



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY Department of Michigan



July, 2026 Issue #1

2026/27 Dept. Officers



President Allison Aldrich

1st Vice Gloria Hall

2nd Vice Trisha Rosenberg

3rd Vice Jennifer Zelony

Chaplain Pam Pearce

Sgt-at-Arms Valerie Rocheleau

Treasurer Kathy Keizer

Americanism Marie Kurzer

Hospital Linda Marshall

Scholarship Rene Savin

N.E.C. Kathy Keizer

Parliamentarian Pat Michalski

Personnel Chair Pat Michalski

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

Honors & Awards Pam Pearce

Fall Conf. Chair Nancy Middleton

Webmaster Jennifer Zelony

Convention Chair Carol Pickett

PRO - open

Long Range Chair—open

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. Barb Kozlowski

District V Pres. Patsy Watkins

Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton

CONVENTION 2026 ISSUE

A synopsis by Department Secretary Nancy Middleton

This years convention was held in Mt. Pleasant at the Courtyard by Marriott on the campus of Central Michigan University. I enjoyed the new hotel and the different set up. I was a little nervous because the past couple years I had to go back home to retrieve a few things I forgot. My home was 15 minutes from the hotel in Grand Rapids. Mt Pleasant is 2 HOURS away. Fortunately there is a Staples right across the street!!

Ever since "Covid", our conventions have been small but slowly gaining a couple more participation each year. This year we expected about 35-37 who were preregistered. I did up 40 convention books with 10 more for those not pre-registered. We ran OUT!! We had over 50 attending. It was so nice to see the room filled up!

We are going back to the same hotel for Fall Conference and the 2027 Convention. Let's keep growing!!! Of course it probably helped to have a casino close to the hotel for Delegate and some of the Officers to spend a few hours in the evening during 'free time'.

The next few pages will give you information about the convention, new Officers, Honors & Awards winners, some changes which may affect you as members and local Auxiliaries.

Starting next month, the new Officers will be writing their bulletins for you to read about their offices, new ideas, suggestions and lots of information. Local Auxiliaries are welcome to send information about some special programs or projects they are having. We love to hear what is going on in your part of Michigan. Just remember—the deadline for submission is the 15th of the month prior to the newsletter: July 15 for August news; August 15th for Sept. news; Sept. 15 for Oct. news; etc.....

WHAT IS THIS??? See page #2



WHAT IS THIS???

If you were at convention, you know what this is. If you weren't there, I will tell you. Our new President for 2026/2027 has a unique theme for this coming Auxiliary year:

"PLANT A SEED TODAY OF WHAT YOU WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE".



Every successful program and/or project starts with a seed of an idea. With care and a little nurturing, we will see what the future may bring – but it all starts with the seed. We will ask you often about the seed you or your Auxiliary are planting for our future. Start working on that idea.

ELECTION OF 2026/2027 OFFICERS:

President Allison Aldrich, Aux. #4046

1st Vice President appointment by President

2nd Vice President Trisha Rosenberg, Aux. #23

3rd Vice President Jennifer Zelony, Aux. #1988

Treasurer—appointment by President

Chaplain—appointment by President

Sgt-at-Arms Valerie Rocheleau, Aux. #22

Americanism/SOS Marie Kurzer Aux. #22

Hospital Linda Marshall Aux. #22

Scholarship Rene Savin Aux. #23

NEC Woman Kathy Keizer Aux. #23

PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

1st Vice President Gloria Hall, Aux. #126

Parliamentarian Pat Michalski #22

Fall Conference Nancy Middleton #126

Treasurer Kathy Keizer Aux. #23

Chaplain Pamela Pearce, Aux. #23

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins #126

Higgins Lake Rep Diana Lammott #1988

Convention Chair Carol Pickett #121

Long Range Planning Jennifer Zelony #1988

A list of all Chairmen, VAVS/Home Reps and other appointments are listed on page #1.



DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

At the Convention, the Delegates and Officers voted to continue the Department Newsletter for the 2026/27 year. If you want to continue receiving the Department newsletter, you will need to renew your yearly subscription which runs from August 2026 thru July 2027.

The cost is \$12 per year which helps cover about 50% of the cost of postage, ink, and paper. Send your check made payable to AMVETS Ladies Aux. Dept of MI, to Nancy Middleton - 1535 48th St SE—Kentwood MI 49508 by July 15.

This newsletter is sent free of charge to each Local President and the Dept. President. Some of our Auxiliaries purchase monthly copies for some of their Officers—remember not to include the local President in that list—she is already Free!!! Be sure to include the name and address of those who are getting the newsletter.

If you wish to receive the Convention Digest in March, there is an additional \$3 cost which covers the additional postage. The Digest is also free to the local Presidents.

The Digest has not been printed on the website in the past and I do not think it will be in the future.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

Dept. Membership Class A:

Winner

Runner Up

Dept. Membership Class B:

Winner #121 increase 6

Runner up #52 increase 2

Dept. Membership Class C:

Winner 1#23 increase 10

Runner up #115 increase 7

PDP Kathy Biela Child Welfare Award

Winner #4064 Evaluation \$56,256

Runner up #93 \$27,547

PDP Nancy Middleton Child Welfare Award

Winner #126 evaluation \$25,180

Runner Up #57 evaluation \$23,010

PDP Patrica Whitcher Penrickton Award

Winner #93 evaluation \$19,363

Runner up #57 evaluation \$13,310

PDP Maureen Jackson Comm. Service

Winner #4064 evaluation \$42,847

Runner Up #93 evaluation \$16,801

PDP Wendy Lynema Community Service

Winner #57 evaluation \$36,221

Runner Up #1988 evaluation \$1,988.

PDP Faye Richardson-Green PAWS Award

Winner #93 evaluation \$7,730

No runner up

PDP Allison Aldrich Americanism Award

Winner #93 evaluation \$12,749

Runner Up #121 evaluation \$12,425



HONORS AND AWARDS:

PDP Pat Michalski Americanism Award

Winner #57 evaluation \$36,806

Runner Up #126 \$4,476

PDP Selettha Robertson Hospital Award

Winner #22 evaluation \$36,044

Runner Up #57 evaluation \$29,975

PDP Kathy Keizer Hospital Award

Winner #22 evaluation \$36,044

Runner Up #23 evaluation \$16,453

Aux, #22 SOS Award / in memory of
PDP Sharon Colley

Winner #93 evaluation \$5,529

Runner Up #121 evaluation \$1,112..

Aux, #93 SOS Award /in memory of PDP
Millie Foss

Winner #57 evaluation \$2,910

No Runner Up

PDP Neva Colley Scholarship Award/ in

memory of PNP/PDP Janice Hapner

No reports available for judging

Dept. of MI Scholarship Award

No reports available for judging

Dept, of MI PRO/Scrapbook Award

No admissions

Dept of MI Outstanding Aux. of the Year

Judging not complete at this time.

Bertha Zeno Lema Outstanding Auxiliary

Member of the Year

2 submissions disqualified



POSSIBLY SOMETHING OF INTEREST FOR FALL CONFERENCE

Fall Conference will be held in September or October. If the Sons of AMVETS have their Hospital-ity Room in the same room they had for convention, it might be very busy. If you are a football fan, it overlooks the Central U football field!!!!

We had some changes to the By-Laws and Standing Rules this year. They will appear on the website when the outgoing Parliamentarian gets them ready to send to National. If not, when the minutes done, our Webmaster will post them.

One change is the registration Fall Conference. We need pre-registration so we get a better idea of how many will be attending the classes. So, we are lowering the cost of pre-registration and raising the price of the onsite fee.

If there is any class in particular you would like to attend, please email me at nancmidd@gmail.com.

So far we have a couple classes we are working on: because some of the reports and paper work sent this year were (to put it mildly) a disaster.



The Depart printer is the strangest thing and so aggravating! It doesn't like me and I don't know why. When I take it to convention it just won't cooperate with me—but for some reason it likes anyone named Zelony. Norm Zelony comes to my rescue and sets it up for me—works great. He leave the room and it rebels.

Jennifer come in, pushes a button—works great. I need to change a screen—doesn't work. Jennifer comes back, pushes a button—works great. Over and Over this happens. I try to push the same button that Jennifer does, but I must have the wrong touch.

The problem is Norm and Jennifer do not have time to stand in the office all day. They have a lot of work to do at Convention time.

I have one other thing which might work. Do you think Norm and Jennifer would adopt me as their Grandma?

Nancy Zelony (has a nice ring don't ya think?)

We

welcome some new

Department Officers!!!

Rene Savin, Aux. #23—
Scholarship

Val Rocheleau, Aux. #22—
Sgt-at-Arms

Marie Kurzer, Aux. #22—
Americanism.

Barb Kozlowski, Aux. #115
District II President

applause!



EMAILS FOR 1ST VICE PRES.

If you're a 1st Vice at your local, please email me so I can have your email. For some reason many of the revalidation forms do not list emails and some don't include phone numbers. If there is a problem with a D&R, we usually can fix it over the phone. Without proper information, we can't contact you and we will be required to return the entire D&Rs you submitted.

nancmidd@gmail.com

YEAR OF THE DEADLINES!

This will be the year of the deadlines. What the heck does that mean? It means if you don't make the deadline for bulletins, newsletters, reports, etc. it will not be accepted, printed, mailed, etc. by the Secretary. The next deadline will be for the August newsletter. It will be July 15th by 5pm. I would like it mailed to the subscribers by the 25th of July. There will be a deadline column in each newsletter. Notices will be by email to each person and/or Auxiliary who needs to send in something by a deadline. All deadlines materials should be send by email so spacing, editing, corrections can be done. Let's help each other make our information to our local Auxiliaries the best we can do. I pledge to help you—Please pledge to help me.

THE SECRETARY'S CONVENTION EXPERIENCE

By Nancy Middleton



This was an unusual Convention. There were many changes and time limits which were a big problem. The Auxiliary Office was not the same one we visited (twice) and the agenda was changed several times without warning. All and all, it was good. A few people were upset about the hotel registration but we need to realize the clerks have their hotel instructions regarding sign-in and losing your temper does not solve anything.

Losing one day of Convention changed many of our By-Law/Standing Rules as to when we received things to vote on and normal times and dates for our important programs. Honors and Awards winner certificates were held up because of the limited time. I am doing them at home because there just want not time to complete them for the Honors and Awards program. Having nominations a day early was different followed by Honors & Awards, and the elections on Saturday was hard to adjust to.

Several late bulletins and activity reports held up completing the convention books in time and had to be completed when we arrived at convention. Thanks to Kathy Keizer for her 9 hours of assembling the books the day before we left for convention. We still had pages to put in when we arrived in Mt Pleasant. But...we did it!

Also thanks to Gloria Hall for assembling the Honors & Awards books. The pages were printed, but they all had to be put into the books (and add the cover which she printed).

I was not able to finish the badges. I did some but discovered the new labels I bought were the wrong size. My fault and I apologize to those who had to handwrite their badges. This will not happen again!!!!

Making, printing, sorting, putting in folders for the Honors & Awards certificates takes about 3 to 4 hours. Thursday I was busy from arrival to night with meetings, coping stuff, finishing stuff and sorting. Earlier you read about the printer issues because Jennifer Zelony had better thing to do than stand in the office and push a button when it acted up!

When the Honors & Awards winner forms were ready for me to start setting up to print, it was 1:22am. I was exhausted and knew I could not spend 3 to 4 hours doing it.. I had to be back in the office between 7:30 and 7:45am to get out registration stuff. Oh yeah! I also spent all day taking minutes on the Convention floor. I am working on them plus this newsletter and will set up a time for IPDP Pam Pearce to sign them.



I missed Honors & Awards, the ice cream social, the Gaveliere's dinner, the Americanism program, and joint opening. I hate it when people asked me if I had fun at Convention.

I did have the honor of installing our new Officers and our Newly Elected President Allison Aldrich (Thanks for asking me!)

DON'T ASK 'CUZ I DON'T KNOW.....

1. Who won the Convention Basket Raffles.
2. Who the AMVET new Officers are—except for Commander John Hoecherl
3. Why many of our local Aux. don't file service reports.
4. Anything about where Fall Conference will be—or when.
5. Anything about the date of next year's Convention.
6. Why many of our Officers don't know what a deadline is.
7. Why local revalidation forms are not filled out completely and give the email address of most members. It makes membership much easier when we have contact with the local 1st Vice.
8. Why many of our Membership people don't know
 - a) What alphabetical order means
 - b) What last name first means
 - c) Where to find a member's ID #\
 - d) What it means to type or print clearly



Although I was not able to attend the Gaveliere's Dinner this year I have been told our Dept. President Pam does a pretty 'mean' Twerk!!!

She also sang "Happy Birthday" to one of the customer at the Olive Garden.



The Auxiliary paid \$95 a day for 2 microphones (each). Officers and Delegates need to learn how to use them!!!!

"GO TO THE MIKE" was the most popular saying at this convention! Maybe we could have a Fall Conference class on using a microphone, or..... maybe we could just pretend it's a karaoke machine!!



COMMITTEES

Americanism/SOS: Marie Kurzer, Pat Michalski, Cel Rose Solak, Diana Lam-mott, Wendy Lynema

Grievance: Pam Pearce, Wendy Lynema, Gloria Hall

Appeals: Bobbi Bolthus, Trisha Rosenberg, Jennifer Zelony

correct D&Rs within 10 days of receipt. I am pushing for deadlines and this goes for me too. It may not be easy, but we can do it.

Within the next few days, I will start processing membership cards for **new member** D&Rs I have been holding since June 1st

Remember, I cannot process **renewals** until cards have arrived from National. During this year of the Deadlines, I pledge to return all the