

July 2020

As we begin a new Auxiliary year, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of the responsibility of each member to follow established guidelines regarding how we interact with one another and treat each other and act in ways which are ALWAYS respectful of our Auxiliary sisters and our AMVETS Family. To guide us in our actions, there are several resources which detail appropriate behavior and the consequences if they are disregarded. A summary of the items you should all read and discuss at your local auxiliary meetings follows below. Each item referenced can be found either directly on our website or as a link to the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

Social Media Policy

This policy can be found on the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary website under the “Publications” tab. **Every** Auxiliary-related social media account (Facebook, Twitter, webpage, etc.) MUST have been approved by your Local or Department Auxiliary. Once approval has been received, there are certain requirements stated in the National policy which must be adhered to, including how the name is listed on the account, the number of administrators, and the content. Violations of the Social Media Policy can result in varying levels of discipline, up to and including expulsion from the organization.

With regards to the Social Media Policy in particular, several complaints of violations by members at local auxiliaries have come to my attention. Part of the Social Media Policy requires regular monitoring of these accounts “by the leadership of each level of the organization”. I am not sure if this level of scrutiny has taken place in the past, but it will be effective immediately. I, along with our Department Parliamentarian Maureen Jackson, will begin monitoring those accounts of which I have knowledge. If any comments made on these accounts are found to be in violation of National policy, appropriate leadership will be contacted for immediate resolution.

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Constitution and By-laws

When each of you took your membership oath, you agreed to abide by our National Constitution and associated By-Laws. If you have never read them, I suggest you take the time to do so now. Within the Constitution, you will find our Auxiliary Aims and Purposes which, in part, tell us we each have an obligation to help unify divergent groups, cooperate with our organization to further the aims of the American Veteran, to promote the welfare and fellowship of our members, and to

recognize our Auxiliary exists to promote the interest of our parent organization, AMVETS. Members may be suspended or expelled for failing to comply with ANY obligation imposed on our members as written in the National Constitution and By-laws at all levels. These include any violation of the law that reflects unfavorably on the organization or conduct unbecoming a member. The complete list of reasons can be found in the National Constitution.

Code of Ethics

This summary simply highlights those issues which have become a problem in several local auxiliaries. The entire contents of this document can be found on our website under the “Information” tab. Our Auxiliary is a subordinate of AMVETS and we are **never** to interfere with the AMVETS internal organization or their politics. Every Auxiliary member is required to conduct herself in a manner which reflects favorably on AMVETS and the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. We are always to be courteous and considerate of our members. We are to treat our fellow members and officers with respect. We are to be “temperate” in speech, habits, and opinions.

In closing, whether it is something you say on an official AMVETS Family social media page, something you post on your personal social media account, or some rumor or gossip you spread in person, it is unacceptable and is a violation of our Constitution, our By-laws, our Code of Ethics, and the oath you took when you joined our wonderful organization. It is not reasonable to think we will always agree with each other, but it is reasonable to think you each will always behave in a dignified, respectful manner. If you have a concern, the correct way to deal with it is to bring it to the attention of your Local President who will work towards an appropriate resolution on your behalf.

I have great respect for the work you all do on behalf of our AMVETS and our communities. Please work hard to be a part of the solution to problems instead of the cause of them.

Yours in service to Veterans and their Families.

Bert

I will be contacting all Local Auxiliary President's over the next few months to share information and answer questions. If you have a 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.