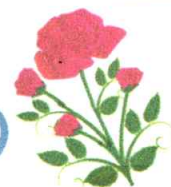


AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY

Department of Michigan

September, 2026



2026/27 Department Officers

President Allison Aldrich

1st Vice Gloria Hall

2nd Vice Trisha Rosenburg

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

Higgins Lake Rep Diana Lammott

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

&

Exec. Secretary

Nancy Middleton

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Allison Aldrich, President

Summer is almost over and school is about to start. Hopefully you have all remembered to put it in your mid-year report; Postmarked by November 5th.

By the time you receive this newsletter I will be in Orlando Florida for the National Convention. I will report on the Convention in the next newsletter.

We are starting to plan our Fall Conference and SEC meeting. The SEC will be Friday, October 9th at 6:00pm. Department Officers, please be in uniform for this meeting. Hopefully our National President will be in attendance. It is at the Courtyard by Marriott at the Central Michigan University, 2400 E Campus Dr., Mount Pleasant MI 48856.

Our Fall Conference Chairman Nancy Middleton is working on classes for Saturday and has some good instructors. Hopefully there will be more information to come.

My local Auxiliary #4064 will be having our 19th annual Christmas Fun Run on Saturday, August 29th. For more information, please go to the Auxiliary website www.amvetsauxdeptmi.org

BIG OOPS!

On the back page of the August news, I stated our Dept. President's theme from her previous Presidency. Oops, I got it Wrong!!!! It was "There's Snow Place Like America!"
I am so sorry!!!!!!

Nancy



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

By Gloria Hall, 1st Vice President



Hello Ladies

We are coming close to Fall Conference. Will you be able to join us this year? If you have not been to a conference for some time, maybe it is your time to renew old friendships, make several new, or discover and refresh how to do your First Vice office at the local level.

Membership can be tricky but if you follow procedure, it can be easier. Learn the ins and outs of what to do, when to do it, and how to do it to complete your duties. We are all in the same boat in this class. Come and work together to make sailing through fun!

Look through the rest of this newsletter for dates, costs and location.

See you there



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



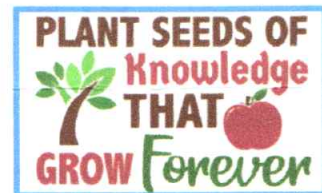
FALL CONFERENCE 2026

The Fall SEC will be held on October 9th at 6pm.

Training/informational classes will be held on Saturday October 10th. During the past couple years, we have had several issues which need to be cleared up.

We will be covering topics which seem to be major problems :

- ★ Rules/instructions
- ★ Membership
- ★ Service office problems
- ★ Reporting



Instructors will be myself (Nancy Middleton), Kathy Keizer and Gloria Hall.

We are looking for several local Auxiliaries to be represented at these classes. Please come prepared to ask questions! We will do our very best to provide answers. We will also do our very best to **NOT** stand before you and give lectures. We are only going to succeed when we work together and resolve problems.

Our Instructors are good and have dealt with many issues but they cannot help if they don't know what you need..

COMMUNITY SERVICE

3rd Vice President Jennifer Zelony

After the National Convention, there will be a date set for the Paw With a Cause Tour. I will announce the date at the Fall Conference to those who are there and it will also be out in the newsletter for those who can't make Fall conference. If you haven't been to the Paws facility, you are missing out on a lot of fun, and seeing this place in person it's amazing.

I also want to mention if you have questions if your project is Community Service or not, please reach out. In the past, I have seen some Auxiliaries who are putting projects for other areas on their Community Service reports. It's important to make sure you record what you have done on the right report.

I hope to see new people coming to Fall Conference this October. For those who have questions, please bring them and I will answer what I can.

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.

FROM YOUR DEPT. TREASURER

by PDP Kathy Keizer, Trea\$urer

As the locals begin planning fund raisers for our service programs, I want to remind all Treasurers of the following:

*Whenever your Auxiliary holds a fund raiser and advertises the funds will be going to a certain service program or project, you **must** be sure to make note and keep track of ANY AND ALL DESIGNATED FUNDS. This information should always be part of your finance report at your meetings. At no time, should these funds be used for anything else – NOT EVEN WITH A MOTION! When you say funds are being raised for a specific program or project, they must be used for that particular designation. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!*

If you have any questions, you can contact me through email at: katzr@gmail.com anytime. I check my email several times each day so a reply will be usually be sent the same day.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope your Auxiliary has a great year!

Immediate Past President's Report

By Pam Pearce

Good September! This will be my first newsletter in my new positions (Liaison, Michigan's head delegate at National Convention, Honors & Awards Chairman). I have read all my instructions and I am sure I will need to keep reading them! I also have my Chaplain's report in this newsletter somewhere.

I have been notifying donors as my instructions have told me. Some of them want changes. I have not received the thumb drive since taking this position. I hope to receive it to make it easier for me to make the changes to those donors who want them.

I will have been to National as this comes out and will have information to share for the October issue since National Convention is Aug. 17th - 23rd and I need to have this newsletter in by the 15th of Aug.

In my instructions, it states I need to submit an article. It is also my duty to collect any awards coming to Michigan auxiliaries.

The audit took place within the allotted time instructed, and everything was good. Kathy was all set and will be an asset to us and ready for her next year as Treasurer.

I hope everyone is doing great work and recording everything. I cannot wait to see all the service reports.

Thank you

Pamela Pearce IPDP



HOSPITAL NEWS

By Linda Marshall, Hospital Officer

Thank you for electing me as your Dept. Hospital Officer. It will be a privilege to work with local Hospital Officers.

Please get your life member Hospital allotments in on your first Membership D&R. This is the way the VA/Home Reps get their allotments to help the VA patients.

Please remember midyear service reports are due postmarked by November 5, 2026 and these reports are mailed to me at:

Linda Marshall - 1601 Fremont St - - Bay City, MI 48708.

If you have questions, please give me a call at 989-894-0355.

Yours in AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
Linda Marshall, Dept. Hospital Officer

SCHOLARSHIP

by Rene Savin, Scholarship Officer

SEEDS of
Change



Building a Scholarship Toolkit — We Want Your Ideas!

As we look ahead to the upcoming scholarship year, one of my goals as **Department Scholarship Officer** is to develop a practical **Scholarship Toolkit** which local Auxiliaries and Districts can use to promote scholarship opportunities and help more students successfully complete the application process.

The toolkit will be designed to make scholarship outreach easier by providing ready-to-use resources such as promotional flyers, social media posts, application guidance and checklists.

An important part of this effort will be **removing unnecessary barriers and helping applicants avoid common mistakes that can lead to disqualification**. Sometimes a deserving student misses an opportunity simply because a signature was overlooked, a required document wasn't included, a deadline was misunderstood, or an eligibility requirement wasn't clear.

Our goal should be to maintain the integrity and requirements of our scholarship programs while making the process as **clear, accessible, and user-friendly as possible**. Simple tools—such as an application checklist, clearly identified deadlines, examples of required documentation, and a final "before you submit" review—can make a significant difference.

We Need Your Experience!

Before putting the toolkit together, **I would love to hear what has worked for you. If your Post, Auxiliary, or District has had success with scholarship programs**, please share your experiences and ideas, including:

- How you successfully reach students, parents, schools, counselors or community organizations.
 - Common application mistakes or reasons you have seen applicants disqualified.
 - Steps you've taken to make applications easier to understand and complete correctly.
 - Successful scholarship fundraising ideas.
 - Ways you've increased the number of qualified applicants.
 - How you recognize scholarship recipients and share their accomplishments.
 - Sample flyers, checklists, applications, letters, social media posts, or other materials that have worked well.
- What you wish you had known when you first became involved with scholarships.**

Our members have a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience. Rather than reinventing the wheel, I hope we can bring together the **best ideas from across the Department** and turn them into practical resources everyone can use.

Continue on page #6

Scholarship— continued from page #5

Have a great idea, successful program, sample resource—or even an example of something that didn't work? Please send it my way. Learning from both our successes and our challenges will help us create a stronger program.

PLANT SEEDS
OF KNOWLEDGE
THAT WILL
GROW FOREVER

Together, we can build a Scholarship Toolkit that helps our Posts, Auxiliaries, and Districts **remove barriers, reduce preventable disqualifications, reach more students, and connect deserving young people with opportunities to further their education.**

Rene Savin

Department Scholarship Officer



Long Range Planning Committee

Jennifer Zelony, Chairman

There hasn't been a meeting yet this year for the Long Range Planning Committee. There will be one at the end of August where I hope we accomplished a project that I think will fix a lot of confusion every time I go to a meeting, along with starting something that has been talked about for a couple years and that it's finally getting put in place to see how it works this year.

If you haven't checked yet, please look at the web class which was posted on the website before this past year's Convention and please let me know if this is working.



JOHN D. DINGELL VAMC

by Rose Solak, VAVS Representative

In Honor of Celebrating America's 250 Anniversary, we held a Special Bingo with canteen books, apple and cherry pie with ice cream for the Veterans in the Community Living Center. We held a picnic at Lyle Van Houten Park in Dearborn Heights under the pavilion. All enjoyed the Luncheon.

The Veterans received Patriotic sunglasses and 250 Anniversary Banners. A Speech about the Statue of Liberty by Rose Solak. There were several dignitaries, including the Dearborn Heights Mayor Mo Baydoun

On page #7 there is a needs list of items which you or your Auxiliary may be interested in donating to.



Rose Solak VAVS



CDCE VOLUNTEER OFFICE DETROIT VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Here are the current donation needs of the following items for our Veteran patients.

All items must be New!

Men's sneakers/boots (9-13)

Men's Shower Shoes (9-13)

Men's Briefs/ Color T-Shirts (M-XXL)

Sweatpants & Hoodies (M-XXL)

Men's winter coats (L-XXL)

Men's Deodorant

Denture adhesive/Nail/Toe Clippers

Body Wash/Lotion (large/small)

Non-Alcohol Mouth Wash

Women sneakers (7-10)

Women's sport bras/panties (M-XXL)

Women's sport tops/pants (M-XXL)

Snacks and beverages are needed for our diabetic Veteran patients in our clinics and homeless transition program. Below are the items we are seeking per month for the following areas:

Dermatologv /Eye Clinic & Ortho Clinic Monthly request

Personal size bottles /individual size snacks

8 cases of orange juice / 8 cases of apple juice/6 Cases of water

Graham crackers & Peanut butter/ Cheese crackers (8 boxes each)



Chemo / Radiation Oncologv/ Dermatologv Monthly request

Individually wrapped by manufacturer

Smart popcorn

Hard candy

Small size candy bars

Chewy Granola bars

Please visit us online at www.va.gov/detroit-health-care/work-with-us/volunteer-or-donate FOR MORE INFORMATION TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT US AT (313) 576-3332

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
CDCE)

4646 John R. Street Rm#A1015

Detroit, MI 48201

vhadetvavs@va.gov

THANK YOU FOR HELPING AMERICA'S HEROES!

Veteran Domiciliary Residents

Kashi, Kind, or Nature Valley Granola Bars

Sun Chips

Goldfish Whole Grain Crackers

Skinny Pop Popcorn

Monthly Cases of Gatorade / Bottled Water



**The deadline for the October newsletter
articles is**

5pm on Tuesday, September 15, 2026

WARNING!! Printing starts at 5:01am on 9/15/26. If you sent your article in at the last minutes, it will be printed as received. No adjustments, corrections,



Jacobetti Home

By Judy Smith, Jacobetti Home Rep

August 4th celebrated Jacobetti Home for Veterans 45 years of serving those who served

The members of Jacobetti enjoyed an Ice Cream Social with Music by Linda Smith (no relation), Patriotic Music by the Marquette City Band, Onsite Fish Pond, and Sowing Seeds Worship Band,

Members also enjoyed Jo-Kay Corral Mobile Farm, 21st Annual Fish Fry, Nathan Koski Memorial Classic Car Show and BINGO! Jacobetti Home Staff and Volunteers keep our members well entertained.

Construction is ongoing at the new Jacobetti Home



CHAPLAIN

BY Pamela Pearce, Dept. Chaplain



Blessings to everyone. I pray peace and health for each of you.

It has been fairly quiet so far as your Department Chaplain. I did send a card on July 31st with a gift card to Gloria Hall to purchase a gift for Kathy Cross, who is facing some serious health issues. Please keep Kathy in your thoughts and prayers.

I sent out a get-well card for Melanie Graham, who was in a serious car accident. Kathy Hayes will get a gift for her with the gift card I sent.

Please locals, if you need a card sent out or have a death of an Aux. member, let me know. I cannot send cards unless you reach out to me. Email me at upnorthpam1@gmail.com or call me at 231-357-6010.



Dept. of Michigan
Auxiliary Chaplain
Pamela Pearce



The
deadline for
the October
newsletter
article is

5pm on
Tuesday,
September
15, 2026



WAYS & MEANS

Greetings

Hope everyone has had a wonderful time.

School is already started, so please be patient with traffic where school buses are dropping or picking up children.

Plans for the up coming Fall Conference Ways and Means isn't complete as of now due to fact no agenda as been received by the Auxiliary.

Plans so far are as follows:

A Chinese Auction will be set up on Friday, with the winners drawn on Friday night.

A different Chinese Auction will be set up on Friday.

On Friday as well there will be a 50/50 raffle going on, as well as a mystery game during the day with winners announce after the last class.

An evening activity depends on the agenda for the day.

Hope to see lots of people there.

Patsy Watkins

Ways and Means Chairman

4409 Royal Glen Dr NE, Comstock Park, MI 49321  This is my new address.

phone - 616-589-2728

email - sassyjo1027@yahoo.com

2nd Vice/Child Welfare

By Trisha Rosenburg, Dept. 2nd Vice President

Hello again! Please consider projects to benefit the children of your post and community.

Plan events for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Include things for the children to possible make holiday cards for our veterans in the VA hospitals.

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 check our website for the most recent updated forms

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

MVH-GR

Lee Williamson, Dept. Rep.

At the present time there are 120 members at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. (They are referred to as "members", because some may be dependents of Veterans).

I have spoken before about the care given to them, but now I want to mention how they treat the volunteers. We are given Tee Shirts, Hats, tote bags and banquets, where very tasty meals are served. We receive certificates, and pins and best of all verbal, face to face THANK YOU's and WE APPRECIATE YOU's.

There's no better place to spend your free time.

I have been a volunteer since 2005 and will continue as long as I am able.

Leora Williamson

Dept. Rep. to MVH-GR



SGT-AT-ARMS

Labor Day - Did you know??



by Val Rocheleau – Dept. Sgt. At Arms

A Patriotic Holiday – Labor Day

The first unofficial Labor Day dates back to September 5, 1882, taking place in New York City. Though it took some time, States slowly but surely began adapting the holiday as their own over the years.

By June 28, 1894, Labor Day was an official holiday according to Congress, passing an act that declared the holiday be celebrated on the first Monday in September of each year.

Prior to the inception of the holiday, labor unions were advocating for “very specific improvements in their working conditions”

Most workers in America were indulging in physically or mentally taxing jobs – and doing so all seven days of the week, with no real limit to the hours –per day. So, through resilience and a dose of well-intentioned stubbornness, the labor unions saw some amazing wins! In short, they are the reasons we now have a 40-hour work week and company benefits such as time off, vacation time, and sick leave! Labor Day honors the common American workers who helped change the way our country views its workforce, allowing for economic freedom and liberty.

ALEDA E LUTZ VAMC

BY Linda Marshall, VAVS Rep.

The Aleda E. Lutz has been very busy. The attendance is always going up. The area the Aleda E. Lutz covers is from Flint to Mackinaw. The VA center is opening up a Vet Center for Veterans with mental disorders; the Grand Opening is set for August 20.

The Veterans love their Bingo, which I sponsor monthly.; the attendance at our Bingos are going up from 10 to 15. The Veterans will have a new activity of fishing which purchased a fish finder and a cart to carry all of their equipment.

If you want to donate items to the VA Center give Voluntary Services a call at 989-497-2500.

Needs List:

VISA Cards	Hygiene items	Sweat pants
T-Shirts	Canteen Boos	Socks
Underwear	Fishing Lures	Laundry Soap
Sensory Items for patients with Dementia such as quiet music, soft lights		

Linda Marshall, Rep.
Aleda E Lutz VA Medical Center

DISTRICT V NEWS

Patsy Watkins, District V President

I haven't got the final word as to where the September District meeting will be held. As soon as I get the word I will let each Auxiliary know.

We have 2 Texas Hold'ems coming up. One over Labor Day weekend and the other one the first weekend in October.

Hope to see more members attending the District meetings letting all Auxiliaries know first hand about the activities and fundraisers going on at your post.

If you have any questions or comments please let me know.

Webmaster Reporting

by Webmaster Jennifer Zelony

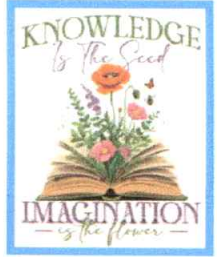
There hasn't been any updates besides Madam President's and other Officer bulletin's and a few Auxiliary flyers for things they are doing over the next few months.

I just want to keep encouraging others to send in their flyers to get the message out for all to see if we can support each other.

DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

October 9-11, 2026

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM



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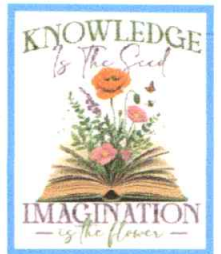
Send this form with a check made payable to AMVETS Ladies Aux Dept MI postmarked by OCTOBER 1 2026 to
Nancy Middleton - 1535 48th St SE - Kentwood MI 49508

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE - \$10

DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

October 9-11, 2026

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Name _____ Auxiliary _____

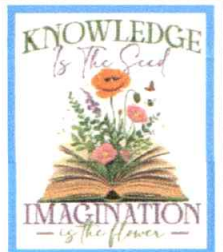
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