

**MEMORANDUM FROM**  
***Stephanie Martin***  
**National Council Member, Area G**

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September 22, 2009

This is a recap of the National Council of Administration Meeting held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on September 19, 2009. Please note this is ONLY the Council Meeting – I am sure President Sue will be giving you all an update on the Director’s work shop and other items that were addressed. Attending this Council Meeting from the Dept. of California – Gwen Rankin, National Jr. Vice President, Dept. President Sue Wells, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer Sherl Daverio, Western Conference Membership Chairman Reta Butler and myself.

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP PAY-OUT**

It was moved and seconded that the Life Membership issue be taken from the table.

Past Nat’l Presidents Sandy Germany and Linda Meader approached the podium and spoke on this matter. As they explained, the chances of closing the organization OR all life members passing away at the same time are minimal. They distributed statistical information which made their point clear. They felt that Auxiliaries and Departments would be hurt too much with this drastic cut when it really wasn’t necessary at this time. All were in agreement and much relieved.

**INVESTMENTS**

It was also recommended to allow investment in other categories including TIPS to product against inflation. The National Council of Administration will be provided a quarterly report of how our investment portfolio is proceeding.

**LIFE MEMBERS WITH INVALID ADDRESSES**

Nat’l President Jan announced that she has authorized the hiring of a temporary employee whose job will be to work exclusively on determining the location of life members through a research program.

**NATONAL MILITARY SERVICES**

Gunner Kent visited the ladies and advised that Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs and Military Assistance are grouped into one program – ***Military Services***. Operation Uplink and Unmet Needs are in restricted funds; MAP is in an

unrestricted fund. Therefore, when funds are sent for these programs, it is requested that checks be earmarked *National Military Services*. This allows National to have the discretion of putting the funds into each account as needed.

- MAP money is used when a veteran gets out of the service, has critical needs and the VA has not kicked in yet. Additionally, if an Auxiliary wishes to put on a going away party, coming home party, Christmas party, etc. contact Mike Penny at National Headquarters. They will send the paperwork and cut a check. Monies are calculated at \$5-\$6 per person per event. Receipts need to be returned with accompanying paperwork.
- Operation Uplink – National has gotten away from calling cards as much as possible due to the cost. They now have “Overseas Calling Days” once a month. The Ladies Auxiliary sponsors the Mother’s Day Calling Day. National is still using the calling cards for hospital patients, military personnel stationed in places such as Okinawa, Korea, etc.
- Unmet Needs is a “grant” program up to \$2,500 with no pay back. If more funds are needed, they will look at it on a “case by case” basis.

These three programs are funded exclusively by donations at the Post and Auxiliary level. National President Jan asked that checks from Auxiliaries go first to the LAVFW at National Headquarters earmarked National Military Service. That way it can be noted who should receive citations.

### **NATIONAL VEHICLE**

It was explained that a van needs to be purchased by National to be used to pick up line officers at airport, transport them back, go out to eat, transport supplies, etc. It was moved and seconded that this van be purchased. National President Jan emphasized that should the National Secretary/Treasurer use this vehicle for personal business, she will be charged mileage, maintenance, insurance, etc.

### **NATIONAL HOME 85<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY**

Michigan will be enacting new laws regarding transporting children. A mini bus is desperately needed. President Jan has pledged \$60,000 towards this mini van. She urged everyone to make a donation so this goal can be met. She will be visiting the National Home in January and presenting a check. Donations should be earmarked “mini van” and sent to the VFW National Home, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Since this is the National Home’s 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday, they would like you to send a birthday card with a keychain. Keychains will be placed on a board and voted by the residents which keychain will hold the keys to the new mini van.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

President Jan announced at the Mid Winter Conference in Las Vegas (Harrah's Hotel), there will be a cocktail reception set up about 8:00 p.m. for those waiting to greet their Presidents after her "Night on the Town".

Our National website has been updated. Under *Postcards From Jan*, if you scroll down there will be other pictures from the states that Jan has visited.

Cancer Grant applications are now available on line

Membership application cards/forms are now available on line.

The special luncheon at National Convention where Outstanding Presidents are announced – National President Jan is opening this up to all those who would like to attend as long as they purchase a ticket PRIOR TO CONVENTION. No monies will be accepted at Convention. We will be receiving more information on price, where to send monies, etc. as the date approaches.

Again, thank you for electing me your National Council Member, Area G. I was very proud to attend this meeting and represent the members of the Dept. of California.