

2018 – 2019

AMVETS LADIES 73rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Kentucky was the scene of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 73rd National Convention. Your new National Officers were elected. They are:

National President – Dee Baggett – Florida
1st Vice President – Joan Sirek – Wisconsin
2nd Vice President – Karin Simmons – Alaska
3rd Vice President – Amy Stopyra – Pennsylvania
Treasurer – PNP Barbara Guth - Kentucky
Americanism Officer – Denice Rodzen – Maine
Scholarship Officer – Peggy Liss – Michigan
Sergeant-at-Arms – Debra Gass – Indiana
Chaplain – Mary Lanphere – New York
Hospital Officer – Cindy Rice – Ohio
VAVS Rep. – Marie Rorrio
Parliamentarian – PNP Linda Taylor – Wisconsin

Election of officers was not the only order of business at the Convention. The week began with Committee meetings. During the first business session the Committee Chairwomen reported on the outcome of their meetings.

Following the first business session was the Joint Opening Ceremony. The Ceremony began a little later than planned due to the unavoidable delay of the Guest Speaker – President Trump. He applauded the Veterans and what they have done for our Country. He was well-received.

The Silver Helmet Awards Reception closed out the evening.

The 1st Business Session also dealt with Officer, NEC reports, and Committee Chairwomen reports and recommendations. The first Vice President indicated we had a modest increase in membership. We also welcomed 10 new auxiliaries. Even though we have new Auxiliaries our Auxiliaries reporting, the number of volunteers and evaluations are down. The Treasurer indicates that all donations to National are down by 14.0%. It seems most of the evaluations are down. A lot of our decrease in evaluations is due to Auxiliaries not reporting their service hours or inaccurate reporting. I encourage you to brush up on your reporting skills.

The 2nd Business session dealt with the completion of any reports and the Honors and Awards Program. The Honors and Awards program was one big pajama party. President Barbara was sleeping or trying to sleep the night before Christmas. She was dreaming and, in her dreams, she saw the presenting of the awards.

During the Honors and Awards Program 11 Scholarships were awarded. Grace Sayles from Auxiliary #22 was one of the winners. We are very proud of her.

We have also been advised that a list of winners for the National Americanism contest will be posted and/or distributed sometime during the first week of September. However, we can confirm that the Department of Michigan had three winners in the 6-12th grade Essay contest. Names and sponsoring Post or District have not yet been provided to us.

We also received a presentation of the 2019 – 2020 Budget. Since it was distributed during the 1st Business Session, we were able to preview it in advance of the vote. The budget was subsequently approved.

There were several by-law changes brought up. The passed by-laws are automatic changes to Department and Local Auxiliaries. The changes are as indicated:

- Article III Duties of the Parliamentarian - *A member of an assembly who acts as its parliamentarian has the same duties as the presiding officer to maintain a position of impartiality therefore does not make motions, participate in debates, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote.*
- Section d reads: Assist the President in arrangement of hearing appeals from Departments and in addition serve as Chairwomen of the Appeals Board. The change Reads: *Assist the President in arrangement of hearing appeals from Departments and in addition Oversee the Appeals Board.* This change passed.
- Article VII Finances Section 4 reads: Up to 4 days room rates as published by National Board for members to attend meetings or National Convention. Change to read: *Up to 5 days room rate...* This proposal passed in order to support the National Sons "Storm the Hill" event.
- Article XII Discipline – There was a proposal to increase the number of individuals besides the President to be notified of rights violations to avoid chances of lost or never received charges. This proposal was defeated.
- A proposal was made to not require the IRS990 form be sent in with the revalidation. The AMVETS already have it in their Constitution however the 990 requirement is still in the National Auxiliary Constitution. This proposal passed. You MUST file the IRS 990, but you are not required to submit a copy with your Revalidation form. NEW revalidation forms have been developed and will be available on the National website under Forms. The new form must be used for future revalidations.
- Community Service entered two proposals and both were passed.
 - "Wands for Wildlife" – Appalachian Wildlife Refuge coordinates the needs of wildlife rehab and conservation education. They are collecting old, cleaned (use Dawn soap) mascara wands to clean feathers and fur. Place them in a zip lock bag and send them to: Wildlife Wands, POB 1586 Southwick, MA 01077. You may claim \$1.00 per wand on your service report.
 - The second proposal was "Bra Backs for turtle rescue". This project uses both sides of the metal or plastic hooks and loops from the back of an old bra. These are used to assist the shell on injured turtles to grow back together. You may send them to Waterfowl Rescue POB 1484 Indian Trail, NC 28079. You may claim \$1.00 per set on your service report.

A great emphasis was placed on Uniforms. It seems individuals have gotten very relaxed on the appropriate attire. The dress code calls for hunter green slacks or dress. That does not include jeans, capris, or tights. The shoes must be closed toed. Sandals, flipflops or open toed shoes are inappropriate. We are representatives of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and should represent the Auxiliary honorably.

Another issue presented was DATES. We have requirements on dates for a reason. When you send in any paperwork that has a designated due date, see to it that it arrives by that date. Once your paperwork is sent in, the Department Service Officer must tabulate the information and send a report to the NEC Woman. She must then tabulate all the reports and send them to National. She also has a deadline. Please be aware of the dates and adhere to them.

All-in-all, the National Convention is quite an experience and it is not just for Department Officers. Next year's National Convention will be held in Springfield, Illinois. If you are interested in attending, please consult the National website for additional information.

Michigan Delegate
Kathryn Schultz- Immediate Past President