

President's Bulletin – September 2024

I want to share a little bit of what went on at National Convention, but not too much because I am sure our Officers attending will be reporting too. I was in attendance for the entire week, Sunday through Saturday. I was able to attend a Finance committee meeting, a Hospital/VAVS meeting, and a membership and By-Laws meeting. All this before the start of the convention on Tuesday. The Finance Committee Chair gave information on the state of National's well-being. A proposed budget was brought to the floor later that week. I am happy our budget is nowhere near the National budget of over \$300,000!

The hospital / VAVS meeting was an eye opener. The National Committee have wondered why the Auxiliary does not get the recognition other donors receive from St Jude for the thousands of dollars we have given over the years. A question was put forward and their response was National, would have to sign a MOI (Memo of Intent) to guarantee \$50,000 annually. The offer was declined because of the uncertainty of funds donated. Another question was asked, "Could we designate our donations to go to certain programs or projects?" They said "yes," and we would receive recognition for those donations. I guess the right questions were never asked nor did they give us any options either. Our donations just went into their General Fund. The committee will now research a new and better way samount was \$78,000 dollars. Everyone in Michigan should be proud we helped accumulate these funds. The membership meeting will be reported by 1st Vice Pam Lein who also attended the convention. Be sure to go online to: amvetsauxdeptmi.org to get the whole scoop by Department Officers.

The By-Law's committee meeting had over sixty members attending. The Committee Chair took each resolution submitted by Departments and they were read and voted on to take to the floor of the convention. Ours was read and NEC Faye will be reporting on the outcome of our resolution.

Michigan had eight department voting strength Officers who attended: Pat Michalski, Faye Richaddrdson-Green, Allison Aldridge, Kathy Keizer, Pam Lein, Patsy Watkins and Caroline Wisniewski. Another piece of good news. Faye was elected to the National Americanism Office. She has submitted her Department resignation, and it was approved by me. A poll vote has been sent out to appoint Pat Michalski to replace Faye as NEC. Watch for it! Allison Aldrige was re-elected as the National Scholarship Officer. I am proud to congratulate our three Officers and the whole Department!

Finally, we have Fall Conference coming up soon next month. Be sure to read the great plans the Department Chair Nancy has for this date. All are invited to attend. The Department is planning several 'perks' for our members in hopes of getting a good delegation of our members there. Read all about it in the newsletter.

Lastly, the Department has planned several Auxiliary weekends for comradery, food, games and a great place to meet fellow Auxiliary members over the years. This weekend is already reserved at the AMVETS Headquarters at Higgins Lake. Invitations were already extended to several National Officers who are also planning on attending. April 25-27th is the date. More info regarding reservation next month. Stay tuned!

Yours in the spirit of success
Gloria Hall