

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

October 2025—issue #4

U. S. O.

Understanding our Service Organization

by President Pamela Pearce

President
Pam
at Nat'l.
Convention
with her
new pin
Collection



20225/26 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

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

Happy October to all. I was able to go to the National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was well attended in my view. I attended the Americanism, Membership and Constitution & By-Law committee meetings. I also attended the Training "Talk and Tea / So You Want To Be a National Officer." I received so much great information. Kathy Keizer, our Parliamentarian, will have the By-laws changes in her newsletter article.

On Wednesday, we started at 8:30am going over much business with the National Officers, giving their reports. I acted as NEC as Pat Michalski fell ill on her way to the airport and decided it was best she did not fly.

On Thursday, it was the Honors and Awards Program, which had a beach theme. I was a part of Faye Richardson-Green's group for Americanism. A lot of great awards were given out. Friday was the first round of nominations. Our Allison Aldrich decided not to run for a National Office again. Faye ran again for Americanism and was chosen by affirmation.

Overall, it was very productive and I enjoyed seeing many people I had seen in the past. I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend and look forward to next year's Convention. I enjoyed trading pins from other States and plan to do it again next year.

Onto our Fall conference coming up: Please look at Trish's newsletter and hopefully you will see something beneficial for you and plan to attend. We have some important items to discuss at our SEC on Friday, and I plan to start it at 6:30 pm. Officers make sure you are in uniform.

I hope you had a great September and will have an equally great October as well. If you have questions, please email or call.



Blessings

Department of Michigan President
Pamela Pearce
upnorthpam1@gmail.com
231-357-6010

BREAKING

NEWS



National President Mary Lanphere is coming to visit us at Fall Conference. Please come and greet her.

She is terrific. You will love her!!!!

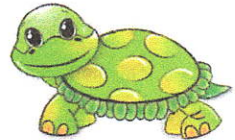
She is bringing a member of her local Auxiliary—Patty Cunningham with her.

Let's give them a big Michigan Welcome!



MEMBERSHIP

by Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President



Hello Ladies

The good news is that National will be receiving their membership card stock from their printers soon! The sad news is it's still a couple of weeks out before it trickles down to each State. Also, it has been told to everyone that membership renewals on D&R's are still not being accepted nor processed until we receive the membership cards. D&R's with both new and the renewed membership on the sheet are not processed. Nor should you expect them to be processed yet. Only D&R sheets with new membership are being processed. If you have included both new and renewed on the sheet, this has pushed your applications to the back of the line. Both will be processed at the same time when the timeline is open for renewal.

1st Vice's look at how you submitted your forms, and you will understand why your applications are not completed and returned to you promptly— then you will be able to convey to those inquiring about why they have not received their cards.



Hugs
Gloria Hall
Membership Officer

FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Pre-registration—\$15 postmarked by 10/5/2025
On Site Registration—\$20

REGISTRATION HOURS:
Friday 5:30pm to 6:15pm
Saturday 8:00am to 8:45am

President & Instructors are exempt from paying
registration—all others must pay.

ALL I CARE
about is



TURTLES

...and like maybe 3 people

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Bert Lema, Committee Chair

Welcome to Fall, everyone! Changing leaves and changing temperatures seems an appropriate time to introduce a changing approach for learning and sharing information with our members. Without going into specifics, please consider attending this year's Fall Conference.



In addition to the usual training sessions, the Long-Range Planning Committee, with President Pearce's permission, will be assessing a new process and attendees will be part of the process. It is an innovative idea, something we have not tried before, and we are hopeful it could usher our Department into the 21st century.

So, come, participate, and be part of the change. If you have questions or suggestions for our committee, contact me directly.

Bert Lema, Long-Range Planning Committee Chair

lema81@wowway.com

586-214-1019

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Allison Aldrich, 3rd Vice President

To let everyone know, the Department Official visit to PAWS With a Cause tour will be October 25th at 11:00am. They will be serving us lunch so I need a head count of who will be coming by October 18th at aka1jra1@tds.net Our National 3rd Vice Donna Tolland will also be there.



Report time is coming up. Remember you can claim any volunteer work or donations for Community Service. Please remember to use the new report forms which are dated May, 2025. Mid year reports must be post-marked by November 5th. If you have nothing to report write Nothing To Report on the form and send it to me by the deadline. They can be sent to me at 11560 Shaftsbury Rd.—Laingsburg MI 48848.

AMERICANISM

By Jennifer Zeloney, Americanism Officer

Make sure you are out there at your schools encouraging our young people to work on their projects, essays, posters and coloring projects for our Americanism awards that will be judged and picked in May 2026.



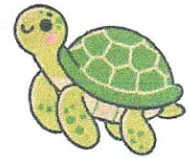
We have just celebrated National Day of Service 9/11/2001 we need to make sure that we are recognizing those who are in and those who did their time when we see them. We will have the Navy Birthday coming up in October 13th so look forward to that special day.



Also keep in mind of our Department project for Camp Grayling on making sure when our service members get some free time or liberty time they can go to the USO and have a breather, snack and goodies to relax and enjoy.



CHILD WELFARE



By Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice President

It's time to begin thinking about submitting your mid-year reports. Please make sure you are only submitting those projects having to do with children. Remember any projects having to do with "families" should be reported as Community Service. If you have nothing to report you must submit the form with "NOTHING TO REPORT" written across the form.

Please make your writing legible. Reports must be postmarked by November 5. If you have questions please give me a call or send a text, 616-560-3666.

Mail your reports to:

Wendy Lynema

3645 Portman Lane

Grand Rapids MI 49508

Report forms MUST have the Revision date of 5/2025

SOS PROJECT

Submitted by Jennifer Zelony

This past month, Post 1988 held their Honor Flight Golf outing. They were able to raise enough money to fly 4 Veterans to Washington DC for a 3 day event which provided them with a tour of our monuments with other Veterans. If you would like more information on this please reach out to me.



NOTICE!!!



When you start filling out the mid-year service 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 are on the website. 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 and throw away any sheets with the wrong date so you don't grab the wrong one in error.

There is a couple copies of each sheet with this newsletters sent to the local Presidents.

Grand Rapids Vets Home

By Leora Williamson Representative

Recently I wrote about the addition being constructed at the MVH-GR. That project is complete now and I was given a tour of those areas that are unlocked.

There is a large new office for the management with lots of room for files and the bank was relocated to the area.

On the shopping trips I noticed some of the residents purchasing laundry detergent and fabric softener. The new laundry room gives them a new feeling of independence.

Once a week there is an oil painting class. Members' work is often displayed in the lobby for all to see and enjoy.



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPT. PARLIAMENTARIAN

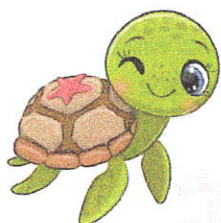
By PDP Kathy Keizer, Parliamentarian

Last month, a local member called and asked some questions about grievances. I inquired to the National Parliamentarian on two of them to be sure I was correct before giving out the following information.

First question: Can an Honorary member serve on the Grievance Committee? Answer: NO, they cannot serve as member of this committee.

Second question: When a member involved in a grievance has her membership suspended, can the Auxiliary take her card for the period of the suspension? Answer: YES, this is so the member on suspension cannot use it at other AMVET Posts during the suspension. NOTE: You should be sure your bar manager is notified of any suspensions and any members who do not renew their membership by December 31.

There were some approved changes and/or additions to the National Constitution, bylaws and manual at the National Convention. I will let you know what the changes are next month when they hopefully will be done on the National Auxiliary's website.



PRESIDENTS!!! Once again, I want to remind you to share the newsletter articles with your Officers. I hope to see a good turnout at our Fall Conference on October 18 in Grand Rapids at the DoubleTree Hotel. Check for more information included in this newsletter.

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

WINTER WEATHER REPORT!!

by Nancy Middleton & Patsy Watkins

I received an email from Patsy Watkins the other day. I don't know if I believe in 'old wives tales' but I did think this was interesting. Let's hope it is true!

This is what Patsy's email said:



According to the "woolly worm" it will be a very mild winter. Y'all are thinking I'm crazy but that is an old wife's tale and 95% true. The one I saw was a light yellow, no brown or black.

I don't know what a woolly worm is, but being optimistic, I cancelled my snowplow service! (Google says the darker the color of a woolly worm, the harder the winter). If I get snowed in—it is Patsy's fault!!

According to my neighbor, squirrels are already stockpiling acorns and chestnuts which indicates a hard winter. Maybe I better buy a new snow blower—just in case.

PS: I looked it up and a woolly worm looks more like a caterpillar to me.



HOSPITAL REPORT

By Trisha Rosenburg, Hospital Officer

Please help our hospital officers care for both the inpatient and homeless veterans who seek our support. Also plan events at the Local and District levels to support the VAVS and hospital representatives.

Reminder to all Locals to send in the hospital assessment and report it on the Mid-year report postmarked by Nov. 5th. Be sure to use the most recently updated forms dated revised May 2025.



Looking forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference. Thank you for all that you do!

JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS

By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep.

Jacobetti Home for Veterans is very fortunate to have many activities. A few of the highlights include:

- ★ Trips to the Marquette County Fair on Veteran Appreciation Day
- ★ Several lunch outings including AMVETS Post 122 and Bingo
- ★ The Members Carnival was fantastic with games, prizes and food.
- ★ Five of the Veterans fished with South Shore Fishing Association's Veterans Fishing Day - on a beautiful sunny day.



If you wish to donate to the Jacobetti, there is always a need for sweatpants with open cuff and draw-string Waist sizes S to XXL, Lounge Pants size M-XL, Pre- Shave (Electric Shave), Men's Deodorant (Non-Aerosol only), High Quality Disposable Razors (Gillette Fusion, Proglide or Mach 3, Body Wash (Old Spice, Irish Spring, Dove Men's)

You can also order from Amazon. Type in your search bar - <https://a.co/wByGuv4> this will bring you to Jacobetti's needs and wishes list and it will be sent directly to Jacobetti Home for Veterans

BATTLE CREEK VAMC

By Faye Richardson-Green, VAVS

Greetings All!

As many of you know, large numbers of federal employees are leaving their jobs this year. The Battle Creek VA has lost three of their five staff members. The two remaining staff provide volunteer services coverage for the Battle Creek location as well as the outpatient clinics in Benton Harbor, Lansing, Muskegon and Wyoming. The dependence on volunteers is even greater throughout the system. You are needed!

Volunteer Services needs volunteers in the following areas:

- ★ Ambassador/greeters - 2 per shift (8am-12pm or 12pm-4pm) all locations
- ★ Coffee room servers
- ★ Honor guard for Battle Creek and Wyoming (do not have to be veterans)
- ★ Volunteers who agree to regularly call homebound veterans are also appreciated.



PLEASE consider volunteering your time in one of these needed areas. I have been volunteering at the Battle Creek regularly (and Wyoming occasionally) for nearly ten years and love it! Many of the veterans I see tell me they live alone. Interacting with volunteers and staff at the VA helps so many of them.

If you are interested, please let me know by email. ladlib53@gmail.com

FROM THE TREASURER

By PDP Kathy Keizer



As we head into autumn, fundraising accelerates for our locals. Please be sure when you have a fundraiser that your Treasurer indicates on the finance report when it is designated for a service program (Child Welfare, Community Service, Americanism, Hospital, Scholarship or S.O.S.) or for Funeral luncheons, building expenses, etc. which do not go under any of the service programs.

If the funds are to be donated to a specific charity (ex: Penrickton or any local charity in your community) they should be earmarked as designated and noted under the service program. If you are having a dinner for Penrickton, there should be a line under Child Welfare for this charity. All funds raised **MUST BE** spent where you have advertised you were raising the monies for and cannot be used for anything else!!

EXAMPLE ON THE FINANCE REPORT:

Child Welfare program \$495.37

Penrickton \$236.50

Community Service \$377.49

Mel Trotter Ministries \$123.45

If you have any questions, you can email me at: katzr@gmail.com. My phone number to call or text is

NOTICE

I have noticed a couple articles are coming in which are written by AI. If you insist on using that form of article, please sit back and read it—slowly and out loud. For those of you who have been sending in articles for years, I can tell immediately who wrote it. Half of them don't even make sense and use words which you have never used before. Some of you insist you don't use AI but did you know the article has a little symbol identifying it as AI?

I can fix typos and misspelled words. I can't fix something I can't even figure out what you are talking about.

Nancy Middleton, Editor



Nat'l Convention 2025
American Honors &
Awards Program

Jason Raia (Founding
Forward), PDP Gloria
Hall, PNP Patti Pein-
ing, PNP Heidi Dineen
Serpis; Pres. Pamela
Pearce, NEC ??,
Nat'l Americanism &
PDP Faye Richardson
-Green



THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER (November Issue):

October 15, 2025.

PLEASE—if you can't get an article to me between Oct. 10 to Oct. 15, don't send it. I hate feeling guilty because articles are received after the deadline and I may not use them.

On average, each page takes at least 1 hour to prepare. Now add printing, folding, stuffing envelopes, labeling, going to the post office and you can see the time involved in the newsletters makes it a big project.

I send at least 2 reminders before the 15th. This month 3 were late anyway. Now I am running late.

Nancy Middleton



CHAPLAIN

BY Doni Simon, Chaplain

Greetings from the Department Chaplain. I am hoping each and everyone of you will be making plans to attend this year's Fall Conference on October 17th for SEC meeting and then October 18th for educational classes.

This is our bi-yearly opportunity to fellowship together; grow as an Auxiliary; and to share thoughts and ideas about how to improve our organization.

I look forward to meeting new faces at Fall Conference.



On a sad note, the Department would like to extend our deepest condolences to the following

Auxiliary Posts: Post 4064 for the loss of Jackie Bonkowski; Post 22 for the loss of Jean Toth; and Post 1988 for the loss of Karen Schaffer.

These ladies fulfilled their earthly duties. May they all Rest In Eternal Peace for a job well done! Respectfully,

Your Sister in Christ

Doni Simon

CONVENTION 2026

By Nancy Middleton

Last week, Faye Richardson-Green asked me if I wanted to go with her to check out the hotel where the convention will be held in June, 2025. Of course I did!

We were also joined by President Pam. All three of us were absolutely impressed with the hotel. Start making your plans. It is only 10 months away!!

Seriously, I am sure everyone will like the hotel. I was surprised to find our every single room has a small refrigerator, coffee maker and a microwave. That is so convenient. Good room prices also!

Faye will be the Convention Chairman so I am sure she will be putting a lot of 'stuff' in the newsletter and on the website.



The restaurant serves breakfast and dinner, but don't be worried about lunch. Faye and I drove left and right from the hotel for about 1-1/2 to 2 blocks and there are a gazillion restaurants, stores, gas stations. A list will be included closer to the time.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

I thought this would be a fun column with some funny responses. We used to have many responses and I had to pick out some of the funniest. OK so I was wrong.

We had one person respond (thank you Leora). With only her answer and mine, there was no reason to go back in history to try again.



The Question of the Month is now gone and buried for good.

FALL CONFERENCE 2025

By Trisha Rosenberg, Chairman

Fall Conference is October 18th and 19th at the DoubleTree 4747 28th St SE, Grand Rapids. For reservations please call 616 957-0100. The rate is \$114.00 plus tax per night. Plan on joining and learning.

The theme is understanding our duties and roles. The classes will be on Saturday and scheduled from 8 am until 4:30 pm with a joint session with both AMVETS and Sons of AMVETS.

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

Note:

the Tentative Agenda for the Fall Conference Saturday classes listed on page #10 of this newsletter and extra pre registration forms on page 11

ALEDA E LUTZ VA

We are doing fine at the Aleda E. Lutz, VAMC. The VA Center is connecting with the women Veteran by setting up a specialized Women Center. As September is Suicide Prevention Month, they are starting a training program for employees to help with this problem, as the most important way is to talk to a suicide victim and listen to what they have to say. As 12 alerts come in Saginaw, this is very important to everybody. If you know of anybody trying to commit suicide, please listen to what they have to say. The Aleda E. Lutz is making many advances in their Satellite Clinics from Saginaw to Mackinaw. Needs list includes:

Gas Cards, Visa Cards, cards for Meijer, Walmart, McDonalds, Subway or any fast-food place, sweat-pants, and sweatshirts, Canteen books, and hygiene products.

Packages can be sent and please mention Volunteer services on the donation. Send to:

Aleda E. Lutz, VAMC—1800 Weiss St = Saginaw, MI 48602



I sponsor a Bingo once a month for the in-patients. We really get a turn out as the patients appreciate getting out of their rooms. I will be sponsoring an Art Contest during the week of Veterans Day and a light luncheon. I had my Joint Review. I am proud to serve our Veterans at the Aleda E. Lutz, VAMC Let's all Salute our Veterans.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

By Christine Simons, Sgt-at-Arms

Ladies, I hope you enjoyed the Summer. For me it has been busy as I am also Sargent at Arms on the Local level. That being said, here is what I want you all to know.



Your work on the local level has produced amazing results! We all need to keep working hard to support our locals as well as Department.

Recently, I have been thinking about our Department Uniforms and what they stand for. The White for Purity. For many, purity, can stand for many things. For the Department, White stands for our pure desire to support our Veterans as well as Country, and to take each person where they are.

With the current confusion in the USA, it seems important that I should remind you of our mission. We support one another, our local Posts, and our mission. Our Veterans our are Mission, as well as our communities.

Drowned out the noise. Continue to work on local, as well as Department missions. Come to Conference so we can commune with one another. Wear your uniforms Loud and Proud! Looking forward to seeing all of you at Conference in October.



WAYS & MEANS

by Patsy Watkins, Chairman

Howdy everyone. Fall Conference is just around the corner. Hoping to see a lot of new faces for there.

Still looking for items for the Chinese auction. Also larger, new for our Silent Auction.

We will also be having a 50/50 raffle. On Saturday night there will be "Show me the money" card game. Some may know this game as stick bingo.

Look for a fund raiser calendar in January. Maybe one for April as well.

Please let me know no later than the 10th of October if you have items to donate.

Also please leave a message if you call. There aren't too many people who answer their phone if no name shows up. So please leave a message - 616-589-2728



FALL CONFERENCE CLASS TENTATIVE

Special class 8 am to 9 am in

Room #1 - 1st Vice/Membership with Kathy Keizer

MORNING SESSIONS START AT 9:00

9:00 am to 10:10 am

Room #1- Navigate Dept Website; Forms & Thumb drive/Jennifer Zelony

Room #2-Child Welfare & Community Service/Trisha Rosenberg

10:20 am to 11:20 am

Room #1- President & meeting protocol/ Kathy Keizer

Room #2- Americanism/Trisha Rosenberg

11:20 am to 1:00 pm LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSIONS START AT 1:00pm

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Room #1- Child Welfare & Community Service/Trisha Rosenberg

Room #2 - President & meeting protocol/ Kathy Keizer

2:10 pm to 3:10 pm

Room #1 - Americanism/Trisha Rosenberg

Room #2 - Navigate Dept Website; Forms & Thumb drive/Jennifer Zelony

3:20 pm to 3:50 pm

Wrap up with all instructors

4:00 pm –

USO Presentation - zoom call

4:30 pm

Joint session with AMVETS and SOA

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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Nancy Middleton, Exec. Secretary

1535 48th St SE

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.