

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

September 2025—issue #3

U. S. O.

Understanding our Service Organization

by President Pamela Pearce



2025/26 Dept. Officers

President Pamela Pearce

1st Vice Gloria Hall

*2nd Vice Wendy Lynema

3rd 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

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Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

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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



Slow and steady like a turtle, but we are making progress. Wow, here we are, almost done with summer, and school is right around the corner. I am hoping our locals are busy with their projects and ready to make reports. I want more locals reporting this year than last.

I am getting ready to head to National. I will have information from the Convention for the next newsletter. I am looking forward to a great convention. We only have five Aux. members attending the National convention this year.

I have been in contact with our Commander, and he has been great to communicate with. I truly appreciate all he is doing to keep us working together as a whole family unit.

We need to start planning on our upcoming SEC and Fall Conference. We are working on some great classes. Be sure to keep that weekend open. Trisha is working hard to secure instructors for some great informational classes. Please put October 18th on your calendars for the Fall conference, and Officers put the 17th, Friday on your calendars (SEC meeting) with uniforms please.

Please share the newsletter with your Aux. sisters. I visited Aux. 114, a couple of weeks ago, during Harbor Days, while they were putting on the Senior lunch. It is a wonderful event, free to them with bingo. Maribeth Wescott called bingo. Other than Maribeth, not one of the women knew I was Dept President or any of our 2025 Dept officers.

Thank you all for the hard work you are doing. I appreciate each of you doing what you can for all our causes. UNDERSTANDING our SERVICE ORGANIZATION and what we each can do to be successful is so important.

Blessings

Dept. of Michigan President

Pamela Pearce





MEMBERSHIP

by Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President



To begin, Nancy Middleton and Kathy Keizer, two veterans holders of membership knowledge, took me under their wings and schooled me to the workings of my membership office. Nancy and I have met and reconciled our first month of July's membership listing. After a few adjustments, we matched! If the next 11 months are as easy as this month, I will be truly happy! It was a real confidence booster to experience this feeling of joy.

Officers at this time send in your D & R's for new membership ONLY. Note: Any renewal memberships will be processed after the Dept. Secretary received the renewal cards from National. Be patient. You will be contacted when the cards are in.

There have been numerous newsletters and bulletins on how to correctly submit the membership forms, and still there is a high percentage of these forms being submitted incorrectly.

All checks sent to the Department must be made out to: AMVETS Ladies Aux. Depy. of MI. Mistakes made Require additional time to correct on D&R's and money received. Check and recheck your work and payment amount sent. Need help? Ask for it! We are here to help.

Local 1st Vice Officers, do you have membership questions? Email me at ghall0054@gmail.com Got questions on your submitted D&R's? Contact Secretary Nancy for updates and status of your forms. We want you to be comfortable and succeed in your office. Let us help you.

See my monthly bulletins submitted online by Webmaster Jennifer Zalony. Fall Conference is coming up in October. Attending will help you navigate Auxiliary business firsthand.

CHAPLAIN

By Doni Simon, Dept. Chaplain



Ladies, welcome to the Fall season! While Fall has not officially arrived, it will in a few days! This time of year is a time for reflection. Time to think about "What have I done to strengthen or support my local Auxiliary?" What have I done that supports our local Veterans? While I know many chapters have been busy this Summer, I still wonder are we meeting our members where they are at? Are we supporting one another and the mission of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary?

As your new Chaplain, I have some ideas about how to support your local members. First, if you know someone struggling with health or other issues, please email me so I might send them a card of support.

Secondly, are you aware of the Department Sunshine Fund? The Sunshine fund is the Department's way of offering additional support. If you know of someone suffering from medical issues, or other problems that could use an additional monetary gift such as a Meijer or Walmart gift card, please email me and let me know that person's information such as name, the issue they are dealing with and address etc. As your Department Chaplain, I have the ability to send them a gift card to help with things like food or gas to lighten their load.



It is an honor to be your Chaplain. Please reach out to me if I can help in any way. Looking forward to seeing you all at Fall Conference in October.

I am praying for All of Us Daily and sending you all God's Love and Grace.

**AMVETS AUXILIARY #57**

19730 Harper Ave.
Harper Woods, MI 48225

**PRESENTS****A SPECIAL STICK BINGO****FOR****"PAWS WITH A CAUSE"****SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16TH****1:30 - 3:30****PRIZES: GIFT CARDS, BASKETS OF GOODIES AND CASH****A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE****AMVETS AUXILIARY #57**

19730 Harper AVE
Harper Woods, MI 48225

**PRESENTS****A SPECIAL STICK BINGO FOR****PENRICKTON CENTER****SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST****1:30 - 3:30****PRIZES: GIFT CARDS, BASKETS OF GOODIES AND CASH****LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

By Kathy and Harriet Biela, Aux. #57



What a great Saturday afternoon we spent on July 19, 2025, celebrating the 100th birthday of a very special lady and longtime friend of ours - Rosemary Lucas!

For my AMVETS Auxiliary Sisters, Rosemary was an original Charter Member of our old Auxiliary #9, and was active over many, many years in everything from the Local, District & Dept. Levels! She is now a Life-time Member with Auxiliary #57.

Rosemary's family held a party for her 100th birthday. It was held at her Son & Daughter-in-Law's beautiful home, and we were so happy to be invited to help celebrate. Rosemary really looked FABULOUS!! It was wonderful to see her & celebrate this milestone with her. Rosemary officially turned 100 on July 20, 2025.



Here's a few pictures of Rosemary. I know many of our Aux, Ladies will enjoy seeing them. Happy 100th Birthday Rosemary and thanks for letting us share your celebration with you.



Harriet & Rosemary



THE BIRTHDAY GIRL!



Kathy, Harriet & Rosemary



CHILD WELFARE

By Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice President

Happy Fall y'all!



Have you had a chance to work on some back-to-school stuff? Are you looking forward to the fast approaching holidays?

This month I'd like to give you a brief description of one of our usually overlooked programs within Child Welfare. If you're a newer member, or maybe you may not be familiar with it. It's called Worchid (War-kid) and it serves children (under the age of 18) of veterans who are deceased while serving or after being discharged. Cause of death may be a service related injury or from natural causes.

The Worchid program is to promote and to ensure children of deceased veterans are NOT forgotten.

You may be able to contact an eligible WORCHID through your local Veteran's Affairs Office, District or State, or by word of mouth or locally through churches. After contact is made with a parent, let them know what you are able to offer and do for the child. If interest is shown, follow up with finding out what the child would like to do. Do not force your involvement if the family is not interested.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WORCHID PROJECTS

- Send birthday cards, small gifts or cards on holidays.
- Take a Worchid to the movies, circus, zoo, park, ball games, to lunch, etc.
- Include them in Post activities
- Be a friend, mentor, be an adopted mother, auntie or grandmother to a Worchid.

This is a valuable program not only giving to the child but possibly allowing the remaining parent a tiny bit of free down time.



NOTICE!!!

When you start filling out the mid-year reports at the end of October remember you need to use the updated forms or your reports will be disqualified. On the bottom of the Local Service Report Form AND the Project Evaluation Sheet the date must be **Rev. 5/2025.**

The updated forms will be on the website soon. I will also have copies at Fall Conference for members to take back to their local Auxiliaries. The Service Officers will probably be reminding you—constantly! This yearly revision was voted on a couple years ago at the Dept. Convention. Don't forget to verify you are using the correct form.

Grand Rapids Vets Home

By Leora Williamson Representative

One of the benefits to being a volunteer at the Vet's Home, is having the opportunity to go along on field trips, and visit places I had not been to before. For example, the Gilmore Car Museum (hundreds of automobiles), and Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Kingdom. They have animals there that I had never heard of, and the tallest giraffe I had ever seen. It is such fun to see the responses on the faces of the Vets.

(Another benefit is that volunteers don't have to pay entrance fees, and often lunch is provided.)

Several new volunteers are currently in training. I look forward to meeting them and share my experiences.



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPT. PARLIAMENTARIAN

By PDP Kathy Keizer, Parliamentarian

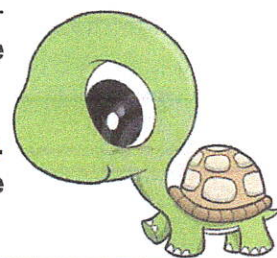
Greetings All! As summer winds down, I hope you have all gotten some rest and relaxation before the rush of Fall is upon you.

Just a friendly reminder: be sure you have the correct amounts for membership dues which need to be submitted listed in your bylaws OR standing rules.

PRESIDENTS!!! Be sure the newsletter articles are shared with your Officers so everyone has the most up to date information, especially membership, service officers and the Parliamentarian.

It would be great to see at least two (2) members from each local at Fall Conference in October. It is where you can learn a lot about how the Auxiliary works. Every year is a little different as to the classes provided. However, our Department Officers in attendance should be HAPPY to answer any question you may have about their office OR at least be able to direct you to the proper Officer.

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



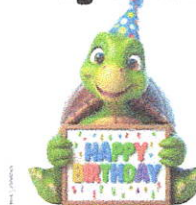
HOSPITAL REPORT

By Trisha Rosenburg, Hospital Officer

Reminder to all locals to send in the hospital assessment and report it on the mid-year report due November 5th.

Hospital VAVS Representatives remember to have your yearly joint review completed in September.

Judy Smith



August 21!!!

"STICK" BINGO

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st,
FROM 1:00 TO 3:00**

AMVETS POST 121, ST. CLAIR SHORES

Yes, it's BINGO, played with playing cards on a stick!! Each stick is only \$1. Buy as many or as few as you like. There will be (at least) five rounds of Bingo, with three games in each round. Sticks to be purchased at beginning of EACH round. Prize awarded to winner after each GAME.

IT'S A BLAST--FUN FOR EVERYONE! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

PRIZES CAN INCLUDE GIFT CARDS, LIQUOR, GIFT BASKETS, ETC.

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

All proceeds from Stick Bingo will go towards Americanism & S.O.S. Projects.

JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS



By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep.

Jacobetti Home for Veterans is filled with loads of activities for the Jacobetti members. The 20th Annual Fish Fry will be held, an anonymous donor supplies the freshest Lake Superior White Fish.

The Nathan Koski Memorial Classic Car show was a great hit along with the live Music by 41 West.



Jacobetti Members went fishing on Lake Superior and on Lake Independence. AMVETS and Auxiliary Post 122 hosted the Jacobetti member serving hot dogs and brats along with many delicious side dishes and of course several yummy desserts. Music was by Lois Westman and Bingo numbers were called out by Adeline and Jolene Solka. The weather was perfect for the outing to AMVETS Post 122. Auxiliary and AMVETS look forward to hosting the Jacobetti members at Post 122 later this month.

NEWS FROM THE P.R.O.

By Olivia Brown, PRO/Historian

Greetings everyone. I'm Olivia Brown, you're PRO for the next year for Madame President Pam Pearce. I am excited to share with you all of the adventures and events she attends throughout this year.

On July 30th, Madame President and I, along with her grandchildren Ezekiel and Zarielle, traveled a few hours up north to Post 114 in Elk Rapids to visit those who attended their annual Senior luncheon which is hosted by their Ladies Auxiliary and occurs during Elk Rapids Harbor Days. This year, they had over 50 seniors attend who enjoyed lunch and a few games of bingo.

On August 9th, a surprise retirement party was thrown for Madame President in which a few members of Ladies Auxiliary #23 and #126 showed their support and congratulations for Pam.

Madame President is now gearing up for National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina and I look forward to sharing all of her adventures from this year's trips.



Visiting Aux. #114 in Elk Rapids

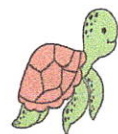
Pam's Retirement Party in Lowell



PDP Gloria Hall, PDP Faye Richardson-Green, PRO Olivia Brown, President Pam, PDP Kathy Keizer, PDP Nancy Middleton

NO SEPTEMBER ARTICLES

NEC
Scholarship
Honors & Awards
Treasurer
Personnel
Battle Creek VAVS
John Dingell VAVS
Aleda E Lutz VA
Ann Arbor VA
District V President





A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2025/26 DEPT. COMMANDER

As Commander of AMVETS, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Mr. Frank Torre Jr. and the team at PuroClean's PuroVet – known as the Paramedics of Property Damage – for their continued and steadfast support of our veterans.

PuroVet stands as a shining example of what it means to serve beyond the uniform. As a proud 5-Star VetFran member, they demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the veteran community through action, integrity, and care. Their dedication reflects the very values we hold dear in AMVETS: service, patriotism, and community support.

We thank Mr. Torre and PuroVet for standing with us, and for being champions for those who have served.

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

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

PENRICKTON UPDATE

By Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice President



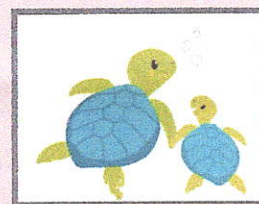
An FYI on the Penrickton tour, I'm currently looking at April either a Thursday or Saturday due to my dialysis schedule. If you have a preference, please send me a text, I admit I'm a bit better with it.

As always if you have questions feel free to give me a call, text or email.

Wendy Lynema
616-560-3666
bubblesaux126@yahoo.com



**THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT
MONTH'S NEWSLETTER
(October Issue):
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.**



Short Note from our 3rd Vice President!

By Allison Aldrich, 3rd Vice

I won't have anything new for the Newsletter until I get back from National Convention then I will set the date for the PAWS tour and have it on the web and write one for the Oct. newsletter.



DISTRICT II

By Linda Marshall, President



District II is still a District but we are changing our meetings to twice a year. Our first meeting will be September 7 at 1:00 p.m. in Port Hope.

Our Officers include the following:

President Linda Marshall
1st Vice President Wendy Chamberlain
2nd Vice President Wendy Chamberlain
3rd Vice President Shelley Hedlund
Secretary Karen Harman
Treasurer Barbara Kozlowski
Sgt. at Arms Cheryl Jurgess

We hope for a successful year.

SGT-AT-ARMS

By Christine Simon, Sgt.-at-Arms

Happy Fall—this is my favorite time of year. As I grow into this position, I am reminded that Fall is a time for reflection. A time when we should be thinking about what our Flag means and those who have sacrificed themselves to preserve and protect our way of living and all the Flag represents. Our Flag stands for Freedom, a gift provided by deep sacrifice and for some, the ultimate sacrifice.



As we gather at Homecomings, football games, bonfires, etc. it's my hope all of you will think about our Veterans who have given their all so that we might enjoy these gifts.

As Auxiliary members, there is much we can do to support Veterans as well as one another. Meeting everyone where they are at is a huge part of being supportive. Showing Respect to one another and our Flag is a great step towards promoting a sense of community and belonging to all our members.

It is my hope that all of you will continue to advocate for our Veterans and one another. I look forward to seeing you at Fall Conference in October.

Respectfully,
Sergeant at Arms, Christine

QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

I found something in an old 2012 newsletter (Yes, I've been doing this for a long time!)

It was a popular column which was only for fun. It was finally stopped when everyone wanted to read it FIRST—but they stopped sending in answers.

I really enjoyed it and I think everyone else will too. So send in your answer to the following question and then read some of the results in the following newsletter.



QUESTION

If you won \$50,000,000 on the Michigan Lottery, what's the first thing you would buy just for yourself?

Send your answer to me by email
nancmidd@gmail.com
no later than September 15th.

FALL CONFERENCE
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
4747 28TH ST. SE
GRAND RAPIDS MI
S.E.C.
10/17/2025
CONFERENCE
10/18-19/2025

Pre-registration forms on back page.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bert Lema, Long-Range Planning Committee Chair



After giving the committee most of the summer off, we are now getting ready to go back to work on behalf of all of our members. There are lots of issues we have been tasked with reviewing and will do our best to get to all of them.

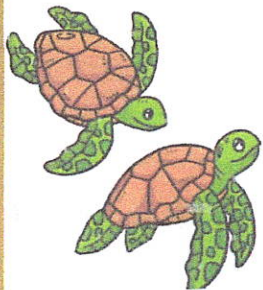
We strongly recommend that as many Local Officers as possible attend this year's Fall Conference to get the best possible overview of Department programs. Localized special training which focuses on needs specific to the Local Auxiliary is still on the table and will start later this year but having first attended Fall Conference will be a tremendous first step.

If you have suggestions for issues you would like our committee to tackle, please send them along to me.

lema81@wowway.com

586-214-1019

FALL CONFERENCE



By Trisha Rosenberg, Chairman

Fall Conference is upon us. Plan to attend October 18th and 19th at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Grand Rapids.

For reservations please call 616/957-0100. Reservation cut off date is October 3rd. The rate is \$114 per night.

The theme is understanding our duties and roles at the local level. Join in the fun and learning. The classes will be on Saturday and tentatively scheduled from 8am until 4pm.

Let the Department Officers help you with all the wonderful things you do for our Veterans, community and children.

WAYS & MEANS

by Patsy Watkins, Chairman

Here it is, the middle of August already as I am writing this article. Fall Conference is just around the corner.



There will be a Chinese Auction. If anyone has an item still in good shape which they would like to donate for this, please let me know what the item is either by calling me or sending me an email. This will make it easier and I will know ahead of time how many items there will be for the auction.

Also, there will be a silent auction. If anyone has a new item they would like to donate, please let me know ahead of time. Items for this auction Must Be New.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle as well. We will

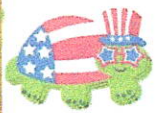
have a "Show Me the Money" game for Saturday evening. Please let me know by the 1st of October if you will be donating items for either auction—or for both. When you call (616/589-2728), please leave a message so I can get back with you. I am sure most everyone doesn't answer their phone if a name doesn't come up with it.

Everyone have a nice summer (what is left of it.) Be safe over Labor Day weekend as well.

AMERICANISM /S.O.S.

By Jennifer Zoleny Americanism Officer

AMERICANISM



National Convention, Aug 20th-24th, is right around the corner, make sure you are getting your list of schools together for September so you can distribute the updated 25/26 Americanism forms out to the children. You will have the poster, the essay and the flag coloring for the younger kids.

S.O.S.



I would like to have every Auxiliary keep in mind we do have our Department SOS project which is Camp Grayling USO. They are always in need of donations. We can keep the place full of snacks and goodies for our service men and woman when they get a chance to come in a relax or take a break in their day. This, along with whatever else the USO needs, helps to make sure our military have their needs taken care of.

I would also like to see support for the Honor Flight program which sends Veterans to Washington DC to visit the memorials which honor them. There will be more about this program later.

AMVET LODGE UPDATE

By Roberta Robinson, Aux. Rep.



Announcing the new AMVETS Lodge Chairman; PDC Leonard Hogan. Further information on the new committee to follow at a later date.

Take a look at the latest updates. Renovations have been completed for Cabin 7.

- ★ Kitchen: new vinyl flooring, hickory cabinets, gas stove, microwave, refrigerator, sink/faucet.
- ★ Bathroom: new vanity, sink/faucet, toilet, refurbished shower,
- ★ Living room: new sofa,
- ★ bedroom new full size bed
- ★ Plus a lot of other necessities to make it all come together including patching/painting throughout.

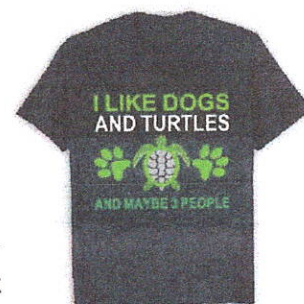


MEMBERSHIP FORMS and other stuff

By Nancy Middleton, Exec. Secretary

We are now going into our 2025/2026 membership year. Let's put on a positive attitude - "This will be a good year". A few things need to be pointed out to our local Membership Officers (1st Vices) to insure we are all working on the same page.

1. Type or print legibility on the D&Rs. Check the spelling (no more typos) before you send it to the Department, If the name/spelling is very unusual—include a note reiterating the spelling.
2. New Honorary members, deceased members, new life/renew to life members, name/address changes—all these have their own particular form which needs to be submitted—in many cases with the D&R. If not included, all paperwork will be returned.
3. This has been told dozens and dozens of times each year but some members do not believe us—all checks are to be made out to: AMVETS Aux. Dept of MI. If they are not—they will be returned.
4. Do NOT send renewals until you have been told when they will be accepted.



DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE 2025

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

AUXILIARY _____

The above listed person is pre-registered to attend the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Fall Conference on October 18/19, 2025 .

The event is held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 4747 28th St SE in Grand Rapids MI

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE—\$15 / ON SITE REGISTRATION—\$20

MAIL FORM AND REGISTRATION FEE POSTMARKED BY OCT. 5, 2025 TO:

CHECK BOX IF INTERESTED IN
A CLASS ON MEMBERSHIP

☐

Nancy Middleton, Exec. Secretary

1535 48th St SE

Kentwood MI 49508



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Kentwood MI 49508



There will be a special Membership class open to all 1st Vice Presidents and anyone who thinks they may like that position in the future. Please check the box on the Pre-Registration Form if you are interested. There will be a limited number of classroom books printed on this subject.