



**“ALWAYS REMEMBER”**

**Dee Baggett**

**National President**

**Spring 2021**

**National Lines**





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On behalf of your AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Officers and Headquarters Staff, I bring greetings.

My theme this year is “**Always Remember**” and Auxiliary Ladies seem to always remember to honor our Veterans and strive to help our communities. I thank you! This last year+ has certainly held challenges and I believe we will “**Always Remember**” the challenges we have and are still enduring.

Department Conventions bring to a close the Department year. I know you will conclude your year with all your hard work documented. I hope you have time to celebrate those accomplishments and can do so face to face, either by social media or hopefully in person!

We will be holding our National Convention this year also!! At that time, we will end our year (or 2) and will be recognizing all our accomplishments with 2 years' worth of Honors and Awards. Please make sure you apply for awards!!! All the information in the Convention Digest is available to ALL members on National Auxiliary website.

My project for the year is a generator for the MacArthur Building at Freedoms Foundation. Last year our National Americanism Officer took on the task of a much-needed generator and I have decided to raise funds to help this come to fruition. Freedoms Foundation's mission is “to reject apathy and get involved”, which is just so needed in today's climate.

Please be prepared as we get ready for our National Convention to probably still be social distancing and wearing masks. North Carolina is still requiring these precautions. Check back regularly with the website for updates as they become available.

Please continue to do all you do with your Auxiliaries, for our Veterans and our communities. You do such great work!

Yours in Service and I Hope to see you at National Convention,

Dee Baggett  
National President  
2019 - 2021



## AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary

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"We waited together...  
Now let's work together"

MAY 2021

FROM: Carol King, National Executive Director

**SUBJECT: UPCOMING DEADLINE DATES**

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, Auxiliary National Headquarters is still operating on a modified in-person schedule. The best way to contact Sonja, Bertha or I is via email. The Convention Digest is being finalized and you will be notified when it has mailed and been posted to our website.

Here's a list of upcoming deadline dates for May, June and July:

### MAY

Membership to be included in year-end totals and delegate strength **MUST** be postmarked by May 31. Please check with your Department for their deadline date so membership can be submitted to National Headquarters on time.

### JUNE

Year-end NEC reports are due to the National Service Chairmen **postmarked by June 1**.

Membership Awards listed in the Convention Digest due to the National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **postmarked by June 15**.

NEC Reports for inclusion to the National Convention book are **DUE June 30<sup>th</sup>**. The outgoing NEC shall prepare the Department report for National Convention. It is preferred that your report is sent via email ([cking@amvets.org](mailto:cking@amvets.org)) and in WORD format.

ALL membership for the 2020 – 2021 membership year must be postmarked by **June 30, 2021**. This will allow processing so a pre-print card will be received. Any membership received after June 30 will **NOT** be processed until after National Convention. It is our goal to have the membership file to the printer for processing/shipping prior to National Convention.

Donations to be included in the Convention Book - **postmarked by June 30<sup>th</sup>**. Again, Departments having their convention the last weekend of June have a five (5) day grace period.

## **JULY**

Local Revalidations are due **postmarked by July 1**. Department Revalidations are due July 1 however a five (5) day grace period shall be allowed if the convention is held during the last weekend in June.

National Convention Pre-registration - **postmarked by July 1**. Delegate registration will be accepted on-site at the higher rate of \$45.00.

Scholarship applications — **postmarked by July 1**.

Patron's Page submissions - **postmarked by July 1**.

Convention Book ads – **postmarked by July 1**. Ads must be copy-ready.

Blood Donor/Drive applications to the National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – **postmarked July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Colors/Page information to the National Sergeant-at-Arms – **postmarked July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Entries for the AMVETS National Americanism and AADAA Contests are due to AMVETS National Headquarters Program Department - **by July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Resolutions, Recommendations and Amendments (2 copies) to the National Parliamentarian **postmarked by July 15<sup>th</sup>** with one (1) copy to National Headquarters. When sending to National Headquarters, please scan/send a copy of the signed document(s).

Sackette Scholarship applications due to the National Sackette Scholarship Chairman prior to **July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Sheraton Greensboro hotel room reservations – last day to book **July 22, 2021**.

Honors and Awards submissions and History/Scrapbooks for judging mailed to National Headquarters by **July 23, 2021**.

Convention Training Seminar form/fee – **postmarked July 30, 2021**.

For all the current information on National Convention preparation and events, please visit our website at [www.amvetsaux.org](http://www.amvetsaux.org) and click on the **NEC/National Convention** tab. Also, like our Facebook page for updates and news.

**Joan Sirek**  
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## **RECRUIT – RENEW - RETAIN**

I hope your membership year is going well, and your Auxiliary is holding in-person meetings, with newly elected and appointed officers! With membership down for 2020-2021, we need to contact members who have not renewed by phone, e-mail or mailings. Make this a

project to get them renewed! Always have a membership application with you! membership received after June 30, 2021 at AMVETS National Headquarters will be processed in September.

Membership is the backbone of our organization, and there are many challenges in trying to get new members along with keeping our members!

Please make sure you understand the criteria for Membership which can be found in our Manual on pages 38-41. The Manual also has “steps to Organizing Local Auxiliaries” on pages 19-21.

With our National Convention approaching, we need to start thinking about Membership Awards, no application is needed for the Department Award for the largest numerical gain by 5/31, largest percentage gain by 5/31, and the Department organizing the most new Auxiliaries by 5/31. There also is awards for individual membership, members signing up 10 or more new members; pins are awarded. An application form is required for individual Membership Awards!

All Awards will be listed in the Convention Digest that is mailed to Local Presidents, Department Presidents and NEC Women. It will also be on the National Website! Please share information with your members!

If you plan on attending National Convention and would like to be on my Membership Committee Meeting, please contact me. The meeting will be on Tuesday morning.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Greensboro, North Carolina at AMVETS National Convention. Check the Website and Convention Digest for all pertinent information.

**Karin Simmons**  
**National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Children – Our Most Valuable Resource**  
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Happy Spring everyone! Hopefully, your Auxiliaries and Posts are starting to open up depending on the Pandemic in your areas. Here in Arizona it seems that numbers are going down and places are opening back up. This is a good sign but we still need to be vigilant. I have been impressed with all the fundraising and programs that you have been able to do during these trying times. I'm hoping that we will begin our return to normalcy and I am SO looking forward to seeing everyone at National Convention in August.



While donations are down, we still support the **John Tracy Center** as a National Project and I am urging you all to hold at least one fundraiser. Donations of hearing aids are still being accepted with an evaluation of \$100 per aid. You may send used or unwanted hearing aids in any condition to: John Tracy Center, 806 West Adams Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007.

Some ideas for fund raising:

- Face masks for children - \$5.00 evaluation per mask
- **Legos** – round up any used Legos, bricks, sets of accessories – place in box and go to [Lego.com/Replay](http://Lego.com/Replay) and print out a free UPS shipping label and send it in. They will be sent to “Teach for America” and then provided to classrooms across the country. At this time, I have no evaluation amount but will bring to my committee at National Convention.
- **Together we rise** - helping children in Foster care. Most foster children are given garbage bags to place their meager belongings into going from facility to foster home. For \$25.00 the organization “Together We Rise” allows you to sponsor a nice duffle bag called a sweet case - filled with a teddy bear, a blanket, hygiene kit and fun activities. For \$40.00 you can sponsor a duo – including a sweet case as well as a duffle bag for a teen. Information can be found at [www.togetherwerise.org](http://www.togetherwerise.org)
- **Box Tops for Education** – many of you have been cutting out box tops that are given to local schools to turn in to cover expenses for equipment that the school needs. They are in the process of phasing cutting the coupons out and making it easier. If you have a cell phone you can download the app and then scan in your receipt. If there are any eligible purchases on it - it will add that to your total. You will have chosen a school and the credits will be sent to them directly. If you still have box tops that have not expired, you can still send them in. More information can be found at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).

Looking forward to the 2021 National Convention I encourage you to apply for any of the three awards for Child Welfare. Please don't think that just because your Local or Department is small that you wouldn't win – total hours plus total volunteers divided by total membership, makes it an even playing field. The awards available are:

- PNP Cathy Fishero Award – presented to the Department performing the most outstanding work in Child Welfare – **No entry form required.**
- PNP Leslie Wunderle Award – presented to the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in their community benefiting children – **Entry form required.**
- PNP Delia Kreiling-Riley Award – presented to the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work for John Tracy Center – **Entry form required.**

We will be holding honors and awards for both last year and this year – we haven't forgotten the work you did! See you soon!



**Amy M. Stopyra**  
**National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**  
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Greetings Auxiliary Sisters! The reporting year has come to an end by our Local and Department chairmen. With this year being in the books, it does not mean though our work is complete, our

programs and volunteering continues. We worked hard through a pandemic and through a situation of “Unchartered Waters”, I know it was and still can be hard at times to get out there but keep up the work you are doing as amazing volunteers, but rest assured our services will be needed more than ever.

My theme this year “**CommUNITY Starts With You**” encourages you all to keep working hard in our communities.

As we prepare for our National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Convention, I will be working on a schedule of items to be talked about at our Community Committee meeting. If you have any questions or recommendations that you would like to see addressed by the Committee, please send me an email so I can place those items on the schedule. We are still looking for volunteers to serve on the Community Committee at the 2021 Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Please keep in mind as we are now receiving our Convention Digests and there are program awards, I encourage you to read the Digest and make sure you are filling out the paperwork entirely for each of the following Awards!

### **Community Service Awards**

PNP Lynda Taylor Award - Department with the most outstanding work in the Community Service

PNP Linda McGriff Award - Local Auxiliary with the most outstanding work in the Community Service - **Entry form required**

### **Blood Donor Program Awards**

Blood Drive Award - Local Auxiliary – Please read the criteria.

Blood Donor Pin and Certificate – Presented to a member – Please read the criteria.

Blood Donor Certificate – Please read the criteria

**PAWS With A Cause® Founder’s Award Department** - Department – With the largest donation to PAWS – Please read the criteria - **Entry form required**

I thank you for your continued support, as well as the opportunity to serve as your National 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President this year. If I can be of any assistance to you, please don’t hesitate to email or call me. I am looking forward to receiving your year-end reports and seeing all the amazing things your Auxiliaries are doing. Keep up the great work. God Bless you and your Families!



**Mary A Lanphere, National Chaplain**  
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Greetings to all my Auxiliary sisters and to their families. We are closing another year and looking to start another. This pandemic has caused a lot of changes in our lives, some good and some bad. The good is that many of us realize how precious family and friends are, as well

as appreciating the importance and dedication of “Front Line Workers.” The bad, is the unfortunate loss of many family members and friends to this evil virus, and the separation of loved ones from each other, causing anxiety and depression.

This is why it is of utmost importance to reach out to one another in friendship and prayer. A phone call, or a card can go a long way in someone’s day that feels forgotten or lonely. Social media has been good for many to reach out to one another, but often it gets overshadowed by political views. Remember it’s okay to debate, but harmful to hate or intimidate. We are an organization that encourages unity, love of family, and Country. Again, I encourage you to read the “Preamble, Aims and Purposes, Code of Ethics.” We need to continue to work together towards that common goal.

As we look at the above references ask the question, “what is my destiny, what is the destiny of my Auxiliary, can we change destiny? The answer is yes. Though some may feel our destiny has been predetermined for us by God, many Bible verses remind us that we do have some control over our direction. I found a quote which I found to be very interesting and worth doing some deep thinking. “The Essence of Destiny” - “Watch your thoughts, for they become words, choose your words, for they become actions, understand your actions, for they become habits, study your habits, for they become your character, develop your character, for it becomes your destiny.”

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard in their daily lives for the betterment of others. The greatest reward is the special feeling within ourselves when we do good for others. The Bible guides us that we should love one another as Jesus loves us.

Chaplains, as you take office in your Local or Departments, review your duties as Chaplain listed in the Auxiliary manual. As able, reach out to your membership, especially if they haven’t been active in your Auxiliary’s events. There may be a reason for it. Your reaching out to them could make a difference. Local Chaplains notify your Department Chaplain when there has been a death in your Auxiliary. Department Chaplains send notifications to National Headquarters, Sonja, and to the National Chaplain. Forms for deceased member notification can be found on the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary website, under Forms. National Headquarters updates the National membership rolls, and the National Chaplain sends sympathy cards to the next of kin if 2 months from date of death or thinking of you cards if 4 months from date of death. Be sure to double check next of kin info.

AMVETS National Quartermaster has auxiliary grave markers that can be purchased. Under their website, go under miscellaneous tab, to memorial, to grave marker. It is listed for 40.00.

The Book of Prayers had been placed on hold due to the pandemic. Hopefully we can still proceed as things get back to normal. Our Headquarters staff has done a great job through all this with decreased office hours, and situations of their own.

God Bless everyone for their prayers, diligence, determination, and love for one another that keeps our Organization special. May our Heavenly Father protect those who protect us, and this great Country.

Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”



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Uncharted waters is an understatement. This past year certainly has been challenging to our organization and sister Auxiliaries. Optimism and hope that “normal” resumes and not a day too soon.

My theme is “*Key Characteristics of Respect on the Convention Floor*”. NOW more than ever, we need to be more kind and respectful to one another. Haven’t we all been through enough? Kindness goes a long way.

Hopefully, the AMVETS 2021 National Convention will prevail in Greensboro North Carolina. With that said, the need of pages and color guards are necessary to make a smooth and successful convention. Once you have received the National Digest, please fill out the Page/Color Guard Form with respect to dates and times you can be available. I will be sending a mailing to those who previously volunteered and to those who sent in a request with a deeper description on duties, etc. Thank you in advance for doing so. Requirements include wearing full official Auxiliary uniform (see Official Uniform Guide on the “This and That” tab on National website), comfortable shoes (solid color gym shoes are acceptable for pages), a pair of white gloves and your brightest smile!

Due to the virus, everyone will be required to wear a mask. Hand sanitizers and wipes will be provided. A more detailed description on extra duties will be given at a later date. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

“We waited together...now let’s work together”. Wishing you all good health – until we meet again. God Bless America and our Veterans

**DENISE A. RODZEN**  
**NATIONAL AMERICANISM**  
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**“Help Motivate and Generate”**



Thank you for allowing me to represent you again this year as your Americanism Officer. I was humbled and amazed by the experiences that we are currently living throughout the United States. As individual states, each has a different set of guidelines making fundraising a “think

outside of the box” chance for true creativity. As an Auxiliary I believe good can and is done every day by all of you. Please bring positivity and kindness into your projects. Thank you for joining me to **GENERATE and MOTIVATE** our members this year as never before! I thank you for your service.

Pins were sold throughout the year raising monies for Madame Presidents project. The pins are \$5 each and monies are payable by check to Amvets National Ladies Auxiliary. Some of you may still have pins from this past year, now that we are getting around more, please consider selling them.

Themes for the Spirit of America year were found on AMVETS website and each group should have checked with their Department on specific rules, as they may be different.

### **AMVETS Individual Americanism Youth Awards**

Flag Coloring Contest - Best Flag coloring submitted by a student in Kindergarten and 1st grade which addresses the theme. Entry forms, supplied by AMVETS, must be attached to each entry.

Essay Writing Contest - Best essay, based on the current year’s theme, submitted by a student in each of the following grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. An entry form, supplied by AMVETS, must be attached to each entry. 9th grade winners go to the AMVETS “Spirit of America” Youth Conference held annually in November.

Poster Drawing Contest - Best poster, based on the current year’s theme, submitted by a student in each of the following grades: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th. An entry form, supplied by AMVETS, must be attached to each entry.

**NOTE:** All entries for the individual Youth Awards must be submitted to AMVETS National Headquarters, 4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706. *Check with your Department for judging procedures.*

Freedoms Foundation: The cost for students to attend one of the standard Spirit of America Youth Leadership Programs throughout the year is approximately \$475.00. Our AMVETS Spirit of America Program is different from the standard program. Much more is done during this leadership training, in particular the Mock Trial at the Justice Center. As a result, the cost of a student to attend the AMVETS Spirit of America program is approximately \$525.00.

### **Auxiliary Americanism Awards**

PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis Award - Department doing the most outstanding work in Americanism

PNP Patty Piening Award - Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in Americanism

Awards for Individual Members - National Award - For the member doing the most outstanding work in Americanism

### **AMERICANISM RAFFLE TICKET**

Has visiting Freedoms Foundation ever been your wish? Now you can make it a reality! Be sure to purchase raffle tickets before it’s too late! Tickets are available to sell at your State

Convention. Contact me and I will mail them to you. Once sold please return by sending stubs and monies (check made payable to AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary) or unsold tickets to my address listed above. Raffle Tickets for the year will be on sale at National Convention 2021 if any remain.

The Conference takes place October 7th through the 10th, 2021, at Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge. This can be a trip of a lifetime; have more fun by traveling with a group of your friends. Experience going back in time, visiting historical sights, learning what our forefathers lived. This year's conference will have you visiting Valley Forge, the Honor Grove, touring the campus, getting insight into the Spirit of America conference our youth experience, a trip to Gettysburg and more. Food is supplied as are rooms. Consider making it a couples or girl's weekend.

**Peggy Liss**  
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## *Let's Raise Dollar's...Dollars For Our Scholars*

Well, it seems we are starting this year as we ended last year, with the Pandemic still with us.

Last year we worked on the proper scholarship application to use. Remember that there are three (3) kinds of Scholarships. First the College Support for graduating high school seniors. The second Scholarship is for scholars who are at least in their second year in an accredited college or university. The third is our Career Start for members of the Auxiliary going back to college to improve their knowledge for a better job. And of course, leaving no blank spaces on them.

Last year a couple of problems emerged in a large way. One of the problems has to do with the Letters of Recommendations. Please when they pick up their letters, tell them to make sure they are SIGNED in ink, not a computer-generated signature or signature stamp! Computer or stamped signatures will be considered as UNSIGNED! Please make sure to tell them that whomever they ask for a letter, they tell them this so there is no problem when they pick them up.

Another problem was the date of the application. Please make sure that the date on the application is September 2017. If you have any applications in your file, please check the dates on them and throw away any old ones.

I have once again included the How to complete a successful Scholarship Application. I am hoping that you tell your locals to hand these out with the applications.

In closing, please tell your students these things so they don't get disqualified. Just so you understand how important this is, last year twenty-nine (29) applications were disqualified! This

was just heartbreaking for me. Please get the word out on these issues so that we don't have to disappoint so many.

### **How to complete a successful Scholarship Application**

Do you qualify for this Scholarship?

**Career Start** – must be a current member of the **AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary** and must have **completed at least one semester/quarter of study** at an accredited technical school, business school, college or university.

**National Scholarship** – must be a current member of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary or a son/daughter, stepson/daughter, or grandchild/step grandchild of a current member of the AMVETS Ladies and be **in at least his/her second year of undergraduate study** at an accredited college or university.

**College Support** – the applicant must be a so/daughter, stepson/daughter, or grandchild/step grandchild of a current member of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and be a **graduating high school senior who has been accepted to an accredited college or university.**

Print your application from the National Auxiliary website – print 2 or 3 copies to use one for practice and one for final presentation. This should ensure that you are using the most up-to-date application. Make sure your writing is legible and in ink.

Use the checklist on the front page to make sure you have included everything.

Resume should be in a conversational form or story including past accomplishments, career and educational goals and objectives for the future – not just a list of accomplishments and dates – that can be attached to the resume. There must be a minimum of 200 words and no more than 500 words. The words a, as, and the are not counted.

The three letters of recommendation must be signed and dated. When requesting these letters please make sure to tell the letter writer about this, then check it when you receive it. Make sure to have the letter on official school letterhead if that is specified,

Your transcript must be in a sealed official envelope. The schools know this and will comply. There may be a charge for them.

Make sure the membership card is the correct one needed for the specific scholarship.

Complete every question on the application. If it doesn't apply or you have no answer for it make sure to place a **N/A** on the line.

Make sure application is mailed to National Headquarters postmarked by July 1. Please make sure postmark is legible.

Presented by National Scholarship Officer Karin Simmons – 2018 National Convention



**Cynthia Rice**  
**National Hospital Chair**  
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Greetings and Hello spring from Ohio. The flowering trees and shrubs are finally blossoming bringing peace, tranquility and hope for the upcoming summer. Here in Ohio the weather so far has been warm then cold now average for the year but at least there is light at the end of the tunnel.

This has been a challenging year so far however I know you are doing the best to make your year successful. We are nearing the end of the year and I would like to thank all those who chose to take part in selling tickets for the guitar as part of your fundraising. Thank you to Denise Speigle for providing the tickets and St. Jude for the autographed guitar.

My Theme again this year was **“Helping Hands Create Healing Hearts, Mind and Bodies”**. I read the midyear reports and many of you are followers of my theme by what you have done helping others throughout the year. We have until end of May to raise money to be counted for St. Jude Children’s research Hospital however to be counted on your Department Hospital report it should be done now until May. Please remember to turn in your donations and postmarked by June 15th to National Headquarters at the latest be counted in this year’s donations.

We are still looking for committee members for Hospital/VAVS. If you are interested, please contact me at [efda89@yahoo.com](mailto:efda89@yahoo.com) or 440-320-7128. We need you!!! Please remember that the office includes a medically staffed and non-medically staffed nursing homes, VA facilities and helping at anything associated with a hospital. This year helping at vaccine sites directing traffic, helping hand out questionnaires and forms can be claimed. I hope everyone has checked into getting a vaccine so you can be protected and get back to normal soon.

Thank You to Auxiliary members who made masks and/or purchased masks and delivered them to our Hospitals and outpatient VA Hospital, local hospitals and nursing homes. Unfortunately, the need for additional masks for hospitalized Veterans remains. Masks on your service reports have an evaluation of \$5.00 each. If you donate a phone charger or USB cord to someone in a hospital the evaluation under new materials is \$5.00 each. In the convention digest you will see the awards for hospital, please apply and follow the directions so your application is accepted.

In the Fall National Lines, I gave suggestions for fundraisers for the remainder of the year, I hope you took advantage of some of those suggestions. I will have banners, posters and pamphlets at National convention for you to take back to your locals. If you are interested see me. Thank you again for all your hard work and dedication to our Veterans, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and me. I look forward to working with you again and helping our community and our Veterans.



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Happy Spring to All! Well, it's time to start thinking about our 2021 National Convention in Greensboro North Carolina. The flowers are starting to spring from the ground, and just as flowers are starting up it's time for you to make sure you have your 50/50 raffle tickets for National Convention. Most of your NEC Ladies all have those tickets, so make sure at your annual meeting you get with her to buy your tickets.

For those of you who think you must attend the Convention to be a winner...that is not true! So buy a ticket pack for your mother, father, sister and brother. Remember everyone has a chance to win a jackpot each day. Tickets are \$5.00 a pack, each ticket is a different color that puts you in a drawing each and every day.

A reminder you don't have to be a member to be a winner so to our NEC Ladies this is a great way for your Departments to have a chance to win an extra \$100.00 dollars by selling the most tickets. And what Department can't use an extra \$100.00?

Let's all spring into action just like flowers spring from the ground and make sure we get our 50/50 raffle tickets. Sell those tickets to your mailman, the lady down the street, the paper man, just everyone you meet.

At our National Convention if you would like to volunteer to assist as Raffle Princess's selling tickets on the Convention floor. If you would like to help even for one day, I'd appreciate your help. You can reach me from my information provided above.

God Bless Each of You and God Bless America!

**Marie Rorrio**  
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Happy Spring to all. It has been an entire year that our volunteers have not been in the V A Medical Centers. Now that we are all being immunized, hopefully the VA will loosen their restrictions on volunteers. Until that time we need to keep in touch with the Chief of Voluntary Services and assist in any way we can. I am sure the VA staff as well as our Veterans are feeling as frustrated as we are.

VAVS Representatives and Deputies are appointed by the Department President, a Certification form, found on the Auxiliary website, is then completed and forwarded to the National VAVS Representative. When I receive the certification form, I then notify the VA Chief of Voluntary Service and the appointed Representative or Deputy.

When a VAVS Representative or Deputy resigns or are removed for any reason, the Certification form also needs to be completed, entering the name of her replacement. If there is not a replacement, in the space for the name of the new Representative or Deputy, enter "NO REPLACEMENT AT THIS TIME". The VA requires this updated certification form as they are not supposed to add or remove names of members of their VAVS Committee without notification from the organizations National VAVS Representative. A letter of resignation from the VAVS Representative is not acceptable.

**PNP Evelyn R. McElvin**  
**National Honors and Awards**  
**Chairman**  
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As we near the end of your service year and are in the process of electing new officers and planning for a new year of activities, it's time to be rewarded for all the hard work you've done this past year. However, while our nation is still in uncharted waters, we must continue to stay safe and look out for each other.

Please continue to send in your paperwork on time regarding any awards for the incoming year. You must meet all the deadlines for awards for our National Convention for the year 2021. We will also be announcing our 2019-2020 Award winners for that year as well.

The Convention Digest has been mailed out and is also on our National Website. Remember to share all the information with your membership. The Digest is full of all the information you will need for a successful entry. Make sure everything is filled out in its entirety and correct before turning them in or mailing them in. Be sure to follow the requirements to a tee! That is true of all the entries...we don't want to disqualify anyone this year! Check the deadlines and get your entries in early.

I hope you all will join us on Thursday, August 19th for a "Patriotic" honored-filled and fun Honors and Awards program.

Hand delivered entries will be accepted by the Honors and Awards Chairman or a committee member, on Monday, August 16, 2021 between 9:00AM and 10:00AM in the posted room for the judging. NO entries will be accepted after 10:00AM.

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, with a copy to Auxiliary National Headquarters, 30 days prior to the opening of National Convention.

See you on Thursday for some fun and awards as we honor our very own Madam President Dee Baggett in a theme of: "Dee's Red, White and Blue Awards Program".



Good Luck and hope to see you all in Greensboro, North Carolina!

**PNP Charlene D. Kee, Training Chair**  
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What a year! COVID-19 has changed the way we work and think on just about every level. I don't think any of us ever imagined we'd be in the midst of a Global Pandemic and the many challenges that it would bring. Due to the virus and CDC Guidelines, we were unable to meet at the Spring NEC however, we are unstoppable Leaders and have continued to support our Organization.

The plan for the National Convention is to have a seminar on "Service You Can Trust." This training will be FREE if you pre-register. You can find the seminar application in the Convention Digest that will be posted to our website and

### **"Stay At Home Seminar"**

As states begin to reopen during the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and many questions unanswered, please continue to:

- Wash your hands
- Avoid close contact
- Cover your nose and mouth with a cloth face cover
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily
- Stay home if possible, especially if you are sick
- Call your health provider if you have concerns
- Continue to stay informed about what's happening in your community, and always follow the directions of state and local authorities.

**Think Smart. Stay Safe!**



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It has been a difficult year for many, and I hope that everyone is practicing "Social distancing" and staying safe and healthy. Prayers that this COVID-19 sickness goes away permanently and we all can resume our lives safely.

Juniors make sure you follow instructions from your parents and teachers. Online learning seems to be the current way of learning and testing. Take your time and do your work. This is a hard time for everyone, but I know you can handle it.

I would like to remind all the Auxiliaries that our **Junior President, Abigail Lewis**, has selected **Honor Flight**, as her project and her theme is, **“A Trip of a Lifetime for those who Served”**. Our Juniors will be selling 50/50 tickets at the August NEC, if allowed, to support President Abigail’s project. Please, I ask that we all support her project.

Juniors, if you are **safely** doing any volunteer work, please don’t forget to report it.

**Important reminder for Junior reports:** For the Junior Units that have reported their Mid-Year reports post marked by December 31, your final reports **must be postmarked by June 30th**. The Final Report includes the entire year; not just the last six months, June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021 inclusive. Please send these reports to me, your **National AMVETS Auxiliary Coordinator**. Use the newest forms that have been updated on the **“National Juniors Facebook”** page. Look for the **forms under files**.

Please remember to explain each project and a member is only counted once per service report program, but their hours and any donations made are cumulative.

**Junior memberships have declined.** If you have not made your Junior’s membership payments, please do so as soon as possible. If you have questions, please reach out to me. I will be reaching out to the Coordinators I have on file.

I hope to see everyone in North Carolina in August. The August Convention is when your new Junior Officers will be elected and appointed. I do realize that some Juniors will not be able to make it because some schools are in session.

Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am here to help!



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Not-So-Great Greetings (from the Not-So-Great State of Michigan)!

I'm not reminding some of you National Convention is coming and your Sackette Bylaws may be due. PNS Martha Knott didn't tell me she's waiting for you to check your unit's files and send her overdue and soon to be due bylaws for review and signatures.

Also...while you're ignoring this article...don't remember the two times I already mentioned our nursing scholarship fundraisers - 50/50 raffle and Sad Sack collectible truck raffle. PNS Knott isn't sitting by her phone (301-845-2140) waiting for your ticket requests.

And firstly, make your national Sackette officers truly sad by getting your memberships in as slow as possible. (Yikes! We aren't the least bit concerned).

Well, it's been terrible communicating with you. Hope you're not planning to attend our National Fracas in August 2021. So, I think I'll end by saying "hello!"

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HOORAY!! The National Convention is still going to be held in Greensboro, NC. I am looking so forward to attending and seeing everyone again It has been way too long. I miss the great hugs especially! Auxiliary Sisters, this is your last reminder to get your books together to share with all of us. It is well overdue that we all need some great stories and pictures to look at and enjoy. So, get your books wrapped up so we give everyone a smile!

**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?

The criteria can be found in the Auxiliary Manual on pages 56 and 57 and also in the Convention Digest. \*\*\*Due to not having a National Convention this past August, you may submit one year or two years of material, but ONLY in ONE book.\*\*\* There are four awards, consisting of: Department History Book, Local Scrapbook, Department History Book Cover, and Local Scrapbook Cover.

Lastly, if you would be interested in judging, I would greatly appreciate the help! It's a fun time to share with other sisters and get the first peek at the great books the ladies work so hard on. Just contact me and let me know.

Stay safe and God bless you, your Family and Friends and our Wonderful Veterans!