



“HONOR OUR HEROES”

JOAN L. SIREK

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

NATIONAL LINES

SPRING 2022

ONLINE EDITION





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Spring is here and a new Auxiliary year is beginning. Congratulations to the Local and Department Auxiliaries on their newly elected officers.

My theme this year is "Honor our Heroes" in recognition of our Veterans, military personnel and all the front-line workers during this pandemic-all those who have sacrificed and risked their health so we can be safe and maintain our way of life.

My project is replacing the windows in MacArthur building at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. By replacing the windows, we not only help bring efficiencies and savings on utility bills, but we help make sure Freedoms Foundation is educating young citizens for years to come.

It's been wonderful being able to visit many of the Departments this year! Our organization and you make a difference every day in the lives our Veterans, their families and the communities, by sponsoring events. Thank-you for all you do!

Please apply for National Awards. All the information is in the Convention Digest and on the National Auxiliary Website. Please don't let your work go unnoticed!

It's been a great year and an honor to serve as your National President, I look forward to seeing everyone at the AMVETS National Convention in August in New Orleans!



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It's hard to believe it is technically spring when I see so many of you showing pictures of April and May snowstorms, while here in Tucson, AZ we have had our first official 100 degree day! Spring is the time to Sow the Seeds of Membership!

As a reminder: The membership year runs from January 1 through December 31 – Any membership received at the local level after December 31 will be counted as a new member and must reestablish eligibility and all renewals from the Department level must be posted by January 31, 2022, to be processed and counted in the December 31, 2021, accumulative membership report. Membership received after January 31, 2022, will be counted as NEW or REJOIN.

The Membership comparative report that I received from National Headquarters comparing December 31, 2020, to December 31, 2021, is looking pretty good but we can do better! Get those last minute memberships in to headquarters by May 31<sup>st</sup>!

Please remember the amazing Sonja processes all membership at National Headquarters - please do not send them to me as that delays their input into our system.

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.

I am so looking forward to National Convention being held in New Orleans, Louisiana in August – Get your reservations in now! Laissez les bon temps rouler – Let the good times roll!



**Amy Stopyra**  
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The reporting year has come to an end by our Local and Department Chairmen. With this year being in the books it does not mean our work is complete- our programs and volunteering continues. Your love for children shines through as you have kept my theme “**Children – Our Eyes and Ears of Today**” the forefront of your Child Welfare Projects.

As we continue to prepare for our National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Convention, I will be working on a schedule of items to be talked about at our Child Welfare Committee Meeting. If you have any questions or recommendations that you would like to see addressed by the committee, please send me an email. We are still looking for volunteers to serve on the Committee so please consider joining us in some fun at the 2022 Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.

By now, you have received your Convention Digest, and you are working on applying for those program awards, I encourage you to read the Digest and make sure you are filling out the paperwork entirely for each of the following Awards!

### **Child Welfare Awards** **Awards for Department**

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

### **Local Auxiliary 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>. 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: 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>. This date is taken directly from the Entry form that is to accompany the submission.)

I thank you for your continued support, as well as the opportunity to serve as your National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President this year. If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to email or call me. I am looking forward to receiving your year-end reports and seeing all the amazing things your Auxiliaries are doing. Keep up the great work, stay safe, and healthy.

God Bless you and your Families!



**Cindy Rice**  
**AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary**  
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Happy Spring and greetings from Ohio!

Your year is coming to an end, and it is time to report all your wonderful projects done throughout the entire year. Be sure to report them all as they make a difference in someone's life. Congratulations on all you have done this year to help your Auxiliary be a success. I look forward to reading about all the wonderful work you have done this year once I receive your year-end report.

The 2022 National Convention in New Orleans is right around the corner, and I encourage you to apply for any of the four awards for Community Service. Please don't think that just because your Local or Department is small that you wouldn't win, you never know until you try – total membership

divided by total hours and total volunteers - makes it an even playing field. The awards available are:

### **Community Service Awards**

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

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

**Blood Donor Program Awards Blood Drive Award** - Local Auxiliary – Please read the criteria. Blood Donor Pin and Certificate – Presented to a member – Please read the criteria. Blood Donor Certificate – Please read the criteria

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

All these awards are listed in the Convention Digest that has been mailed but can also be found online on the National Auxiliary website under publications.

My theme this year is “**Be the Difference**” and having read the midyear reports you have done just that. Thank you for your support for PAWS this year by selling the pinups and buying tickets to the quilt Linda Bonin and I have made. There are still tickets available and the drawing will be at National Convention. Look for me out in the lobby to purchase your ticket for this amazing inspirational quilt.

If you have signed up to be a member of my committee at National Convention our meeting will be Tuesday morning, bring all your new and tried ideas to share.

I thank you for your continued support, as well as the opportunity to serve as your National 3rd Vice President this year. If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to email or call. See you in August at the National Convention in New Orleans.



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Greetings to all Auxiliary Sisters and their families.

We are coming to the end of our year, and I hope for all of you it has been wonderful and exciting. For the most part, at least we can hope and pray, Covid and its aftereffects are behind us, and we can now reach out to one another, embrace our families, friends and fellow Auxiliary sisters with open arms and loving hearts. I pray we will each have good health and strength to do and complete the tasks before us in the coming year and serve one another. We need to always encourage one another, be helpful in all ways and see the good in others. When we do that, I believe we can make a difference in the world we live in.

Department Chaplains, just a sincere word of gratitude for what you do! Thank you for forwarding your Deceased Member Notifications to both Membership at National Headquarters and to me as your National Chaplain. If you can send them within two months of our sister's passing, I will be sending a card to the next of kin on behalf of the National Ladies Auxiliary, expressing our sincere sympathy. If the notice comes later than that but within 4 months of her passing, I will be sending a "Thinking of you" card. So, you can see how urgent it is to have the information regarding the next of kin listed on the form. In either case I enclose my poem "A Rose in Bloom" to the next of kin with a personal note. I have often received a thank-you card back for the remembrance of their loved one by the National Ladies Auxiliary, and that really thrills my heart to know we are making a difference and helping a grieving family member through the difficult days they are going through.

We as Chaplains have many opportunities to serve our fellow AMVETS family, perhaps a phone call, a visit to the hospital or nursing home, a card of encouragement, a bouquet of flowers, or just being beside that Auxiliary sister who needs an encouraging word and prayer. I also really appreciate it when you send your prayers and concerns to me, either by letter or email. That gives me an opportunity to know the needs and prayer concerns you have and I also can come to the Heavenly Father with these requests. And let's not forget to praise Him and thank Him for His everlasting love and compassion He has for us all.

I count it a great joy and honor to have served in this great Organization as Auxiliary Chaplain this year. May I remind you of the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply," 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" May God bless all of you, our military, our Veterans and may God bless America.

In His Service.

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Happy Spring! I'm sure many of us are embracing the freedom of getting out more after the past two years in quarantine. Thank God! Hope you are excited as I am to partake at the 77<sup>th</sup> AMVETS National Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana!

When visiting the French Quarter, remember to stop and eat some of the best traditional Creole cuisine, including, but not limited to gumbo, jambalaya, Po-Boy sandwiches and beignets with a cup of Joe. As for an adult beverage, head out to Pat O'Brien's. They are famous for their "Hurricane" cocktail, which is a rum and passion fruit-infused concoction that the entire city swoons over. I strongly suggest you limit it to two, or we may find you hanging onto a lamp post!

For entertainment, you may want to take one of the many tours that are offered. Other fun things to do is have your palm read, interact with street mimes or shop at the many souvenir shops – may

pick up a voodoo doll just in case you may need one. Bourbon Street is where most of the action is happening and where you will hear some of the best live entertainment.

But remember ladies, stay respectful to this host city and leave a good mark. Manners Matter. Thank you.

On that note, I would once again, thank all of you who signed up for my Uniform Committee. A special thanks to those who stepped up to volunteer as a Page or Color Guard. More information will be in the National Convention Digest; please read details very carefully.

Thinking outside-of-the-box, I am hosting a UNIFORM-SWAP at the Convention. Date, time etc., will be announced in the Convention Agenda. If you have any Official Auxiliary Uniforms, such as, Hats, (All levels) White Jackets, Green Pants, Skirts, Dresses, White or Gold Tops. Black Shoes, White Gloves, Purses, and all those pins we've been collecting for years! Please have items cleaned and presentable. A Clothes Rack and extra Hangers will be available. A donation bucket will be present, and funds will go to Madam President National Project.

As always, please refer to the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary website for updates and other information. Remember NO Jeans on Convention floor except for T-shirt Day and the Awards Honors and Awards program on Thursday – no rips or tears – keep it respectful.

Hope to see y'all in August.

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Greetings to all my Auxiliary Sisters. First and foremost, I would like to express my appreciation for the leadership of Madam President Joan Sirek, and to my fellow National Officers. Included in my appreciation is the wonderful work of the National Headquarters staff. Thank you for the coordination, reminders, and the knowledge you share, that keeps our organization on track.

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary wouldn't be possible though, without the hard work and dedication that each one of our members display. Preserving the rights of our precious Veterans, and active military, should not be taken lightly. Teaching to "Honor and Respect" these individuals should be passed down with each generation. It is unfortunate that some, abuse the freedoms our heroes fought, and fight for, but refer to those rights they have inherited to justify their actions. Educating our youth in how we attained this Country's freedoms, good and bad, should be a priority, and be reflected in our daily lives. Encourage reading, and active debating, without yelling or intimidation. Become active in Community events that honor America's heroes and do it as a family. Visit local schools and ask what Patriotic programs you can assist with. Encourage participation in the AMVETS Americanism, Flag, Poster, and Essay contests. Visit Freedoms Foundation's website. Check out their programs that are offered for adults, children (Spirit of America), and educators.

Consider joining with Sons of AMVETS next Spring when they organize LAW (Legislative Advocacy Week). Meeting with lawmakers, on Capitol Hill, which have a direct impact on the future of our

Veterans is very important and speaking face to face gives you a sense of their sincerity to legislate issues.

Thank you for the volunteer hours, donations, and miles traveled for Americanism projects. Despite the COVID restrictions that continue, you have continued to find ways to ensure that America's heroes are "Honored and Respected". You are amazing.

I joined with Madam President on her project to raise funds to replace windows at the MacArthur Building at Freedoms Foundation. Approximately eighty windows need to be replaced. Beautifully designed window pins are available for a five dollar donation. AMVETS Auxiliary will "Let the Light Shine In."

Tickets continue to be available for the "Americanism Conference" to be held in October 2023. Winners will be picked at the 2022, and 2023 National Conventions. Need tickets? Give me a call. One dollar per ticket, or six tickets for five dollars.

Again, thank you and God Bless for the great work you do. I am available for any questions, concerns, or ideas.

**WE ARE  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER**

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Greetings from New York and despite some still chilly spring temperatures!!

As we continue to navigate the "new normal" of a post-Pandemic United States, I am continually blown away by the inventiveness and creativity of our Auxiliary members. Your dedication and tenacity is admirable and a testament to the amazing woman each of you are.

My theme this year continues to be "Band Together for Hospital". Especially as prices continue to rise and in many places there are still restrictions on "traditional" activities that are done for our VA and community hospitals, working with other organizations, Auxiliaries and even Departments is a great way to make the sum of our parts so much greater than what we are able to accomplish individually. I was extremely impressed with your mid-year reports and cannot wait to see all the marvelous projects you have completed since then. Please remember to have your donations to national projects, including any donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, our National Hospital Program, postmarked to National Headquarters by June 15th.

I hope you are all also working on submitting your applications for year-end awards. All awards can be found in the National Convention Digest, and Hospital Awards are on pages 37- 38. Mailed in applications for awards must be postmarked to National Headquarters by July 22, 2022, but may be hand delivered at National Convention on August 15, 2022, at 9:00am.

- PNP Mary Barrow Award will be awarded to the Department Auxiliary performing the most outstanding work in Hospital Service. **This award does not require a separate application.**
- PNP Brenda Kilgore Memorial Award will be awarded to the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in Hospital Service. Application is on page 37 or Convention Digest.
- PNP Barbara Guth Award will be awarded to the Local Auxiliary volunteering in a nursing home, Application is on page 38 of the Convention Digest.



I cannot thank you all enough for the hard work and dedication you show not only to our VA and Community Hospitals and Nursing Homes, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital but also to all National Programs and projects. I look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans and if you are interested in sitting on the National Hospital Committee please reach out to me at [lrbugaj@yahoo.com](mailto:lrbugaj@yahoo.com).

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**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!**  
**A scholarship helps bring it through.**



It seems the pandemic is trying to calm down but not quite completely gone. With that being said I hope everyone is doing well.

Remember that there are three (3) kinds of Scholarships. First the College Support Scholarship for graduating high school seniors. The second scholarship is the National Scholarship for scholars who are at least in their second year in an accredited college or university. The third is our Career Start Scholarship for members of the Auxiliary going back to college to improve their knowledge for a better job.

I hope the problems with filling out the application have been looked over and fixed since the last National lines were sent out.

- **Letters of Recommendations:** Please remember when they pick up their letters, tell them to make sure they are SIGNED! Make sure the signature is in INK! Computer or stamped signatures will be considered as UNSIGNED! Please make sure to tell them that whomever they ask for a letter, they tell them this so there is no problem when they pick them up.
- **Date on the application:** Please make sure that the date on the application is September 2021. If you have any applications in your file, please check the dates on them and throw away any old ones, but the main problem that keeps reoccurring is **blank spots** on the application. Remind the students that if there is part of the application that does not pertain to them to type or write N/A in the blank.

In closing, please remind your students of these things so they don't get disqualified. Also inform them that I am available to help them through the application by way of zoom or in person depending on where they are located. Please get the word out on these issues so that we don't have to disappoint so many.



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If you would like to receive tickets to sell in your Department and/or Locals, please contact me. As you hold your Department Conventions and start new local auxiliary years, this is a wonderful time to promote our National 50/50 held annually at our National Convention. Do not forget that you do not have to be an auxiliary member to win! AND you do not need to be present to win!!!

Tickets are in books of five. They are assorted colors, and we will draw one each day at the National Convention in New Orleans! (Tuesday's winner will be drawn Wednesday morning.) The winners in Greensboro were all over a \$1000!! So, I have my work cut out for me. I look forward to great wins in New Orleans. So, for \$5 a book you will have a chance at 5 different pots. I need everyone to pitch in and help me promote our National Fund raiser.

To be ready for the first drawing on Wednesday morning, I am requesting that all tickets and monies be turned in prior to the Tuesday NEC meeting please! I would appreciate it if you could separate your stubs by color – PLEASE!

So, if you need tickets or have questions – please contact me at the above email or phone number and I will get back to you as soon as possible. **The Department selling the most tickets will receive a \$100 cash award.**

*Thanking you in advance for all the help!  
And I hope to see you in New Orleans!*

**PNP Marvell Ruppel  
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It continues to be an interesting time as the Covid Pandemic impacts our lives and may limit activities. Everyone is affected by this pandemic differently and the safety and well-being of members should be kept at the forefront. As a reminder, the procedure for conducting electronic meetings is outlined in our National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Constitution.

As Departments begin to hold their annual Conventions and review and/or amend their Bylaws and Standing Rules, please keep in mind the following:

Standing Rule changes do not need to be sent to the National Parliamentarian for review nor do Bylaws that are updated to conform to National Bylaw changes.

Any other changes to Department Bylaws or Unchartered State Auxiliary Bylaws **do** need to be sent for review regardless of whether your Bylaws are due for review. 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.

Again, as a reminder, Departments due for a review of their Bylaws are Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Please be sure to read the National Ladies Auxiliary Bylaws regarding the submission of resolutions to the National Convention. Article 1 Sec. 16 – outlines the steps for submitting resolutions, recommendations, and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. If you do not have a hard copy of the most current National Constitution and Bylaws, these can be accessed on the National AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary website under the Publications tab.

If you have any questions regarding procedures or protocols described in our Constitution or Bylaws, please be sure to follow proper communication channels. National Officers are here to support you and the amazing work you are doing. We also respect the responsibilities and knowledge of your elected officers and are not here to overstep.

God bless you, God bless our Military Personnel, and God bless America!

Be safe and stay well.



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I just returned from the VAVS National Advisory Committee Conference in Denver, CO. Most VA's are in the process of slowly returning Volunteers to specific volunteer activities.

The new Compassionate Contact Corps, instituted in many VA's, matches a Volunteer to a homebound Veteran. After being trained by the VA, the volunteer calls the veteran on a weekly basis. This program has been quite successful in preventing loneliness and isolation during the recent pandemic.

The new CDCE portal (Center for Development and Civic Engagement) formerly VAVS, that was downloaded in October, has had many issues, and they are currently unable to retrieve and download Annual Joint Review (AJR) information.

I attended the James Parke Scholarship luncheon and presented a check for this year's donation of \$4,475.00. I want to thank all the Auxiliaries that donated. We were able to give a total of \$35,000 in Scholarships to deserving Youth Volunteers.

I was honored to be reelected as Secretary of the James Parke Scholarship Board for an additional 3-year term.

Please keep in touch with the VA staff, so you will know when you can return to your normal volunteer activities.

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It is always stunning to realize how fast the year has gone by. It was only “yesterday” I attended National Convention 2021. Yet here it is Spring 2022 (eight months later – yikes!!) and soon we will be in New Orleans at National Convention 2022!

The Convention Digest has been mailed out and published on our National website ([www.amvetsaux.org](http://www.amvetsaux.org)). Please read the awards criteria and make sure you meet (have met) the deadlines. Have someone proofread or review your entries for completeness. Don't let a missing detail derail your recognition efforts. I know we do our projects to take care of people in need. Yet, your recognition could inspire others to do similar work. I'm looking forward to hearing and reading about the fantastic work you've been doing to support our military and your communities. The need can be so great. And, your efforts are so appreciated.

As you know, President Sirek's theme this year is “Honor Our Heroes.” We are looking forward to celebrating her year as well as those heroes through recognition of the work you've done on Thursday, August 18, 2022, during our fun-filled Honors and Awards Program.

**REMEMBER: DO NOT Mail any entries to the Convention hotel. Hand-delivered entries will be accepted by the Honors & Awards Chairman or committee member on Monday, August 15, 2022, between 9:00am and 10:00am only in the posted room for the judging. NO ENTRIES will be ACCEPTED after 10:00am.**

If you have any changes or recommendations for the Honors and Awards Committee to consider, you must submit them to the National Parliamentarian, Marvell Ruppel with a copy to Auxiliary National Headquarters, 30 days prior to the opening of the National Convention. Be blessed and looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans, LA!

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It's hard to believe another year has come to a close and we are electing new leaders. It's important that we also transfer our knowledge and success of the past year to the new leaders. As training Chairman, I hope the outgoing officers work with the newly elected officers to ensure a smooth transition as we work to further our programs. The Auxiliary

Manual is a great resource for new officers. Departments should provide trainings to local auxiliaries. Knowledge is Power!

National Convention is right around the corner! The National Organization will be providing a training session. We will discuss our programs; current and past and hope you walk away with some new ideas. We will end the training session with a Mardi Gras parade...What a great way to kick off the convention week. So, bring your Mardi Gras finest, dress your scooter and Let the Good Times Roll as we celebrate friendship, learning and business!

Hope to see you in New Orleans!

**Paula Cummings**  
**National History and Scrapbook**  
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August is coming fast, and our National Convention in New Orleans will be here before we know it. Auxiliary Sisters, this is your final reminder to get your History and Scrapbooks together to share with all of us. Please be certain to follow all rules to the letter. You can provide those rules to a peer so they can proof your book before submitting it for judging. Another set of eyes never hurts! You have heard many times how sad it is that for any error (large or small), the Judging Committee must eliminate a book from the judging process. Criteria can be found in the Auxiliary Manual on pages 58-59 and in the Convention Digest on pages 39-41. There are four awards, consisting of: Department History Book, Local Scrapbook, Department History Book Cover, and Local Scrapbook Cover. Also, if you are interested in being part of the Committee, please let me know. It's a fun time to share with other sisters and get the first peek at the great books! God bless you, your family, friends, and our wonderful Veterans! I look forward to seeing your History and Scrapbook creations!