

April 2020

I would first like to thank all of you who have sent cards, emailed or called offering condolences for the recent death of my mom. It has been a heartbreakng experience first by not being allowed to be with her at the hospital and then not being able to hold her funeral yet because of travel and quarantine restrictions. My mind has not been totally focused on our Auxiliary for the past couple of weeks, but I feel the fog lifting. You have provided me with the virtual hugs and love I needed to move from one day into the next. Thank you!

On Monday, our Department Auxiliary officers met via conference call to discuss issues which need to be addressed so we are able to keep moving forward for the year. Our Department Treasurer, Gloria Hall, was given the necessary authority to cover Auxiliary expenses through the end of June. Ways and Means Chair, Harriet Altherr, will continue to sell our department raffle tickets via mail to help restore funds which are slowly being depleted. Per clarification, the raffle drawing will still be held in Grand Rapids on the date and time noted on the tickets whether or not convention is held at that time. Our Americanism Officer, Pat Michalski, indicated the Americanism raffle drawing will also occur on the date, time and at the place noted on the tickets. Americanism judging has been delayed and whether or not our convention is held in June, the program itself will not be held. Winners will receive prizes by mail. Please read our newsletter and officer bulletins for additional information.

During a recent conversation with AMVETS Department of Michigan Commander Chuck Petch, advised he will hold an AMVETS SEC conference call at the end of this month to make decisions going forward, the most critical of which is whether or not we will be able to hold convention in June. This morning he shared communication from our National AMVETS Commander Jan Brown which provides direction to each Department as to how to proceed if holding a “proper statewide convention” is not feasible. I am certain Commander Petch and the AMVETS SEC will be making decisions based on today’s communication and will keep Auxiliary apprised of next steps.

While we are limited in some respects to the ways we can help veterans, children and our community, there are many ways in which we can contribute. Many of our ladies are stitching masks, maybe you could too. Not a seamstress? What about donating cash or items to a local food bank to help the hungry? Some ladies are spending their self-quarantine time knitting and crocheting in preparation for holidays at the end of the year. Perhaps you can shop for an elderly neighbor? We can all do something to contribute to making our communities a little brighter and by so doing making our own lives a little richer.

Please take care of yourself! Stay home to stay safe and save lives!

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.