

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL LINES/SPRING 2019 REPORTS**

**“Putting Veterans First**



**BARBARA A. VALLEY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
2018 – 2019**

# **NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**



National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members  
And Guest:

I'd like to welcome everyone to our Spring NEC meeting and hope all had a wonderful Holiday.

To all the new NEC Women and Department Presidents I hope you will not be shy asking questions, but most of all please take back to your Departments all that you learn from here. As we all know communication is the key to growth in our organization.

Here it is March already it's hard to believe seven months are behind us and National Convention will be here before we know it.

Speaking of National Convention, I hope all of you are making plans on attending. I understand the hotel has been doing some wonderful improvements, not only that, but there will be much more to see and do around Louisville, Kentucky. I'm very excited to have my National Convention held there.

Some have asked if I would be having a testimonial this year. With the economy as it is, many are struggling and needing to cut back on expenses. With this in mind, I have decided not to have one. I'm asking each of you to help support my project, the AMVETS Diabetes Research Institution in Athens, Ohio by having fundraiser; it can be reported on your service report under 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice/Community Service. As your National President the honor you have given me to serve this organization is all that is needed, supporting for what we stand for in helping others.

After election my first order of business was to King Veterans Home in Wisconsin. The tour of the home was unbelievable. Helping the veterans play putt-putt golf and them a wild day helping them at casino tables. Watching how excited each of them were in winning, but not only their excitement, but how I enjoyed helping and watching them. Several nights at the campout enjoying sitting around the camp fire and good company. Thank you, Wisconsin, for a great time; spending with the Veterans. Kings Veterans Home is something everyone should take time out to visit.

Next was the Officers Meeting in Maryland. A time to welcome new officers and get down to business. Michigan was the next step of my journey for their SEC, the weather was not warm, but those Michigan gals sure were. Their joint meeting was also a workshop that was very impressive.

It was off to New York in October where again I saw Auxiliary sisters working very hard for the organization. October was a month of many phone calls and e-mails that come in

each day. Because of surgery I was unable to make the Valley Forge, Pennsylvania trip but National was well represented by our National Americanism Officer Denise Rodzen. Then it was getting ready for the overseas trip. As I sat in the airport and heard over and over that my flight to Maryland was cancelled several times, I was not sure if I would get to there to meet Commander Riley, PNP Dee Riley and PNP Sylvia Rowland or not.

Three hours later I was on my way, at 6:45 a.m. the next morning it was off to San Francisco and then on to Taiwan. We received a warm welcome from Felix and Marco as our feet were on solid ground.

At the train station the next morning we meet with R.O.C. Veterans association group to tour a military base and the Taroko decorated archway. The Shrine built in honor of those that died building the roads through the mountains was just unbelievable.

Back to Taipei and there we attended several dinners, one being with Minister Kuo-Cheng Chiu and his wife. Along with Commander Riley I had the honor to speak at the 40<sup>th</sup> Festival Celebration where I received the Medal of Honor with Cravat.

A visit to their hospital and to see how they use traditional medicines was eye opening. I watched as PNP's Dee and Sylvia received acupuncture. Looked like ouch to me.

Sitting down with the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) President Tsai Ing-Wen is something I'll never forget, being able to talk about our Auxiliary and how we help our Veterans and our communities. I feel she was very impressed on what we do. Taipei, a city with many scooters, is a country of very proud and warm-hearted people.

It was so nice to leave rain and cool weather to the warm weather in Hawaii. After some rest AMVETS State Commander Lazarus took us to dinner. There we were greeted by Donna Renk, Family Services Program Director. National Commander Riley's project is The Shoreside Dock at Pearl Harbor for the USS Arizona. This project is also Donna Renk's project.

Laying a wreath at Pearl Harbor, seeing the USS Utah, the first ship that was hit that day before the rest of the fleet was taken out. Watching oil still seep out from some of those ships today gives me chills as I think of so many lives lost. As we toured to where our planes were hit that day seeing the large holes made by scrap metal and thinking how so many of our veterans died trying to get to those planes to protect our country will forever be in bedded in my mind. We laid a wreath at the Punchbowl Cemetery, then it was off to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. This is where DNA testing is done on bones of our military to help bring closure to families.

November I was off to D.C for Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery to honor all those who served in WWI 100 years ago and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers was an honor.

In Indiana it was such a treat to be able visit and attend one of their Special Olympics events. Again, I found Auxiliary members putting their hearts into our organization. But also, a place to watch for water puddles.

December was a month to spend time with family. I didn't attend the AMVETS NEC meeting as the National Commander would not be laying a wreath in Arlington National Cemetery for Pearl Harbor. To me, the cost of airfare and a hotel was an unnecessary use of Auxiliary money. A report was sent to the AMVETS to be added to their book. I was able to attend the Christmas party at the Ohio Veterans Home, what a great time as each Veteran was able to get gifts not only for themselves, but gifts to give to their families as well.

Being able to attend Wreaths Across America surely makes one think about the sacrifices so many did for our country.

The month of January found me heading to North Carolina's SEC meeting. There again I received a very warm welcome. Before attending their SEC meeting, I had the pleasure to a trip to the Biltmore House. It is the largest home in the United States with 250 rooms and 43 bathrooms, the marvelous beauty of the furniture, paintings, the pure beauty of each room and the stories each of them has is beyond belief.

As I sat and listened at the SEC meeting again hearing all the wonderful work the Auxiliaries in North Carolina are doing for Veterans and their communities just as so many other States are makes one proud to belong to AMVETS Auxiliary.

The leadership seminar in Tennessee was very rewarding yet very emotional as we all said our goodbye to Past National President Betty Lawson. So many brought stories to share with us as to how Betty helped in their lives as only, she could do. Her love for our Auxiliary and her family was a top priority in her life. She will be very much missed. One of the highlights was welcoming in a new Auxiliary #2018 in Alabama. We presented them their charter and swore in their new officers.

February finds me in my own state of Ohio for their Fall SEC. On Thursday I had the pleasure of attending a VA Valentines dinner dance concert for Veterans. Saturday morning was the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Legislative Awards Breakfast paying honor to those legislators who have supported rights for our Veterans. Also presented was a Civil servant Award for work to ensure the timely resolution of cases for families and children. Attending the testimony of the Commander and Presidents Testimonial dinner was had by all. The Ohio ladies are working very hard for veteran and their communities.

Then it was on to Louisville Ky for the sight visit for our National Convention. I hope to see many of you there. The hotel is wonderful and you will have the pleasure of new rooms. And there will be much to see while you're there. While there also I had the pleasure of visiting three local post.

I'd like to thank all the members of AMVETS family for their friendship and the great hospitality.

And a special thank you for your consideration and donations to my project, AMVETS Diabetes Research Institute. This is one way we can all help by **"Putting Veterans First"**.

God Bless each of you and God Bless America!

*Barbara Valley*  
*National President*  
2018 - 2019

## **NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL CALENDAR**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>VISITED</b>
<b>September</b>	7-9	Department of Wisconsin King Weekend
	20-22	Officers Meeting, Hanover, Maryland
	28-29	Department of Michigan SEC/Fall Conference
<b>October</b>	5-7	Department of New York SEC
	26/Nov 2	Taipei, Taiwan
<b>November</b>	<b>2-7</b>	Honolulu, Hawaii
	<b>30/Dec 2</b>	Indiana Special Olympics
<b>December</b>	<b>9</b>	Ohio Veterans Home Christmas Party
	15	Ohio Wreaths Across America
<b>January</b>	<b>11-13</b>	North Carolina SEC
	17-20	Leadership Seminar – Tennessee
February	14-17	Ohio Mid-Winter Conference
	19-21	National Convention Site Visit – Louisville, Kentucky

# **NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - MEMBERSHIP**

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

## **“Revving Up Membership”**

### **We have a NEW website with all our new forms!!!**

I am asking all Departments to please share the new forms with all local's, so the new forms will be used by all! (New Forms show a Revised 2019 date). The biggest changes to keep in mind – Honorary Membership is now required to be on a Dues Remittance Form with payment included from every Local Auxiliary every year! On the same form is now a “rejoin” type (RJ), which is for members who pay dues after 12-31.

The Accumulative Membership report follows my report. We are down over 1,650 members! NOW is the time to contact all our non-renewed members and sponsor at least one new member. ***I sponsored one – have you?***

Membership criteria can be found in our Manuals, Section 4: Programs, there is also General Membership information, this needs to be shared with all members. Also, always have an application! I keep one with my membership card. I have talked to other Ladies who keep one tucked into their hats or in their hat bag. Please find a fun way to make sure all members are carrying one. I will be asking if you have one at Convention!! *Will you have one?*

Please consider sponsoring a membership drive in your Locals and Departments. Programs cannot be accomplished without members. Just imagine if **every** member reading this sponsored a new member!!! Every one of us has somebody we work with, go to school with, attend church with or are related to that is eligible to join AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary! (plus, other women!) Most potential members have never been asked! Holding a function is a great way to let potential members what we are all about. It can be a “Tea”, Ice Cream Social or anything that would work for your local. Just make sure that you let everyone know what your Auxiliary is doing!!! Most ladies will want to belong if you can show them all the great programs we have. Let your attendees also know what items you collect and what programs you are need of volunteers for.

Make your membership drive fun and set some goals. Please acknowledge everyone who sponsors a member. Prizes for the top recruiters might be a great way to get everyone involved! AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary presents pins that can be worn on your hat if you recruit 10 or more members; application can be found in the Convention Digest. Please let me know about your Membership Drive, so I can share your success!

National also has Department Awards for largest numerical gain by 5/31, largest percentage gain by 5/31, largest percentage of renewals by 12/31, largest percentage of renewals by 12/31 (based on total membership) and Department organizing most the new Auxiliaries by 5/31. No application needed.

I look forward to working with you and look forward to hearing all the great ideas that you have. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments and concerns. Please share those success stories on membership drives with me and I will pass them on to our Auxiliary sisters. **Please if you have any questions – ask them.**

SO.....Let's Rev up our Membership together!!

*On a personal note, I have had family members in the hospital since September (my mother and sister). I thank everyone for their understanding and apologize if I have not been "quite" myself!!! My sister just passed, and I thank everyone for thoughts, cards and prayers.*

*Dolores "Dee" Baggett  
National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
2018 - 2019*

### **AUXILIARIES CHARTERED SINCE 1 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Elberta, Alabama #2018  
Prescott, Arizona #3  
Englewood, Florida #777  
Tupper lake, New York #710  
Holbrook, New York #1174

### **NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - CHILD WELFARE**

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests: Welcome to the Spring NEC!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Second Vice President this year! Your mid-year reports show how hard everyone has worked to help the children in your communities, thank you for all you do! The total evaluation is slightly down from last year's mid-report, I am looking forward to the next report.

In October I had a wonderful visit at John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles, California. JTC has an amazing infant-parent education program for children 0-3 who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. All services are free, and every member of their staff is caring, considerate and helpful! I was able to watch them work with an eight-month-old child and preschool children in a classroom setting. It was just amazing! Thank-you to Kimberlee Jones and Melissa Cardona for a wonderful and informative tour of the facility.

John Tracy Clinic our National Program, that through donations from members, Auxiliaries and Departments, helps sponsor correspondence courses provided by the JTC, for hearing impaired preschool children. Please plan to sponsor at least one function to benefit JTC. Remember April is John Tracy Clinic month, start planning now! Your generosity changes the lives of children with hearing loss and their families. Please continue to collect new-used or broken hearing aids and batteries. The batteries have to be new in their sealed container.

To be eligible for National Awards, all Departments must submit a mid-year and an annual service report. Double check all youth names to make sure the spelling is correct, and they should be TYPED.

Here are the National Child Welfare Awards you can apply for: PNP Cathy Fishero Award: given to the DEPARTMENT doing the most outstanding work in Child Welfare. PNP Leslie Wunderle Award: given to the LOCAL Auxiliary doing the most outstanding service in their community, benefiting children 18 years of age and younger. PNP Dee Kreiling-Riley Award: given to the most imaginative, interesting and rewarding program for the benefit of the John Tracy Clinic. John Tracy Certificates: Donations of \$100.00 or more. Please check the Convention Digest as some entry forms are required.

If you plan on attending National Convention this year in Kentucky, and would like to be on my committee, give me a call or e-mail me at [duanenjoan@hotmail.com](mailto:duanenjoan@hotmail.com) Any questions or comments please contact me anytime. I look forward to a great year, and remember "Children are our Future, Let Them Lead the Way". Get our youth involved!

Madam President Barb, I wish you a most successful NEC meeting!

*Joan Sirek*  
*National Second Vice President*  
*2018 - 2019*

### ***NATIONAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENT - COMMUNITY SERVICE***

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

Be the Unity in Community – what does that mean to you? To me this represents a huge opportunity for service programs, fund raising and making people aware of just some of what AMVETS Auxiliary does for the community.

March is PAWS With a Cause month. What types of fundraisers are you doing to help this worthwhile program? I'd love to hear from your Third Vices – please email me! I was honored to tour the PAWS facility this past fall. Thank you to Deb Davis for the informative tour and the Department of Michigan for hosting me. I had a blast! I thought I knew just about everything concerning PAWS With a Cause but I was wrong!

I learned so much of the background information – how it was started, how the dogs are trained and what they are able to do. There were puppies there but alas, I couldn't hold or play with them – they were all tuckered out and in need of baths from playing hard. Please remember to send in your donations through your Department to get credit.

Remember that any project that benefits adults or adults and children is eligible to report on your Third Vice Service Reports. Also, please remember to apply for the Community Service Awards at National Convention. The PDP Lynda Taylor Award is given to the Department with the most outstanding work in Community Service and the PDP Linda McGriff Award is given to the Local doing the most outstanding work in Community Service. There are Blood Drive/Donation awards to be given out also. Please look in the Convention Digest for information and/or entry forms or you can contact me directly. I'd like to see a big increase in applications! Please remember that Madame President's Project - AMVETS Diabetes Research Institute at Ohio State University - is also a Community Service Project.

Thank you for all that you do for AMVETS Auxiliary and Community Service – You are all awesome! I can't wait to see you at NEC.

*Karin Simmons*  
*National Third Vice-President*  
*2018 - 2019*

## **NATIONAL TREASURER**

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

Welcome to the NEC in Baltimore, MD. Enclosed for your review are the financial reports of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary as of February 28, 2019. The attached financial reports are the balance sheet, operating statement and donations.

In comparing total membership, the Auxiliary has received annual dues of \$225,919, compared to last year's annual dues of \$291,726 only 78% has been collected. Life dues received was \$60,150 compared to last year \$49,600 up by 18% due to increase of dues January 1, 2019. Dues still can be sent in for renewals and new members. Comparing actual membership to budget, annual dues is down 32% and life membership is up 14%.

In comparing total expenses to budget, the auxiliary has spent 43%, compared to last year at this time 36%. In comparing donations to all National Projects, this year to last year at this time the donations are down by 50%.

Everyone can be a patron donor at the 73<sup>th</sup> 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 by the auditors.

President Barbara, 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!

*PNP Barbara K. Guth*  
*Treasurer*  
*2018 - 2019*

## **NATIONAL AMERICANISM OFFICER**

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

Ladies, I was honored to attend the Freedoms Foundation Youth Conference the first weekend in November at Valley Forge. There is so much promise in our youth and I had the opportunity to witness that up close and personal. Students changed before my very eyes. What started out as a group that was unattached, uninvolved and glued to their phones the first evening turned into vibrant, friendly, dependable and courteous Youth by breakfast time. The weekend transformed the student participants and the adult chaperones into eagerly living our history! We witnessed discussions between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, defended case law during a mock trial in a Philadelphia courthouse, visited the battlefield at Valley Forge all the while soaking in what our forefathers lived daily. The intensity of it all is an experience you don't want to miss. You'll have that opportunity this coming October if you've signed up for the 2019 Freedoms Foundation trip. You also have the chance to buy raffle tickets this weekend to win the 2019 Freedoms Foundation trip. The drawing will be held at National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and tickets are being sold \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

October is Freedoms Foundation Month and I'd like to thank Auxiliaries who have sent donations to support Freedoms Foundation and welcome the rest of you to consider investing in our youth by doing the same. 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.

A special thank you to PNP Heidi Dineen and PNP Patty Piening for their years of dedication and commitment in honoring the work done by Local Auxiliaries, Departments and individuals in the area of Americanism. Application forms can be found in the Convention Digest.

Auxiliaries have been extremely busy with amazing Americanism projects as reported in their mid-year reports. The mid-year evaluation this year is \$1,411,615.00. This is up from the numbers reported the past few years. We also can be proud of the fact that 188 auxiliaries reported. I am looking forward to hearing from you about your experience during Storm the Hill and year end projects.

Reminder about the Americanism Flag coloring, Poster and Essay Contest, all forms are available on our website [www.amvetsaux.org](http://www.amvetsaux.org) The contest is open to all students from K-12th grades. First place Department winners should be sent to AMVETS National Headquarters.

If there is any way I can be of help to you, please contact me. If you would like to be a member of the Americanism Committee, please let me know. I look forward to getting together in Louisville, Kentucky for the AMVETS National Convention. God Bless you, God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!

Madam President Barbara, I wish you a most harmonious and productive NEC meeting.

*Denise Rodzen*  
*National Americanism Officer*  
*2018 - 2019*

## **NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER**

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



### **LET'S RAISE DOLLARS FOR OUR SCHOLARS!!**

It is that time of year when we should start to get the word out to everyone about our Scholarships that available.

We have three (3) different Scholarships. Please make sure that you have given out the correct one. Our scholarships are: The College Support Scholarship is for the graduating High School student. The second scholarship is for the student that is in at least their second year of undergraduate study. The third is the Career Start Scholarship. This one is for the Ladies Auxiliary members that are looking to expand,

update and/or reenter the work force. **Please make sure they have the correct application.** If you give someone the scholarship application(s), ask them to let you can check it before they turn them in. I don't want to have to disqualify anyone!!

Make sure you tell them that **every line must be filled in.**

Different ways to raise money for the National Scholarship are rummage sales, bake sales, raffles, car washes, fashion sales and so many, many more!

Putting out a call for any that are coming to National Convention. I need members that would be willing to serve on the Scholarship Committee and help judge the Scholarships. Please e-mail me with a copy sent to Carol King if you are willing to help.

Let's work hard to **RAISE DOLLARS FOR OUR SCHOLARS!!**

*Peggy Liss*  
*National Scholarship Officer*  
*2018 - 2019*

## **NATIONAL CHAPLAIN**

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

I would like to thank Madam President Barbara, and Officers for their help and guidance thus far on my year as your National Chaplain. It is a pleasure serving with you.

Thank you also to the Local and Department Chaplains that have sent in deceased member notifications. As a reminder, Local Chaplain sends notifications to their Department Chaplain, who in turn, sends a copy to me, the National Chaplain, and a copy to National Headquarters. When in doubt, refer to the Auxiliary Manual, or, follow instructions at the bottom of the Deceased Notification form, or call/email me. Some of the things to be mindful of:

- 1) National Headquarters does not mean send to Madam President, it is the address at the top of the form.
- 2) Use only current forms found on the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary website, listed under FORMS.
- 3) Double check NOK (next of kin) names and addresses. Have had some that have been returned.
- 4) Do NOT wait until you have a pile of notifications, send them ASAP. I have only 2 months from the DOD (date of death) to send out National Auxiliary sympathy cards, and 4 months from DOD to send Thinking of You cards.
- 5) Pass information on to the next person taking over your office. This is a volunteer organization with the same goals. Holding information back or not assisting new Officers only hurts your Auxiliary and defeats the purpose of our Organization.
- 6) If handwriting information on deceased notification forms, please write or print legibly. Have another person look at the form to see if they can make out what you wrote.

- 7) I have received several deceased notifications from prior years. It is easy to lose track of members when they do not attend meetings. Reach out to these members with a card or phone call. Reaching out to someone might encourage the member to become active again. Work closely with your Membership Chairman to keep rosters up to date.

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. If either falls, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. Wise words that we all should absorb into our daily lives, especially as an AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary member.

As you serve as your Auxiliary’s Spiritual and Inspirational leader, keep in mind my theme for this year, “**OPEN YOUR MINDS, OPEN YOUR HEARTS, OPEN YOUR HANDS**”. Lend a listening ear, do not be quick to judge, show kindness, extend a hand of friendship.

Pray for our Military and their families, our precious Veterans, and our great Country.

*Mary Lanphere*  
*National Chaplain*  
2018 - 2019

## ***SERGEANT-AT-ARMS***

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

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. I wish you a productive informative meeting. Come and enjoy rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

The Pages and I 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 Louisville, Kentucky 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 Louisville. 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](mailto: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**

Have a safe, healthy winter until then. Madam President Barbara, I wish you a very successful, informative NEC.

*Cindy Rice*  
*National Sergeant-At-Arms*  
*2018 - 2019*

## ***HOSPITAL***

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

I wish to welcome all of you to our Spring NEC Meeting. I have enjoyed serving as your National Hospital Officer. Thanks to everyone who sent a report and to the NEC women who submitted them. Our total evaluation thus far is \$628,896.00. Youth volunteers \$12,060.00. You all are amazing. I can't wait to see the final totals.

My visit to St. Jude was wonderful. Our new Senior Liaison is Rich Peterson. He is a wealth of information. We sat and talked for 2 hours. He showed the new project that they have been working on for 6 years. They do it with a child's DNA and a laser. So far 400 children have had this procedure and the outcome has been incredible. They are also building another research center that will be used for the DNA program. He is sending me a video on this process and hopefully we'll be able to view it at convention. I also asked him if we could help in other ways. They greatly need volunteers for their events. A new website has been put up for volunteering. I'll be distributing this information to you at this meeting. The site will tell you what state the event is being held and what you can do to help.

"Because We Care Day" is the first Wednesday in April. This is a great time to support our Veterans in the hospital or nursing home.

We need volunteers to serve on the Hospital/VAVS committee at the 2019 National Convention in Louisville. Please call or email me if you are interested in serving on the committee.

Thank you for all your hard work. Your reports show how much you care.

Madam President Barbara, I wish you a productive and successful NEC meeting. If there's anything you need please let me know. Now that my string of bad luck is hopefully over I look forward to the future.

*Kristie Frye*  
*National Hospital Officer*  
*2017 - 2018*

## **VAVS**

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

Welcome to our Spring NEC Meeting! It is indeed a pleasure to be working with Madam President and her Officers.

As I read thru the Annual Joint Reviews (AJR's) that I have received so far, (30 as of January 15<sup>th</sup>). I have noticed that the greatest percentage of those reporting have lost volunteers this year. A lot of our VAVS Representatives are working alone. Each VA is allowed 1 VAVS Representative and up to 3 Deputies for each Organization. With our busy lives we are not always available to Volunteer on a regularly scheduled basis, but we can still register as an occasional volunteer.

I will be attending the National VAVS National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference MAY 1-3, IN San Antonio, Texas. At that time, I will be representing AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and presenting a check for your yearly donations to the James H. Parke Scholarship.

James H. Parke Scholarship is for children who are a regularly scheduled volunteer, completing 100 hours of service the previous year, and in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade or above and have not reached their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday by September 30 of the year they are nominated. Last year 4-\$500 Scholarships were added for those Youths participating in the VA Summer Youth program, and not qualified for the other scholarships. This is a great incentive to get our youth involved in volunteering and give back to our hospitalized Veterans.

Madame President Barbara, 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*  
*2018 – 2019*

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

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

I again want to thank National President Barbara Valley for appointing me to this position. It is a great honor to follow in the footsteps of two of our past Parliamentarians, Betty Lawson and Heidi Dineen-Serpis who have done such a great job for us.

As you know, our National Constitution and Bylaws were updated at last year's Convention. I hope all our Auxiliaries have the newly revised documents in their possession as it will answer many of the questions that come up, both on the Department and Local levels.

Our Local Auxiliaries and Departments will be updating their Bylaws to conform to the dues increases that were voted at the 2018 National Convention. These changes do **not** need to be submitted to me for approval.

2019 is also the year for us to review our National Constitution and Bylaws in full. We are mandated to do this every three (3) years and the last full revision was done in 2016.

Quoting from Article XV – Amendments and Resolutions, Section 1 in our Constitution states: “All recommendations and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall reach the National Parliamentarian thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of National Convention. Any such recommendations or Constitution and Bylaws amendment presented by Departments, National Committees or Officers shall be submitted in triplicate, typewritten, dated and signed by the proposer and shall clarify the intent, particularly where one level or all levels are concerned. Other recognized members of this organization shall follow the above procedures through their Department for referrals to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Each recommendation, amendment and Constitutional and Bylaw change shall be submitted on a separate page.” See page 4 and 5 of our National Bylaws for further clarification and directives.

Again, I want to remind you that when we review these documents, it does not mean we must make changes. If they are satisfactory as written, we will approve as is.

A reminder to the following Departments to review their Bylaws and mail any changes and explanations to me after approval at your Department Conventions by July 15<sup>th</sup>. These should be submitted in duplicate. Again, if they are satisfactory as written, simply use the proper form to notify me. Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Madam President may you have an informative and successful NEC Meeting.

*PNP Lynda Taylor*  
*National Parliamentarian*  
2018 - 2019

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMAN**

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

Please make plans to attend our 73<sup>rd</sup> AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary National Convention!

Louisville is known for many things but primarily sports, business and music. Louisville hosts annually one of the largest if not the most famous horse race on planet Earth, "The Kentucky Derby." There are many large US corporations located in Louisville like UPS, Papa Johns, and Taco Bell just to name a few. Some of the sites include KFC Yum! Center, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Muhammad Ali Center.

The convention will be held at the Galt House Hotel, 140 North Fourth Street, Louisville, KY. **The convention dates are August 18-24, 2019.** Please see the agenda for scheduled meetings. **Hotel Reservation # - (800) The-Galt or (502) 539-5200.**

<p><b>The Silver Helmet Awards Reception will take the place of Kentucky State Night.</b> Cost \$20.00 Wednesday, August 21, 2019 Time TBA</p>
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### **Room Rates:**

<b>King Bed, Deluxe Room, West RIVUE Tower</b>	<b>\$130</b>
<b>2 Queen Beds, Deluxe Room, West RIVUE Tower</b>	<b>\$130</b>
<b>2 Queen Beds, Executive Suite, East Tower</b>	<b>\$140</b>

**Most of the Auxiliary meetings will be held in the West RIVUE Tower.** If checking into the Executive Suite, East Tower, there is a walkway on the third floor that will take you right over to the Auxiliary meeting room.

Make yourself at home in one of the 1,310 air-conditioned rooms featuring flat-screen televisions. Wireless Internet access (surcharge), free WI-FI keeps you connected, and cable programming is available for your entertainment. Partially open bathrooms with shower/tub combinations feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers. Conveniences include desks and coffee/tea makers, and housekeeping is provided daily.

Flying? Use Louisville International Airport (SDF) and make reservation for shuttle service to the hotel. The rates are \$15 per one-way trip, or \$25 per round trip. To reserve your seat on a shuttle, please contact **Xtreme Transportation at (502) 561-**

**4022** or [galthouseshuttle@xtlimo.com](mailto:galthouseshuttle@xtlimo.com). You may also book your ride at the Transportation Desk in the SUITE (East) Lobby of the Galt House Hotel to the left of the Front Desk. Please note that the shuttle service is **not** a 24-hour service.

**Scooters and other medical needs** are available. Please call Discount Medial Supply at (502) 365-4164.

**Please promote the Paton's Page and Ads.** This is a great way to advertise your candidate for office, publicize your business, remember loved ones, and so much more (details included in the Convention Digest).

**Volunteers are always needed** during Convention. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer at the registration desk or help in other areas. Your time is always appreciated! Please contact me at: PNP Charlene Kee, National Convention Chair, 90 Hidden Lake Drive, #132, Sanford, FL 32773 (321) 926-3664 CHRLNKEE@AOL.COM

NEC Women, please remind members to bring their membership card and know how they are registered. Also, if you pre-register, you are guaranteed a convention book.

*PNP Charlene Kee*  
*National Convention Chairman*  
*2017 - 2018*

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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

Welcome to our Spring NEC. I am getting excited and can't wait to receive all your entries and read all about your hard work throughout this past year.

PLEASE enter...you've done the work, now get the recognition for your Local and Department. Make sure everything is filled out in its entirety and correct before turning them in. Hand delivered entries will be accepted by the committee on Monday, August 19, 2019 between 9:00AM to 10:00AM. NO entries will be accepted after 10:00AM.

Review the Convention Digest for the awards that require an entry form. If you are planning on mailing your entries to National Headquarters, they **MUST** be mailed in time to reach the office by July 19, 2019. **DO NOT MAIL ENTRIES TO THE HOTEL.**

I hope you all will join us on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> for a "Jolly" surprise-filled and fun awards program. The changes are still in place to expedite the proceedings so you will enjoy more free time!

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

If you are on a committee, you will get further information from the Chairman of hour duties and responsibilities during the awards program.

Looking forward to seeing many entries and having an enjoyable time honoring our very own Madam President in a theme of: "Twas the Night before Barbara Valley". That's right - it's a purple pajama party.

Thank you again Madam President for appointing me as your Honors and Awards Chairman. May you have a productive NEC and I hope you enjoy your awards program at convention.

*PNP Evelyn McElvin*  
*National Honors and Awards Chairman*  
*2018 - 2019*

## **JR. AMVETS**

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

Welcome to the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting. I hope that everyone has safe travels to and from NEC.

Membership has been coming in slow and steady, but there are Junior Posts that have not renewed. It is very important that dues are sent as soon as possible. As we all know, our children must grow up. Along with this comes the disappearing of Junior AMVETS posts and falling membership numbers. However, age isn't always the situation. It does take dedicated leaders and the support of the AMVETS family to make these young people feel welcome and needed. Otherwise the interest is lost.

I urge all of you to consider organizing a Junior AMVETS. I know you would find it quite rewarding to guide a group of young people in helping their communities, volunteering to benefit our veterans, and supporting all the programs of our whole organization. Remember, these children are your future AMVETS, Auxiliary and Sons members. What a great opportunity to obtain new members who would already have the knowledge of AMVETS its purpose and the ability to jump in with both feet.

It is a great privilege working with and guiding the Junior AMVETS on many of their projects. They all have been working so hard this service year. Each Junior AMVETS has some very unique projects that would make all of you very proud. I would love to share those projects with all of you in hopes that you expand on them.

When accepting this position, I promised myself there would be visual progress for the Juniors. The AMVETS and Sons Coordinator and I are working hard to make this happen. There are many new and improved items coming to the Junior AMVETS and their coordinators. The following are just a few items:

- **Forms**

- As of writing this report, I have recreated all the Junior AMVETS forms. They were in desperate need of a clean, professional look.
- In addition, all forms have been made into fillable PDF files. This will make it easier for completion and emailing.
- These forms will be distributed to the coordinators by email and mail. They will also be posted to the AMVETS website.

- **Coordinator Manuals**

- We are in the process of compiling a Coordinator Manual for distribution to the Junior Coordinators.
- This manual is meant to be a standard guide to the process of the Junior AMVETS functions.
- The goal is to have the core of the manual together as soon as possible. As with any type of instruction material, there will be updates made along the way.

- **Newsletter**

- It is our hope to create a National Junior AMVETS Newsletter with information from Junior Posts across the nation and distribute by email either bi-monthly or quarterly.
- The thought behind the newsletter is to not only keep everyone informed of National information but to also get Juniors excited about participating in the program, by seeing what others are doing.

There are many other items on our to-do list that are in process. Those details will reveal themselves as time progresses.

I am looking forward to working with all the National Officers throughout the rest of the year to help expand and grow our organization.

I wish you all a successful meeting.

*Denise Speigle*  
*National Junior AMVETS Coordinator*  
*2018 - 2019*

# **HISTORY AND SCRAPBOOK**

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

Hopefully, everyone is having a 'Happy New Year' so far. Another year has come and gone so quickly again. Everyone always said, "the older I get, the faster time goes". Even though I didn't believe it for many years, now I realize they were correct. Even with retiring, time still goes quickly!

How are we doing with creating our History and Scrapbooks? How many pages are correctly labeled? You should have at least half of your book completed as half of the year has passed before National Convention will be upon us. Place pictures of your Veterans Day activities, visiting Veterans Homes, Children's Halloween and Christmas Parties, dances, Membership Dinner, New Year's events, any fundraisers like selling paper hearts in Feb. or shamrocks in March; even a picture of your Auxiliary Meeting or decorating for an event. Maybe you snapped some pictures of Parades and take some of future Parades (when the weather cooperates- ha!).

**PLEASE, PLEASE, and PLEASE again!** Be sure to follow the rules very carefully! Make sure every 't' is crossed and all the 'i's are dotted correctly. As you have heard many times, it is such a shame when there is the tiniest of error and the Judging Committee must eliminate a book. It's hard for them and even harder for the Auxiliary that worked so many hours creating a book. So, give someone outside of your Auxiliary the rules and your book to give it a "once over" before submitting it. What can it hurt, and they will probably really enjoy looking at it?

Madam President, I hope you are having a very enjoyable and memorable year! God Bless America, our wonderful, giving Veterans, and all of you and your family!

*Karla Maddock*  
*History/Scrapbook Chairman*  
*2018 - 2019*

# **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

And we meet again. It's been a busy 6 months since National Convention. The usual day-to-day operations of Headquarters, updating forms and something I am really proud of, our new website! I'd like to thank everyone for the awesome feedback we've received as well as catching things that needed tweaking. We will continue to work with

the webmaster to work on getting the electronic NEC report form posted so it can, keep your fingers crossed, be ready to accept submissions for National Convention.

The Convention Digest should be in the mail the first week of April and posted on line. Reminder - the Digest is sent to the official mail contact for each Local Auxiliary, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents, NEC and Secretaries. All the Louisville info you need to know can be found there.

It' almost Revalidation time!! The Local and Department Change of Officers form is available on the website. Remember it is 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. National Parliamentarian Lynda Taylor has addressed which Departments need to submit updated Bylaws to her. If you do not submit them to her, your Department will **NOT** be revalidated.

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 must be copy ready, submitted in Word or PowerPoint. Convention Pre-Registration **MUST** be postmarked by July 1. National Project Donations **MUST** be postmarked by June 30<sup>th</sup>. NOTE – Departments having their convention the last weekend of June have a 5-day grace period.

As previously mentioned by National Convention Chair Charlene, a Silver Helmet Awards Reception will be held on Wednesday evening August 21. Ticket price is \$20.00 per person; when the order form to purchase tickets is available it will be posted on the website. As usual, the Commanders and President's Banquet will be held on Friday, August 23; ticket price and order form to be posted.

The Leadership Training was held in January. It was bittersweet as Training Chair PNP Betty Lawson passed away in December and physically wasn't there with us, but she was there in spirit. As she wanted, the topic was "Shades of Respect" and it was a great success. I'd like to thank National President Barbara and everyone that attended. Special thanks to PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis for being the moderator and PNP's Linda McGriff, Evelyn McElvin, Dee Kreiling-Riley, Marvell Ruppel, Charlene Kee, Leslie Wunderle and Barbara Guth for being presenters. To those who helped with our fundraising efforts – THANK YOU!! I know Betty was proud. A Memorial Service was held honoring Betty and her love for our organization. Many a tear was shed and quite a few laughs, too.

Thank you to Joe Chenelly, AMVETS National Headquarters and 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.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Sonja and Bertha 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.

While to some of you the following three (3) paragraphs are a repeat of previous reports however to me they bear repeating. 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.

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.

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 Barbara, thank you! The first half of your year has been a good one and I know the next half will be even better! Here's to a successful NEC meeting!

*PNP Carol King*  
*National Executive Director*

## **IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Greetings Madame President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Committee Women, Department Presidents, Members & Guests.

It's that time of year to begin thinking about our National Convention and that means raffle tickets! This is your chance to win a \$100 for your Department if your Department

sells the most raffle tickets. The monies can be used however your Department chooses.

All NEC women will be asked to sign out raffle tickets to take back to their Departments to sell. Other members are also welcome and encouraged to assist with selling tickets in their Departments.



For those who are not familiar with our Convention raffle tickets, the tickets come in packets of 5 and sell for \$5.00 a packet. Tickets are drawn every day at Convention starting on Wednesday (opening day of convention). This is a major fundraiser for our AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary and a potentially lucrative win for the lucky ticket holder, especially as the cash pot grows throughout the week!

I'm also sending a call out to ladies who would love being a princess!! Raffle Princess' are needed to help sell tickets on the Convention floor. If you can assist one day or the entire Convention – I'd appreciate whatever help offered. Please let me know your availability. You can reach me at: 262-305-1330 or send me an email at: [Marvellruppel@gmail.com](mailto:Marvellruppel@gmail.com).



Madame President, I wish you a productive National Executive Committee meeting.

*IPNP Marvell Ruppel*

## **NATIONAL SNAPPIEST**

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests; welcome to the Spring NEC Meeting. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

We will have our annual 50 We are in the process of getting Units to renew their membership. Anyone wishing to become a Sackette member can find the application on the National Auxiliary Website under the title of Sackettes, or please ask an existing Sackette member. Come and join the fun. I am not looking forward to seeing Sackette members at the NEC Fracas, which will be on Friday March 15, 2019.

/50 Nursing Scholarship tickets for sale, which PNS Cindy Rice is not in charge of since she is the National Sackette Scholarship Chairman. The tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Please help us build our Nursing Scholarship fund by buying tickets.

Madame President, I don't wish you a productive and harmonious NEC Meeting.

*Martha Knott*  
*National Snappiest*  
2018 - 2019



**STILL LOOKING FOR  
PHOTOS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES  
OF OUR  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES  
DURING HER VISITS WITH YOU**

Please help me present a wonderful scrapbook to President Barbara so she will have many memories of her year as National President. I need pictures when she visits your Department and Auxiliaries. Please send them to me via phone, email or regular mail. My contact information is: Deb Deem, 245 Adamson Street, Mt. Vernon, Ohio 43050, (740) 501-6343, [dideemii@yahoo.com](mailto:dideemii@yahoo.com)

*Deb Deem*  
*National President's Scrapbook*  
2018- 2019