



# AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

## Department of Michigan



May 2025—issue #11

### 2024-25 Department Officer

President Gloria Hall

1st Vice Pam Pearce

\*2nd Vice Nancy Middleton

3rd Vice Maureen Jackson

Chaplain Karen Krumm

Sgt-at-Arms Jennifer Zelony

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

Americanism Cindy Wolken

Hospital Trisha Rosenberg

Scholarship Andrea Williamson

N.E.C. Pat Michalski

Parliament. Bertha Zeno Lema

Personnel Chair Kathy Keizer

AMVET Lodge Roberta Robinson

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

Honors & Awards Pat Michalski

Convention/Fall Conf. Chair  
Nancy Middleton

PRO Kathryn Cross

Long Range Chair Bert Zeno 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. Pat Michalski

District V Pres. Patsy Watkins

District VII Pres. Barb Robare

and

Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton

## BRING BACK THE BASICS

with President Gloria Hall

No article for the month of May, 2025

## REVALIDATION FORMS



1. All local Auxiliary Officers for 2025/2026 **MUST** be installed by 4/30/2025.
2. Local Auxiliary Revalidation forms **MUST** be sent to Nancy Middleton—1535 48th St SE - Kentwood MI 49508 and be postmarked by 5/5/2025.
3. All local Revalidation forms **MUST** be completely filled out on Page #1 based on the Officers with an asterick by the title (\*)
4. All local Revalidation forms **MUST** be completely filled out on page #2. The installing Officer must be The District President, current/passed local President/ Department or National Officer.
5. All local Revalidations forms **MUST** be signed on the bottom of page #2 by the incoming President and the incoming Secretary.
6. District Officers **MUST** be installed and the Revalidation forms **MUST** be postmarked no later than June 5, 2025.
7. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**

Revalidation forms were sent to each local Auxiliary in the Convention Digest which was mailed in the middle of March. They can also be found online in the forms section of the Department website:







# MEMBERSHIP

by Pam Pearce, 1st Vice President



## REMEMBER TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN

Membership has slowed down a bit as we approach the end of our service year. If you plan to continue, any member whose membership has lapsed must rejoin. Please remember to retain those members you worked so hard to join.

Your deadline for rejoining the Department is May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Department secretary needs to send them out to the National by May 31. You need to do this for them to be included on the next roster, which will be released in September.

REMEMBER, do not send any membership in June. It will not be processed until July. In June our secretary is very busy preparing and getting set for our Department Convention. There are no memberships sent in June or July to National. They are all held until after the National Convention in the month of August.

### Reminders:

- ★ \*Locals will submit \$30 each for all REJOINS and new members.
- ★ \*Renew to Life or New Life Memberships are now \$353. Use updated form.
- ★ \*Be sure every part of your D&Rs are filled out correctly.
- ★ \*Once you receive your membership cards back go to your D&R to be sure you received all of them. We need to stay up on everything so too much time does not slip by and we are backtracking.

These are VERY important, If you submitted to us a wrong spelling and or an address of a new member, you will have to fill out a change of name or address. We are using what you send us and this is why it is imperative to spell clearing and correctly. We are processing hundreds of D&Rs. We can only use what we receive.



Make sure you have submitted any deceased member forms promptly so we can process them as well. Please send those to the Executive Secretary then she will forward copes to those who need to receive them.

## CONVENTION INFO

I included all information about Convention (hotel, agenda, costs, etc.) in last month's newsletter (April) and the Convention Digest (March 2025). I have not been informed of any changes at this time.

Nancy Middleton, Dept. Secretary



# CHILD WELFARE

by Nancy Middleton, 2nd Vice



Can you believe Convention is just about 6 weeks away? I sincerely hope you are planning to attend. BUT...that is a different topic which doesn't need to be covered here. Let's talk about kids and Child Welfare. Here is a list of things which need to be covered—soon!

- a) Final reports are to be submitted to me—postmarked no later than May 5th.
- b) Send in your local Auxiliary's donation for Penrickton. This is so important. They could on us each year to help them financially. The work they do is phenomenal so please do the best you can.
- c) Read the Donor's Rules for 2024/2025 which are in the Convention Digest. Follow each of the rules which are specific to your Auxiliary by size.
- d) I hope all our 2nd Vice Presidents enjoyed their year helping kids. I think this is one of the most rewarding of all the service programs. Kids are so much fun (usually), have wonderful imaginations, are often brutally honest, have quick minds which go in many different directions and you never know what they will do!

We recently had our annual visit to Penrickton Center for Blind Children. I was hoping a few new people would come on the tour to see what a terrific place Penrickton is. Our members continue to amaze me—we had 8 newbies. 3 AMVETS and 12 Auxiliary members were there. We had 18 signed up but illness caused a few cancellations. Posts represented were #23 (3), #57 (1), #115 (4), #126 (3) and #1988 (4). Aux. #1988 also brought several items from the Penrickton needs list.



Thank you to each and every one who took the time (and long travel) to see why the Auxiliary is proud to be one of their sponsors.

I am looking for some really great reports. I thank all of you who have given your support to Child Welfare, our projects and our programs. There have been several problems this year—but the office of Child Welfare/2nd Vice President has been a joy!!!!

## CHAPLAIN

by Karen Krumm, Chaplain



Happy Spring everyone. I have buds on my Lilacs and my Irises are shooting up so I am disregarding the snow.

Prayers for all those who were affected by the ice storms and hope you didn't have much damage. Also sending prayers for everyone who has suffered from the flooding and fires that our country has experienced.

Don't forget if you have someone who is suffering let me know so we can let them know that we care

Don't forget to "Bee" Kind and see you at conference.

***Have you sent in your Convention pre-registration form yet?***

***Each local Auxiliary was sent some in the Convention Digest which was mailed in March.***

***If you need one (and all local delegates and alternates must be approved by your local President), let me know and I will try emailing one to you.***



## Repeat "WHERE TO SEND FINAL SERVICE REPORTS"

### 2ND VICE PRES. / CHILD WELFARE



Nancy Middleton  
1535 48th St SE  
Kentwood MI 49508  
nancmidd@gmail.com

### 3RD VICE PRES. / COMMUNITY SERVICE

Maureen Jackson  
30103 Pineview Circle  
Chesterfield, MI 48051  
kdgmo2@gmail.com.



### AMERICANISM OFFICER and S.O.S.



Cindy Wolkens  
1080 Kish Rd  
Niles MI 49210  
bawk72@gmail.com

### HOSPITAL OFFICER

Patrica Rosenberg  
8067 Old M 72  
Williamsburg MI 49690  
nightqueenaac@gmail.com



### SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER

Andrea Williamson  
23580 22 Mile  
Paris MI 49338  
Andrea.j.3181@gmail.com



## DONATIONS

Please use the Donation List which was in the Convention Digest when you make your end of the Auxiliary year donation to our service programs. All donations must be postmarked by May 5<sup>th</sup> and made payable to AMVETS Ladies Aux, Dept of MI and mailed to the Dept. Secretary (that would be me!)

Penrickton welcomes donations from any portion of our AMVET Family. If the AMVETS or Sons would like to contribute, please have them send a check directly to me (made payable as above). If they make their check separate from the Auxiliary, they will be recognized as contributors in the Convention Book on the donation page. The total donations will be presented at the Dept. Convention in June.

## SCHOLARSHIP

By Andrea Williamson, Scholarship Officer

Graduation is just around the corner! Please don't forget to have scholarship applications mailed and postmarked by May 24th 2025

Final service reports are due! Please get those mailed out ASAP

Send to:



Andrea Williamson  
23580 22 Mile Rd.  
Paris, MI 49338

## HOSPITAL

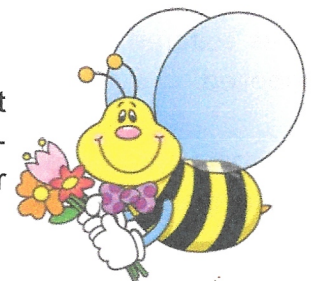
by Trisha Rosenberg, Hospital Officer

Final reports should be in by email or post marked by May 5th. I look forward to completing this year's reporting and thank everyone for all that you do.

Continue your support for our veterans and make a veteran smile.

Convention will be in June and I am hoping to see more participants. Think about becoming a Department Officer or come to show your support and vote in the Officers for the coming year. Feel free to contact any officer with questions or for help.

Stay Blessed!







# ALL ABOUT "J" - MVH-GR

By Leora Williamson, MVH-GR Rep

"The first thing that came to mind when I awoke this morning was to write an article about one of the veterans at MVH-GR rather than an event. I won't mention his name. I'll just call him "J".

I first saw "J" on the bus when I went on shopping trips with the vets. The only thing he buys is bouquets of flowers, which he will give away when we return to the Home.

The sewing room is actually a small multi-purpose room. There is a desk with a computer for the members use. "J" was often on that computer when I went in. He didn't pay any attention to me or others who pass through the room. It was quite a while before I even knew his name.

The first words he spoke to me were "Thank you for helping my fellow Vets." He repeats that statement every time I'm there. Finally one day I asked if there was anything I could do for him. He brought me a tee shirt that was coming apart at the seams, and I gladly put it back together.

"J" has a love for the outdoors and particularly for flowers. He actually has a paying job tending the grounds. You will see sun flowers and numerous other varieties blooming on both sides of the smoking hut and in other nooks and corners around the building.

I showed "J" pictures of my gladiolas one day and asked if he would like some bulbs to plant on the grounds. That started our first real conversation and he gladly accepted the bulbs.

Now I can proudly say I have found a new friend.



## Convention Around the Corner



By Jennifer Zelony, Sgt-at-Arms

With the convention around the corner as Sgt-At-Arms don't be surprised at some point I may ask you to stop talking if you are someone who likes to talk. Maybe you will be asked to help pass paperwork to the group since we will be in a conference room. I might even ask for someone to help be my backdoor guard! I will be checking to make sure everyone who is supposed to be in uniform is and if you are not a Dept. Officer or a Past President, please wear appropriate clothing. Black or greens pants or skirt but no open toe shoes.

I will lead the opening with the pledge and post colors. The colors will be retired to close the Convention.

I am excited to see how many people took my lesson back from Fall Conference. I will be walking around the room at times when things need to get passed out or if you need to ask someone who is not speaking a question at that time to pass information from one member to another that is in the room. I will be there to do what ever the Madam President or the head table needs to be done besides keep the control of the convention in moving forward, with no interruptions by people talking out of turn.





# IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PERSONNEL CHAIRMAN TO ALL 1ST VICE PRESIDENTS/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN AND LOCAL PRESIDENTS

By Kathy Keizer, Personnel Chairman



Greetings All! As the Department Personnel Chairman, I interacted with our Executive Secretary, Nancy Middleton, monthly to listen to and talk about any problems she may be having. This past year has been a challenge both for her and our Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Some of the issues began with National not being able to get the rosters and membership cards out in a timely manner. Missing membership cards, new blank forms not compatible with templates, no honorary cards. This caused extra work for Nancy and caused membership to be returned later than the usual turnaround would be. Many were understanding, but not all were.

Then issues with the postal system caused more delays with several mailings to the Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice being returned to Nancy, at no fault of her own. Lastly, membership mailings from the Locals were not done correctly which caused delays in processing them in a timely manner because she would have to wait for the local Membership Chairman to correct the problem from their end. Some of the issues were:

- D & R filled out incorrectly, wrong amount on checks.
- Checks made out wrong and/or not dated/signed correctly.
- Missing paperwork.
- New member names not spelled correctly or wrong addresses on the D & R causing her to have waiting for the Name/Address change form from the local chairman and to re-type a new card with the correct information.

So, going forward, Nancy has the option of returning any membership she receives which has not been done correctly. She does not have to FIX the mistakes of the local chairman, especially when the chairman is consistently sending membership to her which have the same problems time after time.

So, if all membership chairmen need to go into the Department website and read the instructions for the local 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. These instructions have all the information you need and IF you still have questions about what you are sending in, CALL Nancy and confirm.

PLEASE do not ask another member, who may have NEVER done this job, to offer advice. I can promise it will probably not turn out well!!



Denise Rock and Aux. #1957 for  
the new pretty pink paper cutter!



Aux. #121 for the 1st 2025/2026  
Revalidation form returned



Aux. #121 for the 1st  
Donation Sheet returned



# PARLIAMENTARIAN NEWS

by Bert Lema, Parliamentarian



Do you know the correct way to present a motion during a meeting? Following the correct steps is very important to the parliamentary process.

1. After being recognized by the President or Chair, begin your motion by stating "I move" before presenting the motion. Do not state "I make a motion..".
2. Another member will second the motion.
3. The President or Chair restates the motion and then asks for questions or discussion on the merits of the motion. Wait to be recognized before talking and do not talk over other members.
4. The President will call for the "yes" and "no" votes and then announces the results of the voting, such as "the motion is adopted" or "the motion is lost".
5. Remember: Every member has equal rights to every other member and each motion presented deserves thoughtful consideration. Majority rules. Do not take offense if your motion is not adopted. Listen to the discussion and the rationale behind the decision. Take all into consideration, modify your idea, and possibly represent a modified version of the motion at a later date.



As always, if you have a question, you can email me at [lema81@wowway.com](mailto:lema81@wowway.com) or give me a call at 586.214.1019 and leave a message. I try to return calls and messages within 24-48 hours.

## SPRING FUNNIES



Money talks: mine always says "goodbye".

I started out with nothing—and I still have most of it.

When my boss asked me who was stupid, me or him, I told him he doesn't hire stupid people.

The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one.

The other day I asked the Banker to check my balance—so she pushed me.

I don't suffer from insanity. I enjoy every minute of it.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people seem bright until they open their mouth.

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation for the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION Grand Rapids MI

**JUNE 19 TO JUNE 22, 2025**

**PRE-REGISTRATION \$15  
ONSITE REGISTRATION \$20**

**Room rate—\$110 + tax**

**Room reservation number  
616/957-0100**





## FROM EXCITEMENT TO DISAPPOINTMENT

*By PDP Kathy Keizer and PDP Nancy Middleton*



On April 5, we were so excited to be able to attend the testimonial dinner for our Department President, Gloria Hall. It had been a few years since we were able to attend one and we looked forward to seeing our fellow PDP's Department Officers and some of our members at an event which was NOT a meeting! This does not happen often as many of you know.

We walked into the venue and looked around. The room was decorated with beautifully covered tables and chairs, cute 'bee' decorations, tealight candles and beautiful flowers at the head table. The smells from the kitchen were wonderful and the food was delicious. PDP Faye Ricardson-Green, did a great job as the emcee for the evening.

So, are you wondering what the disappointment was?? Well, let's get on our soapbox!

Out of 21 Dept. Officers, there were eight Officers (4 of whom are PDP's) and one additional PDP in attendance. Also in attendance were the Department Sons of AMVETS Commander Don Torr, three AMVET PDC'S (Bob Green, Jean Hall and John Hoeckrel), members of AMVETS #126 Ladies Auxiliary and the Post #126 Commander and their Sons of AMVETS Commander.

As we talked with those on the committee, only one (1) Department Officer/PDP sent in an RSVP with regrets. There were no other responses from any AMVETS, Auxiliary Officers or PDP's, even though a card and self-addressed envelopes were included with the invitations.

We realize a few Officers have been ill. However, for those who do not realize it, RSVP means you should respond with a "yes" OR a "no" reply regarding your attendance.

This event was supposed to be a way for the Officers, PDP's and AMVET family members to honor our Department President and extend our gratitude and congratulations for her years of service to our organization. She has dedicated herself to serve us as the Department President for 2024/2025.



# Welcome Spring

