



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN HEAD DELEGATE REPORT
OF 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION
Springfield, IL

I arrived at the National Convention in Springfield, IL on Monday, August 5th. After registering as Department Delegate on Tuesday morning, I attended the Americanism Committee meeting, the Council of NEC, the Constitution & By-Law Committee meeting and ended the day with the Training “Carousel of Knowledge”.

Wednesday morning the Convention was called to order and the P.N.P.’s were introduced to those who were in attendance. Then the National officers were introduced. Welcome remarks by National President Amy Stopyra, Invocation and Presentation of Colors followed by Preamble, Code of Ethics and Americanism. Roll call of National Officers, PNPs, Dept. NEC Women, and Department Presidents. Spring NEC minutes were moved to be approved and carried. It was questioned how could we approve something we hadn’t received or was not posted on website? It was stated it was on the website, but it was argued – it was not! It was stated they would check on it.

As the convention referral from MI would be a change to the Eligibility, it needs approval from AMVETS. The Judge Advocate explained that female veterans is added to the eligibility to allow that veteran eligibility under herself to join the auxiliary. The referral from Michigan regarding training assistance from National was not handled by the CBL committee. The National Parliamentarian has referred it to the National Training/PNP Committee.

Guests from Taiwan came on the floor and made presentation to Madam President.

Officer Reports: National President, Amy Stopyra gave her report and thanked everyone for supporting her project – Foster Children. Total donated \$17,394.00.

1st Vice President, Cindy Rice reported the three largest auxiliaries are: Ohio #51-756 members; Delaware #2 – 517 members and Florida #1992 – 447 members. Also welcomed four new Auxiliaries: Florida #420, Georgia #621, Hawaii #1 and North Carolina # 1111.

2nd Vice President, Mary Lanphere spoke on the problem of lack of reporting service work, and lack of willing to be an officer. Bullying of children – step in and help. 3rd Vice President, Laura Bugaj spoke on reporting should be made easier. Treasurer Barbara Guth reported that National

does their own audit. Passed out Proposed budget sheets that will be voted on later. Hospital Officer, Donna Toland reported the St. Jude donations were designated for Education and Arts. Chaplain, Laurie Shea encouraged members to attend the Joint Memorial Service.

Parliamentarian, Heidi Dineen-Serpis reminded local auxiliaries to contact their Department with questions/concerns and not reach out directly to National.

Proposed Constitution changes: Article VIII, Section 2 will now read: The National Executive Board, following recommendations, shall hire the Headquarters staff. The staff may be members of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. Necessary experience and qualifications for positions shall be determined by individual job descriptions. The National Personnel Committee shall consist of the National President, National First Vice President, National Second Vice President, National Treasurer, and National Parliamentarian and Immediate Past National President shall serve ex-officio. Moved & carried.

Article X, Section 1, (a) remove Insurance Coordinator from First Vice President. Moved & carried.

Article X, Section 1 (c) Now will read: The National President-elect shall appoint (in even years) the VAVS Representative for a two (2) year term with approval of the Executive Committee. Term of office will be September 1 to August 31. Moved & carried.

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Article III, Section 2, Section 3, Section 5 (e) and Section 13 – Change Search Committee to Personnel Committee. .

Article V, Section 1 (e) delete the word History, it's just Scrapbook Committee. Moved & carried.

Standing Rules: Add a new #7 and move the rest of the numbers down: Members who are also AVET Riders may wear black slacks and red shirts on the auxiliary floor; no vest nor beret to be worn. Moved & carried.

Election Rules: Add Hospital Officer after Scholarship and before Chaplain. Moved & carried.

Manual: Subordinate Organizations add Riders: Eligibility for membership to the AMVETS Riders shall be limited to members in good standing of AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS.

The AMVETS Riders shall be under the control of the National Commander and the National Executive Committee. Each AMVETS Riders chapter shall be under the jurisdiction of the department whose name it bears.

Wherever it states Freedoms Foundation change to Founding Forward.

Under Reporting: When are reports due: Will now read: It is the responsibility of the Local Auxiliary Service chairman to make sure these reports reach the Department Service Chairman by the deadline. Local Auxiliaries in unorganized Departments report directly to the National Service Chairman postmarked by December 1 and June 1. Moved & carried.

Referral from Scrapbook Committee: Local Scrapbook – Judging criteria – Up to 100 possible points. Presentation up to 30 points. Conformation (table of contents followed) up to 15 points. Neatness (layout/general make-up/internal appearance) up to 30 points. Merit (Historical Value

or Worth) up to 15 points. Miscellaneous (menus/invitations/thank you/souvenirs/letters, etc.) up to 10 points. Moved & carried.

Referral from Honors & Awards Committee:

Changing the point system to the following breakdown for Department Awards:

- The Departments with five (5) largest percentage increase of total evaluations over total evaluations reported previous year will be awarded the following points from highest percentage gain to lowest: 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 points.
- The Departments with five (5) highest evaluations divided by total membership as of 5/31. Points awarded from greatest evaluation to lowest: 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 points.
- The Departments with five (5) highest percentages of Auxiliaries reporting (the number of Auxiliaries reporting divided by the total number of all Auxiliaries). Points to be awarded as 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 points.
- In case of a tie, the tie will be broken by year-end summary sent to National Officer. Moved & carried.

From the Scholarship Committee:

- Explore the possibility of a PDF Scholarship application on line.
- Career Start: Remove the Parent/Guardian/Spouse Information Section because the applicant is eligible on their own.
- College Support: Change Number of Brothers and Sisters and their ages Section to read Number of Brothers/Sisters and Number in College.
- National Scholarship: Change Number of Brothers and Sisters and their ages Section to read Number of Brothers/Sisters and Number in college.
- Trade Scholarship: Change Number of Brothers and Sisters and their ages Section to read Number of Brothers /Sisters and Number in College. These changes delete the names of brothers and sisters. Moved & carried.

From the Membership Committee:

- Raise Life Membership from \$225 to \$300 starting January 1, 2025 and remove the moratorium. Moved & carried.
- Add under eligibility for life membership: You must be an annual member for two (2) years in good standing (renewing on time) starting January 1, 2025. Motion Defeated.
- Change the bylaw Article VII Finances, Section 2 sentence Change to Read: Life Membership income shall be allowed in the amount of \$6.00 per life member annual transfer from the life membership and the \$100.00 per new or renewed to life before the July 31 date as established above. Moved & carried.

Americanism Officer, Deb Gass, reported on the Spirit of America Conference at Founding Forward. The deadline was 8/15 but she has only received one application. She is recommending the National Board extend the deadline. Application is on the National Auxiliary

website under This & That app. Next year's Adult Trip is a Ghost Tour. Raffle tickets \$1.00 each.

The National 50/50 raffle for Tuesday and Wednesday was \$1,034.00. Tuesday's winner was from Maine and Wednesday's winner was from Alaska.

National VAVS, Marie Rorrio stated VAVS Representatives should attend quarterly meetings. Do not miss three (3) in a row or you may be dropped. Alternate the meetings with your deputy. James Parke Scholarship donations were \$11,494.00.

Scrapbook Chairman, Paulette Joy reported she received 7 scrapbooks – 3 on Department level and 4 on the Local level. The criteria was changed last year at the National convention. Books are in the back of the room, please pick them up.

Council of NEC Chair Debbie Beck from Fl reported nineteen NEC's attended the Council meeting.

Snappiest, Evelyn Davis thanked everyone for the donation to Scholarship.

National Executive Director, Carol King reported they used the old database to get ready for convention. Custom made database still not in use. The Board of Trustees have a plan for pre-printed cards. AMVETS National Headquarters has moved to Washington, PA. Auxiliary headquarters has also moved and their current address is: 3309-11 Hubbard rd., Hyattsville, MD. 20780.

Regarding quartermaster – to order hats: amvetsnationalquartermaster.com (all small letters and one word). Remember Regis is a one man show.

The March 24 NEC minutes will be posted on the website by August 19th.

Guests: The White Clover Princess, Noelle Ratachek from Wisconsin was introduced. Sons of AMVETS Commander, Bobby Bryant came on the floor and thanked the Auxiliary for their support.

PAWS With A Cause representatives spoke about their 9.5 million complex and they raised 8.6 million and are now starting construction in 2 weeks -55,000 sq. feet. Training center, wheelchair ramp, vet clinic, puppy breeding. The Ladies Auxiliary is underwriting the Breeding Room, Donations - \$56,894.68.

Founding Forward Representative Jason thanked the Auxiliary for their support. He reported that Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge merged with two organizations. Jason mentioned the campus is as much AMVETS as it is theirs and we are welcome anytime. Donations - \$34,296.00. Drawing for Adult Conference weekend – Cindy Rice & Martha Knott.

St. Jude's – laptop presentation. Danny Thomas started this in 1952 and built hospital in 1957 in TN. Cancer center for Children, over 16,000 have been diagnosed. They won't stop until no

child dies from Cancer. Families never receive a bill for treatment, housing and food. Donations - \$78,175.38.

John Tracy Clinic – 6/26/1924 John Tracy was born deaf. His mother was an upcoming actress, committed to her son. Possibilities for children, need help as they deserve quality care. Ladies auxiliary adopted this program in 1977 and has donated over 1 million dollars over the last 46 years. Donations - \$40,031.21.

National Ladies Auxiliary went in mass to AMVETS floor regarding a recommendation from AMVETS Dept. of Alabama to delete the word Ladies from AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. Received word later that the motion was defeated on the AMVETS floor.

Caucuses were held for potential candidates for National Offices. Then the Honors and Awards program was held.

The 50/50 on Friday was won by Yolando Wilkerson - \$1,316.00

The special awards awarded at the AMVETS Banquet were announced: VAVS Representative of the Year - Mary Ann Legner, Auxiliary Member of the Year – Marie Rorrio, Auxiliary of the Year – FL, #1992 and Department of the Year – PA.

The following National Officers were elected: 1st VP, Mary Lanphere -NY; 2nd VP, Laura Bugaj-NY; 3rd VP, Deb Gass-IN; Treasurer, Barbara Guth-KY; Americanism Officer, Faye Richardson-Green-MI; Scholarship Officer, Allison Aldrich-MI; Hospital Officer, Donna Toland-MD; Chaplain, Barbara Montagne-AK; Sergeant-At-Arms, Kathy Hayes-Ky.

The 50/50 winner for Saturday was Patti Jo Johnson from MI - \$1,346.00.

Pat Michalski, IPDP
Head Delegate
National Convention 2024