

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

February, 2026—issue #7



U. our S. O.

Understanding our Service Organization

by President Pamela Pearce

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 Valentines Day to everyone. When this newsletter comes out, our Spring SEC may have taken place. One thing that was ratified through a poll vote and passed was the appointment of Norm Zelony as administrator of our Website. The gentleman who was doing this passed away. We needed to do something. The gentleman over the AMVETS website did not want to add more to his life and declined, but highly recommended Norm. I am excited and look forward to great changes. I know it will be more user-friendly. Thanks Norm, for taking us on.

I am experiencing an issue which has surprised me. I have a few Officers who are not answering emails. When you took the office, checking and answering emails were part of your job. I have been made aware that some of these same Officers are not answering the poll votes which have been sent out. Again, this newsletter has to be written in Jan. before our SEC. I will bring this up in the next newsletter and hopefully have answers to "why".

I have many PDP's on speed dial. They have been instrumental to me, and thank you is not enough. You have brought to my attention things I might have overlooked. You all have so much knowledge and freely share it. I never want to take what you give me for granted and am forever grateful.

Make sure all local officers are installed by April 30th, and Revalidations are postmarked by May 5th .

Also, please put on your calendars our Dept. Convention. It is June 18th-21st . Rooms are at a great rate of \$99 per night. We are in Mt. Pleasant. I hope to see many new faces this year. Thank you for the work all our locals are doing. We are excited to showcase your work at our Convention.

Blessings
Pamela Pearce
Department of Michigan President
upnorthpam1@gmail.com





MEMBERSHIP



By PDP Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President

Happy New Year!! At this time, all local 1st Vices have received a Department copy of her local's Membership Roster. Her job will be to review and confirm the count with the Department for accuracy.

I would say with the distraction of the holidays some members have missed the December 31st deadline for renewal. Ladies make it your New Year's point to update your membership status to current. The Department's count on the roster is as of a December 31st deadline. Thank you to all who renewed and you should have received your cards.

Remember, all Life Membership assessments were also due by Dec 31st 2025. Department processing cannot be completed until all local Life dues are received. This causes delays in receiving your local cards, a new member status change, from renewed to new, with an added increase in your dues.

A huge tip to 1st Vices is to not wait until you have several applications or renewals to submit all at once. Submit your D&Rs as you receive applications or renewals. Your membership ladies will appreciate the uncomplicated and fast turnaround.

Good luck to all for a prosperous year and with all you do in service to our veterans. A special shout out to all VAVS Representative and their Deputies for all you do at VA Hospitals and VA Homes. Thank you!

Lastly, I want to add A HUGE welcome back to the AMVETS Family to our sisters at the New Haven Post 72! Whoop-whoop.

I will have a contest for membership which I will submit in February at our SEC meeting in Perry Michigan. I will use all rosters to verify winners. Look at future articles to see if your name or Auxiliary was selected.

The following is our website amvetsauxdeptmi.org. Give to anyone inquiring about becoming or needing up-to-date Auxiliary information.

Hugs
Gloria Hall, PDP
Department 1st Vice President
ghall0054@gmail.com

*Happy
Valentine's Day*

NOTICE TO ALL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

You are all required to write a bulletin or report for the Convention Digest. Let the locals know what you are doing for Convention (reports/contests/raffles/promote programs/etc.) There is NO newsletter in March—the Convention Digest takes the place of the newsletter. Again: deadline 3/1/2026

**THE DEADLINE
for the
MARCH
CONVENTION DIGEST
is March 1, 2026**

SAVE THE DATE!!

DEPT. PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONIAL

Saturday, April 25, 2026

3pm to 6pm

AMVETS Post #23

98 52nd St.

Kentwood MI

PRO REPORTING

Olivia Brown, PRO/Historian



I hope everyone had a wonderful year and 2026 brings you happiness, health, and prosperity. Madame President Pam has attended numerous meetings and events throughout the year, many of which I've had the pleasure of documenting. I'm currently preparing her scrapbook and would love to include as many memories as possible. If anyone has additional photos of Madame President Pam so far from this 2025/2026 year, please send them my way. These will help make her scrapbook truly special for the 2026 National Convention.

I also want to share Madame President's Testimonial is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, 2026, at her home Post #23. A testimonial serves as a public tribute to honor someone's dedication and accomplishments. Madame President Pam has shown great commitment to making her Presidential year meaningful and being actively present at every opportunity.



Please mark your calendar. Your attendance would mean so much to her. Let's join together to celebrate and show our appreciation for her outstanding service and leadership! Watch the newsletter and website for more information as it becomes available.

Warm Regards,
Olivia Brown
2025-2026 PRO

CHILD WELFARE

By Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice President



As I write this, it's a blustery 51 degrees out!! I can hardly wait for warmer weather.

I've spoken with Pat Obrzut at Penrickton Center for Blind Children located in Taylor, MI. We've set up a tour for Thursday, March 26 at 11:30am. It's a half day for the kids and it's my understanding they'll be there between 12:00 and 12:30. The tour will take between 1 and 1-1/2 hours, depending on questions etc.

If you haven't been there before, you will find it worth your time to attend.

For those interested, lunch can be obtained at one or more of the local restaurants. If you let me know if you're interested in lunch, I'll try to find some choices that are nearby. I have invited our National Second Vice Deb Gass but I don't expect to hear from her for a bit. If you plan on attending please let me know (and if you'll be bringing any guests) by Thursday March 12 so I can have a count of probable attendees.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Allison Aldrich, 3rd Vice President



THINK SPRING!!

Hopefully it will be here before we know it.

As we start the new year, try to come up with new projects to benefit Paws With a Cause and other Community Service programs. Make sure you keep track of your volunteers, hours, miles, refreshments, used/new material and your cash donations. Add your totals at the bottom and put on the service report form. Make sure it is postmarked or e-mailed by May 5th. Make sure that the community service projects you do benefit adults, children and the community.

March is PAWS WITH A CAUSE MONTH

Try to do a special project for PAWS this month or send a cash donation thru the Department.

Happy Valentine's Day!

HOSPITAL NEWS

By Trisha Rosenberg, Hospital Officer

Local Hospital Officers - Now is the time to submit a letter to the Department Hospital Officer requesting earned pins and bars for your volunteers no later than March 1st. The letter must be signed by the Local President or Commander and the Local Hospital Officer. The letter needs to include the hospital being served, the volunteers name and total number of volunteered hours.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans. Please continue to hold events and/or projects to support our veterans in our VA hospitals and those needing help or are homeless.



AMERICANISM/S.O.S.

Jennifer Zelony Americanism/SOS Officer

As this year is going by, we have had many service Birthday's to celebrate. We just completed Pearl Harbor. This year is going fast. With that being said, make sure you are doing what you can to support the USO Camp Grayling and make sure they have everything they need for our service members who are based there.



Also make sure you are going to your area schools and talking about our Americanism Poster and Essay contest for all grades. The contest needs to be returned the Department By April 1st, 2026. Time is ticking away for this great opportunity for our youth.

I know some of your Auxiliaries probably just finished with holiday gift stockings or gift boxes for those overseas. Keep thinking of what you can still do to show you care. Maybe sending Veterans to Washington DC (Mid-Michigan honor Flight). Make sure you have a good relief fund at your Auxiliary for those Veterans who come in for needs that cost.

Keep up the great work from each Auxiliary who work so hard.

FUNNY VALENTINE QUOTES



My girlfriend said she wanted a fairy tale relationship. So I left her in the forest with a loaf of bread.

I heard a joke about chocolate candy bars. It wasn't very funny. But I still Snickered.

Why do melons get married in church? Because they cantaloupe.

"Love is spending the rest of your life with someone who you want to kill, but you don't because you'd miss them too much."

"I love you with all my butt. I would say heart, but my butt is bigger."

"I'm going to spend Valentine's Day with my true love... food."

For Valentine's Day I asked Cupid for a million dollars. Cupid said, "Get real." So, I responded with, "OK, I want a boyfriend." To which Cupid replied, "Cash or check?"



2026 Department Convention Info We Are Planning To See You!!!

PDP Faye Richardson-Green, Aux. Convention Chairman



I am excited to be a part of the planning for our Department Convention this year. I have already participated in meetings with our Department Commander Nat Pulizzi, Ladies Auxiliary President Pam Pearce, SOA Commander Don Torr and others working to create a fun and educational experience for all convention attendees.

PLEASE HOLD the following dates: June 19, 20, 21, 2026. Our Convention will be held in Mt Pleasant MI at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel on the Central Michigan Campus. Additional Details will follow online and in the Convention Digest.



WEBSITE UPDATES

By Webmaster Jennifer Zelony



- ♦ The main page of the Website is where the next important meetings or event information is going on.
- ♦ All the photos I have received have been posted.
- ♦ There is currently no events from a Post uploaded because nothing was sent to put on the website/ Remember: if you have an event going on at your Post, send it to the Webmaster so it will be on our website. Let the whole State know what you have going on so we can see about supporting more than just our own Post.
- ♦ Please remember even though the schedule says you just need to send a news bulletin, you can also send a news article to the Secretary. We also post the newsletter on the website under Bulletins.
- ♦ Make sure you are sending in your website bulletins/newsletter articles when they are due.
- ♦ In 2026, we look forward to something new which will be out in February's New article. It is our Department of MI Auxiliary Face Book page. This way we can get out information in more than just the website and new letter for those who use Face Book. The more you send to the Webmaster, the more it will get out in more forms of social media so we can to show everyone what we have going on and what we do.
- ♦ As you look thru the AMVETS Auxiliary website there is a couple changes you will see. The Archive tab is gone and it's now the Local's Officers page which holds all the instructions for all positions at post level. There is also a list of all our local President's and locations. If you see anyone missing, or has changed, please send me the information so I can keep this updated. That information is now under it's own tab.



DEPT. SGT-AT-ARMS

By Christine Simon, Department SGT at Arms

As the Winter is finally winding down, I want to speak a little about etiquette with regards to the American flags many households have been flying.

Winter can be especially hard on outside American flags. If you notice that your flag is becoming tattered/ torn, it is time to replace it. Disposal of flags is very important and should be accomplished by retrieving and carefully folding the flag. It can then be taken to any AMVET, VFW, or American Legion Post that has a bin for holding flags.

Many AMVET/VFW/Legion Posts hold a special Flag burning ceremony on June 14th (Flag Day) and will properly dispose of flags they have received. If you have any questions or concerns about proper Flag disposal, feel free to reach out to myself or your local Auxiliary SGT at Arms for additional assistance.

Happy Almost Spring

KNOCK, KNOCK WHO'S THERE?



Kenya who? Kenya be my Valentine?

Dough who? Dough you wish it was Valentine's Day?

Love who? Aw, love you too.

Teddy who? Teddy is Valentine's Day.

Butter who? Butter together than apart.

Anita who? Anita tell you I love you.

Peas who? Peas be mine.

Mustache who? I mustache you to be mine.

Beak who? Beak careful with my heart.

DEADLINE FACT

By Nancy Middleton, Secretary

For some of you who do not understand the meaning of the word

- Day? "I love you from my head to ma-toes."

here is the dictionary explanation:



★ Limit

★ Target

★ Time limit

★ Closing date

★ Cutoff date

DEPT. TREASURER

By PDP Kathy Keizer, Treasurer



It is the time of year when locals are finishing up fundraisers and start to think about sending in donations to the Department and National service programs. Do not send funds for charities which do not go to our Department OR National programs. They will be returned so you can send the donation directly to the charity.

ALL donation checks need to be made out to: AMVETS Ladies Aux Dept of MI and mailed to Nancy Middleton with the donation sheet which will be included in the March Convention Digest. You can write one (1) check for the total of all the donations but be sure the donation page has been included and you make a copy of it for your financial records.

All donations need to be postmarked NO LATER THAN May 5. If donations are mailed after that date, they will be marked 'late'. Donors rules for Honors and Awards clearly specifies all donations must be postmarked by May 5th to be eligible for awards at Convention.

Donations mailed late may be returned to the local.

CONVENTION DIGEST

The annual Convention Digest will be mailed out in March to each local President and those who subscribed to it with the upgraded additional cost to the monthly newsletter. It will contain:

- ◆ Each Auxiliary Officer is required to submit an article,
- ◆ Complete information about the June convention hotel information, price, tentative agenda, registration form,
- ◆ Donation sheet
- ◆ 2026-2027 Revalidation Form
- ◆ Announced candidates for offices
- ◆ Lots of other 'stuff'



LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

by PDP Bert Lema, Committee Chairman

Just an update as to where we are now and where we plan on going:

- ⇒ One of our members, Andrea Williamson, recorded training sessions at Fall Conference. Our intention was to share the recording with all of you to allow those unable to attend to obtain the same information. Unfortunately, it didn't go quite as planned. Background noise rendered the video very difficult to understand. Instead, Andrea took the information from one segment and turned it into a training presentation. This step took quite a bit of time. The committee has reviewed it and made several change recommendations. When complete, the presentation will be posted on the website with notification of its availability sent to Local Auxiliaries.
- ⇒ What's next? We will be recording another training presentation on a different subject and posting it to the website for everyone to access. Online training opportunities will allow us to get the message out quicker and in a simpler format to everyone who is interested. We would like to cover a subject which the majority are interested in viewing so any ideas you have should be sent to me. My contact information is noted below.
- ⇒ Website usage will be tracked so we can get an idea of how many ladies are actually using the training site. You will have an opportunity within the program to provide the committee with positive or negative feedback. We want your honest assessment as to its usefulness. Your questions and suggestions are always appreciated. Send them directly to me. Leave a message and I will contact you as soon as possible.

Bert Lema, Long-Range Planning Committee Chair
lema81@wowway.com
586-214-1019

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPT. PARLIAMENTARIAN

by PDP Kathy Keizer, Parliamentarian

Attention Local Presidents:

If you have an Officer/Officers who did not renew their dues, you need to replace her/them immediately and send a "REVISED" Re-validation form.

You should write the word "REVISED" at the top of the form and fill in the first section under the Officers section. You only need to fill in the names and contact info of those who have replaced an Officer. Those who remain the same, do not have to be included. Be sure to sign the back. Send the "REVISED" form as soon as possible to our Executive Secretary:

Nancy Middleton at: 1535 48th St SE Kentwood MI 49508.

JUST SILLY STUFF



Can February march? No, but April may!

I was wondering why my feet got cold. Then I remembered—you knocked my socks off!

What did one pig say to the other?
"Don't go bacon my heart!"

What did one light bulb say to the other?
"I love you watts and watts."

What did the pasta say to the tomato?
"I love it when you get saucy."



What did one tomato say to the other on Valentine's Day?
"I love you from my head to-ma-toes."