



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

November 2023—issue 5

2023-24 Department Officer

- ★ President Pat Michalski ★
- ★ 1st Vice Kathy Keizer
- 2nd Vice Bonnie Rojas
- ★ 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
- Parliament. Faye Richardson-Green
- Personnel Chair Wendy Lynema
- AMVET Lodge 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
- ★ Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton ★
- ★ Officer's with articles in the November Newsletter.

Pat Michalski, Department President

U. S. A.

United in Service to America

The Dept. of Michigan's Fall Conference was held last week, and it was a success. We had 48 members registered and actually 42 members attended. I was told by the AMVETS Adjutant there were 22 AMVETS registered. The Riders were also in attendance but I cannot report on their registration. The Conference was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Friday evening, the Fall S.E.C. meeting was held with our National President Amy Stopyra, in attendance. Saturday morning started with an Opening Ceremony with AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary and Riders. A short break, then Auxiliary classes began. First session was Membership by IPDP and Department 1st Vice President Kathy Keizer. After lunch I presented a class on Parliamentary Procedure and played a game called "SWITCH" where 5 Auxiliary members volunteered. The winner was Jennifer Gillingham from Aux. 126. This was followed by a Fundraiser class presented by Kathy Keizer. Then a Round-table discussion led by our Fall Conference Chair, Bert Lema.

Saturday evening was a Ways & Means fundraiser called "Show Me the Money" by our Ways & Means Chairman, Nancy Woodwyk. This was a lot of fun with so many winning \$\$\$\$. I think this is going to be done again at the Convention.

Sunday morning, we had a Closing Ceremony with a POW/MIA presentation with a reading by AMVETS 2nd Vice President, Joe Salvia. AMVETS 3rd Vice President Jessica Jones presented the Flag.

After this, Kathy Keizer as Auxiliary Liaison Officer and myself as President were invited to the AMVETS S.E.C. meeting by AMVETS Commander, Kari Witte. This is something new, she is trying to get us back to an AMVET family.



We then took National President, Amy Stopyra, to lunch at the Beltline Bar. 14 Auxiliary members attended along with one AMVET Bob Wisniewski. Then 10 Auxiliary members and 1 AMVET traveled to Grand Rapids Veterans Home to sponsor an Ice Cream Social for the veterans. (I had nothing to do with this decision – it was Nancy Middleton's idea as N.E.C. Woman, she was responsible for entertaining the



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President's article



National President until it was time for her return flight to Pennsylvania.

I would like to thank Bert Lema as Fall Conference Chairman for a job well done. Also, her committee Jennifer Zelony (1988) and Kathy Jo Johnson (57).

A big Thank You also to Dept. 1st Vice President & IPDP Kathy Keizer for sharing her knowledge on Membership and Fund-raising.

Thanks also to Exec. Secretary, Nancy Middleton for all she had to do in preparing for this Fall Conference.

Also, a big Thank You to all who attended – without each and every one of you, this Fall Conference would not have been a success.

NEWS FROM THE GRHV

by Leora Williamson, GRHV Rep.

Following the closing of Fall Conference, and lunch at a local restaurant, a group of the Auxiliary Ladies paid a visit to the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home. The members were served their choice of Vanilla or Chocolate ice cream with numerous toppings to pick from. They never say "No" to ice cream and it was well received. Thanks to Nancy Middleton who shopped for and organized the event.

Nancy Middleton, Leora Williamson, Pam Lein, Faye Richardson-Green, and Gloria Hall from Aux. 23; Patsy Watkins from Aux 126; Bob and Caroline Wisnewski from Post #22 and Deb Davis from Aux. 57, joined Dept. President Pat Michalski and National President Amy Stopyra in scooping, topping and serving the ice cream.

I had the honor of escorting our National President Amy (from Pennsylvania) and Department President Pat on a short tour of the facility. They were very impressed with the home and the T.L.C. that is given our Veterans and their dependents who reside there.

I'm thankful for
VEGETARIANS



NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHANGES REMINDER



Effective 9/1, the National dues for an Honorary member were raised to \$15. Please be sure to send in the correct amount so processing of your D&R does not get held up. The D&R needs to be postmarked by 12/5 to the Executive Secretary so she has time to process them and forward them to National by her deadline.

Any current annual member (Renew to Life) who wishes to become a Life member can only do so between 9/1 to 11/30 each year. The D&R needs to be postmarked by 12/5 to the Executive Secretary so she has time to process them and forward them to National by her deadline. NOTE: New Life members may be signed up anytime during the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me when you have questions about membership. I am here to help you as your Department 1st Vice President.

Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving!



Kathy Keizer, 1st Vice President/Membership

DEADLINE DATES AND FEES FOR MEMBERSHIP!!



For some reason, checks coming in to cover the cost of memberships listed on D&Rs are wrong about 40% of the time. There has been several printings of the cost, but they are being ignored. Every time the checks are wrong takes it much longer to process and get your membership cards sent out.

If your local Membership Officer and local Treasurer do not receive copies of this newsletter—will someone who does get the newsletter give them a copy of this article. This is getting crucial!!

Renew to Life (\$278), Honorary members (\$15) and the Life member assessment (\$3) POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 12/5

Renewed annual members (\$25) POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 1/5 (paid by 12/31)

New members and Rejoins (\$30) POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 5/5/24 (paid by 4/30)



2023/2024 MEMBERSHIP
Re-Member to Recruit & Retain
 PDP Kathy Keizer – Dept. 1st Vice President



AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Department contest: 100% RENEWED by October 31 – Auxiliary #910 - \$25

Chairman contest: the first 4 Auxiliaries who submit their Life member assessment of \$3 to the Department by October 1 would receive \$25. The first three (3) Auxiliaries to submit their Life member assessment and receive \$25 were #23, #93, #4064. We had three (3) Auxiliaries, #115, #126 & #2273 received on the same day, September 18 for fourth (4th) place. It was approved by the SEC to give all three Auxiliaries a \$25 prize.

Chairman contest: All annual members were numbered and on the last day of the month a number is drawn. The member with the number will win \$25 IF their dues have been received by the Executive Secretary by that day. When there is no winner, the \$25 will be added to the next month's drawing prize.

The number drawn for September was #185 and the member with this number was: *Laura Lesniak from Auxiliary #57*. Unfortunately, her dues were not received by September 30, so the \$25 will be added to the October 31 drawing for a total of \$50.

There will be a total of three (3) more drawings: October 31, November 30 and December 31. So, ladies, make sure your 1st Vice President submits her D&R's in a timely manner!

HOSPITAL NEWS

by Kay Kemp, Hospital Officer

When this newsletter arrives, we will have been done with Fall Conference.

Just a reminder of Mid-Year reports should be postmarked by Nov. 6th since the 5th is on a Sunday. Also, any e-mail reports must be sent to me before Nov. 5th.



NEWS FROM NANCY

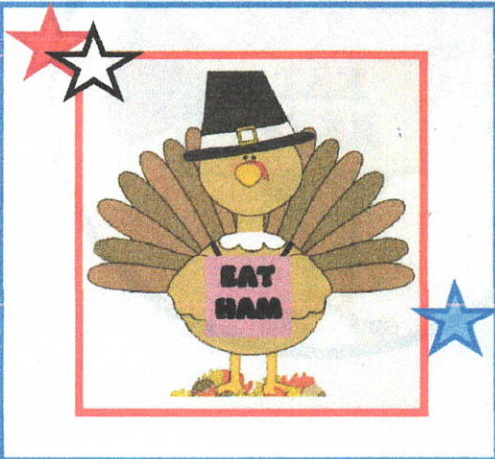
by Nancy Middleton Editor/NEC



I was going to report on the National President's visit to Michigan but it's already been talked about in other articles and I don't have much to add. I would like to mention those who went to the luncheon for President Amy. In addition to those who went to the ice cream social there were 4 others who joined us for lunch: Nat'l Scholarship Officer Allison Aldrich, Dept. 1st Vice Kathy Keizer, Fall Conference Chair Bert Lema and Personnel Chair Wendy Lynema. Those four couldn't make the entire day but were there to honor our National President. I was thrilled with the turnout and the volunteer help.

At the Fall SEC, it was voted to make a change to the Dept. Newsletter. Starting with this issue, a copy will be mailed to each local President as was the normal in years past. We are asking the local Presidents to PLEASE share the newsletter with the local Officers who need to be aware of changes and/or plans in their offices.

Reminder to Dept. Officers: When emailing your article, please put the month and the word news on the subject line. The next email should be entitled: December news—(Office). I know I said this many times, but this month 2 people listened.



AMERICANISM

by Karen Harmon, Americanism/SOS Officer

I'm hoping everyone has had a chance to see and run off the updated Americanism forms found on the website. Please get your schools involved! I dropped off entry forms to our schools yesterday.

Midyear reports are due soon. They must be emailed to me or postmarked and sent by November 5th.

Please keep our veterans in mind with the upcoming holidays.

- ★ Oct, 27th Navy Day
- ★ Nov. 10th Marine Corps birthday
- ★ Nov. 11th Veteran's Day
- ★ Dec. 7th Pearl Harbor
- ★ Dec. 13th National Guard Day
- ★ Dec. 16th Wreaths Across America Day

NEWS Flash!

Because it is the last day of the month, and I wasn't quite done with the newsletter, I called Kathy Keizer to draw numbers for the renewal contest.

Because there was no winner last month, this prize is for \$50. She drew the number and I checked the list of last year's members.

WE HAVE A WINNER!

KAREN SMERCAK.

Congratulations—check will be in the mail (as soon as we get it from the Treasurer!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pamela Lein, 3rd Vice President



Hello All

In this newsletter, our PAWS visit will have happened. I am sure the pictures will show how interesting and fun our visit was. Our National 3rd Vice Laura Bugay was not able to make it to this visit but will be coming on November 18th for her visit. The tour is at 1pm.

At this time, I have confirmed Madam President Pat Michalski and Faye Richardson-Green will be joining her. Nancy Middleton will be her chauffeur during this trip. Our Sons of AMVETS National Commander will also be attending. If anyone else would like to go, please let me know so I can add you to the list and let PAWS will know how many will be attending.

In the Newsletter I should have all our local reports for PAWS work and community service. I am hoping I will get many local reports this year and everyone who attends the Fall Conference had asked questions to help themselves with doing reports. Remember, even if you have nothing to report at this time, send it so your final report can be counted. It all matters and counts hugely as we send everything off to National.

