“Always Remember”

Dolores “Dee” Baggett
National President
2019 – 2020
democracy and move freedom forward
to the next generation. Freedoms Foundation has also supplied us with Patriotic Lightning Bolt
pins that can be sold for a minimum of $5. I ask that all Locals hold at least one function for the
cause! All monies received will be added to last year’s funds to try to attain our goal – this size
generator is a very large item on Freedom Foundations wish list. If you need more information,
please contact Denise or myself.

The year started off coming home to a possible visit from Hurricane Dorian. Orlando Airport, where
I fly from, was scheduled to be closed at the time I had scheduled for my first visit. The visit was
canceled - thank goodness as I wasn’t sure I was going to get back home!! Dorian decided to stay
away!! I had driven home from National Convention, lost a filling and spent the next month and a
half trying to get my problems fixed and not cut my head off!!! I am pleased to say things got better.

I was able to make my first official visit in Florida! I surprised my friend PDP Gloria Jasinski, who
had invited me to her post that being dedicated in her late husband’s name!! It was quite an honor
for my first visit to be in my home state.

So, in late September, the National Officers traveled to Orlando for our National Officers Meeting.
The highlight of the weekend was our National Training Officer PNP Charlene Kee chairing a
training for ALL officers with the help of National Parliamentarian PNP Heidi Dineen- Serpis,
National Treasurer PNP Barbara Guth, National Executive Director PNP Carol King, National
Honors and Awards PNP Evelyn McElvin and VAVS Representative Marie Rorrio. Great
knowledge was shared, and we ALL learned something!

I visited North Carolina in October. They had a new NEC and I was a new President, so we got to
figure out this thing together!!! These Auxiliary women were busy all weekend long and very
successful in fundraising!! I even won a big basket – glad I drove. I was surrounded by AMVETS
family members all weekend long and made friends for a lifetime.

The next visit is one I will never forget!!! My husband and I flew out to Hawaii and met AMVETS
Commander Jan Brown, her husband AMVETS PNP JP Brown, Sons of AMVETS PNC Dave
Strittmather and his wife, Randy. We toured Pearl Harbor and you can still see oil coming to the surface from the wreckage of the USS Arizona! We placed a wreath there and at the Punchbowl. Hawaii members were very gracious and knowledgeable. DPAA, where military members remain are identified and repatriated, was a very moving visit. I also signed up a new member and heard they are working on the second Auxiliary!

The Commander graciously offered us a place to stay for the several days between Hawaii and Veteran’s Day activities. It was some really needed R&R. On Veteran’s Day, I accompanied the Commander to the St. Regis Hotel for breakfast to start the day with a wonderful program. Then a bus ride to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and service at Arlington National Cemetery. AMVETS National Commander Jan Brown, SOA Commander Richard Thibodeau, AMVETS Riders President Tom McNamara, Junior’s President Abby Lewis and I laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This was a very busy day!

I was also present when AMVETS announced in front of the Lincoln Memorial that AMVETS Will Be Hosting 2020’s Memorial Day Weekend Demonstration Ride Named “Rolling To Remember”. The original purpose of this event was to bring attention to issues that impacted Vietnam War Veterans and remember those who are Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. AMVETS will continue the tradition of this annual event. To let it go by the wayside would be the equivalent to turning the page on those Veterans whose stories remain unfinished. We can never let our country forget those who bravely fought for freedom. AMVETS works tirelessly to hold our government accountable for what our country owes Veterans, including the suicide epidemic. We need you to be a part of the effort. Please support AMVETS in this project if you can.

During the AMVETS Fall NEC Meeting, National Commander Brown invited me to attend a Christmas Reception at the White House! The White House was decorated beautifully, and the Past President’s pictures and china displayed were awesome! It was a visit I will never forget. We were only about 5 feet, if that, away when President Trump and his wife spoke! I was also invited to AMVETS Thrift Stores Holiday Dinner in Laurel, Maryland, hosted by Marcy Cain. Monetary grants were given to many local agencies and Veterans groups. On Saturday, I spoke on AMVETS and Sons of AMVETS meeting floor.

In January, I visited Georgia. I surprised a few people by having a Georgia Bulldog tag on my car. My husband was born there and is a Bulldog fan! The welcome was fantastic!!! The Georgia AMVETS family was very hospitable. I had a good time at the Auxiliary auction, too and again, glad I drove!

Next was Tennessee. The Department Auxiliary held a reception in my honor on Thursday evening prior to the Leadership Training in Pigeon Forge chaired by PNP Charlene Kee. The theme was the “Unstoppable Leader” with a professional speaker, Stacey Ruth, among the presenters. Also presenting were Tracy Hayes, PNP Evelyn McElvin, PNP Carol King, IPNP Barbara Valley, PNP Marvel Ruppel, PNP Barbara Guth and Commander Jan Brown, our first female AMVETS National Commander. We had a great crowd with approximately 20 AMVETS and SOA members also in attendance. I believe that was one of the best attendances in a few years.

The following weekend found me right back in Tennessee at the AMVETS National District III meeting. I thank Commander Everett for the chance to address the floor. I sold a lot of pins for Freedoms Foundation that weekend. Thank you for your support!

I want to thank all the National Officers for all that you do. Appointed and Elected Officers are all volunteers and deserve a pat on the back for all the hard work they put in. Our National
Headquarters staff also deserves a big hand. Carol, Sonja and Bertha work hard to keep this great organization running smoothly! THANK YOU, LADIES!

The journey I have taken so far this year has surpassed all expectations!! The trips and the people I have met and spent time with will be cherished. THANK YOU!!

Dee Baggett  
National President  
2019 – 2020

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S TRAVEL CALENDAR

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Post dedication Odessa #9 (Florida)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>27-29 National Officers Meeting - Orlando</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>North Carolina SEC</td>
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<td>10-13 Auxiliary Seminar at Freedoms Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25-27 Florida SEC</td>
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<td>30/Nov 8 Department of Hawaii visit</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>8-12 HQ visit, National Commander visit, Veterans Day activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5-8 White House visit, Maryland Thrift Store Holiday Dinner, AMVETS and Sons NEC meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>10-12 Tennessee visit and National Leadership Training</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31/Feb 2 AMVETS National District III meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMVETS National Commander Florida Tour – visited Posts #26, #33, #550, #2006 and #1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>19 Official Florida SEC visit</td>
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I am also serving as Local Parliamentarian and attend E-Board meetings on the last Monday of the month and general membership meetings on the first Monday of the month.

NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBERSHIP  
JOAN SIREK

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:
Welcome to our Spring NEC for 2020! National Headquarters staff has been very busy these past few months. I had the pleasure to visit Headquarters to see how membership is processed when it comes into the office. Carol, Sonja and Bertha do an excellent job getting out membership in a timely manner.

I have also had the privilege of going to Pocatello, Idaho to help organize and install a new Auxiliary. What an honor it was! Auxiliary 1 Pocatello has 21 members as of their 1st meeting. Their President Hiedi Young is very dedicated and will do a great job as their President! I am looking forward to working with all the new Auxiliaries this year!

Welcome to our New Auxiliaries!

Okeechobee, Florida #200   Pocatello, Idaho #1   Chetek, Wisconsin # 25

Let’s keep “Building Membership” the number one program. Recruit, Renew and Retain! If every member would try to get just one new member, we could double our membership.

Start thinking about Membership Awards, National has Department Awards for the largest numerical gain by 5/31, largest percentage gain by 5/31, largest percentage of renewals by 12/31, and Department organizing most the new Auxiliaries by 5/31. No application needed. Also, apply for individual membership awards! All awards will be listed in the Convention Digest that is mailed to Local Presidents, Department Presidents and NEC Women and will also be on the National Website. Let’s make 2020 an outstanding year!

Thank-you for all your continued efforts to work hard on “Building Membership”. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Madam President Dee, I thank you for your leadership, and wish you a very productive NEC meeting. It’s a pleasure to serve AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary with you! God Bless you and God Bless America!

NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - CHILD WELFARE
KARIN SIMMONS

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

I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Second Vice President. Your mid-year reports show just how hard you have been working to help children in your communities and I thank you! Compared to last year – this mid-year report shows an increase in Auxiliaries reporting, hours served, and Youth Volunteers, hours and evaluations. We did decrease in total volunteers and evaluation but I’m hoping that with your hard work we can surpass in everything!

I was able to visit the brand-new John Tracy Center in November and meet their new President & CEO Cathleen Mathes (Cat). I had a wonderful tour of the facility and learned so much. JTC provides parent-centered services locally and globally to young children with hearing loss, offering families hope, guidance, and encouragement. Your donations help to keep the services free to
families. JTC is one of our National programs and April is JTC month. Please plan to sponsor at least one fundraiser to benefit this program. In addition, with the help of JTC, I have created a pin-up and will be sending this out to all NEC’s and Department 2nd Vices. Please make sure all Local Auxiliaries receive this as I am challenging them to collect at least $25 each.

The National Child Welfare awards available for you to apply for are: PNP Cathy Fishero Award given to the Department doing the most outstanding work in Child Welfare; the PNP Leslie R. Wunderle Award given to the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in their community benefiting children 18 years or younger and the PNP Dee Kreiling-Riley Award for the most outstanding work for the John Tracy Center. John Tracy Certificates will be presented to Departments, Local Auxiliaries or Individuals for donations of $100 or more. Please check the convention digest as some awards have requirements. To be eligible for National Awards all Departments must submit a mid-year and annual service report received on time. All Youth volunteer reports must be typed, include the Auxiliary number they volunteered under and please double-check the spelling of their names.

If you are attending National Convention this year and would like to be on the Child Welfare Committee, please call or email me. Also, if you have any questions regarding Child Welfare, John Tracy Center or any comments or questions please contact me. Remember – Children are our Most Valuable Resource. I am looking forward to a great NEC and a productive year.

NATIONAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENT - COMMUNITY SERVICE

AMY STOPYRA

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

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 it, so I commend you all on a Job Well Done! Here are few of the items that stuck out as I read: a sausage booth, blood drives, plant sales, garage sales, feeding the homeless, hearing aids, changing a flat tire for a stranger (a blessing to someone who needed help), a prime rib dinner (that sounds amazingly delicious), numerous walks/runs for different benefits, 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 March is PAWS With A Cause® month.

I made my visit to PAWS With a Cause® in September with the Department of Michigan AMVETS Family. I was greeted at the airport by the Department Auxiliary NEC Patricia Michalski, Caroline and Bob, Thank You! The Department of Michigan hospitality is top-notch and truly appreciated from the shopping to ice cream, and we ended our fun with a humbling experience of my life, THANK YOU! The staff at PAWS and Deb Davis were amazing as well as seeing all the different parts of the Campus. We were given the experience to see two different dogs in training and got to ask questions about how each is trained for their client’s needs. During our tour of PAWS, we were able to see where all the new puppies are vet checked as well as where the in-house veterinarian's office space is so that all PAWS puppies can be taken care of on-site versus off-site.
Supporting our National program for over 30 years is such an impressive part of our history. More information is available at www.pawswithacause.org.

Please keep in mind that we are still looking for volunteers to serve on the Community Service Committee at the 2020 National Convention in Springfield, Illinois. Don’t hesitate to email, call, or drop a letter off to me if you are interested.

The Convention Digest will be out very soon; I ask that you please read overall awards. PNP Lynda Taylor presents an award to the Department performing the most outstanding work in Community Service, and PNP Linda McGriff presents an award for the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in Community Service, please read to see what the requirements if any are for these two awards. There are also Blood Drive/Donation awards to be given out also, please make sure you are filling out the required paperwork for these awards.

Thank you for all the hard work you do in the area of Community Service. Keep up the amazing job you do in your local communities and for what you do to benefit PAWS. You and your Auxiliaries are keeping the “CommUNITY Starts With You” in everything you do!

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

NATIONAL TREASURER - PNP BARBARA GUTH

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

Welcome to the NEC in Baltimore, MD. In the NEC book for your review are the financial reports of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary as of February 28, 2020. The financial reports are the balance sheet, operating statement and donations.

In comparing total membership dues, the Auxiliary has received annual dues of $255,092, compared to last year’s annual dues at this time of $225,919, increase of 13% has been collected. Life dues received was $42,975 compared to last year at this time was $60,150 down by 29% 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 23% and life membership is down up 18%.

In comparing total expenses to budget, the Auxiliary has spent 43%, compared to last year at this time 56%. In comparing donations to all National Projects, this year to last year at this time the donations are up by 4%.

Everyone can be a patron donor at the 74th 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 Dee, 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!

**NATIONAL AMERICANISM OFFICER - DENISE RODZEN**

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests. Greetings to our Spring NEC!

Ladies, I was honored to attend the Freedoms Foundation Seminar October 10-13 October at Valley Forge. The friendships formed and conversations held with the other attendees both returning and newbies was phenomenal. There is so much promise in our future and I had the opportunity to witness that up close and personal. I’d like to thank Maureen Jackson for planning such a great opportunity for us all. Each individual that attended grew during our time there in many ways. The weekend transformed the participants and made us more aware of our surroundings and into eagerly living our history! We visited the Honor Grove and saw first-hand the transformation that has taken place there. Jeopardy was played and lively discussions occurred between the three teams. We took bus trips into Philadelphia to museums and plantations.

The intensity of it all is an experience you don’t want to miss. You’ll have that opportunity again in October of 2021 if you sign up for the Freedoms Foundation trip. You also have the chance to buy raffle tickets this weekend to win the 2021 Freedoms Foundation trip. The drawing will be held at National Convention in Springfield, Illinois 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. Reminder, this is also Madam President’s project. There will be certificates for Departments, Locals or individuals contributing $1.00 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-Serpis and PNP Patty Piening for their years of dedication and commitment in honoring the work done by Local Auxiliaries, Department Auxiliaries and individuals in the area of Americanism. You can find the application forms 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 $1,260,902.00. This is down from the numbers reported during the past year. While many auxiliaries reported, it would be wonderful to see every state reporting. I look forward to hearing from you about your experience during “Storm the Hill” and year end projects.

Storm the Hill information can be found on the National website specifying the issues this year for our Veterans both male and female. It is sending a very powerful message to our Congressional and Senatorial Representatives seeing the large numbers in uniform visiting and discussing the issues that touch so close to home.
Reminder about the Americanism Flag coloring, Poster and Essay Contest, all forms are available on our website 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 Springfield, Illinois for the AMVETS National Convention. God Bless you, God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!

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

**NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER - PEGGY LISS**

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

![Scholarships](image)

**LET’S RAISE DOLLARS FOR OUR SCHOLARS!!**

Welcome all to our Spring NEC 2020. It is my pleasure to again serve you as your National Scholarship Officer. We had reports from 24 Departments for a total evaluation of $252,733.00. I want to thank all of you who put their time and efforts into getting these figures to me.

I know this is March, but it is time to start to put forward Scholarship information and applications. Remember applications must be received at National Headquarters on or before July 1, 2020. Please remember we have 3 different scholarship applications, The College Support, The National Scholarship and the Career Start. All of our applications are available on our website, www.amvetsaux.org.

Let’s take a minute and go over some of the reasons a disqualification occurs. First you MUST sign your application. You must fill out every line. N/A’s are very proper for a line that is not applicable for you. Transcripts MUST be in a sealed envelope form the school/college they are coming from. The proper application that fits your need MUST be used. And finally, the proper Auxiliary Card must be sent in. You cannot use an AMVET or a Sons’ card. I hope this will help to get the scholarship applications done correctly.

Thank you all for the hard work you have done in making available the information on this report and for promoting our Scholarship Program.

Madame President Baggett, I wish you a very successful NEC Meeting.
Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests. Greetings to all my Auxiliary Sisters. I hope you all had beautiful Holidays, and I so look forward to Spring.

Reminder: at last year’s National Convention, it was requested that a book of prayers be made available. I asked that individuals or Auxiliaries, send to me your prayer/s that you would like placed in the book. I set a date for submissions, by the Spring NEC. They can be mailed, emailed, or handed to me at Spring NEC. The book will be available at the National Convention in August. Sit and write what is in your heart. **Please note – the deadline date for submissions to the Book of Prayers has been extended to April 30, 2020. Please add if you would like your name, Auxiliary name or number or Department listed with the prayer(s).**

May we start this year with new energy to carry out the good work of this wonderful AMVETS Organization. May we pray to God to give us the guidance and strength to defeat the negativity/divisiveness that threatens good works and defeats the purpose of this organization. Encourage members to review the “Preamble, Aims and Purposes, and Code of Ethics.” Chaplains, review in your manual, the duties of Chaplain. It is more than just an office to fill. You serve as a vital part of an Auxiliary. You are the Spiritual and Inspirational component we all, at one time or another, need, especially in difficult times.

Timely sent, deceased member notifications, are important so we may send condolences to the next of kin. A card from National will be sent 2 months from the date of passing, thinking of you 4 months from date of passing.

As a review, and listed on the bottom of the form, LOCAL CHAPLAIN sends 3 copies to your Department Chaplain. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, send 1 copy to National Headquarters (listed at the top of the form), and 1 copy to National Chaplain. (listed above). Always make sure you keep a copy for your own records, and for the records of your Auxiliary. If you send me the deceased member forms by email, I will respond back that I have received. Thank you to those who have sent a copy of the obituary with the form. Deceased member notification forms can be found on the National Auxiliary website, listed under “forms”. Please use current forms.

And to Madam President Dee, thank you for your loving, strong, leadership. May the good Lord travel with you. God Bless You All.

**John 13:34** “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

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**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS - DEB GASS**

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:
Greetings and Welcome to the 2020 Spring NEC Meeting at the beautiful BWI Marriott Hotel. Hope your journey here was pleasurable and uneventful. The AMVETS LADIES Auxiliary has had the honor to actively participate in “Storm the Hill” with our AMVETS and Sons of AMVETS. We met with several State Representatives and Other Officials to discuss and address the important issues that our Veterans are faced with today. We also had ceremonial visits which included laying of wreaths at the WWII and Korean Memorial, Vietnam Wall, and Women’s Memorial. A full day of dedication and recognition to those that served. I’m sure you will hear their stories.

My theme is “Key Characteristics of Respect on the Convention Floor.” I will be handing out half sheets of paper highlighting the principles of such together with uniform and dress etiquette on the floor (see below)

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPECT ON CONVENTION FLOOR**

- Be on time
- Bring materials
- Turn off phone
- Wait to be called upon
- Be respectful of your neighbors space (don’t clutter )
- Quiet when meeting comes to order
- Listen to others when they speak
- Value opinions of others
- Be considerate of others likes and dislikes
- Don’t disrupt meeting when entering or leaving assembly
- Look Interested!
- Applaud each recognition
- Enjoy!

**OFFICIAL AMVETS AUXILIARY UNIFORMS:** AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary recognizes the official uniform as an A-line forest green dress, an A-line forest green skirt, or tailored forest green slacks. Dress to have a jewel neckline. White or gold jewel neckline blouse may be worn with either the skirt or slacks. The dress and skirt should be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee and no longer than 4 inches below the knee. White blazer with large Auxiliary patch on left breast. Black Shoes with a closed heel and toe, and heel should not be higher than 2 inches. Black handbag, white gloves, and official Ladies Auxiliary hat. No pins on hat other than those you have earned. Pearl tack pin and Local Auxiliary Numbers are acceptable. Pearl earrings and single strand pearl necklace, or Auxiliary necklace and earrings will be acceptable. White shoes/purse may be worn from April until Labor Day.

**DRESS ATTIRE ON CONVENTION FLOOR:** The only pin allowed on delegate badge is your State Pin. It may be placed in the upper right-hand corner away from printing on badges or delegate eligibility to vote. Other pins are allowed on the Lanyard. **JEANS ARE NEVER ALLOWED ON CONVENTION FLOOR UNLESS IT IS ON T-SHIRT DAY (NO ripped jeans).** Shower flip flops are never allowed, but sandals are okay. **BUSINESS CASUAL** is to be worn at all Business Sessions (No T-shirts, Sweats, and the likes) Capris are allowed (but not in a jean style).

**Check out the “This or That “ on the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary webpage for a detailed description of Auxiliary Uniforms & Dress Code on Convention Floor.**
I want to thank in advance the pages in helping make things run smoothly and am looking forward to many hands at our 2020 National Convention in Springfield Illinois this coming August. On that thought, for the ladies who want to Page or a Color Guard, please fill out the Page/Uniform Form in the National Digest on dates and times you will be available. At that time, I will also need Color Guards. Pages and Color Guards, please remember to be in full uniform, don’t forget your white gloves and most importantly Comfortable Shoes!

Additional Note: Pages will be checking at the door for proper attire. Also, Ladies, please acknowledge our National Flag with a hand salute each time you pass it – it is not only proper Flag Etiquette, but respectful.

If you have any questions, I am approachable to help you. If I don’t have the answer, I will find out and get back to you. I mean that. “We waited together….now let’s work together”.

Have a successful NEC Meeting. God Bless Our Troops, Veterans and Country.

HOSPITAL - CINDY RICE

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

Welcome to Spring NEC Meeting, 2020. I hope you all had a healthy, happy and fun-filled Holiday season. Spring is fast approaching and a time of year when we assess all we have done for our office thus far. Thank you to those Auxiliaries that have reported all their good works in the first half of the year to your NEC woman and getting them on time. Wow what exciting things you are doing at our VA Facilities, Nursing Homes, Clinics and Hospitals taking care of and making others aware of the needs of our Veterans. Keep up the good work!

I was fortunate to take my tour of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in October. What a growing amazing facility. If you are ever in the area you should take a tour. Rich Peterson is ready willing and able to do a tour at any time. Some facts about St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital:

- Families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing or food because a family should worry about helping their child live.
- St. Jude freely shares their discoveries, and every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists worldwide can use that knowledge to save more children.
- St. Jude conducts more clinical trials for childhood cancer than anyone else.
- St. Jude treats children from all 50 states and around the world, mostly the toughest cases.
- Once a St. Jude patient you are a patient for life.
- The survival rate currently is an average of 90% overall. Some are 95% survival.

Thank you to all the Departments and/or Auxiliaries that have requested information regarding two types of ideas for fundraising from me. I still have silver and gold pins for sale as well as pinup books that you sell each page for a dollar. I have requested we keep the pin money separate from the other to keep track of the sales. I will be contacting those I have sent pins to see how their sales are going. I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent the AMVETS National
Ladies Auxiliary. Please keep your fundraising going even though our specified month is November so we can exceed our previous year’s donation and help many more children kick cancer.

“Because We Care Day “is right around the corner also and is the first Wednesday of April. Take this opportunity to help hospitalized Veterans at the VA facilities as well as Nursing homes. My theme this year is “Helping Hands create Healing Hearts, Minds and Bodies.” Let’s all continue to work together and help those in need including our recently deployed military as well all military personnel defending our country as well as those abroad. If you would like to be part of my committee, please email me or see me at NEC. Thank you for entrusting me as your National Hospital Chair, I am truly enjoying the position.

Madam President Dee, I wish you a productive and successful NEC meeting.

VAVS - MARIE RORRIO

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, (29 as of January 15th). I have noticed that the greatest percentage of those reporting, 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. Several VAVS Representatives have resigned some due to BURNOUT, others due to age or illness. We need to recruit Volunteers and support the work of our VAVS Representatives and their Deputies.

I will be attending the National VAVS National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference April 30-May 1, 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 10th grade or above and have not reached their 19th 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 Dee, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National VAVS Representative.

Best wishes for a productive and successful meeting!
Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:

We are coming to a close to another year of volunteering and service to our veterans. It is extremely important that information gets passed along. Please make sure that Department Officers have copies of local, state and national Constitution and Bylaws. The manual is another source of information. When considering of running for a position or accepting an appointed position please remember to review the expectations of that office.

For those members interested in running for a National office, speak with a member who has held that position or the current officer. Find out the commitment you will need to make. When sending out letters of intent to run for an office, include your qualifications for that position. And remember do not send campaign material to National Headquarters!

The following Departments will need to submit updated/revised Bylaws to me along with a page indicating where the changes are by July 15th:

Arizona  Maine  Massachusetts  Missouri  North Dakota  Pennsylvania

Any Department making a recommendation and/or amendment to the National Constitution and Bylaws must send them to me no later than 30 days prior to the opening of National Convention. They need to be typed written, signed and shall clarify the intent of the proposal. They need to be written in proper resolution format. It is asked that the proposer of any recommendations and/or amendments please attend the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee meeting held at National Convention to explain the reasoning behind the proposal.

To all NEC Women, your reports for both this meeting and National Convention should include activities, conditions and needs of your Department, not your statistics – those are reported by the National Chairmen. It is also your responsibility to prepare your Department’s entries for National Awards according to the specifications in the National Digest. Please take the time and apply for awards. Within 45 days after the close of both meetings you shall prepare a report for file in your Departments including all pertinent information of business conducted and a copy shall be sent/ emailed to the National Parliamentarian.

As you are aware the National Discipline Procedure can be found in the National Constitution. There should be a Grievance Committee on both the Local and Department level and an Appeals Board on the Department Level. I would recommend that the Incoming President appoint these committees at the beginning of her term of office. It’s better to have a committee appointed and not need them than to scramble to put together a committee when it’s needed.

Wishing you all a productive, successful N.E.C. meeting and year-end.
Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:

Plans are underway for the 74th AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary National Convention. This year’s convention will be held August 19-22, 2020.

Illinois – the Land of Lincoln – is proud to host this year’s convention. Springfield, the Illinois capital, is proud to be the home of many Lincoln sites. Within walking distance of the hotels is the President Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the restored train station that took him to Washington, DC in 1861 and brought him back in 1865, historic downtown sites, and his restored Springfield home and neighborhood. President Lincoln’s tomb will be found in Oak Ridge Cemetery, a short drive from downtown Springfield. Buried with him there are his wife Mary along with three of their four sons.

Also found in Oak Ridge Cemetery are memorials to Illinois military from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Camp Butler National Cemetery in Springfield, founded in 1862 by President Lincoln, is the final resting place for service personnel dating back to the Civil War with a prisoner of war section for World War II German and Japanese military. The AMVETS carillon is the only memorial at the cemetery. For you sports enthusiasts, Springfield is home to the Springfield Cardinals, a minor league team of the St. Louis Cardinals. The Illinois State Fair will be going on during our convention with Veterans Recognition Day being Sunday, August 23.

National Convention Hotel information is listed below. Auxiliary Meetings will be held at the Wyndham as well as the National Sons, Junior AMVETS and Riders. Sad Sack Scrimmage and Sackette Fracas will be held at the Wyndham also. Feel free to book your room wherever you like and know that from the side door of the Abe Lincoln to the front door of the Wyndham it is 50 feet. The BOS Convention Center is roughly 100 feet (or less) from both hotels. The BOS Center will be home to AMVETS Convention sessions.

**AMVETS Auxiliary 74th Annual Convention**

**President Abraham Lincoln Springfield** – a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

701 E Adams Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
Phone Number: 217-544-8800  
**Group Name:** AMVETS National Convention  
**Group Code:** VET  
**Check-in:** 14-AUG-2020  
**Check-out:** 24-AUG-2020  
**Parking:** $7.00 per day, Valet - $17.00 per day

**Wyndham Springfield City Centre**  
700 E Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone: (217) 789-1530  
Parking: 1 (one) complimentary space per room reserved
Room rates for the hotels are the same with one King or two Queen beds for $120 per night plus tax. Larger rooms and suites are available for an additional cost.

For those of you flying, the local airport is Springfield Regional Airport (SPI). Both hotels offer a complimentary airport shuttle. AMTRAK does run to Springfield and the station is a few blocks away. The Wyndham offers a complimentary shuttle to and from the train station as well.

Both hotels offer free wifi, indoor pools, and fitness centers. The Abraham Lincoln welcomes licensed, certified service animals. The Wyndham is a pet friendly hotel providing your pet weighs 75 pounds or less. There will be a $50.00 deposit.

Illinois Night Block Party will be held Wednesday, August 19 outside of the hotels. Tickets are $20.00 per person and are available. I also have ticket order forms.

Arrangements are being worked out for scooter rentals and will be available soon.

Watch for the Convention Digest that will contain more information about the Convention and details on the Silver Helmet Reception and the Commander’s/President’s Banquet.

Forms for the Patrons’ Page and Ads will be available in the Convention Digest. Please use these two resources to promote your candidates, your businesses, and remember your friends and loved ones. More details will be forthcoming.

Help is always needed during the Convention, both at the registration desk and in the meeting room. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. My contact information is: Debby Dant, National Convention Chairman, 418 Joliet Road, Marquette Heights, IL 61554, 309-382-1579 or 309-231-0138, email is bddant85@yahoo.com.

A major reminder regarding registration – please tell your members – your membership card is REQUIRED at Registration. Please know how you’re registering, delegate, alternate, guest, etc. Please pre-register. This not only will guarantee you a convention book, it will save you time. The registration form and registration cut-off date can be found in the Convention Digest.

NATIONAL TRAINING CHAIRMAN – PNP CHARLENE KEE

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

Thank you to all that attended the 2020 Leadership Training! Praise God for another successful training seminar in Pigeon Forge, TN in January. We had a total of 85 auxiliary members and 25 AMVETS/Guests.
Our theme was “The Unstoppable Leader” and we had the honor of the following speakers to share their expertise in our leadership theme: AMVETS National Commander Jan Brown, KY Alt. NEC Tracy Hays, and PNP’s Barbara Guth, Evelyn McElvin, Marvell Ruppel and Barbara Valley. Everyone did an awesome job!

**Thank you**, Madam President Baggett, for all your donations of bags, president pens, stuffers and door prizes. **Thank you**, Department of Tennessee Service Foundation for securing registration for your auxiliary ladies to attend the training. **Thank you**, TN- President Jennifer Dotson AND TN-Secretary, Wincie Wright for processing registration and the TN auxiliary ladies for assisting wherever there was a need during the seminar. **Thank you**, PNC Bill Kilgore for transporting members to and from the airport. **Thank you**, to PNP Carol King, PNC Jim King, Joe, Joy, Joey, and Amy Stopyra, for co-chairing the horse race and silent auction. **Thank you**, National Officers, Karin Simmons, Mary Lanphere, Debra Gass, Peggy Liss, Cindy Rice, and Jerri Devoll for being the unstoppable leaders by helping out wherever there was a need. **Thank you**, Mr. Rodzen for being our official technology person. **Thank you**, Carol King and the headquarters staff for processing registration. **Thank you**, to all the first-timers and attendees. **Thank you**, Barbara Guth for paying the bills. What a blessing!

We gained so much knowledge during this seminar. I encourage you who attended to take the information back to your Local and Department meetings and share with the ones who could not attend. Always remember that you are “The Unstoppable Leader.”

Madam President Baggett, I wish for you a successful Spring NEC meeting!

**HONORS AND AWARDS – PNP EVELYN McELVIN**

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

Madam President Baggett, 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 17, 2020 between 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. **NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10:00 AM.**

Review the Convention Digest for the swards 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, 2020. **DO NOT MAIL ENTRIES TO THE HOTEL.**

I hope you all will join us on Thursday, August 20th for a “Patriotic” celebration as we pay honor to our National President at the: “Dee’s Red, White and Blue Awards Program”, “Always Remember”.

HONO
Looking forward to seeing many entries and all of us having an enjoyable time at the Honors and Awards Program.

If you have any changes or recommendations for the Honors and Awards Committee to consider you must have them to the National Parliamentarian, PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis (30) days prior to the opening of National Convention.

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

Thank you again Madam President Baggett 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.

JR. AMVETS COORDINATOR – FRAN McGURK

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

Thank you, Madam President Baggett, for this great opportunity to work with our awesome Juniors. It is always an exciting year when working with our Juniors!

Juniors mid-year reports and memberships were due by post-marked date December 31, 2019. Sadly, we only received 12 Junior Units that reported mid-year reports and only 9 Junior Units that paid their 2020 memberships. There is a total of twenty-seven (27) Junior Units and I know they are all doing volunteer work and we would all like to acknowledge them, but we can’t without reports. I have been reaching out to the Junior Unit Coordinators that have not turned in their reports or monies for membership and offered any help that I could give. Let’s hope we will receive membership from all locations and more reporting.

For the Juniors that did turn in their mid-year reports a “SPECIAL” Thank You and to your Junior Coordinators for their time devoted to the Juniors. Without the entire AMVETS family helping our Juniors these volunteer hours would not be possible.

I would like to remind all the Auxiliaries that Junior President Abigail Lewis has “Honor Flight” as her pet project. I challenge all Auxiliaries to send a donation for Abigail’s great project. Better yet, in March, our Juniors will be selling their 50/50 tickets to go towards Abigail’s project so let’s show our support.

Anyone wanting to learn more about starting a Juniors group or have any questions please let me know. I will be available in March. However, you can contact me at any time. My contact information is above. My preference is via email or text.

Our Juniors are our future and we are responsible to teach them well and guide them so they can lead the way.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in March!
HISTORY AND SCRAPBOOK – KAREN POWERS

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

Welcome to NEC! Can you believe half the year is already over? Speaking of half the year, how's your Scrapbooks/History books coming along? Hopefully great. By now you should be halfway completed. Remember your PRO cannot do her job unless everyone is sending her pictures.

Please when assembling your Scrapbook/History book make sure your pages are correctly labeled. You should have a consistent theme throughout, and you have pictures, pictures, pictures. Be sure to include pictures of Veteran's Day Activities, Nursing Home and Veteran Home visits and activities, children s activities such as parties, dances & school supply fund raising, New Year's activities and of course let's not forget our membership. Take pictures of your Auxiliary meetings, decorating for & hosting parties or even cooking in the kitchen on your cook nights.

Also when assembling your Scrapbook/History Books make sure you follow the criteria very closely, the judging committee does not want to disqualify anyone this year for minor mistakes that could have been prevented, especially after all the hours and hard work you have put into them. Please take your time, follow the criteria and don't be afraid to ask others for help, even an outsider from your auxiliary to look over your book for you. Make sure you provide that person with the criteria needed. Sometimes two heads are better than one!

Madam President Baggett I hope you have a productive NEC, and may you continue to have an enjoyable and successful year.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – CAROL KING

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

Welcome back to Bawlmer, hon!! The last 6 months have been busy since we last met. The usual day-to-day operations of Headquarters, updating forms and keeping the website up to date.

The Convention Digest should be in the mail the first week of April and posted on-line. As a reminder - the Digest is sent to the official mail contact for each Local Auxiliary, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents, NEC and Secretaries. All the scoop on the Springfield, Illinois National Convention can be found there.

It' almost Revalidation time and there has been a change to the requirements. Unless your Department requires your Local Auxiliary to submit a copy of your filed 990 Form, all National Headquarters is requiring is that Block #2 on the backside of the Change of Officers (Revalidation) Form be filled out in its entirety. If you do NOT include your Federal ID number (EIN) on the Local and Department Change of Officers form, you will NOT be revalidated. It is your responsibility to file a version of the Form 990 and according to the IRS you have up to 5 months after the end of the fiscal year to file. National Parliamentarian Heidi Dineen-Serpis will inform Departments that
need to submit updated Bylaws to her. If you do not submit them to her, your Department will NOT be revalidated.

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 annually 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 30th. NOTE – Departments having their convention the last weekend of June have a 5-day grace period.

As previously mentioned by National Convention Chair Debby Dant, a Silver Helmet Awards Reception will be held on Thursday evening August 20. 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 21; ticket price and order form to be posted.

Thank you to Madam Commander Jan Brown, Joe Chenelly, the AMVETS National Headquarters and National Service Foundation staff for all their help and cooperation. It’s nice to be 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 four (4) 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.

If you see me on Facebook during the workday, I welcome your questions; that’s why I’m on there. If it’s after-hours, the weekend or when the office is closed, please direct your questions to my work email or send a message to the National Auxiliary Facebook page. I’ll get back to you as soon as possible.
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. And realize that we are at the mercy of AMVETS when it comes to passing along event/hotel information. We do our best to get it out to you in a timely manner.

President Dee, thank you! Here’s to a successful second half of your term. May we have a productive, successful NEC meeting!

IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT – BARBARA VALLEY

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

Here we are at our 2020 Spring NEC meeting, not only a time to see all the wonderful work our Auxiliaries are doing, but also a time to think about our National Convention in Springfield, Illinois.

At this meeting each NEC women along with National Officers will receive their raffle tickets. But other members are also encouraged to help take these tickets back to your Departments to sell. This is a great way for a Department to win $100.00 by selling the most raffle tickets that they may use however they see fit.

For those not familiar with our Convention Raffle tickets, they come in a pack of five each a different color. The cost is $5.00 per pack. On opening day starting Wednesday a ticket is drawn and that lucky winner will receive half of the money brought in on that day’s ticket.

This is a good way your Auxiliaries can also take a chance to be one of the lucky winners. These tickets can also be sold outside of our organization. You don’t have to be in attendance to win.

If at any time you have the need for more tickets all you have to do is e-mail or call me.

Just a reminder for those that are selling the 50/50 raffle tickets: If you’re mailing them to me, please make the check out to AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary. Never send cash through the mail. Please separate the tickets by color. Always check to make sure your sending in the correct amount.

If you’re bringing tickets and money to National Convention, I will be outside of the NEC meeting on Tuesday afternoon to collect your tickets and money. Again, please separate the tickets by color. I will not be taking tickets or money in the halls. THANK YOU!

You only have a chance if you take the time to buy your tickets for each day of the drawing.
I’m also looking for volunteers to assist as Raffle Princesses and help sell tickets on the Convention floor. I’d appreciate any help you have to offer even if it’s only one day, please let me know your availability.

God Bless Each of You and God Bless America!

**NATIONAL SNAPPIEST – FAYE RICHARDSON-GREEN**

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

I hope you all survived the holiday season with your sense of humor intact. As the fun and honor group of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, the Sackettes believe in not taking ourselves too seriously while seriously raising money to fund nursing scholarships. Like the rest of you, membership continues to be challenge. Creativity has become our friend. During the past year we’ve had a couple of unit’s merge and some of our members have taken dual membership with Sackette and Sad Sack units to remain actively involved. So, if any of you are looking for a place to remain actively involved. So, if any of you are looking for a place to experience an upside down/backwards view of the world, join us. The Sackette membership application and guidelines are on the national website under “Sackettes.”

We are selling 50/50 raffle tickets to raise money for nursing scholarships. Tickets are available from local Sackette unit scholarship chairmen or the National Scholarship Chairman, Martha Knott (la5.knott17@gmail.com). Tickets sell for $1 each or 6 for $5. Drawing will be held during Convention in August. Please help us build our nursing scholarship fund.

And, not fortunately, PNP Barbara Valley donated a 50th (1946-1996) Anniversary Sad Sack collectible to the Sackettes for us to not raffle. We won’t sell those raffle tickets for $2 each or six (6) for $5 to support our nursing scholarships. Don’t expect the item to be raffled at National Convention. A photo of the item and raffle tickets will not be available to local Sacks and Sackette units.

Lastly, Madame President, I DO NOT wish you a successful Spring NEC meeting and remainder of your year.
I am enjoying my travels with Madam President Dee, through your eyes, the pictures I have received from the Departments that she has made her official visit. There is a gap in where no photos have been sent to me. I would like all NEC’s to make sure your Department is in the National President’s Scrapbook. Get your PRO to send me anything she may have it will be greatly appreciated.

A Scrapbook can be such a wonderful thing to look back on, reflect on all the photographs in remember all the wonderful things that happened throughout the year; but if you don’t send the photos and newspaper articles, and any other items when President Dee visits your state it won’t be there for her to remember her time spent with you.

Please add who, what when and where of each event. The photos or other articles for the scrapbook can be sent by snail-mail, email or to my phone; all are listed above.

Please help me make a wonderful scrapbook for National President Dee, so she will have many memories of her year as our 2019 – 2020 AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary President!