

# AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

## Department of Michigan

August 2024—issue #2

### 2024-25 Department Officer

President Gloria Hsll

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pam Lein

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Nancy Middleton

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Pat Michalski

Chaplain Karen Krumm

Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

Americanism Cindy Wolkens

Hospital Trisha Rosenberg

Scholarship Andrea Ray

N.E.C. Faye Richardson-Green

Parliament. Bertha Zeno Lema

Personnel Chair Wendy Lynema

AMVET Lodge Roberta Robinson

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

Honors & Awards Pat Michalski

Convention/Fall Conf. Chair  
Nancy Middleton

Long Range Chair Bert Zeno Lema

Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall

B.C. VAVS Faye Richardson-Green

G.R. Home Rep Leora Williamson

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith

John Dingell VA Cel Rose Solak

District II Pres. Pat Michalski

District V Pres. Patsy Watkins

District VII Pres. Barb Robare

Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton

**\*temporary**



## BRING BACK THE BASICS

with President Gloria Hall



Hello Ladies!

Thank you for buzzing over to our website ([amvetsauxdeptmi.org](http://amvetsauxdeptmi.org)) or ordering this newsletter by mail. I would like to begin by sending swarms of hugs to our out-going President Patricia Michalski for her leadership and support in guiding us through another eventful year. She made it look as smooth as honey. Of course, it was made possible with the collaboration and activity of her Officers. Thank you, ladies, for being a part of her hive.

By now you are wondering what the buzzing is all about? It started off by my election at Convention as President for 2024-2025. My theme is B-B-B which is Bring Back the Basics. Of course it all begins with our new slate of incoming Officers. We have many new faces and some faces of experience who will help guide the hive. I would like to congratulate them and I look forward to working with each of them to make this another successful year.

A big shout-out and Congratulations to Kari Witte on her second term as AMVETS Department of Michigan Commander! We wish her continued success.

The first order of business had us meeting in Grand Rapids for the scheduled Department audit. This audit was cancelled by the outgoing Treasurer, Deb Davis because her mother had a medical emergency. We wish her mom well on her road to recovery.

A second audit was conducted a week later without the Treasure due to an out-of-town business appt. Kudos to new Treasurer Kathy Keizer, along with Faye Richardson-Green, Pat Michalski and Carolyn Wisniewski for stepping up to conduct and complete the day long audit. They were able to close the books which allows Kathy to begin the new fiscal books.

Let's not forget the hospitality and scrumptious lasagna meal Nancy prepared for the audit committee at her home. Oh, and the ice-cream dessert to boot was enjoyed by all. Let it be known Nancy's talents doesn't just stop on paper work. Thank you Nancy! Yum! AND last but not least, thanks to Bob Wisniewski for acting as chauffeur for Pat and Caroline.

Continue on page #2

President's article  
Continued from page #1

I always knew honey moved slow, but my ladies are proving me wrong! Fall Conference is already in the works and Chairman Nancy Middleton has it already in hand. The date is closer than you think. AMVETS have scheduled it at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Grand Rapids for Sept. 13-15. Nancy is working in tandem with Treasurer Kathy Keizer and Ways & Means Chair Patsy Watkins. Be sure to go to the website to read - or order your newsletter by mail for \$12.00 and add \$3.00 for next year's Convention Digest - to get the buzz on what is going on.

My email is open for your questions or concerns: [ghall0054@gmail.com](mailto:ghall0054@gmail.com) or call 616 322-2520.



Buzzily getting things done for the hive.

Yours in sisterhood,

*Gloria Hall*

## MEMBERSHIP

Pam Lein, 1st Vice President

Last year's theme for membership was RE-MEMBER to RECRUIT and RETAIN. My theme is continuing that theme. It is RECRUIT and RETAIN. While it is important to gain new members, it is also important to keep (or retain) them to stay with your Auxiliary.

I am your new 1st Vice and I would like to ask all local 1<sup>st</sup> Vice's to email me once you have read this newsletter so I can get to know each of you. I am here to help you with your membership questions. My email is [up-northpam1@gmail.com](mailto:up-northpam1@gmail.com) and I look forward to hearing from you.

Please remember when mailing checks to make them out to AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept. of MI. These are sent to Nancy Middleton, 1535 48th St. SE, Kentwood MI 49508. On your D&R's make sure they are filled out completely and correctly. If they are not made out correctly, they will be sent back, and it will delay your members being recorded.

There are membership contests again this year and I will detail them in future newsletters.

I will be attending the National convention in August. I look forward to learning more about membership. I will continue with as much information in my newsletters to help you understand the importance of membership.

Remember to RECRUIT and RETAIN!

## FALL CONFERENCE

**Sept. 13-15, 2024**

**DoubleTree Hotel**

**In**

**Grand Rapids**

**Make plans now  
to attend.**



**For more details,  
please see the  
articles in this  
newsletter.**

# CHILD WELFARE

**Nancy Middleton, 2nd Vice President**



Here I am again. This time as the temporary fill-in for 2nd Vice. I love working with kids. They try so hard to please, react positively to praise—and at times, they are brutally honest!

I didn't expect to come home from Convention as the 2nd Vice but fear not—I have been 2nd Vice on almost every level of the Auxiliary every year for almost 30 years. It's my favorite Office.

Let's start this month with a program idea which every Auxiliary can do. Almost every school has an after school program for kids. Check with your area school to see if they might have a need or two. Some snack items for the kids. Some small 'prizes' for good work. Some volunteers to come in and help. Get your members to help and/or donate.

Don't think you can just remember everything—'cuz you can't! Keep a notebook with the names of each volunteer, their time, miles and costs. This notebook will come in handy when it is time to write those midyear and final reports. *And—be sure to use the updated 5/2024 report forms!*



## FALL CONFERENCE

**We really want you here!**



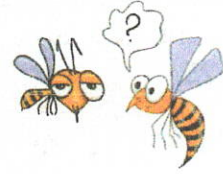
**We are offering incentives to encourage you!**

**We have some interesting—and much needed classes for you.**

**We have instructors who will do their best to keep you interested.**

**Smiles and laughter are encouraged.**

## WHAT THE HECK DOES THIS MEAN???



**PDP—Past Department President**

**IMPDP—Immediate Past Department President.**

**PDC—Past Department Commander**

**SOA—Sons of AMVETS**

**D&R—Dues & Remittance**

**SEC—State Executive Committee**

**NEC—National Executive Committee**

**SOS—Serve our Servicemen & women**

**NEWBIE—first timer (we were all newbies once—probably many time!)**

**W&M—Ways and Means (fundraising)**

**H&A—Honors and Awards**

**VAVS—Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service**

**Sad Sacks—don't ask!**



# WAYS & MEANS

I'm Patsy Watkins .the new Ways and Means Chair-  
man for 2024-25.

Fall conference will soon be here. We are planning a  
Quarter Auction like we did several years ago. Don't  
worry if you don't have a lot of quarters, we can supply  
you with all the quarter chips you want to buy.

We have some really good bargains for you to bid on.  
All items are new. If you have something you would  
like to donate for the auction, please let me know be-  
fore the event. We have small signs stating what the  
item is, the value and who made the donation. My  
email is sassyjo1027@yahoo.com or you can call me  
at 616-589-2728

We will hold the auction in the early evening (about 6  
or 6:30) It should take about 1-1.2 hours so you have  
plenty of time for socializing afterwards.

I hope to see everyone again at Fall Conference. We  
are looking forward to having a good time

## Basic Characteristics for a Good Sergeant at Arms

By Jennifer Zelony, Sgt-at-Arms



Someone who is early, professional,  
positive, a great listener, loud and clear  
and always prepared before they show  
up to a meeting or what they are going  
to do before meetings start.

Someone who is not afraid to take control of the  
crowd when needed, to keep things moving so oth-  
ers can understand and hear what is being said by  
the person who has the floor and is talking or giving  
instructions.

After the meeting or gathering is completed, they  
are there to clean up whatever was brought into the  
room where the meeting took place that is not the  
facilities

Pick up all the trash and place it  
in the trash can.



## TREASURER

By PDP Kathy Keizer

The Department audit of the Treasurer's records was  
finally able to be mostly completed on July 11. The audit found sev-  
eral outstanding checks which were written to locals for award and  
to the Department Officers for mileage and per diem. Since a begin-  
ning balance had to be determined, having so many uncashed  
checks made it more difficult. I spent approximately 6-7  
hours going over the records again after the audit and  
adding up the figures to hopefully have a correct begin-  
ning balance. I will know for sure at the end of the  
month!



SO, the moral of my story is to please cash the checks you receive  
as soon as possible. This is a great rule to follow on all levels: Lo-  
cal, District, Department and/or National. It makes the recordkeep-  
ing much easier for all Treasurer's to do for reporting purposes.

Thank you in advance from Treasurer's on all levels of the Auxiliary.

## Update on Cindy Wolkens husband:

He had a minor heart attack and was  
transferred to St. Joseph, MI for their  
Cardiology Department. They went in  
and thought a couple of stents would  
repair the issues which caused the  
heart attack but found bigger issues  
and were unable to do this procedure.

Fast Forward - They found he had three  
major heart arteries which were 90-95%  
blocked in his heart and open heart sur-  
gery was going to be his only option to  
survive.

Please continue prayers for  
Cindy's husband.



# UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP 2024/2025

By Nancy Middleton, Dept. Secretary



Now that the 2024 Department Convention is over, the Pre-convention SEC minutes (2 pages), the Convention minutes (15 pages) and the Post-convention SEC minutes (2 pages) are all completed and send to the Webmaster, you should be able to read them on our website.

Now that the July Convention newsletter has been sent and if you are reading this, you know the August Newsletter is also completed.

What does that mean to you my dear friends? It is time for Membership! I have not been able to process memberships for 2024-25 until after convention and the auditing of our financial books. The audit took longer than expected but thanks to our new Treasurer, Kathy Keizer, it looks like we have found the light at the end of the long tunnel.

Although I still can't send memberships to National H.Q. until after National Convention, I can get those cards for new members (which I have held for a long time) back to their rightful Auxiliaries. In fact, some of you have already received them in the mail.

We have a new 1st Vice, Pam Lein, who will be contacting you soon when the new membership cards and National rosters come in. (probably the end of August)

One other reminder to our local 1st Vice's. Please be a little more careful when filling out your D&R's. Last year was especially trying!!! Type or print—neatly. Alphabetical order—last name first. Fill in ID numbers. Complete all forms required. AND THE BIGGEST MISTAKES!!! - All checks are to be made out to:

**AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept. of MI**

I don't think there was a newsletter that went out which didn't mention this problem. It was really bad last year I know the Membership Chairmen don't write the checks—but they do need to make sure the local Treasurer knows the rules.



## Parliamentarian News

By Bert Lema



Please keep an eye out for updates to our Department Bylaws and Standing Rules which have only recently been approved by our National Parliamentarian. They will soon be available on the Department website at [www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org](http://www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org) for your review to ensure your local Auxiliary bylaws are in compliance.

Over the year, I will be contacting Local Auxiliary Parliamentarians (or Presidents for those Auxiliaries with no one in this role identified) just to check in to see if you have questions.

In the meanwhile, if you have an urgent issue, you can email me at [lema81@wowway.com](mailto:lema81@wowway.com) or give me a call at 586/214-1019, leave a message and I'll return your call as soon as possible.

## FALL CONFERENCE 2024

September 13-15



**DoubleTree by Hilton**

**4747 28th St SE**

**Grand Rapids MI**



**Reservations**

**616/957-0100**

**Room rates: \$110 + tax**

# HOSPITAL NEWS

By Trisha Rosenberg



Hello everyone; I hope that this finds you blessed. All our veteran patients are eager to be visited and have their many needs serviced.

Please contact your Volunteer Director to arrange visits, events and to drop off items which are needed.

As a reminder for Local Membership Officers:

It is that time of year to start the collection of the Life Membership and Hospital donations which are \$3.00 annually. These need to be collected along with the annual dues from non-life members. The Donations are given in allotments to the VAVS/MVH Representatives and Deputies on a quarterly basis and they are given an extra allotment at Christmas if funds are available. Please start collecting the donations along with the annual dues and submit as soon as possible.

Also VAVS/MVH Representative: Remember to schedule your Joint Review as they are due in September.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Fall Conference and hopefully some new faces. Stay blessed and make a veteran smile.



# CHAPLAIN

by Karen Krumm, Chaplain



Rylie Fitzgerald, Life Member of Post 1988 and daughter of our Sgt. At Arms Jennifer Zelony, was in a car accident the beginning of July. She is healing but it will take a while.

Please send out a prayer for her.

Cards can be sent to her at:  
3813 Widewater, Luther Mi 49656

Bring Back the Basics



# 2024 CONVENTION

By Carol Pickett, Chairman



Well convention 2024 is in the books, sure hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Just want to thank Past President Pat and her board for the past year and congratulate Madam President Gloria and her Officers for the year 2024-2025.

Your donations for Madam President's gifts were well spent and received if you were not at convention I'm sure you will hear about or see them.

Again this year turnout was low only thirty four on the floor Sunday morning to vote, Aux Sisters we need you to participate, Please, if you have some ideas or suggestions, let your voice be heard.

Just want to thank everyone for their help and support at convention, hope to see you soon.

Did you think we were kidding when we said we want YOU to attend Fall Conference this year? We are very serious. Check out page #9 of this newsletter to see what incentives we're giving. Not only are they great, but we feel we have some great instructors and classes to offer. The schedule is not complete yet but we are having a class on Reporting (Child Welfare, Community Service, Americanism, SOS, Hospital, Scholarship), Membership, Chaplain, Sgt-at-Arms, Long Range Planning and a few surprises. These classes are structured for everyone—not just certain Officers. We all need to "Bring Back to the Basics" to a time when we worked together and supported each other. We 'old timers' remember those days and we want the 'newbies' to experience them too.

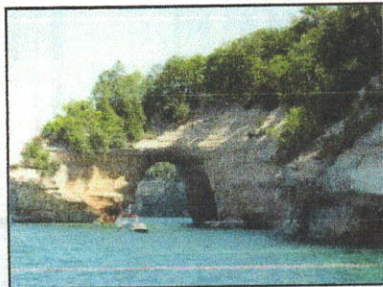
# JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS

By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep

The Jacobetti Members have been able to enjoy a Summer Picnic Outings at AMVETS Post 122 the last Tuesday of every month. The Auxiliary, and the AMVETS have enjoyed the outing as much as the Jacobetti members. We offer friendship, lunch, Card Bingo and music by Auxiliary member Lois Jucamich..

Haven't heard of Card Bingo? – let me tell you. Each member is given 5 playing cards instead of bingo cards and the caller calls out King, Queen, Jack or a numerical number - if you have the card called you turn it over and once all your cards are turned over - you shout out "BINGO" Everyone went home very happy. This past month was extra special because some of the AMVETS and Auxiliary members brought along their children and grandchildren who helped the members play Bingo and called the Lucky numbers.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the chaperones with the Jacobetti members on the Picture Rock Boat Cruise in Munising Michigan.



Unofficially- property in Marquette Township has been sited for a potential location for a new facility - we are waiting for all the inspections, and approval from all the powers to be.



## GRAND RAPIDS HOME

### WISH LIST

By Leora Williamson, GRH Rep.

Individual packaged non-perishable snacks & beverages

- Candy bars, chocolate, sugar-free sweets
- Individual snacks, Little Debbie, fruit cups, pudding, chips, trail mix, jerky, etc.
- Blue-Ray DVD Players
- Men's hair styling gel
- Men's athletic shorts (size med-XXL)
- Men's t-shirts (size L & XL)
- Toothpaste
- Go Bus ADA tickets

Please check expiration dates before bringing in food and drink items.



- ◆ We will be holding a Quarter Auction on Saturday Night during Fall Conference.
- ◆ We would appreciate donations of items for the event.
- ◆ Check with retailers where you shop and see if they will donate something for the auction.
- ◆ All items must be new.
- ◆ Value of items range from \$5 up to "the sky's the limit!"

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pat Michalski, 3rd Vice President



It is the beginning of another new Auxiliary reporting year. Our Executive Secretary, Nancy Middleton, has revised the Service Report Form and the Project Evaluation Sheet with a date of 5/2024. At Department Convention, it was approved if the Service Report is NOT the Revised form with a date of 5/2024, it will be disqualified. **SO PLEASE BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT FORM!**

Revised forms were distributed to any Auxiliary who had a delegate at convention and whoever picked them up had to sign for them. If no delegate was at the convention, the forms were mailed.

I have also posted it on the Department website—([www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org](http://www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org))

There is also an article about the expansion program at PAWS With A Cause. It is under Service Programs, then under Community Service. It is titled PAWS is planning something new. Please read at your convenience so you will be updated as to what is happening at our Department Community Service Project which is PAWS With A Cause.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
PDP PAT MICHALSKI  
ON AUGUST 4th**

**Can you guess her age?  
It has a 6 and an 8 in it  
but we aren't telling in  
which order!**



# FALL CONFERENCE DEADLINES

**Pre registration—postmarked by September 3, 2024**

**To Nancy Middleton—1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508**

**Hotel Reservations—by August 23, 2024**

**616/957-0100**

**You might want to call much earlier. The AMVETS have only blocked 30 rooms.**



# HERE IS WHAT WE ARE OFFERING YOU FOR FALL CONFERENCE

We really, really want you to come to Fall Conference this year. We have many things planned and want you to “Bring Back the Basics” and learn about membership, reporting, many of our offices and so many things—all while having fun and enjoying our organization. Our attendance has been low the past few years (since Covid hit) and we are trying to find ways to get our friends back. Sometimes it is just the cost which has hurt all of us. We know and understand.



So here is what we will do:

#1 pre registration will be lowered to \$5 if postmarked by Sept. 3rd. After Sept. 3rd—the normal event fee of \$20 will be required.

#2 We are trying to set up a luncheon buffet at the hotel and will cover a majority of the cost for our Auxiliary members. THIS IS STILL QUESTIONABLE!

#3 If you are staying overnight at the hotel, we will allow each Auxiliary member \$40 credit for each night stayed—up to 2 nights. (i.e. two Auxiliary members in a room = \$80 off the room cost for each night.) You must be registered for Fall Conference and staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Proof of room rental required. Room reservations are \$110 per night plus tax.



#4. If you attend the Quarter Auction on Saturday night, you will be given 1 free chip for each dollar spent!

Make your reservations at the DoubleTree by calling 1/616/957-0100. Fall Conference is a couple weeks earlier this year so we need to get moving on this great offer. AMVETS have blocked a limited number of room which are available .

## DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS**

**September 13 to 15, 2024**

Let's clean up  
on these great  
offers!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

The above listed person will be attending Fall Conference in Grand Rapids (DoubleTree Hotel) and is excited to take advantage of the one-time offer of \$5 pre-registration if postmarked by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mail to Nancy Middleton—1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508

Registrations after that date will be charged the basic fee of \$20.

She is also thrilled at the amazing incentives offered this year and plans to take full advantage of the Department of Michigan Auxiliary's generosity.