



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY Department of Michigan

August, 2026



2026/27 Department 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—Jennifer Zelony

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

Non-member - no vote

Exec. Secretary Nancy Middleton

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Allison Aldrich, President

Thank you for electing me the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department President for 2026/2027. My theme this year is

"Plant a seed today of what you want to bloom in the future."

If you have any questions or do not understand some things, please feel free to ask for help.

I would like every Auxiliary to show the wonderful work you all do. We have six service programs you can work on: Child Welfare, Community Service, Americanism, SOS, Hospital and Scholarship. Mid-year service reports must be emailed or postmarked by November 5th and final reports by May 5th. Congratulations to all the Auxiliaries who won awards. It shows the wonderful work you have been doing.

The newsletter is sent out once a month please share it with your Auxiliary and it is also on the web site at www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org.

Congratulations to all the elected and appointed Officers. I look forward to working with you, the AMVETS Dept. Commander John Hoecherl and the Son's Commander Don Torr.

If you need anything from me, you can call me at 517/675-5339

Or send me an email to me at akaux@outlook.com.

Allison Aldrich, President
Department of Michigan



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

By Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President



Hello Ladies

Many of you have hit the ground running in your new position as 1st Vice President on the local level. Pretty soon you will be sending in your Dues and Remittance (D&R) for your members to renew or to become new members. This is the most important position you can have where all the ladies there depend on you to receive their cards. Not only membership but name changes, & address changes to name a few to keep things flowing smoothly. And when your Auxiliary does not have a Chaplain, notifying the Department Secretary of death notices is very helpful.

One of your jobs to be watchful of is in the fall you will confirm the accuracy of your membership roster. I will receive the National Roster then I will send it on to each local 1st Vices. Tip - go through your records now & update your new and old files. Every summer locals will send in their D&R's. Be aware that National is preparing for their National Convention in August and does not process D&R's sent in now until September.

During this break you should actively encourage members to renew their membership. Begin seeking new members and remember to submit all Lifetime member's \$3. hospital assessments. These are paid annually and by December. Knowing donations of hospital dues are coming in gives time for our Auxiliary hospital & clinic Representatives to plan.

Hint: If you are paying ALL Life members \$3 at one time, you do not have to list all life member's names on a D&R. Just submit how many you are paying for on the D&R and enclose the proper amount. (i.e. 40 life members = \$120)

Last-minute renewals or new memberships in December will take you well into next year to receive your cards. Want more information on your officer's instructions? Go to www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org. Touch the menu icon. Looks like three vertical lines. Select Membership Forms. Scroll down to select "Dues and Remittance." A blank current D&R form will appear. You may type right on the screen.

You can also check this site for current Local Officers Instructions. If you are a returning Officer, you know the drill. Please review instructions as there could be changes you are not aware of. Have questions and need answers please contact me. Thank you for your time and support.

Hugs



PDP Gloria Hall
Dept. 1st Vice President
ghall0054@gmail.com



MORE MEMBERSHIP STUFF

By Nancy Middleton, Secretary

I sent a bulletin for the website today (7/14) which is pretty long. I am hoping all our local 1st Vice Presidents / Membership Officers will read it. I tried very hard not to be overly confusing—but if you have questions please call me at 616/455-4525 or email me at nancmidd@gmail.com. I will be gone this weekend and back by Sunday evening. (going to National President's Testimonial in Pennsylvania!!)



COMMUNITY SERVICE

3rd Vice President Jennifer Zelony

I would like to let everyone know this year we do have a contest out there. This contest is the Auxiliary which raised the most money for Paws by the time of Conventions 2027. They will receive a \$50 dollar monetary donation towards their next year's project. The funds need to go thru the Department for it to be recorded. Now what does that mean? You need to make sure your funds for Paws go to the Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary so it can get recorded in our Convention book for 2027. Do not make the donation directly to Paws or it won't be counted in the Department donations.

I will have the date for the Paws Tour but that will be announced after the National Convention.

If you have any questions on what to put on your Community Service report sheet, please reach out. I will be contacting each local chairman to make sure all answers are covered. If I don't know the answer I will find out and get it to you.

Jennifer Zelony
3rd Vice President
Department of Michigan



From Your Department Trea\$urer

By PDP Kathy Keizer

I was appointed to continue as the Department Treasurer by our new President, PDP Allison Aldrich at the post-SEC meeting following our annual Department Convention.

Yesterday, July 10, was the audit of the financial records and other than a few paperwork issues, all is well. When you are done reading this newsletter, please visit the Department website to read my bulletin which will give you details of the donations we made at our Convention in June along with some other helpful information for the locals as we start another year of service to our Veterans, active military and communities.

As the Department begins another service and fiscal year, I can't stress enough the importance of properly filling out needed paperwork and checks to the Department Executive Secretary by the required deadlines.



PDP Kathy Keizer
katkzr@gmail.com





From Your NEC Woman

PDP Kathy Keizer, Dept. of MI Aux. NEC Woman

Let me start out by thanking everyone who elected me as your NEC Woman for the next two years. For those not familiar with Auxiliary terminology NEC Woman stands for National Executive Committee Woman.

I have waited a long time to take this step to represent Michigan at the National level. I finally felt it was the right time for me and am now ready with the support of my family, local, District and, of course, the Department of Michigan. I have been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary for nearly 56 years. I belong to Auxiliary #23 in Kentwood and currently do not hold an Office. However, when needed, I fill in for the Parliamentarian at meetings. I am the current Chaplain for District V Council and along with serving as your NEC Woman I was appointed as the Department Treasurer by our new President Allison.

I am planning to attend the National Convention in Florida which begins with committee meetings on Tuesday, August 18 and will end on Saturday, August 22. I will be traveling and rooming with our Head Delegate IPDP Pam Pearce. We have both signed up to be on at least one National committee, the National training session, and hope to attend other committees which fit into our schedule.

I will be attending the Council of NEC Women on Tuesday afternoon and the NEC meeting following the close of the Convention. I will have updates and information on the Department website after my return from the Convention and also in the October newsletter. I look forward to serving Michigan and keeping you updated on the National News!



FALL CONFERENCE IS COMING SOON

By Nancy Middleton

Pres. Allison asked me to be the Fall Conference Chairman and I jumped at the chance. Fall Conference is one of my favorite times to be in the Auxiliary. I guess you could compare it to Dec. 25. Fall Conference is my Auxiliary Christmas. To be honest with you, some of my friends don't like me getting excited about a project because they seem to think if I love a project, they have more work to do! We will have a great time, and it would be fun if you would join us. After seeing some of the reports, programs, forms and project from the last few years, we desperately need some updated work! The date will be Oct. 9-11 in Mt. Pleasant. Keep a look-out for further information.

SCHOLARSHIP

by Rene Savin, Scholarship Officer

It is an honor to serve as your Department Scholarship Officer, and I am excited to write my first article for our Department newsletter. I am Rene Savin and I am serving my 3rd year as the President of Auxiliary #23 in Kentwood. I also just completed a year as the District V Scholarship Officer.

Education has always been one of the greatest investments we can make in ourselves, our families, and our communities. Through the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship Program, we have the opportunity to support students as they pursue their educational goals while also recognizing the sacrifices and service of our veterans and their families.

Throughout the coming year, I will be sharing information about scholarship opportunities, application deadlines, eligibility requirements, and tips to help applicants submit strong scholarship applications. My goal is to ensure that every eligible student within our Department knows these opportunities exist and feels encouraged to apply.

I also hope to work with each Auxiliary to promote our scholarship program at the local level. Whether it's sharing information with your members, local schools, veterans' organizations, or your community, together we can help deserving students take the next step toward achieving their dreams.

I encourage each Auxiliary to identify students who may qualify and spread the word. If someone isn't sure they're eligible, encourage them to ask questions and apply. Too often, scholarships go unused simply because people don't know they are available.

As we move forward, I welcome your ideas, suggestions, and success stories. If your Auxiliary has awarded a local scholarship or hosted a scholarship fundraiser, I'd love to hear about it. Together, we can highlight the wonderful work being done across our Department and continue building a stronger future through education.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Scholarship Officer. I look forward to working with each of you to make this year's scholarship program our most successful yet. If I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me at 269/569-2555 or rsavin@whiskersgr.com.

In Service,

Rene Savin

Department Scholarship Officer





Jacobetti Home Wish List!



By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep

Wishlist Items include:

AA batteries, / Old Spice, Brut, or Axe Stick Deodorant / Gillette Fusion, / Proglide or Mach 3 Razors, / 3 in 1 shampoo Conditioner and Body Wash by Old Spice or Axe / Eucerin or Cera Ve Lotion / Dry Shampoo.

Snacks like soft individually wrapped chocolates (no nuts), Little Debbie's snack cakes, 12 oz cans of Diet Root beer, Orange or Fresca,

Direct shipping from Amazon (Amazon no longer provides a way to send a thank you - please reach out to the Jacobetti Home (johnsons93@michigan.gov) so they can thank you and provide you with a receipt .



Blessings

I am your 2026-2027 Department of Michigan Chaplain. My name is Pamela Pearce. I was appointed to this position by incoming President Allison Aldrich. I truly look forward to serving you throughout this next year.

I have read my Chaplain instructions and will fall back on them over this next year. I have already sent out a get-well card and a sunshine gift card to Bonnie Rojeski, a former Dept. Officer who is recovering from back surgery. She will be healing for a bit.

I also sent a sympathy card to #23 Past Local President Janice Reynolds on the unexpected loss of her daughter.

Please keep both of these ladies in your thoughts and prayers.

PLEASE, make sure to notify me if a card needs to go out. I need your help to find out. My email is upnorth-pam1@gmail.com, and my phone is 231-357-6010.

Thank you and Blessings

Pamela Pearce, Chaplain
Department of Michigan

District V

By Patsy Watkins, President

We had a pretty good year, and we are ready to start all over for 2026/2027. We had our elections and our Officers were sworn in at the May meeting by our Department President for 2025/2026 - Pam Pearce.

We had a nice group from District V at the Department Convention with members from Aux. 23, Aux.126 and Aux. 1941. We do need the Delegate list from each of our 4 locals (#23, #126, #1041 and #1978). We all need to work together - locals and Districts - to help our Veterans.

In September and October we have 2 more Texas Hold'em coming up. This is a good fundraiser and we are able to help several organizations with some of their needs.

CONVENTION WAYS & MEANS

Ways & Means Patsy Watkins

Greetings Ladies

Convention is now over and it was a busy time. I thank all of you who came to support the Chinese Auction, \$1 raffle, and the Department Raffle.

When the tickets were drawn for the Gift Baskets, many did not hear the winners. Here they are:

- 1st Place Aux. #115 in Port Hope
- 2nd Place Patty Hoekstra from Aux. #126
- 3rd Place District V
- 4th Place Janet Hirth Aux. #57
- 5th Place Aux. #93 in Armada



I will admit I was a little disappointed in the Dept. Raffle. I wonder why so many tickets were sent but they were not bought nor were they returned.



**The deadline for the September newsletter articles is
5pm on Saturday August 15, 2026**



Jacobetti Home for Veterans



By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Rep.

Construction of our new home continues to move forward at an impressive pace. Crews are currently pouring slab-on-grade concrete, and structural steel is expected to begin in mid-July. Once the steel is erected, the building will truly begin to take shape, and the elevations of our future home will soon be visible from the road. It is exciting to see years of planning become reality, and each milestone brings us one step closer to providing a modern home that will continue our tradition of exceptional care for generations of Veterans to come.

July Activities included an Ice Cream Social with Music by Linda Smith, Sowing Seeds Worship Band, Patriotic Music with Marquette City Band, Onsite Fish Pond, Nathan Koski Memorial Classic Car Show, Jo-Kay Corral Mobile Farm, and Annual Fish Fry.

Check out the Jacobetti Wishlist Items on page #6!! We appreciate your help for our Veterans.



Webmaster Reporting



by Webmaster Jennifer Zelony

I would like to start off this year with a message to every Auxiliary to let them know if they send me their flyers for events they will be doing or as they come about, please send them my way to get them on the website. We can get the word out to other areas and other Auxiliaries to see if we can help support each other.

For those who were not at convention, the Facebook page is still on the list for getting worked on but the timeline has moved back 3 months. Stay tuned for that.

Also send in your pictures throughout the year so we can see, and show everyone what the AMVETS Auxiliary does at our events.



PARLIAMENTARIAN'S NEWS



By Pat Michalski, Dept. Parliamentarian.

The out-going Parliamentarian, Kathy Keizer, has sent the revised by-laws (Convention 2026) to the National Parliamentarian for approval. When they are approved and returned, they will be posted on the Auxiliary Department website.

I will also be compiling a list of Local or District By-laws which will be due in 2026-2027, I will post it in a bulletin within the next month.

2nd Vice/Child Welfare

By Trisha Rosenberg, Dept. 2nd Vice President

Hello everyone! I have served as 2nd Vice/Child Welfare Officer at the Local and District levels and now I am taking the opportunity to serve at the Department level.

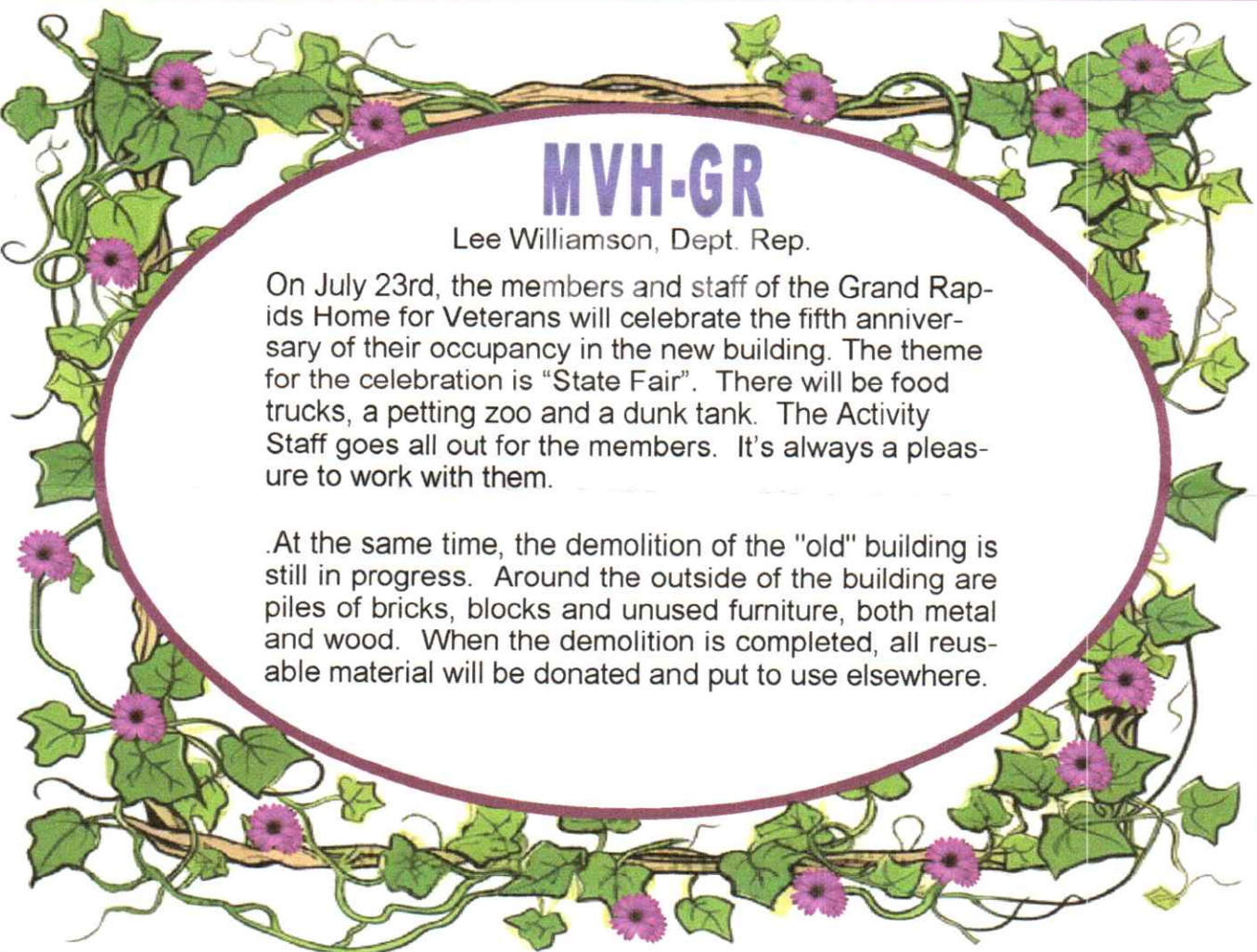
There are several projects to consider such as coats/jackets and school supplies for children in your Post and community. Please consider keeping a log of volunteers, hours and miles along with project details to make reporting easier.

Hopefully, I will receive a report from all Auxiliaries. Mid-year is due by November 5th and final is due by May 5th (post mark). Please send a report even if you have nothing to report and remember to use the revised forms dated June 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 616-889-3917. Have a great day and stay blessed.

Trisha Rosenberg
2nd Vice President
nightqueenaac@gmail.com





MVH-GR

Lee Williamson, Dept. Rep.

On July 23rd, the members and staff of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans will celebrate the fifth anniversary of their occupancy in the new building. The theme for the celebration is "State Fair". There will be food trucks, a petting zoo and a dunk tank. The Activity Staff goes all out for the members. It's always a pleasure to work with them.

.At the same time, the demolition of the "old" building is still in progress. Around the outside of the building are piles of bricks, blocks and unused furniture, both metal and wood. When the demolition is completed, all reusable material will be donated and put to use elsewhere.



**SEPT. 15TH
IS THE
DEADLINE
FOR THE
FALL CONFERENCE
PRE-REGISTRATION**



**AUGUST 15TH
IS THE
DEADLINE
FOR THE
SEPTEMBER
NEWSLETTER**



2027 Convention Chairman

Carol Pickett

Convention 2026 is over and now we move on to Convention 2027. I have the privilege of being your Chairman.

My name is Carol Pickett and I'm a life member of Aux 121 in St Clair Shores. I am also a Past Department President - 2000-2001 -and have been a Convention Chairmen a few times.

There is always something new and something to learn, so with your help and input we can have an interesting, fun and good convention. If you any ideas please let me know.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank PDP Pam Pearce and her Officers for the past year and wish President Allison and her Board a great year.

Battle Creek VAMC

By PNP Faye Richardson-Green

Have you ever wondered how you can help a veteran in crisis? You can go online to www.mentalhealth.va.gov. Or you can participate in an online training offered by the VA. You'll learn to recognize the warning signs and respond using the S.A.V.E. steps:

- ★ ☐ Signs – Know the warning signs of suicide
- ★ ☐ Ask – Ask the right questions
- ★ ☐ Validate – Show understanding and compassion
- ★ ☐ Encourage & Expedite – Help connect them to the support they need



Whether you're a Veteran, family member, caregiver, or community member, you'll leave equipped to support someone in crisis and guide them toward help.

This training is led by certified VA suicide prevention professionals and fosters understanding, compassion, and action. To access the online training, go to VA SAVE Training. The dates available are August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5 or December 3, 2026. The time is 10am – 11am.

AMERICANISM/SOS

By Marie Kurzer, Americanism/SOS Officer

Hello everyone! My name is Marie Kurzer, I am looking forward to the upcoming year as the Department Americanism/SOS Officer.

Presently I am also the 2nd Vice President for AMVETS Post 22 in Bay City and the Treasurer for District 2.

The Americanism theme for 2026/2027 is "How Do We Honor the American Flag?" I will update the Americanism packet after National Convention. If there are any changes it will then be sent to the Webmaster for posting on the website.

My Americanism project for the year is the Joint Americanism Fund.

I would also like to thank the women who will be on the Americanism Committee, Pat Michalski, Diana Lammott, Rose Solak and Wendy Lynema. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year.

If you would like to contact me, my phone number is 989/233-5985 and my email is mariekurzer@yahoo.com



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

By Nancy Middleton, Exec. Secretary

I will have the updated Service Report forms and the Project Evaluation Sheets which have the Revised 6/2026 date on the bottom available at Fall Conference in October.

For the Auxiliaries not represented at the Conference, the forms will be available on the website.

These forms MUST be used for the mid-year reports for 2026 and the final reports in 2027.

Please throw out any Service Reports which say Revised 2025. They're no good.

Each year new ones have to be made because Auxiliaries were just using any form they found. I have been Secretary for 23 years and some of the forms I had never seen before and much of the information was incorrect (hours/miles/etc.)

FALL CONFERENCE 2026

OCTOBER 9—10—11 2026

Marriott in Mt. Pleasant

By Nancy Middleton, Fall Conference Chairman

I am extremely embarrassed to tell you this is basically all I know for certain. I have been in contact with Richard DeVoe, the AMVET Chair and he has no information either. The contract was made several months ago (I think) and he does not have a copy!!

He is going to the Hotel this week to get my many questioned answered. I have worked with him on a project a few years ago and I have faith that I will have many of our questions answered within the week. I have decided to get this newsletter out this week and I will do up a Fall Conference bulletin and send it to all those who receive or subscribe to this newsletter as soon as possible. This is information we need!

Here is a little bit I can tell you. I have contacted Gloria Hall, Kathy Keizer, Jennifer Zelony who are willing to join me as "trainers". I have specifically stated I want the session to be informative but also enjoyable. We desperately need who, what, where, when and why we have rules, reports, records, responsibilities and requirements. I have made it clear we need to have discussions (not lectures) smiles and/or laughter is allowed, questions are welcomed, comments are encouraged, BUT order must be in the rules. Yelling, obscenities, rolling of the eyes, rudeness or disrespect will not be welcome at this Fall Conference. In fact, it should not be tolerated at any conference, convention and/or meeting!!!

I certainly hope for a lot of Attendance—But I hope for Participation even more.

Please note the dates on your calendar 10/9-11/2026. Please come to Fall Conference in Mt. Pleasant.

P.S. I am trying to find a few more incentives to encourage attendance. And I think I have a few surprises in store for the weekend.



WHO IS OUR NEW PRESIDENT??

AND WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT HER?

Allison Aldrich is serving her 2nd term as the Department of Michigan AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. She was President the first time in 2014-2015 when she served with Cmdr Tony Lema and SOA Cmdr. John Aldrich

We would like to tell you a few things about Pres. Allison. Some things we learned over the years – some we learned last week!

Allison was born in our State Capital – Lansing on Feb. 3 (the year is a secret!). Most of us know Allison's husband John. He is a past Dept. Commander of the Sons and current serves as their NEC Man. She became an instant Mother when they married to three stepchildren.

After 'climbing the chairs' on the Dept. level and serving as President, she didn't slowly disappear. No – not Allison. Almost every time there was an Office with no one to take over – there was Allison. Her favorite is probably Community Service which she has held several times along with holding several Offices at her local Auxiliary #4064 where she has been a member for 26 years. In fact, she was President at #4064 eight times!! In addition, she has served on many National Committees and held the Office of National Scholarship Officer for 2 years.

On a personal level, Allison enjoys camping. They live in Laingsburg which is about in the middle of the State, so they have their choice of which direction they choose to go – but it is usually North! Since they have no pets they can take off whenever they want.

When it comes to food, Allison has a couple weird favorites. She loves Mexican food but her favorite restaurant is Applebees (?) and for desert...blue berry pie. And, bring out the Coke Zero. Just do not ever take her to a sea food restaurant of any kind!!

Looking for a gift for Allison? She collects snowmen. Yup – all kinds. In fact her theme in her first run as President was "There's Snow Place Like Home" and the decorations were snowmen. Oh yes, when wrapping a gift, use purple paper and red ribbons – her favorite colors. She likes the vanilla smell of candles, Tiger baseball, and Christmas (although her favorite season is Fall). Allison likes her music light rock or country and watches cooking shows on TV BUT she doesn't have a favorite actor or singer.

She makes delicious candy snacks at Christmas time which she sends to friends. (I like the chocolate ones with those stick things. (but I didn't get any last year).

Sometimes she seems very quiet – but when she gets going, she talks faster by the second. Try taking minutes when she's on a roll – impossible! (and she is a little camera shy!)

We just wish her a successful and an enjoyable year..... but remember
"There's Snow Place Like Home!"

