

# AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

## Department of Michigan

January 2024—Issue 7

### 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 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**

By the time you read this, it will be near the end of another year – 2023! This means we have 6 months until the Department Convention. At this time, we get to see which local Auxiliaries have done the most service work as we present the Honors & Award Program. Your final service reports are judged by the Honors & Awards committee which is made up with the Officer of all the Service programs – Child Welfare, Community Service, Americanism/SOS, Hospital and Scholarship.

Membership awards are judged by different categories by the Membership Chairman, which is the Department 1st Vice President.

I was invited to attend Aleda Lutz VAVS by Ladies Auxiliary #93, Armada when they visited on Tuesday 12/6 with 100 Goody Bags for the Veterans. There were six Auxiliary members from Aux. #93 and Jennifer Zelony from Aux. #1988. In the bags were socks, hats, crossword books, and much more, along with 43 homemade quilts. Pictures will be posted on the Department website soon. The Veterans were so appreciative.

I held a mandatory Zoom meeting for all Officers on Thursday, December 7th. At this time, plans were laid out for a Long-Range Planning Committee for the Department of Michigan Auxiliary. PDP Bert Lema has agreed to chair this committee. The following Officers agreed to serve on the committee: Roberta Robinson, Nancy Woodwyk, Deb Davis, Patsy Watson, Gloria Hall and possibly Barb Robare. You will hear more about this at a later date.

*I want to wish everyone a*



*to you and your families.*



**Re-Member to Recruit & Retain**  
**PDP Kathy Keizer – Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

**THE NEXT DEADLINE DATE FOR MEMBERSHIP IS:**

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

Any annual renewals not submitted by January 5 will have to pay the new member amount 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.

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:

- 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 re-new Life members – they are members for LIFE!!
- After January 1 an annual member can’t purchase a Life membership UNTIL next September 1. They have to be sent to National by our deadline so it must be on a D&R postmarked December 5. Only NEW Life members are accepted year around!
- Honorary member’s dues have been raised to \$15 by National.
- List the names ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME.
- List the names in a group by the type of membership they have – Renew, Rejoin, New, New Life, Renew to Life, Honorary and New Honorary – again ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME.
- Don’t forget to include the needed forms for New Honorary, Renew to Life and New Life members!!!
- Don’t forget to fill in your check correctly. Renewals are \$25, new members and those who don’t pay by December 31 when their card expires are \$30, Life member assessment is \$3, a New Life and Renew to Life are \$278.

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.

**FROM  
THE  
DEPARTMENT  
SECRETARY**

**HELP!!**



**I am curious to know if anyone ever reads the articles written by our Dept. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Kathy Keizer. Every month she writes articles for our local Membership Chairmen. She is thorough and often finds it necessary to repeat information because, quite honestly, I have been doing this job for 22 years and I do not believe I have ever seen so many bad D&R’s.**

**I know there have been a few changes over the years, but the information is there for our local 1<sup>st</sup> Vices to read. There are also instructions on the website. I can count the fingers on one hand of the number of local 1<sup>st</sup> Vices who follow the instructions, the names are legible, deadlines are met, ID#’s are written on the D&R’s, status is correct and the checks are for the right amount.**

**It has been a frustrating year! Please read my article on the website to see what I have to do with each D&R and why it’s so important for them to be complete.**





## NEWS FROM THE GRHV

by Leora Williamson, Dept of Michigan Rep to the MVH-GR



The Michigan Veterans Home-Grand Rapids has issued this statement "At this time we cannot accept donations outside of our Amazon Wish List\* and the following: snack items individually wrapped such as candy bars, sugar free candy, soft snacks (Little Debbie, Multigrain bars) and other sugar free snacks. Miscellaneous items - Forever postage stamps, Velcro Shoes in men's sizes 7-12, potted indoor plants such as spider plants, snake plants, pothos plants or new magazines: Nat'l. Geographic, Birds & Blooms, People, Car & Driver".

The public has been very generous in donating these items and the Home is very grateful. The MVH Grand Rapids Amazon site: <http://a.co/8NVYLq> There is direct shipping from Amazon.

They are unable to accept: personal care items, books, DVD's, hats, gloves, socks, blankets, clothes, medical supplies of any kind, perishable foods or beverages, any used items.

To sponsor an event or outing contact Becky Smit at [smitr@michigan.gov](mailto:smitr@michigan.gov).



## CHILD WELFARE NEWS

Bonnie Rojas, 2nd Vice President



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

I hope everyone had a safe and healthy Holiday.

Just a few reminders about your final reports.

- ◆ Be sure to report everything your Auxilliary has done for children this holiday season.
- ◆ Please remember to make your donation to the Child Welfare project Penrickton Center on your annual donations.
- ◆ Looking at the reports, many Auxillaries have been doing a lot of fundraisers for Child welfare so the Department should be receiving some very nice donations.
- ◆ Your final report needs to be postmarked on or before May 5, 2024.  
and always carry over your totals from mid-year report to the top line of your final report, stating balance forward from Mid-year.
- ◆ If I sent you a correction from your mid-year please use those totals on the final.

Any questions? Please, please contact me.

**Bonnie Rojas**

**586-212-7495**

## HOSPITAL REPORT

Kay Kemp, Dept. Hospital Officer

Holiday greetings to all. I'm sure the trees are up and those beautiful gifts are sparkling under the tree.

Maybe there are locals also signing Christmas cards for local Veterans hospitals or some of our Veterans who are in nursing homes. Maybe there is a giving tree at that local nursing home so you can contribute to their wish list.

I'm happy to say 13 mid-year reports were turned in. By the looks of it, the local Hospital Officers were very busy. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers who help. Participation is the name of the game and teamwork. Looking forward to the final reports in May and all the great work that you do.

Wishing my AMVET and Auxilliary Family a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR filled with happiness and health.



# ALEDA E LUTZ V.A.

by Linda Marshall, VAVS

The Aleda E. Lutz, VAMC is doing well. We just had our VA Rep meeting where we bagged up Christmas gifts for the patients. I am co-sponsoring a Christmas dinner for the patients and their families.

I have sponsored three bingos for the patients. The attendance has gone up from before the pandemic. They really like the Bingo.

Post 93 Armada made a visit the VA and gave out Christmas bags full of goodies to the Veterans as they walked in. Some of the Veterans were surprised that the bags were free. It was an enjoyable event.



## AMERICANISM

by Karen Harmon, Americanism/  
SOS Officer

I hope everyone has rested up from the holidays!

I received midyear reports from the following Auxiliaries: 22, 23, 52, 57, 93, 114, 121, 126, 1957, 2273, and 4064. Keep up the good work, and I'm looking forward to receiving your Americanism entries. I also hope you are working on SOS projects.

A fun idea we do almost every month is a MEAT BINGO. It is a lot of fun and raises money for your projects. Call or email me if you would like information on this.

My SOS project was accepted at Fall Conference. Because it has been so well received, needed and appreciated last year, I plan to continue to purchase needed items for military personnel at Camp Grayling and USO. They will be getting busy again at the beginning of summer



## MEMBERSHIP!

PDP Kathy Keizer—Dept. 1st  
Vice



### AND THE WINNERS ARE:

#### CHAIRMAN'S 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'S 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 November drawing for annual renewals was done and there was no winner. The member whose number was picked had not yet paid her dues.





## COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pamela Lein, 3rd Vice President

Happy January!

We had our second PAWS visit on November 18th. With this visit, we had our National third Vice Laura Bugaj with us. We also had the Sons National Commander Bobby Bryant come to the tour. President Pat Michalski made her second trip over as well. We had 7 Auxiliary members attend and an AMVET as well. After the tour, we all went to dinner and had a nice visit with Laura and Bobby.



After reviewing all mid-year reports I did send some back with corrections and got them all set. I was pleased to see all the community service our auxiliaries are doing! Great job to all.

I hope you all had wonderful holidays and are ready for a new year of community service.

## CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Patsy Watkins, Chaplain

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please keep in mind all the families who will have an empty chair for the first time this holiday. Families who have members in the military who won't be home for Christmas. All the service men and women who won't get home for the holidays. The homeless people who have no place to keep warm.

We should be so thankful we get up every morning to see another day and thankful for everything the good Lord has provided for us. A smile, thank you, please, excuse me and thanks for your service to the military makes a difference to people whether we see or hear the thank you.

Keep your heart in Christmas and help where you can for others to have a blessed Christmas.

Let me know if a person just needs a "Thinking of You" card to cheer them up or for any other reason.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Patsy Watkins, Chaplain  
3723 Roma Ln NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525  
phone - 616 589 2728



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



# Happy New Year

