



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan



~~September 2024 issue #3~~

OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE #4

2024-25 Department Officer

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*2nd Vice Nancy Middleton

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District V Pres. Patsy Watkins


District VII Pres. Barb Robare

Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton

*temporary

BRING BACK THE BASICS

with President Gloria Hall

Wow, what a “-Z” two months. August with a weeklong National Convention in Springfield, Illinois which Pat Michalski, Faye Richardson-Green, Allison Aldrich, Pam Lein, Kathy Keizer, Patsy Watkins, Caroline Wisniewski and I were in attendance.

This month in September, the Department held an early educational Fall Conference in Grand Rapids. You missed a good one if you did not attend. The hotel rooms were \$110 + tax a night. If you stayed for the night the Auxiliary paid \$40.00 a member per room. If you had 4 people per room, you paid nothing. The Auxiliary also picked up lunch for the conference Auxiliary participates on Saturday. We held six classes for the morning session and repeated the classes for the afternoon sessions. You did not have to spend the night to attend these classes.

Ladies, your Post should be planning for these two major events of the year, the educational annual Fall Conference and the State’s Department Convention in June. These events are not just for Pfficers. All members should be attending for their own understanding of what your membership entails and what should be happening at your local Posts and Department. You said you joined to help veterans, yet you leave the job for someone else to pick up the slack. Consider this year you will attempt to do your obligation in helping by attending the Convention and to see what you have been missing. I need all members to step up to keep AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary solvent. Bee Diligent



THE BEE TEAM



I want to thank all current board members who came in from all over the state for conference attendance. Your leadership and expertise know no bounds. I especially want to thank Nancy Middleton, our Fall Conference Chairperson, who did a phenomenal job in putting this conference together. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Remember October 31st is coming up fast. Bug your local Service Officer to get her report in. It should be postmarked by November 5th, because everything you do in the name of AMVETS Auxiliary is appreciated and should be reported. Talk to your board to have each Service Officer for: Child Welfare,

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President's article
Continued from page #1

Community Service, Hospital, Scholarship, Americanism/SOS, to report bee-cause it is their job. Let them know you and the Department will be checking to see if they remember. No excuses. If nothing has been done yet, have them send in the form with the words "Nothing To Report" across the form. Maybe by April they will have something to report.

Need help? Contact a Department Officer to help them to do the job. You can do it! Look and visit our website: amvetsauxdeptmi.org for more information. Buzz through all of it. Bee--cause there is lots to see and read to be informed! You are entitled to it - use it!

Bees in service
Gloria Hall
Department President



MEMBERSHIP

Pam Lein, 1st Vice President



Another Reminder!

A change is coming to membership costs. As of January 1st life memberships will cost \$75 more. It is now \$278, but it will be \$353. National did not change annual membership fees. The moratorium is now gone. If you decide to go with a life membership, it needs to be postmarked by December 10th so Nancy can process it before the deadline.

Please do not forget to review your Honorary members for their continuing membership. This is done each Fall at your meeting with a vote taken and noted in your minutes. Dues need to be sent in (\$15) for renewals postmarked no later than December 10th. There is no 'Grace Period' for Honorary members. They need to go into National and received no later than December 31st. Every local may sign up 2 NEW Honorary members each year along with the Honorary members they already have. A New Honorary Member form must be sent in with the D&R and dues.

DEADLINES DATES FOR MEMBERSHIP-

Honorary, Renewals of Life membership must be postmarked by: 12/10/24

Life member assessment is \$3 per person and must be received by the Department on or before 12/31/24. If this assessment is not received by the end of December, your Auxiliary will not be in good standing.

Please remember, when filling out your D&Rs they are on current forms, last name first, and in alphabetical order. Also, it is important if you are handwriting these to make sure your spelling is clear and precise, please!! If you are typing, make sure the spelling is correct and there are no typos.

PLEASE DO NOT: hold your renewals until the end of the year. You can send them along bi-monthly or monthly to the Department Secretary.



Department 1st Vice
Pamela Lein

CHILD WELFARE

Nancy Middleton, 2nd Vice President

It is almost time for midyear reports. I am going to start bug-ging all the local 2nd Vice Presidents/Child Welfare Officer to get those reports to me postmarked by November 5, 2024. This is my goal – to get 100% of our Auxilia-ries reporting. I am sending letters to each, and I will follow up with post cards, calls, emails and anything else I can do to meet this goal.



This is so important. All of the local evaluations are added up and the total amount is reported to National. This is added to all the other States for a grand total which is reported Nationally. When Michigan only reports less than half of their Auxiliaries, it doesn't look good for us. We do a great job and we should start letting every-one know what we do.



I will be listing each Auxiliary who reports – and hopefully I will not have to report on those who don't! I am not beneath beg-ging – so here goes. Please, Please, Please: I am begging and pleading. Send your midyear Child Welfare reports postmarked by Nov. 5, 2024. Use the revised 5/2024 forms and send to:

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

Just in case you were wondering, we will be taking a tour to the Penrickton Center for Blind Children but it won't be until Spring—probably April. I will get you the date soon so you can make your plans to visit and see first hand all the wonderful things they do for these very special children.

You will leave there amazed!

National Report

NEC Woman Pat Michalski

Attended AMVETS National Convention, which was held August 5-10, 2024 in Springfield, IL. Please read the NEC Woman's Council Report and the Head Delegate's Report which is posted on the Department website under the Information tab, then un-der Convention; Executive Committee Minutes.

VISIT TO PAWS WITH A CAUSE



**THURSDAY
OCT. 17, 2024
1:00 P.M.**



Lunch will be served

**Our National 3rd Vice
President, Deb Gass
will be here for the
tour.**

**PLEASE RSVP BY
OCTOBER 10TH.
to Maureen Jackson
kdgmo2@gmail.com
or 586-598-8285**

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Maureen Jackson, 3rd Vice President

It's that time of year again— time for MID YEAR REPORTS! We know how much you love doing them. (HaHa). The reports are *very Important*. Please, if you only have one thing to report, put it on the *NEW Service report forms* and send it to me. *The report must be postmarked by November 5th*. The new report forms have been sent to your Auxiliary and they are also on the website.

My goal is to have 100% of our Auxiliaries reporting this year. I know you won't disappoint me! **PLEASE !!!**

My address is: Maureen Jackson—30103 Pineview Circle—Chesterfield, Mi 48051 or you can email them to me at kdgmo2@gmail.com



Look for the information about the Paws With A Cause tour listed in this newsletter. Our National 3rd Vice will be making her Official Visit at that time.

WAYS & MEANS

by Patsy Watkins, Chairman

Fall Conference was very successful this year. The Quarter Auction was a great success. There were a number of great gifts to bid on. I hope all the winners enjoyed their items. A fun time was had by all who attended the event.



I am always looking for ideas as what to do for a fundraiser at our meetings and convention. If you have any items you no longer want and are in good condition, please contact me.

I also want to mention a group of ladies who work the Dept. Texas Hold'em (Kathy K, Nancy M, Pres. Gloria, Faye R-G, Leora W and myself). Thanks to the 16 days a year, we earn about 80% of the budget. What did we do before Texas Hold'em?

Patsy Watkins, Ways and Means Chairman
11109 Long Lake Dr - Sparta Mi 49345
email - sassyjo1027@Yahoo.com
phone - 616-589-2728

FUNNIES!



I'm on a seafood diet. I see food and I eat it.

I used to play sports, then I realized you can buy trophies. Now I am good at everything.

I'm not saying I'm Batman but have you ever seen me and Batman in the same room?

I'm not great at advice. Can I interest you in a sarcastic comment?

I am not arguing. I am just explaining why I'm right.

I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's 7 years in a row now.

I used to be a people person but people ruined it for me.

Two men walk into a bar. You'd think at least one of them would have ducked.

You'll always stay young if you live honestly, eat slowly, sleep sufficiently, work industriously, worship faithfully and lie about your age.



Parliamentarian News

Bert Lema, Parliamentarian

For those who have not yet seen them, the Department Bylaws and Standing Rules have been approved by our National Parliamentarian and are now available on the Department website at www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org under the "Information" tab. Review them to ensure your Local Auxiliary bylaws are in compliance.

We are still awaiting updates to the National Constitution/Bylaws which I understand should be available online in November. National will also be making the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Manual available online for the first time! For those of us with a few Auxiliary years on our resumes, this means the "Green Book" will now be available at no charge to us. The manual provides members and Officers with so much useful information! Not only does it have office-specific information, but it also has information about uniforms, performing memorial services, swearing-in ceremonies and much, much more. If you cannot find what you need to know in your instructions, check the manual. As soon as it has become available, I will let you all know.

As always, when you have a question, you can always email me at lema81@wowway.com or give me a call at 586.214.1019 and leave a message. I always try to return calls and messages within 24-48 hours.

HOSPITAL

by Trisha Rosenberg, Hospital Officer

It has been brought to my attention the VAVS representatives are challenged with requests to support Homeless Veterans which come to the VA hospital for assistance who are not served as inpatient veterans.



The VAVS representatives are in need of your support.

Please consider a project to assist at the District and local level which will make a veteran smile.

Thank you for all you do!



CHAPLAIN

by Karen Krumm, Chaplain

Many of you might not know what the Sunshine Fund is. It was set up to send positive messages of encouragement to our seriously ill members.

If you have a member who is seriously ill or injured and you are willing to buy a gift to cheer her up, contact the Department Chaplain. Give her the name of the ill or injured member and the name of the one who will get the gift and deliver for the Department of Michigan Auxiliary.

The Chaplain will decide if the Sunshine gift applies to your member. The Chaplain will send a gift card to purchase a gift along with a card from the Department. Wrap the gift and deliver it on behalf of the Dept. Auxiliary.

We can provide these gifts as long as there is money in the Sunshine Fund. So please consider donations from your Auxiliary to the Fund.

**NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND WEBSITE BULLETINS
DEADLINES ARE OCTOBER 15, 2025**

**AUXILIARY #57
19730 Harper
Harper Woods, MI 48225**



**Presents
STICK BINGO
FOR
PENRICKTON CENTER FOR
BLIND CHILDREN**

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 22ND
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

GREAT PRIZES



BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

DO YOU REMEMBER??

The Ways & Means
Calendars? They
were fun to do and
helped with W&M
fundraisers without
costing an arm and a
leg!!!



Patsy would like to B-B-B BRING BACK
THE BASIC from several years ago. We
are working on setting up a calendar for
the month of January and March 2025.

Watch for them and play along.



JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS



By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep

We received an update from the Jacobetti Administrator and I quote “ The conditional purchase is still conditional. In order to ideally place the new home, we will need to re-route Venture drive. We have begun that process, and will need Marquette County Road Commission’s approval.”

Jacobetti events included a visit to Hager’s Hee Haw Farm with miniature ponies; six members participated in South Shore Fishing Associations 10th Annual Veterans Fishing Day for a great day of fishing on Lake Superior; members of Jacobetti enjoyed a Day Picnic and Pig Roast; the final harvest of the Jacobetti Garden took place; members enjoyed homemade soups and bread. Along with many other activities the members enjoyed music, bingo, lunch outings, pet therapy, campfires, and game night.

REVALIDATION REVISIONS

If you have changes to your local/District Officer lists for the 2024/2025 Revalidation forms, you must send in a revision. You do not have to fill in every Office—just the one(s) which have changed. Now this year we are going Back to Basics. In the past, the forms were sent to the Secretary—then the Parliamentarian. Now we are back to sending them to the Secretary for 2025. Please take care of this right away. We need updated Officers lists from all locals in Michigan—if applicable.. Send to:

Nancy Middleton - 1535 48th St SE - Kentwood MI 49508



FALL CONFERENCE 2024

By Nancy Middleton, Chairman

Considering all the problems and difficulties, I thought Fall Conference went pretty well. I am so grateful for the instructors: PDP Kathy Keizer, PDP Bert Lema, Jennifer Zelony and Karen Krumm. They did a great job. Jennifer and Karen were new Officers and first-time instructors. I am sure they learned a lot from the experience (maybe to say "No" the next time they are asked!!)

We had 38 pre-registrations (4 no shows and 2 replacements). I thought we would get a bigger group based on the incentives we offered but it was still larger than last year. We paid a large portion of the room costs – and in some cases, we even paid the full room fee (3 or 4 in a room). We reduced the pre-registration fee and even threw in a free lunch at the Pizza Ranch which everyone thought was terrific.

The Quarter Auction on Saturday night was fun. There were some great prizes – all donated. With all the incentives we offered, I was a little disappointed we didn't have more people support our fundraiser. We did have 3 AMVETS join us, and we appreciate their support. Rod Harris was the big winner with his #7 paddle being called *OFTEN*. Thanks to PDC Jean Hall for attending but his #51 was not called at all We did check, and the #51 ball was in the bag - it just never rose to the top.

THANK YOU TO OUR QUARTER AUCTION DONORS

Auxiliary #126

Auxiliary #57

President Gloria Hall

PDC Jean Hall

PDP Kathy Keizer

PDP Bertha Lema

PDP Nancy Middleton

PRO Kathryn Cross

LATEST NEWS FROM NATIONAL

By Carol King, Executive Director

Here's a lengthy update for you and a quick update on our database issues and pre-print cards.

After National Convention, our IT Department was able to gain access to our database as another company was having the same issue we were - YIPPEE!!! The membership files have been converted so pre-print cards can be run.

The honorary membership file is at the printers and there have been no issues!!! I felt we needed to make sure the pre-prints were correct and went with the smaller amount as my test file. Now we're moving on to the annual member pre-prints. The Department and Local portion will look different to allow for the Member ID number to be on it as well as a place for reporting name/address changes. The Member ID will also be on the renewal card itself – you asked for it – you got it!

Cards will be mailed to you via UPS, hopefully by the end of September. Sonja and I will start mailing the rosters after September 24. New and renewal shells (blank cards) will also be sent.

The life membership moratorium has been lifted and life membership dues will be \$300.00 AFTER January 1, 2025. The form reflecting the change will be posted to the website February 1, 2025.

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NEWS FROM NATIONAL

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WEBSITE UPDATE – Please be patient if unable to access the website as the 2024 NEC and 2024 National Convention Minutes are being posted to the website under the PUBLICATIONS tab as is the Constitution, Bylaws and Manual. Under the LISTINGS tab you can find the National Officers, Department Officers and PNP List. The front page will be updated with President Cindy Rice's picture, biography, and President's Project Brochure. The VAVS Certification Form has been updated as well and can be found on under FORMS. Under THIS AND THAT, the 2024-2027 AADAA brochure can be found. Updated Scholarship forms will be available in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through these challenges.



I'm doing the best I can. This has been a crazy year so far but I see a light at the end of the tunnel. I am almost caught up with membership. I put the last of it in the mail today. (I haven't checked the mail yet so there may be a few more!)

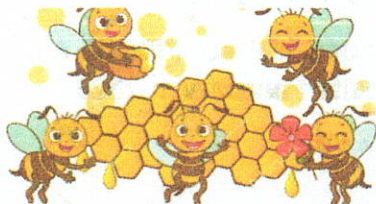
I want to explain how renewals are handled. I don't have cards yet from National, Normally I don't do anything with renewals until I receive the new cards but I'm not sure when they will be received I heard October and the end of September—but from what I can tell from National memos, the renewals are just being sent to the printer. Many local Membership Chairmen are voicing concerns about not being able to send in renewals. They point out there are membership contests for those renewing in Sept., Oct. Nov., Dec. If they aren't allowed to send renewals, their members can't be in the contest. It will be a challenge, but go ahead and send them in. I just won't be able to send the cards until later, but I can record them as being received if their number comes up in the drawing.

JOHN DINGELL VA NEEDS LIST

By Cel Rose Solak, VAVS

Here are the current donation needs of the following items for our Veteran patients. All items must be new!!

- ★ Men's sneakers/boots (9-13)
- ★ Men's Shower shoes (9-13)
- ★ Men's Briefs/Colored T-shirts (M-XXL)
- ★ Sweatpants: Hoodies (M-XXL)
- ★ Men's winter coats (L-XXL)
- ★ Deodorant (Men & Women)
- ★ Denture adhesive/Nail/Toe Clippers
- ★ Body Wash/Lotion (large/small)
- ★ Non-Alcohol Mouth Wash
- ★ Women sneakers (7-10)
- ★ Women's sport bras/panties (M-XXL)
- ★ Women's sport tops/pants (M-XXL)



Snacks and beverages are needed for our diabetic Veteran patients in our clinics and homeless transition program. Below are the items we are seeking per month for the following areas:

Dermatology /Eye Clinic; Ortho Clinic Monthly request

Personal size bottles /individual size snacks
8 cases of orange juice / 8 cases of apple juice/6 Cases of water
Graham crackers; Peanut butter/ Cheese crackers (8 boxes each)

Chemo / Radiation Oncology/ Dermatology Monthly request

individually wrapped by manufacturer

- ★ Smart popcorn
- ★ Hard candy
- ★ Small size candy bars
- ★ Chewy Granola bars



Veteran Domiciliary Residents

- ★ Kashi, Kind, or Nature Valley Granola Bars
- ★ Sun Chips
- ★ Goldfish Whole Grain Crackers
- ★ Skinny Pop Popcorn
- ★ Monthly Cases of Gatorade / Bottled Water

