

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
2022 SPRING NEC
MARCH 5, 2022**

"Honor Our Heroes



**JOAN L. SIREK
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
2021 – 2022**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Greetings National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests! Welcome to the 2022 Spring National Executive Committee meeting. I want to thank you for your continued support of our Veterans and all your projects in your Local and Department as well as our national programs.

National Headquarters has been very busy processing membership and donations received for our National Programs. Carol King, our Executive Director will be giving us an update on our new Data Base for National Headquarters. Our goal is to have it up and running by September 2022.

My theme for the year is “Honor Our Heroes” in honor of our current serving military personnel, Veterans and all the front-line people including, Doctors, Nurses, Teachers, First Responders, and other essential workers who put their lives at risk during this pandemic.

My project is a joint venture with our National Americanism Chairman, Mary Lanphere to replace the windows in MacArthur Hall, at Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge. The cost for each window to replace is approximately \$1000.00. Any Auxiliary or group of members that donates \$1000.00 will be recognized with a plaque to be placed on the window with your name on it. Auxiliaries/members can sell window pins to help support the MacArthur Hall window replacement. Saving money from utility bills will allow Freedoms Foundation to fund more teachers and students for programs on American History and the Constitution. If you would like more information about Freedoms Foundation, go to their website at: <http://www.freedomsfoundation.org>

My travels began with the Officer's meeting in September in Baltimore, and my visit to National Headquarters. It was a learning experience for many and very productive!

On October 7-10th 2021 was the Americanism Conference at Freedoms Foundation which I attended. The 75-acre campus located in historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania is home to the 40-acre Medal of Honor Grove and where the AMVETS Youth Leadership Conference is held every November. National Commander Heun joined us for the weekend filled with history and fun!

My first official visit was to the Department of Michigan in Roscommon, Michigan for their Fall Conference at Higgins Lake Lodge on Halloween weekend. It was a very busy weekend with training on Leadership and reporting, SEC meeting, Memorial Service, and a fun time at the Halloween Party! Can't forget shopping at Arnie's, it was the best! The ladies in Michigan sure know how to spoil the National President!

The following weekend, I traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan for the National 4th District Commander Steve Bidstrup's Testimonial dinner. That afternoon was National 3rd Vice President Cindy Rice's

official visit to PAWS with a Cause, where the AMVETS and AMVETS Auxiliary were invited to attend. It probably was the biggest tour at PAWS from our AMVET family at one time. It was a great tour! Duane and I had a special invite to tour the Gilmore Car Museum with Bob Green and Fay Richardson-Green, it was like putting Duane in a candy store!

My highlight so far was laying a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery with AMVETS National Commander Greg Heun on Veterans Day, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Also, attending was AMVETS National Sons Commander, Paul Speigle and his wife Denise, AMVETS National Riders President John Reando, National Riders 2nd Vice President Natalie Cummings and PNC Duane Miskulin. Also, we were able to lay a wreath at the World War II Memorial with AMVETS National Commander Greg Heun and National Sons Commander Paul Speigle. What an honor!

My next visit was to the Department of North Carolina in Lexington, NC on January 7-9, 2022, for their Winter Conference and Reverse Raffle fundraiser. I arrived three hours late because my flight was delayed where I missed my connecting flight, so I was rerouted to Atlanta. Needless to say, my luggage didn't get to me until the following day, just 20 minutes before the SEC meeting on Saturday! The ladies Auxiliary hosted a reception Saturday afternoon with lots of goodies to eat! That evening was dinner and a Reverse Raffle Fundraiser which was a lot of fun! Sunday was their joint meeting with the AMVETS, Auxiliary and Sons where we all met, and I was able to speak.

On January 14-16th I visited the Department of Pennsylvania and attended their Winter Conference in Camp Hill, PA. Again, flight delayed, and I was rerouted to Atlanta and then to Baltimore. National 2nd Vice President, Amy Stopyra, picked me up at the airport and again no luggage, but it was delivered that evening around 11:30 pm. We went to visit the Chocolate Factory and had a great tour of the grounds on a trolley. National Commander Heun enjoyed being with us ladies! Saturday evening the AMVETS, Auxiliary and Sons had a fundraiser. We wore Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness! Baskets were auctioned off and they raised over \$600.00 that evening! Great job! I was very impressed with the AMVETS, Auxiliary and Sons Officers, they had meetings all day Saturday starting at 7:30 AM till 4:30 PM. Thank-you Pennsylvania for all you do for your Veterans and the Community!

National 1st Vice Karin Simmons and I visited Fresno California for their SEC training/workshop meeting on January 21 - 22, 2022. I attended the SEC meeting, and that evening was the reception for the Department Commander and Department President, which was lots of fun with good food! They had a DJ which played great music for dancing. Thank you, California for your great hospitality!

I would like to thank all the members in the AMVET family for their hospitality, love and friendship shown to me. A special thank-you for your consideration and donations to my Presidents project replacing the windows in MacArthur Hall at Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge.

God Bless you all, God Bless America, and God Bless our Military!

Joan L. Sirek

National President

2021 - 2022

NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT - MEMBERSHIP

Madame President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, members, and guests – Welcome to our Spring NEC 2022! We are still dealing with this nasty pandemic and hopefully this will not affect getting our business done in a safe and healthy manner.

I had the opportunity to visit National Headquarters and sit with Sonja and watch her do her magic with processing our membership. Carol and Sonja are doing an amazing job working around the pandemic and one less employee.

Congratulations to our new Auxiliaries!

Cocoa, Florida #2415

Henderson, Kentucky #126

Elmwood, Tennessee #389

Rockwell City, Iowa #41

High Ridge, Missouri #30

Winchester, Virginia #18

We have lost a few Auxiliaries and a Department, so we need to work harder and Sow the Seeds of Membership to grow our organization! Looking at our Membership summary it appears that we are doing that. Please remember that any membership renewal that is postmarked after 12/31 will be considered a rejoin.

Start looking at Membership awards – National sponsors Department Awards for the largest numerical gain by 5/31, the largest percentage gain by 5/31, the largest percentage of renewals by 12/31 and the Department organizing the most new Auxiliaries by 5/31. No application is needed for these awards. There are individual membership awards to apply for, also. They will all be listed in the Convention Digest that is sent to Local Presidents, Department Presidents and NEC Women as well as the National Website.

Thank you for your efforts to grow our membership. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

President Joan, I wish you a productive NEC Meeting.

Karin Simmons

National 1st Vice President

2021 – 2022

NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT - CHILD WELFARE

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Members, and Guests. Greetings to everyone! The New Year is upon us, and I wish you all a great 2022. I truly hope everyone's holiday season was wonderful.

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 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! As we all continue forth with our reporting, let us not forget that April is **John Tracy Center®** month. I do have pin-ups that can be mailed or emailed to you just please let me know through your Department N.E.C.

I had the pleasure of visiting JTC in October last year and the timing lined up with me being able to meet Joe Tracy, son of John Tracy, grandson to Spencer and Louise Tracy and Joe's son, Sean Tracy. To say I had a humbling, tearful experience and meeting them would be right. The Tracy family are thankful, gracious, appreciative and such amazingly warm people to meet and talk with that I didn't want lunch or the part of the tour with them to end as I just listened to them speak of John, Spencer, and Louise. My visit there will forever hold many memories, happy tears, crazy dance moves with preschoolers, and happy smiles when they presented the picture that was spoken about at last year's convention to be hung on the wall at JTC for all to see with more pictures added of their friends - us!

Please keep in mind that we are still looking for volunteers to serve on the Community Service Committee at the 2022 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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 over all awards.

Department Award - PNP Cathy Fishero Award: Department doing the most outstanding work in Child Welfare

Local Awards - PNP Leslie R Wunderle Award: Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding service in their community, benefitting children 18 years of age and younger

PNP Dee Kreiling-Riley Award: The most imaginative, interesting, and rewarding program for the benefit of John Tracy Center

John Tracy Center Certificates: Presented for donations of \$100.00 or more.

This is your Do Not Forget about this program spot.

AMVETS Awards – AADAA – AMVETS Against Drugs and Alcohol Abuse

Poster Drawing Contest: Best poster, based on current year's theme, submitted by a student in each of the following grades: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th. An entry form 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.

NOTE: All entries for the AMVETS Individual Youth Awards must be submitted to AMVETS National Headquarters, 4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706. (Department are to have their 1st Place winner submitted by July 1st. This date is taken directly from the Entry form that is to accompany the submission.)

Thank you for all the hard work you do in Child Welfare. Keep up the amazing job you do in your local communities working with our youth and for what you do to benefit JTC. You and your Auxiliaries are keeping the “Children – Our Eyes and Ears of Today” in everything you do!

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

Amy Stopyra

National Second Vice President

2021 - 2022

NATIONAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENT - COMMUNITY SERVICE

Madam President, National Officers, PNP's, NEC Women, Department Presidents and Member and guests. Happy New Year! Hope this year brings health, prosperity, new friendships, and fun to all of you!

I cannot believe this year is already halfway gone. This has been another remarkably challenging year with Covid and all the new variants that are deriving causing illness at unbelievable rates. It is a time we can remember to be conscientious and help those who are in quarantine due to their illness. Ways we can help:

- Cook a meal and deliver it (leave on their doorstep)
- Call and ask how they are doing
- See if they need you to shop for groceries or pick up medicine
- Send a get well or thinking of you card.



I have been working on a fundraiser for PAWS this year which is a quilt. I had previously asked the Department 3rd vice's for their themes to be put on this quilt, several replied. Thank you to the Department of Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin for your input. I added some of the National Officers Themes as well as some I found to be appropriate. This quilt will be drawn at the National convention. The quilt is 90 inches by 104 inches. Tickets are for sale and if you would like to purchase one contact me at 440-320-7128 by text, call or email me. Please be sure to include your name and address. I will have tickets available at the NEC in March as well. The picture doesn't do justice to how beautiful the quilt is. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00.

PAWS month is coming up in March so if you need Paw prints, please contact Kristy at PAWS or myself and we will mail them to you. You can always make our own, put 4 to a sheet and cut them as needed. I will have copies of the template at NEC.

February, March, April, October, and November are dedicated to the above programs to encourage chairmen to promote these National programs. The purpose of these "Special months" is:

- To give the members of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary a better understanding of the National Programs through scheduling special activities and events at their Departments and Local Auxiliary meetings.
- To obtain publicity in the newspaper, radio, and TV to make the community aware of the support AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary give to these programs.
- To make an extra effort to raise funds for that program.

Community Service

Any activity or project that benefits adults or both children and adults in the community is considered Community Service and is reported as such. It is important that AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary become involved in the community it serves by contributing towards the welfare of all its people. Groups are recognized for what they do -become known and recognized in your community through the service work of the Auxiliary.

Suggested Community Service Projects

- Paws With A Cause®

A National program, that through donations from members, Auxiliaries and Departments, helps sponsor trained dogs, which are provided by the PAWS With A Cause®, for hearing impaired and mobility impaired handicapped people. Auxiliaries are asked to plan one function that benefits this program each year. This project should receive promotion and publicity in the local newspaper, radio stations and local TV stations. All donations for the PAWS With A Cause® should be forwarded through the Department to National Headquarters.

- Attend local council meetings and make AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary an organization for good government
- Assist and support community health clinics
- Cooperate with the local Safety Council
- Promote safety programs such as:
 - Bicycle safety
 - Pedestrian
 - Driving
 - School Patrols
 - Health/Covid Protocols

Here are the awards associated with Community Service, make sure you apply and be recognized for all your hard work.

Community Service Award for Departments -

PNP Lynda Taylor Award for the Department doing the most outstanding work in Community Service

Awards for Local Auxiliaries

PNP Linda McGriff Award for the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in Community Service

Blood Donor Certificate for the Local Auxiliary participating in a blood drive anytime during the year

Blood Donor Award for the Local Auxiliary with the most participation in sponsored Blood Drive

Awards for Individual Members

Blood Donor Pin - Member's first-time donation of 8 pints (1 gallon) of blood with written verification

PAWS With A Cause® - Founders Award given to the Department that donates the most amount of money to PAWS annually. Donations must be submitted through the Department to National Headquarters to be eligible for this award.

PAWS With A Cause® Certificates Donations of \$100.00 or more

Thank you for all you do in your community and for our Veterans and Auxiliary. Stay safe and Healthy.

Cindy Rice

National Third Vice-President

2021 - 2022

NATIONAL TREASURER

Greetings: Madam President Joan, National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Committeewomen and Guests:

Welcome to the NEC. Enclosed for your review are the financial reports of AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary as of February 13, 2022. The attached financial reports are the balance sheet, operating statement, donations, and convention.

In comparing total membership, the Auxiliary has received annual dues of \$238,686, compared to last year's annual dues \$295,546; decrease of 19% has been collected. Life membership due received are \$55,350 compared to last year was \$61,725; decrease of 10%. Dues still can be sent in for renewals and new members. Comparing actual membership to budget, annual dues is down 26% and life membership is up 4%.

In comparing total expenses to budget, the auxiliary has spent 53%, compared to last year at this time 30%. In comparing donations to all National Projects, this year to last year at this time, the donations are up by 36%.

Everyone can be a patron donor at the 76th National Convention. Circulate the Patron's Page at your Local Meetings, SEC or DEC Meetings, District Meetings and Department Convention. Again, this year, the Annual National Convention Book, will be offering advertising space. See the Convention Digest for details.

Registration for NEC or National Convention, if paying by credit card National only accepts Discover, Master Charge or VISA. National does not except American Express, third-party credit card or debit card. When paying by check and returned by the bank for NSF, account closed or not signed you are accountable for the amount of the check plus bank fee.

President Joan, have a constructive and harmonious NEC Meeting. To our staff at Headquarters, thank you for your assistance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask, write, email, or call me. Thank you for allowing me to serve each of you. Happy Trails!

PNP Barbara K. Guth

Treasurer

2019 - 2020

NATIONAL AMERICANISM OFFICER

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as this year's Americanism Officer. Unfortunately, due to illness of my husband and myself, we had to cancel at the last minute our trip to Freedoms Foundation in October. I am happy to report that the feedback I received from those who attended was wonderful. Many look forward to returning with family members. Tickets for the Americanism Conference 2023 will be available for purchase. I will be working with Freedoms Foundation on the agenda for that Conference.

Freedoms Foundation continues to be an important part of the AMVETS family. Teachings on how this great Country was formed, about American Rights and Responsibilities, and challenging all to serve their community. This year Madam President Sirek's Project is replacing windows in the MacArthur Building. This building is multi-functional, and the windows are aged. Beautifully designed pins for a donation of \$5.00 each, is helping with this endeavor. I have joined Madam President in this project. Anyone that donates \$1,000.00 to this project will have a plaque with your name, on the window. Pins are still available. Contact Madam President or myself for pins.

Mid-year Americanism reports were impressive, despite the ongoing COVID mandates. Over \$600,000.00 in evaluations were reported. A heartfelt thank you for the wonderful work you all do to "Honor and Respect" our military heroes, past and present. Our Youth is the important part of the future. Now is the time to teach about Patriotism, and the sacrifices of many to ensure we remain in a free Country.

AMVETS AMERICANISM YOUTH AWARDS

Flag Coloring Contest – Kindergarten and first grade

Poster Drawing Contest – Grades 2, 3, 4, 5

Essay Writing Contest – Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. 9th grade winners go to the AMVETS "Spirit of America" Youth Conference.

Entry forms, this year's theme, can be found on the AMVETS website, or the National Auxiliary website, located under "This & That". Check with your Department for judging procedures.

It is never too late to start working on National Americanism Awards, presented at the National Convention in August. Your Auxiliary/Department must be in good standing to be eligible for awards.

AMERICANISM AWARDS

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

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

Awards for Individual Members

National Award presented to the member doing the most outstanding work in Americanism

As this is an important year for elections, I encourage everyone to listen to the candidates. An informed decision comes from listening to all sides. The privilege of voting should not be taken lightly.

I encourage you to visit the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary website. Much time has gone into the website, and provides important information, publications, and any form you may need for your Auxiliary business. Also, review the Auxiliary manual for proper procedures and guidance.

God Bless this great Country, and those who protect it.

Mary Lanphere
National Americanism Officer
2021 - 2022

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

A scholarship helps bring it through.

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department presidents, Members and Guests. Welcome to our Spring NEC 2022.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your National Scholarship Officer. We had 24 Departments reporting for a total evaluation of \$109,827.00. Thank you to all who took the time out to get me these figures.

February is Scholarship month, and we are now a month into the scholarship season. Remember that the scholarship applications must be received at National Headquarters on or before July 1, 2022. Don't forget that we have 3 different scholarships applications available:

- **The College Support Scholarship**
- **The National Scholarship**
- **The Career Start Scholarship**

All three applications are available on our website, www.amvetsaux.org.

Please remember to remind applicants to fill out the application completely, if part of the application doesn't pertain to the applicant, remind them to write or type N/A in the space. Also remind the

applicant that all transcripts need to be in a sealed envelope from the school/college they are coming from. Don't forget that the proper application needs to be filled out so make sure that the application pertains to what you are looking for, and also make sure that an updated Auxiliary membership card must be submitted with the application to be qualified for the scholarship.

This year I am sponsoring a fundraiser for the Career Start Scholarship. I will be selling raffle tickets towards an American Flag Pledge of Allegiance frosted Window Frame. The tickets are available this weekend if anyone would like to take some with them to sell. The cost of the tickets is \$5 a piece but you can buy a book of 6 for \$20. The winner will be announced at the National Convention. Please help our Career Start scholarship and support this fundraiser.

Thank you for all your hard work you have done in making the scholarship program a success. Please keep promoting our scholarships and making the program what it is today.

Madame President Sirek, I wish you a very successful NEC Meeting.

Laurie Shea
National Scholarship Officer
2021 - 2022

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

It has been a great honor to be serving as your National Chaplain this year. I have received several thank you notes from family members, expressing their appreciation for our thoughts and prayers on behalf of the National Ladies Auxiliary when I have sent a card out. I also want to express my thankfulness and appreciation to Madam President Joan Sirek and her team of Officers and staff members at National Headquarters for all you do to encourage and guide us as you lead the ladies of this great organization. I am very proud to be a part of this team, and so very grateful. Please always feel free to contact me if I can be of any personal assistance to you, whether it be spiritual guidance or just to chat, I am here for you and anxious to hear how you are all doing.

It is with great sadness that I must report the passing of PNP Brenda Kilgore and PNP Dottie Cooper this last year. Please remember the families who have been touched by their passing. Also, please remember the family of PNC Marion Polk, who passed away recently. My prayer is that the Lord will comfort and give His peace to all who are mourning the passing of their loved ones.

To our Chaplains serving faithfully across this great Nation, I want to express my gratitude for doing such a great job, serving on the Local and Department levels. For the most part, I have received the death notifications in a timely manner, and I appreciate it so much. However, several notices I've received do not have all the information listed for both the Department Chaplains and I to respond to the next of kin, expressing not only our sympathy, but letting them know that their loved one is not forgotten by the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. I have found researching on the computer very helpful and sometimes I can find the information needed. However, please let this be a friendly reminder of the necessity of a completed form and that it is important that we receive the notices as soon as possible. I send out a sympathy card if I receive the notice within two months of the date of death,

and a thinking of you card if within four months. I am so saddened when I do not have a way to contact family members.

Being Chaplain is not only about sending out cards, it is also a willingness to reach out to others, in times of joy or sorrow, in times of good health or illness, just being there with caring hearts and love for one another. To my fellow Chaplains, a sincere thank you for your dedication not only to serve the Lord in this manner, but to minister to your fellow members with prayers, encouraging words and a personal touch of kindness. Please keep me informed of what is happening in your Department and don't hesitate to call, write, or email me if I can be of any service to you. You may send your Deceased Membership Forms in a timely manner by either email or mail to me at the address listed above so I can respond to the family members with my condolences on behalf of the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary. The Deceased Member Form can be found on the National Auxiliary website, under Forms and the directions are listed on the forms for your convenience.

My message as your National Chaplain to all: When our Lord walked on this earth He was asked "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets," Matthew 22: 36-40. On that note, my personal thought is: If you do this you will experience the joy and peace that only He can give and then you will be able to share His love with all you meet. Please keep me informed of what is happening in your Department and don't hesitate to call, write, or email me if you would like to have a prayer with me or if I can council with you in any way! We are a family – and we care for one another, our Veterans, our Nation, and our world!

A prayer book will be prepared with prayers from our Auxiliary sisters. If you have a special prayer or poem you would like to have in the book, please send it to me either by email or to the address listed above.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to be your National Chaplain. May our Lord bless you all and hold you in the Palm of His Hand. I have written a poem entitled "A Rose in Bloom" and prepared a card that goes out to the next of kin along with the sympathy card. I would like to share it with all of you.

A ROSE IN BLOOM

Like a rose in the garden, pushing up from the ground,
Along it's earthly journey, thorns and weeds abound.
But when it's in full bloom and its fragrance fills the air
You forget about the thorns and weeds,
You just know God put it there.
So like that precious loved one God placed along your way
You watch with awe and wonder as she blossoms more each day.
And then the Master Gardener calls your loved one home,
A Rose without the thorns and weeds, for now, she's in full bloom.
By: Alice Delzer

May God bless you all, our Veterans, our military serving now here and abroad, may God bless and guide our Leaders of this great nation, and may God Bless America, the land of the free and the brave.

Alice Delzer
National Chaplain

2021 - 2022

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests. Greetings and Welcome to the 2022 Spring NEC Meeting at the beautiful BWI Marriott Hotel. Hope your journey here was pleasurable and uneventful. I hope you are as excited as I am to be together with our Auxiliary Sisters.

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.

I will need two or three ladies to help me page – please reach out to me if you are available to do so. Pages will need to wear our official Auxiliary uniform”. We welcome first timers! Pages are essential to our Madam President, Officers, Members and Guests in keeping room orderly and efficiently.

As a reminder, I will need several Pages and Color Guards at the 2022 AMVETS National Convention being held in New Orleans. If this interests you, please fill out the Page/Uniform Form in the National Digest which will be delivered to you via USPS later this Spring. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'm very available and happy to help.

“We waited together....now let's work together”. (Auxiliary Motto)

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

Deb Gass
National Sergeant-At-Arms

2021 - 2022

HOSPITAL OFFICER

Madame President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC women, Department Presidents, Members, and guests. Welcome to Spring NEC Meeting, 2022. I hope you all are having a happy and healthy year so far. As we continue to navigate through these unsure and changing times, the dedication of my AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary sisters continues to astound me and blow me away. Spring NEC of 2020 was the last “normal” event I attended, but if the last two years have taught me anything it is that the members of our organization will find a way to persevere and continue to give back to our veterans and communities. Thank you for all the Departments and local

Auxiliaries who have turned in the Mid-Year Hospital reports, your work and dedication are breathtaking!

Due to the continuing issues surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic I will unfortunately not be able to tour St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. I have been working closely with our St. Jude representative, Beth Perkins, to keep up to date on developments at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. At this time, for the health and safety of the patients they are not allowing visitors to tour the facility, but they still very much need our help. Some facts about St. Jude Children's Research Hospital:

- Families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food because a family's only concern should be the health and well-being of their child.
- 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 at St. Jude patients are patients for life.
- The survival rate currently is an average of 90% overall.

If you have any questions about fundraisers or events you can hold to raise money and awareness for St. Jude, please feel free to reach out to me. Beth Perkins or I would be more than happy to help you get materials to pass out, or pinups that can be sold for \$1. I encourage you all to think outside the box and keep your activities fun!!! These fundraisers are not just opportunities to raise money for St. Jude, but they are opportunities to recruit new members, advertise the incredible women who belong to AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and make our Veterans Service Organization more widely known and recognized.

"Because We Care Day" is the first Wednesday in April. I encourage you now to take this time to reach out to other VSOs, Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops and other community organizations to "Band Together" and help hospitalized Veterans at VA facilities as well as Nursing homes. The pandemic has put financial strains on us all but banding together with other groups can have a huge impact on the lives of hospitalized veterans, while again advertising AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and all the work we do as a whole.

If you would like to be a part of my committee, please email me, or see me at NEC.

Thank you for entrusting me as your National Hospital Officer.

Laura Rose Bugaj
National Hospital Officer

2021 - 2022

VAVS REPRESENTATIVE

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 through the Annual Joint Reviews (AJR's) that I have received so far, (20 as of February 1st). I have noted that our numbers are down due to Covid-19, as expected, due to the inability of our members to volunteer at our VA's. But I have noticed an increase in donations, both cash and non-cash donations. Since the VA initiated another computer upgrade, on October 1st, some of the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) offices have had difficulty downloading records and have had to cancel some of the scheduled AJR's.

Most of our VA's are still only allowing limited volunteers and are conducting their VAVS meetings virtually. We can still support our VA staff by supplying snacks and canteen books so that they can continue our normally scheduled activities.

It is important that we keep in contact with the CDCE staff (formerly VAVS), as they have initiated a few PILOT programs at different VA's across the country. One of them is for Veterans living in Rural areas, that are matched with a volunteer that contacts the veteran on a weekly basis, to prevent loneliness and isolation. This would be a great program for our volunteers that don't live near a VA. The other program is a Leadership Program for Youth.

The VA National Advisory Committee (NAC) Conference scheduled for April 26-29, in Denver Colorado is still in the planning stages, I will send out information when I receive it

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

Marie Rorrío

National VAVS Representative

2019 - 2020

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Greetings Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests. Who would have thought that we would find ourselves two years into a pandemic that continues to have such a significant impact on our lives? Trying to be creative in conducting our business and working on programs in a safe manner has been a challenge.

In addition to the pandemic, there are Auxiliaries struggling with their EIN numbers and the Internal Revenue Service. The AMVETS and National Ladies Auxiliary have been working to support Auxiliaries who are having difficulty with correcting the difficulties they have encountered. I would ask that everyone, especially Department leaders, be patient and do whatever they can to assist these struggling Auxiliaries.

As a reminder, in accordance with our National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Constitution: Article V Departments (g) Department Bylaws shall be reviewed every three (3) years at their annual convention. Any amendments to Bylaws shall be submitted, in duplicate, including a separate page indicating where changes are within the Bylaws, to the National Parliamentarian by July 15 after

adoption for approval, at which time they shall become effective. Bylaws that are updated to conform to National Bylaw changes need not be submitted to the National Parliamentarian for approval.

If your Auxiliary or Department is unable to meet in person to review Bylaws the AMVETS National Ladies Constitution outlines steps to be taken for electronic meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of order. This can be found under Electronic Meetings. Information on conducting electronic meetings and “How to Review Your Bylaws During a Pandemic” is also on the AMVETS Auxiliary website under the Publications tab.

Departments due for a review of their Bylaws are:

Indiana Kansas North Carolina Virginia Wisconsin

National Executive Committee women are reminded that per the National AMVETS Bylaws Art. IV (g) – you will need to file a report with your Department within 45 days of the close of the NEC meeting along with a copy to the National Parliamentarian. This report should include pertinent information regarding the business conducted.

Our National Constitution and Bylaws contain a wealth of information. There is only one Constitution under which our Auxiliary operates. Departments and Locals also have their own Bylaws – however, their Bylaws cannot be contrary to the National Bylaws. Most questions raised by members can easily be found in these documents and I encourage you all to read them.

Madam President, I thank you for this appointment and wish you a successful and productive N.E.C. meeting.

PNP Marvell Ruppel
National Parliamentarian
2021 – 2022

NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Information on the 2022 National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana will be available after the upcoming site April visit.

Ginny Rominger
National Convention Chairman
2021 – 2022

NATIONAL TRAINING CHAIRMAN

Madam President Sirek, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women and Guests. One year ago, I thought the worst was behind us but, we have begun a “new normal”.

As we slowly get back into the swing of things, I find myself needing to review our procedures, it's been a while. All of us are affected by this pandemic in some way. As we have begun to plan the return of the Annual Training Seminar, we have learned that our usual hotel in Pigeon Forge has been sold. We are trying to find a new location. I know this annual training is informative and a fun, engaging way to get together. Please know we are doing our best to bring it back.

Have you ever wondered why it seems that same Auxiliaries always win awards? First, you need to ask did my Auxiliary apply for an award? Second thing to ask is how do we apply? The training session here at the Spring NEC will hopefully answer these questions and help give you the tools to help your local auxiliaries. As NEC women it is your responsibility to ensure that your Department has applied for the Department awards. Please encourage your Local Auxiliaries to apply as well.

As you know National Convention will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme for National Training is "Let the Good Times Roll." Now more than ever we need to enjoy our time together and have fun! The particulars of the training are coming together but we will end with our own Auxiliary Mardi Gras parade. So, gather your decorations! You can walk or ride your scooter and let's celebrate the good times! There will be a pre-registration form. Early birds will be able to register for free. There will be on-site registration fee. We will have a Louisiana inspired raffle. Also, if you have any part of our uniform that no longer fits or you no longer need, bring it to convention for a uniform swap!

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

PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis
National Training Chairman
2021 - 2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

Greetings Madame President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Committeewomen, Department Presidents, Members and Guests!

I am excited to be serving as the 2021-22 National Honors and Awards chairman. My first National Officers meeting was both invigorating and intimidating. Developing a plan for the honors and awards ceremony has been scary and my brain keeps filling up with self-doubting thoughts. Too many of you have created shoes I'm not sure I can fill. Meeting with the 2021 Honors and Awards chairman, PNP Evelyn McElvin, at the conclusion of the 2021 convention was very informative. I appreciate her work to update all the awards with PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis. Both have provided helpful explanations and documentation.

Planning for the 2022 Honors and Awards (H&A) program began during the Officers Meeting in Baltimore. Program and committee chairs have their basic assignments and an understanding of the H&A direction. I've confirmed PNP Virginia Hays will be continuing to sponsor and present the Show & Tell award. Planning continues and I will be providing more information at the NEC meeting.

Lastly, Madame President, have a very successful Spring NEC meeting and remainder of your presidential year.

Faye Richardson-Green
National Honors and Awards Chairman
2021 - 2022

JR. AMVETS

Madam President Joan, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests: First and foremost, I hope everyone is doing what is needed to stay safe!

With COVID-19 still taking charge it has been difficult to do a lot of volunteer work. Staying safe is the number one priority. Stating that, our Juniors mid-year reports and memberships were due by post-marked date December 31, 2021. We have received mid-year reports from 13 Junior Units and only 11 Junior Units paid their 2022 memberships. I will reach out to the Junior Unit Coordinators that have not turned in their reports or monies for membership and offer any help that I can give.

Important reminder for year-end Junior reports: The Final Report includes the months of June 1, 2021, through May 31, 2022, and must be postmarked by June 30th. The Final Report includes the entire year; not just the last six months. Please send these copies to the me, your National AMVETS Auxiliary Coordinator.

Please remember to give a brief explanation of each project and a member is only counted once per service report program, but their hours and any donations made continue-on.

For the Juniors that did turn in their mid-year reports a **“SPECIAL” Thank You** 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 Joseph Stopyra Jr has chosen **“Paws With a Cause”** as his pet project. I challenge all Auxiliaries to send a donation for Joseph’s great project. Our Juniors will be selling 50/50 chances so please look for them. If you would like to send a donation, please do so. Make check payable to National Junior AMVETS, and on the memo line put Joseph’s project and send to me.

Anyone wanting to learn more about starting a Juniors group or have any questions please let me know. I am available via email emcgurk@tampabay.rr.com .

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

Everyone, please stay safe and see you soon!

Fran McGurk
National Junior AMVETS Coordinator
2021 - 2022

HISTORY AND SCRAPBOOK

Hello Auxiliary Sisters! I encourage and challenge all Local Auxiliaries to assemble and submit a scrapbook, and Department Auxiliaries to complete and submit a History Book this year.

The amount of hard work and effort dedicated to the numerous programs and projects you complete for all five service categories should not go undocumented! Be proud to show off those programs and projects. You could possibly provide others with new ideas.

There are four awards given for these books - the list is in our Auxiliary manual. Books and covers are judged on the Monday before National Convention begins. Please let me know if you are interested in judging at the 2022 National Convention in New Orleans.

I look so forward to seeing your History and Scrapbook creations! Have fun.

Paula Cummings
History/Scrapbook Chairman
2020 - 2021

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests. We're finally having an in-person NEC – YIPPEE!!

It's been a crazy since March of 2020, navigating the "unchartered waters". Challenging and trying are just two words to describe it but we've persevered. Headquarters is finally getting back to our usual schedule. On a personal note, COVID is something I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. Both Sonja and I had it and it wasn't pretty.

The Convention Digest should be in the mail mid-April and posted on-line. Please be sure to read it carefully as some changes were made. And remember to APPLY, APPLY, APPLY! As a reminder the Digest is sent to the official mail contact for each Local Auxiliary, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents, NEC's, and Secretaries.

As of this writing we are starting to plan for National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. If available, updated information, including an agenda, Silver Helmet/Commander and President's banquet ticket information will be in the Convention Digest otherwise we'll notify Departments and post to the website and our Facebook page.

It's almost Revalidation time! 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/PNP Marvell Ruppel 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.

Headquarters' hands are tied when it comes to contacting the IRS about 990 issues. 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. Under the PUBLICATIONS tab on our website, you can find information on how to file, etc.

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 has a 5-day grace period.

Thank you to Commander Greg Heun, AMVETS Executive Director 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.

Without Sonja and Bertha and their help and support, the past 18+ months would have been a disaster. They are both great to work with; they have my back and I have theirs. THANK YOU BOTH!!! Although Bertha is no longer with us, we keep in touch with her, and things are going well. To Sonja – you're the bestest!! I'd be crazier without you. To the National Officers, thanks for keeping me on my toes. It's never a dull moment around here.

Our 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.

Deadline dates 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.

Especially this year as soon as you are notified that the hotel is taking reservations for National Convention, make one if you are thinking of attending! It is easier to cancel a reservation than get one at the last minute. 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. 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.

THANK YOU for your patience, understanding and help during the year. It's appreciated so much. Fingers crossed we're able to meet in N'awlins!!

President Joan - Here's to a successful rest of your year!

PNP Carol King
National Executive Director

IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

My position is to promote and sell our daily 50/50 raffle tickets. They are sold in books of 5. They are different colors, and we will draw one each day at National Convention in New Orleans! Tuesday's winner is drawn Wednesday morning. The winners in Greensboro were all over a \$1000.00!! So, I have my work cut out for me. I look forward to some great wins in New Orleans. So, for \$5.00 a book you will have a chance at 5 different pots. I need everyone to pitch in and help me sell some books.

If you would like to receive tickets to sell in your Department and/or Locals, please contact me. I believe if we start earlier in the year selling them, it is a little easier than waiting till the end of the year and we can sell a few more. Don't forget that you don't have to be an Auxiliary member to win! AND you don't need to be present to win!!!

So please pick some up at the NEC to take home or contact me and we can mail them to you!

The Department selling the most tickets will receive a \$100 cash award.

Thanking you in advance for all the help!

IPNP Dee Baggett

2021 - 2022

NATIONAL SNAPPIEST

Not sending greetings to Madame President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Committeewomen, Department Presidents, Members and Guests:

Hard to believe another year not tainted by Covid-19 has passed. Unbelievable! I've been so busy with Sackettes stuff, I can remember doing not much of anything. As a matter of fact, several events don't stand out at all:

1. Representing National Sackettes at the Michigan White Clover ceremony for former National Scholarship Officer Peggy Liss who passed away unexpectedly last summer.
2. My first National Convention events and meetings as 2021 National Snappiest in Greensboro, NC.
3. My first non-convention Fall 2021 national officers meeting in Baltimore, MD
4. Representing National Sackettes at the Michigan White Clover and funeral for Sad Sack prankster William "Bill" Snyder in January 2022.

National Sackettes officers happily decided to remain in office another year. Weezer Squeezer Joan Sirek protested giving her Sackettes office to PNP Leslie Wunderle in order to accept National Ladies Auxiliary president for 2021-22.

Like the rest of you, membership continues to be challenge. Creativity can't become our friend if we want to survive. One idea not discussed was a life membership option, possibly tied to a life membership in AMVETS Auxiliary. This idea might not be further explored. So, if you have an opinion, keep it to yourself. A decision probably won't be made in 2022. Meanwhile, don't join us... unless you're afraid you may miss something BIG. Don't worry though. The Sackette membership application and guidelines can't be found on the national website under "Sackettes."

We are still not 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. The drawing will not be held during Convention in August. Please! Don't help us build our nursing scholarship fund.

And, unfortunately, 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 \$3 each or two (2) 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 don't wish you a successful Spring NEC meeting and remainder of your year.

Faye Richardson-Green

National Snappiest

2019 - 2022



NEC REPORTS



Department of Wisconsin

NEC Darlene Hempel

Greetings, Madame President Joan, National Officers, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents, NEC Women, and Guests.

It continues to be a struggle to keep Auxiliaries alive. We are losing 2 more this year. The numbers are there, but it's hard to find enough members to become active by attending meetings, being an officer, and doing projects. Many of the active and inactive members are older.

Our calendar raffle and candy bar sales continue keeping the Auxiliary in funds. Again, the live band and meat raffle have been canceled due to Covid.

Our state Veterans' homes have been closed to all volunteers so it's important again to send materials to the residents to show we care. We need to continue volunteering in a variety of ways.

Madame President, we wish you a safe and successful NEC. Keep up the good work with the "Let Your Light Shine" project for windows at Freedoms Foundation. We're looking forward to your testimonial and your official visit at our Department Convention.

God bless our Veterans and God bless America!

Department of Alaska

NEC Barbara Montagne

Madame President, National officers, PNP's and fellow Auxiliary sisters. Greetings from Alaska!

The Department of Alaska had a successful mid-year report with projects that included Sock-tober, receptions for the USS Alaska and USS Anchorage and an individual Auxiliary member volunteering 700 hours to Frontline Mission! WOW!

November and December brought our four auxiliaries to the big push for St. Jude, Veterans Day celebrations, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, Angel Trees, and more.

With a new year, brings new ideas. And part of that is membership. We are actively seeking out new sisters to share in the honor and privilege it is to be part of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

In closing, I'd like to wish you all a happy and successful new year.

Department of California

NEC Charon Dunn

NO REPORT RECEIVED

Department of Florida

NEC Sherry Marecek

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

Greetings and healthy wishes from the Department of Florida!

Department President, Debbie Beck, has chosen as her Theme ***"If you can be anything – BE KIND!"*** Her Project is Guardian Angels for Special Populations.

Our membership totals have remained somewhat steady, and we continue to look forward to successful membership drives, contacting non-renewed members, and retaining annual members to maintain and increase our membership numbers.

All Department Service Officers worked well with their Local counterparts, encouraged 100% reporting, and promoted both National and Department Programs. They have all agreed to continue doing so and strive for a better 2021/2022 year. I'm pleased to report that Mid-Year Evaluations were over double from 2020/2021.

Madam President Sirek, Department of Florida wishes you a successful NEC meeting.

Department of Georgia

NEC Brenda Fischer

In Georgia we have only 6 Auxiliaries and with Covid 19 some are not meeting or doing many projects.

AMERICANISM – We had 4 auxiliaries reporting on 16 projects, 20 volunteers: total hours of 173. The total evaluation is \$4,292.

Youth – 1 auxiliary reporting, 1 project, 2 volunteers, 6 hours with valuation of \$120.

CHILD WELFARE – There were 3 auxiliaries reporting on 5 projects with 19 volunteers and 51 hours. Total evaluation is \$1,611.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – There were 2 auxiliaries reporting on 6 projects with 7 volunteers for 25 hours. Total valuation of \$976.

Youth – 1 auxiliary reporting on 1 project, 1 volunteer, 1 hour, valuation \$20.

HOSPITAL – There were 3 auxiliaries reporting on 12 projects with 10 volunteers for 34 hours. Total valuation of \$1,581.

SCHOLARSHIP – There were 3 auxiliaries reporting for a total of 7 projects with 22 volunteers with 98 hours. Total evaluation of \$5,478.

Hopefully for the year-end report in April we will be able to have reports from all our Auxiliaries.

Department of Illinois

NEC Pam Lukemire

National President Joan, National Officers, PNP's, NEC Women, Delegates and Guests:

Our President this year is Joyce Srebalus. Her theme is "Helping Vets That Need Help". Her project is PTSD. Joyce is selling shirts to raise money for her project.

Our First Vice President is PDP Norma Studebaker. Her theme is "Recruit, Renew, Retain." If you are having trouble renewing some of your members, a phone call to them may be helpful in getting them to renew.

Our Second Vice President is Deb Spence. Some of our Child Welfare projects are packed snack bags, took children to water park, sporting event, camping, helped with school functions.

Our Third Vice President is Randi McPherson. Some of our Community Service projects are donated fresh vegetables to local food pantry, donated clothes to Goodwill and Thrift Store, donated food to homeless shelter, donated pill bottles to animal hospital, helped Senior with chores and shopping.

Our Americanism Chairman is Laurie Lindstrom. Some of the projects are put out Flags for Veterans Day, attended Veterans Day Service, attended meet and greet for Veterans, helped feed an Honor Guard Team, donated clothing and household items to a Veteran.

Our Hospital Chairman is Dixie Kalips. Some of the projects are sent get well cards, took Senior to hospital for surgery, visited local nursing home and retirement center, took friend to doctor appointments, donated bottle caps to St. Jude, toured St. Jude in Memphis, donated blood, volunteered at hospital information desk.

Our Scholarship Chairman is Amanda Webb. Some of the projects are held bake sale, shopped for fundraiser, participated in Scholarship presentation, donated, and worked fundraiser breakfast, worked fundraiser dinner.

Madame President, I hope you are enjoying your travels so far and wish you a very productive NEC.

Department of Indiana

NEC Sharon Osborne

Madame President Joan, National Officers, PNP's, NEC women, members, and guests.

The Department of Indiana has been very slow to recover from the Covid virus. The virus affected several of our officers and families and members families. Our October training meeting had a low attendance and Winter conference was cancelled. 1/8/22.

We have put together our themes for the year:

Membership Amanda Orman - Alone we can do so little, Together, we can do so much.

Child welfare Evelyn Davis - Get on board for Child Welfare. Don't miss the bus!

Community Service Norma McGuiness - Your community needs you!

Americanism Kim Rowlett - Remember our freedom is not free!

Hospital Carol Gavin Scott - Easy task, wear your mask!

Scholarship Amy DeWitt - Banking Dollars for Scholarship!

When reporting – we put children in a bus, stripes on a Flag and Auxiliary number on a mask.

Hoping to see you in April Madame President when you can see these visuals! I hope you have a successful NEC meeting.

Department of Iowa

NEC PNP Kathy Berning

Happy New Year!

It's been pretty quiet in Iowa. President Nancy Carrier has made the effort to visit all of our Auxiliaries this year. Unfortunately, this included visiting 3 auxiliaries that have disbanded. But we had the pleasure of attending the installation of new officers at our new Rockwell City Auxiliary #41.

Reports are pretty slow in coming in this year, with many showing Nothing to Report. I'm sure our numbers will increase for year-end.

I want to thank all of our National Officers for their support.

Department of Kansas

NEC Jan Dick

From the Sunflower state of Kansas.

For Veterans Day in November 2021, we were asked to be a part of the Veterans Day Ceremony. Very interesting time and learned a lot about the Veterans held at local VFW. Lunch was provided. They usually ask us every year to attend.

We are still sending cards out to the sick and also any sympathy.

We wish everyone a safe and warm year to come. Thanks to all for all your support. Have a great 2022 year.

Department of Kentucky

NEC Denise Marcum

Madam President, National Officers, fellow NEC members, Department Presidents and guests - greetings to you all from the Bluegrass State!

The Department of Kentucky has been doing their best to serve our Veterans, children, and community during this pandemic. For Americanism: There were a total of 12 projects, 601 volunteers and 780 hours with total evaluations of \$18,878. Our Auxiliaries have collected faded and torn American flags; members attended National Commander's Parade/dinner; members hosted 4th of July dinner for Veterans; members made cash donations to Wounded Warriors Project and Paralyzed Veterans; members attended Veterans Day Parade; members assisted with transportation for Veterans to doctor appointments, grocery store, clothes shopping, medical test appointments, and for entertainment, etc. Our Auxiliary members of all local posts in Kentucky are portraying and upholding the meaning of Americanism.

Child Welfare: There were a total of 15 projects, 45 volunteers, 132 hours with total evaluations of \$6,148.50. Some of these projects included collecting and delivering school supplies to elementary schools; donations to John Tracy Center during AMVETS State Convention and September 2021 SEC; helped a child build a bicycle; made baskets for babies at a women's shelter; donated to Children's Christmas Fund.

Community Service: There were 116 projects, 75 volunteers, 1,308 hours with evaluations totaling \$28,580. Our Auxiliaries clothing and miscellaneous items; donated to Paws; held a community fall festival; made a care basket for local women's shelter; donated to scout troop; managed cornhole tournament and setup for a trunk or treat event.

Hospital: There were 11 projects, 26 volunteers, 121 hours with evaluations at \$2,536. Some of the projects were making various trips to hospital; assisted with activities at Bee Hive Assisted Living Home; mailed get well card and etc. to Veterans and members.

Scholarship: There were 12 projects, 37 volunteers, 122 hours and \$2,996 in total evaluations. Projects included Auxiliary making donations at different meetings such as September SEC and State Convention.

Our next SEC meeting will be held on April 9, 2022, at Post 67 in Clay City, KY.

Madam President, I wish you a productive meeting and hope that you and your officers have a safe and healthy year!

Department of Louisiana

President Julie Catlow

Hello from Louisiana to all my Auxiliary friends. Our ladies have been busy doing what we can for our Veterans and community. Ladies have collected school supplies for our LANG local unit, and we help out at the unit when needed. Our ladies bought wreaths and participated in the Wreaths Across America campaign. placing wreaths on Veterans graves.

Our ladies helped their local National Guard with food and water to people affected by the storms we have had here, and those ladies also suffered loss or no electricity for an extended time. Our ladies also have visited patients in the hospital and brought the patient needed items.

Our ladies are a hearty bunch, and we do whatever we can to help our neighbors and Veterans. Ladies also donate blood on a regular basis. Several donations for the storm victims were delivered and we are grateful for the time and travel needed to accomplish that.

Madam President, National Officers and fellow Auxiliary members, I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans for the National Convention in August. Safe travels to everyone.

Department of Maine

Alternate NEC Regina Tardiff

Madam National President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, and Members. The Department of Maine AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and members have been able to resume meeting in person with CDC guidelines in mind. We were also able to hold our State Convention in June 2021.

It has been challenging to plan projects, none the less our Auxiliaries have been holding fundraisers and finding ways to make it happen. Many of us have been focusing on helping those less fortunate by donating time and winter clothing, like jackets, gloves, and hats which are widely needed this time of year. The focus has also been on checking in with people who have trouble getting around in the cold and snow.

Maine AMVETS Ladies Auxiliaries have been able to resume more normal activities as better and brighter days arrive. We look forward to having more events and in person meetings.

Department of Maryland

NEC Martha J. Knott

Madame President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, National Executive Committeewomen, National Executive Committeewomen Alternates and Guests. The Department of Maryland Ladies Auxiliary sends greetings and hopes everyone has been safe and healthy.

CHILD WELFARE: Held Cash Drawing for children and made and served refreshments. Held bake/craft raffle table at crab feed to raise funds. Had a Halloween Party for children with food/games and treats.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Volunteers assisted at gun raffle, held cake/craft table and clean up. Made gift card tree for raffle. Participated in Heritage Day Parade w/float and passed out flags. Held Iris Paper folding class. Made donation to MVPHP for Families at Christmas.

AMERICANISM: Volunteers sold pins for Freedoms Foundations to purchase generators. Donation for 45 wreaths were made to "Wreaths Across America". Made individual donations to Freedoms Foundation President's Project. Participated in Flag Retirement Ceremony.

HOSPITAL: Participated in VA Center Baby Shower, purchased diapers, wipes, clothing and other necessary items. Attended 2 VAVS Meetings via phone. Made donations to DOM Unit for care items. Had Annual Joint Review. Collected cell phones and cords and chargers for Veterans. Donated shampoo/conditioners for veterans.

SCHOLARSHIP: Held a 20/20, sold raffle tickets for 50/50, and an outdoor bench set. Reviewed and approved scholarships (3) \$1,000 were awarded. Held cake raffles to raise funds for scholarships. Had quarter auction and gave out (5) \$400 scholarships.

Department of Massachusetts

NEC Joanne Whynot-Butler

Greetings from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As we enter the new year with some of the same uncertainties, we have been working towards meeting our goals of increasing membership. We have had a decline in our numbers with members passing away as well as not renewing and not acquiring as many new members to maintain our numbers. We continue to recruit a small number of women but need to find a way to rejuvenate those who have not renewed their membership.

Our members continue to be more involved Locally than on the Department level. Attempts to get members more involved, such as holding trainings about positions and responsibilities have been unsuccessful, though we keep trying on the local levels to seek out those that show potential. That does not mean that our members have not been busy with those projects that we can do safely!

Our VA hospitals, Soldiers Homes, and nursing homes are still not allowing our groups to visit. Our Department President, Jennifer Sinclair has been leading us through these uncharted waters and we have managed to continue our work. We continue to provide items for pizza parties, ice cream socials, bingo nights, and dropping off Subs/Herb's/Grinders/Hoagies for dinner nights at the Recreation Offices for the staff to use on our usual social nights. We also drop off knitted hats, lap robes, scarves and new clothing in tote bags and misc. items and Halloween craft projects and treats to VA medical centers.

We continue our support of raising money for Special Olympics. Our members meet at one of our lakeside Posts in February to take the "Polar Plunge". The chainsaws come out to cut the area needed in the ice for the brave (Including our Dept. President) as the not so brave stay in the "Chicken Coop" area watching as the others run, jump, dip, or dive into the frigid water. We started jumping in the Atlantic Ocean back in 2007 in Hull, MA at Nantasket Beach and then added the beach at Atlantic City for those attending District One meetings and now at the lakeside Post. Wonderful hot beverages and soups await the plungers inside the Post! We have been doing this for the past 15 years!

Members have donated whole blood and platelets, generously donated cash to the Lymphoma Society, Susan B. Komen Foundation, Boys Town, Make A Wish Foundation, ALS, Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy Foundation, Dana Farber, St. Jude, various local school scholarship programs, Randolph Veterans Services, VFW Veterans project, Veterans Transition House in Fall River, and Veterans Project of MA. Food donations to "Stamp out Hunger" program, clothing to Boys and Girls

Club, St. Vincent DePaul, and St. Francis House. Members planted flags on Veterans graves for Memorial Day and Veterans Day as well as wreaths for "Wreaths Across America at Bourne National Cemetery with the help of our youth. They attended flag day ceremonies, Joint Veterans Committee meetings, 911 ceremonies and Change of Command ceremony at Camp Edwards Cape Cod, and mcd Memorial Day, POW/MIA Day, and Veterans Day ceremonies at Bourne National Cemetery as well as local Memorial Ceremonies and participating in local parades.

As you can see, we have a dedicated group that find a way to continue the work of supporting our Veterans and our communities in these complicated times.

Madam President, we wish you a productive and successful year.

Department of Michigan

NEC Patricia Michalski

Madam President Sirek, National Officers, Past National Presidents, N.E.C. Women, Department Presidents, Delegates, Alternates, Members and Guests: It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the N.E.C. Woman, for the Great Lakes state of Michigan for the past 6 years

Our President, Rose Solak's Theme is "Touching Lives, Lifting Spirits".

Gloria Hall, our 1st Vice President, in charge of Membership has worked diligently with our Local Auxiliaries to keep renewals and generate new members. Her theme is "Just Be a Member - Renew, Rejoin, Recruit, Become a Lifer". She had several different contests to create more interest in Membership.

Linda Marshall, 2nd Vice President, reports projects that have helped children. Linda has scheduled a Department tour of Penrickton for any member of the AMVETS family and their guests in April 2022.

Allison Aldrich, 3rd Vice President, reported Community Service projects. There was a tour of PAWS With A Cause planned this year during President Joan's visit to Michigan and in accordance with National 4th District's meeting.

Pam Lein, Americanism/S.O.S. Officer has reported projects for Americanism and S.O.S. Our Americanism project is the Joint Americanism Committee which sponsors the National Flag Coloring, Poster and Essay contests. Some of the S.O.S. projects were packing and sending care packages to Servicemen and women. Our Department S.O.S. project is "Miss Sawyer's Kids With A Cause".

Karen Harmon, Scholarship Officer, reported we will once again offer two (2) Department Scholarships this year. Her project is selling Paper Graduation caps in honor of any graduate from Kindergarten, Middle School or High School.

Kay Kemp, Hospital Officer, reported Mid-year reports were also down because of COVID-19. The VA Hospitals are still limited as to what can be done with the hospitalized veterans. However, our Volunteers are still carrying out their duties.

Madam President Joan, we hope you enjoyed your visit to Michigan as much as we loved having "Sister Joan" with us for the Ladies Auxiliary weekend and Michigan's Fall Conference. I hope all the prizes you won at the "Stick Bingo" will help keep Michigan's Memories in your mind, throughout your reign as National President.

Department of Missouri

NEC Stormy O'Brien

Madame President, Past National Presidents, National Officers, NEC Women, and Alt. NEC Women. Greetings from Missouri! We hope that you have enjoyed the holiday season, and that everyone is well.

The Auxiliaries have been busy through midyear. Our 1st Vice president was very busy, trying to get everyone renewed on time. As you well know, sometimes it's a pretty tough job.

The ladies have been busy with Child Welfare projects. Auxiliaries held school supply drives, clothing and diaper collections. Some have been able to have dinners to raise funds for Child Welfare projects.

We had a number of projects for Community Service to report. Ladies collected eyeglasses and stamps. They recycled cardboard, plastic, and aluminum. Gift cards were donated to help the homeless. Food donations were made to food pantries. Many ladies took friends and neighbors to Dr. appointments and grocery shopping.

Missouri ladies were also busy with their Hospital projects. Bingos were held, with meals and desserts being donated for the bingo. An auxiliary held monthly Bunco games for hospital projects, and clothing was also donated.

One of our Auxiliaries held an adult Prom for Scholarship. Ladies distributed applications for scholarship. An all-girl meat shoot was held. Dinners were served to raise funds for scholarship.

The Auxiliaries were very busy with their Americanism projects. Flag retirement ceremonies were attended, as well as 4th of July ceremonies. Ladies made care packages for Veterans, and also served meals. Cash was donated to Veterans in need, as well as cash was donated to an Amvets Post that was burglarized. Members from a couple of Auxiliaries attended an escort to bring a young Marine back from the airport when he was killed in Afghanistan.

We will keep serving our veterans and our communities. We hope everyone stays well, and we hope to see everyone in New Orleans in August.

Department of Nebraska

NEC Jane Nelson

Greetings from Nebraska! The Department of Nebraska has only 3 Auxiliaries, but even with COVID they are trying to stay active and work hard to serve our Veterans, senior citizens, and the communities within our state.

Our Auxiliary members miss the privilege of serving Veterans in person, but they have volunteered and donated in many different ways. From donating money, food products, clothing, puzzle books, school supplies, to making lap robes and face masks; and then also providing respite care, child care, and thank you cards to the many doctors and nurses who are working tirelessly in our communities.

Nebraska's Mid-Year report:

Americanism:	33 projects	1086 hours	\$22,557.00 evaluation
Child Welfare:	66 projects	924 hours	\$19,230.00 evaluation
Community Service	40 projects	1025 hours	\$21,569.00 valuation
Hospital	64 projects	826 hours	\$16,689.00 valuation

Scholarship

5 projects

27 Hours

\$ 552.50 valuation

Department of New York

NEC Donna Smith

Madame President, National Officers, NEC's, Department Auxiliary Presidents, Members and Guests; here is hoping that 2022 has started off to a great start for all. As you may know already New York is still a hotspot the covid-19.

Despite the challenges the Department of New York is working hard to serve our veterans, and the community. Our service report numbers are up compared to last year, so we are heading in the right direction.

Department President Cindy Queyor has chosen Saratoga War horse for her project. Saratoga War Horse is a confidential, peer-to-peer program serving our nation's Veterans struggling with suicide, Post-Traumatic Stress, and associated issues. Their "vonnection" process between Veterans and off-the-track thoroughbreds consistently delivers immediate, dramatic improvements in the Veterans' lives, and the positive changes are proving to be sustainable over time. For more information check out www.saratogewarhorse.org There are many warhorse programs across the USA.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. May God continue you to bless our Amvets Family, our Veterans, past, present and future, and God Bless America.

Department of North Carolina

Joyce Bevan

Madam President, PNP's, National Officers, NEC Women, members and guest. Greetings from the Department of North Carolina.

Our Department is small with only eleven (11) Auxiliaries, but I am proud to report all Auxiliaries reported in all five (5) National programs but one, Scholarship.

Child Welfare – The Auxiliaries helped with clothes, shoes book bags and free lunches for schools. We helped fill the bus with supplies for local schools, made masks for daycares and held a raffle for Toys for Tots.

Community Service – We had blood drives, donated pill bottles, plastic bags, food to food banks, leashes to PAWS With a Cause and pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House.

Hospital – we donated activity kits, puzzles and word search books to the VAMC. We also had ice cream and bingo parties. We donated lap-gahans. We also gave a handicapped scooter to a Veteran.

A question has been brought up about the size and way lap-gahans are evaluated.

Department of North Dakota

NEC Tyann Schlenker

Here in North Dakota, it's been a busy winter if we aren't below zero, we are having snowstorms. Besides having Covid cases we are keeping busy with Auxiliary events.

We have 4 Auxiliaries some of following events we have planned are: Lasagna supper, Burgers/brats every Saturday, steak fry, Christmas decoration sale, Christmas party, New Year's Day Party, Wednesday night Suppers, donated to homeless K-12 student holiday meals, donated to Sandford Hospice and donated to 4 Luv of Dogs Rescue.

New project - Meals on Wheels are finding that the people they deliver to who have pets aren't eating their whole meals because they are sharing meals with their pets. We are working with Meals on Wheels collecting dog/cat food, toys, blankets, pillows etc. for them to deliver.

Honor Flight events we are working on: Western show/with supper, Meat raffles, purse bingo, silent auctions, bowling night, Fargo Force Hockey Night, and spaghetti suppers.

Planning SEC /Recognition Banquet for Commander Vern Dunnick and President Sandy Kruse in February. Planning AMVETS Dept. Convention May 13 thru 15th in Fargo.

Department of Ohio

NEC Lynn McCauley

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Women, Department Presidents, Members and Guests; I bring you greetings and friendship from Ohio, the Buckeye State. Hopefully, everyone had a Merry Christmas, and you are looking forward to bigger things in this New Year.

President Deb Scherer's theme this year is "Granting Veterans' Wishes One Wish at a Time." She chose as her project America's Freedom Lodge which is dedicated to serving our Nation's disabled veterans by getting them into the outdoors.

Our membership is down so far for 2022. I hope it is due to the virus and safe distancing and quarantining. We are at 7846. A big thank you to Headquarters, Carol and Sonja for their assistance in processing our membership and answering questions. You are the best.

Second Vice President Jenny Miracle-Turner's theme is "Kindness Looks Good on You." Her project is Prevention Awareness Support Services. She will be focusing on their Youth Mental Health First Aid program. It teaches adults how to identify, understand and respond to the signs of trauma.

Third Vice President Katrina Phillip's theme is "Let's Be Mindful of Others." Her project is NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). It is dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

Americanism Officer Joy Brown's theme is "Freedom Isn't Free." Her project is Veterans Matter which provides immediate housing for homeless Veterans.

Hospital Officer Deb Scherer stated that National Hospital Officer Laura Rose Bugaj's theme is "Band Together for Hospitals."

We had a grand opening for our AMVETS Department of Ohio's new headquarters in June. They also celebrated their 75th Anniversary.

Madam President, Joan, we wish you a successful NEC meeting. Thank you for all you do and your leadership.

Department of Pennsylvania

NEC Paula Flory

Greetings from the Keystone State!

Pennsylvania is proud to introduce our new President, Marianne White. Under her guidance and leadership, our Department is expecting a great year. Madam President, Marianne's project is

'Veterans' Multi-Service Center (VMC). This program helps female Veterans in and out of the VA Hospitals. Our line service reporting officers are teaming up with the National Officer's projects.

Once again, I applaud our local Auxiliaries for their outstanding working throughout this pandemic. They are 'thinking outside the box' with their volunteering. Some of the projects have included cash donations from fundraisers and their general accounts to help JTC, PAWS, Scholarship, FF window replacement, FF Honor Grove, VA Hospitals, James Parke Scholarship, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, to their local schools and churches, community and Veterans' food banks, Boys and Girls Scouts, to local cancer societies, MDA, MS, Children's Hunger Outreach Program, Paralyzed Veterans, DAV, Caring and Sharing Veterans Boat Ride, Fire, EMS, Police First Responders, local parks associations, Christian Appalachian Project, Doctors Without Borders, and Wounded Warriors Project. Members donated their time and skills helping their communities, VA Hospitals, children's programs by shopping, preparing, and donating food to their local churches and outreach programs. Members donated blood and worked at various blood drives.

Members collected household items and clothing to be donated to neighbors in need, Goodwill, Salvation Army, Purple Heart, and the Rescue Mission. Members helped their neighbors by preparing meals for them, sitting and visiting, collecting mail, grocery shopping, providing transportation to the doctors and stores, pet sitting, and cleaning their homes. Members collected and donated used magazines, paper, and pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. They collected and clipped coupons for our military. Members participated in 'Keep America Clean' by cleaning up roadsides. They participated in the 'Go Green' program by collecting and recycling cans, bottles, cardboard, plastic bags, ink cartridges, and paper. Members helped their local schools by donation filled back-to-school backpacks, tissue boxes, paper supplies, and box-tops for education and register receipts. Members volunteered at their local thrift shops donating, sorting, cleaning, and waiting on customers. Members donated mascara wands to Wildlife Refuge. Members donated eyeglasses and hearing aids. Members volunteered at local COVID vaccination centers and their government election offices. Members helped our Department Sons with 'Salute to Veterans' picnic.

Members purchased personal care items and donated them to local nursing homes, VA Hospitals, and transitional living centers. Members placed flags on Veterans graves and Wreathes Across America. Members attended Memorial Day, Veteran Day, Fourth of July Celebrations/parades, Pearl Harbor, and MIA ceremonies. Members held root-beer float parties and bingo games for Veterans.

Members shopped and sent care packages to our military. Members participated in 'Ride to Remember.' Some members use their talents to sew/crochet toys and blankets to donate to nursing homes, Center of Hope, and doctor offices. Members held Halloween and Christmas children parties, handing out toys and candy. Members collected used card fronts for St. Jude's Ranch for Children and used stamps for "Stamps for Military.

Pennsylvania is proud to announce Amy Stopyra will be running for the office of 1st Vice – Membership. We are asking for everyone's support by voting for Amy Stopyra at our National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary convention in New Orleans.

Department of Tennessee

NEC Cynthia Carter

Madame President, National Officers, Department Officers, Auxiliary Members. I can't believe we are in 2022 already, wow time flies. I have to say I miss seeing everyone and hope you all had wonderful holidays.

TN has been extremely busy especially this time of year. We have reached out and have touched many lives, serving our veterans, with meals, clothing, food, and yes even played the role of Santa Claus. We are the embodiment of what it means to be a true Auxiliary Volunteer. I am proud to represent so many true friends and family of this organization.

Tennessee Department Officers were at 100% reporting at mid-year. We will be having our SEC on March 12th at Decatur TN 2022, if you're in the area we would love to have you join us with a huge welcome to TN.

Membership 1st Vice President - Deana Rose - Watch Us Grow. There has been a new Auxiliary formed in Elmwood TN #389 so let's give them a huge welcome. I look forward to seeing them attend their first SEC in March. We have been hard at it, maintaining our membership with renewals, and even recruiting. Welcome. Recruit. Include, involve and retain. Old members, new members are the key to our success!

2nd Vice President - Linda Frederick - "Children – Our Eyes and Ears of Today". Tennessee started off with a bang, helping schools and children with supplies. One auxiliary met with counselors regarding a new partnership to help with homeless students. Helping with education in drama performances, little league, summer camp and the list goes on. The holidays are also a big part of our children. Halloween, meals on the holidays, and of course Christmas. We have 261 projects YTD, I know we all do our part, but these are just a few topics I wished to highlight for TN they don't call us the Volunteer state for nothing. Love for our auxiliary is what I have.

3rd Vice President - Kristie Frye "BE THE DIFFERENCE". Tennessee is for sure making a difference when it comes to our community. Starting off on a heartbreaking note with such a sweet outcome I must give a shout out to blessing boxes for the hungry. In this day and times, we must come together and be the difference. Clothing, transporting, shopping, donating, going green with recycling, these are just a few of the things TN has contributed, with 616 projects YTD. The Auxiliary looks within to find their treasures to help others. I am so proud of all our members.

Scholarship Committee - Shannon Shiverdecker - KNOWLEDGE IS POWER! Tennessee has been busy working on fundraisers for Local, Department and National scholarships, and is looking forward to submitting for some National Scholarships and just remember education is the true prize.

Americanism Officer - Chrissy Fugett - "Let the Light Shine In". We have been working hard to help our Veterans, one Auxiliary set up a boutique so they could shop for clothing, kind of a new twist on things. Tennessee has been attending parades, Flag ceremonies and the famous walking Flag is such an honor to experience. They have been passing out constitution books and selling freedom foundation pins for madame president project, they have 303 projects YTD. Troop boxes have been shipped and arriving for Christmas, thank a Veteran today and every day for the freedoms we have.

These are just a few of the things Tennessee has to report. Looking forward to hearing and seeing everyone. God Bless and sending good health and love your way. GO Tennessee for 2022!

Department of Texas

NEC PNP Linda McGriff

Madam President, National Officers, Past National Presidents, NEC Woman, Department Presidents, Members and Guests: Greetings from the Lone Star State and the AMVETS Auxiliary Department of Texas.

Fall SEC was held in Tyler, Texas. Attendance was down but business was held, and a good meeting was had.

Department President Heather Richards held a productive meeting. Her visits have been limited due to her having a toe amputated and announcing she is expecting her second child. With all that she is doing well.

Our Auxiliaries have worked hard and have been able to support and accomplish so much for their Communities, the Veterans they serve, AMVETS, SON'S of AMVETS and the Juniors.

We are down to just 9 Auxiliaries, but membership is staying steady. Small but Mighty!!

Thank you to the National Officers who acknowledged receiving our mid-year reports. Our reports reflected no reports at this time but that will change at year end.

Thank you to National Headquarters for helping us all survive this year! ...Carol and Sonja, you are the best!!

Madam President Joan, we wish you have a successful and productive Spring NEC Meeting.

Department of Virginia

NEC Penny Campbell

Madam President, National Officers, PNP's, NEC Women, Members, and Guests; I bring you greetings from the great state of Virginia.

Several of our ladies attended the National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina in August. We enjoyed the meetings and socializing with other members, officers, and staff members. We always look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

We were able to hold our DEC meetings in person the remainder of 2021, and our first meeting of 2022 is scheduled for January 14 – 15, 2022. We were happy to see everyone face to face and to socialize with our other Auxiliaries to share our thoughts, ideas, and accomplishments.

We are pleased to say we are in the process of establishing a new auxiliary to our Winchester, Virginia post. Everything has been completed and paperwork should be on its way to National within the week. They are starting up with 30 new members. We are excited to have these ladies on our team.

Membership dues are coming in fairly well. We continue to work for increases in membership by promoting our work for our Veterans and our communities.

Mid-year reports were not what we would like them to be due to restrictions with Covid. We did, however, get our reports submitted to National officers on time. Virginia is a small Department, but our Locals continue to strive toward better serving those in need. Although we are a small Department, we have some dedicated members who are always there to serve.

The Department of Virginia wishes each of you an abundance of health and happiness. We look forward to seeing you in the near future. Take care and stay safe.

Department of Washington

NEC PNP Leslie Wunderle

Greetings from Washington, The Evergreen State. As we begin 2022 still in the grips of the COVID 19 Pandemic all our members are doing their best to continue our mission for our Veterans and Communities. Our department again held our Fall DEC meeting in November via Zoom and had good attendance. Department President Barbara Skinner opened the meeting, and I was proud to announce that Auxiliary #1 of Tacoma had won Auxiliary of the Year at our National Convention in Greensboro.

Very shortly after the Meeting all of the Service Reports were sent to me on time although I'm sad to say we had nothing to report in Child Welfare and Scholarship. I know that will change for the year-end report! Thank you to all of the Department Service Chairwomen. Subsequently, I was able to forward to all of the National Officers and received prompt responses from all of them that they had received the reports on time as well. Thank you, Ladies!

There were all of the usual projects and although our numbers are down all of our ladies have done outstanding work.

Looking forward to our NEC meeting in March and will be packing some warm clothes since it is early this year!

On a personal note, my mom and I both had break-through cases of COVID in October. My mother was then diagnosed with Parotid Gland Cancer, had the tumor removed and then 6 weeks, 5 days a week of radiation treatments. As of this writing we do not know if she needs chemotherapy but praying she is spared that additional treatment.

Madam President Joan, I have enjoyed seeing your travel pictures on Facebook and am wishing you continued safe and healthy travels and a very productive NEC meeting.

Department of West Virginia

NEC Brenda Haynes

NO REPORT RECEIVED