“IGNITE THE SPARK. BE THE INSPIRATION.”

LAURA ROSE BUGAJ
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

FALL 2026
NATIONAL LINES

Laura Rose Bugaj
53 Davey St.
Buffalo NY 14206
Email: lrbugaj@yahoo.com
Cell: 716-752-7828

Dear Auxiliary Sisters, thank you for the confidence and trust you have placed in me by electing me National President for 2026–2027. It is among the highest honors of my life to serve an organization that has profoundly shaped my character and commitment to service.

The Auxiliary has afforded me invaluable opportunities for personal growth, leadership, fellowship, and service, and I look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

I offer my sincere appreciation to Immediate Past National President Mary Lanphere for her distinguished leadership and dedicated service. For almost 30 years, Mary has been a valued friend, mentor, and source of inspiration to me and to many throughout our organization. I also extend my gratitude to Carol and Sonja at National Headquarters, whose professionalism and steadfast commitment sustain our programs, membership operations, and communications. Their expertise and support are indispensable.

My theme for the year is **"Ignite the SPARK. Be the Inspiration." SPARK** calls upon us to **Strengthen** our abilities, recognize our **Potential**, pursue our **Aspirations**, accept **Responsibility**, and continue to expand our **Knowledge**. By embracing these principles, we can cultivate an organization in which every member feels welcomed, respected, valued, and empowered to lead.

Throughout the year, I ask each member to recognize the promise in others and encourage their greater participation. Invite someone to attend a meeting, support a program, chair a committee, or seek elected office. By sharing our experience, welcoming thoughtful new ideas, and preparing emerging leaders, we will preserve our traditions while ensuring that our mission remains strong for generations to come.

My National President's Project is **Stop Soldier Suicide**, an organization dedicated to reducing military and Veteran suicide by providing life-saving assistance and resources to Veterans, active-duty service members, and military families. I respectfully encourage every Auxiliary to support this vital mission through education, awareness, advocacy, and fundraising. Additional information is available at www.amvetsaux.org

Thank you once again for the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to visiting our Departments and Auxiliaries, learning more about your important work, and recognizing your accomplishments. Let us proceed with purpose, mutual respect, and an unwavering commitment to service. By strengthening our organization, supporting one another, and igniting the SPARK in those around us, we can make th ear.

STOP
SOLDIER
SUICIDE

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

SAVING LIVES THROUGH SUPPORT, PREVENTION & RESEARCH

Free, confidential support for U.S. veterans and service members

58%	6,000+	2nd
more likely to die by suicide than civilian peers	veteran suicide deaths each year for 20 years	leading cause of death for veterans under age 45

Stop Soldier Suicide is the only national nonprofit focused solely on solving suicide among U.S. veterans and service members. Its goal is to reduce the military suicide rate by 40% by 2030 through personalized wellness care, suicide-specific intervention and innovative research. Every service is 100% free and confidential, regardless of military branch, discharge status or era served, so members of the military community can seek help without facing cost as a barrier.

ROGER WELLNESS SERVICES

ROGER provides free, confidential mental health and wellness care through convenient telehealth appointments. Trusted clinicians work one-on-one with veterans and service members to understand their needs, create practical safety and wellness plans, connect them with appropriate resources and provide ongoing support designed to reduce suicide risk and strengthen overall wellbeing. Care is personalized, accessible and centered on the individual—not a diagnosis or discharge status.

1,300+ service members and veterans served each year

90%+ of the most at-risk clients complete crisis response planning

74% of clients report SSS helped prevent a suicide attempt

BLACK BOX PROJECT

The Black Box Project turns devastating loss into knowledge that may help save lives. Families who have lost a veteran or service member to suicide may temporarily lend a loved one's digital device for secure forensic analysis. Researchers look for patterns, behavioral changes and possible warning signs that could improve future suicide-prevention efforts while protecting personal identity and returning the device intact.

- Professional forensic tools securely collect information without compromising the device.
- Data used for research and machine learning is depersonalized.
- Helpful data may include app activity, browser activity and outgoing communications.
- Laptops, cellphones and tablets may be submitted. A password is not required.
- Devices are returned with data, information and hardware intact.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Family members of veterans or service members who died by suicide may lend a loved one's device. Devices one to three years old generally have the highest forensic success rate, although any device less than 10 years old may provide meaningful information. Participation is voluntary, a password is not required and submitted laptops, cellphones and tablets are returned with their data and hardware intact. By participating, families can help researchers better understand the digital behaviors that may precede a crisis and contribute to prevention strategies for others.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

NO ONE WHO HAS SERVED OUR COUNTRY SHOULD FACE LIFE'S PRESSURES ALONE.

Together, support free suicide-specific care and research for the military community.

Website: stopsoldiersuicide.org | Help: 844-647-1354

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Ignite the

SPARK

and be the Inspiration in Support of

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Supporter: _____

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Ignite the

SPARK

and be the Inspiration in Support of

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Supporter: _____

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Ignite the

SPARK

and be the Inspiration in Support of

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Supporter: _____

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Ignite the

SPARK

and be the Inspiration in Support of

STOP SOLDIER SUICIDE

Supporter: _____

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters:

Congratulations to all elected and appointed Department, Local, District Auxiliary Officers for the 2026-2027 year. It is my honor to represent you as National 1st Vice President.

My Theme**: MEMBERSHIP: "More Than Just A Card"**

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is a success!

Membership is the heartbeat to our organization. It is extremely important to not only bring in new members, but to retain current ones as well.

Why Membership Matters

Building Community: Members create a shared identity and a strong sense of belonging that fosters long-term loyalty.

Driving Growth: An active membership base acts as a powerful recruitment tool through word-of-mouth and social proof

Sustaining Operations: Dues, contributions, and active participation supply the financial and human capital needed to achieve organizational goals.

Beginning September 1st, 2026, it was voted at National Convention to remove the 'rejoin" criteria on the Dues and Remittance Form. National already has the capability to recognize a lady who was a previous member. On the other hand, there is no increase in membership dues to National.

As a reminder, please familiarize yourself with the National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary website www.amvetsaux.org Here you will find updated forms and other information that is pertinent to help you achieve your goals. You can download and print forms directly from their official site — most are PDFs or fillable files**,** and you can print them for use**.**

Please make sure members' information is up to date and legible. We have had some issues with not being able to read handwritten Dues & Remittance or Revalidation Forms. Thank you for your consideration in that matter.

Also available online is the National Manual for free that covers pretty much everything you need to know about the operations of our organization. It is a must have. You don't even need to print it out, simply download and save it to a file. It's a fantastic reference book. We also have a Face-book page – please check it out and join! **PLEASE SHARE ALL THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR LOCAL AUXILARIES.**

Some ideas to help increase and retain members:

- Send out reminder postcards that their membership dues is due
- Have a membership drive at your post, local events, fairs, etc.
- Have a member bring in a guest(s) to an "open to the public event at your post"
- Carry a membership application with you
- Start up a Facebook page for your Local or Department Auxiliary – share photos and other interests
- Share your Auxiliary page with other social media outlets within your community.
- Get involved with your community activities – this is a sure way to get new and qualified members.

The list is endless – think outside the box! The internet is a great tool to pick up new ideas.

DEPARTMENTS:

Life Membership: Dues as of January 1, 2025, are $300.00 to be sent to National Headquarters. The Life Membership form is online on the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary web page. The replacement life membership card can be found there as well.

Annual membership to National remains $15.00. All Honorary memberships are $15.00. Membership renewals are due no later than December 31st. Members that pay after that date will be considered a new member.

Checks sent to National are to be made out to AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary at the following address only:

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary
P.O. Box 29
Millersville, MD 21108

LOCALS

New member applications are approved at the Local Auxiliary

Annual dues are sent to your Department who then processes them to National. Dues for members in **non-chartered states** is $16.50 and life membership is $300.00.

Honorary members – your Auxiliary can vote 2 members a year.

All forms are found on the National Ladies Auxiliary Web Page under Forms. Make sure you are using the most current forms.

I'm excited and looking forward to an amazing year with all of you. If you have any questions, always feel free to email me. If you call, please leave a detailed message.

God Bless America and Our Veterans

Debra Gass
National 1st Vice President
2026 -2027
gassd@comcast.net
(574) 870-2122

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters, thank you for electing me as the 2026-2027 National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary 2nd Vice President, I look forward to working with you.

My theme this year is **"Protecting Childhood and Building Brighter Futures through Education".**

***Protecting childhood** focuses on safety, both physically and on social media platforms, basic needs and preserving the innocence of our youth.

***Building Brighter Futures** focusing on education, leadership opportunity and sustainable growth to break the cycle of "hopelessness". I would like to see both centered around the children of our Veterans. 2.3 million children are living in a household with a wounded, ill, or injured military Veteran. These children often suffer emotionally and socially, they tend to feel "un-seen", they need support to navigate their place in military caregiving homes. Although they take pride in the way they help their families, they also need their own mental health support and peer support to better understand their situations.

John Tracy Center is our National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Project, we have been in partnership with them since 1977, helping to provide much needed funding so their mission of "providing parent-centered services locally and globally to children with hearing loss, offering families hope, guidance and encouragement", is able to be fulfilled. April is John Tracy Center Month, I encourage you to push a little harder, thinking out of the box, for ways to benefit our National Program.

The Ladies Auxiliary also supports the AMVETS program **AMVETS AGAINST DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ABUSE (AADAA).** Please visit the AMVETS National website for additional information on the theme for the upcoming year.

I encourage each of you to take advantage of our Child Welfare Awards, we have 3 available, Department Award: For Most outstanding work in Child Welfare, Local Auxiliary: doing most outstanding service in their community benefiting children 18 years and younger, and Most Imaginative: interesting and rewarding programs for the benefit of John Tracy Center.

"There's just nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer" Randall Wallace

Donna Tolland
2026-2027
National 2nd Vice President
mizdonnat@aol.com
301-639-0061

JOHN TRACY CENTER

Greetings My Auxiliary Sisters!

I hope your new Auxiliary year has been going well. I am thrilled at being elected your 2026-27 National 3rd Vice President/Community Service Chair. I am looking forward to sharing ideas, successes, and concerns with you. Our National Lines Newsletter is a great communications tool. Please share it with others in your Department and/or Locals.

Like many of you, I have spent most of my life volunteering within my community. Engaging in service to others has been my way of practicing love for others. My theme, **"Your Service Matters"** captures my belief that *when you "PAWS" to serve others, you make a difference and change lives*. As you might have guessed, our National project is Paws with A Cause®.

Paws With A Cause® (aka PAWS) transforms lives and strengthens communities through partnerships with custom-trained working (assistance and facility) dogs. No client pays for their dog's training. Your fundraising to support PAWS covers the $65,000+ cost to breed, raise and custom train an assistance dog for a Veteran or his/her family member who is hearing impaired, mobility challenged, suffering from seizures, a child diagnosed with autism or a person requiring medical alert for type 1 diabetes.

Additionally, working dogs not able to work with individuals are provided to organizations like law enforcement, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, etc. for detection, therapy or emotional support. Through partnerships serving veterans, PAWS dogs offer companionship, connection, and renewed purpose - helping Veterans rebuild relationships and reclaim their independence.

Projects to help fundraise for PAWS, especially during PAWS month in March might include: a patriotic Pup/Dog parade, Pennies for PAWS collections, hosting dinners or bake sales, hosting a Patriotic walk/run event and/or bingo event. For more ideas or information check out PAWS online at www.pawswithacause.org.

Community Service though, is more than support for PAWS. It is donating blood to support community medical needs; supplying food pantries; supporting families devastated by flood, fire or other natural disasters; as well as participating in community clean-up campaigns. Partner with other organizations like the Lions Club, Rotary Club, local Chambers of Commerce, United Way, senior citizen groups, etc. Remember to track and report the impact you are having!

At the 2026 Convention, a new Local Community Service award was approved. It's the PNP Leslie Wunderle Platelet Donor award. Each donation of platelets will be evaluated at $300.00 with no allowance for mileage or hours. Award eligibility requires a form listing Auxiliary #, Department, Auxiliary member donor name and total donation value. The form must be signed by the Local President or Community Service chairman. Thank you for supporting your communities!

Faye-Richardson-Green
2026 – 2027
National 3rd Vice President
Ladlib53@gmail.com

Greetings. It is with a grateful heart and great humility that I begin my year of service as your National Chaplain. I am truly honored to walk alongside each of you as we continue our mission of supporting our Veterans, their families, our members, and our communities.

As I thought about the message I wanted to carry throughout this year, I wanted something that reflected not only our organization's commitment to service, but also the compassion and fellowship that bring us together.

My theme for this year is **"Faith in Our Hearts, Service in Our Hands, Love in All We Do."** These words represent the spirit I hope we will carry with us throughout the year.

Faith in Our Hearts reminds us of the strength we receive through prayer and our belief that we are never alone. I ask each of you to keep our veterans, active-duty military, their families, our members, and those facing difficult times in your prayers.

Service in Our Hands reminds us that our faith becomes meaningful when we put it into action. Whether we visit a veteran, help a member, volunteer in our community, support a family, or simply lend a helping hand, every act of service makes a difference.

Love in All We Do encourages us to lead with kindness and compassion. A phone call to someone who is lonely, a kind word to someone who is struggling, or simply taking the time to listen can mean more than we realize.

As Chaplains, we also have the sacred responsibility of remembering those who have gone before us. Let us honor their lives and their service, while keeping their families and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.

I encourage every Auxiliary to embrace this theme in your own way. **Pray for someone. Serve someone. Encourage someone. Remember someone.** Most importantly, let someone know they are cared for and that they matter.

We may never know how much a small act of kindness means to another person. But together, our small acts of faith, service, and love can create something truly meaningful.

At the end of this year, I hope we can look back with grateful hearts and know that we made a difference—not simply through the offices we held or the work we completed, but through the people we touched along the way.

Let us carry **faith in our hearts, service in our hands, and love in all we do.** May God bless our Veterans, our military families, our members, and the AMVETS organization we are so proud **to serve. With heartfelt gratitude and prayers for a blessed and meaningful year.**

Donna Smith
National Chaplain
2026 -2027
Smithdonna1855@yahoo.com

Debbie Hamilton
National Sergeant-at-Arms
2026 - 2027
9200 New Maple Rd.
Louisville KY, 40229
Phone: 502-416-8380
Email: hamiltond14@gmail.com

My theme for 2026–2027 is, “Know the Words, Live the Values.” Let us do more than simply know the words—let us bring them to life. Through every act of courage, kindness, fairness, and service, we can strengthen our communities and honor the promise of liberty and justice for all. Together, may we speak the Pledge with understanding, live its values with purpose, and inspire others by our example.

The Pledge of Allegiance

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

The Pledge is a promise of loyalty to the United States flag and to the republic it represents. It affirms that the country is one, cannot be divided, and is committed to liberty and justice for everyone. The phrase “under God” is part of the official wording and is spoken together with “one Nation.”

Break Down the Words

- **Pledge**: A solemn, binding promise.
- **Allegiance**: Loyalty and devotion to a country.
- **Republic**: A government run by elected representatives of the people.
- **Indivisible**: Incapable of being divided or broken apart.

Live the Values

- **Liberty**: Protect personal freedoms and respect the rights of others.
- **Justice**: Treat all people fairly, equally, and without prejudice.
- **For All**: Ensure these rights apply to every person, not just a select group.

According to the **U.S. Flag Code**, you should follow these specific physical steps when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance:

Proper Posture and Gestures

- **Face the Flag** directly during the recitation.
- **Stand at attention** with your body straight and still.
- **Place your right hand** flat over your heart

“The words we pledge become the values we live—one choice, one act, and one example at a time.” - Debbie Hamilton

Dear Americanism Sisters,

Thank you for electing me as your National Americanism Officer. I am honored to serve you and look forward to working with each of you during the coming year. Americanism is about showing love and appreciation for our country, our veterans, our active-duty military, and their families. I encourage each of you to participate in Americanism projects throughout the year.

My theme is *"Celebrating Your Liberties, Never Forget."*

The National AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary's project is Founding Forward. I would charge each department to fundraise for the special fund at Founding Forward to send youth to the AMVETS "Spirit of America" Youth Leadership Conference held every November.

Other projects your AMVETS Ladies Auxiliaries can support include participating in veteran parades and recognition ceremonies; assisting active-duty members and their families with cards and letters; supporting veterans in our communities with transportation, food drives or other critical activities; advocating for local, state and federal legislation that helps veterans, active-duty members and their families; and by taking part in patriotic community activities.

NEC mid-year reports for the reporting May 1st, 2026, through Oct 31st, 2026, are due to me by Dec 1st, 2026.

Together, we can make a difference by showing our veterans and military families that we appreciate their services and sacrifices. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, helps keep the spirit of Americanism alive.

Thank you again for your confidence in me and for everything you do for our Veterans, active military and our great Country. If you need any assistance with an Americanism project or have questions, please feel free to contact me.

God bless our Veterans, our military, and the United States of America!

Kathy Hays
National Americanism Officer
2026 – 2027
141 Ashley Blvd.
Shepherdsville KY 40165
502-915-9078

AMBITION FUEL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Barbi Montagne ~ National Scholarship Officer

Scholarship Successes

Thank you once again for electing me as your National Scholarship Officer. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting scholarship opportunities for Auxiliary members and their loved ones.

This year, National awarded $10,000.00 in scholarship money to Auxiliary members and their loved ones, and we celebrated our very first Trade School Scholarship winner. These are two amazing achievements—but we still have work to do.

Application Changes

At National Convention, we made several changes to help reduce the disqualification rate and make the application process clearer for students and families.

- Applications will now highlight who qualifies for that scholarship. This will also be noted on the Scholarship landing page at amvetsaux.org/scholarship
- We are adding “field of study” to the Trade School application
- A sealed envelope will no longer be required for transcripts with the College Support application.
- And the biggest change is we will be accepting electronic transcripts from schools for any application

How Locals and Departments Can Help

School is EXPENSIVE, and AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Scholarships help students keep moving toward their dreams! Every Local and Department can help fuel that future. Host a taco night, hold a 50/50 drawing, pass the hat, or create your own fundraiser—every donation marked for National Scholarships adds power to the mission. These applications are coming in from YOUR members, so let’s show them what we can do together. Let’s build the momentum, raise those scholarship dollars, and keep AMBITION FUEL burning strong!

Examples of trade schools include:

- **Electrician programs**
- **Plumbing schools**
- **HVAC training schools**
- **Welding schools**
- **Automotive technology schools**
- **Carpentry programs**
- **Culinary schools**
- **Cosmetology schools**
- **Medical assistant programs**
- **Dental assistant programs**
- **Commercial driver's license (CDL) schools**
- **Aircraft maintenance schools**
- **Construction management or heavy equipment operation programs**

Trade schools usually focus on hands-on training for a specific career and often take less time than a traditional four-year college.

Top trade school careers include:

1. **Electrician**
2. **Plumber**
3. **HVAC technician**
4. **Welder**
5. **Dental hygienist**
6. **Medical assistant**
7. **Licensed practical nurse (LPN)**
8. **Radiology technician**
9. **Aircraft mechanic**
10. **Automotive technician**
11. **Diesel mechanic**
12. **Commercial truck driver**
13. **Construction manager**
14. **Carpenter**
15. **CNC machinist**
16. **Cosmetologist**
17. **Paralegal**
18. **Computer support specialist**
19. **Web developer**
20. **Wind turbine technician**

There are so many ways to raise funds for the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship Program!

Pick an event that fits your audience and budget, such as:

- Dinner banquet
- Silent auction
- Raffle
- Golf tournament
- Trade skills showcase
- Community breakfast
- Benefit concert
- 50/50 split the pot
- Night at the Races

Low-cost event ideas

- **Community breakfast or spaghetti dinner:** Simple food, donated supplies, volunteer servers, and ticket sales.
- **Bake sale or dessert auction:** Ask members and local supporters to donate baked goods.
- **50/50 raffle:** Easy to organize and works well at meetings, dinners, conventions, or community events.
- **Silent auction:** Collect donated gift baskets, gift cards, handmade items, tools, services, or themed baskets.
- **Penny social / basket raffle:** Supporters buy tickets and place them toward the baskets they want to win.
- **Trivia night or bingo night:** Charge admission and offer donated prizes.
- **"Night at the Races":** Sell tickets, sponsor races, name horses, and offer small prizes.
- **Yard sale or rummage sale:** Ask members and supporters to donate items, then sell them for the scholarship fund.
- **Benefit meal at a local restaurant:** Partner with a restaurant that donates a percentage of sales on a set date.

Fundraising campaigns

- **Sponsor-a-student campaign:** Show donors what $25, $50, $100, or $500 can help cover.
- **Memorial or honor gifts:** Allow donors to contribute in memory or honor of someone.
- **Matching gift challenge:** Ask one donor or local business to match donations up to a set amount.
- **Letter-writing campaign:** Mail or email a heartfelt scholarship appeal to members, past donors, local businesses, and community leaders.

Business and community partnerships

- **Local sponsorships:** Ask businesses to sponsor the scholarship, event tables, raffle prizes, meals, or printing.

- **Employer partnerships:** Approach companies that need skilled workers and ask them to support trade school scholarships.
- **Donation jars:** Place clearly labeled scholarship donation jars at friendly local businesses, if allowed.

Easy add-ons to existing events

- **Dessert dash**
- **Wine or gift card pull**
- **Heads-or-tails game-**
    - Guests buy in to play — for example, $1 or $5 each.
    - Everyone who plays stands up.
    - Before each coin flip, each person chooses **heads** by putting their hands on their head or **tails** by putting their hands on their hips or backside.
    - The host flips a coin.
    - Anyone who guessed wrong sits down.
    - The game continues until one person is left standing.
    - The winner gets a donated prize, gift card, basket, or small cash prize if allowed by your rules.
- **Wall of giving**
- **Table sponsorships**
- **Program ads from local businesses**

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary SCHOLARSHIPS

★ INVESTING IN EDUCATION. EMPOWERING THE FUTURE. ★

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary offers scholarships to help students achieve their educational and career goals.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Must be in at least 2nd yr of undergraduate study at accredited college or university

CAREER START

Reentering the workforce and need a new skill or update a previous one.

COLLEGE SUPPORT

Graduating high school senior accepted into accredited college/university

TRADE SCHOOL

Must be accepted into accredited trade program

SCAN TO LEARN MORE & APPLY!

SCAN ME

— APPLY TODAY & TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARD YOUR FUTURE! —

Barbi Montagne
National Scholarship Officer

QUESTIONS?
Email us at alaskabarbi1@gmail.com or contact your local AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary

MORE INFO
Visit our website or scan the QR code to apply!

SUPPORTING EDUCATION. HONORING SERVICE. BUILDING TOMORROW.

Sherry Marecek
National Hospital Officer
2026 - 2027
102 Diogenes Street
Dunedin, FL 34698

Greetings from Florida!

My theme this year remains **"Hope IS Everything",** with the emphasis on **IS**. Hope is a quiet voice that says "keep going" even when you feel the world is collapsing around you. There's one thing you must never let go of – hope. It is the unseen light that carries us through the storm.

Our National Hospital Project is *St Jude Children's Research Hospital*. I ask all local Auxiliaries to be creative and think outside the box in your fundraising ideas and endeavors. November is St. Jude month, but fundraising can be held all year. St. Jude kids have **hope** because of people like us! Together we can make a difference!

NEC women, please remember mid-year service reports are due to me December 1st. The reporting period for these reports should be from May 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026. Please set your Department deadlines to allow you time to correctly submit your reports to me.

Thank you again for electing me to this position. I look forward to working with you all in making this a successful year!

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Finding cures. Saving children.

IPNP Mary A Lanphere
6310 E Main Rd.
Portland NY 14769
mlanphere@stny.rr.com

Greetings Madam President, National Officers, PNPs, and Auxiliary Sisters:

As I assume the role of “Raffle Queen 2026-27”, I first want to reflect on the past year’s activities. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support everyone has shown. I can never show the appreciation I have for each of you. Our organization remains strong because of the dedication and love you have for others.

As we progress into this year, we need to ensure that our Auxiliary does well on fundraisers that we hold. It is not too early to start thinking about 2027 Convention and the daily 50/50s. Tickets will be passed out at the Spring NEC. If you wish tickets beforehand, email me and I will make sure they are mailed to you.

Be mindful that tickets received need to be sold or returned to me before National Convention. **DO NOT** mail cash. Make checks payable to AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary and send them to me at the above address. Please email me if tickets are being sent.

I will also need raffle princesses to assist at the 2027 National Convention in Reno, Nevada. If interested, please email me.

LETS KICK UP OUR HEELS AND GET STARTED FOR THE 2026-27 YEAR

YEEEE HAWWW !!!!!!!!!

Here’s to an amazing year. God Bless.

IPNP Mary A Lanphere

Fran Ganda
National VAVS Representative
13205 Liberty Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
216-401-7379
sassie271@aol.com

"We Can Make a Difference in Hospitalized Veterans Lives"

I hope all our Representatives and/or Deputies have completed their Annual Joint Reviews (AJR) by now. If not, please ask them to contact their Chief of CDCE and get their Annual Joint Review (AJR) scheduled.

There are four (4) Committee Meetings each year at all VA Medical Centers. Either Representatives or at least one (1) Deputy must attend each meeting to answer roll call in order to be compliant. If three (3) consecutive meetings are missed, they could be removed from the roster, and this would put our organization in danger of being removed from that VA Medical Center.

On the National website under "Forms" you will find the Certification form to be completed if Representatives and/or Deputies have a new address, phone number, email, or if there is a new appointment and/or removal from either position. You can type on the form and print it out. Once the Certification is completed and signed by yourself as the Hospital Officer and your Department President it needs to be mailed or emailed to me so that I can forward the updated Certification to the appropriate VA Medical Center.

I want to stress the importance of recruiting new volunteers to the VA facilities in your State. Representatives and/or their Deputies should consider going to Auxiliaries in their area and explain how important volunteering in VA Medical Centers is to the Veterans. Tell them about the need for youth volunteers. Maybe some of the members have children or grandchildren who would be interested in volunteering. Speak to guidance counselors in local schools or to youth groups and explain how important it is to spend time with our Veterans. Tell them about the James F. Parke Youth Scholarship as an incentive for young people to become volunteers.

There are some individuals who would like to volunteer, but they may be physically unable to travel or do not live near a VA facility. A fantastic way to get them involved is to tell them about the ***Compassionate Contact Corps,*** which is a virtual social prescription program where trained volunteers are matched with Veterans that are experiencing loneliness or are socially isolated. The volunteer typically calls the Veteran weekly for 15—60 minutes to provide socialization and companionship via phone or video calls. This is a wonderful program and great for those volunteers who are physically unable to go to the VA facility in their area.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me. I have an open-door policy and I am here to assist you with making a difference in hospitalized Veterans lives.

2026 - 2027

Hello Auxiliary Sisters,

Welcome to another year of our Honors and Awards Program. I would like to express my gratitude to Madame President for appointing me to this position. I look forward to an engaging and enjoyable Honors & Awards Program this year.

The theme for this year is going to be a little unconventional, and Madame President may find it unexpected. I am confident that your ideas are already underway. Further details will be shared soon.

In AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary service,
Laurie Shea
Honors and Awards Chair

Madame President, National Officers, PNP's, NEC Women, Delegates and guests:

As your National Training Officer, my goal is to remind everyone about the basics of holding a position – be it National, NEC, Department or Local. Sometimes we all need a gentle reminder of what needs to be done, who to ask questions to and the proper way to handle both.

I will be talking with Madame President as well as the National Officers and our Executive Director to see where we need the most direction. Our NEC Meeting training will be directed specifically for the NEC Women and I have plans in the works for a casino themed National Convention Training.

Madame President Laura – thank you for this appointment and I wish you a successful year!

PNP Karin Simmons
Training Chairman
5420 W Bar S St
Tucson, AZ 85713
907-382-1855
ksimmons@gci.net

At this time, I would like to thank Madam President Bugaj for appointing me the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Junior Coordinator. This position is dear to my heart and a great passion. Our Juniors are fine young people, who are bright and eager to volunteer where needed. They are the future of not only our great organization, but of our country.

The National Convention in Orlando, Florida was represented well by Junior AMVETS. All the Juniors attended meetings, raised monies for the Founding Forward organization, carried out well conducted meetings and worked on a project for our Veterans in the VA Hospitals. President Ash Stopyra's Testimonial and National Award Recognition was also held and very well attended. Job well done and congratulations to all the winners!

Congratulations Kelsey Shipley, National Junior AMVETS President and to all the newly elected / appointed officers for the 2026-2027 year. President Kelsey's project for the coming year will be "Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation" with her theme being "Honoring the fallen through the futures they left behind."

Children of Fallen Patriots foundation provides college and trade school scholarships, educational assistance, and career support to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. They are dedicated to serving the families of servicemembers who have died as a result of combat casualties, military training accidents, service-related illnesses, suicide, as well as other duty-related deaths as ruled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. You can learn more at www.fallenpartriots.org .

Attached you will find the contact list of the new National Junior AMVETS officers and coordinators. I am confident they will serve their offices well and with great pride.

The Junior AMVETS have many deadlines to meet in the upcoming months, as follows:

First, **service reports** for the mid-year (June 1 thru November 30, 2026) will be submitted with a postmark no later than January 31st. If there is nothing to report, you must still submit a report stating as such. Full-Year service reports will be due, postmarked by June 30th. Both the mid-year and full year reports must be submitted on time to be eligible for National Awards at National Convention - Sparks, Nevada in August. Please send a copy to the National Junior AMVETS Coordinator and she will disburse accordingly to National Junior Officers.

On another note, regarding service reports, the Junior AMVETS service reports are being updated. We are working on having all forms updated on the AMVETS website as well as the Junior AMVETS Facebook group. In addition, the fillable forms will be emailed to coordinators. Be sure that you are using the most current forms for your reporting. The most current reports are available in a fillable format that can be completed on your computer. This includes both service report and membership forms.

The most current National Junior AMVETS Awards listing is also attached. Please be sure to read the award information fully. Certain awards are based on what report it is to be listed, monetary donations, solely on hours performed, total evaluations, etc. There are awards that also require a separate submission. We are here to answer any questions you may have about service reporting.

Second, **membership** is to be submitted by December 31, 2026. Those members not submitting their dues by this date will be considered “not in good standing” and will need to re-establish eligibility. Locals that do not have a Department Junior AMVETS are to mail dues directly to the National Auxiliary Coordinator. Locals that have an established charter for Department Junior AMVETS are to mail their dues to the department (which includes the department and national portions). The department will then forward the national dues to the National Auxiliary Coordinator.

Sara, Paul and I are looking forward to working with the Junior AMVETS and their Coordinators for the upcoming year. A mailing is being prepared for our department and local coordinators filled with ideas and opportunities to put in motion in their communities. This mailing will also include award information, forms, and many other items to keep your Junior AMVETS unit moving forward. ***Should anyone have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us***. There is no “I” in “Team”. It takes all of us to help the Junior AMVETS be a success!

Interested in starting a Junior AMVETS at your local post or wanting a little information on what they are all about? Please give me a ring or send an email, I would love to talk to you. It can be very rewarding being involved with these young people.

Denise Speigle
National Auxiliary Junior Coordinator
543 E Perry St.
Salem, OH 44460
(234) 564-9797
queenbee.speigle@gmail.com

NATIONAL
JUNIOR AMVETS OFFICERS
2026 - 2027

PRESIDENT: ***Kelsey Shipley***
THEME: ***"Honoring the fallen through the futures they left behind"***
PET PROJECT: ***Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation***

National Junior AMVETS President	Kelsey Shipley Post 45 – Salem, OH
National Sr. Vice President-(Membership)	Corey Riley Post 45 – Salem, OH
National Jr. Vice President- (Programs)	Charlotte Shipley Post 45 – Salem, OH
National Chaplain	Francis Fusco Post 26 – Valrico, FL
National Secretary	Corbyn Dolf Post 31 – Evansdale, IA
National Treasurer	MaKenzie Baca Post 26 – Valrico, FL
National Sgt.-At-Arms	Nicholas Fusco Post 26 – Valrico, FL
National P.R.O.	Ash Stopyra Post 224 – Chambersburg, PA
National Parliamentarian	Aidyn Dolf Post 31 – Evansdale, IA

AMVETS National Junior Coordinator
Sara Pierce
1452 Rockwell Dr
Xenia, OH 45385
Phone: 937-718-3938
Email: saraewelsh@yahoo.com

AMVETS Auxiliary National Jr. Coordinator
Denise Speigle
543 E Perry St
Salem, OH 44460
Phone: 234-564-9797
Email: queenbee.speigle@gmail.com

National Sons Junior Advisor
Paul Speigle
543 E Perry St
Salem, OH 44460
Phone: 330-853-0519
Email: speigs3@yahoo.com

Revised 09/01/2026 DCS

Junior AMVETS National Awards

(Revised effective September 1, 2026)

No award can be given unless you send in both reports. Mid-year reports are to be postmarked by December 31st and Full-year reports are to be postmarked by June 30th.

AMERICANISM - Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation for Americanism.
BURN AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest donation to a burn unit on the Hospital Report.
CHILD ABUSE – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest donation to Child Abuse Awareness, Child Abuse Program or Child Abuse Shelter on the Child Welfare Report.
CHILD WELFARE – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation for Child Welfare
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the most community service hours performed on the Community Service report.
CONNECTING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD - Presented to the Jr. AMVET who has done the most Community Service. Send letter to the National Auxiliary Coordinator by June 30th.
DIABETES AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation to Diabetes Research on the Community Service Report.
FOUNDING FORWARD AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest donation to Founding Forward on the Americanism Report
HOSPITAL – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation for Hospital service on the Hospital report.
JOHN TRACY CLINIC AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest donation to John Tracy Clinic on the Child Welfare Report.
JUNIOR AMVET OF THE YEAR AWARD- Each Post may nominate an outstanding Junior: The letter should include the nominee's full name, address, age, years in Junior AMVETS, offices held and current office. Include why the nominee should be the Junior AMVET of the Year, what the nominee has done for Junior AMVETS and how they set a good example for other Juniors. Please send this letter to the National Junior AMVETS Auxiliary Coordinator by June 30th.
LARGEST POST MEMBERSHIP AWARD – Based on Post membership totals received by June 30th
LARGEST STATE MEMBERSHIP AWARD - Based on state membership totals received by June 30th
NEO-NATAL AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation for a Neo-Natal Unit on the Hospital Report
OUTSTANDING JUNIOR AMVETS POST AWARD - Chosen from the service report winners only.
OUTSTANDING JUNIOR AMVETS DEPARTMENT AWARD- Chosen from the service report winners only.
PAWS WITH A CAUSE AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation percentage by member for Paws with a Cause on the Community Service Report.
AUXILIARY PNP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – Any Junior AMVET should submit a hand-written essay, in ink, of 100 words or less on "Why I want to go to college". The essay should include what you are doing to prepare for college, what are your goals and how your membership in Junior AMVETS enters into your plans. Send the essay to the National Junior AMVETS Auxiliary Coordinator postmarked by June 30th.
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the most service hours performed at any Ronald McDonald House on the Community Service Report.
SCRAPBOOK AWARD – Scrapbook includes copies of all service reports, membership list, pictures and/or newspaper clippings of the events of the past year. Books are to be turned in at the 1st National Junior AMVETS meeting at the National Convention.

Junior AMVETS National Awards

(Revised effective September 1, 2026)

No award can be given unless you send in both reports. Mid-year reports are to be postmarked by December 31st and Full-year reports are to be postmarked by June 30th.

SUICIDE PREVENTION / PTSD AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation for suicide prevention / PTSD projects on the Community Service Report.
ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest percentage donation, per member, to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Donation must be listed on the Hospital Report.
SOS AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the largest evaluation on the SOS report.
VA HOSPITAL AWARD – Presented to the Junior AMVETS Post with the most service hours performed for VA Hospitals, Domiciliary or Clinics on the Hospital Report.

NATIONAL JUNIOR AMVETS AWARD DONORS

Americanism Award – AMVETS PNC Chuck Taylor and AMVETS Ladies Aux PNP Lynda Taylor
Burn Unit Award – Sons of AMVETS PNC Richard Thibodeau
Child Abuse Prevention – AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary PNP Leslie Wunderlee
Child Welfare Award – AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary
Community Service Award – In Memory of Jr. AMVETS PNP Amanda Spelgie
Connecting for Community Service Award – AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary PNP Joan Strek
Diabetes Research Award – Jr. AMVETS PNP Ivy Cook, In Memory of Sons of AMVETS PNC Richard "Dick" Mooney Jr.
Founding Forward Award –AMVETS Ladies Aux PNP Carol King In Memory of AMVETS PNC Jim King
Hospital Award – Jr AMVETS PNP Joy Stopyra
Junior AMVETS of the Year – Jr. AMVETS PNP Nicole Lundberg
John Tracy Clinic Award – AMVETS PNC Bill Kilgore, In Memory of AMVETS Ladies Aux PNP Brenda Kilgore
Largest Post Membership Award – National Sadder, Sandy Vorhies, PDC OH
Neo Natal Award – Jr. AMVETS PNP Abigial Lewis
Largest State Membership Award – AMVETS PNC Joseph Fleming
Outstanding Post Award - National Sad Sacks
Outstanding Junior Department Award- National Sons of AMVETS
PAWS Award – Jr. AMVETS PNP Joseph Stopyra, Jr.
Ronald McDonald House Award – National Sadder /PDC FL A.J. John
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Award – AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary PNP Dee Kreiling-Riley
Auxiliary PNP Scholarship Award – AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Past National Presidents
Scrapbook Award – AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary PNP Karin Simmons
Suicide Prevention / PTSD Award – Sons of AMVETS PNC Paul Spelgie
SOS Award – Jr. AMVETS PNP Ashley Dineen
VA Hospital Award – Jr. AMVETS PNP Trevor Spelgie, SSG U.S. Army

“Making Memories While Making a Difference”

New to creating a scrapbook or memory book? You are certainly not alone. The ideas below are meant to help you get started as you honor and preserve the wonderful work you do.

Getting Started

Choose and Carry Through a Theme

Pick a theme that reflects your Auxiliary or Department President’s story. It can be anything meaningful to your group but try to weave it consistently throughout the book so the finished scrapbook feels connected from beginning to end.

Plan Your Content

There are not many rules about what you may include in a memory book. Select photos, programs, invitations, thank-you notes, newspaper clippings, and other items that support your theme. If you are creating a physical scrapbook, choose items that are relatively flat and easy to attach securely to the pages.

Invite Others to Contribute

Many memory books are stronger when created through collaboration. Consider asking members to design a page, help with a chapter, or submit photos, captions, programs, and other keepsakes that show the year’s activities and accomplishments.

Select the Right Book Style

Choose the format that works best for you. Scrapbooks are available at crafts, hobby, and bookstores, as well as online.

Lay Out the Pages Before You Begin

Once you have gathered the materials you want to include, sketch a simple layout before assembling the book. Planning ahead can help you balance photos, captions, decorations, and supporting materials on each page.

Use Photos with Purpose

Crop printed or digital photos help focus attention on the people, activity, or moment being highlighted. Varying photo sizes and shapes can add interest and depth but keep the overall page clean and easy to follow.

Add Captions and Details

Describe what is happening in the pictures and include names whenever possible. Captions help preserve the story behind each memory. If you write by hand, print clearly so others can read and enjoy the information later.

Decorate with Balance

Decorations are a great way to make your theme stand out. Use borders, stickers, colors, and embellishments thoughtfully so they enhance the memories without overwhelming them. Aim for a balanced look that feels complete but keeps the focus on the story you are telling.

Scrapbook Criteria

Be sure to include and follow the criteria for your book as outlined below:

Department (Highlighting your President's Year)
Mandatory order

1. Table of Contents
2. Name of Department & President, PRO/ Historian and year

3. Current Officers (full name and position)
4. Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble (current version), Code of Ethics Code of Ethics
5. Bylaws (current, with National Parliamentarian original signature)
6. Year-End Department Service Report Forms Signed by NEC (electronic signatures accepted) Forms, each separately displayed with attachments, if needed

Local Auxiliary (Celebrating your Auxiliary's Year)
Mandatory order

1. Table of Contents
2. Department Name, Auxiliary Number, PRO/Historian and Year
3. Charter Members
4. Current Officers (full name & position)
5. Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble (current version) Code of Ethics
6. Bylaws (current, with Department Parliamentarian original signature)
7. Year-end Local Service Report Forms, signed by Local Auxiliary Chairman (electronic signatures (accepted) Each separately displayed with attachments, if needed.

Most important of all, have fun!!

Lisa Stoddard
National Scrapbook Chairman
7 Lantern Lane
Windham, ME 04062
207-233-5801
LStodda2@gmail.com

Hello Ladies,

I'd just like to take a moment and introduce myself. I'm Ashley Kubiak from the Department of NY and I have been appointed by Madame President to make her personal scrapbook, commemorating all the amazing things she has been a part of throughout this Auxiliary year!

I have been best friends with Madame President since freshman year of high school; we don't need to talk about how long ago that was but just know it's definitely been a long time. I really hope to capture that personal touch into her scrapbook, but I can only do that with the help of you! **Please send me any photos, programs, or any other mementos from her nationwide travels, anything that is sent is greatly appreciated!** If you have any photos to send there are a few ways you can get them to me. You can email them to me, text them to me, or you can even tag her in them on Facebook, and I can pull them off there. If you choose to print them or have anything else that you think would make a great addition to her personal scrapbook, please feel free to mail them to me. I do ask if you are placing anything in the mail, please send me an email or a text message and let me know that something is on its way so I can keep an eye out for it.

Thank you in advance for anything that is sent! I have included all my contact information below, please feel free to use any of them to get me any info you can. I have full confidence that Madame President is going to have a wonderful and successful year and I truly want to celebrate as many of those moments as possible.

Yours in AMVETS Auxiliary,
Ashley Kubiak
241 Wagner Ave
Sloan, NY 14212
Email: amwalgate@yahoo.com
Phone: (716) 464-0705

2025 - 2026 HONORS AND AWARDS WINNERS

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

New Auxiliaries – Department of Kentucky - #130 Bowling Green
Highest percentage of annual (new/renewal) membership by December 31 (current year) vs. May 31 (current year) membership **Department of North Carolina**
Largest numerical gain in membership as of May 31st **Department of Florida**
Largest percentage gain in membership as of May 31st **Department of North Carolina**
Largest percentage of renewals as of December 31st
CLASS A: North Carolina **CLASS B: Wisconsin**
CLASS C: Maryland **CLASS D: Ohio**

CHILD WELFARE AWARDS

PNP Kathy Berning Award – Department **Winner –Louisiana** **Runner-up – Alaska**
PNP Leslie Wunderle Award – Local – **Winner – FL # 81** **Runner-up – KY # 67**
John Tracy Clinic Award - Local – PNP Dee Kreiling-Riley, Donor – **Winner –PA #136**

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

PNP Lynda Taylor Award – Department **Winner – Wisconsin** **Runner-up -Virginia**
PNP Linda McGriff Award – Local **Winner – NY #18** **Runner-up - KY #67**
PAWS With A Cause Founders Award – Department **Winner – Florida**
Blood Drive Award – Local **- Winner – North Carolina #905** **Runner-up NY #18**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

PNP Charlene Kee Award – Department **Winner – Missouri** **Runner-up – Tennessee**
PNP Karin Simmons – Local Winner **– TN #90** **Runner-up- IN #91**

AMERICANISM AWARDS

PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis Award – Department **Winner –Alaska** **Runner-up – Maine**
PNP Patty Piening Award – Local **Winner – NY #18** **Runner-up - PA #136**
Individual Americanism Award **Winner –Lisa Jean - MA #51**

NATIONAL HOSPITAL AWARDS

PNP Barbara Guth Award – Department - **Winner – Maryland** **Runner-up NE/Tennessee**
PNP Barbara Valley Award – Local Winner **NY #18** **Runner-up – TN #90**

VAVS AWARDS

James H. Parke Scholarship – **Department** **Winner – Maryland** **Runner-Up Alaska**
Local **Winner – FL #550** **Runner-Up FL #32**

SCRAPBOOK AWARDS

PNP Joan Sirek Award – Dept. Scrapbook **Winner - Massachusetts** **Runner up-Florida**

PNP Amy Stopyra Award – Local Scrapbook **Winner – FL # 26** **Runner-up – KY # 61**

PNP Evelyn R. McElvin Award – Department Scrapbook Cover **Winner – Massachusetts**
Runner-up - Michigan

PNP Marvell E. Ruppel Award – Local Scrapbook Cover **Winner - KY #61**
Runner-up – LA #68

SHOW AND TELL AWARD

PNP Carol King, Donor – VA #18

Member of the Year

Jennifer Sinclair- MA #2001

Auxiliary of the Year

#44 Plant City, Florida

Department of the Year

Tennessee

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

National Scholarship

Hadlee Fuller - $1000.00

Makenzi Roche - $1000.00

Ember Preston - $1000.00

Kylee Hitson - $1000.00

Xander Hirsch - $1000.00

Cheyenne Stoflet - $1000.00

College Support

Zion Walden-Holmes - $1000.00

Career Start

Ember Preston - $1000.00

Olivia Brown - $1000.00

Trade

Nolan McKinnon - $1000

AMVETS National Headquarters

Americanism Winners 2026

2026 AMVETS Americanism Winners

Kindergarten – 8th Grade

Grade	Place	Winner Name	City	State
Kindergarten	1st	Avery Bosch	Linton	ND
Kindergarten	2nd	Maltenna Sura	Fremont	WI
Kindergarten	3rd	Indie Haukom	Somerset	OH
1st Grade	1st	Jabril Phillips	Grand Rapids	MI
1st Grade	2nd	Marcie Bunstone	Colton	NY
1st Grade	3rd	John Duckett	Decatur	TN
2nd Grade	1st	Elias Garibay	Hanover	PA
2nd Grade	2nd	Milo Charleson	St. Regis Falls	NY
2nd Grade	3rd	Bennett Selhorst	Ottawa	OH
3rd Grade	1st	Kennedy Szep	Thornville	OH
3rd Grade	2nd	Amyhia Hembree	Springfield	Ill
3rd Grade	3rd	Sawyer W. Knight	Colton,	NY
4th Grade	1st	Kayliah McLeish	Redding	CA
4th Grade	2nd	Josephine Noel	Hanover	PA
4th Grade	3rd	Rylan Odegaard	Bismark	ND
5th Grade	1st	Audrey Strokesbury	New Oxford	PA
5th Grade	2nd	Kamlyn Richard	Glenford	OH
5th Grade	3rd	William Bjornstad	Fargo	ND
6th Grade	1st	Rakesh Prabhaker	Williamsburg	Michigan
6th Grade	2nd	Kylee Buchanan	Red Bluff	California
6th Grade	3rd	Corbin Kneisley	Washington C. H.	Ohio
7th Grade	1st	Yeva Beeke	Lincoln	Nebraska
7th Grade	2nd	Aubree Schleis	Brillion	Wisconsin
7th Grade	3rd	Maci Monroe	Potsdam	New York
8th Grade	1st	Nora Blaine	Fargo	North Dakota
8th Grade	2nd	Emmett Brady	Williamsburg	Michigan
8th Grade	3rd	Luke Richards	Reading	California

10th – 12th Grade

Grade	Place	Winner Name	City	State
11th Grade	1st	Kaytlin Lambert	Ada	Ohio
11th Grade	2nd	Cate Hensley	Clear Spring	Maryland
11th Grade	3rd	Victoria Peterson	Washington C. H.	Ohio
12th Grade	1st	Ellen Shein	Thornville	Ohio
12th Grade	2nd	Abigail Fiske	Bryceville	Florida
12th Grade	3rd	Bell Glenn	Lincoln	Nebraska

2026 AADAA Winners

AADAA	1st	Leighton McIlrath	Thurmont	MD
AADAA	2nd	Lilly Hoffman	Knoxville	MD
ADDAA	3rd	Bexlie McIlrath	Thurmont	MD

AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY
NATIONAL OFFICERS 2026 – 2027
ELECTED OFFICERS
SEPTEMBER 2026

PRESIDENT
Laura Rose Bugaj Birthday: 07/01
53 Davey Street
Buffalo NY 14206
Cell: 716-572-7828
Email: lrbugaj@yahoo.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – MEMBERSHIP
Debra Gass Birthday: 09/13
4322 E. Oakcrest Drive
Monticello IN 47960
Cell: 574-870-2122
Email: gassd@comcast.net

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – CHILD WELFARE
Donna Tolland Birthday: 03/31
6527 King Road
Boonsboro MD 21713
Cell: 301-639-0061
Email: mizdonnat@aol.com

3RD VICE PRESIDENT – COMMUNITY SERVICE
Faye Richardson-Green Birthday: 10/08
3181 Nature View Drive SE
Kentwood MI 49512
Cell: 616-340-5728
Email: ladlib53@gmail.com

TREASURER
Barbara Guth Birthday: 10/26
138 Emily Drive
Mount Washington KY 40047

CHAPLAIN
Donna Smith Birthday: 02/18
177 Cty Rte 42
Ft. Covington NY 12937
Home: 518-358-9839
Cell: 315-514-4214
Email: smithdonna1855@yahoo.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Debbie Hamilton Birthday: 05/10
9200 New Maple Road
Louisville KY 40229
Cell: 502-416-8380
Email: hamiltond14@gmail.com

AMERICANISM OFFICER
Kathy Hays Birthday: 03/15
141 Ashley Blvd.
Shepherdsville KY 40165
Cell: 502-915-9078
Home: 502-215-6123
Email: kathyhays15@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER
Barbi Montagne Birthday: 04/19
3190 N. Parkview Cir.
Wasilla AK 99654
Cell: 907-414-0086
Email: alaskabarbi1@gmail.com

HOSPITAL OFFICER
Sherry Marecek Birthday: 09/29
102 Diogenes Street
Dunedin FL 34698
Cell: 727-687-5523
Email: xette1@tampabay.rr.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

IPNP
Mary Lanphere Birthday: 05/27
6310 E. Main Rd.
Portland NY 14769
Cell: 716-673-5297
Email: mlanphere@stny.rr.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN
PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis Birthday: 05/01
23 Harding Terrace
Dedham MA 02026
Home: 781-326-6226
Email: hdineen@hotmail.com

VAVS REPRESENTATIVE
Fran Ganda Birthday: 07/21
13205 Liberty Avenue
Cleveland OH 44135
Cell: 216-401-7379
Email: sassie271@aol.com

HONORS AND AWARDS CHAIR
Laurie Shea Birthday: 06/17
4000 E. 134th Street, Lot 447
Chicago IL 60633
Cell: 773-306-3758
Email: laurie.shea@comcast.net

TRAINING CHAIR
PNP Karin Simmons Birthday: 04-16
5420 W Bar S St.
Tucson AZ 85713
Cell: 907-382-1855
Email: ksimmons@gci.net

JUNIOR AMVETS COORDINATOR
Denise Speigle Birthday: 09/20
543 E. Perry Street
Salem OH 44460
Cell: 234-564-9797
Email: queenbee.speigle@gmail.com

SCRAPBOOK CHAIRMAN
Lisa Stoddard Birthday: 05/02
7 Lantern Lane
Windham ME 04062
Cell : 207-233-5801
Email: lstodda2@gmail.com

2027 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN
PNP Charlene Kee Birthday: 05/02
206 Dogwood Drive
Sanford FL 32771
Cell: 407-716-4244
Email: charlenekee@gmail.com

NATIONAL SNAPPIEST
Darlene Hempel Birthday: 04/19
W2780 Beechnut Road
Pine River WI 54965
Cell: 920-267-0082
Email: dhempel09@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S SCRAPBOOK
Ashley Kubiak Birthday: 12/18
241 Wagner Avenue
Sloan NY 14212
Cell: 716-464-0705
Email: amwalgate@yahoo.com

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF
Carol King Birthday: 12/19
Sonja Miller-Bethea Birthday: 06/15
cking@amvets.org
sbethea@amvets.org
Office: 301-459-6255
Fax: 301-683-3083 – Sonja
301-683-3081 - Carol
Website: www.amvetsaux.org

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary
Past National Presidents
September 2026

Year	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email	Birthda	Charity
1997 - 1998	Denise LaBatt	1403 Florence	Pekin	IL	61554	309-3531026	denise.labatt@gmail.com	7/17	Organ & Tissue Donation
2000 - 2001	Beverly A. Box	3307 Evergreen Ridge Dr.	Cincinnati	OH	45215	740-398-8359	forever4oz@yahoo.com	7/28	Freedoms Foundation Youth Scholarship
2004 – 2005	Carol King	211 Maple Avenue	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	410-768-7797	nba4carol@aol.com	12/19	Homeless Female Veterans
2006 – 2007	Barbara Guth	138 Emily Drive	Mt. Washingto	KY	40047	502-538-6862	guthbabs@aol.com	10/26	WHAS Crusade for Children
2007 – 2008	Heidi Dineen-Serpis	23 Harding Terrace	Dedham	MA	02026	781-326-6226	hdineen@hotmail.com	5/1	Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
2008 – 2009	Charlene D. Kee	206 Dogwood Drive	Sanford	FL	32771	407-716-4244	charlenekee@gmail.com	5/2	Fisher House
2009 -2010	Patty Piening	6075 Shore Blvd. S. Unit #	Gulfport	FL	33707	513-218-3234	papiening@tampabay.rr.com	5/28	Healing Heroes
2010 – 2011	Dee Kreiling-Riley	428 Atlantic Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15221	412-351-1130	kreiling428@comcast.net	6/25	Sharing and Caring
2011 – 2012	Lynda Taylor	N3520 County Rd E. 5116 Mission Lane (Oct-Apr)	Redgranite Zapata	WI TX	54970 78076	920-765-1482	lyndat02@yahoo.com	3/29	USO - Trevor Romain Project
2012 – 2013	Leslie Wunderle	3805 E. Pratt Avenue	Spokane	WA	99202	509-218-6411	hawks5728@gmail.com	2/28	Armed Forces YMCA
2013 – 2014	Linda McGriff	4211 Bachman Road	Farmersville	TX	75442	214-226-4934	limcg22@yahoo.com	7/12	AMVETS Diabetic Research Institute
2015 – 2016	Kathy Berning	1015 W. 3rd Street	Cedar Falls	IA	50613	319-404-2038	berninkm@gmail.com	6/11	Warrior Transition Workshop
2016 – 2017	Evelyn McElvin	4332 Princehall Boulevard	Orlando	FL	32811	407-758-3392	bleve123@aol.com	9/21	John Tracy Center Preschool Program
2017 – 2018	Marvell Ruppel	N33 W 7120 Buchanan St	Cedarburg	WI	53012	262-305-1330	marvellruppel@gmail.com	10/14	Freedoms Foundation
2018 – 2019	Barbara Valley	25681 Orange Hill Road	Danville	OH	43014	740-485-2873	valleybarb1948@gmail.com	3/22	AMVETS Diabetic Research Institute
2019 -2021	Dolores "Dee" Bagget	13238 Rose Hollow Way	Astatula	FL	34705	352-742-8215	amvetsauxpresident@aol.com	9/16	Freedoms Foundation
2021 – 2022	Joan L. Sirek	928 Elm Road N.	Stevens Point	WI	54481	715-892-3856	duanenjoan@hotmail.com	11/25	Freedoms Foundation
2022 – 2023	Karin Simmons	5420 W Bar S St.	Tucson	AZ	85713	907-382-1855	ksimmons@gci.net	4/16	Fisher House
2023 - 2034	Amy Stopyra	1268 Candice Lane	Chambersburg	PA	17201	717-262-1028	amystopyra@gmail.com	3/4	National Foster Parent Association
2024 - 2025	Cindy Rice	778 Regina Drive	Vermilion	OH	44089	440-320-7128	efda89@yahoo.com	3/10	AMVETS Diabetic Research Institute
2025 - 2026	Mary Lanphere	6310 E. Main Rd.	Portland	NY	14769	716-673-5297	malanphere@stny.rr.com	05/27	Tunnel to Towers

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
Department Officers Directory
2026 – 2027

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	NEC
ALASKA		
Paulette Joy	Angie Grimes	Kathy Stillwell
PO Box 111255	15211 Evergreen Ridge Street	2611 Melvin Avenue
Anchorage AK 90511	Anchorage AK 99518	Anchorage AK 99517
907-223-5197	907-390-7390	907-317-4156
pjoytagicib@alaska.net	angiegrimes20@gmail.com	stillwellkathy@gmail.com
CALIFORNIA		
Linda Maloy	Tanya Gray-Lamar	Debbie Johnson
761 N. Lynora St.	4153 Pensacola St.	17669 Warwick Pl.
Tulare CA 93274	Shasta Lake CA 96019	Anderson CA 96007
559-712-9545	530-776-7665	530-357-3380
Maloylinda928@gmail.com	silvertrose@yahoo.com	debbij@rackotier.com
FLORIDA		
Christina Albright	Donnajeanne Merritt	Debbie Beck
10118 Gerhard Lane	7520 NE 105 Avenue	404 Port Royal Court
Lithia FL 33547	Bronson FL 32621	N. Fort Myers FL 33917
813-465-2992	352-306-0030	239-826-4741
calbright26fan@aol.com	execsecyfl@gmail.com	dbeck2355@aol.com
GEORGIA		
Betty J Smith	Michelle Nelson	Sara Walker
2211 Pulaski Circle	822 Pendergrast Street	983 Hwy. 85
Valdosta GA 31602	Waycross GA 31501	Senoia GA 30276
229-561-1181	770-550-4457	770-328-0186
sbetty759@yahoo.com	Michellenelson.amvets@gmail.com	Firstlady063@aol.com
ILLINOIS		
Shirlie Holmes	Penelope Goins	Pamela Lukemire
1319 Jefferson	314 Brecher Lane	1103 E. Michigan Avenue
Mt. Vernon IL 62864	Groveland IL 61535	Urbana IL 61801
812-618-6364	309-387-6525	217-649-0361
Holmesshirlie@yahoo.com	ilamvetsauxiliary@hotmail.com	snowdog47@comcast.net
INDIANA		
Teresa Chestnut	Carol Riley	Dawn Dennie
2911 N. Harshman Rd.	144 Sunset Ct.	2169 Freedom Street
Bloomfield IN 47424	Cicero IN 46034	Portage IN 46368
812-381-3240	765-621-4067	219-238-2262
ttbohn@gmail.com	Carol_riley_790@comcast.net	dawn_dennie@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	NEC
IOWA		
Amy Slaba	Mary Steinbach	PNP Kathy Berning
718 River Park Dr.	901 7th Avenue NW	1015 W Third St
Raymond IA 50667	Waverly IA 50677	Cedar Falls IA 50813
319-290-5447	319-230-9318	319-404-2038
hdolf222@gmail.com	mjonlyu@outlook.com	berninkm@gmail.com
KANSAS		
Judie K. Baxter	Jan Dick	Jan Dick
1004 East 27th	Five 19th Terrace	Five 19th Terrace
Hutchinson KS 67502	Hutchinson KS 67502	Hutchinson KS 67502
620-615-1254	620-259-8050	620-259-8050
judiebaxter@cox.net	Jan.dick@hutchhomeworks.com	jan.dick@hutchhomeworks.com
KENTUCKY		
Brenda Wright	Denise Marcum	Paulette Large
314 McGoodwin Avenue	145 Deanefield Drive	229 Meadowcrest Drive
Franklin KY 42134	Reynolds Station KY 42368	Somerset KY 42503
270-778-5886	270-993-5470	606-217-0115
brenda.wrigh854@gmail.com	okmldm@gmail.com	kydeptpresident@yahoo.com
LOUISIANA		
Debbie Bouton	Joyce Smith	Julie Catlow
6104 Rachelle Drive	15 Biedenham Dr, Lot 16	110 Olive Lane #A
Alexandria LA 71303	West Monroe LA 71291	West Monroe LA 71292
318-613-8731	318-801-4358	318-235-7363
sdbcoke@gmail.com	joy197794@yahoo.com	Juliecatlow58@gmail.com
MAINE		
Connie Cordell	Pamela Sawyer	Lisa Stoddard
11 Prospect St.	107A Bridge St.	7 Lantern Lane
Livermore Falls ME	Yarmouth 04096	Windham ME 04062
207-500-1417	207-239-6910	207-233-5801
ccordell150@gmail.com	Pamnap2583@gmail.com	lstodda2@gmail.com
MARYLAND		
Diane Kelly	Shirley Monnier	Martha J. Knott
2 Sandy Spring Ct. Apt. 1	17613 Homewood Road	12735 B Woodsboro Pike
Thurmont MD 21788	Hagerstown MD 21740-2534	Keymar MD 21757
240-549-2178	301-471-7178	301-845-2140
dmkelly1029@gmail.com	smonnier@myactv@net	La5.knott17@gmail.com
MASSACHUSETTS		
Kelly Dennis	PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis	Mandy Dias-Grotta
26 Hambly St.	23 Harding Terrace	529 King St.
Fall River MA 02721	Dedham MA 02026	Fall River MA 02724
508-436-3911	781-326-6226	771-263-8159
kellydennis88@gmail.com	hdineen@hotmail.com	tinkandbruschismom@gmail.com
MICHIGAN		
Allison Aldrich	Nancy Middleton	Kathy Keizer
11560 Shaftsburg	1535 48th Street SE	4679 Ottawa Creek Dr.
Laingsburg MI 48808	Kentwood MI 49408	Allendale MI 49502
517-675-5339	616-455-4525	616-666-0829
akaaux@outlook.com	nancmidd@gmail.com	kathkzr@gmail.com

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	NEC
MISSOURI		
Amy Wagner	Cathy Lake	Lynn Lee
245 High Street	3842 McDonald Avenue	6303 Big River Hgts.
Washington MO 63090	St. Louis MO 63116	DeSoto MO 63020
636-358-0101	314-303-4945	636-208-9178
amychristine.waqz77@gmail.com	Deptofmo48@yahoo.com	Rel45all@gmail.com
NEBRASKA		
Tracy Stauss	Karen Watson	Jane Nelson
233 Redwood Road	3033 Orwell Street	7820 Ringneck Drive
Grand Island NE 68803	Lincoln NE 68516	Lincoln NE 68506
402-621-0454	402-310-6946	402-261-8650
TracyStauss@gmail.com	karenwatsonLincolng@gmail.com	brigrandparents@gmail.com
NEW YORK		
Josephine Pearl	Cindy Queyor	Shirley Sochia
11 Arleen Ave.	PO Box 478, 1573 Cty Rd 25	PO Box 436
Holbrook NY 11741	Malone NY	S. Colton NY 13687
716-605-0248	518-593-9668	315-244-6070
jpeez8048@yahoo.com	cdq777@hotmail.com	ssochia45@gmail.com
NORTH CAROLINA		
Jerri Halcomb	Linda Bonin	Karen Lemmons
227 Joshua Ct., Apt 2	PO Box 83	2541 Tot Hill Rd.
Lexington NC 27295	Seven Springs NC 28576	Asheboro NC 27205
336-596-8139	919-791-9992	336-953-6247
Jhalcomb1761@yahoo.com	ldbonin@gmail.com	karenlemmons@gmail.com
NORTH DAKOTA		
Vicki Trimmer	Rhonda Gall	Tyann Schlenker
1913 18th Street S	225 W. Edmonton Drive	1821 Broadway
Fargo ND 58103	Bismarck ND 58503	N Fargo ND 58102
701-306-6096	701-391-1879	701-540-1148
Vicktrim1@gmail.com	ndamvetsauxiliary@gmail.com	Tyannschlenker@gmail.com
OHIO		
Katrina Phillips	Lynn McCauley	PNP Cindy Rice
27624 Standley Rd.	960 Checkrein Avenue	778 Regina Dr.
Defiance OH 43512	Columbus OH 43229	Vermillion OH 44089
419-344-0551	614-854-6220	440-320-7128
kitkatkinky@3@yahoo.com	secretary@amvetsohioauxiliary.org	efda89@yahoo.com
PENNSYLVANIA		
Carolyn Houck	Amy Stopyra	Deb Beaston
125 Hollow Rd.	1268 Candice Lane	52 N. 2nd Street
Reinholds PA 18569	Chambersburg PA 17201	Chambersburg PA 17201
717-468-5774	717-262-1028	717-261-9176
linedanc@ptd.net	amvetsauxpa@comcast.net	dbbeaston@gmail.com
TENNESSEE		
Sherrie Meadows	Wincie Wright	Donna Garner
410 Bivens Ln.	14365 Hwy 79 N	356 Eades Bluff Rd NW
Niota TN 37826	Buchanan TN 38222	Georgetown TN 37336
423-368-2885	731-363-3210	423-333-0765
sdmeadows@hotmail.com	winciewright@gmail.com	drshrum13@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	NEC
TEXAS		
Chrissy Witherspoon	Mary Kennedy	PNP Linda McGriff
3219 NE CR 0190	509 5th Street	5211 Bachman Road
Powell TX 75153	Wortham TX 76693	Farmersville TX 75442
903-654-9000	254-625*-3449	214-226-4934
chrissywilson684@gmail.com	lazee74@hotmail.com	Limcg22@yahoo.com
VIRGINIA		
Sheila Dishman	Penny Campbell	Penny Campbell
325 Broad Street	166 Hilltop Drive	166 Hilltop Drive
Harrisonburg VA 22802	Collinsville VA 24078	Collinsville VA 24078
540-383-3188	276-252-5221	276-252-5221
missqeppeddo@outlook.com	pennycampbell1@comcast.net	pennycampbell1@comcast.net
WISCONSIN		
Mary Woiak	Louise Paul	Darlene Hempel
1019 County Rd EE	1700 New Street	W2780 Beechnut Rd
Redgranite WI 54970	Union Grove WI 153182	Pine River WI 54965
920-216-4553	262-497-5975	920-267-0082
	wiauxsecretary@outlook.com	Dhempel09@gmail.com

SACKETTES

Honor and Fun Organization of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary

National Sackette Ossifers for 2026-2027

SNAPPIEST
Darlene Hempel
W2780 Beechnut Road
Pine River, WI 54965
Dhempel09@gmail.com
(920) 267 0082

SNAPPIER
Martha J. Knott
1275B Woodsboro Pike
Keymar, MD 21757-8730
La5.knott17@gmail.com
(301) 514-4853

SAVINGEST
Karla Maddock PNS
1527 S 3rd St
Bismarck, ND 58504
karlamaddock@gmail.com
(701) 880 0090

SERIOUS
Linda Hoffman
1521 Hoffmaster Rd
Knoxville, MD 21758
gfireengine2@aol.com
(301) 573 3108

SOLICITRESS
Marvell Ruppel PNP
N33 W1720 Buchanan St
Cedarburg, WI 54970
marvellruppel@gmail.com
(262) 305 1330

SCRIBBLING
Kathy Berning PNP
1015 W. 3rd Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
berninkm@gmail.com
(319) 404 2038

STUBBORNEST
Evelyn Davis PNS
P. O. Box 125
Shepardsville, IN 47880
Ed2690@hotmail.com
(812) 242 0819

HUSTLER
Carol Amborn
35217 Ridge Rd
Burlington, WI 53105
amborns@wi.rr.com
(262) 492 6656

SCHOLARSHIP
Marvell Ruppel PNP
N 33 W1720 Buchanan St
Cedarburg, WI 54970
marvellruppel@gmail.com
(262) 305 1330

WeezerSqueezers
Marie Rorrio
16 Till St
Enfield, CT 06082
Mcrorrio@yahoo.com
(860) 836 3468