

Hello Everyone

Hope everyone has a fun, safe and spooooky Halloween!

I have a request from our Parliamentarian, Bert Lema, to all board officers to please review your instructions and submit any changes to her, (no matter how small), anytime but no later than January 1, 2025.

Also, an FYI, A local Auxiliary can take an award in Memory of a Past Department President if not taken by a PDP, and it can be renewed again. This needs to be approved at Spring SEC for inclusion in the Convention Digest. Contact Pat Michalski, Honors & Awards Chairman, if your local auxiliary is interested.

This month I was inundated with wonderful information from our National Officers. listing information about the office they hold or their specific service program. I would like to share some of it with you. For a full readout, please go to our website at: amvetsauxdeptmi.org

From our National President Cynthia Rice: in her article, she thanked everyone for our votes in electing her as National President and congratulated all newly elected and appointed Officers. This year her theme is "Together We Can." She listed various ways of "Together We Can". We can increase membership. We can help children with hearing loss. We can serve our communities, promote Americanism, support and provide scholarships and we can volunteer. Her National project for this year is: the AMVETS Diabetes Research Institute based in Athens, Ohio. She has brochures, posters, and pinups to aid in fundraising for her project. Please help support her and remember her project when it comes time for your locals to donate to National. She also has a quilt to raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. Proceeds go to her National project. Contact and info: efda892yahoo.com

From our very own state of Michigan is National Scholarship Officer Allison Aldrich. Her theme is "Knowledge is Power and we are here to Empower you." She lists all the National scholarships you can qualify for as an applicant and where to go to find the application. Here are some: Career Start, National Scholarship, College support, and Trade School available scholarships. National's website is: www.amvetsaux.org Make sure to use the application that says REVISED 2024 on the bottom left on the application. Please contact her by phone or email aka1jra1@tds.net for assistance.

Another National Officer from our State of Michigan is Faye Richardson-Green, the National Americanism Officer. Her theme is: "United – AmeriCAN" is to help us remember together we share that love, loyalty, eagerness, allegiance, and blessings as AmeriCANs and CAN use those qualities to strengthen citizenship and patriotism within our communities. Her project is Founding Forward (formally known as Freedoms Foundation). The Founding Forward website will provide you with even more information at <https://foundingforward.org/>. Some other ways we CAN demonstrate patriotism include recognition events and resources for our military families – both active duty and veteran. Encouraging 9th through 12 graders to participate in the AMVETS family "Spirit of America" Youth leadership Conference offered annually in November. She is looking forward to hearing your ideas on what, united, we CAN do to express AmeriCANism throughout our communities. Contact her at ladlib53@gmail.com

From our National Chaplain Barbara Montagne: her theme this year is, "Be the Blessing." The Chaplain's job is a spiritual leader. To comfort those in need or going through rough times. She reminds everyone to fill in a deceased notification form as soon as possible. Sympathy cards sent to next of kin up to two months after the time of death. Familiarize yourself with ceremonies, rituals and prayers found in the Ladies Manual. Contact her with any questions or concerns. Email is preferred. Contact: alaskabarbi1@gmail.com

From our National VAVS Officer Fran Ganda: she is a very busy Representative at the Northeast Ohio Healthcare System at the Cleveland VA. She requests every Representative send an updated list of you and your current deputies: Names, addresses, phone, and email. It appears that some VA facilities require that their representatives and deputies be recertified. If so, find out, and fill out a Certification Form and send it to her. Speak to your children or grandchildren and tell them about the James F Park Youth Scholarship as an incentive for becoming a youth volunteer. Feel free to contact Fran to learn more. She is available to assist you with enriching Veteran life. Contact for more info: Sassie271@aol.com.

From Donna Tolland the National Hospital Officer: her theme is "We Share Because We Care." Her project is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital." Being a St. Jude Hero herself she encourages you to think outside the box, being creative with new ideas that will spark interest in your fundraising endeavors. Volunteer at a VA hospital or home. Visit a nursing or convalescent home. Join in the salute to hospitalized Veterans Week held the week of February 9th -15th. Contact the Department Hospital Chairman for VAVS Reps. As a team, we will be better and stronger in efforts to raise awareness to the needs of our Veterans and monies for our hospital Programs. For more info contact: mizdonnat@aol.com

I hope some of this information sparks an interest which can light up a way to begin to accomplish a small feat. Blessed are they who try so that many can benefit.

Gloria Hall
President