags \$583, liquor buggy \$845, and shirt sales \$925 for a total of \$2,987. Acknowledgement was given to Jamie Rainey of Auxiliary 88 for baked goods and Sharon Sheldon for cookies. It was reported that Auxiliary 81 donated 76 grab bags with contributions from Tony Fox, 34, Carly 13, Naoma, 4, Louisa 7, Monica, 4, Nancy 7, and Debbie 7. Additional donations were received from Kim Clark who contributed several items. Further appreciation was extended to Wendy Luzader of Auxiliary 422 and Patty Piening for their donations toward grab bags. Her contact information is in the SEC book.

Webmaster: Kristen Mandell, her report was on page 63. She encouraged the ladies to go to the website, amvetsflaux.org, and advised that the site provides useful information and tools to assist auxiliaries and encourages members to review and share the resource with their auxiliary. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and wished Madam President a productive SEC.

President Counsel: Kathleen Larson. She reported that their Auxiliary has continued to flourish during the 2025 to 2026 year through increased projects supporting veterans, the community, and local children. She highlighted partnerships. Those other auxiliaries, including participation in the reindeer races benefiting Veterans Village in Punta Gorda. She advised that their success is attributed to active participation in monthly dinners, raffles, special events, weekly bingo and

various drives supporting food, school supplies, holiday items and hygiene. These efforts have enabled contributions of thousands of dollars to veterans, members in need, scholarships for local students, and numerous charitable organizations, including North Port Coalition for Homeless Needy Children, Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, Saint Jude Children's Hospital, Recipients America, and Valerie. Service dogs for veterans and veteran's village. She expressed appreciation to her officers and members as well as department and local leadership for their continued support and dedication. She concluded by wishing the Madam President a successful and productive SEC.

SEC Counsel: Leslie Long. The SEC Council meeting was held on February 21, 2026, with 31 SEC women and nine guests in attendance. The final reading of the SEC guidelines was conducted, and a discussion was held regarding the SEC Council meeting scheduled for June. Overdue dates were reviewed, and it was noted that reports are due in hand by May 5, 2026. Members were advised that service reports may be submitted via e-mail or mailed to the Department Service Officer. If a report is too large or requires further review, a behind copy may be requested. Reports will be considered received from the service officer. **The SEC Council made a motion to bring a recommendation forward to the Department.** Appreciation was expressed to the Madam President for a successful SEC.

The SEC Council presented a **recommendation** that the service report may be submitted by mail or e-mail to the department service officer. In cases where the report is too large or requires additional review, the service officer may request a hard copy. It was further clarified that reports will be considered received upon acknowledgement.

VAVS: Jan Northcutt, her report was on page 60, and encouraged members to volunteer and support veterans as much as possible.

Fisher House Representative: Tawanda Peoples. She presented the Fisher House report and apologized that her report was not included in the SEC book. She advised that Fisher House is currently accepting packaged nonperishable items individually and is also in need of volunteers to assist veterans' families. She concluded by thanking the Madam President and expressing appreciation for a successful February SEC.

Sgt at Arms: Tajauna McKenzie. Thanked all for a successful SEC and that she will have dark and diabetic chocolate in June.

Quartermaster: Toni Fox, her report was on page 59. She announced she will be stepping down and advised that, between SEC meetings and conventions, members frequently contact her regarding special orders, and she's grateful for their continued engagement. She reminded everyone that when placing special orders, it is necessary to provide complete details, including shirt style, color, and accurate sizing, as well as to ensure payment is made in advance. It was further clarified that some orders may include shipping charges; however, if an order is to be picked up at the next SC or convention, it will avoid additional shipping costs. The quartermaster acknowledged that she could not have fulfilled her duties without the assistance of those who supported her at the tables and extended sincere thanks for their help. She announced that this would be her final SEC serving as quartermaster and introduced Faye Caldwell as the newly

appointed quartermaster moving forward. She noted it has been a privilege to serve under 3 department presidents over a total of 6 years and expressed her best wishes to say encouraging continued support from the membership. It was reported that Friday sales totaled \$2,814.00 and Saturday sales totaled \$970.00, with a total of \$3,784, with appreciation extended to all in attendance

Guest: Department Commander, X-22. The X22 representatives stated they raised just under \$1,500 on the coolers and the bottle, and the winning ticket that was drawn said donate on it. We will be back in June and we'll be back in August. I just wanted to come in and say thank you for everything that you have done for us. It truly is an absolute blessing. More ladies came up to me yesterday thanking me for sharing my story. I'm just an average Joe and the good Lord, I'm his vessel. Thank you

Unfinished Business:

Christy Layton moved to add to the standing rules that the local SEC or service officer is able to email or regular/snail mail service reports to the respective service officer at the department. The date of receipt will be the date of acceptance of the email by the department officer. Second by Alta McAndrew. **MOTION CARRIED.**

New Business: No new business.

Announcements:

Mary Ellen Beam - School of Instructions yesterday was fabulous. It was a lot of fun, we were involved, learned a lot, and the winner was one of our first timers

PNP/PDP Evelyn McElvin - for the ladies assisting me with the project in June, please call me and let's get together.

Madam announced that she will be running for Ladies Auxiliary President again in June.

Also, 1st Vice, Sharon Sheldon, 2nd Vice, Wendy Ludzader, 3rd Vice, Robin Trudeau, Kim Clarke, Americanism, Leslie Long, Scholarship, Nikki Anerson, Hospital Care, Tajuana Mckenzie, Sargent at Arms.

Noted: Chaplin Dawn Stewart will not be running for Chaplin this year, but enjoyed being Chaplin this year.

Benediction by Chaplin Dawn Stewart

Retirement of Colors by Sgt at Arms Tajuana McKenzie

Adjournment 10:17 a.m.