



As the Christmas Holidays are over and 2012 has begun, it is time to take a look at where we are with our auxiliaries; a time to renew our commitment to serve. You ladies have done a wonderful job as your service reports show. But remember, we must not let minor disagreements and personality conflicts stand in the way of our volunteering for our veterans, our communities and our nation. We must accept the rule of the majority and continue to work together. Try new ideas that are presented. If it doesn't work, move on and try something else. Make sure our newer members stay involved. The success of our organization depends on you, working together as a TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More.

The AMVETS have made a commitment to grow in membership numbers. We also need to grow. In numbers there is strength and strength is certainly needed to continue our campaign before Congress as they struggle with budgets. Veterans' benefits and entitlements should not be cut. Stay informed about legislative issues and make your voice heard.

I would like to extend a sincere welcome to our new employee at our Headquarters office. Nona Johnson began with us on November 28<sup>th</sup> as a part time data entry clerk. She comes to us with a variety of experience allowing her to complete her job duties with little difficulty. She continues to learn more about our organization. We hope she is with us for many years to come. Please say hello to Nona and welcome her as well when you call headquarters.

I was privileged to tour the Far East this past fall along with Commander Fry and our spouses. We visited the troops in Korea, witnessing firsthand the commitment of our military, many of them on unaccompanied tours. Stepping foot on the DMZ and seeing the North Korean troops watching our every move was truly a daunting experience. Taiwan celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their country, the most successful democracy in Asia. Our time there was a bit different than previous trips of the commander and president. We toured with a group of about 20, from Australia, Netherlands, Korea, Saipan, Hawaii and mainland US, all there for the celebration. What a wonderful experience. As always, we were treated with utmost respect and the hospitality shown us was truly impressive. As we traveled to the various Veteran facilities, we again witnessed how admirably their veterans are treated; something many in our country could learn. We finished out the trip in Honolulu, visiting the USS Arizona memorial, laying a wreath at Punchbowl cemetery and receiving a briefing at JPAC.

I have visited several Departments and look forward to my future trips. Please don't hesitate to contact me or our officers with questions, comments, or concerns. We are here to serve you and make this another successful auxiliary year.

**LESLIE WUNDERLE**  
**NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Hope everyone had a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. I want to thank all the Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidents that have sent membership in to date. The early numbers are a little disappointing but I am sure that will change soon as we are "Joining Together for Vets".

It is important that membership is processed in a timely manner on the local, state and National level so please process the membership quickly and forward on to the next level. Make sure and remember the following items when sending in your membership:



- \*Check for Membership Dues
- \*Transmittal Form
- \*Dues Remittance Form
- \*National Copy of Membership Card
- \*Any Additional forms (ie: Life Member Card)

I have been getting e-mails suggesting changes to the membership application, membership cards and the process in general. Please bring any ideas you might have to the Membership Committee meeting at National Convention where they can be discussed and then forwarded on to the By-Law Committee for review. If you see a problem, try to provide the solution.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Spring NEC and of course National Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at:

Leslie Wunderle  
907-222-8805  
[wunderlel@residentialmtg.com](mailto:wunderlel@residentialmtg.com)

**REVALIDATION REMINDERS**



1. MAKE SURE EVERY BOX IS COMPLETELY FILLED OUT. MISSING SIGNATURES WILL RESULT IN DENIAL OF YOUR REVALIDATION.
2. ENSURE YOU HAVE LISTED YOUR CORRECT EIN NUMBER. YOU MAY NOT USE AMVETS EIN.
3. BE SURE ALL REQUIRED POSITIONS ARE FILLED OUT AND THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.
4. IF YOU ARE AN AUXILIARY IN A CHARTERED STATE, PLEASE SEND YOUR REVALIDATION TO YOUR DEPARTMENT. IF YOU ARE AN AUXILIARY IN AN UN-CHARTERED STATE, PLEASE SEND YOUR REVALIDATION DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS. HAVE ALL PAPERWORK TO NATIONAL BY THE DUE DATE LISTED ON THE MEMO IN THE PACKET YOU RECEIVED



**LINDA MCGRIFF  
NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

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Happy New Year!

A big thank you to all those NEC Women who sent in their mid-year reports on time. You all amaze me with your creative ways of raising monies and serving our children. I have tried to send you notification by e-mail or post card if I received your report.

I had the privilege of visiting John Tracy Clinic in October and seeing all good works they do for profoundly deaf children whose families are devastated that their child can't hear them. They are shown how to communicate with their child and how the services at John Tracy can help them become a closer family unit. Remember the clinic is no longer accepting bears and asks for Donations of Cash or used hearing aids ONLY! Help fill those wagons with donations to support JTC's programs and services.

Let's not forget the other important programs that support children such as St Jude's Ranch for children. Located in the hills above Lake Mead, Nevada, it is a safe haven for children between the ages of 6 and 18 whose scholastic skills are not yet up to par with their peers or who have been traumatized by abuse and cannot adjust to attending public school. There are so many worthy programs for children in need in your local community as well.



On the National level it is time to start thinking of the Child Welfare Awards available to you:

PNP Cathy Fishero Award: Presented to the Department performing the most outstanding work in Child Welfare –No entry form required.

PNP Nita Cornell Award: Presented to a Local Auxiliary who does outstanding work in their community benefiting children 18 years and younger. Monetary donations will not be considered in the determination.

PNP Linda Johnston Award: Presented to a Local Auxiliary who does the most outstanding work for John Tracy Clinic. Amount of funds donated will be included in the calculation.

John Tracy Clinic Certificates / Certificates will be presented to individuals, Local Auxiliaries, or Departments for donations of \$500.00 or more.

The Convention Digest will contain all the forms information that is required for awards, registration and all the information you will need to attend National Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. Keep a watch for it in the mail. I hope you all will be able to attend this year.

We all have so much to be thankful for this year with our service men and women coming home from Iraq. Let's remember their adjustment to the "new "reality of home and work and be there to help where we can. It will not only be a big adjustment for them but also for their children.

"Because We Care – We Share"- ourselves, our money, our time and our love.



## SYLVIA ROWLAND NATIONAL THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

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Shortly after National Convention, PAWS With A Cause contacted me with a congratulations email, an offer to provide information about PAWS and assistance to make my job easier. I was so glad to hear from them and immediately requested mail out information for my department counter parts. Within 10 days I received sixty wonderful packets of information about PAWS, including a St. Louis convention tote I used to ship materials.

Ginny Sielert, Donor Relations Officer, was my PAWS contact person. She gave me tips on how previous site visits were set up. After I contacted the Department of Michigan, Patricia Michalski, Michigan Third Vice, responded and my site visit process began. Ginny worked with Pat to give us a preferred date and agenda. My trip was then scheduled. During this time I also heard from Pat Witcher, Michigan NEC, who offered her assistance. Then came a call from a friend who offered to pick me up and share her home during my stay. Everyone in the Michigan Department was eager to help. My excitement began!

My PAWS visit was scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Arrangements were made to arrive the afternoon prior to the visit and leave the morning after our visit. We arrived the morning of Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> to find that seventeen Michigan Auxiliary members were there to participate in the activities. We were met by the PAWS staff and offered coffee and pastries in the conference room. Ginny welcomed us and other staff members gave us an overview. One of the senior trainers explained the training process in detail from selecting pups, raising them by volunteers with a list of places they should visit and putting them in many different situations to prepare them for intensive training. Their skill and dedication was overwhelming.

All puppies that show training potential are given a complete physical examination; they must be in excellent health. They receive extensive training for several years and are matched with just the right recipient. Since training is very costly, their health is of great importance. Dogs can receive many types of testing and treatment on site, even surgery.

Our tour also included the treatment facility and training area. We were privileged to see a demonstration of training techniques. It was very interesting to see just how many tasks assistance dogs can help with to give their owner independence. We were reminded that assistance dogs are working animals not pets. They are specially trained to perform tasks directly related to their owner's disabilities. It is amazing to see the dedication of the trainer and the dog's dedication to do his very best.

As we made our way back to the office/conference room area we passed through "Independence Hallway". Read the attached letter and find out about "Tiles for Independence". If you would like to participate, a form is included.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to visit PAWS! I wish all Auxiliary members could make the same trip and see the wonderful work the staff of PAWS With A Cause is doing to provide assistance dogs for our Veterans. Our funds are especially dedicated to a veteran and his/her family. I am aware of the strain on our economy over the past few years but I ask you to try asking each member to give a few dollars to support assistance dogs for veterans and their families. Ask each auxiliary in your department to donate \$25.00 to PAWS. Together we can make a difference.

**"March is PAWS Month" -- "Let your Light Shine for Assistance Dogs"**

## BARBARA VALLEY

### NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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I hope all had a wonderful holiday. So many of you take the time to visit our veterans in care centers, hospitals or are house bound not only during the holidays, but throughout the year. Just a few minutes of our time is all it takes to make them feel special and to let them know we care.

In this issue of our National Lines I'd like to go over our official uniform: An A- line forest green dress with a jewel neckline or forest green slacks or skirt. The dress and skirt not to be shorter than two inches above the knee and no longer than four inches below the knee. White or gold jewel neckline blouse.

A white blazer with the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary emblem over the left breast pocket. Black handbag, black shoes with closed in heel and toe. White shoes and handbag may be worn from April until Labor Day. Heels should not be higher than two inches, white gloves

Pearl earrings and a single strand of pearls or Auxiliary necklace and earrings (Auxiliary necklace and earrings available through the Quartermaster).

Our official hat:



#### **Members and Local Officers:**

Forest green with gold braid and gold letters

Left side- Auxiliary emblem and name of department

Right side- Office one inch below the braid, year ½ inch below the office

Front- Auxiliary number

#### **District Officers:**

White crown with green braid and gold letters

Left side- Auxiliary emblem and district

Right side- Office one inch below the braid, year ½ inch below the office

Front- Department

#### **Department Officers:**

White with green braid and green letters

Left side- Auxiliary emblem

Right side- Office one inch below the braid, year ½ inch below the office

#### **National Officers:**

White with gold braid and gold letters

Left side- Auxiliary emblem (no lettering)

Right side- Office one inch below the braid, year ½ inch below the office

Remember you may wear your hat without your uniform, but not your uniform without your hat. Only pins that you've earned are allowed on the hat. Bangs are permitted. A good guide to putting on your hat is the front of the hat is two fingers above the brow. Your manual has a list on the only abbreviations that may be used on your hat such as PRO, VAVS and NEC. So please make sure you check before you put anything on the hat.

Spring NEC meeting in Herndon VA., is March 16-17<sup>th</sup> 2012 I would appreciate your assistance if you would like to page on the floor for the meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> call or e-mail me. If you have any questions on Sgt-at-Arms, uniform or flag protocol please contact me. God Bless each of you and God Bless America!

**MARVELL RUPPEL**  
**NATIONAL AMERICANISM OFFICER**

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Greetings Auxiliary Sisters,

Thank-you to all the Departments who have submitted mid-year reports. The information will be compiled and presented at our spring NEC.



This year we will be having a Patriotic Vest Contest. Entry forms will be available in the Convention Digest that you will be receiving closer to National Convention. The theme for the vest contest will coincide with my theme to “Keep the Pride in America Alive!” Vests should reflect pride in being an American. They can be made of any material. Vests must be able to be worn and will be modeled on the Convention floor. A description of the vest in two hundred words or less must be included with the entry form.

Auxiliaries are also encouraged to help support and promote the Americanism Poster and Essay contests that are sponsored by the AMVETS. This year’s theme is: “I am Proud to be an American because....”. Madame President Lynda and I had the opportunity to attend this year’s youth conference at Freedom’s Foundation. The AMVETS National Service Foundation sponsors the 9<sup>th</sup> grade essay winner from each Department to attend this conference. Departments can also send additional youth. The educational experience these youth have the opportunity to participate in is remarkable. Below is the link to the National AMVETS web site that talks about the AMVETS Americanism program, information concerning the poster and essay contest, and links to Americanism resource information.

<http://www.amvets.org/programs/americanism.html>

Our identified project at Freedom’s Foundation is the renovation of the largest classroom in the Martha Washington Building. The total cost for this renovation is \$10,000. Auxiliaries will be recognized for their contributions on a plaque that will be hung in the classroom.

A survey will be sent out in January to all Department Americanism officers seeking input regarding the re-establishment of a women’s conference at Freedom’s Foundation. Questions on the survey will include suggested times for a conference to be held, length of the conference, and cost. Please be sure to communicate with your Department Americanism Officer to provide input into this survey. The results of this survey will be shared with membership at our Spring NEC.

Over the coming months I would encourage members to continue to promote Americanism within their auxiliaries and communities. Beside the projects listed above remember there are numerous ways to “Keep the Pride in America Alive!” Fly our American flag, pass out American flag literature to schools, distribute American flags to schools, and businesses; replace torn and tattered American flags, and conduct flag retirement ceremonies. Continue to send care packages to our servicemen and women; keep their families in mind and look for projects to help support them while their spouse is deployed; clip coupons to send to military bases. Remember the countless homeless veterans many of whom who are suffering from co-occurring traumatic stress and substance abuse. Be alert to your state and federal representatives regarding decisions and issues at hand concerning our veterans. Write, e-mail, and meet with your representatives...make your voice heard.

As always, I would encourage ladies to contact me with any questions or suggestions and resources to enhance the promotion of the ideals and freedoms inherent in being an American; support our servicemen and women; and service to our Veterans. God Bless you, God Bless our service men and women, and God Bless America!

**KATHY BERNING**  
**NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER**

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I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season. May the blessings of the season stay with you through this New Year.

I want you to continue this year to work for Scholarship as we “Make Change with Scholarship”. Keep in mind that February is Scholarship Month. The fact that we as members can help others in their quest for an education, for improvement, to achieve their goals is outstanding. You can help by sending donations to National for our Scholarship Program. It is with your donations that WE are able to achieve their goals.

Thank you to all of the NEC Women for sending in your mid-year reports as they did. It was wonderful to hear all the ways our members are working for scholarships for our students. Just a reminder, the National Auxiliary offers 3 different

types of scholarship. Please make sure your applicants are submitting the correct application for the scholarship they are eligible for. This is important in determining our scholarship winners.

I have had some great conversations with members and hope that my answers were of help. Most of the questions are on clarification of eligibility. Please make sure your applicant is submitting under a current member.

In reading your reports I see that many of your fundraising includes dinners. Always a great way to get members involved. Another is the Dollar for Scholars can that is passed at meetings. Our local will be doing a White Elephant Auction with snacks and fun, hoping to bring in some extra dollars. These are just a few of the fundraising ideas that have been submitted.

Keep up the good work and donate to our National Scholarship Program.

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**MARIE RORRIO**  
**NATIONAL HOSPITAL OFFICER**

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As National Hospital Officer I had the honor to visit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in October. What a tremendous, state of the art hospital (7 buildings on 65 acres). An average of 250 children are seen in their clinics every day. You don’t feel like you are even in a hospital setting as they try to keep everything as normal to home life as possible.

Target House, which consists of 90, 2 bedroom apartments, is completely furnished by TARGET. A short drive from hospital campus, this provides housing for the children and their families when they are undergoing prolonged treatment.

No child is ever refused treatment because of inability to pay. The hospital is run on 74% public donations and 26% grants and other sources. Other hospitals rely on approximately 8% public donations. When donating to St Jude 81 cents of every dollar actually goes in to running St Jude.



When planning activities for this spring, please think about St Jude’s “Yard Sale For Hope”. If you need any assistance or have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact Donna Young at St Jude.

Donna Young  
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital  
501 St Jude Place  
Memphis, TN 38105  
Phone: 800-877-5833 ext 2031  
Email: [donna.young@stjude.org](mailto:donna.young@stjude.org)

Don’t forget National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans which is celebrated at all VA Hospitals the week of Valentine’s Day. Also, “Because We Care Day” is the first Wed in April. Ask a youth to help out. The VA is in need of Youth Volunteers as they lost 1400 youth (ages 14 to 20) this past year. Thank you for your continued service to our Veterans.

**Junior AMVETS**  
Evelyn McElvin, National Auxiliary Coordinator  
Bleve123@aol.com

**Office of: National Junior AMVETS Auxiliary Coordinator**

Madam President Taylor, National Officers and All Junior AMVETS:

I hope everyone had a very safe and blessed holiday season.

Membership is our top priority as always, because without members we will not have this great organization that we volunteer in.

By the time you read this National Lines article, you would have already sent in your dues for the year 2012. You would have already sent in your Mid-year Reports, with copies going to your National Junior AMVETS President Brittney Williams, National Junior AMVETS Junior Vice President Danielle Pate and a copy is to be sent to the National Auxiliary Junior AMVETS Coordinator.

**Mid-Year report includes the months of June 1 through December 30 and due by December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Final Report includes the months of June 1 through May 31<sup>st</sup> and due by June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

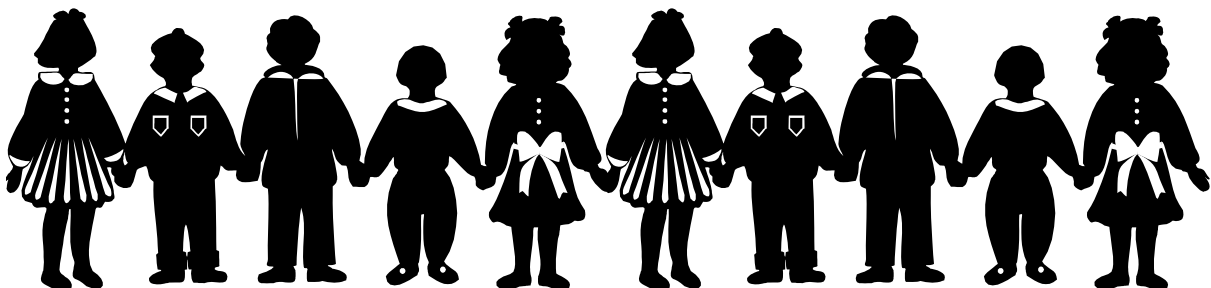
The Junior AMVETS will meet at the AMVETS Spring NEC to be held on March 17-18, 2012, at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport – 13869 Park Center Road , Herndon, Virginia 20171  
Phone number: 703-478-2900 or 1-800-445-8667.

If your Junior AMVET is planing on attending the Spring NEC, please be sure we have the Parent Consent form filled out, signed and turned in before departing the hotel for any functions.

Please share this information with all your Junior AMVETS Posts. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring NEC in March.

Yours in Junior AMVETS service





*2012 SPRING NEC MEETING*

*MARCH 16-18, 2012*

*HILTON WASHINGTON DULLES*

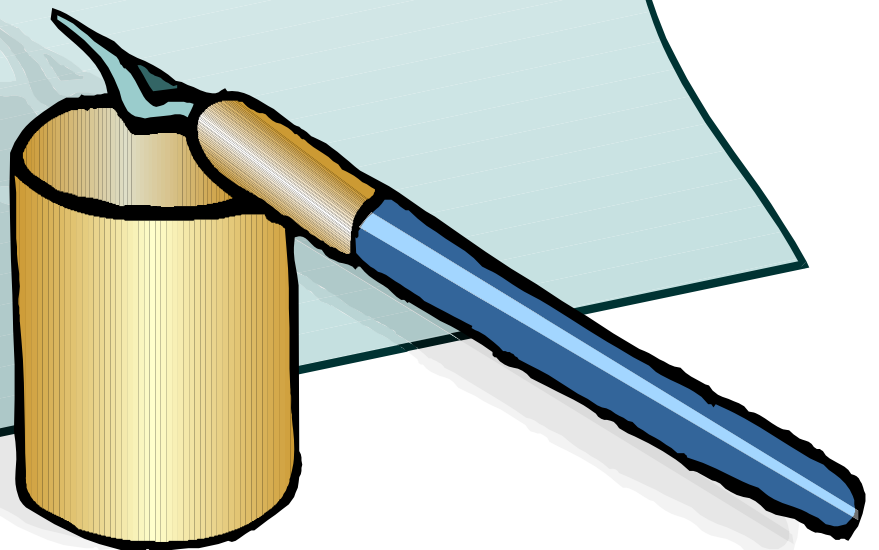
*13869 PARK CENTER DRIVE*

*HERNDON, VA 20171*

*800-445-8667/703-478-2900*

*RATES: \$121.00 + taxes*

*PARKING: COMPLIMENTARY*



Testimonial Dinner  
For  
AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary  
National President, Lynda Taylor

**Date:** Saturday, March 3, 2012  
In conjunction with the National 4<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Weekend

**Place:** Radisson Hotel & Conference Center  
2040 Airport Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313  
(920) 494-7300 - Ask for AMVET/Auxiliary room block

**Room Information:** \$89/single or double; \$99/triple; \$109/quad  
Includes complimentary breakfast at  
"Standing Stone Gourmet Buffet"  
Free WIFI in all rooms  
Call hotel direct & ask for AMVET/Auxiliary room block  
Free parking at hotel and complimentary airport shuttle -  
Green Bay Austin Straubel airport.  
Cutoff date is February 13, 2012

**Menu:** Family style Broasted Chicken and Herb-rubbed Pork Steak with all the trimmings. \$35/person

Please respond to: Joan Sirek  
928 Elm Road N  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 341-3818

Make checks out to: "Joan Sirek" and earmark for testimonial dinner.

Attire - business casual

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

I will have \_\_\_\_\_ (#of people) attending National President Lynda Taylor's Testimonial Dinner.

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_



AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY

**2012 SPRING NEC MEETING**  
**Herndon, VA**

\*\*\*Agenda Subject to Change Without Prior Notice\*\*\*

**March 16-17, 2012**

***Friday, March 16, 2012***

|                     |                            |     |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm  | Registration               | TBA |
| 8:00am – 11:00 am   | National Officer's Meeting | TBA |
| 11:30 am – 12:30 pm | Board of Trustees          | TBA |
| 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm   | Finance Committee          | TBA |
| 2:01 pm – 2:31 pm   | Sackette Registration      | TBA |
| 2:31 pm – 3:31 pm   | Sackette Fracas            | TBA |
| 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm   | Council of NEC             | TBA |
| 7:00 pm             | Quarter Auction            | TBA |

***Saturday, March 17, 2012***

|                   |  |     |
|-------------------|--|-----|
| 8:00 am – 9:30 am | Registration                                 | TBA |
| 9:00 am – 3:00 pm | Spring NEC Meeting                           | TBA |
|                   | Training will be a "Surprise"                |     |
| 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm | General Reception                            | TBA |
| 7:00 pm           | 58 <sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Helmet Awards | TBA |
|                   | Banquet                                      |     |

**AMVETS NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY  
2012 NEC REGISTRATION FORM**



Return form to:  
**AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary**  
**4647 Forbes Blvd – Lanham, MD 20706**  
**By March 7, 2012**

|  |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>   |  |  |   | <b>Date:</b>                                       |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Department:</b>   |  |  |   | <b>Local Auxiliary #:</b>                          |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>   |  |  |   | <b>Email Address:</b>                              |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Please check Office Held:</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/><br><b>PNP</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><b>NEC</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><b>Alt. NEC</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><b>Dept. President</b> | <input type="checkbox"/><br><b>Guest</b> |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>(Received in Headquarters)</b><br><b>Registration Deadline March 7, 2012</b><br><b>Send \$15.00</b> |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>   |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Payment Method</b><br><small>(Check One)</small>  | <b>Check or Money Order</b>            | <input type="checkbox"/>               | <b>Cash</b>                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>                           | <b>Visa</b>                              | <input type="checkbox"/>                | <b>Master Card</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Discover</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Card Number:</b>  |  |  | <b>Expiration Date</b>                      | <b>Month</b>                                       | <b>Year</b>                              | <b>(3)Digit number on back of card:</b> |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Name as it appears on Card:</b>   |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>Address of Cardholder:</b>  |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>City:</b>   |  |  |   | <b>State:</b>                                      |  |   |                    | <b>Zip Code:</b>         |                 |                          |
| <b>Signature of Card Holder:</b>   |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |
| <b>ALL ATTENDEES MUST PAY REGISTRATION FEE – NO EXCEPTIONS</b>   |  |  |   |  |  |   |                    |                          |                 |                          |