

1st Vice President – Membership Bulletin

April 2019

Bertha (Bert) Lema

Spring has finally sprung, the tulips and daffodils are poking their heads out of the ground, and the robins are back from wherever it is they go every winter looking for warmth. And, our Michigan AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary officers are getting ready for our upcoming June Convention. For some of us, that means we will be running for an office and getting ready for another level or responsibility. For others, that means taking a break from elective office and finding more time for ourselves and our families.

Have you ever considered running for a Department-level office? We are always looking for Local and District Officers who are dedicated to our Auxiliary and willing to move onto a Department leadership role. And, there are ladies who are more than willing to help mentor you along the way.

What are the expectations of a Department Officer? If you regularly read our monthly newsletters and bulletins, you probably have some idea. And, if you are a Local or District Officer, you have a very good idea of what to expect. At the Department level, your role is expanded, and you must be knowledgeable about the position which you aspire to hold. Where can you find out what is required of each office? Instructions for each Department Officer are located on the Auxiliary website at <https://www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org/>. If you are interested and know someone who is or has been a Department Officer in the past, ask them about the requirements and what you can do to prepare yourself for that level of leadership.

An easy way to start on that path is to get involved in our annual Convention. That's where our leadership and membership meet annually to make decisions that will impact our future and elect the officers who will do their best to help us achieve our organizational goals. If you want input on those decisions and those who will lead our Auxiliary, that's the place to be. Our members are critical to our success! In order for us to make a positive impact on all of you and be sure that your voice is heard about the direction we are taking, we need you at Convention.

And, to learn more about each office, come to Fall Conference. That's when we work on training everyone interested in specifics about each office. It's also an opportunity to meet ladies from other Local Auxiliaries. It's not all work; there's time for fun, too. Our goal is to meet the needs of the membership. To do that we need you to attend and give us your input.

As Department Officers, we do our best to keep you all informed. Be sure to regularly read our articles in the monthly newsletters and bulletins. Newsletters are mailed to each Local President. If you are not seeing it, ask and I am sure that she will share it with you. Or, you can start your own subscription by sending a \$10 check to Nancy Middleton (our Executive Secretary). As previously mentioned, bulletins are located on our website. Not all officers are required to write articles each month, so if you need some information that you are not finding, contact that officer for assistance. Constructive criticism and requests from our members about what information would be most useful are always appreciated.

I am very much looking forward to seeing some new faces and hearing some fresh ideas at Convention!

In Service to Veterans and their Families.

Bert

You are always encouraged to contact me to share information and/or ask any membership-related questions. If you are holding a local membership project or event, let me know. Your ideas could benefit others! If you have a membership topic that you would like me to discuss, pass it along! I can be reached by email at lema81@wowway.com or by phone at 586.214.1019.