

# AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

## Department of Michigan

August, 2025—issue #2

### 2025/26 Dept. Officers

President Pamela Pearce

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Gloria Hall

\*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Wendy Lynema

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Allison Aldrich

Chaplain Doni Simon

Sgt-at-Arms Christine Simon

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

Americanism Jennifer Zelony

Hospital Trisha Rosenberg

Scholarship Dian Hensley

N.E.C. Pat Michalski

Parliament. Kathy Keizer

Personnel Chair Wendy Lynema

AMVET Lodge Roberta Robinson

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

Honors & Awards Gloria Hall

Fall Conf. Chair Trisha Rosenberg

Webmaster Jennifer Zelony

Convention Chair

Faye Richardson-Green

PRO Olivia Brown

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. Linda Marshall

District V Pres. Patsy Watkins

and

Executive Secretary (non voting)

Nancy Middleton

# U. S. O.

## **Understanding (our) Service Organization**

**by President Pamela Pearce**

My name is Pamela Pearce and I am your 2025/26 Department of Michigan President. My theme, as you can see, is USO or Understanding our Service Organization. We all work at different paces, but the results are so important. Please ask questions if you do not understand something. I want our Auxiliaries to be successful. My goal is to make sure all of our Auxiliaries are reporting all the wonderful work they are doing. After this year's Convention, many did not report. The most important thing to remember is you are doing the work..... please record it.

Remember our six service projects, which are Child Welfare, Community Service, Americanism, SOS, Hospital, and Scholarship. We have National projects as well.

Please ensure all deadlines are met. Officers have deadlines for newsletters and website articles, which are the 15th of each month. Do not send things late, as this year Nancy will say "NO" to late newsletter entries .

Congratulations to the Auxiliaries who received certificates and awards for the work they did and was reported. It is amazing to hear the numbers of your service evaluations.

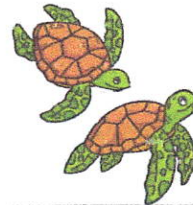
I want to congratulate the new officers. Once again, we had no one run for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd vice. We have PDP's filling them so we can be revalidated.

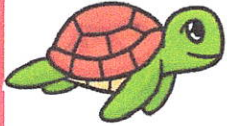
It took me five years to get here. I started as an American officer for two years, then onto 3rd vice, next was 1st vice now President. I look forward to this year and am very excited to do whatever I can for our locals to be successful and flourish.

You can contact me by my email: [upnorthpam1@gmail.com](mailto:upnorthpam1@gmail.com) OR phone 231-357-6010. My address is 306 Grand St., PO Box 122, Springport, MI 49284.

Blessing

Pam Pearce, Department President  
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Dept. of Michigan





# MEMBERSHIP

by Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President

My name is Gloria Hall, and I was appointed to the office of Dept. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. It was not my intention to seek another Department office. I was hoping another member would step up to answer the call. This did not happen. At the last possible moment, I raised my hand at the third and last call of "Are there any more nominations for the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President?" Knowing it is critical we needed a first vice to submit our revalidation to National and remain a Department. I could not let that happen! I did it! ....and I will serve to the best of my abilities to the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. To begin my duties as Membership Chair, Department Secretary Nancy Middleton, and I will meet to review the membership rosters. I'm thinking once we have the Department in hand we can deal with National dilemmas. Wish us luck!

The Secretary has emailed the updated rosters to the local 1st Vice's if she has email addresses for them. If you didn't get one, contact Nancy at [nancmidd@gmail.com](mailto:nancmidd@gmail.com) or 616/455-4525 and get her your email. Nancy and I are trying to get all rosters for 2025/26 updated to start the year off right. If you sent in memberships in May/June they will not be showing on the updated versions because they haven't been processed yet.

Next is another important job you can do for your members. Heard of a new or old deceased member? Send a Deceased Member Notification form in. Go online to: [amvetsauxdeptmi.org](http://amvetsauxdeptmi.org) click on Membership Forms, scroll down, and select deceased notification. Fill it in and send it to Nancy Middleton, Dept. Secretary at 1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508. She will forward it to our Dept. Chaplain and National HQ.

Remember: Any name change, misspellings, or address change you will need to submit the forms which are a requirement. Same goes with D & R's (Dues & Remittance). Annuals, New, rejoins, & Life members, are in their own categories, in alphabet order, with member ID's for everyone but a new or Honorary member because a number has not been issued yet. Not sure of the correct dues amount? Ask about it. And be sure to have the paperwork and the correct check amount payable to: AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept of MI.

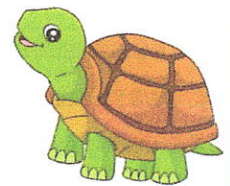
Note: Want a physical newsletter in hand mailed to you? Send \$12.00 for a one year subscription payable to the: AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept. of MI. Send a \$15.00 check and it will include the newsletter plus the Dept. Convention Digest delivered in March. Again, mail to: Nancy Middleton.

Lastly, I will have a theme ready for my office which I will submit at the Fall SEC meeting. I was definitely not prepared to have a theme for any position at the convention. Presently, until then I am stepping up to do the job at hand. I am not worried! I have Nancy, Kathy Keizer, and President Pam to help me get up to speed! It is now all full steam ahead!!

Hugs

Gloria Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

[ghall0054@gmail.com](mailto:ghall0054@gmail.com)



Gloria and I have gone over the rosters and we are 100% matched. As of 6/14 we have been contacted by only a few of the local 1st Vice Presidents: #52, #57, #126, #1941, Thank you!

I have 6 local 1st Vice Presidents with no record of an email for them. It is very difficult to communicate with those without contact information. Having to call many 1st Vices when every there is information they need is way to time consuming. A ten minutes phone call to everyone can take over 3 hours—assuming they are home. The mail is way to slow. It sometimes takes 5 to 10 days to get somewhere. This is a BIG problem. HELP!!!!

# PARLIAMENTARIAN NEWS

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PARLIAMENTARIAN TO  
ALL LOCAL AND DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

**PDP Kathy Keizer, Department Parliamentarian**

Greetings All!

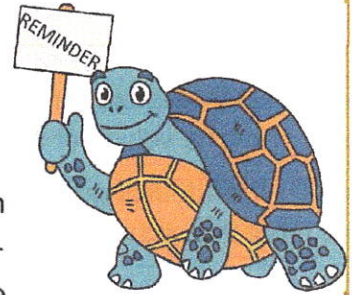
Since being appointed as the 2025/26 Department Parliamentarian in June, an issue came up which gave me the thought this needed to be shared with all of you.

I received an email from a member inquiring about a grievance and how to go about it. My first question back to her was "Did the President appointed a Grievance Committee (Chairman and 2 committee members with the Parliamentarian ex-officio make up the committee) and have it approved after she was elected?"

It is **IMPERATIVE** this is done **EVERY** year and the information gets put into the minutes of the meeting it was approved at. If your Local or District has not done so, make sure it is taken care at your next meeting.

Also, for those who are wondering, you must follow the grievance procedure which is in the National Ladies Auxiliary Constitution. It is located in Article XII – Discipline on page 18.

If you have any questions or concerns you can email me at: [katzr@gmail.com](mailto:katzr@gmail.com). My other contact info was listed in the July newsletter on the Department Officers list, if you need it.



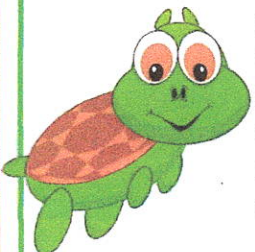
## SECRETARY'S INFO ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

**Nancy Middleton, Exec. Secretary**

Convention is over. The Treasurer's books have been audited. We are now almost ready to start a new Auxiliary year. I have high hopes about the 2025/26 Auxiliary year. Let's keep a positive attitude! After the past year, we deserve a smooth, friction-free time.

We are hoping to get the membership cards for renewals and new members within a couple weeks following National Convention which is in August. In the meantime, I can be processing new membership but no renewals yet. You can also send in your Life Member assessments. Make sure you do not put new members and renewals on the same D&R. If you do, everything will be on hold until the cards are in. Send new members **ONLY**!

It shouldn't be long before we have everything up and running smoothly. I am planning on mailing membership cards back to the locals within 10 days after receipt—if correct. Lately mail has been a little slow but I am going to do my best. I need everyone associated with membership to also do their best. When I can't read your writing, the checks are made out for the wrong amount and the D&Rs are not completely filled out (that means with ID#'s), and missing additional forms when required, it just delays everything.



Got questions? Call me – 616/455-4525 or email – [nancmidd@gmail.com](mailto:nancmidd@gmail.com). I check my email several times every day. Let's work together and have a smooth 2025/2026. We deserve it!

# CHILD WELFARE

By Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice President



I'm taking my second time around at Second Vice after quite a long break and some health issues. Madam President needed someone to fill the position and no one wanted to run for the position nor did anyone volunteer after several "asks" at post-convention SEC. So, I did!

Madam President is good with having the Penrickton tour either this fall or next spring. I'll contact them and get their input then schedule the tour.

You'll be seeing this newsletter in August, and most of the schools near here start mid-month.

Although it's probably not too late to still collect supplies for those students who may not be able to afford those items. Your schools should be able to help you with those students who are in need.

Even though we are in the mid 80's it's not too early to be thinking about cooler/colder weather and those "littles" who may need light fall or winter jackets, mittens, scarves or hats.

Let's do our best to help those who need it the most but are unable to ask for it themselves.

Should you have any questions comments or suggestions feel free to email, text, or call. Though I am better with text and calls.



Wendy L. Lynema

[bubblesaux126@yahoo.com](mailto:bubblesaux126@yahoo.com)

## SURPRISE CONTRIBUTOR!

There is a surprise in this newsletter. In the July news there was a full list of all the AMVET Officers for 2025/2026. With the Commander Palizzo's permission I included it so everyone could have a copy. I am sending the newsletter to the Commander and was surprised when I received an article from him for all of you to read. It is on page #7.

We look forward to hearing more from him.

### MISSING ARTICLES FROM THIS NEWSLETTER

Scholarship  
Website (not assigned yet)  
NEC/National Convention  
Fall Conference Chairman  
3 Hospital Reps  
Higgins Lake Lodge  
Long Range Planning (responded no submission)



## NEWSLETTER 2025/26!

When preparing for this year, I asked the incoming President what her theme was and what we could do in the newsletter. She said she likes camouflage. I panicked! Camouflage? What can I do with that?

Then I found out she loves turtles! So do I. In fact I have had a turtle for several years. He's an aquatic turtle named Franklin (I am assuming it is a 'he'). Did you know turtles have very sharp little teeth? (I found that out when I tried feeding Franklin dried worms by hand....once!)



OK—last year I had hundreds of cute little bees but now I have hundreds of cute little turtles. Now you know why you are seeing turtles. (But...there is camouflage on the President's Page and lots of lime green coloring!)

On the back page (page #10) is a little history, some likes and dislikes, etc. of our new President. I am looking forward to working with her this year.

*Nancy Middleton*

# DEPT. TREASURER'S REPORT

PDP Kathy Keizer, Treasurer



The Department audit of the Treasurer's records was held on Monday, July 7. All books are in good shape and I have started to prepare the records for our next fiscal year.

There are still several checks outstanding (16). The date range of these checks is from December 2025 to June 2025. I will be listing any outstanding checks I still have in the September newsletter. If you or your Auxiliary received a check at Convention, please get them deposited as soon as possible. It makes reconciling much easier! I thank you in advance.

I hope all of the locals and Districts have audited their financial records by now. It is very important to do this annually—especially before a new Treasurer takes over.

One other item I want to mention will probably be mentioned not only by me but by the Executive Secretary and the Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President during the year. PLEASE be sure to make your checks out properly.

1. Make the check out to **AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept of MI** for all funds you send for membership, donations and Department raffles.
2. Be sure **the date** (month/day/year) is correct.
3. Be sure the **amount** written out is the same as the amount on the first line.
4. Either indicate in the **memo area** or with an attached note exactly what the check is for.
5. If it is for **donations**, be sure to indicate the amount for each charity if you are donating to more than one

This will help the Executive Secretary be able to process everything in a timely manner. Our financial institution is **VERY fussy** about the checks being correct.

## AMERICANISM NEWS

By Jennifer Zelony, Americanism/SOS Officer

Hello, I am Jennifer Zelony 2025-2026 Americanism Officer for the Michigan AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

National Convention is coming up in August. I am not able to attend this year but I will have the new updated applications for the school students Poster & Essay Contest. In the meantime, please prepare your schools for this opportunity for their students.

I will be attending the Auxiliary Founding Forward National Conference this October in Valley Forge PA.

I will be reaching out to each local Auxiliary local Americanism Officer to introduce myself and if at any time you have questions, please reach out to me.

Jennifer Zelony  
jnzelony@gmail.com  
586/917-4244





# CHAPLAIN

by Doni Simons

Greetings Fellow Sisters of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary! My name is Doni Simon and I am your new Department Chaplain. First, allow me to thank the SEC for putting their trust in me to carry the Chaplain duties for the coming 2025-2026 Year. I am deeply humbled by all of your support!

To all of you, allow me to give you some of my background. I have been an Auxiliary member since 2017 at my local Duane E Dewey AMVETS Post 1988. I have served as the First Vice for the 2023-2024 year and have been Chaplain for 1988 since 2024. I am a retired Nurse Practitioner who also served as a Critical Care Nurse for over 30 years before my educational upgrade. This being said, I want you to know my mission has been and always will be 'To Serve'.

Here are some ways in which I might be able to serve you. First, if you know of any Auxiliary member who is ill, or has an ill family member, please notify me so that I may reach out to them with a card, text, or email. I will also be establishing a Prayer list. Any time, if you or someone you know needs prayers, simply request them and they will be sent upward! If you learn of an Auxiliary member passing, or one of their family members passing, again, notify me so that I may reach out with a card of support. \*\*Remember my local Chaplains, to send the deceased member form to Nancy Middleton ASAP so that she and I can perform our necessary duties with regards to the deceased member.

I will be writing more in the coming months regarding ways in which we all might serve each other, our communities, and our Veterans.

Your Sister in Spirit

Doni Simon

(989) 560-2342

simon1988aux@yahoo.com

\*\*Send ONE copy of the Deceased Member form to Nancy Middleton—  
1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508  
or email it to nancmidd@gmail.com

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY Allison Aldrich, 3rd Vice President

I want to thank President Pam for appointing me as the Dept. 3rd Vice. I will be going to the National Convention in Greensboro North Carolina. When I find out who the National 3rd Vice is, I will be setting up the tour at Paws. The newsletter is due August 15th and the National Convention does start until August 18, so watch for more information on the tour in the October newsletter and on the web site.

In the first newsletter which was sent out, my email address was typed incorrectly. The correct email for me is aka1jra1@tda.net.

IS THIS CUTE—OR WHAT??





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2025/26 DEPT. COMMANDER

AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS, AMVET Riders, Veterans All and First Responders

As we continue our mission of service, let us remember what unites us—our shared commitment to country, community, and one another. We are bound by a deep sense of patriotism and the legacy of selfless service that defines the American veteran. Whether in uniform or as volunteers in our hometowns, we continue to answer the call.

Each of you plays a vital role in keeping our AMVETS family strong and our communities resilient. I encourage you to stay engaged, support one another, and remain visible in the neighborhoods we serve. Your presence matters.

I also want to remind you that we have a beautiful lodge and cabins available for rent. These facilities are not only a source of pride, they are also a space for fellowship, rest, and connection with nature. Whether you're planning a gathering, a weekend retreat, or a family outing, I hope you'll consider making use of these special places.

Thank you for your continued dedication and patriotism.

***Together we honor the past, serve the present, and build a stronger future.***

Yours in service,  
Nat Pulizzi, Commander  
AMVETS Department of Michigan

**THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER (September Issue) IS AUGUST 15, 2025.**

### JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS NEWS

By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep.

Jacobetti held their first pancake breakfast with great success in spite of the cool U.P. weather. We had an onsite fish pond where all the members had accessible fishing. 2025 was the 20th Annual Fish Fry and an Amazing Meal for our Jacobetti residents. The residents also enjoyed Magic, Comedy and entertainment with Cameron Zvara.



The AMVETS and Auxiliary hosted the members at Post 122 for hotdogs, brats, and a large variety of side dishes and desserts. We completed their visit with Music by Lois accompanied by 9 year old Adeline and Card Bingo with Adeline calling out the winning numbers.

Judy Smith, Jacobetti Rep

# HOSPITAL NEWS

By Trisha Rosenberg

Thank you for having me as the Dept. Hospital Officer again. Let's have a great year with all Auxiliaries submitting a mid-year and final report. Please be sure to use the updated form and if you have nothing to report, then a (1st page only) needs to be submitted. Hospital assessment is minimally an item each Auxiliary should submit. Mid-year is due post marked or emailed by November 5th and final reports by May 5th.

This year I have a Hospital Officers award for the first Aux. to submit the life members assessment by December 31st. The award will be \$50 for the Aux. of 66 members or more and \$25 for the Aux. of 10 to 65 members.

Looking forward to seeing more people at Fall Conference to learn about our positions as Officers and get people interested in continuing to do a great job. I look forward to working with everyone. Stay kind, blessed and safe.

## Corrections from July newsletter:



President Pam Pearce:  
zip code 49284

3rd Vice Allison Aldrich  
Email: aka1jra1@tds.net

2nd Vice Wendy Lynema  
Email: bubblesaux126@yahoo.com  
Phone # 616/560-3666

Please make corrections to your July list—and hopefully I won't have to make this a permanent column!!

# SGT-AT-ARMS

By Christine Simon, Sgt.-at-Arms

Happy Dog Days of Summer! For those of you that do not know me, my name is Christine Simon and I am happy to be your new Sergeant of Arms for the Department of Michigan. I have been an Auxiliary member of Post 1988 Duane E Dewey since 2016 and have served as the local Sergeant of Arms for the past year and a half.

I hope you all have had a safe and memorable Independence Day. I am looking forward to learning more about my position and sharing what I learn with all of you. In the interim, remember **We Are AMVETS Auxiliary Strong!** Go forward every day in support of our American Flag and Veterans and stand tall! Never be afraid to ask me questions or reach out with anything you may need. If I do not have the answers, I will seek out those who do and be willing to share with all of you

Thank you SEC ladies for your trust and support.

Your Sister in servitude,

Christine Simon

(231)598-0188

Auxiliary1988christinesimon@gmail.com



# Battle Creek VAMC

## The 30th Annual AMVETS Family Picnic Honoring Veterans at the Battle Creek VA Med Center

Started in 1995 by former Battle Creek VAVS Representative Clarice Poisson while volunteering in the Alcohol and Drug Rehab unit, this event has been quietly led and enhanced since 2000 by Past Department SOA Commander and 30 year VAVS Representative Bill Chiddester. Bill, his wife Diana Lammott and a hardy crew of SOA and Ladies Auxiliary members from the Duane E. Dewey Post #1988 begin preparing and cooking the food the day & night before the picnic. On the day of the picnic, they are joined by a few more members of Post 1988 as well as AMVETS, SOA and Ladies Auxiliary members from Posts 23, 29, 126 and 4064. In addition to food (pulled pork, baked chicken, hot dogs, cheesy potatoes, baked beans and potato salad) and soft drinks, each veteran gets a free item at check-in and "wins" a door prize (hats, shirts, etc.)

A warm and hearty THANK YOU to the 24 volunteers from the five (5) Posts who assisted with cooking, set-up/decorating, check-in, food & beverage service and door prize giveaway. This event is definitely a labor of love for Bill, Diana and all the people involved in making it happen. Although I don't have the names of each person involved, this year's volunteers served over 80 veterans and contributed:

- Sons of AMVETS - 6 members = 46 hours
- Ladies Auxiliary - 13 members = 67 hours
- AMVETS - 3 members = 27 hours
- Youth volunteers thru #23 = 6 hours



Total hours (not including shopping or other prep activity) = 146 hours

## WAYS 'N MEANS

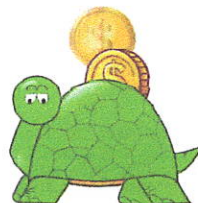
by Patsy Watkins, Chairman

When you are reading this article, seven months of 2025 is already done. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference in October. There will be a Chinese auction plus 2 blankets as big prizes for the Conference.

I am always looking for ideas for fundraisers, so if you have some, please let me know. Also if you have items you would like to donate, please contact me.

I am planning on at least one calendar fundraiser—maybe two of them.

Patsy Watkins, Ways & Means Chairman  
11109 Long Lake Dr—Sparta MI 49345  
616/589-2728  
sassyjo1027@yahoo.com/

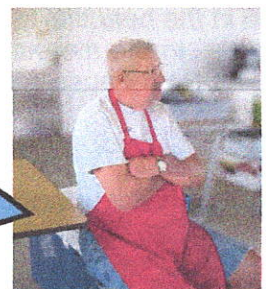


Volunteering is not always easy or convenient, but the applause from the veterans being served was deeply appreciated and heart-warming!

Respectfully submitted,  
PDP Faye Richardson-Green,  
BC VAVS Rep

BILL CHIDDESTER

Taking a well  
deserved rest.



DIANA LAMMOTT  
(Who never rests!)

# WHO IS THIS NEW AUXILIARY PRESIDENT?



The name is Pamela K Pearce and here are a few things you would like to know about her. There may also be a few things you didn't know you wanted to know about her, but are glad you are being told about them.

Pam was born in Manistee MI and will soon be celebrating a birthday on August 12th. When you first meet Pam, you notice she is very pretty and has a beautiful smile. You will also think she is quiet and maybe a little shy. You will soon learn Pam is not shy. She loves volunteering and helping others.

Pam recently retired after spending several years working for the State of Michigan Dept. of Corrections where she was in contact with some pretty unsavory, violent criminals. Maybe from her experience at work, she can be tough. If there is a problem, she immediately works to solve it. She doesn't sit back and hope it disappears!

She likes positivity but does not care for politics and negativity.

She is the Mother of 2—a son and a daughter (who is this years Dept. PRO). She is also a grandmother to 2 beautiful children, Ezekiel and Zarielle. We certainly don't want to leave out her adopted friends—a Maltipoo dog named Tucker and a rescue kitten named Nala.

Pam has been a member of the Auxiliary for 8 years. She is also a long time member (51 years) of the VFW. She started at Aux. #114 but is now a member of Aux. #23 in District V. She has held many offices and just completed her 2nd year as the District V Americanism Officer. She has served the Department as Americanism Officer (2 years), 3rd Vice President, 1st Vice President and now is our new President.

Pam selected the Camp Grayling USO as her Department project for SOS and it was a great hit. She was able to donate thousands of dollars in personal care items, snacks, and many other items with the strong cooperation of our Auxiliary. In fact, it was so successful, we continue to have the Camp Grayling USO as our SOS project.



If President Pam will be visiting your Auxiliary, you might like to know she love fruit, chicken and salads—but please don't serve her pasta, beef or lima beans! She also loves Chinese food and her very favorite desert is Pineapple upside down cake. Throw in a diet Pepsi or a glass of Moscato wine, and she is happy! As you will know by the graphics in this newsletter, she collects turtles (stuffed or ceramic, I am guessing), t-shirts and has a shoe fetish! She LOVES shoes!! She also likes to talk long walks, garden, bike, kayak, read and dance.

Although we usually see Pam in her Auxiliary uniform, when it comes to banquets and going out, she is the one in the beautiful fancy dresses and heels. Someday she would like to visit France, the style capital of the world. In the meantime, she loves to shop at Burlington. If she gets to pick the restaurant, it would be the Texas Roadhouse—or for a quick meal (Pam is not a McDonald's or Burger King lover), she is a Culver's person.



Pam is a summer type person even though her favorite holiday is Christmas (she is not a fan of April Fools Day). Her favorite color is Lime green—like the border on this article!. She is pretty good with computer work, likes pop music and her favorite flower is the Iris.

Now you know who Pam Pearce is. The last thing you might like to know is what her goal is for her Presidential year: Her goal is to meet everyone and help bring out the best in each of us. We are all volunteers and work at different levels. It is important we lift one another up, not tear them down. She wants each Auxiliary to report the work they are doing and understand the importance of why we do reports. This is what she aims for.

We wish her the best as she serves in her new position—AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Michigan President for 2025/2026.