

AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

HOTLINE, APRIL, 2024



“MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY VOLUNTEERING”

Patty A. Piening, President
6075 Shore Blvd. S. #211
Gulfport, Florida 33707-5821
(513) 218-3234
papiening@tampabay.rr.com

April 2024

Greetings Ladies,

Wow, how time flies by when you are busy volunteering for our veterans and in your communities. You all have worked very hard in promoting our Aims and Purposes of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary that the Honor and Awards Committee would like to recognize you and your Auxiliary at the Awards Ceremony on Saturday afternoon. Therefore, showcase your Auxiliary and apply for all the award available by checking the Forecast.

There will be a School of Instructions where we all can learn something new and or refresh our memories on, what we should do.

The AMVETS Family will be having their Annual Banquet Saturday night. The cost is \$35.00 per person or \$350.00 per table of ten. The theme is “Dancing through the 50’s, 60’s, 70’s and 80’s.” It would be awesome to everyone dress up in their finest for that era time frame.

It has been an honor to serve as your Department President this past year. My intention is to seek a second term as your Department President.

Remember, never underestimate the difference you can make by “Volunteering”.

Yours in Service,

Patty A. Piening



Christina "Chrissy" Albright
1st Vice President/Membership Officer
10118 Gerhard Lane, Lithia, FL 33547
813-465-2992
calbright26fan@aol.com

Greetings Ladies,

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who continue to increase their membership. As a reminder of the change from the National Convention, there will be no renewal to life after December 31 until August 2024. Renew to life membership will open again September 1, 2024. Until September 1st, only NEW life memberships will be accepted. Also, a quick reminder that 990s for fiscal year 2023-2024 will open June 1st and all auxiliaries will need to file and return a copy to the First Vice President to remain in good standing. When you file your revalidation forms, remember the date you enter on the back of the revalidation form to certify that you submitted your 990 will be the date you filed *your tax year 2022 990*.

Yours in service,
Christina "Chrissy" Albright

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

Greetings Ladies,

Alright ladies get out your reports and calculators and add them up. It's that time of year again, time to apply for awards. I know you have all done the work, so be rewarded for it. Two of the awards are the PDP Lucille T Henson Award (Individual) Collecting the most money for John Tracy Clinic. We also have an award that does not require an entry form which is the PDP Carylton Spencer Memorial John Tracy Center Award (Auxiliary) collecting the most money for John Tracy Center. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have reported this year. Remember that each Auxiliary must turn in at least 1 (one) service report each year to stay in good standing. Don't forget that April is John Tracey Center month. If anyone has any questions about reports, please feel free to call me any time. End of year reports must be **IN MY HANDS by May 5th** I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at June Convention!

Yours in service,
Sharon Sheldon

Wendy G. Luzader
3rd Vice President/Community Service Officer
702 SW 5th Ave
Trenton, FL 32693-4270
352-214-8700
wendyluzader@yahoo.com

Greetings Auxiliary Sisters!

Ladies ~ you have done an excellent job in reporting community service hours and projects! Our next and final reporting period for this year is due **IN HAND** by **May 5, 2024**. Please ensure you submit your reports as early as possible so if there are questions, concerns, or issues, we can address them promptly!

Madam President's project Disaster Relief Fund is reportable under Community Service.

Please review the Department Donations Page and ensure those are turned in to the Executive Secretary and **in hand** by **May 13, 2024**. You also received a Patrons Page in your SEC packet in February, please submit the page(s) and contributions to the Executive Secretary by **May 15, 2024**.

Also, please refer to the Convention Forecast received in your SEC packet for all awards and entries are due to the Honor & Awards Chair by **May 25, 2024**.

I have announced my intention to run again as your Department 3rd Vice. The support you have shown this year is greatly appreciated and I humbly ask for your support again.

Looking forward to seeing you in June!

Toni Plemmons, Americanism Officer
12550 NW 90th Avenue
Chiefland, FL 32626
352-317-4166
ltzm20@aol.com

Greetings Ladies,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and looking forward to some warm weather.

I have been receiving reports but from less than half of the auxiliaries. Ladies, please, report your activities and hard work. If you aren't sure if it is reportable, call me or any Department Officer to confirm it. We are all here to help you. Be proud of all that you do!

When filling out your reports, please do not combine 4-6 months of projects and then claim 27 projects. It makes it too confusing and difficult for the Department Officers to try to sort them out. It is best if you do reports once a month and send them in. If we must sort through that many projects in a report for each auxiliary, then we are spending hours on the reports and that is not fair to anyone.

Please make sure that your reports are in my hands by **May 5, 2024**, so that they will be published in June Convention book.

Karen Schooley, Scholarship Officer
7030 32nd Ave North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710
(727-527-5114)
freedomkas@gmail.com

Greetings Ladies,

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

Deadline Reminders:

- National AMVETS Riders – April 15th ([national _ riders _ scholarship](#))
- AMVETS Department of FL., click on Resources, Scholarships – April 30th
- Auxiliary Department of Florida – May 15th (www.amvetsfl.org)
- National Ladies Auxiliary – July 1st (www.amvetsaux.org)

When you apply for scholarships, it's crucial to use the correct forms and fill them out completely. Make sure to send all supporting documents as asked to avoid being disqualified for incomplete form.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I look forward to seeing everyone at the June Convention.

It's been a privilege to serve as your Scholarship Officer for the past two years. I would also like to announce my intention to run for Hospital Officer for the 2024-2025 year.

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

A few reminders to everyone:

- Two (2) authorized signatures are required on all Local Auxiliary checks written to the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.
- 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.
- Donations for Department or National programs have deadline date to Executive Secretary of May 13, 2024.
- June 1, 2024 start getting 990's filed for the 2023 fiscal year. It just takes a few minutes, so get them done and out of the way! Deadline date to be turned in to 1st Vice President is September 15 to remain in good standing per our Bylaws.

Wishing everyone good fortune and fun times! See you in June!!!

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

Greetings to my Auxiliary Sisters,

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of the year! You have all worked hard in your auxiliaries. As you all know it is time to get those year-end reports in. Reports are to be in the Service Officers hands on or before **May 5th**, to be included in the book. Please be sure to reach out any of our officers for any questions or concerns. We are all her to help.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the June *Convention!*

I had the honor of attending the Spring NEC meeting, where our own Sherry Marecek stated her intentions to run for the National Hospital Officer.

PDP Mary Lou Maslo, Alt. NEC
750 – 42nd Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
727-638-0264
maryloumaslo@gmail.com

Hello Ladies:

We are in the home stretch now. Please get your reports in on time. Reports must be in the Service Officer's hands by May 5, 2024. The June School of Instruction is going to have Questions and Answers "Q&A", so please think about questions you've been meaning to ask. Write them down or put them in your phone so you'll have them with you in June.

Yours in Service

Mary Lou Maslo

Claudia Thompson, Sergeant at Arms
1409 Pembroke Dr.
Leesburg, Fl. 34748
352-348-3326 (cell)
cthompson1127@gmail.com

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the June Convention.

I am also looking for ladies that would like to Page for our June Convention. I need 2 ladies to present our Colors on Friday and retire them on Sunday at the end of our Convention meeting. You need to be in full uniform & white gloves. Please & thank you. If anyone of you ladies are interested in Paging at our June Convention 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 appreciated very much.

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

Yours in Service,

Claudia Thompson

PNP/PDP Charlene D. Kee, Parliamentarian
90 Hidden Lake Drive #132, Sanford, FL 32773
CHRLNKEE@AOL.COM
407.716.4244

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

The following bylaws are due now. Please print the bylaws cover sheet from the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida website (amvetsauxfl.org) and follow the directions on the cover sheet.

#7	#16	#32	#45	#50
#178	#292	#312	#422	#911

In order for your auxiliary to be in good standing and have delegates seated at the Department Convention your bylaws must be to me by May 15, 2024. If you have questions or need assistance please contact me.

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

Ladies

April 2024

Another year has almost run its course and it is time to get ready for our June Convention. Please remember to get to me the following on or before the following dates:

May 13, 2024 - Donations (remember to send the Donation form with your checks), Local Presidents, District Presidents, VAVS reports for the book.

May 15, 2024 – Final membership is due as is the Patrons page.

May 20, 2024 – Revalidation forms (they must be complete and legible, and that the information is correct).

Be sure to check for other due dates as these are the due dates for me, as your Executive Secretary.

I want to stress how important it is that each Auxiliary send at least 1 person from your Local Auxiliary to each of the meetings in Orlanda, June (Convention), October and February (SEC). There is a training session at each meeting, and everyone is updated as to what is going on in your Department and at National. Whoever you choose to send, be sure she is going to bring back the information to your Local, not someone who is not going to share paperwork and information received at these meetings. I point this out as there have been many mistakes on paperwork that I have received and which I have had to send back as the person sending the paperwork did not know about any changes that may have been made. These meetings are important for us to all come together to share ideas and to learn so that we can continue to help our Veterans.

I really hope to see you ALL in June!

Robin Trudeau, Recording Secretary
551 Plaza Del Sol
North Fort Myers FL. 33917
401-359-9122
Robin.trudeau4@gmail.com

Greeting Ladies:

Hope this letter finds you all well...

If anyone has any correspondence, please mail to me at the address listed above, or hand deliver to me at the Convention so I may read it on the floor.

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.

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, but they must be listed on the revalidation form for your Auxiliary.

Recording Secretary
Robin Trudeau

Sarah Baca
Auxiliary AMVETS Juniors Coordinator
1628 Shady Leaf Drive
Valrico, FL 33596
813-220-6245
sarah.leann.baca@gmail.com
juniorsdeptofflorida@gmail.com

Happy Spring Ladies! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in June!

For our Posts with Juniors here are some important deadlines:

Posts 17, 30, 26: Please reach out to us regarding Junior's attendance at Convention on June 7, 8, & 9. If you are in need of uniforms for your Juniors please let me know in advance as well with a shirt size.

I have already reserved two tables for our Juniors at the Banquet. They can dress up to the Theme Dancing Through the Decades, wear their Sunday best OR wear their uniform. The choice is up to you and them!

We need all Juniors Post Coordinators to pre-register their Juniors for the June Convention. I need a head count by May 1st.

Year-End reports for Juniors are due to Nationals by June 30. Please have them to me by Convention or mailed before. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding our AMVETS Juniors! Thank you, Juniors Coordinator's.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday Meeting

Saturday Breakfast

Saturday Meeting

Tentative Activity-TBA

Saturday Evening Banquet

Kathie Mannix
695 Brigantine Blvd.
No. Fort Myers FL 33917
Katmannix72311@gmail.com
(401) 258-5615

Madam President Piening,

Hello ladies it's almost time for June Convention. Pre-registration is due to me no later than May 13, 2024. Please print so I can make the badges right. List your members in the right place. Sorry, there are no refunds or substitutions for the person not coming.

Pre-registration is \$20.00 per person. On-site registration \$25.00 per person. Only pre-registered members will get a book.

Yours in service,

Kathie Mannix
Credentials Chair

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

The Banquet is fast approaching and I hope you are working on your outfits for this fun affair of celebrating our AMVETS, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders as we Dance through the Decades. Banquet sales are going strong, and we are half-way to having a full event. Any Auxiliary wishing to donate a basket or item to be raffled at Convention please reach out to me, as there are never enough raffles.

I have received some of the bios from the PNP's and PDP's and ask you to have this to me by May 15th. I will be reaching out to those I have not yet received.

Looking forward to seeing you all in June!

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.

Be sure to make all the deadlines, cross your (t's) and dot your (i's). Share the Forecast with your members, gather up your service reports and mail them in to the correct Service Officer when applying for Department awards. Remember to apply for all the awards you can, you never know someone may not apply and you win.

We always 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.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at convention.

Evelyn McElvin
Awards Chairman

Theresa "Nikki" Anderson, PRO-Historian
7312 Bumelia Dr.
Cocoa, FL 32927
850-572-2893
Email: seannik95@ymail.com

Greetings ladies,

I am excited to see all your hard work! Scrapbooks must be submitted to me Friday June 7th by 3PM. Please email or call if you have any questions.

Refer to page 58 in our Manual for judging requirements. I added the Award changes to our February Floor Report as well.

Looking forward to amazing scrapbooks this year!

Yours in Service,
Theresa "Nikki" Anderson

Donna Chaparro, Ways and Means Chair
13137 Lime Avenue
Grand Island, FL 32735
805-850-5414
Donnachaparro123@gmail.com

Greetings Ladies:

It's hard to believe another year is coming to an end. Oh boy, it's coming fast?

I am looking for donations of any kind for grab bags. They can be gifts or gags. I am also looking for baskets to be raffled. The Grill/Smoker Package tickets are still available for the June Convention, which is right around the corner.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

I am looking forward to seeing all my sisters at the June Convention.



Faye Caldwell, Chaplain
1804 E. 115th Ave
Tampa, FL 33612
813-830-8158
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: There will be a Joint Memorial Service immediately following the Joint Opening on Friday night. Also, the Deceased Member Form can be found at www.AMVETSAux.org under the forms tab.

“Walk by faith not by sight”

Patricia Johnson
Hospital Chair
345 Doubloon Dr.
North Fort Myers, FL 33917
Phone (239) 297-4980 E-Mail pmcmackins@gmail.com

Greetings Ladies,

Our February S.E.C. was a great success, our June Convention is approaching, 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 to apply for awards. Remember your reports are **due (in my hands) by May 05, 2024** in order to get them into the book. Also, 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

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Florida
ANNUAL 79th June Convention
Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, Florida
June 6th – 9th, 2024

(Note: Agenda is subject to change at the President's discretion)

Thursday, June 6th, 2024

- 3:00 P.M. Finance Committee Meeting** (*Treasurer and Appointed Members*) **TBA**
- 4:00 P.M. Pre-Con Meeting** (*AMVETS Commander, Auxiliary President, AMVETS Executive Director, AMVETS Finance Officer, Auxiliary Treasurer, AMVETS Provost Marshall, Auxiliary Convention Chair, 1st VP, Convention Chair & Aux. Sgt-At-Arms*) **TBA**
- 4:30 P.M. Audit Committee Meeting** (*Appointed Members*) **TBA**
- 5:30 P.M. Honors and Awards Judging** (*1st Vice, ALL Service Officers, Current and Past Awards Chairs are REQUIRED to attend*)

Friday, June 7th, 2024

- 9:00 A.M. By-Laws Committee Meeting** (*Parliamentarian and Appointed Members*)
- 10:00 A.M. Scholarship Judging**
- 11:00 A.M. AMVETS/Auxiliary/Sons Joint Elected Officers Meeting**
- 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Quartermaster Hours**
- 12:00 Noon - 4:00 P.M. Registration Hours**
- 12:00 Noon - 5:30 P.M. Hospitality Suite**
- 1:00 P.M. Convention Advisory Committee Meeting**
Honors and Awards Committee Meeting (*immediately following*)
- 3:00 P.M. Deadline for Local Scrapbooks**
- 3:00 P.M. Elected Officers Board Meeting w/ Appointed Officers** (*PDP's welcomed*)
Service Officers Meeting with PDP/NEC Beck (immediately following)
- 4:00 P.M. Scrapbook Judging**
- 4:30 P.M. Joint Convention Chair Meeting** (*AMVETS/Auxiliary/Sons*)
- 5:00 P.M. President's Council Meeting**
- 5:00 P.M. SEC Council Meeting**
- 6:30 P.M. Joint Opening Session**
- 8:00 P.M. Joint Memorial Service**

****Department President's Reception immediately following in President's Suite****

Saturday, June 8th, 2024

- 7:30 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. Registration**
- 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).
- 8:15 A.M. Official Opening of 79th AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Convention**
- 11:45 A.M. Gaveliers Meeting & Luncheon** (*President's Suite*)
- 1:00 P.M. Honors and Awards Ceremony**
- 2:30 P.M. Quartermaster Audit**
- 2:30 P.M. Local Officer's Training/Orientation, Dept. Officers**
- 6:00 P.M. Reception Cocktail Hour Ballroom**
- 7:00 P.M. Banquet**

Sunday, June 9th, 2024

- 7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. Registration**

8:15 A.M. All raffle Drawings
8:30 A.M. General Business Session
10:00 A.M. Elections

POST-CONVENTION MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT

ALL NEWLY ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS MUST ATTEND!



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
JUNE CONVENTION, 2024 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE NOTE NEW COST

Pre-Registration Fee: \$20.00

On-site Fee: \$25.00

Deadline: May 13, 2024

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMVETS LADIES AUX., DEPT. OF FLORIDA

Tel. No. 401-258-5615

e-mail: Katmannix72311@gmail.com

Mail to: **Kathie Mannix**

695 Brigantine Blvd

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

3/2024



PDP Donnajeanne Merritt
Executive Secretary
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Dept. of Florida
7520 NE 105th Avenue
Bronson, FL 32621