

# AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

HOTLINE, DECEMBER, 2023



## ***“MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY VOLUNTEERING”***

Patty A. Piening, President  
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida  
6075 Shore Blvd., S., #211  
Gulfport, Florida  
[papiening@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:papiening@tampabay.rr.com)  
(513) 281 – 3234

Greeting Ladies,

As we enter this New Year, we are thankful the hurricane season is over. We need to continue to build the Disaster Relief Fund up, because we all know it's not if it is going to happen, it's when is it going to happen. If you have already scheduled a fundraiser for my Project; The Disaster Relief Fund, I thank you. If you have not, please consider to do so. Each and every one of us can benefit from this Program during a declared Government issued disaster. Also, I would be happy to attend any fundraiser you have for The Disaster Relief Fund, just let me know when, where, and what time.

Membership renewals are due no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. If not, you will have to reestablish your eligibility as a new member.

Service reports, make sure you submit your local Service reports to the appropriate Service Officer by the stated due date. Be proud of your work, and report it.

Also, all of our forms are fillable and can be found on the Auxiliary Website; [amvetsauxfl.org](http://amvetsauxfl.org).

Looking forward to seeing everyone in February.

Wishing you all a Joyous Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Christina "Chrissy" Albright  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership Officer  
10118 Gerhard Lane, Lithia, FL 33547  
813-465-2992  
[calbright26fan@aol.com](mailto:calbright26fan@aol.com)

Greetings Ladies,

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who continue to increase their membership. Please take time to reach out to members who have not yet renewed. Annual memberships must be renewed by **December 31, 2023**, or members will have to rejoin and must have membership requirements revalidated. Also, as a reminder of the change from the National Convention, there will be no renew to life after December 31 until August 2024.

Yours in service,  
Christina "Chrissy" Albright

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Sharon Sheldon  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Child Welfare  
4440 NE 127<sup>th</sup> Ct  
Williston, FL 32696  
352-278-6166  
ssheldon230@gmail.com

My what a busy season this is. I have had several reports coming in already. Now is the time to get in your reports with all your holiday programs that you are doing into me. Just a reminder that your service reports are due in my hand by January 6, 2024, to make it into the SEC book in February. Please if you should have any questions on Child Welfare reports, please give me a call. I am always here and happy to help. Hope to see you all at the SEC, February 16,17, & 18, 2024. I am wishing everyone a Merry Christmas an a safe and Happy New Years.

Thank you and let's make it a GREAT Year for Child Welfare

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Wendy Luzader  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President/Community Service Officer  
702 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Trenton, FL 32693-4270  
352-214-8700  
[wendyluzader@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyluzader@yahoo.com)

Greetings Ladies:

Thank you to those Auxiliaries who have sent in reports. Community service reports must be in my hand **BY January 6, 2024**, to be included in the February SEC book totals. Please use the most updated report form on the Department website and only one copy of each report is needed.

Please support Madam President's project Disaster Relief Fund, sponsored by the Department of Florida's Service Foundation, and ensure you complete your service reports for this project.

March is PAWS month, so please begin your projects to donate to this worthwhile cause. It's never too late to think about awards for the hard work you do in every service category.

As we end another year and begin a new year, remember that every end is a new beginning. Wishing you and yours the best holiday season.

I look forward to seeing you in February!

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PDP Sherry Marecek, Treasurer  
102 Diogenes Street  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 687-5523     [xette1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:xette1@tampabay.rr.com)

A reminder to everyone -- if a local Auxiliary writes a check to the Auxiliary Quartermaster, raffles, or any place else within the Ladies Auxiliary, remember that **two (2) authorized signatures** are required.

We accept cash or checks only! If your personal or Auxiliary check is returned, please remember you will have to reimburse the Department via money order or cashier's check for the total of the original check plus the bank fee we are charged plus \$30.00 for the check being returned. So my advice is, "Before you write the check – check."

See everyone in February!

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Toni L Plemmons, Americanism Officer  
12550 N.W. 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Chirfland, FL 32525  
Cell: 352-317-4155 Itzm20@aol.com

I would like to thank those auxiliaries that have sent in reports so far, please keep up the good work. For those that have not sent in a report, please look at all the hard work you are doing and report it. I am proud to serve as your Americanism Officer and looking forward to an informational and fun SEC with all my sisters.

Here are a few tips for when you are writing your report.

- Be sure you are using the correct form, the most up-to-date as is shown in the bottom of the form.
- Send the original report to me, I do not need multiple copies.
- Check your math.
- We need to know the `who, what, where, when` as well as the time and miles. If you purchase items for use by the auxiliary, then include that in the report. We cannot claim the **fuel** as we already get mileage.
- When deciding who should receive the report, think about who is benefitting: veteran, child, community, etc.

This tip is most important, if you have questions, please don't think they are stupid and don't just throw a figure in the blank, call the Department Officer that can help you. If I don't know the answer I will find it out as quickly as possible. Don't be afraid to approach any of us, we won't bite to hard and we are here to help all of you to do your best and get it reported!

Keep up the good work and keep reporting.

**Reports for February SEC must be in my hands by EOD, January 6, 2024!**

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Patricia Johnson, Hospital Chair  
345 Doubloon Dr  
North Fort Myers, FL. 33917  
Phone (239) 297-4980 EMail [pmcmackins@gmail.com](mailto:pmcmackins@gmail.com)

Greetings Ladies,

Our February S.E.C. is fast approaching, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing everyone, as always.

This is just a reminder that it's time to be working on your reports and remember they are **due (in my hands) by January 06, 2024** in order to get them into the book. Remember that each Auxiliary must turn in **at least 1** (one) service report each year to stay in good standing, so let's make it a hospital report.

The National Project is -**St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital**.

**November** is St. Jude month, but fundraisers can be held year-round. For more information on St. Jude please visit their website at – [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)

Karen Schooley, Scholarship Officer  
7030 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710  
(727) – 527 – 5114  
[freedomkas@gmail.com](mailto:freedomkas@gmail.com)

Greetings Ladies,

### **“Learning Is Empowerment”**

Scholarships supply support for students to help pay for a college degree. These funds enable students to obtain education they may not have access to otherwise. Scholarships go further, than being a financial aid for many students. They reward deserving students with the ability to afford higher education.

All Scholarship Applications have been updated and appear under their proper websites.

#### **Deadline Reminders:**

- National AMVETS Riders – **April 15<sup>th</sup>** ([national\\_riders\\_scholarship](#))
- AMVETS Service Foundation – **April 30<sup>th</sup>** ([Joseph L. Kee Service Scholarship](#))  
(See Service Foundation President Larry Arnett)
- Auxiliary Department of Florida – **May 15<sup>th</sup>** ([www.amvetsfl.org](http://www.amvetsfl.org))
- AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary – **July 1<sup>st</sup>** ([www.amvetsaux.org](http://www.amvetsaux.org))

When applying for Scholarships, please make sure you are using the correct forms. And fill out completely, and send with all supporting documents as asked, to avoid being disqualified. for incomplete forms.

There are so many opportunities for you through our organizations – so use these resources.

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Faye Caldwell, Chaplain  
1804 E. 115<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Tampa, FL 33612  
813-830-8158  
[Fhardy2010@hotmail.com](mailto:Fhardy2010@hotmail.com)

Please pray for our Veterans and their families. Take the time to reach out to members that may be sick or unable to attend meetings and let them know their auxiliary sisters are thinking of them and will always be there for them no matter what the situation.

Reminder: Deceased Member Form can be found at [www.AMVETSAux.org](http://www.AMVETSAux.org) under the forms tab.

“Walk by faith not by sight”

Claudia Thompson, Sergeant At Arms  
1409 Pembroke Dr.  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
352-348-3326 (cell)  
[cthompson1127@gmail.com](mailto:cthompson1127@gmail.com)

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the February SEC.

I am also looking for ladies that would like to Page for our February SEC and I need 2 ladies to present our Colors on Friday and retire them on Sunday at the end of our SEC meeting. If anyone of you ladies are interested to Page at our February SEC you can either reach me by phone by calling or texting me or by email. Thanks in advance on any ladies who are willing to step up. It's appreciate very much.

Remember to pick up your Auxiliary sign and place it in front of you SEC officer.

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PNP Charlene D. Kee, Dept. Parliamentarian  
90 Hidden Lake Drive #132  
Sanford, FL 32773  
CHRLNKEE@AOL.COM 407-716-4244

As the year ends and the New Year begins, **if your auxiliary is listed below, don't forget to review your bylaws and submit to me no later than May 15, 2024.** Don't wait until the last minute! The bylaws committee must meet, chaired by the Parliamentarian and review for recommendations if any to the auxiliary. If there are no changes, make sure the President and Parliamentarian, sign and date a new last page of the bylaws. There should also be a space for the Department Parliamentarian and President to sign once approved. If there are changes to the bylaws, it must be read at one meeting and read again at the next meeting and voted on for approval at that same meeting.

Make sure you include the bylaws cover sheet that can be found on our website, ([www.amvetsauxfl.org](http://www.amvetsauxfl.org)), listed under forms. The cover sheet gives instructions to include one (1) copy of the minutes approving the bylaws and three (3) copies of the bylaws. Always remember that your bylaws are not approved until they are returned to your auxiliary

**BYLAWS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2024:**

#7	\$14	#16	#21	#32	#45	#50	#88
#178	#292	#312	#422	#777	#911	#1992	

SEC Women, please don't forget to remind your auxiliary about **Standing Rule #5:**

"In order for an Auxiliary to remain in good standing, all revalidated auxiliaries shall submit a minimum of one (1) service report to a Department per year." Happy Holidays!

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PDP Donnajeanne Merritt, Executive Secretary  
7520 NE 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bronson, FL 32621  
352-306-0030 (Headquarters) 727-463-1752 (cell)  
execsecyfl@gmail.com (email) Amvetsauxfl.org (website)

Ladies

December, 2023

The Holidays are here and another year is about to come to an end. We are well into renewal time. Remember dues must be renewed by December 31, 2023. If dues are not paid by December 31, 2023 your members will have to "rejoin" and must meet the requirements of membership again. There will be no renew to life after December 31 until August 2024.

Ladies please fill out the Dues Remittance Forms completely and check your math for your checks. Please include zip codes in the addresses. Please note that the total at the top of the form where you indicate how many members are renewing, new, life, etc. is for the total number of members NOT the amount of money you are sending with the form. Please remember to include all forms that you need life the Life Member Form or Honorary Member Form. The money you send to Department for Honorary Dues has increased to \$20.00.

The website is there for you, the members . . . please use it. I would request that if anyone has any suggestions for the website that they get in touch with Madam President or me and we will check out the suggestions. This is the membership website and we, as officers, want it to be workable for every one of our members. Take a look. We plan to continuously update it throughout the year.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous holiday season and hope to see you all in February.

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Robin Trudeau, Recording Secretary  
551 Plaza Del Sol  
North Fort Myers Fl. 33917  
401-359-9122  
[Robin.trudeau4@gmail.com](mailto:Robin.trudeau4@gmail.com)

Greeting Ladies:

Hope this letter finds you all well...

When doing Roll Call please speak loud and clear so I can accurately record your presence. The only person that can excuse a President or SEC woman is the Department President. Remember no one can answer roll call for you! An Alternate SEC woman may answer roll call if the SEC is not present, and they must be listed on the revalidation form for your Auxiliary.

Please remember, SEC and Convention is your time to speak, if you would like to ask a question, if you would like more information, something clarified, etc....this is the time to do it! If you have made a motion, please fill out motion slips and have them signed by Madam President and the Parliamentarian asap and return to me, this is VERY important to be recorded in the minutes.

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PDP/NEC Debbie Beck  
404 Port Royal Ct.  
N. Ft. Myers, Fl. 33917  
239-826-4741  
[dbeck2355@aol.com](mailto:dbeck2355@aol.com)

Greetings to my Auxiliary Sisters,

Its hard to believe the holidays are upon us!! Such a busy time of the year. Mid year reports are in and so far you are all doing outstanding work. Please remember to report all you do.... Local auxiliaries need to have their reports to the Department Service Officers(**In their hands by January 6, 2024**). As we have reminded you that if you do not report in at least one (1) category by year end your auxiliary will not be in good standing. So please get those reports in!

We are all here to help one another, so please reach out the Department Service Officers or myself if we can help you in any way.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and looking forward to seeing you in February!

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P.D.P Mary Lou Maslo  
Alt. N.E.C  
750-42<sup>nd</sup> St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
727-638-0264  
[maryloumaslo@gmail.com](mailto:maryloumaslo@gmail.com)

Hello Ladies,

I don't know where the year went, they go faster every year. We should all be planning some fantastic projects by now the trick is to make sure you report them. You should try to report in a very timely manner because due dates are very important. A deadline is a deadline. Don't be the one to hold up your department, we have deadlines also. Please make sure to read NEC Beck's report. Remember we are here to help you at any time, please feel free to call me.

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Sarah Baca  
Auxiliary Junior AMVETS Coordinator  
PO Box 2231  
Valrico, FL 33595-2231  
813-220-6245  
[sarah.leann.baca@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.leann.baca@gmail.com)  
[juniorsdeptofflorida@gmail.com](mailto:juniorsdeptofflorida@gmail.com)

Yuletide greetings to all you! For our Posts with Juniors here are some important deadlines:

Mid-Year Reports (June 1-November 30) must be postmarked to myself no later than 12/26, so we can meet the National deadline of 12/31. If there is nothing to report, please still submit a report saying such.

Juniors Membership Forms should be submitted by 12/31, fees are covered by Department.

As of now I have only have a head count of Post 26 Juniors attending SEC in February. Please encourage your Juniors to attend! Agenda will be sent out in January. We have a fun afternoon planned for Saturday at the Escape Room in Orlando after we conclude our business for SEC. If you have Juniors planning to attend, please email the Department Juniors email above and we will send you the parent consent form directly.

Please reach out if you have any questions regarding our Junior AMVETS.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

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Kimberly Clarke  
3160 W Green Drive  
North Fort Myers, FL 33917  
(315) 552-8594  
[Kimbruce08@gmail.com](mailto:Kimbruce08@gmail.com)

The June Banquet will be here before we know it, please support our joint fundraising efforts by purchasing 50/50 tickets or donating a raffle item to be raffled during SEC.

I would like to ask the PNP's, PDP's and Madam President to please work on your June introduction bios so I could possibly have when I leave February's meeting.

See you in February and HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!!

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PNP Evelyn McElvin Awards Chairman  
4332 Princehall Blvd  
Orlando, Florida 32811  
bleve123@aol.com 407-758-3392

“Making A Difference By Volunteering”

Hello Sisters:

Convention is right around the corner. Please complete all your paper work and forms that are needed for convention. Look for our 2024 Department Forecast at our February Mid-Year SEC meeting. This package will contain all the important information you will need and want for convention. Remember SEC women you must sign for this package to take home and share with your local auxiliary.

We still need to put on our thinking caps and try hard to come up with new and different ways of volunteering, serving our Veterans and our communities. Remember to apply for all the awards to be received at convention.

Just a reminder, be sure to follow the criteria for the awards. We made a lot of changes this year. If you have any concerns or questions, please give me a call.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at convention.

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Antionette (Toni) Fox, Quartermaster  
368 Pirates Rest Road  
N. Fort Myers, FL 33917  
860-460-0894  
[Tonifox1957@gmail.com](mailto:Tonifox1957@gmail.com)

Hello Ladies,

Looking Forward to our next SEC in February, which is really just around the corner and lots of preparations are in the process already for new items and our chance to meet again.

Items that I carry vary all the time, but there are some items that I have on hand always and they include various pins, Dept. Hats, Local Hats (Green Hats) and District Hats. As I always try to tell everyone, if you want something specific, contact me and I'll see what I can do to make it happen.

I really appreciate those that volunteer in helping at the SEC's and If you are thinking about helping out, please call me to arrange date and times. The hours vary and are limited due to our scheduling of the SEC. As always, if you can help for an hour or two, it is appreciated! So please call me or stop at the table and introduce yourself.

I look forward to seeing my sisters at our next SEC in February and I thank you for supporting the Department of Florida.

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PDP Sherry Marecek, Grievance Chair  
102 Diogenes Street  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 687-5523      [xette1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:xette1@tampabay.rr.com)

I would like to start by reminding everyone – **Filing a grievance is a very serious matter.** Personality conflicts is not a reason to file a grievance on anyone.

Before you even start the process, be sure to read the National Constitution, Article XII in its entirety and fully understand it. Also keep your Code of Ethics and Aims & Purposes close at hand.

Please remember, I am here to answer any questions you may have and if don't know the answer, I will find out for you.

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P.D.P. Mary Lou Maso  
Appeals Chairman  
750 – 42<sup>nd</sup> St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713  
727-638-0264  
[maryloumaslo@gmail.com](mailto:maryloumaslo@gmail.com)

Hello Ladies,

I hope you all are in good spirits and full of energy, so we can put that to beneficial use. It would be beneficial to read your Code of Ethics at your meetings a couple of times a year. The first of the year would be a wonderful time to do it. There is a lot of demanding work that goes into a grievance so this year out that challenging work into working together instead. No Grievances, not Appeals, just work together nicely. If you are appealing, make sure you send the letter to the Department President not me.

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Donna Chaparro  
Ways and Means Chairman  
13137 Lime Ave.  
Grand Island, Fla. 32735  
(805)850-5414  
[Donnachaparro123@gmail.com](mailto:Donnachaparro123@gmail.com)

Greetings Ladies:

Hard to believe another year is coming to a close. Oh boy is it coming fast.

I am looking for donations of any kind for grab bags. They can be a gift or a gag. Also baskets to be raffled at Spring SEC, and June Convention. They are both, right around the corner. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Any questions please contact me via email or phone.

Looking forward to seeing my sisters at February Spring SEC.

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**AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Florida**  
**February 2024 S.E.C. Meeting Rosen Centre Hotel**  
**Orlando, Florida February 15 – February 18, 2024**  
(Note: Agenda is subject to change at the President's discretion)

**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- 3:00 P.M.** Finance Committee Meeting (Treasurer and Appointed Members) **TBA**  
**4:00 P.M.** Pre-Con Meeting (Designated Officers only)  
**4:30 P.M.** Audit Committee Meeting (Appointed Members) **TBA**  
**5:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M.** Hospitality Suite (Sponsored by the Joint Convention Committee)

**Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- 9:00 A.M.** By-Laws Committee Meeting (Parliamentarian and Appointed Members) **Salon**  
**11:00 A.M.** AMVETS/Auxiliary/Sons Joint Elected Officers Meeting  
**11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.** Quartermaster Hours **Ballroom**  
**12:00 Noon - 4:00 P.M.** Registration Hours **Desk**  
**12:00 Noon - 5:30 P.M.** Hospitality Suite  
**1:00 P.M.** Convention Advisory Committee Meeting **Salon**  
Honors and Awards Committee Meeting (**immediately following**)  
**3:00 P.M.** Elected Officers Board Meeting (Appointed Officers & PDP's welcomed) **Salon**  
Service Officers Meeting with PDP/ NEC Beck (**immediately following**)  
**4:30 P.M.** 2024-2025 AMVETS/Auxiliary/Sons Joint Convention Chair Meeting  
**6:30 P.M.** **Joint Opening Session**  
Auxiliary Preliminary Business Meeting Session - President Patty Piening  
(**Immediately following Joint Opening Meeting**) **Ballroom**

**Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- 7:30 A.M.-9:30 A.M.** Registration **Desk**  
**7:30 A.M.** Quartermaster Open (closed during business sessions) reopen until thirty (30) minutes after morning recess and one (1) hour after the afternoon recess).  
**8:30 A.M.** Business Session - President Patty Piening **Ballroom**  
**11:45 A.M.** Gavelier's Meeting & Luncheon **President's Suite**  
**1:00 P.M.** Americanism Officer (Joint w/AMVETS)  
**1:00 P.M.** AADAA (Joint w/AMVETS)  
**1:30 P.M.** School of Instruction – PNP/PDP Dee Baggett **Ballroom**  
(Please bring your Manual and Bylaws)  
**2:00 P.M.** **VAVS** (Joint with AMVETS) **Salon**  
**3:00 P.M.** S.E.C. Council (Immediately following School of Instruction) **Ballroom**  
**3:00 P.M.** President's Council (Immediately following School of Instruction) **Salon**

**Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

- 8:15 A.M.** All raffle Drawings  
**8:30 A.M.** General Business Session - President Patty Piening **Ballroom**
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AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA  
FEBRUARY, 2024 S.E.C. PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

**PLEASE NOTE NEW COST**

Pre-Registration Fee: 15.00 On-site Fee: 20.00 Deadline: January 21, 2024

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMVETS LADIES AUX., DEPT. OF FLORIDA** Mail to: Kathy Mannix  
Tel. No. 401-258-5615 695 Briggntine  
e-mail: Katmannix72311@gmail.com N. Ft. Myers, FL 33917

PLEASE PRINT

TWO SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON ALL AUXILIARY CHECKS

Auxiliary #: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Post: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Registering: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Submitting: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print and list ONLY Dept. Officers , PDP's, PNP's in this area who are attending the meeting**  
**(No Registration fee for Department Officers & PDP'S/PNP's)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Local President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SEC**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Alt. SEC**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**District President**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Honorary Member/Guest (NO VOTE):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mark an asterisk (\*) next to members attending for the first time**

**12/2023**