



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan



December 2023—issue 6

2023-24 Department Officer

★ 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

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 Soiak

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



United in Service to America

At the Fall S.E.C. meeting held in Grand Rapids on Friday, 10/13/23, it was decided the newsletter will once again be mailed to the local Presidents. They should have received the November, 2023 issue in the mail. If not, please contact Nancy Middleton.



On Saturday, 11/18/23 the National 3rd Vice President, Laura Bugaj will be making her official tour to PAWS With A Cause. I will be attending along with Department 3rd Vice President, Pam Lein; N.E.C. Woman, Nancy

Middleton and a few other Department Officers. This will be the second visit to PAWS within a month. This is due to the National 3rd Vice's work schedule; she was not able to attend the tour on 10/23/23.

I hope all the Local Auxiliaries submitted their mid-year service reports even if you had nothing to report. Submitting a mid-year report with "Nothing to Report" is vital to winning an award at the convention.

I would ask any Department Officer and Local Auxiliaries – when you have a question or a complaint, that you would contact the Department Officer involved or myself and NOT to contact the Department Secretary, Nancy Middleton unless it pertains to her duties. Nancy has been in her position for many years and is known by many and it seems like it is always easier to contact her. However, Nancy is a contracted employee and has specific duties which are her responsibility and it is not fair to her when she has to take time away from her duties to try to help you. Let our Department Officers do their job. If you don't get a reply from them, please contact me.

I want to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year" to you and your family



Re-Member to Recruit & Retain
PDP Kathy Keizer – Department 1st Vice President



AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Department contest: ALSO 100% RENEWED by October 31 – Auxilliary #115 - \$50.

Chairman contest: all locals who were 100% renewed by November 30 will be in a drawing for up to 4 locals sharing a \$100 prize. As of November 15, we have 2 locals who qualified. There are a few more days to see if anyone else will be included.

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 October 31 drawing for annual renewals was done and the winner is:
*Karen Smercak from Auxilliary #22***

She has won \$50 since there was no winner last month!! The November winner will receive \$25.

There will be a total of two (2) more drawings: November 30 and December 31. So, ladies, make sure your 1st Vice President submits her D&R's in a timely manner!

DEADLINE DATES FOR MEMBERSHIP!!

Renew to Life, Renewed Honorary members and the Life member assessment POST-MARKED NO LATER THAN 12/5

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

Rejoins POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN 5/5/24(paid by 4/30/24)

HOSPITAL REPORT
Kay Kemp, Hospital Officer

Hello to everyone. Most recently I have been in and out of the hospital twice. But with the support of family and many friends who have offered me so many prayers for recovery. Which I am glad to report I'm on my way to improving every day.

At this time I would like to thank all of the local Hospital Chair person who have sent me there report. It looks as though all have been very busy at the locals. From Texas hold'em to bake sales, mending for veterans and fundraising.

Thank you all so much and at this time I would like to wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas.





NEWS FROM THE GRHV

by Leora Williamson, GRHV Rep.



The Grand Rapids Vet's Home Activities staff has done it again. They celebrated Fall with a festival that involved both inside and outside fun. Outside was a hayride, and a petting zoo with rabbits, tiny goats (that just wanted to butt each other), and some really small cows, One looked like a baby brahma bull.

Inside four young men (Meijer employees) ran games including basketball hoop, and bean bag toss.

There was pumpkin painting, Cider and donuts and live music by The Edwards. For the final activity, 6 of the vets were lined up and given fishing rods and reels. Becki Smit tied a donut to each line. Members of the staff, with hands behind their backs, had to try to eat the donuts. The one who ate the most of their donut was the winner. It happened to be a tie, so as a tie breaker, the two contestants had to stuff candy into their mouths (I think it was little tootsie rolls) one piece after another - no chewing allowed. The winner was the one who could put the most candy in her mouth and still say "FALL FESTIVAL" without spitting or mumbling. There was no prize for the winner, but the event provided lots of laughs all around.



CHILD WELFARE NEWS

Bonnie Rojeski, 2nd Vice President



WOW, you ladies are really doing some awesome things for Child Welfare. I received 15 reports with corrections for only 4. I received mid-year reports from the following Auxiliaries:

23, 52, 57, 79, 93, 114, 115, 121, 122, 126, 910, 1957, 1988, 2273 and 4064.

Some of the reports had nothing to report at this time so I'm looking for those to have some great things to report on their final. Please remember to carry your totals from mid-year to the top line on the final (balance forward from midyear.)

Speaking of reports, please remember to put your Post number and always carry the total at bottom of Page one to the top line of page 2 (Balance forward from page one).

Ladies also remember everything you do at Christmas for children can be reported on your final report.



Happy Holidays to all

Our Treasurer Deb Davis did an informative article for the newsletter. Unfortunately it was too long so it was submitted to Pat Michalski to put on the website. Please go to the bulletin page on the Dept. Website and read it. Thanks



AMERICANISM



by Karen Harmon, Americanism/SOS Officer

Our National Officer, Debra Gass, chose Freedoms Foundation as her project the year. There are many important programs provided there.

She is encouraging us to enter the Americanism Contest. The Department 9th grade winner wins a trip to Freedoms. Our last year's winner just returned from her trip there. She and her dad, who chaperoned, had a WONDERFUL time. They kept very busy and said it was very educational.

Please help us remember and honor our fallen veterans by participating in Wreaths Across America. There are many locations you can find online. The event will be on Saturday, December 16th.



FUNNIES FROM LEORA

Lee Williamson, GRHV Rep.

Here are some "old" jokes. (I might have sent you these in the past,....but don't remember.)

Old age comes at a bad time.

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering "what happened"?

The older I get the more clearly I remember things that never happened.

Don't get old unless you have the wisdom to show for it.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pamela Lein, 3rd Vice President

Hello All

We had our Dept. PAWS visit on Oct. 23. We had 3 AMVETS, 2 SOA's, and 11 Ladies Auxiliary members attend besides other guests. It was a very nice day and I hope all took new information back with them to share with others. The lunch was very nice, and I provided a treat bag to those who came with special treats for our furry friends. There will be a second visit on November 18th with our National Third Vice and National Sons Commander joining in this visit.

All mid-year reports are in. Here are the Auxiliaries I received reports from:

22, 23, 52, 57, 93, 114, 115, 121, 122, 126, 910, 1957, 2273 and 4046.

This is 14 reports from a possible 23 I could have received.

Thank you, ladies, for sending those reports in. To those who did not send in reports, please let us know what we can do to help you in any way to do these as they are so important to keep. Everything we report goes to National.

3rd Vice Pam Lein introduces her grandson Ezekiel to Paws With A Cause!



AMVETS Higgins Lake Lodge and Cabins

By Roberta Robinson, Lodge Rep.

Thanks to help from members of Post 93 AMVET Riders and Auxiliary, Post 1978 AMVET Riders and Auxiliary and Post 1988 AMVET Riders and Auxiliary, not only did we get a start on the needed leaf clean up, Cabin 5 has received a fresh coat of new paint on walls and ceilings. More progress with the continued support of our AMVET Family volunteers!

Upcoming improvements to be completed by the end of November 2023 to include new storm doors on all 6 cabins (front and rear), the small white cabin and also the Lodge. This was made possible by the AMVET Department Finance Officer, Craig Robinson's pursuit of a grant generously provided by Home Depot.



Photo provided by Jen Zelony of Baldwin Post 1988



*Wishing everyone
a wonderful
holiday season!*



Our deepest sympathy
to **AMVETS Auxiliary**
#1941 on the passing of
their long time 1st Vice/
Membership Officer
Sandy Drews.

*The next newsletter articles are
due by December 15, 2023*

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Patsy Watkins, Chaplain

Please remember to let me know if anyone is in need of a card—sympathy, get well, thinking of you, etc.

Also, call me if you think someone from your Auxiliary would be eligible for a Sunshine Gift. This is for someone who is in the hospital, nursing home or recuperating at home. You must be willing to deliver the gift and card..

I can be reached by phone at 616/589-2728 or by email at sassyjo1027@yahoo.com.

REMINDER ABOUT D&R FORMS.

By Nancy Middleton, Secretary

Please note the deadline dates listed on the 1st Vice's article on page #2. These dates are the final dates to send D&Rs in—NO exceptions. Note the deadline for sending in a Renew to Life form. If not received by the deadline—with a Life Member Card Form—it will not be processed until next year.

Please, Please, Please make sure all checks are made out to AMVETS Ladies Aux Dept of MI and please double check the totals! There are just too many mistakes happening.

Merry
Christmas
&
Happy New
Year



From
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
Department of Michigan