

October 2020

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan held its very first Microsoft Teams Fall SEC meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup> and it was successful. The pandemic makes it still unsafe to hold large group meetings so being able to see everyone from a distance from the comfort of home was the next best thing to meeting in person. I am glad to report our group is still healthy with thankfully no one reporting symptoms of this horrible illness. I am certain their good health can be attributed to our Ladies Auxiliary members wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, a sign of their care and concern for others.

We are fast approaching Election Day and, as always, please get out and VOTE! Voting is your civic duty; it gives you a voice in who will represent us at our local, state, and federal governments. Voting is Patriotic! As the daughters, granddaughters, and wives of those who have served our Country, we most assuredly understand the sacrifices those individuals have made to ensure our right to exercise this most basic freedom. In Michigan, you have many voting options: absentee ballot, early voting, and in-person voting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Early voting totals and the number of absentee ballots already received show voting totals this year are going to be much greater than usual. If you or anyone you know needs more information about any of these voting options, please go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) . Anyone concerned about whether or not your absentee ballot has been received and accepted by your local clerk's office, can find out by visiting this same website. For those of you who will be working at the polls this year, thank you for volunteering!

You will be receiving reminder notices from the Department Service Officers, but I wanted to also chime in to let you know your mid-year service reports are due to the appropriate officer by November 5<sup>th</sup>. Some of us have been fielding calls from the local auxiliaries on the topic so I thought another reminder will help. Even if your auxiliary has not yet started any projects, enter "nothing to report" on the mid-year form and send it in. Addresses for all Department Officers can be found on the website. The information you provide on these reports is sent to National and is critical to retaining our non-profit status.

Remember: This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution which gave women the right to vote. The amendment was introduced in Congress in 1878 and after 42 years, countless marches, and sacrifices, women finally achieved their goal. So, in memory of all those women who worked tirelessly on this effort, get out there and vote!

*Yours in service to Veterans and their Families,*

*Bert*

I am currently my granddaughter's virtual school "learning guide" so am unavailable by phone during the day. If you have a question or concern, please leave a message at 586.214.1019 or email me at [lema81@wowway.com](mailto:lema81@wowway.com). I will respond as quickly as possible, usually within 24 to 48 hours.