

May 2020

As you all know by now, AMVETS Department and National Conventions have officially been canceled. For our Auxiliary, we knew in advance we would not be meeting on the revised convention dates in July because we would not have a quorum and we had already been making plans as to next steps. However, our May 5th notice to the AMVETS advising them Auxiliary would not be meeting in July resulted in an extremely negative message from the Commander, in part because of an apparent misunderstanding of the extent of authority they have over our organization. In an effort to be transparent in regard to issues which ultimately concern you all, my response to his message is included on the home page. If any of you wish to discuss it with me, you may contact me at the email address or phone number listed below.

Moving forward, I will be working diligently both to support the members of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan and repair the relationship with our AMVETS. We are a family and must work together to resolve problems. Right now we have many.

As Commander Petch noted in his May 15th email, all of our Michigan Posts are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the recent shutdown. Higgins Lake Lodge has lost revenue which is critical to maintain operations. Our Department of Michigan Auxiliary has not been able to hold planned fundraisers which are essential to our annual budget.

When we are able to meet again at our local posts, I ask you all to think of ways you can work together with your AMVETS to plan events which will help your post home remain an open and welcoming place for you all to meet. Districts are asked to help, as well. It is a benefit to all of us to join forces in any effort which will raise funds to cover what has been lost over the past few months.

Whatever differences we have had, they are minor in comparison of the challenges we must meet in the months ahead. You must continue to read all available information posted on the website from your Department Officers. Thank you to all of you who will be continuing in your positions, whether or not you planned to. I know the last few months have not been easy, we miss the camaraderie of being with our Auxiliary friends and working together on projects to benefit those we serve. But, together we will persevere. I have great faith in all of you.

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.