

APRIL 2025 HOTLINE AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



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

April 2025

Greetings Ladies,

Remarkably, your ongoing volunteer work has made a significant difference in the lives of our veterans and your communities. At the same time, another year of volunteering is coming to a close. Everyone has been working hard to promote the Aims and Purposes of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. Now is the time to show the success of your completed projects by applying for both Department and National Awards. They can be found in the Forecast.

There will be a School of Instructions on Saturday. Please plan to attend and feel free to ask questions.

The AMVETS Family will be having their Annual Banquet Saturday Night. The cost is \$35.00 per person. The theme is "MASH BASH". There will be a contest for the best-looking Hawkeye, Hot Lips Houlihan, Radar, Clinger, Trapper John, etc. So let's all dress up and have fun.

It has been an honor to serve as your Department President for the past two years. And now we look forward to helping our veterans and the communities for which we belong.

Remember, never underestimate the difference you can make in someone's life by "Volunteering".

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. A quick reminder that 990s for fiscal year 2024-2025 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.

Awards are just around the corner. Please remember to apply for the PNP Ruth K. Nickerson Memorial Membership Award for the (Chairman) with the largest number of renewals. You may reach out to me at any time for assistance.

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

What a busy season this is, I have had several repots coming in already. Please do not wait until the end of April to send me your reports, instead send them to me now. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have sent in reports. Remember that you only need one report to stay in good standing. Now is the time to start applying for awards. We have awards for Child Welfare that you can apply for, one award is 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 Carylon Spencer Memorial John Tracy Center Award (Auxiliary) collecting the most money for John Tracy Center.

End of year is just around the corner, and I know how busy we can get. These reports need to be in my hands by May 5th 2025. If you should have any questions in Child Welfare, please give me call. I am always happy to answer your questions. Look forward to seeing everyone at the Convention June 20 thru 22, 2025.

Karen Schooley
3rd Vice President/Community Service Officer
7030 32nd Ave. North St. Petersburg, Fl. 33710
727-527-5114
freedomkas@gmail.com

Greetings Ladies, you all have done an outstanding job in reporting community service hours and projects! Our next reporting period is due by May 5th, 2025. Please ensure you send your reports as early as possible so if there are any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise we can address them together promptly. Please review your Department Donations Page and send them to the Executive Secretary no later than May 15th, 2025. You also received a Patrons Page in your SEC packet in February. Please send the page(s) and contributions to the Executive Secretary by May 15th, 2025. Also please refer to the Convention Forecast received in your SEC packet for all awards and entries are due to the Awards Chairperson by May 31st. I look forward to seeing everyone at the June Convention. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Community Service Officer over the past year. I have announced my intention to run as your department 2nd Vice President for 2025-2026. I humbly ask for your support and will be greatly appreciated.

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

REMINDER, if your Auxiliary is writing donation checks for Department or National projects – make sure you complete the “***Designation of Donation***” form, write one check made out to AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary – Department of Florida, and mail to Executive Secretary, PDP DonnaJeanne Merritt.

Local Auxiliary checks **MUST** have **two (2) authorized signatures** on the check. 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.

See everyone in June!

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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 Summer and the warmer weather.

I have received reports from several auxiliaries but not all of them. Are you doing services that benefit our veterans? Can you bake a cake and raffle it off to benefit Founding Forward or any local veteran in need? Make a donation to the Wreaths Across America Program? Place US flags at a cemetery for Memorial Day? The size of your auxiliary or Post doesn't matter. Please report your hard work! Be proud of all that you do!

Some important info and dates:

- 1) Your reports are due in my hands no later than May 5, 2025, to be in the June Convention book.
- 2) Please be sure to apply for the PDP Dorothy Johns Americanism Chairman Award and the PDP Donnajeanne Hakler (Show and Tell) Americanism Award.
- 3) Please make sure you provide all the required information. Your entries must be in hand to the Awards Chairman (Evelyn McElvin) no later than May 27, 2025.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the June Convention!

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

Remember the following Scholarship Applications are due as follows;

- ❖ Department Scholarship by May 15, 2025
- ❖ National Scholarship by July 4, 2025
- ❖ AMVET Department Scholarship by April 30, 2025
- ❖ AMVETS National Scholarship by April 30, 2025
- ❖ National Riders Scholarship by April 11, 2025

Please be sure to have your Scholarship Reports to me by May 5, 2025 in order to be reported in the June's Convention Book.

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Jan Northcutt, Hospital Officer
249 Jasper St. #148
Largo, Fl. 33770
727-288-8844
Jansews2025@yahoo.com

Greetings Ladies,

Just wanted you to know you have tools to work with amvetsauxfl.org to print.

I have enjoyed this year and hope to serve as your Hospital Officer again next year.

Please remember only one copy of Service report to me. Check your math, make sure to sign it.

Are you putting everything on the report what you did, for whom, refreshments if any, entertainment if any, all hours and miles for each lady etc. Please Number each report much easier to let you know if there an error.

NAC meeting for VAVS will not be held till after all conventions, then only virtually on phone or computer.

Please have all awards in by May 31,2025. National St. Jude's Children Research Hospital, James Park Scholarship Presented by National VAVS.

Department Awards; Sherry Marecek Hospital, and PDP Delia J. Ray Memorial Hospital Award.

Remember all **Reports due in my hands by May 5,2025**

Keep up the good work!

PNP Charlene D. Kee, Parliamentarian
206 Dogwood Drive
Sanford, FL 32771
407.716.4244
CHRLNKEE@AOL.COM
Time is running out!

The following auxiliaries listed below please send your bylaws to **my new address above**. If I do not have your bylaws to me by May 15, 2025 you will not be in good standing.

Please use the updated bylaws cover sheet located on our website (amvetsflaux.org).

District #6	#12	#17	#19	#29	#33	#47
#67	#86	#113	#2000	#2006		

There's still time to abide by our Department Bylaws, Article XVII Department Convention (c): All revalidated auxiliaries shall submit a minimum of one (1) service report to Department per year

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

Ladies:

April 2025

Another year is coming to an end and the Department Officers have been working hard to make the Department of Florida the best. We would not have been able to continue to grow without all our local officers and members. Keep up the great work. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in June.

We are in the process of updating our website. The website has a new address. The **NEW** website address is **amvetsflaux.org**. Please look at it and note all of the improvements as we have continued to strive to make it better.

Please note important deadlines due to the Executive Secretary:

May 13, 2025: Local & District President's and VAVS reports (camera ready)

Donations with Donation Designation Form

May 15, 2025: Final membership for processing

Patrons Page

May 31, 2025: Revalidation form from Locals

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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! All Motions must be written out on Motion Slip by the one making the motion, at that time, that same person needs to put who seconded that motions name on the Motion Slip, then have Madam President and Parliamentarian sign it and return to me ASAP, this is VERY important to be recorded in the minutes.

If you need to be excused from SEC or Convention, please notify Madam President as she is the **ONLY** one that can excuse you from SEC or Convention as this will reflect on the Roll Call should your name be on it.

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Faye Caldwell, Chaplain
1804 E. 115th Ave
Tampa, FL 33612
813-830-8158
Flavialolita@outlook.com

Please continue to pray for our Veterans and their families. As a reminder the joint memorial service is coming up in June, all deceased member forms need to be in the Chaplain hands no later than May 5th to be printed on the roll call. Please plan to attend the service.

Reminder: Deceased member forms are available at www.AMVETSaux.org or www.AMVETSauxfl.org.

"May we be a source of comfort and encouragement, lifting each other up."

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Claudia Thompson, Sergeant At Arms
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Florida
1409 Pembroke Dr.
Leesburg, Fl. 34748
352-348-3326 (cell)
cthompson1127@gmail.com

Greetings Ladies,

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

I am looking for any ladies that would like to page for June Convention. Also need 2 ladies to present our colors on Saturday morning and retire the colors on Sunday. Please contact me by calling or texting or email. Thank you in advance.

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

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

Greetings to my Auxiliary Sisters,

I hope this finds you all well. It is hard to believe we are coming up on the end of the year. You have all been doing outstanding work, keep those reports coming! Please remember that all reports are due to the Department Service Officers **in their hands on or before May 5, 2025**. Also, please remember to remain an Auxiliary in good standing; you need to report at least 1 report in any category.

You have all received the Forecast to apply for awards. Please look it over and share with your local auxiliaries. You have done the work you need to be recognized for it.

I attended the Spring NEC meeting and will be sharing information I received at the June Convention.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the June Convention!

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P.D.P Mary Lou Maslo
Alt. N.E.C
750 42nd Street N.
St.Petersburg, Fl 33713
727-638-0264
maryloumaslo@gmail.com

Ladies,

Its that time of year again. Please remember to report all the projects you have been working on. All local reports need to be in the Service Officers hands by May 5th. You have done the work now it's time for you to get your recognition for it. Apply for the awards you deserve.

The School of Instruction is Saturday afternoon. Come and learn something, make sure to ask questions.

April Higgins, Credentials Chairman
P.O. Box 2920
Arcadia, FL 34265
e-mail: arhiggins1978@gmail.com
Phone: 863-444-3899

Hello ladies,

June convention is approaching fast. Time to check with your members to find out who plan to attend. Please remember the Guidelines for Credentials have not changed:

Pre-registration MUST be received no later than **Monday May 19,2025**. Please mail to the name and address listed above. Please Pre-register as the on-site are now \$30.00. The updated pre-registration form can be located in the back of this Hotline.

Please review the pre-registration page carefully when listing those who are attending and remember when you are filling out the pre-registration form to list the individual only once at the highest position she holds-not all the positions she may hold. If both the SEC and Alt SEC are attending, please list the Alt. SEC as a delegate. If you are writing, please use pens and print clearly so I can read it.

If there are any members who are attending for the first time, please check the box next to their name, so that they may be recognized as "FIRST TIMERS" during the meeting.

You will need your membership card when registering at the Credentials desk- so please put it in your purse before leaving home.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in June. Wishing all a great convention.

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Antionette (Toni) Fox
368 Pirates Rest Rd
N Fort Myers, FL 33917
860-460-0894

Hello Ladies,

It has been a busy new year so far and it appears that the new year will continue to be so. Having said that, I have been extremely busy in placing orders for the June convention. I am doing my best to get the items needed and that have been requested.

Always interested for volunteers. Friday. I am open from 12-4 (I am usually there by 10 am or so) to set up and on Saturday I am open from 7:30 until our meeting starts, closed until our meeting ends and reopen from noon until 1 PM, when our session starts again. I am closed after that until our next meeting in October for the SEC.

If you are interested in assisting, please feel free to contact me at my phone number 860-460-0894, text me at same number or email me at above address. Thank you everyone and looking forward to seeing everyone again at the June Convention.

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

I would like to start by reminding everyone – **Filing a grievance is a very serious matter.** Personality conflicts are 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 Maslo
Appeals Chairman
750 42nd Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
727-638-0264
maryloumaslo@gmail.com

Ladies,

Keep up the good work. We are having a great year so far. Read your Code Of Ethics and the sections on Discipline in the National Ladies Auxiliary Constitution article XII. Discipline Section III Rights to Appeal is also good information to know. Department Officers are here to help you, please don't hesitate to call on us when needed.

Theresa (Nikki) Anderson, Convention Chair
7312 Bumelia Dr.
Cocoa, FL 32927
(850)572-2893
Seannik95@ymail.com

Hi Ladies, we're looking forward to seeing your great costumes for this year's "Mash Bash" Banquet. We're having a contest for the best Hawkeye, Hot Lips Houlihan, Radar, Clinger, Trapper John, etc. Dinner choices are Alfredo Chicken Pasta Dish, Oven Roasted Pork Tenderloin, or Vegetarian Option, Chef Choice Linguine, warm rolls, butter, chocolate mousse cake or key lime pie.

Banquet tickets are \$35 each. Payments can be made Online: <https://square.link/u/ldqAGKAz> or by Check: Make checks or money orders payable to : AMVETS Department of FL Mail to Ruth Richards 12330 NE 106th Ct. Archer, FL 32618

We still have \$5 Mash Bash pins and \$10 Kel Tec SUB2000 5.7 Rifle tickets to help offset the price for our banquet, benefiting all entities. Please see one of the Convention Chairs for tickets.

Please support our fundraising by purchasing 50/50 tickets (Gold, Green and White ticket packs) or donating items for raffles (baskets, liquor bottles, quilts, etc.). Winners will be called if not present and anyone can purchase tickets to support. Thank you to everyone who donated items and volunteered in February.

Ticket packs are available to sign out and sell throughout the year. Please let me know if you would like to take some home to sell. I have a sign out sheet.

Thank you in advance for all you do!

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AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
Department of Florida
PNP Evelyn McElvin Awards Chairman
Bleve123@aol.com 407-758-3392

"Make A Difference By Volunteering"

Hello sisters:

Where has the year gone, it's already time to get those service reports together so that you can apply for the many Department and Past President's awards.

Remember to share your Forecast with your auxiliary members and apply for the awards even if you think you can't win. Who knows you may be the only auxiliary to apply and you just might win.

Remember your deadline dates for sending in for awards.

Awards entries: Postmarked by: Saturday May 31, 2025

Your Forecast has all the information your auxiliary needs for our Department Convention this year: June 20-22, 2025.

Looking forward to judging all the award entries and having fun at our awards program on Saturday June 21, 2025.

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Tara Dean, PRO-Historian
230 Old Mulrennan Rd
Valrico, FL 33594
Email: taramdean@aol.com

Greetings Ladies,

I am looking forward to seeing lots of great scrapbooks!

I have received a few photos of Madam President visiting other Auxiliaries or attending events. If you have any others, please email them to me as soon as possible with the date and names of people in the photo to be used in her scrapbook.

Scrapbooks are due to me no later than 3:00PM Friday, June 20th, 2025.

I will be looking for ladies interested in judging the local scrapbooks.

Unfortunately I have not been able to attend all of the events with Madam President this year but I have greatly enjoyed the time I have been able to spend with her!



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

6:30 pm Joint Opening Session

8:00 pm Joint Memorial Service

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

8:30 pm Hospitality Room (SOA)

SATURDAY, June 21, 2025

7:30 am – 9:30 am Registration
7:30 am Quartermaster Open
 (Closed during business session) (Reopens until 30 minutes after morning
 recess and one (1) hour after the afternoon recess).

8:15 am Official Opening of 80th AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Convention
 General Business Session

11:45 am Gavelier's Meeting & Luncheon President's Suite

1:00 pm Honors & Awards Ceremony

2:30 pm Quartermaster Audit

2:30 pm Local Officer's Training/Orientation

6:00 pm Reception/Cocktail Hour

7:00 pm Banquet

4:00 pm – 12 Midnight Hospitality Room (SOA)

SUNDAY, June 22, 2025

7:30-8:30 am Registration
8:15 am Raffle Drawings
8:30 am Official Business Session

10:00 am Elections

 Benediction
 Retirement of Colors
 Adjournment

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AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
June 2025 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-Registration Fee: \$20.00 On-site Fee: \$30.00 Deadline: May 19, 2025

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

Tel. No. 863.444.3899

e-mail: arhiggins1978@gmail.com

Mail to: April Higgins

P. O. Box 2920

Arcadia, FL 34266

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, Bushnell Cemetery and VAVS Representatives
who are attending the meeting (Registration fee waived)**

☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____
Local President SEC Alt. SEC District President

(Members/Delegates)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____
☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____
☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____

Honorary Member/Guest (NO VOTE):

☐ _____ ☐ _____ ☐ _____

Check the box if the member is a first timer to the Department Meeting

6/2024



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