



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan



May 2024 — issue 11

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 Jennifer Zelony
- Treasurer Deb Davis
- * Americanism Karen Harmon
- * Hospital Kay Kemp
- Scholarship Roberta Robinson
- N.E.C. Nancy Middleton
- Pariament. 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

* article in May issue

United in Service to America

Pat Michalski, Department President

The AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Dept. of MI weekend was held on 4/12-14/2024 at AMVETS Higgins Lake Lodge. 16 Auxiliary members attended from Aux. 22, 23, 57, 93, 126, 1988 and 4064. We had two out of state guests: Cindy Rice, Nat'l. 1st VP from Ohio and Debra Gass, Nat'l. Americanism Officer from Illinois. Michigan's own Allison Aldrich, Nat'l. Scholarship Chairman was also with us. It was great being with everyone and meeting members we had not met before. Thanks to all who attended.

We had a Roundtable discussion on Saturday afternoon. Bert Lema, Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee, gave a presentation on the results of the Survey which was sent out to each Officer who was listed on each Auxiliary's Revalidation sheet. A few in attendance are local Officers and claimed they did not receive a survey. Bert suggested looking in the SPAM folder.

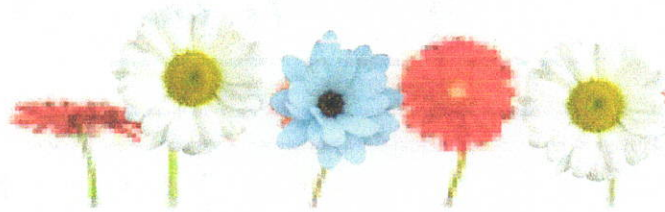
If you are a Local Auxiliary Officer and did not receive a survey, please contact Bert at lema81@wowway.com If you did receive a survey but have not yet responded-please do so. We truly want your input. Our attendance has been down for Fall Conference and Department Conventions, and we would like to know why. We also would like to know why half of the local Auxiliaries are NOT reporting their service work.

Time now to concentrate on the Department Convention which will be held June 20-23, 2024 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Rapids. A tentative agenda was in the Convention Digest – there will be updated versions until the convention, so check the website and Newsletters for any updates. If you are mandated to attend a committee meeting, or if you are interested in attending, please check the Tentative agenda. Some meetings are "closed" and will be indicated; however, any member may attend a committee meeting if they chose to do so (if it is not marked as closed). Also, Registration forms for Delegates were included in the Digest. There is an Early Registration fee, so check the forms to be sure to get the early rate.

I am scheduled to attend John Dingell VAVS on Tuesday, 4/30/224 for an official tour of the facility. I have also been invited to attend District V for an official visit on Sunday, 5/19/24. I am looking forward to both events.

Re-Member to Recruit & Retain

PDP Kathy Keizer – Department 1st Vice President



You will still be able to submit rejoins and new members until the deadline below. Please remember to send ALL new and rejoin memberships, and especially Deceased Member forms you have, to the Department by May 20. This info is needed for the preparation of Convention for delegate strength and the Dept. Executive Secretary MUST send all membership to National by May 31 in order for those members to be included on the next National roster which is sent out in September.

As soon as the Executive Secretary and I have compared our membership figures, I will be sending out the end of the year rosters and the final membership chart to the new 1st Vice Presidents. Please be sure to check them against your records so we can all start with the same figures in July. If there are any differences, please contact me by June 5.

We ask you hold all membership during the month of June as it is a busy time with Convention preparations by all of the Department officers and especially our Executive Secretary.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I hope to see many of you at Convention.

HOSPITAL NEWS

By Kay Kemp, Dept. Hospital Officer



Hello everyone. I know it's been a while since I have written.

On Feb. 20th I had a medical procedure which was successful, but left me with a mild stroke which I have been dealing with. I have physical therapy and occupational therapy.

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter.

My typing hasn't been that good. Please remember your final Hospital reports, and don't forget to carry over your balance from Mid-Year. Also please contact me if anyone is eligible for pins.

I hope to be at Convention on June 20th-23rd.

See you then.

CONVENTION NEWS

By Carol Pickett, Chairman

OK Auxiliary Sisters! I hope you are getting ready to catch up with old and new friends during Convention 2024 (June20-23) at the DoubleTree Hotel in Grand Rapids on 28th street. Be sure to make your reservations (616-957-0100) and say you are with AMVETS.

Save some money and be counted by preregistering with our Dept. Secretary. A delegate form was in the Convention Digest, (as well as the last newsletter – and this one too) with the cutoff date. Don't be late!!

Please remember to include a donation to the President's Gift Fund with your Auxiliary's yearly donations.

If you have questions or need information, please get in touch with me at cpickett121@comcast.net.

As your Convention Chair I'm here to help. I'm looking forward to hearing from you and especially looking forward to seeing everyone at the Convention.





WAYS & MEANS STUFF
By Nancy Woodwyk, Chairman

Tickets are headed your way. I have some really awesome prizes. Thanks to all who are helping me make this happen, you know who you are!

Please let me know if you would love to help sit in the hallway and sell. Sometimes I find the conversation that is happening in the meeting needs my input.

Big thanks to Carol Pickett, she is fun to work with, and says it like it is, just like me.

That being said, I have the department raffle, a large raffle that will entice the biker in us!! I have a fun game called "Let's Make a Deal", 50/50 for the weekend, the Post Memorial Wall fundraiser and "Show Me the Money". Let's fill the room. Maybe you can win enough to pay for your weekend.

Any donations or questions, send me an email nwoody62@gmail.com . I also want to thank my listeners when I'm in 'cry baby' mode. Life is hard and tough love is worse. I did needed to vent.

Love ya!

AMERICANISM/S.O.S.

By Karen Harmon, Dept. Officer

We are judging our Americanism entries Saturday April 20th in Perry. I received entries from 6 posts and 2 Districts. Winners will be notified by May 1st.

Our Americanism Award program will be held at our Convention on Saturday, June 22. I am looking forward to the Convention and hope we will have more members attending.

Please remember to get your end of year reports post-marked by May 5th. Check your Donor Rules so you can be eligible for convention award

Karen Harmon
Americanism/SOS Officer
harmonk33@yahoo.com
586-604-8444



CHAPLAIN'S NEWS

By Patsy Watkins, Chaplain



Maybe all our winter days are over by now. It was a wonderful weekend up at Higgins Lake. Relaxing. Only rain was driving up on Friday.



Please keep Kay Kemp and Linda Marshall in your prayers as they recover. Also say a prayer for those who lost a family member or close friend. There is no time limit for healing from a loss.

Prayers go out to all military families who have their loved ones overseas as well as ones state side. There are also reserves as well as active duty service men and women who go to Camp Graying for training. Keep them in your prayers as they travel.

I am keeping everyone in my prayers.

Patsy Watkins, Dept. Chaplain
3723 Roma Ln NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525



QUESTION FROM THE SECRETARY

WHY AM I RECEIVING LOCAL AND DISTRICT REVALIDATION FORMS???

THESE ARE TO BE SENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARIAN!!!!

SGT-AT-ARMS

By Jennifer Zelony

One of the key aspects of my duty is to enforce the rules and regulations set forth by this organization.

It is my duty to ensure that all members follow these guidelines, treating one another with respect and dignity. In doing so I will strive to cultivate an environment that is inclusive, welcoming and conducive to constructive dialogue.

Safety and security are paramount. I will work closely with the necessary authorities to implement and maintain effective security measures ensuring that all members feel protected and at ease while attending meetings and at events.

I am committed to fostering an environment where everyone can freely express their views, opinions and ideas without fear of intimidation or harm.

Why the flowers? What is the old saying.....

April showers, bring May flowers.

Of course with Pat Michalski as our President, they have to be red white and blue!

With all the rain we have had in May, I can't imagine what June will bring but I know I have an abundance of dandelions in my yard. I love them! (and don't tell me they are weeds—I don't care.)



Nancy Middleton





MVF—Grand Rapids


By Leora Williamson, Dept. Rep

As I read through the April Activities Calendar for the members of this facility, I am amazed at the variety of events available to them each day of the week, and the number of Sponsors involved.

For example:

 Wednesday there's computer help, Hymn sing, Cross Stitch Club, GVSU Brass Band, a trip to watch the Griffins play hockey or to go Bowling.

 Thursday there's Horticulture, Bible Study, a trip downtown to watch the GR Women's Basketball team, or to Horses for Heroes.

 Monday nights there's movies on the BIG screen sponsored by one of the members.

The general public and local vendors have been very generous in keeping the Home supplied with new clothing, shoes, personal care items, jigsaw puzzles, watches, electric razors, etc. On a regular basis a "store" is set up for the members to go "shopping" for their needs.

I am so blessed to be called upon to escort and assist the members at these events both in and out of the facility.

**So far I have received 6 revalidation forms
(and 3 were filled out wrong!)**

**THEY ARE TO BE MAILED
TO:**

**FAYE RICHARDSON-GREEN
3181 NATURE VIEW DR SE
KENTWOOD MI 49512**



Where are you getting the formation from that I should be getting these? There was talk a year or two ago about maybe changing where they go—BUT NOTHING WAS CHANGED.

They go to the Parliamentarian!!!!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Pam Lein, 3rd Vice President

Please make sure when sending in your donations, they are postmarked by May 5th to Nancy Middleton at 1535 48th St. Kentwood MI 49508. Be sure to donate to PAWS through the Dept. to be eligible to win Allison Aldrich's award.

When sending in your final reports, those also must be postmarked by May 5th to my new address which is 306 Grand St. PO box 122 Springport MI 49284. If you sent one in, the first line on your evaluation sheet should be the totals from your midyear.

There will be a PAWS presentation at our Dept convention in June. I am excited to be able to present a check to them at that time. I hope many of you will be able to attend. I look forward to seeing you in June.

Another reminder is my address change! Please mail your final reports to me at 306 Grand St. PO Box 122 Springport MI 49284

Looking forward to getting your reports and seeing everyone at the Convention.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2023

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____ Auxiliary# _____

The above listed person is authorized to be a (circle one) *Delegate / Alternate Delegate / Guest* for her Auxiliary at the Department Convention on June 20-23, 2024 in Grand Rapids Michigan.

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE - \$15

The pre-registration form and registration fee must be postmarked to the Dept. Secretary Nancy Middleton, - 1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508 on or before June 7, 2024. Registrations after that date will be charged the basic fee of \$20.

Authorized by local Auxiliary President

**ALL LOCAL SERVICE REPORTS
MUST BE POSTMARKED TO THE DEPT. SERVICE OFFICERS BY
MAY 5th**

**REVALIDATION FORMS
MUST BE POSTMARKED TO THE DEPT. PARLIAMENTARIAN BY
MAY 5th**

**CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION
MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
JUNE 7th**

MAY 12th



MAY 12th

**DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER'S
NATIONAL SERVICE REPORTS
MUST BE POSTMARKED TO THE NEC WOMAN BY
MAY 20th**

MAY 27th



MAY 27th

**CONVENTION BOOK BULLETINS AND ACTIVITY REPORTS
MUST BE POSTMARKED TO THE DEPT. SECRETARY BY
MAY 31st**