

January 2020

A new year, a fresh start, a time for making positive changes which will impact the future. While we remain rooted in our beginnings, we need to reevaluate ourselves from time to time to stay caught up with the world as it changes around us. We not only need to reevaluate ourselves as individuals but our organization, as well. Where did we come from, where are we now, and where will we be in 5 years?

We call it Strategic Planning. We do not have a committee dedicated to helping us prepare for the future but maybe it is something we should be thinking about. We cannot guarantee the future of our organization unless we have a plan in place to develop our members to take on leadership roles. Strategic planning will help us set incremental goals which will help prepare our organization for whatever the future holds. It's just a random thought of mine but I would love to hear input from you on the subject.

Some upcoming dates of importance:

- Our **Spring SEC Meeting** will be held at **2pm** on Saturday, **February 15th** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (1.616.957.1770) in Grand Rapids. A block of rooms for February 14th – February 16th is being held at the hotel. Deadline for reservations is January 30th. Be sure to say you are with the AMVETS Auxiliary in order to secure the reduced rate.
- The **Joint Americanism Committee** meeting will be held at **9am** on **February 15th** at the hotel.
- **Honors and Awards** will meet at **10am** on **February 15th**, immediately following the Joint Americanism meeting.

The times listed above are subject to change. A final agenda will be sent to officers either via email or through the post office for those who do not have access to email.

- **April 17th – 19th**: Save the date for our Ladies Auxiliary Weekend at Higgins Lake. We're going to have some discussion about the future of our organization, including membership and leadership so bring your ideas! I am also arranging for AMVETS Executive Director Carol Hebert to provide us with Suicide Prevention HEAL Team training so bring your laptop if you have one. If you are planning to come, let me know also whether or not you will have a roomie at the Lodge. I need that lady's name, also. As you know, the weekend is offered free to us provided we include training. More about the Auxiliary weekend at Spring SEC.

I look forward to hearing your comments and ideas about the future of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan.

Yours in Service to veterans and their families.

Bert

If you have a topic you would like me to discuss in a future bulletin, pass it along! I can be reached by email at lema81@wowway.com or by phone at 586.214.1019.