

Madam President Evelyn, National Officers, Past National Presidents, N.E.C. Women, Department Presidents, Delegates, Alternates, Members and Guests:

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the N.E.C. Woman, for the Great Lakes State of Michigan this year. Due to the health of my husband, I was unable to attend last year's National Convention and the Spring N.E.C. meeting.

Our President, Seletha Robertson, had a great year with her "Angels". Her theme this year was: "Let's Keep Climbing". Madam President has been busy touring our state and seeing what activities our Officers and Chairmen have been actively leading our Auxiliaries in accomplishing.

Wendy Lynema, our 1st Vice President, in charge of Membership, has worked diligently with our Auxiliaries to keep renewals and generate new members. She had several different contests to create more interest in Membership. Our current Membership is 1,595.

Kathy Schultz, 2nd Vice President, reports projects that have helped children by donating to Ronald McDonald House; school supplies; hats, coats, scarves and gloves to needy children; Santa shops where children are able to purchase gifts for parents or siblings. Cash donations as well as material goods have been donated to our Department Child Welfare project, Penrickton Center for Blind Children. Kathy scheduled a Department tour of Penrickton for any member of the AMVETS family and their guests. Department total donations to Penrickton was \$7,097.00.

Martha Popour, 3rd Vice President, reported Community Service projects of canned food donations to many different food pantries; used cell phones for abused women; collected, cleaned and sorted clothes donated to the needy; many different projects were held supporting the homeless, from donations to cooking and serving them a meal. Cash donations were given to the National Kidney Foundation, the Salvation Army and the Purple Heart Association. Many local Auxiliaries held Bake Sales, Rummage Sales and raffles for Paws With A Cause. Martha scheduled a tour of Paws With A Cause for any member of AMVETS family and their guests. National 3rd Vice President, Dee Baggett was able to attend this tour. Department total donations to Paws With A Cause was \$14,990.00.

Carol Orlowski, Americanism/S.O.S. Officer has reported some awesome projects this year. Our Americanism project is the Joint Americanism Committee which sponsors the National Flag Drawing, Poster and Essay contest. We received entries from every grade K-12 from Local and District Auxiliaries. We had an Awards ceremony during our convention in which we invited the winners and parents. Winners were presented with their awards and a U.S. Flag, afterwards they were treated to a luncheon, along with their parents. Some of the S.O.S. projects were packing and sending care packages to Servicemen and women; sending thousands of manufactured coupons to various bases located in the United States and around the world. Local Auxiliaries held raffles, craft shows and they even had a booth at the county fair to raise money for the Americanism Program.

Sally Abshire, Scholarship Officer reported some of our Local Auxiliaries activities for the year as passing a change jar at their meetings; Bake Sales; Bingo for Scholarship; selling cookbooks. They held dinners and dances and donated to the Scholarship for Special Olympics and gave Scholarships to local high schools. We gave out a total of \$3,600 in four (4) Scholarship grants.

Harriet Biela, Hospital Officer reported some of the activities as escorting patients and members to doctor appointments, mending clothing and other belongings of patients. Helping at carnivals and picnics. Sponsor Bingos and provide refreshments both at the VA Hospitals and bringing the Veterans to the Posts to participate there. Held raffles and fund-raising projects to promote the above projects and for cash donations to the VA Hospitals. Hospital pins and certificates were given out to members who earned them.

As you can see we had a very busy year, and we hope that President Evelyn believes the State of Michigan **ROCKS!!!** We want to thank President Evelyn for her visit to our Fall S.E.C. meeting and Conference last October. I am only sorry that as this was one of her first Department visits, we were NOT aware of any challenges and did not participate in a challenge. Also Dee Baggett, National 3rd Vice President, made an official visit to PAWS With a Cause. We hope they both enjoyed their visit to Michigan.

Pat Michalski, N.E.C. Woman
Dept. of MI