

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

February 2024—issue 8

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

United in Service to America



I'm hoping everyone survived the Holidays. Now we are dealing with the snow and ice and cold temperatures.

As we head into the second half of our Auxiliary year, I want to thank the Local Auxiliaries who submitted Mid-Year reports. From the reports of the Department Service Officers, they were each proud of the Service work which was provided by the local Auxiliaries. The only complaint I heard was they wished there were more Auxiliaries reporting. I hope many more Auxiliaries will be sending in final reports.



Now that the Local Auxiliary Presidents are once again receiving the Department Newsletter which comes out monthly, I hope they are sharing it with their Officers and members. As the Newsletter is addressed to the President, it is NOT hers. It is meant to be shared with all members to keep them informed as to what is happening at the Department level.

I am meeting with Bert Lema on Thursday, 1/18/24. She volunteered to be the Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee. More information on this later.

The Department Officers were to send any additions/changes to their Department Officer's Instructions to the Parliamentarian by January 1. Hope you all did.

The Spring SEC meeting will be held on Saturday, 2/17/24 at 1:00 pm at the Perry Post. All members are invited to attend, however only SEC Members and P.D.P.s (Past Department Presidents) will have a vote. Anyone is allowed to speak on any subject. I hope to see many members in Perry on the 17th of February.



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

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

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. We only had 2 locals who qualified and they were also the October 31 winners – **Congratulations to #115 and #910 who will each receive another \$50 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 December drawing for annual renewals was done and there was a winner, as promised. The member whose number was picked is Kathy Sylvester from Auxiliary #122!!! She will receive \$50 for renewing herself!

Any annual renewals going forward will have to pay the new member amount to the Department of \$30 and they will be considered a "rejoin". Members who have not renewed their membership can NO LONGER be included in the total membership of your Auxiliary on January 1. Any officer who has not paid her dues cannot continue to hold an office after January 1 and must be replaced. NOTE: I checked my rosters against the Revalidations I have in my file and there were six (6) locals who have officers with unpaid dues or assessments.

The D&R's which are coming in have several mistakes even by ladies who have done this job for more than one year!! PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

THIS IS NEW - DO NOT change the D&R form to make room for listing twelve members instead of eleven!! When we see a full page we (Nancy & I) will automatically assume there are eleven names – not twelve!! National may not appreciate you changing their forms and return them to the Department to be corrected. I am positive Nancy will not be the one to correct them!

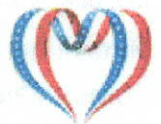
The letters "RL" ARE NOT for sending in the Life member assessment! This term means "Renew to Life" which means a current annual member has decided to become a Life member. We do not renew Life members – they are members for LIFE!!

REMINDER – Annual members can't purchase a Life membership UNTIL September 1. The deadline was in December. Only NEW Life members are accepted all year around!

Honorary members whose dues were not received by December 10 have been removed from the rosters. They had to be paid to National by December 31.

I have informed the Department President and Department Parliamentarian of those who have not submitted dues and/or assessments per my instructions.

If you have ANY questions about membership, the dues amount, filling out your D&R, please contact me first. If you have questions about if your D&R was received or a mistake on your D&R, you should call Nancy since she receives them before I do.





WAYS & MEANS

by Nancy Woodwyk, Auxiliary Ways & Means Chairman

This year for Convention I am asking each Post to submit a poster size collage of pictures from how it used to be. So go down to the basement and gather your history. I am going to connect them together and make a memorial wall. We will vote with tickets. The Post which gets the most votes will win half the money and the other half will go to Ways and Means. This past year I have heard so many people who say what it used to be like!!! Please appoint your crafter, or work on it together. May the best one win. This is for AMVETS, Sons and Riders. Complete instructions are posted on the Website!!

June will soon be approaching. If you have anything laying around that you feel I could use or you could put together some sort of prize basket to donate for convention.

Information should be coming out shortly about the Department Raffle. I would also like to play 'Show Me the Money ". We all had so much fun, but we can make it a lot more fun. If you have any fun ideas, please reach out and let me know. Thank you.

Please consider being the Ways& Means Chairman next year. It's quite fun. Thanks for your support.



HOSPITAL REPORT

Kay Kemp, Dept. Hospital Officer



I think we finally have a winter going on!

I was very pleased with the hospital service reports. Just a reminder that the deadline for your local President to send a letter to the Dept. Hospital Officer of anyone entitled to a hospital pin and bars is March 1st. The Department will donate the 100 hour pin. Bars are paid 1/2 by the local Auxiliary (amount \$3.50 for each bar) and 1/2 paid by Department Hospital. Check should be made out to AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Dept. of Michigan, earmarked Hospital bars and sent to Dept. Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton.

Bars are given for the following hours. 300, 500,1,000, 1,500, 2,000 2,500. Certificates are issued for every 1000 over the 2,500 hour bar. This letter should include the name of the person receiving the award, the number of hours volunteered, and name of the hospital and nursing home where they volunteer. Again, this is due by March 1st. 2024. Pins and bars will be presented at Convention June 2024.

Remember Valentines Day is coming up soon, so visit your local VA Hospital or Nursing Home or Veterans home with some goodies or even just a card. It means so much to our Veterans.

I am happy the Spring SEC meeting is not a zoom!!

THE N.E.C. MEETING

March 5 thru March 9



Bethesda Marriott
5151 Pooks Hill Rd
Bethesda MD

Check the home page of the
National Auxiliary website:
amvetsaux.org
for the full schedule of events.

Yes, I did the December and January news-letter. It is just not on the website.

Nancy

MEMBERSHIP! - ANOTHER REMINDER FROM KATHY!

PDP Kathy Keizer—Dept. 1st Vice



HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO ASK YOU??

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE – Follow the instructions for submitting your D&R's!!!! I have repeatedly given you the information about filling out and submitting your D&R's and SEVERAL are still not following the proper procedures –

SO HERE THEY ARE AGAIN!

List the names ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME first!

List the names in a group by the TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP they have – Renew, Rejoin, New, New Life, Honorary and New Honorary – again ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME!!

Don't forget to include the forms for New Honorary and New Life /Renew to Life members!!!

Don't forget to fill in your check correctly. **Renewals have expired!!!** The new members and those who didn't pay by December 31 when their card expired must pay \$30 each to the Dept.

Life member assessment is \$3 – we have one (1) local who is not in good standing because they have not paid the assessment.

We can now only receive memberships for a New Life which are \$278.

It is very time consuming when we have to jump around to update our rosters if the names are not alphabetical or in a group by the type of membership they are. If a local continues to not follow the proper procedure, the Executive Secretary may start returning your D&R's—UNPROCESSED!



AMERICANISM

by Karen Harmon,
Americanism/SOS Officer

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas, and you are back working on your Americanism and SOS projects. I also hope your schools participated in the Americanism contest. Remember entries are due to me by **April 1st**.

As you are working on your projects, please remember to donate to both Department Americanism and SOS. My SOS project is to continue to purchase needed items for Camp Grayling. I plan to visit their site in the Spring, take a tour, and meet the people who oversee their program.

The tickets have been ordered for the Americanism raffle. Jessica Jones is working on setting up a meeting to figure out how to distribute them.

Final reports need to be postmarked on or before **May 5th**. Remember to round up mileage dollars to the next dollar.

Karen Harmon, Americanism Officer
17400 Pratt Road
Armada, Mi. 48005
Harmonk33@yahoo.com
586-604-8444



SPRING S.E.C. MEETING

Saturday

February 17, 2024

1pm



AMVETS POST 4064

601 N Main St.

Perry Michigan 48872

Honors & Awards at 11:15am

Ways & Means will have a taco bar luncheon available to purchase.

COMMUNITY SERVICE By Pamela Lein, 3rd Vice President

Hello All,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. As we are getting through winter days, I am hoping all is going well.

Some things to remember is that March is PAWS month. The convention Digest will also be coming out in March.

Michigan blood is low on donations so please consider donating blood.

I hope your community service projects are going well and you are tracking them for your reports. I look forward to seeing your reports and hope many will be attending this year's convention.

Pictures missed in January newsletter



National 3rd Vice's Visit to PAWS

Bobby Bryant
, Laura Bugaj
Pam Lein
President Pat
Michalski



Front row: PDP Faye Richardson-Green, President Pat, National 3rd Vice Laura Bugaj, Dept. 3rd Vice Pam Lein, PDP Kathy Keizer (Dept. 1st Vice).

Back row: Bob Wisniewski, PDP Nancy Middleton, PRO Caroline Wisniewski, Treasurer Deb Davis, Dist. II Pres. Linda Marshall, National Sons of AMVETS Commander Bobby Bryant.

FUNNY WORDS OF WISDOM!

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."
- Dalai Lama.

"I am not a vegetarian because I love animals; I am a vegetarian because I hate plants."
- Whitney Brown.

"Life is hard; it's harder if you're stupid."
- John Wayne.

"Age is of no importance unless you're a cheese."
- Billie Burke.

"True bonding is when you and your friends are all angry about the same thing."
- Anonymous.

"Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school."
- Albert Einstein.

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

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



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!

COMING ATTRACTIONS!



SEC MEETING
Saturday, February 17, 2024
1pm
Post 4064 in Perry MI

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
CUTOFF
Postmarked by
May 5TH



FINAL REPORTS
Postmarked by 5/5/2024



CONVENTION DIGEST
Will be mailed around the middle
of March.



NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024
August ????? 2024
Springfield Illinois



N.E.C. MEETING
March 5-9, 2024
Bethesda Maryland

ALL AUXILIARIES
MUST BE ELECT-
ED AND SWORN
IN BY APRIL 30,
2024



CONVENTION DIGEST
ARTICLE
Due to Exec. Secretary
By March 1st.

REVALIDATION FORMS TO THE
DEPT. PARLIAMENTARIAN
Postmarked by
May 5, 2024



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
2024
DoubleTree in Grand Rapids
June 20-24, 2024



NEXT NEWSLETTER
ARTICLE DUE
February 15, 2024

