



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan



September 2023—Issue 3

Your Department Officers for 2023/2024

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1st Vice Kathy Keizer

2nd Vice Bonnie Rojaske

3rd Vice Pam Lein

Chaplain Patsy Watkins

Sgt-at-Arms Linda Langland

Treasurer Deb Davis

Americanism Karen Harmon

Hospital Kay Kemp

Scholarship Roberta Robinson

N.E.C. Nancy Middleton

Parliamentarian Faye Richardson-Green

Personnel Chair Wendy Lynema

AMVET Lodge Rep. Roberta Robinson

Ways & Means Nancy Woodwyk

Honors & Awards Kathy Keizer

Convention Chair Carol Pickett

Fall Conf. Chair Bert Lema

Aleda E Lutz VAVS Linda Marshall

B.C. VAVS Faye Richardson-Green

G.R. Home Rep Leora Williamson

Jacobetti Home Rep Judy Smith

John Dingell VA Cel Rose Solak

District II Pres. Linda Marshall

District V Pres. Gloria Hall

District VII Pres. Barb Robare

Pat Michalski, Department President

U. S. A.

United in Service to America



I hope each local Auxiliary is doing well for the new year. I know a lot of local Auxiliaries do not meet during the summer months, but fall is approaching quickly, and it will be September before we know it. I would like to know what plans your Auxiliary has for each service program for the coming year. Drop me a quick line to let me know.

As September begins, local Auxiliaries begin collecting dues, which are due by 12/31/23. There are two (2) new Membership contests this year. Please read the Department 1st Vice President's bulletin posted on the Department website. Send your Auxiliary dues into our Exec. Secretary, Nancy Middleton. I have been told the Exec. Secretary Nancy and 1st Vice President Kathy Keizer have gone over the 2022-2023 Membership numbers and have agreed on the totals for each local Auxiliary. Yay!!

The 2nd Vice President, Bonnie Rojaske has scheduled a tour of Penrickton Center for Blind Children on Thursday, 9/14/23. This is the Department of MI Child Welfare project. Please read her Bulletin posted on the Department website. Make sure to let her know if you will be attending as she is planning a light lunch for all. If you have never been there before, this is quite an experience to see the inner workings of this great program. If you have been there before, it is still interesting to see the changes that have been made. There is a Wish List of their needs on the website under the Service Programs tab and then under Child Welfare. If your local Auxiliary would like to donate a few of the items listed, I'm sure it will be greatly appreciated.

Fall Conference is fast approaching. It will be held October 13-15, 2023 at the Doubletree Hotel in Grand Rapids. Friday, 10/13 will be our SEC meeting at 6:00 pm. Saturday, 10/14 Fall Conference classes will be held. Sunday, 10/15 a short Memorial service will be held. More info will be forthcoming from our Fall Conference Chairman, Bert Lema. Please read her Bulletin. This should have information for hotel reservations, FC Instructors and classes and much more. Please plan on attending.

My wish is for each local Auxiliary to have an Amazing year! There is so much we can do by working together and sharing our ideas with others.





2023/2024 MEMBERSHIP

Re-Member to Recruit & Retain

PDP Kathy Keizer – Department 1st Vice President

Since my last article, I have compared figures with the Executive Secretary and we match as of the end of July!! So we are off to a great start! I found several mistakes in last year's membership and have worked with Nancy so we could match.

By the time you are reading this article, you have started collecting dues from your current annual members. We are hoping to receive the membership cards and rosters from National by the 2nd week of September. An email will be sent as soon as they arrive, so have your paperwork ready to go into the mail!!

Don't forget to review your Honorary members for continued membership. This is to be done each Fall at a meeting with a vote taken and noted in your minutes. You also need to send in their dues to the Department for renewal NO LATER THAN December 1. The Dept must send them to National before December 31. This is for current Honorary members – not for new Honorary. REMINDER: Each local may sign up 2 NEW Honorary members each year along with renewing their current Honorary members.

A couple weeks ago, I requested a poll vote from the SEC to approve an INCREASE in the amounts for the Department membership contests which are done every year. They will be as follows:

- ★ 100% renewed by 10/31 each year – D&R received by 11/5 each year – each local which meets the criteria will receive \$50 (instead of \$25).
- ★ Renew Yourself Contest – each annual member who has paid their dues from September 1 to October 31 with the D&R(s) received by the Department by 11/5 each year – each name will go into a drawing for prizes to be determined by the 1st Vice and not to exceed \$150 (instead of \$75).

So, let's start collecting the dues from our annual members and get them mailed to Nancy Middleton, our Executive Secretary.

Look for the other 2 Membership contests I have also had approved by the SEC to help get our membership numbers up. They are located in another area of the newsletter. (page #6)



UPDATE—USO 2022/23

By Pam Lein

I was finally able to get all the products and drive it over to Camp Grayling on August 10th.

My day started at 07:20am and other than one box of bath shoes which came out from under the tarp on the freeway about 30 miles to the camp....and me running back up the freeway to get it.... all went well.

The experience of seeing the camp busy with approximately 5,000 men and women on base was awesome. I was greeted by Marines who helped me unload the trailer and car. To say the least, they were all happy to see all the goodies. They took 1st dibs on the bath shoes.

These are the items we donated by all your gracious donations,

- ★ 52 - 24 packs of Sports drinks or 1,248 bottles,
- ★ 896 packs of beef sticks,
- ★ 660 packs of jerky,
- ★ 279 packs of bath shoes
- ★ For a total of \$2,866.94.

Thank you again for all your donations and to see firsthand what our work accomplished.

Sincerely
Pamela Lein
2022-2023 Dept. Americanism Officer

See page #3

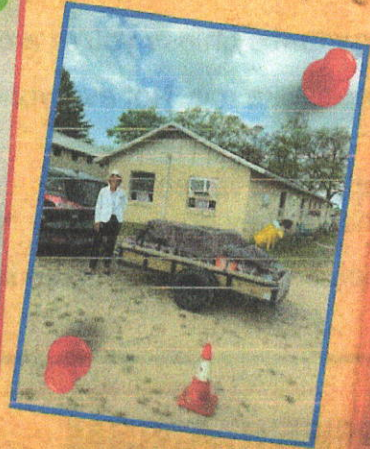
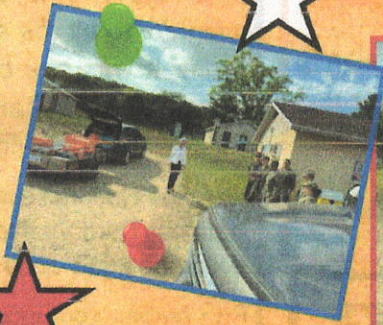


LOOK WHAT WE HELPED DO!!!!

With a lot of help and work from last year's
Americanism Officer—Pam Lein!



CAMP GRAYLING U.S.O.



A BELATED CONGRATULATIONS... TO AUXILIARY #93

For being 100% renewed as of 10/31/22 for last year's (2022-2023) membership contest.

Because of the problems with membership, this was overlooked and not presented at our Department Convention in June.

I am be sending Auxiliary #93 a letter, along with a check for \$25 which was the prize of the contest last year.

Kathy Keizer 1st Vice President

Funny One-Liner Fillers

★ If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.

Age is of no importance unless you're a cheese.

It's okay if you don't like me. Not everyone has good taste.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go. ★ ★

Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition."

AMERICANISM

by Karen Harmon, Americanism/SOS Officer



I don't have much to report at this time. I will submit a bulletin on the website immediately following the National Convention relating to any changes to the Flag, Poster and Essay contest. The entry forms will be on the website when updated. Please encourage your post to participate in this wonderful program.

I want to thank the women who will be serving on the Americanism committee with me. THANK YOU to Faye Richardson-Green, Rose Solak, Allison Aldrich and Wendy Chamberlin.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pamela Lein, 3rd Vice President

While summer is coming to an end and school starts again, I hope all of you are working on community service projects. Remember, if your project benefits both adults and children to document what you did and all the information for your mid-year reports.

I was able to have a personal visit and educational meetings at PAWS. As the third vice, it gave me more insight into all the aspects from A to Z of the PAWS program. It was eye-opening and truly a great experience. I would like to thank Faye and all the people at PAWS for organizing it and help educate me about their program.

After the National convention, we should have a date for the National Third Vice to come for the PAWS visit in Oct. I will let everyone know once we get a set date for the visit.

Remember, your locals can always donate directly to PAWS. You can do this but if you want to be eligible for any awards at the convention your donations need to be directed to the Dept. of Michigan. PAWS had a fundraiser which ended on the 12th of August and those donations would have gone directly to them. If you have questions, please email me at upnorthpam1@gmail.com or call me at 231-357-6010.

Thank you.....and



CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION PENRICKTON TOUR

BY Bonnie Rojeski, 2nd Vice President

September is here and that means it's time to visit Penrickton. The tour is September 14, 2023 at 1pm with a light lunch. I will have my first chairmen's award given out that day. If you are planning on attending the tour and haven't RSVP yet, please do so ASAP.

Please go on the Auxiliary website under Service Programs, then under Child Welfare for the list of items needed at Penrickton, if you would like to bring some much needed items that would be awesome.

And remember to also list your donations on your reports.

I'm hoping to see a BIG TURN OUT this year.

Thank you
Bonnie Rojeski
586-212-7495

Bonnie0593@aol.com





NEWS FROM THE GRHV

by Leora Williamson, GRHV Rep.



I am very excited to report we were able to purchase Two Trikes for the Grand Rapids Home (\$1,500 each). The request for the Trikes was issued last year and became a project for both Auxiliary 23 and MVH-GR Representative.

Activities Director, Becki Smit took the first ride on one of them and said it was really fun!

The home recently celebrated their second anniversary with entertainment and food. Negative weather reports meant they had to stay indoors for the event - but that didn't hamper the enjoyment.

Later in August we will sponsor a Ladies dance troupe to entertain the members while they sipped their Root Beer Floats.

Sec. Note: Congratulations to Lee for being selected "Volunteer of the Month" at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans!

HOSPITAL NEWS

by Kay Kemp, Hospital Officer

Not much going on with hospital at this time. Reminder that all locals have sent there hospital assessment. The lazy days of summer are going to go by faster then we think.

A reminder to the VAVS Representatives have a Joint Review yearly. They should be thinking about scheduling one. They are due in the month of September.

Looking forward to seeing more of our members to attend the Fall Conference. More attendance makes for a better Conference. See you then.

CALLING ALL PARLIAMENTARIANS

by Faye Richardson-Green, Dept. Parliamentarian

Did you know.....

.....Robert's Rules of Order were created in 1876 by US Army Officer Henry Martyn Robert when he was asked to run a church meeting and it didn't go well? Embarrassed, he decided to adapt the Parliamentary Rules used by Congress to work for him and others needing a consistent way to run meetings.

.....a Parliamentarian is responsible for knowing the established rules, ethics and customs necessary to assist the organization in conducting orderly meetings?

.....a Parliamentarian is expected to be non-partial and in some instances gives up the right to make motions, participate in debate and vote?

.....certifying organizations exist for people serious about being effective Parliamentarians?

I didn't know any of this stuff until I started researching more about the role of Parliamentarians. Some Auxiliary Locals don't have anyone assigned as the Parliamentarian. I'm learning this is a mistake. This role is very important to help the President or presiding officer maintain meeting order and maybe even operational efficiency.

Note to self: stop researching stuff or you'll write more articles like this one.

More Funny One-Liner Fillers

A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure.

If had a dollar for every smart thing you said, I'll be poor.

Always give 100%, except when giving blood.

Listen, smile, agree, and then do whatever you were gonna do anyway.

Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.



CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

by Carol Pickett



I want to say thanks for appointing me Convention Chairman for 2024. I'm looking forward to working with Madam President Pat and her board. If anyone has ideas for convention or if you're interested in being Door Prize Chairman, please get in touch with me. Let's make this a great year and a fun convention. Hope to hear from

Two (2) more SEC approved Membership Contests!! (for the 2023/2024 membership year ONLY!)

By Kathy Keizer, 1st Vice President



NEW CONTEST #1

Any local who is 100% renewed (all current annual renewed AND Life member assessments paid) by November 30, 2023, will have their Post # go into a drawing for up to four (4) winners to divide a prize amount of \$100.

Your D&R, with a check in the correct amount, must be received by the Executive Secretary by December 5, 2023. If only one (1) local is in the drawing, they will win it ALL!! (NOTE: this will include those Auxiliaries who may have been 100% renewed by 10/31)

NEW CONTEST #2

All current annual members will be assigned a number by the Executive Secretary. A number will be drawn by the Dept. 1st Vice on September 30, October 31, November 30 and December 31.

If the number drawn belongs to a member who has paid her 2023/24 dues and they has been received by the Exec. Secretary, she will win \$25.

Each time there's no winner, the prize monies will be added and awarded at the next drawing. For the December drawing, I will draw until we have a WINNER!!

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE ARTICLE OCTOBER 15, 2023

FALL CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE!

by Bert Lema, Chairman

Planning for Fall Conference is coming together very nicely! We'll be meeting at the DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Rapids on October 14th & 15th.

Look for the Fall Conference Flyer and Pre-Registration form in this issue (page #7) for information about making reservations, room costs and important deadlines. Everything will also be posted on our website: www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org. Please be sure to check there for any last-minute changes.

Trainers are:

Pres. Pat Michalski – Constitution & By-Laws
PDP Kathy Keizer – Membership

There will also be a Round-Table Discussion with all Department Officers – bring questions

All members are encouraged to attend. Come to learn AND have fun! Fall Conference is a great place to meet members from other Auxiliaries who are always willing to share the good things going on in their areas.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Bert Lema, Fall Conference Chair

NEW FROM JACOBETTI

by Judy Smith, Home Rep.

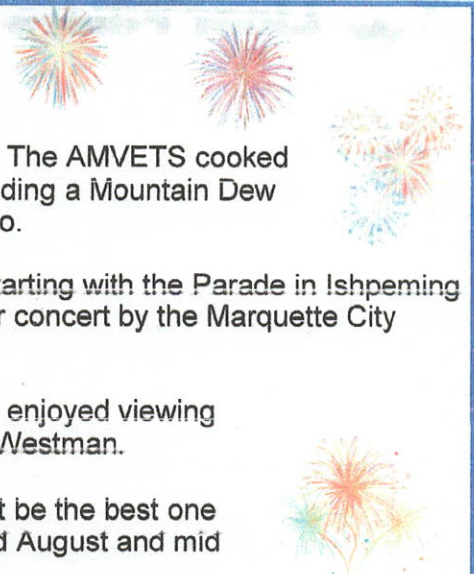
Summer activities - starting with June:

The residents have enjoyed many lunch outings including AMVETS Post 122. The AMVETS cooked the hotdogs and brats and our wonderful ladies made several great sides including a Mountain Dew Lemon dessert (so good!) Lois Westman provided the music and we had bingo.

The Jacobetti residents were able to enjoy several 4th of July Celebrations - starting with the Parade in Ishpeming on July 1st and in-house activities on the 4th which included a patriotic outdoor concert by the Marquette City Band.

The residents also enjoyed the Classic Car Show in the back parking lot - they enjoyed viewing the 36 cars while also enjoying music by several musicians including our Lois Westman.

We are looking forward to the Annual Member Carnival August 16 - it may just be the best one ever! And we look forward to hosting the Jacobetti residents at Lake Unke mid August and mid September.



United in Service to America

**FALL CONFERENCE IS THE BEST TIME
TO CREATE SPECIAL TIMES WITH YOUR AUXILIARY SISTERS
SO PLEASE JOIN US**

WHEN: October 14th – October 15th

WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton, 4747 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

ROOM RATE: \$105 per night plus local taxes

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE: September 22nd

For online reservations: <https://www.hilton.com>

GROUP NAME: AMVETS **GROUP CODE:** XAV

Or call: 616-957-0100 be sure to mention you're with AMVETS

WHAT: Training & *FUN* - Some surprises, too!

Trainers: President Pat Michalski – Constitution/By-Laws

PDP Kathy Keizer – Membership

Round Table Discussion – bring your questions for Department Officers

Contact me with any questions at

586-214-1019 or lema81@wowway.com

Bertha (Bert) Lema, Fall Conference Chair

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 27TH!

Cost is \$15 if pre-registered; \$20 at the door

**FALL CONFERENCE 2021
DoubleTree by Hilton in Grand Rapids**

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ **Aux. #** _____

Fall Conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Grand Rapids on October 14-15, 2023. The SEC Meeting will be on Friday, Oct. 13.

Pre-registration is \$15. Fill out this form and return it with the registration fee before Sept. 27th. Send to: Nancy Middleton - 1535 48th St SE - Kentwood MI 49508