

Hello. My name is Shirley Sochia. I am a charter and life member of Auxiliary 262 in Colton, NY. My husband Gary (Marines) and I have seven children, thirteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. They span the USA, giving us good reason to travel from sea to shining sea. Two of our sons and one grandson are military (one Marine and two in the Army).

On a local level I have held the offices of President, 1st Vice, 3rd Vice and Parliamentarian. At the Department level I have held all offices except Sargent at Arms. I have attended the last four National Conventions, actively participated in several trainings at Pigeon Forge and often attend the Silver Helmet Awards and NEC meeting (as a guest).

I am currently serving the Ladies Auxiliary Department of New York in the capacity of treasurer.

In the community I am a life member of the VFW Auxiliary as well as a life member of the Marine Corp League as an Associate member. I am secretary to our local Fish & Game Club, on the Board of Assessment Review in our town and taught the Hunter Education Program for over twenty years, both gun and bow. I work as a credentialed substance abuse counselor, connecting with addiction, mental health, trauma and gambling, many times connecting with soldiers (PTSD, TBI).

Hunting, fishing, jumping out of planes, whitewater rafting, reading and enjoying our family are all part of self-care for me. My husband joins in all of this except the jumping and whitewater.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. I am proud to be part of this wonderful organization known as AMVETS. As auxiliary members we have boundless opportunities to work with our veterans, help make their needs known and give them support, both those currently serving and those on the home front. God Bless America

