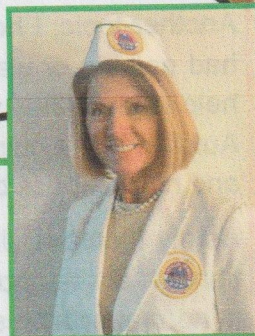


AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

November 2025—issue #5



20225/26 Dept. Officers

President Pamela Pearce

1st Vice Gloria Hall

2nd Vice Wendy Lynema

3rd Vice Allison Aldrich

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Sgt-at-Arms Christine Simon

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

Americanism Jennifer Zelony

Hospital Trisha Rosenberg

Scholarship Dian Hensley

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G.R. Home Rep Leora Williamson

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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

November is upon us. Summer flew by, and it is hard to believe you know what is around the corner..... burrrrr.

October was very busy. I attended the Perry Post Fall Fest on the 4th of October and had a great time. Thank you Allison for inviting me. The weather was beautiful and it was lots of fun for the children.

I attended the Founding Forward adult Americanism Conference. I had an amazing time and experience. I learned about the youth conference coming up in November. We were also given a tour in Philadelphia of a Medical Museum, the steps Rocky climbed in the movie, and the Eastern State Penitentiary. We toured all the buildings and spent time in the Honor Grove. We had a reenactment of Harriet Tubman as well. Thanks to Faye and Bob Green for allowing me to hitch a ride.



We had our Fall Conference Oct. 17-19. National President, Mary Lanphere was in attendance. Madam President attended our Friday evening SEC meeting. I so enjoyed getting to spend time with her and her travel companion Patty Cunningham. Our Fall Conference Chairman Trisha Rosenberg fell ill and had to go to the Hospital. Thank God she is ok - but this meant changing instructors and classes. I am so happy Faye Richardson-Green and Nancy Middleton stepped up and took over the classes Trisha was to teach, and the day went well. We had a lot of great discussions and learned a lot. Thank you, Kathy Keizer and Jen Zelony for also instructing.



I would also like to thank Roberta Robinson for getting Jessica Reid from the USO to give a wonderful presentation on the USO and USO Camp Grayling, which is my project. It was so informative. Over 16,000 men and women came through the USO camp in Grayling this past year and were able to receive items such as personal care, food and drinks.

Continued on page #2

Continued from page #1

President's November Newsletter Article

Another topic: I hope to have great reports on our mid-year reports, which will be due. I hope those who had nothing or were unsure, send in the cover sheet stating "NOTHING TO REPORT" so we can either help them or they will be ready for the year-end report. Remembering how vital it is to report the work your Auxiliaries are doing is crucial. Our evaluations, with all the other States' Auxiliary reports, go to Congress and help us pass bills and get more for our veterans.

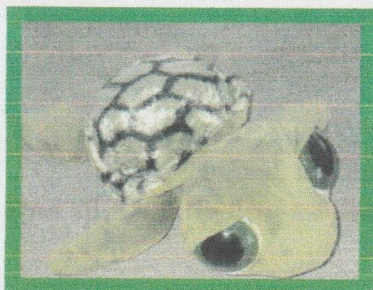
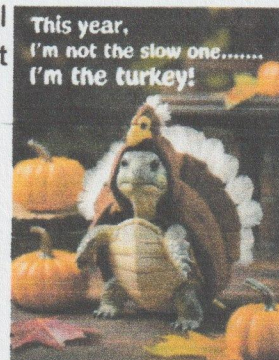
As my theme is USO. Understanding our Service Organizations, it is imperative to record. Go to our National Website and see who, what, and why we record. You see Turtles throughout my theme as well; that is no matter how slow a turtle may seem, the turtle pursues and makes it to the finish. Ask questions, I never stop, just ask PDPs. They are a wealth of knowledge and share with me all they know. There is never a dumb question, but if there is no question, we cannot help.

Hope you all had a great Halloween, Next comes Thanksgiving!

Blessings

Department of Michigan President

Pamela Pearce



I would like to introduce you to SHELLY. She is a gift from my PRO (daughter Olivia).

Shelly will now be traveling with me.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Allison Aldrich. 3rd Vice President



I just attended Fall Conference in Grand Rapids. The classes this year were full of information. My favorite classes were navigating the website and reporting. With that, report time will be here soon. The mid-year reports must be postmarked by November 5th and sent to me at 11560 Shaftsbury Rd. Laingsburg MI 48848.

If you have nothing to report, still send in the cover sheet and write nothing to report at this time. Also be sure and use the updated forms on the bottom it should say updated 2025 if you do not use this updated form you will be disqualified and I don't want to see that happen. You can find the new forms on the website which is www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org. We also had the honor of our National President Mary Lamphere at the Fall Conference. The Paws With A Cause tour has already taken place and I'll report on it in the next newsletter.

Dept. MI 3rd Vice
Allison Aldrich

AMERICANISM

By Jennifer Zeloney, Americanism/SOS Officer

AMERICANISM

I just returned from the National Auxiliary Americanism Conference at Founding Forward in Valley Forge PA. This event takes place every 2 years and is a weekend of an interesting history of our country. It is not just for Auxiliary members. Please pass this along to our AMVETS and Sons of AMVETS.

It was mind blowing what a great place we can send our 9th grade winners of the National Americanism Essay contest. We send youths to learn of the past and help make future leaders of our country by becoming hard working, respectful citizens to our country.

If anyone has any question about the Americanism conference, please reach out.



S. O. S.

For those who didn't get to Fall Conference, we had a 1 on 1 Zoom call with a Rep from the Camp Grayling USO who went over what their mission is. We should give whatever we can back to those who are in service and what they do for us. In the past we bought bath shoes to take into the showers, drinks and snacks they have while in the USO to relax or just enjoy some down time. Please reach out if you have any questions on what they do. Hopefully you understand why this is important and why we want to donate and give back to the USO.

In the mean time you need to be getting reports in postmarked by Nov 5th. If you look for things to do with the holiday's around the corner, consider making care packages for those on active duty. Or, think about helping Camp Grayling USO with a donation through the Dept. Auxiliary to help supply needed items.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMANDER

Fellow AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS, AMVET Riders, Veterans, Families, and Friends,

On this Veterans Day, we pause to honor the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation. Their courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty have preserved the freedoms we enjoy every day. From the battlefields of the past to the missions of today, our veterans have stood as guardians of liberty and defenders of peace.

Let us also recognize the families who stand behind our heroes, their strength and support are an inseparable part of our nation's story.

As AMVETS, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve veterans and our communities. Let this day renew our commitment to one another, to never forget those who served, and to ensure every veteran is treated with dignity, respect, and gratitude.

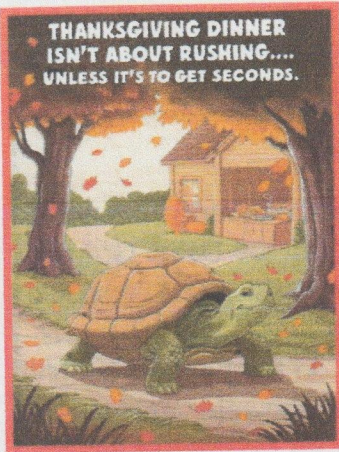
May we honor their service not only with our words, but through our actions—today and every day.

Yours in Service,

Nat Pulizzi

Commander, AMVETS





CHAPLAIN

By Doni Simon, Department Chaplain

Greetings Ladies. Another successful Conference was had by all who attended. Sadly, our numbers were dismal at best. As your new Chaplain, I was disappointed that I did not get to meet very many of you. Remember, your presence at Conference and Convention provide you with the opportunity to add your voice to decisions your Department/SEC make, including changes to the State Bylaws etc. We have a change in venue coming for Spring Convention that I hope will get more of you excited about attending. We will be heading to Mt. Pleasant, a town filled with awesome eatery's, shops, etc. The hotel will also be an upgrade with microwaves, small refrigerators, and coffee pots in every room. The other awesome point, the rooms will be cheaper! Make your reservations early and plan to attend!

On a more Chaplain-like note, I would like to remind everyone that we have Sunshine funds available for those in need. Also, drop me a note or email if anyone at your local Post is having health or other issues that I might send them a 'Thinking of You' card.

As the holidays are approaching, please remember to take everyone where they are at. Not everyone enjoys or finds the holiday season pleasant. For many, the holidays are a time of depression and/or tremendous stress. Be respectful of family members and friends who may not exhibit the "holiday spirit". Likewise, please reach out to those who may be alone due to a loss of spouse or for other reasons and let them know you are thinking of them. Be particularly mindful of our Veterans who may need additional resources to "get through" the holiday season; as well as the Winter.

Wishing each and everyone of you a Joyous and Happy Holiday Season.

Respectfully,

Doni Simon Department Chaplain



FALL CONFERENCE



By Trisha Rosenburg, Chairman

I want to thank Nancy Middleton and Faye Richardson-Green for stepping in to cover the Service Officer and reporting classes due to an medical emergency I had—which I am still recovering.

Although the numbers weren't as large as we hoped, we received some verbal feedback that was very positive on this year's Conference.

I don't know the financial results, but Ways & Means had lots of engagement with Auxiliary attendees and some with AMVETS.

(for results, see Ways & Means Chairmans article)

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPT. PARLIAMENTARIAN

By PDP Kathy Keizer, Parliamentarian

I just checked the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary website and the changes approved at the 2025 National Convention have been made to the following: National Constitution, National Bylaws, National Standing Rules and the National Manual. The changes to the Revalidation forms HAVE NOT been made as of the writing of this article (10/21/25).

Local Parliamentarians, please be sure to print a copy of each of the above publications which include the revision date of 9/1/2025.

I will have a list of the changes only put on our Department website by the end of the week.

As an instructor at Fall Conference, I was a little disappointed in the attendance. It is so important for at least one (1) member from each local who is NOT a Department officer to attend this event. There was lots of good information at the classes which all locals need to have. Please consider attending the Department functions as they are a great learning tool for all!

Lastly, I wanted to let ALL members know they are welcome to attend ALL SEC meetings – Fall, Spring, Pre and Post Convention. You have a voice at the meeting but do not have a vote. We welcome input from all!

If you have any questions or concerns, you can 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.



Happy Thanksgiving

It's Coming!

Convention 2026

NEW LOCATION

Mount Pleasant, MI!!



Mark your calendars for:

June 18, 2026 Pre-Convention Meetings & SEC

June 19 - 21 Business Meetings, Nominations, Elections

Planning has begun.

Excitement is building.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

**Faye Richardson-Green
2026 Convention Chair**



JACOBETTI HOME FOR VETERANS

By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep.



DJ Jacobetti Home, CT, and Grand Rapids Home are all ranked in the top 5% of nursing homes in the State of MI, based on long-term care survey data.

Jacobetti was recently listed in Newsweek as one of the 2026 Best Nursing Homes in America.

AMVETS Auxiliary along with Ishpeming American Legion Auxiliary sponsored the October 13 afternoon Bingo and because Marquette County Schools were not in session - many youth visited with members and helped them with their Bingo Cards —EVERYONE young and old were winners. In celebration of the October Birthdays, we all enjoyed cake.

Unfortunately COVID has affected one wing and several Activity employees - with the help of volunteers the day time activities have continued however many of the evening activities have been suspended.

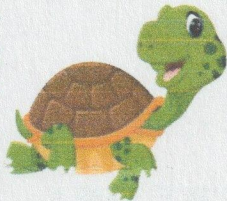
In the past month the Jacobetti members have enjoyed Big Buck Bingo, Ice Cream Social, Sock Hop, Lunch Outings, and Pre Game football parties.



HOSPITAL REPORT

By Trisha Rosenberg, Hospital Officer

Let's have a great year with all Auxiliaries submitting both a mid-year and final report. Please be sure to use the updated form dated May 2025 and if you have nothing to report, than a report (1st page only) needs to be submitted. Hospital assessment is minimally an item each Auxiliary should submit. Mid-year is due postmarked or emailed by Nov. 5th and final reports by May 5th.



Please continue to do the great work you do for our veterans and plan projects to support our inpatient veterans at the local level. Stay blessed and make a veteran smile.

WAYS & MEANS

What a Great Fall Conference!! I hope you all enjoyed it and learned a lot from all the classes.

Thanks to all who donated items for both the Silent Auction and the Chinese Auction. Ways & Means made a profit of \$976.60.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Convention in June.

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



**THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER (December Issue):
November 15, 2025**

Please email it to me and put December news in the subject.

**THINKING AHEAD!
SPRING SEC WILL BE HELD AT POST 4064 IN PERRY, MI
MARK YOUR CALENDAR: FEB. 7th 2026**

**THINKING FARTHER AHEAD!
DEPT. CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN MOUNT PLEASANT MI
MARK YOUR CALENDAR: June 18-19-20, 2026**

SPECIAL NOTICE TO PAST PRESIDENTS



This is #6 of the Department PRO's instructions: The Department has a historical file which contains two pages, along with a 5 X 7 glossy photo of each Past Department President. The first page is a list of Officers and their projects. The second page is a brief description of the President's year. This is to be updated by the Publicity Officer/Historian.

This book contains write-ups and pictures going back to 1947 and continues on every year until 2016. This is a wonderful record of our Auxiliary and hopefully the President will have the book at Convention this next year. Everyone would probably love seeing it.

You're now wondering what happened in 2016 – NOTHING! There's no record of our Department Presidents since Faye Richardson-Green in 2015-2016. What a shame!!!! We are asking the following 8 Past Presidents to PLEASE make a couple pages for this History Book. List your Officers – find a picture. Do the best you can

1. Seletha Robertson 2016/2017
2. Wendy Lynema 2017/2018
3. Kathryn Schultz 2018/2019
4. Bertha Lema 2019/2020 and 2020/2021
5. Cel Rose Solak 2021/2022
6. Kathy Keizer 2022/2023
7. Patricia Michalski 2023/2024
8. Gloria Hall 2024/2025

Our Current President Pam Pearce is already working on her submission. We really need the above 8 Presidents to help restore this priceless book. When you get your pages done, please send them to President Pam Pearce. We will report next month on the results of our request.

SGT-AT-ARMS

Christine Simon, Dept. Sgt-at-Arms

Hoping this newsletter finds all of you well. As of this writing, I can say that I survived Fall Conference. There were some hiccups along the way. I want to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all who offered reassurance and support! As a Newbie, there is a lot to learn. I will continue to improve in my role for Department as time goes by!

With the Holiday season fast approaching, I want to remind everyone to be mindful of those who may need additional support to manage the stress and, for many, the depression that is associated with the holidays. A simple phone call or text can go a long way towards letting a person know that they are not alone.

In these trying times, please remember what our Flag and Our Constitution stand for. Remember our Veterans and their families and the sacrifices they have made to defend and uphold our freedoms. Support the Women and Men who are on Active Duty and remember not all of them will be able to be with their loved ones during the holiday season. Support your local communities by donating time, or food to a local food bank or homeless shelter. Such acts promote the goals and mission of our Ladies Auxiliary.

I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season.

SECRETARY'S NOTE

Nancy Middleton

The National pre-printed cards, rosters and blank cards finally arrived. I'm now up-to-date with the Membership D&Rs I have received in the past few months!

With preparing for Fall Conference, 8 evenings of Texas Holdem's (9pm to 2:30am), many membership D&Rs and only 7 days in a week—something had to come in last on my list. It happened to be the newsletter.

But now (as you can see) that task is complete.

Thanks for your patience.



LONG RANGE PLANNING

Bert Lema, Long-Range Planning Committee Chair

I opted to attend the wedding of a wonderful friend instead of Fall Conference weekend and have to admit I had a lot of fun but missed all of you. However, I have received updates from committee members and others who were there, and it sounds like training was well received by attendees.

For everyone who missed it, Andrea Williamson recorded the training sessions and is in the process of editing them now for posting on the Department website (www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org) sometime soon. After we have had an opportunity for testing, I will notify Local Presidents of the availability to share with their members. We are hopeful Local Officers and members will take the opportunity to sit through the training sessions from the comfort of their own homes at their convenience.

Future plans include recording training on different topics so the Local Auxiliaries can tune in at their meetings or whenever they have the opportunity to do so. We will be tracking usage so the more you use the online training feature, the more training options will become available. Our goal is to bring training and information to those who are unable to attend in-person conferences. We also know training, convention, newsletter, and bulletin messages do not always get shared or read by those who need to see them. This change may help improve essential information sharing.

Your questions and suggestions are always appreciated. Send them directly to me. Leave a message and I will contact you as soon as possible.

lema81@wowway.com
586-214-1019

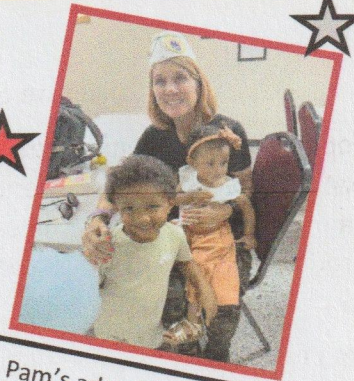
PICTURE GALLERY



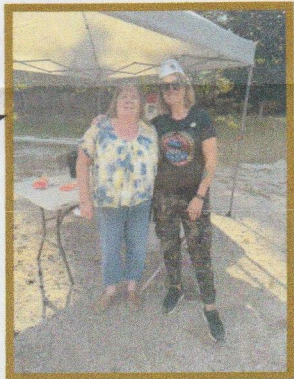
Fall Fest—Auxiliary #4064



Playing kid's games



Pres. Pam's adorable grandkids!



Allison Aldrich & Pres. Pam



Fall Conf. / joint opening



THE PRESIDENTS!



National President Mary



Nat'l Convention H&A—Americanism



Fall Conference training



Gaveliere's Lunch

November
newsletter
2025

