

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

August 2023—issue 2

Your Department Officers for 2023/2024

President Pat Michalski

1st Vice Kathy Keizer

2nd Vice Bonnie Rojeski

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 Rose Solak

District II Pres. Linda Marshall

District V Pres. Gloria Hall

District VII Pres. Barb Robare



U. S. A.



United in Service to America

By Pat Michalski, Department President

I bet a lot of our members were surprised that I was elected Department President at our Convention in Grand Rapids. When I left home on Thursday to attend our Convention, I had no idea I would return home as the President. But things happen.

As we begin this new Auxiliary year, I have chosen my theme as "USA—United in Service to America". As we have five service programs: Child Welfare, Community Service, Americanism/SOS, Hospital and Scholarship, I feel strongly about our Service to America by being "united" within our local Auxiliaries!

I would encourage each local Auxiliary to report their special projects to me as Webmaster so I could post it on the Auxiliary website. Let's share your ideas with other Auxiliaries and be proud of your accomplishments.

Pam Lein, 3rd Vice President sent a bulletin about a donation drive for PAWS With A Cause. It is posted on the website under Department Officer's Bulletin page. I also posted a flyer concerning the same on the Home page. This donation drive named "Stock Pup" will be held during the week of International Assistance Dog week taking place August 6-12. Please see information on the Department website: www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org

At convention, it was decided to post the Auxiliary newsletter on the website. There will be NO free copies sent to the Local Presidents.

I would like to congratulate all local Auxiliaries who received awards during the Honors and Awards program at convention. Please continue to do outstanding service work.

I would also like to congratulate the newly elected & appointed Department Officers for 2023-24. I look forward to working with you in the coming year. The new Officers information has also been posted to the website.





2023/2024 MEMBERSHIP

Re-Member to Recruit & Retain

By Kathy Keizer, 1st Vice President



Greetings! I am back doing membership for the Department again! I have spent approximately 24+ hours since being appointed. going through and checking the rosters and chart against the D&R's on file, meeting with Nancy to compare the 2022/2023 membership, cleaning out the files and resetting the rosters for the 2023/2024 membership year.

So, as of today, July 12, I think I am ready to go once Nancy finishes with one more local so we can compare and begin the year with matching figures.

My theme this year will be "Re-Member to Recruit & Retain". We have locals who are great at signing up new members but fail get the current annual members to renew. We need to work on this and bring our numbers up. It is the only way we can grow!



Lee is back with her Funny One-Liners!!

By Leora Williamson

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors but they all exist very nicely in the same box!

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Roberta Robinson, Scholarship Officer

As your newly elected Scholarship Officer, I am looking forward to the upcoming year. In the next few weeks, I will be working with the Department and getting updated with the Scholarship Service Program.

More information to follow in the near future.

UPDATE—USO 2022/23

By Pam Lein

I have an update on the 2022/2023 USO donations and what I have purchased for the USO at Camp Grayling.

I have purchased 18 boxes (or 279 pairs) of bath shoes for the men and women at Camp Grayling.

I am working to purchase the rest of their needs by working directly with the companies to see if I can get more, including Jerky snack packs, Gatorade and sodas.

I am hoping to wrap everything up and deliver on July 25th.

CHAPLAIN

By Patsy Watkins, Dept. Chaplain










During the Department Convention in June, there was a change to the Sunshine Fund. The amount of funds has been increased and the handling of the payment has been improved.

If you have a member who is in the hospital due to an illness and/or accident and would like to get them a gift on behalf of the Department Auxiliary, call me and we will see if the Sunshine fund applies. We will send you a gift card and you will be required to purchase the gift and deliver it to the ill member. We can allow one gift per year to a member.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SENDING IN MEMBERSHIP!

By Kathy Keizer, 1st Vice

- A. Use the Dues & Remittance form which has the revision of January 2019 on the bottom of the form. 
- B. When filling out the top center area – write “MI” under Department and include the name and contact information of the person submitting the form. 
- C. The membership year should be “2023/24” under the Recap Info section. 
- D. When filling in the bottom portion remember to list all members alphabetically under the type of member you are submitting: N for New Annual, R for Renew Annual, NH for New Honorary, RH for Renew Honorary, NL for New Life (joining for first time) and RL for Renew TO Life (current annual members paying for a Life membership). 
- E. Don't forget to fill out the forms needed for new Life membership and new Honorary membership and include them with the D&R. It is NOT up to THE Secretary to fill out YOUR paperwork! REMEMBER, she is recording membership for 23 local Auxiliaries NOT just yours! 
- F. Be sure to send the following amount for each type of member: \$25 for annual renewals, \$30 for new annuals (including those who pay their dues AFTER 12/31), \$278 for New Life and Renew to Life members and \$10 for Renew and New Honorary members (National fee – the Department does not charge for Honorary members). 
- G. After you determine what is owed, be sure the check is made out to: AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept. of MI. Be sure the check is dated correctly, the amount in numbers and the amount in writing match and be sure to SIGN the check!! Send everything to Nancy Middleton, Executive Secretary, AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept. of MI, 1535 48th St SE, Kentwood MI 49508-4670. 
- H. If you do not send in the correct amount or include the proper paperwork, the Executive Secretary may choose to return it to you for needed corrections which will cause a delay in processing and your members receiving their cards.



Lee's Funny One-Liners!!

By Leora Williamson



How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you, the more you have, the longer you live.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

NEWSLETTER CHOICES

There are two ways to get your copy of this Dept. newsletter which is published monthly.

#1 A subscription is available for \$10 a year. This includes 11 monthly issues plus a copy of the Convention Digest sent by the USPS. The subscription can be made by sending a \$10 check to the Dept. Secretary (1535 48th St SE— Kentwood MI 49508) made payable to the AMVETS Aux. Dept. of MI.

#2 You can find the newsletter and Digest on the Department website (amvetsauxdeptmi.com) free of charge. You can download it and print your own copy.

Ways & Means

by Nancy Woodwyk, Chairman



Some of you may remember the Calendar Game we played a few years ago and brought back last year. Most of those receiving it had fun with it.

We will be trying it again this year during the months of October (Halloween), December (Christmas) and March (Easter).

It is a fun game and all the proceeds go to Ways 'n Means. And there will be a prize drawing from each entry.

NEWSLETTER OFFICER LIST

by Nancy Middleton, Editor

The back sheet of this newsletter contains a list of all the Department Officer. The copy differs from the one on the website because it also includes phone numbers.



Most Officers prefer to leave their home phone numbers off the website. The back sheet will not appear on the web but there is a list there with names, addresses, email, etc.—just no phone contact.

More of Lee's Funny One-Liners!

by Leora Williamson

Ever notice people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

If Walmart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Living on earth is expensive, but does include a free trip around the sun every year.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pamela Lein, 3rd Vice President

I am Pam Lein, your new Dept. Third Vice. I look forward to a productive year and hope you all do as well.

Our National Convention is in August. I have dates to give our new National Third Vice for our Paws tour in the fall.

One thing I have found that helps me with my reporting is to keep a journal. I can note all of the miles, hours, and supplies I may need to complete forms and records.

If you have any questions on Community Service reports and/or what can be reported, please reach out to me at by email: upnorthpam1@gmail.com.

Summer is in full swing I hope you are working on projects at your locals toward Community Service.

Again, I look forward to being your Dept. Third Vice.

AMERICANISM

by Karen Harmon, Americanism/SOS Officer



My name is Karen Hamon. I met the AMVET Americanism Officer at convention and I look forward to a great year.

The National Convention is late August when the Americanism Poster, Essay and Flag Drawing contest will be updated. I'll pass on the information I receive.

Please contact your schools early to make sure they are participating. I will be presenting an Americanism project at the Fall Conference.



OOOOPS!!

I inverted names last month on page 1 for Hospital (Kay Kemp) and Americanism (Karen Harmon)

If any Officer put their phone number in their article, I removed it in case they don't want it on the website, but forget the newsletter is now on the web. If they want to include their phone number next month in their article, I will not remove it because I will assume they want it published.



Approved Membership Contest (so far!)

by Kathy Keizer, 1st Vice President

At the post-Convention SEC meeting, I had the following membership contest approved:
The first four (4) local Auxiliaries to submit their Life Member Hospital Assessment (\$3 for each Life member) by October 1 will receive \$25.

NOTE: At Convention, it was voted on and approved to call the former Life Member "donation" or "dues" going forward as an "assessment".

So get those assessment fees in ASAP so your local can be a WINNER!

I am working on 2 more contests and will announce them as soon as the approval by the SEC is received. Keep your eyes peeled in upcoming issues!!

Of course, per the 1st Vice President's instructions the following annual membership contests are set by the Department:

- ★ Any local Auxiliary who is 100% renewed by October 31 (D&R received by November 5) will receive \$25.
- ★ Each annual member who renews their membership from August 15 until October 31 (D&R received by November 5) will have their name put into a drawing for a prize. (\$ amount to be determined by the Department 1st Vice).

Re-Member to Recruit & Retain



HOSPITAL NEWS

by Kay Kemp, Hospital Officer

Well I'm back. I want to thank everyone for their support at our Spring Convention. I am looking forward to our officer's training in Bay City on July 19 2023.

It is also that time of year when all life members should be sending in there \$3.00 Hospital dues. This is where the funds come from for the allotments for our VAVS/MVH representatives to use in there hospital work for our Veterans.

My phone number and email address is available to all Hospital Chair persons. 586-405-9675 email frednkay@sbcglobal.net.

I'm hoping to hear from the locals. Remember the month of November is St. Jude Research Hospital Program. Maybe plan something special at your local Auxiliary.

Oct 14-15, 2023 is Fall Conference the DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Rapids. I hope to see more of our members attending.

SAVE THE DATES!

by Bert Lema, Fall Conference Chair

Fall Conference planning is underway, and I promise it'll be a great one! Put it on your calendars now and share with your members:



October 13 th - 15 th

DoubleTree Hotel

4747 28th St. SE,

Grand Rapids



Room costs and reservation contact information are to be determined. Be sure to read future newsletters and our website – amvetsauxdeptmi.org – for important updates.

F
A
L
L



CONFERENCE

October
13th to 15th
2023



Treasurer's Report

by Deb Davis, Treasurer

Welcome to a new Fiscal Year! For those Auxiliaries who run a July – June fiscal year, you have been busy wrapping up last fiscal year and getting a new year off and running!

Now is the time to start thinking about filing your Auxiliary's taxes from the last tax year.

A tax year is usually 12 consecutive months. There are two kinds of tax years:

- Calendar Tax Year: This is a period of 12 consecutive months beginning January 1 and ending December 31; or
- Fiscal Tax Year: This is a period of 12 consecutive months ending on the last day of any month except December.

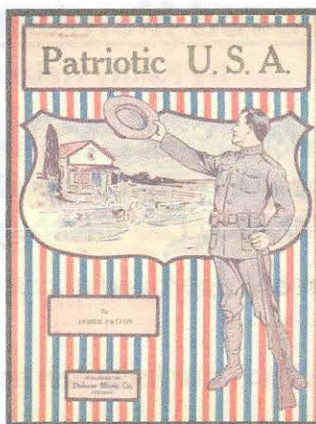
Small tax-exempt organizations are eligible to file Form 990-N to satisfy their annual reporting requirement if their annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less. Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.

Tax-exempt organizations with annual gross receipts more than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 should file a 990-EZ or 990. Both the 990 and the 990-EZ are required to be submitted online.

Again, both forms are due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. (November 15 for those who run a July – June tax year.)

The IRS has many resources available to help you. Please visit www.irs.gov/charities-and-nonprofits or consult a tax preparer for specific questions about your Auxiliary's tax return requirements.

Best of luck!



**DEADLINE
FOR NEXT
NEWSLETTER OR
WEBSITE
ARTICLE
AUGUST 15, 2023**



Honors & Awards

PDP Kathy Keizer, Chairman



Greetings and Congratulations to those local Auxiliaries who took home awards from the 2023 Department Convention.

It is disappointing to hear that only about one half of our local Auxiliaries in Michigan submitted service reports this past year. We need to hear from EVERY local Auxiliary even if you don't feel you can win an award. Our service project work reported each year helps our AMVETS keep their non-profit status. It does not matter how much or little your local does – *it ALL counts!!*

With this in mind, I am going to propose some changes for approval at the Fall SEC meeting. My hope is this will make our awards more competitive by making the number of locals in each category more equal for both the Membership awards and the Service awards. Watch for an update in the November newsletter.

With this in mind, I urge ALL locals to submit a mid-year report. If you have not held or done any projects over the summer, please just fill out the top portion of the cover sheet (not the project page) and write across the center of the page "NOTHING TO REPORT". Be sure to sign it and provide contact information. If you have any questions, please contact one of our Service officers OR myself for answers and/or help.

REMINDER: Reports are to be postmarked by Nov. 5th. Because the 5th is on a Sunday this year, USPS mailed reports need to be postmarked by Nov. 6th. to the appropriate Service Officer. But!!! Emailed reports still need to be done by the 5th. Check the Donor's Rules if emails are acceptable for your report.