AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
NATIONAL LINES

“Never Forget”

MARVELL E. RUPPEL
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
2017 – 2018
Welcome to a different kind of National Lines!! Spring is here and brings changes everywhere so why not to the National Lines?

We decided to go with the National Officers reports from the Spring NEC, held March 8-10, 2018 as a way giving you an mid-year update on what’s been happening and accomplished by AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary.

Don’t fear – the May 2018 on-line National Lines will be the same version you’ve come to expect, with year-end awards deadlines and other pertinent information.

Your feedback is welcome.

PNP Carol King
National Executive Director

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

Marvell E. Ruppel

Greetings National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests!

Welcome to the 2018 Spring National Executive Committee meeting and Silver Helmet Awards. We have a lot of business to conduct this weekend and I’m hoping this will be a productive and informative meeting for us all.

Our National Headquarters has had some changes this year. We welcome Bertha Thompson as our new part time staff member. Carol King, our Executive Director, will be updating you on headquarters changes and other pertinent news about National Headquarters and events.
National Headquarters’ staff has been busy processing membership and donations received for our National programs. You’ll also be hearing more about the current status of all of membership totals and program evaluations from our National Officers during this meeting.

My theme for the year is “Never Forget”. It’s important that we must Never Forget our Veterans, currently serving military personnel, Gold Star families, and our AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Aims and Purposes to educate our youth about the values of freedom, democracy and citizenship.

My project is a joint venture with our National Americanism Chairman, Maureen Jackson, to replace the antiquated lighting on the campus at Freedom’s Foundation Valley Forge. There is no other program in the United States whose primary mission is to “educate about American rights and responsibilities, honor acts of civic virtue and challenge all to reject apathy and get involved”.

Some statistics:
- Since 1949, more than 5.0 million students have been impacted through Freedoms Foundation citizenship and leadership programs.
- More than 96% of FFVF alumni register to vote at their first opportunity. The national average is 42%.
- More than 92% of FFVF students volunteer in a community service project or program. The national average is 26%.

If you've never visited the campus at Freedoms’ Foundation or would like to learn more go to their website at: [http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/](http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/). More information on this project is included in Maureen’s report.

Freedom’s Foundation has announced the name of David Harmer as their new President and CEO. Mr. Harmer replaces former President and CEO Mike DeYeso. While we are saddened to learn of Mike’s departure from Freedoms Foundation, previous interim President, Wallace Nunn and Executive Vice President Jason Raia have ensured their alliance with AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. From what I have learned about Mr. Harmer, I’m encouraged by his statement that “We take seriously President Ronald Reagan's warning: ‘Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.’”

It has been a whirlwind of travel for me. My travels began with the Officer’s meeting in September. It was my first experience dealing with the Atlanta Airport as I ended up spending the night there and got an inside view of what goes on in the airport when the maintenance staff are repairing, cleaning and taking care of those gate areas while others are sleeping.

My official visits began with a tour of the King Veteran’s Home in my own home state of Wisconsin. It's always so amazing to see the technology that is involved with meal preparation and taking care of laundry for the home members. Meeting and talking with the home’s members during Casino, and this year serving up ice cream sundaes, is always a highlight. Relaxing by the campground fire, the challenge to raise funds for the President’s project by trying to figure out which hand belonged to my husband and being able to just reminisce was a lot of fun.

The beginning of October I visited with the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Michigan where I had the pleasure of attending their fall conference. After attending their SEC meeting on Friday, they put on a fantastic series of training events. Saturday that made it hard to choose which ones to go to. It was informative experience! Saturday night was a fulfilled evening playing a quarter auction followed by a warm reception with food, adult beverages, and great company! Thanks for all the craft beer - I’m still working on it!
Later that month I attended the AMVETS Ladies Americanism Conference at Freedom’s Foundation Valley Forge. At Freedoms Foundation we saw reenactors from the Civil War, toured parts of Valley Forge, visited Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and participated in a Declaration of Independence signing ceremony. I am always awe-inspired by the Freedom’s Foundation campus and their dedication to promoting citizenship and recognizing Medal of Honor recipients in their Medal of Honor Grove that was instituted by AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

From there it was on to the overseas trip with Commander Marion Polk and his lovely wife Beverly to Taiwan and Hawaii. The trip to Taiwan was a cultural learning experience as we joined with Republic of China Veterans touring throughout the countryside. In Hawaii we were chaperoned by Department Commander, Donovan Lazarus, who took us to Camp Smith United States Pacific Command (PACOM) and, attended an Ewa Battlefield brief. Commander Marion Polk, Son’s Commander, Harold Collins, and I laid wreaths at the National Memorial of the Pacific Cemetery (Punchbowl) and Pearl Harbor. The visit to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identification unit was especially memorable. The staff at DPAA work hard to ensure the promise that America will leave no military personal behind is kept. During our visit we learned that they had recently been successful in identifying six military members. When I returned home I found out that one of those veterans was from Wisconsin and there was a planned internment scheduled for later in the week.

My next trip took me to Washington for Veteran’s Day ceremonies where it was an honor to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with Commander Polk and Son’s Commander Harold Collins. Thanks go out to AMVETS Executive Director, Joe Chenelly, for chaperoning Commander Marion Polk and I around the D.C. area and getting me behind the scenes where I watched the wreath laying by Vice President, Mike Pence and Secretary of Veteran’s Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin.

I then traveled to New Jersey where I had the opportunity to attend an inspiring Veteran’s Day program put on by the New Gloucester elementary school. I can’t speak enough about the enthusiasm the teachers, students, their families, and the community demonstrates in celebrating Veterans.

I had planned to attend the AMVETS NEC meeting in December but that was not meant to be. Instead I was held up in Atlanta – my favorite airport (sarcasm here) – due to their “snow storm”.

After a break for the holidays I had the pleasure of visiting with the Department of Pennsylvania where I visited the Hersey’s Chocolate Store, won my first horse race - ever, attended a round table/reception and their SEC meeting. The Round Table was especially fun as I got an opportunity to hear from various Auxiliaries regarding the various activities they were doing in their hospitals and communities to support our programs.

Then it was on to the Department of Tennessee and the Women’s Leadership training in Pigeon Forge. The Department of Tennessee ladies welcomed me with a warm reception and lots of delicious food. I was challenged to sing God Bless America – a delightful and meaningful challenge which was fulfilled at the close of the training. Acknowledgements also need to go out to PNP Betty Lawson and her training committee for once again putting together an entertaining, yet very informative training seminar.

My next trip took me to the Department of Louisiana for their Ladies Auxiliary SEC, AMVETS 3rd District meeting, and our National Commander, Marion Polk’s Testimonial. Mardi Gras was the theme for the weekend and the ladies made sure I dressed for the celebrations! Besides Commander Polk’s testimonial I must say that the SEC meeting was most memorable. This is a small Auxiliary Department but the ladies work hard. Listening to their reports on programs reminded me that while we press for increased membership (which is important) it’s not necessarily the larger the membership that makes a difference, it’s the dedication and commitment of members that counts.

A visit to the Department of Florida has been my final trip leading up to this National Executive Committee meeting. These ladies met me outside of the Rosen Center hotel singing their infamous “I got that
AMVETS Feeling Down in My Heart” song with IPNP Evelyn McElvin adding her dance moves to the song. The Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida is just a wonderful example of decorum, hard work and fun!

This year for me is one that I will **Never Forget**. Please know that I am humbled and honored for the confidence you have placed in me as your AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary President. But **Never Forget** that it is only through the service of our Veteran’s and our currently serving military that we continue to live with the freedoms that we have. It is important that we support Freedoms Foundation to educate our youth and communities about the values of freedom, democracy and citizenship.

“Don’t limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.” Mary Kay Ash

Keep up the great work you do! God Bless you, God Bless America, and God Bless our military.

**Marvell Ruppel**  
**National President**  
2017 – 2018

**NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBERSHIP**  
**Barbara Valley**

Here we are into March of 2018 for our NEC meeting. A time to see our friends, but most of all a time to see the progress we have made in our organization. There will be much talk on all the great works the Auxiliaries have been doing in their projects supporting our veterans, our children, the hospitals and our communities.

But let us not forget in order to do all these things we must first have members. I know each year we’ve been told without membership we can’t survive, we all know this to be true. How many times have you heard membership keeps dropping each year? Most of us know in our own Auxiliaries we talk about how there is just a few of us that do most of the work. So, I say to each of you it’s time to recruit, recruit and recruit. We must talk about our organization.

Spread the word on just what we do, to anyone that will listen. Have your Auxiliaries have a bring a friend to your meeting night. Talk to those non-members about helping with a project you’re doing, they may even have a great idea on a fundraiser.

Remember the three R’s Recruit, Renew and Retain, they are the key to growth in membership.

- **Recruit** = getting new members
- **Renew** = letting those that have not renewed they are missed.
- **Retain** = make sure all have a voice and they are important.

This year I’ve had several questions on Honorary members. Honorary members are those that are not eligible to join our Auxiliary. An honorary member is someone that wants to help your Auxiliary; the key word here is **HELP** your Auxiliary. They have no vote nor can they hold an elected office. You don’t ask any more of them that you would ask of a regular member. We don’t make demands on anyone.

Honorary members are not counted in your membership report. You are allowed one new honorary member per-year, and each year you should do an evaluation on each of them. If you’re not going keep an honorary member, make sure you inform your Department so they let National know.
Don’t forget to apply for individual membership awards that will be listed in the Convention Digest that is mailed and will also be on the National web site. Application forms are needed. Departments you can get reimbursement up to $100.00 for local membership awards. You must include a description of the award, the name of the recipient and the amount. This is to be sent to National by July 1st, 2018. Departments having conventions the last weekend of the month have five (5) days grace.

I wish all of you will have a great time here in Alexandria, Virginia be sure to share all the information with your auxiliaries and have a safe trip home.

Madam President Marvell, I can’t say enough at the wonderful job you’re doing, and all the help throughout the years you’ve given me. I wish you a very productive NEC meeting and have a great time in the coming months.

AUXILIARIES CHARTERED SINCE 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

Kentucky #64 – Lewisburg
Kentucky #116 – Corbin
Washington #6 – Vancouver

REINSTATED AUXILIARY
Kentucky #75 – Owensboro

NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - CHILD WELFARE

Dolores “Dee” Baggett

Child Welfare Officers are entrusted with carrying out the duties of Child Welfare Service Programs. You should be prepared to offer project ideas and stimulate interest in those. Also make sure these are being reported properly and to send these in to Department and National prior to all deadlines. Please keep in mind that your year-end service report to National is be postmarked by June 1st. Keep in mind, Child Welfare programs are any activity that benefits children ONLY.

Our National Program is “John Tracy Clinic”. Our donations help sponsor correspondence courses for hearing impaired preschool children. I ask that you sponsor at least ONE function to benefit JTC and when you do, publicize it in your local newspapers, radio stations and/or TV stations. This helps promote AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and should help your project be a great success.

One of the easiest projects is for our local schools! Schools need items year-round. The list of supplies is usually easily found. Please contact your local schools and see what they need help with. Most schools need some support and they collect clothing, shoes and/or snacks all year long, in addition to school supplies.

Please make sure you have read the manual for ideas on pages 49 – 50 and on reporting pages 100 - 108. Our manual has almost all the information you need to have a successful year!
To be eligible for National Awards, all Departments must submit a mid-year and an annual service report. Please make sure if you have any youth volunteers that the list is TYPED. This was voted on at the National Convention this year. The National Service Officers were having a lot of problems receiving correct spelling and the whole name of these volunteers. **NATIONAL WILL NOT BE ISSUING A SECOND YOUTH CERTIFICATE FOR YOUTH NAMES THAT WERE SUBMITTED INCORRECTLY.** So please double check all youth names and make sure we have a first and last name.

The midyear reports show how much hard work everyone has accomplished so far!!! The reports were interesting to read over. I am sure our annual reports will increase greatly as the holidays were not included in these totals!! This year has been very rough for me as far as I have had severe bronchial problems for the last few months. I am hoping this is past!! I pray for all of you that have had the same problem or the nasty flu bug that has been going around. I have had to cancel my John Tracy Clinic visit twice but hope to reschedule soon. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just want to share what your locals or Departments are achieving please contact me.

**SOME FUNDRAISING IDEAS for Child Welfare**

**5 CARD BANG** - This game is played like bingo. Winners can be paid in money or gifts. Each player receives 5 cards. These can be loose, laminated or sewn together. You can charge for each round or for X amount of games, like bingo. The caller has a full deck of cards and calls until a winner declared. Keep in mind, you can have multiple winners in a game. This is a great game in the canteen, as a lot of people who would not play bingo will play this game.

**BAKE LESS BAKE SALE** – This is a great way to get most of your members to become volunteers!!! You can mail these as a postcard for a very small price or post in your post home. There are many variations of poems available on the web or give me a call if you need help.

**PURSE AUCTION** – These purses can be big, little, designer or not. You can display items on a table that do not fit in the purses and explain there is a note or number in the purse that coincides with that item. The best way to draw interest is to hint at the items contained in some of the purses and/or the value of them. Make sure you advertise and plan a meal at the same time!

**HOLIDAY BAKE SALES** – Many of our members do not have the time to bake or for various reasons do not. You can even take orders. The auxiliary should have samples of pies, cakes, fudge, or any specialties that you make. This works great as you have advanced sales and then can make extra to have available the day of your sale.

**TAKE STOCK OF THE VERY SPECIAL SKILLS YOUR MEMBERS HAVE, AND I AM SURE YOU WILL HAVE A VERY GREAT YEAR!**

I look forward to a banner year as everything we do does touch someone’s life and makes a difference to them and us! So now it is up to you! I challenge you to –

**PAY IT FORWARD**

**NATIONAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENT - COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Joan Sirek

Welcome to our Spring NEC meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National Third Vice President. My visit to PAWS was October 2, 2017. What an amazing visit. Thank you, ladies, in Michigan for all the fun and great hospitality. You made my trip awesome.
MARCH IS PAWS MONTH. I hope you had or are planning an exciting fundraiser. The cost to breed/raise each PAWS Dog is more than $30,000. Your donation makes it possible for a Veteran to be matched with a custom-trained Assistance Dog.

Your mid-year reports are in and it’s evident that you have “Opened Doors and Reached out in your Community”. Keep up the good work as I look forward to hearing from you as we complete the remainder of this Auxiliary year.

The Convention Digest should be available soon, please read over and apply for the National Awards. There is the PNP Lynda Taylor Award for the Department performing the most outstanding work in Community Service. Also available is the PNP Linda McGriff Award for your Local. This award is presented to a Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in Community Service. National also has a Blood Donor Program. If you donate blood or hold a blood drive, please fill out those applications so your Auxiliary can be recognized. Please feel free to contact me at any time, if you have questions or concerns.

Madam President Marvell, I wish you a very successful and productive NEC meeting. God Bless you and God Bless America!

NATIONAL TREASURER
PNP Barbara K. Guth

Welcome to the NEC in Alexandria, Virginia. Enclosed for your review are the financial reports of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary as of January 31, 2018. The attached financial reports are the balance sheet, operating statement, donations and National Convention.

In comparing total membership, the Auxiliary has received annual dues of $224,038, compared to last year’s annual dues of $287,668 only 78% has been collected. Life dues received was $36,200 compared to last year $45,800 down by 21%. Membership is down and still accepting dues. Comparing actual membership to budget, annual dues is down 32% and life membership is down 30%.

In comparing total expenses to budget, the Auxiliary has spent 32%, compared to last year at this time 43%. In comparing donations to all National Projects, this year to last year at this time the donations are up by 2%.

Everyone can be a patron donor at the 72nd National Convention. Circulate the Patron’s Page at your local, SEC or DEC meetings, District meeting and Department Convention. Again this year, the Annual National Convention Book will be offering advertising space. See the Convention Digest for details.

The exempt organization Form 990 tax return has been filed for an extension by the auditors.

President Marvell, have a constructive and harmonious NEC Meeting.

To our staff at Headquarters, thank you for your assistance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask, write, email, or call me. Thank you for allowing me to serve each of you. Happy Trails!
Welcome to the Spring NEC meeting! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Americanism Officer. The Freedoms Foundation Conference was very inspiring and thought provoking. The Medal of Honor Grove has been renovated and cleaned out making the monuments more visible. The reenactments of civil war historical figures make history come alive and make you feel a part of the time. Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the 911 Memorial are always breathtaking and memorable. The best part was being able to get to know my Auxiliary sisters from all over the country. We are currently making plans for the 2019 October weekend. Details will be coming soon. Please consider being a part of our next visit.

OCTOBER IS FREEDOMS FOUNDATION MONTH. This year’s project is replacing the antiquated street lighting on campus. Your contribution will help illuminate the campus roadway; making it safer and enhancing the beauty of the landscape. There will be certificates for Departments, Locals or individuals contributing $100 or more. There are additional incentives for Departments, Locals and individuals who contribute $300-$599 and for those contributing $600 or more. For an extra fundraiser Freedoms Foundation has beautiful lamp post lapel pins for you to sell, at $5 each. There is no cost to you at the time of ordering them. To order pins e-mail Shannon Sisson at (sisson@ffvf.org). All funds should be submitted to your Department for the Americanism Project. Any unsold pins should be returned to Freedoms Foundation.

Our Auxiliaries have been very busy with many Americanism projects as reported on their mid-year reports. The mid-year evaluation this year is $1,019,190. This is down from $1,149,018 reported last year. I am looking forward to hearing from you as we complete the remainder of our Auxiliary year.

As previously published, we will be holding a Patriotic Vest contest at National Convention. The vest should reflect Patriotism and love of Country. The vests will be displayed and modeled on the Convention floor. A written description will need to accompany each vest. A collection box must also accompany each vest. The winner will be selected by the donations placed in the collection box of the vest of the members choice. You can find the application form in the back of the NEC book.

Don’t forget about the Americanism Flag coloring, Poster and Essay Contest. This year’s theme for Posters and Essays is “Why is the Constitution important to me?” The contest is open to all students from k-12th grades. First place Department Winners should be sent to AMVETS National Headquarters.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando, Florida for the AMVETS National Convention. God Bless you. God Bless our Troops. God Bless America!

Madam President may you have a most productive NEC meeting.
PATRIOTIC VEST CONTEST

REQUIREMENTS

The vests should be patriotic, reflecting ways in which we demonstrate Patriotism and Love of Country. Vests can be made of any material, knitted, crocheted, or patchwork. They must be able to be worn and will be displayed on the Convention Floor. A collection box must accompany the vest entry. The Convention Delegates will select the winner by placing donations into the collection box of the Vest of their choice. The winner will be announced on the Convention floor. Donations received will be given to Freedoms Foundation in the name of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary.

Entry forms ONLY must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2018 and mailed to Maureen Jackson, National Americanism Officer, 30103 Pineview Circle, Chesterfield, Michigan 48051. Do NOT mail the vest; bring it with you to National Convention.

Patriotic Vest Contest Entry Form

Entry designed by: _________________________________

Department/Local Auxiliary: _________________________________

In 100 words or less please describe your Patriotic Vest and attach it to the entry form.
Welcome to the Spring NEC Meeting! Thank you so much for all the NEC Women that reported on time. After tallying the numbers, I’m happy to say that compared to last year’s NEC Report, we increased the number of Auxiliaries reporting by 26, the number of volunteers by 326 and the total evaluations by $69201.55! The total number of hours did go down by 678. Thank you for the great job you all are doing for the Scholarship program.

Please go to the National website to find your copies of the newly revised scholarship applications. All applications MUST be on the Revised Sept 2017 application to be eligible. Please destroy any older applications. All applications must be sent to National Headquarters postmarked no later than July 1, 2018. Mark them: Attention National Scholarship Officer.

Please contact me if you would like to be on the Scholarship Committee – I would love to have you!

If, at any time you have any questions concerning the Scholarship programs, please feel free to contact me.

Karin Simmons
National Scholarship Officer
2017 - 2018

I really enjoy being your Chaplain, and I am so thankful that I was allowed to serve another year. I enjoy the interaction with all of you whether it is by mail, e-mail, private message on Facebook or by phone. I am glad that you are realizing that the Office of Chaplain does not just deal with deceased notices.

Let us now discuss those deceased notices. Please send them in when you receive them. Holding them may mean that we at National cannot express sympathy to the family of our lost Auxiliary member’s family.
Per the request of many of you, the National Executive Board has decided that for the first two (2) months the Chaplain will send out Sympathy cards to the family of our deceased member; and if the notice is received after the two (2) months but not more than four (4) months then a Thinking of You card will be sent.

Again let me say how much I enjoy serving you in all stages of life from birth to death.

For we live by faith, not by sight.  
2 Corinthians 5:7

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Cindy Rice

Welcome to Spring NEC Meeting where we have the distinct honor of supporting our National Commander as he lobbies on the Hill in support of our Veterans and their benefits and we honor our Silver Helmet recipients. I wish you a productive informative meeting. Come and enjoy rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

The Pages and myself are here to help make your time more enjoyable and productive and are ready to assist you, the Officers, members and guests in any way possible. We ask that if you need help or assistance you raise the “PAGE SIGN” located on your tables. We welcome suggestions on how we can better serve you as NEC and National Convention gets closer.

In preparation for the upcoming National Convention in Orlando those attending are reminded to read the suggested protocol and vital information in the Convention Digest regarding awards, times for meetings and practice schedules for those bringing their Department colors to National. All Departments and Local Auxiliaries are encouraged to bring their Colors to Orlando. Please follow the instructions in the National Convention Digest and fill out the form and mail to: Cindy Rice, National Sgt-At-Arms, 778 Regina Drive, Vermilion, Ohio 44089, efda89@yahoo.com.

PAGES ARE NEEDED FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION!! Thanks to all those who have already agreed to be part of my team and I am looking forward to others joining us. If you know of anyone interested in paging at the upcoming NEC contact me by email efda89@yahoo.com. Be sure to bring comfortable shoes for running the NEC/Convention floor along with your proper uniform. Gloves are part of the uniform and needed when paging in case you need to escort a guest into the room.

Here are a few helpful hints to make your meeting rewarding:

- Be respectful when someone is speaking
- Turn off cell phones or place on silence
- Rise for the advancement of the Colors
- Stand (if able) when a guest is presented and applaud
- Participate, ask question
- Use your PAGE SIGNS

See you in March at the NEC. Have a safe, healthy winter until then. Madam President Marvell, I wish you a very successful, informative NEC.
Suggestions on where to find our Official Uniform

In regards to finding pants for our Uniform, it is a fall/winter color and is in limited supply right now due to most companies showing spring and summer colors. I checked many websites for the pants and here are the ones I found with the help of many Facebook friends.

Pueblo Trader had pants on sale for $9.99 item number is B 12163, this is clearance due to seasonal colors.

Blair had pants on clearance also but only M, L, XL for $14.97 B 12114

Blair Haband Alfred Dunner $24.99 #X04656 #X0457 #2775 #2776 ref # 209122347

Bedford Fair.blair.com the outlet hunter green

Bonworth - they are hunter green but again it is seasonal color and NOT available right now.

The Outlet by Appleseed Forest green on sale now but limited sizes for $19.99 reg. $50.00

WomanWithin.com plus size store #0026-12849-1141, 30025-08430-1141

JJILL.com - dress, skirt and pants

This is all I could find however a suggestion could be if someone is no longer active and wishes to get rid of their green pants or jacket they could donate or take them to an SEC and reuse the outfit. You could maybe check Goodwill also.

Yours in service,

Cindy Rice
National Sergeant-at-Arms
HOSPITAL
Amy Stopyra

With the first round of reporting in I want to say thank you to all who reported, you ladies are doing an amazing job! As I read through the reports, I found myself smiling and hungry and thinking WOW these ladies sure know what they are doing and how they are doing so I commend you all on a Job Well Done! Here are few of the items that stuck out as I read: a prime rib dinner (that sounds amazingly delicious), lap robes, baby hats, homemade quilt raffles, bingos, Christmas in July parties, golf tournaments, steak dinner (also sounds amazingly delicious), karaoke night, dunk tanks, pancake breakfast, 5K Runs, a Lula for St Jude, car washes and BBQ’s. I could continue to list more but this small list gives you an idea of the creativity and thought you ladies have. Keep up the Great Work! As we all continue forth with our reporting let us not forget that “Because We Care Day” is the first Wednesday in April. This is a wonderful way to show support for our hospitalized Veterans.

I made my St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital visit and I have to say that it was the most humbling experience of my life. The staff at St Jude was amazing and to see the different parts of the Campus, including showing me the in-house school, as well as visiting Target House. I will tell you that the staff at St Jude has developed a new pin-up with pictures of the children from the hospital. Supporting our National program for over 30 years is such an impressive part of our history. On average, 5700 active patients visit the hospital each year, most of them are treated on an outpatient basis. Families never receive a bill from St. Just for treatment, travel, housing or food, because all a family should worry about is helping their child live. Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20% to more than 80% since it opened more than 50 years ago. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90%, and pledge that they will not stop until no child dies from cancer. For more information go to their website: www.stjude.org.

Please keep in mind that we are still looking for volunteers to serve on the Hospital/VAVS committee at the 2018 National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Don’t hesitate to email, call or drop a letter off to me if you are interested.

Just as a reminder please make sure you are looking at the Convention Digest when it comes out to make sure you are reading through it and applying for any and all awards your Local Auxiliary or your Department may qualify for. You ladies are doing the work you deserve to apply.

Thank you for all the hard work you do in the area of Hospital. Keep up the amazing job you do in the nursing homes, VA Hospitals and what you do to benefit St. Jude. You and your Auxiliaries are keeping the “Temperature Arisin’ For Hospital”.

Madam President, I wish a productive and successful N.E.C. Meeting.

VAVS
Marie Rorrio

Our Volunteers have been busy working with our Veterans in our VA Medical Centers.

❖ FY 2016 we had 449 RS Volunteers 26,931 Hours in 71 VA Facilities but 14 of those facilities there were Zero hours actual 57 Facilities
❖ FY 2017 we had 273 RS Volunteers 22,575 Hours in 50 Facilities
❖ Loss of 176 Regularly Scheduled (RS) Volunteers and 4,356 Hours

These numbers may be off slightly due to the huge database conversion by the VA.

According to VA policy, VHA Handbook 1620.01 “**Organizations must be removed from the VAVS Committee when none of the certified members is in attendance at three consecutive meetings.**” At the National level, they were continuing to give organizations credit for being represented at a facility when their reps/deps had missed four consecutive meetings, or an entire year. With the new database that is not possible. I have already received notice of Reps/Deps that have missed 3 meetings and were in danger of being removed and had to receive letter from Department President and myself to have them reinstated.

The past few months I have been busy acknowledging Annual Joint Reviews (AJR’s), new Certifications and Department changes. In order to save on postage, I have been responding by email to the Representative, a copy to the VA Chief, the Department President and Hospital Officer, when I had an email address. As of today I have received 30 AJR’s. If you have not yet completed your AJR, it is not too late to do so.

I have recently certified Representatives/Deputies at 4 new VA Facilities:

Pittsburgh VAHCS, PA
Harry Truman VA Columbus, MO
PerryPoint VA , MD
VA St Louis/Jefferson Barracks, MO

I will be attending the National VAVS National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference April 10-13 in Tampa. I will be representing Amvets Ladies Auxiliary and presenting a check for your yearly donations to the James H. Parke Scholarship.

Madame President Marvel, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National VAVS Representative.

Best wishes for a productive and successful meeting!

*Marie Rorrio*  
**National VAVS Representative**  
2017 – 2018

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**PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
**PNP Betty S. Lawson**

There is no way to tell you how important it is for you to read your Constitution and Bylaws at the beginning of each year. I promise you there will be something to learn each time you do so.

I know it is easier to pick up the phone and call someone to get an answer you need however you need to read and find the answer for yourself. You will be amazed how you will never forget that answer again or where you found it. The Manual is another good source for information.

If you are a Local Parliamentarian or officer and you need help call your Department Parliamentarian. That is why she is there. Department Parliamentarians, please research before calling National. All local Bylaws shall be approved by the Department President and Parliamentarian. Bylaws shall be studied for revision every three years.
Department Bylaws shall be approved by the National Parliamentarian. Please check the latest signed copy of your Department Bylaws and if they were signed in 2015, you must review them for changes at your Department convention. Any amendments to Bylaws shall be submitted, in duplicate, including a separate page indicating where changes are within the Bylaws, to the National Parliamentarian by July 15 after adoption for approval, at which time they become effective. Bylaws that are updated to conform to National Bylaw changes need not be submitted to the National Parliamentarian for approval.

I hope everyone plans to come to the National Convention.

TRAINING COMMITTEE
PNP Betty S. Lawson

It is a pleasure to report that we had another successful training seminar in Pigeon Forge, TN in January. Our attendance was a little low but we had 96 members. Now we all know whether we are ready for our next office.

None of this would have been possible if we were not able to work together and fall in where we are needed. The trainers, PNP’s Carol King, Linda McGriff, Dee Krieling-Riley, and Evelyn McElvin, did an excellent job getting us ready for our next office. Madam President Marvell I thank you for your assistance. All the other members who assisted the trainers, you did a great job. Thanks to Wincie Wright and Deana Rose for their assistance at the registration desk. I could never forget all the girls who helped with Bingo and Silent Auction on Friday evening. Thanks for everything you do.

We had several first-time attendees again this year. It just amazes me how our members want to learn and make our organization the best Veteran’s organization out there.

I encourage you who attended to take the information back to your local and department meetings and share with the ones who could not come. Tell them how those “Golden Girls” with all the different personalities were able to decide what officer positions they would fill and be able to do this without any problems. You know if they could do that we could too.

Again, I thank you for your support of the Training Committee and hope to see you next year and bring someone with you.
72nd AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Convention
August 5 – August 11, 2018
(Please review agenda for scheduled meetings)

Orlando International Airport (MCO)

Transportation:
Maingate Transportation (407) 390-0000, press 0
Mears Transportation (407) 839-1570  Roundtrip: $37.00

Caribe Royale Orlando
CARIBEROYALE.COM
8101 World Center Drive, Orlando FL 32821
Direct (407) 238-8000
Reservation (800) 823-8300

Spacious one-bedroom suites with private bedroom and separate living room
Two-bedroom, two-bath villas with full kitchen

Room Rates - Cut-off Date: July 3, 2018
Standard Queen/King Suite = $109 + 12.5% = $122.62 per night
Deluxe King Suite = $129 + 12.5% = $145.12 per night
Two Bedroom Villas = $209 + 12.5% = $235.12 per night

Complimentary Self-Parking

Florida Night Tickets (Wednesday, August 8, 2018 @ 6:30 pm): $25.00/Ticket or $250/Table
To purchase send check made payable to AMVETS Department of FL and mail to: PDC Fertie Brand,
6213 Travis Blvd., Tampa, FL 33610

National Commander/President Banquet (Friday, August 10, 2018): TBA on AMVETS Website

Please promote the Patrons Page and Ads. This is a great way to advertise your candidate for office,
publicize your business, remember your loved ones, and so much more. (Details enclosed)

If additional information is needed, please contact me.

PNP Charlene Kee, National Convention Chair
P. O. Box 457
Eustis, Florida 32727
CHRLNKEE@AOL.COM
352.357.0866
Florida Night
AMVETS NATIONAL CONVENTION
08 AUGUST 2018

Come join the Fun and “ENJOY AN EVENING IN PARADISE.”
Appropriate Casual Party Attire.

ENTERTAINMENT BY “HOMER STYLES”. If you missed the auditions for
“Dancing With the Stars”, we’ll give you the opportunity to test your steps.
“Let’s dance the night away.”

Buffet Station: BBQ Pulled Pork, Teriyaki Garlic Honey Chicken, Hot
Dogs, Black Angus Sirloin Burgers, Bourbon Glazed Salmon, Corn on the
Cob, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Grilled Vegetables, Macaroni
Salad, Country Ham, Sweet Peas, Bread Pudding, Deep Dish Pecan Pie and
Pineapple Upside Down Cake.

There will be a set-up for pictures by our photographer.

TICKETS: $25 EACH OR $250/TABLE

**To order tickets: Make check payable to AMVETS Dept of FL
Mail to PDC Fertie Brand

**PDC Fertie Brand, AMVETS National Convention Chairperson
6213 Travis Blvd, Tampa, FL 33610  (813) 601-9371
PNP Charlene Kee, Auxiliary National Convention Chairperson
(352) 357-0866

Name:________________________# Of Tickets:________________
Address:______________________# of Tables:________
City:________________________State:____ Zip code:_______
Phone:______________________Amount of Check: $_________
Welcome to Spring NEC. I am getting excited to receive all your entries and read all about your hard work throughout this past year. You deserve recognition for all your labors and taking a few minutes to fill out the entry form, if one is even needed, will be rewarding for your Local or Department. Make sure everything is filled out in its entirety and correct before turning it in. Hand delivered entries will be accepted by the committees on Monday, August 6, 2018, from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

If you are mailing your entries to National Headquarters, they MUST be received by July 16, 2018. Additional information on History and Scrapbook can be found in the Convention Digest as well.

If you have any changes or recommendations for the Honors and Awards Committee to consider you must have them to the National Parliamentarian, PNP Betty Lawson 30 days prior to the opening of National Convention.

Remember the Convention Digest is full of all the information you need for a successful entry.

I hope you all will join us on Thursday, August 9 for a surprise-filled fun program. We have made some changes this year to expedite the proceedings so you will enjoy more free time!!

I want to thank you Madam President for appointing me your Honors and Awards Chairman. I hope you will enjoy your program and wish you a most Successful NEC.

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:

Madam President Ruppel, thank you for allowing me to serve as your National Junior AMVETS Auxiliary Coordinator. It has been an exciting year so far. I have been working with our Coordinators Nationwide and offered to help in anyway I could. In August 2017 we added Post 14 in Virginia and Post 17 in Florida. I am working with a couple of others and hope to have them approved, up and running before our next meeting.

To date I have received 255 membership renewals/ new members. Working on getting the rest of the renewals in by reaching out to each Junior organization.

I am working with the Juniors to help them have another successful year. I am in my eleventh (11th) year working with the Juniors and I love the Juniors. It is a great experience working with them as they teach me as much as I help teach them. Together, the Juniors and myself, will support your theme “Never Forget” and support the Freedom Foundation organization by selling the Lamplight pins.

I would like to remind all the Auxiliaries that our Junior President, Courtney Cummings, has selected St. Jude Children’s Hospital, as her project and her theme, “Another chance at a fantastic life”. Our Juniors will be selling 50/50 tickets at the March NEC to support President Courtney’s project.
The Juniors are our future and we need to invest in them.

On a personal note, “Thank You” to everyone for all your prayers, cards and support for my family and myself during our most difficult time on the loss of my Son. I love you all!

I look forward to working with you and all the AMVETS families. Together we will have a great year.

Fran McGurk
National Junior AMVETS Coordinator
2017 – 2018

HISTORY AND SCRAPBOOK
Cathy Tratz

Are you thinking of submitting a History or Scrapbook? Think of it as preserving history for either your Department or Local Auxiliary. Create books that show the different projects that your local has done to benefit our Military, Veterans, communities, hospitals and children. Preserve ideas for future Auxiliary members by letting them see what you have done and help get their imaginations working.

The History and Scrapbook criteria will be available in the Convention Digest. Please note MANDATORY ORDER. If this is not followed EXACTLY your book will be disqualified. Please make sure your Bylaws are current, signed and dated and your Preamble is the CURRENT version for the year 2018.

Have a new set of eyes look at the Mandatory Order to double check everything. Remember to label your pictures with the names of the people and don’t forget your index and page numbers.

HELP WANTED

Would you like to be on the History and Scrapbook Committee? Will you be at National Convention? If so, please e-mail me and I will be happy to add you. We do need a few more volunteers for our Committee. We meet to judge the books on the Monday prior to Convention. If you feel you can’t be on the Committee because your Department or Local is submitting a book – we do not have you judge them. As a bonus, you get to see what other Departments and Locals have been doing and get re-inspired and gain some great ideas for projects and fundraising.

I look forward to our next Convention to see all the great books you have put together. If you haven’t started yet, it is not too early to start compiling your books. This is a big job and if your start early it will not be overwhelming. Have fun compiling your book and learning what awesome things your Auxiliary has done this past year. See you in August.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PNP Carol King

It’s been a busy 6 months since National Convention. We’ve been hard at work entering membership, keeping the website current as well as our Facebook page and keeping up with the day-to-day operations of National Headquarters.
I anticipate having the Convention Digest in the mail the first week of April and posted online. Reminder - the Digest is sent to the official mail contact for each Local Auxiliary, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents, NEC and Secretaries. All the Orlando info you need to know can be found there.

The Revalidation process starts soon! The Local and Department Change of Officers form is available on the website. Remember your responsibility to file a version of the Form 990 and it MUST be sent in with the Change of Officers form. IF your fiscal year has not occurred by revalidation time, send a copy of the previous year’s Form 990 filing as according to the IRS you have up to 5 months after the end of the fiscal year to file.

And speaking of the IRS, from a Headquarters perspective, our hands are tied when it comes to contacting the IRS about your 990 issues. There is some information available to me via a phone call but they can only tell me so much. We update the IRS twice a year with status updates for every local Auxiliary, whether they are revalidated or not in good standing. Your emails and phone calls are welcomed however keep in mind sometimes we can only guide you to a resolution not provide one.

Upcoming deadlines to keep in mind:

NEC written reports, in Word format, for the Convention Book are due to Headquarters by June 30. Convention Book ads are due to Headquarters by July 1 and it must be copy ready, submitted in Word or PowerPoint. Convention Pre-Registration MUST be postmarked by July 1.

I’d like to take a moment and thank Joe Chenelly and the AMVETS National Headquarters staff and the National Service Foundation staff for all their help and cooperation. It’s nice to be considered part of the family and know your thoughts and suggestions are appreciated.

Hopefully you had a chance to meet our new Administrative Support person, Bertha Thompson. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank her and Sonja for all their help and support. They are both great to work with and they have my back and I have theirs. To the National Officers, thanks for keeping me on my toes. It’s never a dull moment around here.

At the 2017 Spring NEC I brought up an electronic NEC report form that we were going to have ready for use. After further review, we decided to postpone the rollout until 2018 National Convention. The form and instructions will be sent to each NEC in the future.

When it comes to deadline dates, these are not arbitrarily set. These are found in our Constitution and Bylaws and Manual and are there for a reason. While we do try and accommodate things arriving after a deadline, sometimes we are unable to. If an emergency comes up, please contact Headquarters and we will do our best to work with you. If you can’t meet your deadline, we can’t meet ours.

National Headquarters goal is to provide superior customer service; I think we have met that goal and then some. We try to be transparent and when we make a mistake, we own up to it. We are prompt and polite in our responses. When you call or write in, could you please give us the same consideration? Don’t demand things be done immediately or assume we know about an issue you are having. We’re not mind readers; we don’t know about your problem until you tell us. We have priorities and can’t drop what we are doing to address your concerns at that exact moment. Thank you for understanding and your patience.

While I know this will come out the wrong way I ask for your indulgence please while I make one last gripe. We provide many services and love hearing from you but one thing we aren’t is a travel agency. Planning for any off-site meetings is an enormous task with meeting rooms, etc. In the future if you even remotely think you might be attending a National meeting, please make a hotel reservation when the information is released. It is easier to cancel a reservation than get one at the last minute.

President Marvell, thank you for your leadership! It’s been an interesting 6 months and we’ve miles to go before we sleep 😊! Here’s to a successful NEC meeting!
NATIONAL SNAPPIEST
Sue Dick

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:

GREETINGS FROM SACKETTES! I hope everyone has survived this brutally LONG and very cold winter. Hope you all has great holidays as well.

Membership is way down and slow. Please recruit and retain members. Please review your Bylaws and make sure they are up to date, complete with signatures. The National Saddest is working diligently with the Sackettes to marry up with Sad Sack units so joint efforts can be made to increase membership to help with nursing scholarships as that is OUR ONLY mission. He is to be commended. I hope you all will work with him AND your units. If you don’t have a local unit you can join any unit in the US.

Yours in disservice

Just a reminder that when Madam President Marvell visits your State to send any pictures, programs or newspaper articles that should be included in her scrapbook. Please be sure to date and identify all activities and people involved. Without your assistance, I won’t be able to accumulate the items needed. My contact information is below.

Charmaine Wagner
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