

# AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

## Department of Michigan

May 2026—issue #11



### Understanding our Service Organization

**Department President Pam Pearce**



We are so very close to our convention. I am preparing the daily agenda and fine-tuning everything. I hope you are gearing up for a great 2026 convention. You should have received the Convention Digest from Nancy Middleton. I hope you are all going through it to see all the changes for this year.

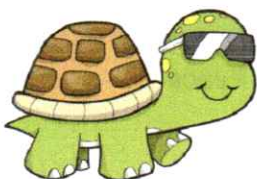
I had the opportunity to visit Aux. 52 recently, and they all seemed very excited that the Convention will be in Mt. Pleasant, closer for them to travel. I hope to see them there. Please mark your calendars for June 18-21.

As you can see in our last newsletter, our Exec. Secretary posted some very important dates on the front page to pay attention to. I hope the elections went well and you are all set for the upcoming year. Also, reports are so vital, and I see the work many of our Aux. are doing, yet they do not report. It is not hard, and the Officers are there to help with any questions you may have about doing them.

As the Penrickton visit was rescheduled for May 7th. I hope to see you there. They do such important work. Please mark your calendar for 11:30 in Taylor, MI.

Do not let June 7th slip by without pre-registering for our upcoming Convention in Mt. Pleasant, MI. I would love to see some new faces and some returnees who have been absent for a bit. It is such a great time to catch up with everyone since last year's Convention.

I am excited to see membership is up this year! Thank you to the 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice Gloria Hall and Exec. Secretary Nancy for their tireless work on keeping track of so much. Make sure on reports you are mailing, the Post Office puts the postmarks on the reports you turn in. We are getting late reports due to them. I don't want your work not counted for Honor and Awards due to late postmarks.



Get revalidation forms to the Department no later than 30 days before the Dept. Convention, which will be May 20th. Make sure you cross your t/s and dot your i's.

#### 20225/26 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

Conv 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

Exec, Secretary Nancy Middleton

(non voting)



# OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

I have a special request for every Auxiliary  
in the State of Michigan

From PDP Bert Zeno Lema



Review the instructions for submitting a nomination for one of your members to be considered for the Outstanding Auxiliary Member of the Year Award. You will find the information you need regarding qualifications in the Convention Digest Honors & Awards Donors' Rules section on pages 15 and 16. The Digest was recently sent to each Auxiliary President.

Do you have someone who has gone above and beyond in action, dedication, and inspiration to her Auxiliary in her efforts to support our veterans, our communities, and our military families? If yes, please consider submitting the required information along with the completed nomination form signed by the local President.

The deadline for submitting the nomination form and accompanying information is fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled beginning date of Convention. Since Convention begins 6/18 this year, your information must be received by Honors & Awards Chair, PDP Gloria Hall, **no later than June 4<sup>th</sup>**.

I have no role in judging the nominations. As the Donor of this award, I would love to be able to present it this year to the woman selected by our Honors & Awards Committee. To date, I have only had one opportunity to do so. Why? Because there were no additional nominations. We have ladies around the State who do great work in support of our goals and mission. I would love to have the privilege of honoring one of them.

Bert Lema,

[lema81@wowway.com](mailto:lema81@wowway.com)

586-214-1019



## CHAPLAIN'S NEWS



Happy almost Summer! What a Spring we have had. Between world events and weather, we have all had our share of anxieties. With God's Grace, I am hoping this finds everyone well, and recovering from the past month or so. It is hard to believe this is May already. Our Spring/Summer get together is coming up next month in Mt. Pleasant. I encourage everyone to attend. It is a time for elections of Dept. Officers, and a great time to get together to share thoughts about the direction your Auxiliary is heading.

With that, I am sad to share I will not be running as the Department Chaplain this year. I have had some serious health concerns beginning early last Fall and it sidelined me for many of the Chaplain duties these past few months. For this, I wish to apologize to all of you for a job that was not always up to par. I am taking this year to focus on my own health in hopes of returning to the Department level in the future. In the meantime, I wish you all God's Love, Comfort, and Peace.

Respectfully,

Doni Simon, Department Chaplain 2025-2026





# REVALIDATIONS

## 2026/2027

Nancy Middleton, Secretary

All local Auxiliaries must be installed by April 30, 2026. Although the rules say you have until 30 days prior to Convention to get in the revalidation to the Secretary, why would you wait???? SEND IT ASAP.

Mail the 2026/2027 Revalidation to **Nancy Middleton / 1535 48th St SE / Kentwood MI 49508**

OR

Email the Revalidation to **nancmidd@gmail.com** (DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH = FRONT AND BACK)

**WHAT'S THE HURRY?** Last year I did a booklet with the names, address, phone #, email address of every local Officer and gave copies to every incoming Dept. Officer for 2025/2026 at Convention. This takes a lot of time. When Convention time gets close, I have a lot of other work to do (registrations, convention book, Honors & Awards program book, final memberships, and a bunch of other 'stuff').

**WHAT'S THE REASON?** Throughout the year a Department Officer may need to get in touch with local Officers—for a variety of reasons. With this booklet, they have all the information they need. They need info about the Americanism Officer from #57—they have it! They need the Scholarship Officer from #122—they have it! They need the Parliamentarian from #4064—they have it. Last year the booklet contained this information except for 3 Auxiliaries. Their revalidation came in too late to be included. I keep my booklet right on my desk and use it often. Unfortunately I still get some calls from an Officer who doesn't know where she put the book. Notice to Dept. Officers: keep it in a handy place. You never know if/or when you'll need it.

As of today (4/16/2026) I already have 4 Auxiliaries in the new booklet. Thank you #52, 910, #121 and #1988 for getting them in early.



In last month's newsletter, 2nd Vice Wendy Lynema stated the National 2nd Vice Deb Gass would not be coming to Michigan for the Penrickton tour in April. Now that the date has been changed, she is available and.....

### **SHE WILL BE JOINING US FOR THE TOUR!!**

We think this is the first time a National 2nd Vice has joined the tour. We know she will be very impressed with Penrickton. Please join us on May 7th. If you have not had the pleasure of meeting Deb, you are in for a good time.

*To put it mildly, she is quite a character!!!!*

The June issue of the newsletter needs to be to the Secretary by May 15th or earlier!

### **NO Exceptions.**

This will be the final 2025/26 newsletter before our convention.





# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Allison Aldrich, 3 Vice President

I know I keep repeating this, but with the mail system slower than normal, please make sure your final reports are postmarked by May 5<sup>th</sup> and sent to me at

11560 Shaftsbury Rd.—Laingsburg MI 48848 or e-mailed to me at [akaaux@outlook.com](mailto:akaaux@outlook.com).

Please send your Department Donation for PAWS to the Dept. Secretary postmarked by 5/5/26.



Donation checks for Department and National programs are due to the Secretary postmarked by 6/5/2026

## CHILD WELFARE

By Wendy Lynema, 2nd Vice

**THE NEW DATE FOR THE PENRICKTON TOUR IS  
Thursday, May 7 from 11:30am to 1:00pm.**

THANK YOU FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT  
DONATIONS TO  
PENRICKTON CENTER  
FOR  
BLIND CHILDREN



Send reports postmarked by 5/5/26 to:  
Wendy Lynema  
3645 Portman Lane SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49508



## HOSPITAL NEWS

by Trisha Rosenburg, Hospital Officer



Spring is here and I am looking forward to participating in random acts of kindness for our veterans. Please look into your hearts and consider projects for our veterans in the hospital facilities and the homeless veterans that go to these facilities looking for support. Thank for all that you do and make a veteran smile today!

Final reports are due by May 5th which need to be either emailed or postmarked by May 5th. Every Post should be reporting the Hospital assessment from each member. Please review the donor rules and your mid-year report for any corrections I might have sent.

Thank you and stay blessed.

Trisha Rosenburg, Hospital Officer  
8067 Old M72  
Williamsburg MI 49690





# FROM THE DEPT. COMMANDER

**Natale (Nat) V. Pulizzi, Michigan AMVET Commander 2025/2026**

Fellow AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS, AMVET Riders

As Spring arrives and we begin to look ahead to the months of renewed activity and fellowship, I encourage each of you to start preparing for our upcoming Annual Convention. This is an important time for our organization, where we come together to conduct business, strengthen our mission, and celebrate the accomplishments of our AMVETS family.

Please remember to make your reservations early to ensure your participation. Early planning helps us provide a well-organized and successful convention experience for all. This year's convention dates are, June 19–21, 2026 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 2400 East Campus Drive, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858. Call 989/773-1444 for Special Group rate of \$98.00 and mention AMVETS Convention. Make reservations prior to the 20th of May to receive group rates.

In accordance with the newly adopted rules, every Post is required to send a minimum of two Representatives to our Annual Convention. Your active participation is essential for maintaining the strength and integrity of AMVETS, as well as ensuring that all voices are heard in the decision making process. We have several bylaw changes to vote on as well as elections for 2026-2027.

I am pleased to share that our honored guest this year will be our National Commander, Paul Shipley. His presence underscores the importance of our collective efforts and the vital role each of you plays in supporting veterans, their families, and our communities. Your active participation is essential for maintaining the strength and integrity of AMVETS, as well as ensuring all voices are heard in the decision making process.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service. I look forward to seeing you all at the convention.

With respect and gratitude,  
Nat Pulizzi, Commander

## LONG RANGE PLANNING

by Bert Lema , Chairman



As I write this article, I hope those of you who have been impacted by our crazy weather and flooding are now safe and have experienced no significance damage to your person or property.

I just want to provide a quick update as to the committee's progress. The promised video will be published on the Department website sometime before the Department Convention. I will email notifications to all Local Presidents and Secretaries ahead of time to alert you and request you take a look. At Convention, I will remind everyone of the video posting and advice on future planning.

If you have any questions regarding the video, please let me know after you have viewed it and before Convention. We would like to know any areas of concern, especially ease of use. [.lema81@wowway.com](mailto:.lema81@wowway.com) or 586-214-1019. Looking forward to seeing many of you soon.

# **AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary 80th National Convention**

**Orlando, Florida**

**August 17 – 22, 2026**

Plans are underway for the 80th AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary National Convention, being held August 17 - 22, 2026. The hotel is:

The Rosen Centre

9840 International Drive—Orlando, FL 32819

407.996.9840

Room Rate: \$139.00/\$157.94 per night with tax.

An incidental charge per day will be charged to your credit card upon check-in.

Fly into Orlando International Airport (MCO)

Transportation to The Rosen Centre: Uber/Lyft –  
use the app from your phone

Mears 407.422.2222 or 321.430.1669 (24 hrs.)

\$40.00 estimated - one way

K & M Mobility Scooter Rentals – 407-363-7388

<https://km-rentals.com/orlando-scooter-rentals/>

Discount for Veterans

contact K & M directly to reserve your scooter.

Parking – Rosen Centre self-parking \$16.00 per day.

Florida Night Tickets – Wednesday Evening \$40.00

National Commanders/President Banquet/Silver Helmet – Friday evening \$50.00 estimated cost  
More information to follow.

Walmart Supercenter is approximately 2 miles from the Rosen Centre Hotel on International Drive, making it a quick 5 - 10-minute drive.

REMINDER - your membership card is REQUIRED at Registration. Complete the Registration Form legibly and completely. Know how you are registering - Delegate, Alternate, Guest, etc. Pre-register. This not only will guarantee you a Convention book and a souvenir, but will also save you time and money! Convention pre-registration MUST be postmarked by July 10! And speaking of Convention pre-registration, the cost remains \$40.00 however any registrations received AFTER the July 10 postmark date will pay \$60.00 as will any onsite registrations. The registration form and registration cut-off date can be found in the Convention Digest and online.

Be sure to visit our website [www.amvetsaux.org](http://www.amvetsaux.org) for Convention updates as well as our Facebook page. If additional information is needed, contact PNP Charlene Kee, Convention Chair – CHRLN-KEE@aol.com or 407-716-4244.



# AMERICANISM

By Jennifer Zelony, Americanism/SOS

Projects came in; the Department judging was done; letters to the winners have been sent out to join us during Convention; the winning entries have been sent to National.

Make sure you get your end-of-the-year reports turned in postmarked by May 5<sup>th</sup>, and make sure you have your SOS and Americanism reports on separated sheets.

Don't forget to send your Department Donations postmarked by May 5th.

I am hoping to see more members at Convention so we can meet new members to network with around the state.



## THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

2:00pm Honors and Awards Judging (closed) TBD

2:00pm Finance TBD

3:00pm Bylaws and Resolutions TBD

4:30pm Personnel Meeting TBD

6:00pm Hospital Audit (closed) TBD

6:00pm Scholarship Judging (closed) TBD

6:00pm Joint Americanism TBD

## FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026—T-Shirt Day

8:00-9:00am Registration TBD

9:30am 2nd Convention Session TBD

12:30pm Lunch Break

3:00pm 1st round of Nominations TBD

4:00pm Honors and Awards Program TBD

5:30pm-6:00pm Registration TBD

7:00pm Gavelier's Dinner and meeting TBD

# MVH - G.R.

By Leora Williamson, Rep.



It seems like when the word "veteran" is heard, people usually think "Male". But we must not forget there are quite a number of females who have served our Country as well. In fact, the Grand Rapids Vet's home currently houses six ladies.

Some are veterans and others are dependents of Veterans. I only know one of them personally as the others seem to stick to their "neighborhoods".

I bring this up because I've noticed when "wish lists" are distributed, they rarely ask for things which ladies like. When donations come in (and only NEW items are accepted) there is little for the female members.

Let me suggest a few things they would appreciate. Colorful scarves or shawls, warm socks, nail polish, hair combs and brushes, deodorant, hand cream, hankies. So - think about the ladies

They do have a salon at the home, open once or twice a week. All members can get haircuts, and ladies can get tints or coloring done. .

By the way, if you want to send checks as donations, please make them payable to MVH-GR.

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**5:30pm-6:00pm Registration TBD**

**7:00pm Gavelier's Dinner and meeting TBD**

In case you didn't see this in the Convention Digest and/or on the website, here is a copy of the TENTATIVE Agenda for the Department Convention in June. The final agenda will be in the Convention book you will receive at registration in Mt. Pleasant. There is a slight possibility the final agenda (if available by that time) could be in the June issue which is sent out at the end of May.



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2:00pm Finance  
3:00pm Bylaws and Resolutions  
4:30pm Personnel Meeting  
6:00pm Hospital Audit (closed)  
6:00pm Scholarship Judging (closed)  
6:00pm Joint Americanism meeting



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3:00pm 1st round of Nominations  
4:00pm Honors and Awards Program  
5:30pm-6:00pm Registration  
7:00pm Gavelier's Dinner and meeting



### **SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026**

8:00-8:30am Registration  
8:30am Joint Opening—AMVET Family  
9:30am 2nd Convention Session  
11:30am Americanism Program  
  
Lunch Break following Americanism Program  
  
2:00pm 2nd Convention Session reconvenes  
3:00pm 2nd Round Nominations and Elections  
4:00pm Memorial Service



### **SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026**

8:00-8:30am 3rd Convention Session  
9:30am Joint Installation  
Post S.E.C.—Immediately following the  
Joint Installation

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