

"BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR VETERANS"

KATHRYN M. BERNING NATIONAL PRESIDENT

NATIONAL LINES
WINTER 2016





"BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR VETERANS" Kathy Berning National President

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First off I want to welcome you to a new Auxiliary Membership year. Renewals are all in and you as a local member are signing up new members to participate in you Auxiliary's activities. I want to thank all of you for supporting the projects in your locals.

My theme this year is "Build A Better Future For Our Veterans". Along with this is my project, Warrior Transition Workshop. My goal is to sponsor another all-female workshop. With your help of donations AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary can make this happen. I want to thank all of you for your help in making this possible. We have found that returning Veterans can use the information and support received in the workshops, to improve their lives with their families and communities.

Since the start of my Auxiliary year I have seen a whirlwind of travel. September allowed me a visit to Wisconsin, tour the King Veterans Home and a chance to sit around a campfire with some old and new friends. Next I was off to the Land of Lincoln, attending the Illinois SEC and joined with them at a farewell picnic for Executive Director King.

October had me traveling to Ohio for their SEC and attending my first reverse raffle. I enjoyed a reception that could have been featured in a food magazine. Then it was my honor to travel with Commander Pidgeon, his wife Paulette and my friend Nancy Carrier on our overseas trip. South Korea was unforgettable, traveling to the DMZ and standing in North Korea. We were able to spend some time over lunch with a number of service personnel, talking to them about what they needed from us. We want to reinforce the importance of their position in the country and that they are constantly on the alert, as we have heard in the news anything can happen. Our next visit was to Camp Humphrey. This camp is being built, totally new from the ground up-awesome!! There again we were able to sit down and talk to the service men and women and their families about the opportunities offered to them at their new base.

After that, the four of us traveled to Osan Air Force Base were we met with the Base Commander. He reinforced the need to let our members know the important job they are doing to maintain peace in that part of the world. We were able to tour the living quarters or dormitories as they are called, and experienced the pride they have in their base. Before leaving we toured a new construction school that was planning on opening this year. Family is very important to our service members and look to give the best to their children.

Then we were off to Taiwan, with tours of their Veterans facilities, which include their Veterans Home, the classes in their transition program and the Veterans Hospital. While there we were honored at a Veterans Day program and allowed to meet WWII Veterans that were being recognized for their service. It was a very inspirational program.

On leaving we traveled to Hawaii and laid a wreath at the Arizona Memorial. We talked with staff as they discussed concerns in maintaining the facility. We closed our stay with a tour of the Punchbowl NationalCemetery and a history lesson on the creation of the cemetery and how it relates to the Hawaiian life.

When I arrived back home, I prepared for a quick trip to Washington, DC to participate in Veterans Day events and helped lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. From there I traveled to New Jersey, at the invitation of the AMVETS Department, with Commander Pidgeon and Executive Director Carol King, to attend the Americanism Program at Gloucester Elementary school. It was a very moving presentation and included awards from the New Jersey AMVETS Department for winners in the Poster and Essay contests.

I returned home to travel again in December to Maryland, with an appearance on the AMVETS and SOA's meeting floors at the Winter NEC. From there I visited the Department of Maryland and was joined by Commander Pidgeon for karaoke. They were lucky not to hear me sing. Then back to DC to assist in a wreath-laying ceremony at the WWII Memorial for Pearl Harbor Day. Here we were joined by a WWII veteran from Texas in the presentation.

January brought me to North Carolina – the opportunity to join Auxiliary members at their DEC and a tour of the Biltmore House. What an amazing place - you can't call it a residence.

Once again I want to take the time to thank all the members in the AMVET family for their hospitality and their friendship. And a special thank you for your consideration and donations to my project, the Warrior Transition Workshop.

I am looking forward to some upcoming visits. First is the Training Seminar at Pigeon Forge, always a terrific learning experience and a good time. It's great to revisit with our members attending. February will have me in Florida at the Winter SEC. The next week I will be traveling to Reno, NV for the site visit of our 2016 AMVETS Convention in Sparks. Then conclude with our NEC meeting the first week in March. See you there.



BEAR'S REPEATING - MEMBERSHIP STARTS WITH YOU!"
Evelyn R. McElvin

National 1st Vice President 4332 Princehall Boulevard Orlando, Florida 32811 407-758-3392 Bleve123@aol.com

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that it's a new year already. Hope everyone had a great and safe holiday. Membership is coming in slowly with new life members and new members. Please remember to send in your form for the "I Got 1" pin.

I hope that you found the Membership package helpful and full of new ideas to promote membership within your locals and state. Just a gentle reminder that any member not renewing last year and now wants to renew will have to complete a new application with her criteria to join.

My theme for the year is: "This BEAR'S Repeating - Membership Starts with You!"

Penny the Boyd's Bear would like to help promote Membership this year starting with YOU bringing in one (1) new member. In doing so each member will receive an "I GOT 1" pin that you can proudly wear and show you are feeding the roots of our tree as you bring new members in. NOTE – only one pin per new member even if you bring in more than one.



<u>New Members:</u>"I Got 1" pins will be given to Auxiliary members bringing in one new member from September 1st 2015 through May 31, 2016.

You must send in the information form below requesting the pin. The pins will be given to your NEC woman at the NEC and National Convention for distribution. Those in non-chartered states will have their pin mailed to them.



nis Bear's Repeating - Membership Starts with You!

Member Name	New Me	New Member Name	
Department	_ Auxiliary Number	Date New Member join	ed
Mail to: Evelyn McElvin, l Florida 32811	National 1 st Vice Presid	ent, 4332 Princehall Boulevar	d Orlando,
•	•	through May 31, 2016. This u bring in more than one new	

Update: At the 2016 National Convention Penny will be given to one of the Auxiliary members who brought in a new member (not the new member). Remember Be a BEAR about membership renewals and give your members an opportunity to lay away their Life membership dues.

Again I am so excited about serving as your National 1st Vice President and promoting our number one program Membership. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at NEC.

Please contact me if you have any questions, together we will continue to feed our roots with membership and let the world know - This BEAR'S repeating- Membership starts with you!



Marvell Ruppel National 2nd Vice President

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Happy New Year and greetings to everyone as we enter 2016! I hope everyone had a memorable and safe holiday season.

I want to thank all the Departments who sent in their mid-year Child Welfare reports. Report totals are being compiled and will be reported on at our National Executive Committee meeting in March.

Counterpart mailings will be sent to all Department Chairmen and NECwomen during the month of January. Several Departments did not receive my Child Welfare mailing due to having the wrong address. I tried the best I could to track down the correct mailing address but needless to say I have several packets of information that were returned – some twice. If your Department did not receive the information for the Child Welfare program, please contact me so I am sure to have the correct addresses for your Department Chairman and National Executive Committee woman. The packet contains helpful information to support your Child Welfare program throughout the year.

April is John Tracy Clinic Month. During my visit at John Tracy Clinic I learned the extent of their outreach programs to families of hearing impaired children throughout the United States as well as several countries throughout the world. I was able to meet a military family who spoke about their experiences; the heartbreaking news of learning their firstborn child was hearing impaired, the feeling of isolation felt by the wife (since her husband was on his 3rd deployment), and the support provided by John Tracy Clinic.

There are several ways that folks can raise funds to support this wonderful program! There are bake sales, bake-less bake sales, rummage sales, change can be collected at each meeting (it's amazing how this can build up), basket raffles, and White Clover sales. These are just a few ideas. I'm sure Departments and Auxiliaries have a lot more ideas that work for them that they can share with our Auxiliary sisters. I challenge you to make this a record breaking year for contributions to John Tracy Clinic!

Auxiliary members are also encouraged to think about re-stocking school supplies for children. This is the time of year that items run low and teachers are much appreciative of our assistance. The list of activities to help promote and protect children is endless. You can assist underprivileged children by providing clothing, sponsor Scout troops, baseball and soccer teams. Also, don't forget our Worchid program. The program is named using a combination of War Kids and orchids, the most precious flower the world knows. As our manual states "this program expresses the feelings that AMVETS and the Auxiliaries have for the children of deceased veterans" – whether they died in service or have died since becoming discharged; whether the death was service connected or from natural causes. It is put in place to ensure that the children of deceased veterans of not forgotten. Remember our children are our future and let's continue to "Invest in the Lives of Children"

God Bless America! God bless the servicemen and women who have served, and continue to serve in order to preserve the freedoms we share. God bless all our Auxiliary members who dedicate themselves and their time to serving the children of our country.

Barbara Valley National 3rd Vice President

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Holidays are now behind us. Our hustling and bustling of the season is over. As we catch our breath before taking on the next step in our Auxiliary's role in our communities, we do it with great joy and pride.

In October I was given the privilege to visit PAWS® in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I was not only greeted by Deb Davis from PAWS, but by many members from the auxiliaries along with AMVETS.It's been fifteen years since I'd toured PAWS I was amazed how it has grown. After having lunch that PAWS provided we were given a tour, two new building have been built. As we entered the first building there was a lady working with a young service dog in training.

In the other building we were greeted by the veterinarian and shown the equipment they have on hand. The main building has been updated also. While there we were able to watch another dog in training. After the tour, Deb gave us information on the different stages of training a service dog.

PAWS® is a wonderful project that AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary is supporting. Keep in mind that **March is Paws With A Cause Month** so I'm asking each of you to help support this project that helps those with so many different types of disabilities.



I'd like to thank Faye Richardson-Green, Department President, Peggy Liss, NEC and all the ladies in Michigan for the impressive hospitality I was shown during my visit. Forthose of you if you've ever in Grand Rapids, Michigan, please take the time to visit PAWS, or if you're in a neighboring state, and a road trip is possible, I'd highly recommend it.

Please remember your local food pantries are always in need, along with local shelters. Meals on Wheels helps provide the food that our senior population counts on to get the nutrition that is needed for them to survive. Remember not only is this food needed to survive, contact with others is needed. Take the time to check on them, read to them let them know they are not forgotten.

If you're not sure were volunteer are need in your area check out www.volunteermatching.org Here you can find organizations around you that are need of help.

As my theme says "Opening Doors in Your Community", whether it be in a big way or a small way, you will be changing lives. God Bless You and God Bless America!!



"Remember Their Sacrifices"
Dee Baggett
National Americanism Officer
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I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ALL THE HARDWORK THAT WAS REFLECTED IN YOUR MID YEAR REPORTS!!! I enjoyed reading about the outstanding projects done the first half of the reporting year in support of our Veterans as well as other Americanism projects.

Please keep in mind that our National Project is **Freedoms Foundation**. My project this year is the refurbishment of the Franklin and Hamilton Lobbies. These are the main lobbies of the dormitories on campus. The lobbies are looking very well used and could use a face lift. These areas should be the meeting area in the dormitory areas, with access to a television as there are none in the rooms. Freedoms Foundation will be presenting **Certificates of Appreciation** for donations \$100 and above, plus other incentives for donations over \$300 or \$550. The brochure for this project can be found on our National Website. I challenge every local Auxiliary to hold a fundraiser in May which is Freedoms Foundation Month.

The seminar will be held semi-annually at Freedoms Foundation. This change was made at the last National Convention. It is always held the second weekend in October and will be held on the odd years and all the final plans should be available soon. **The 2017 seminar will be held Thursday through Sunday with a trip to New York!** We are looking for innovative ways to increase attendance and would appreciate any and all input you might have. The property is beautiful with every Medal of Honor winner recognized in their Honor Grove and a copy of each citation can be found in the Knox building. As soon as these brochures are ready they also will be available on our website. Raffle tickets will be available at the NEC to sign out for a free seminar that will be drawn at our 2016 National Convention.

Don't forget to fill out those service reports for all your hard work, so you will be ready to apply for awards. PNP Heidi Dineen-Serpis sponsors an award for the Department doing the most outstanding work in Americanism. PNP Patty Piening sponsors an award for the Local Auxiliary doing the most outstanding work in Americanism. There is even an award for the individual doing the most outstanding work!

If I can help you in any way please feel free to contact me. Also please let me know if you have a fundraiser or project that you can share with your Auxiliary sisters as I would like to compile a list for the National Convention to be shared at the Americanism meeting.

Please continue "Remembering Their Sacrifices"...and don't forget to report it!



Joan Sirek National Chaplain

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It's has been a great honor to serve as your National Chaplain. I have been kept busy by the many deceased notices I received. Any notification received after two months from date of death will not receive a sympathy card from your National Chaplain. Department chaplains please notify your local chaplains to make sure notices are being sent out right away. Please check the addresses for "next of kin"; I have been getting a few cards returned.

It is sad to report that Past National President, Bonnie Scott and Past National President, Dorothy Murrell recently passed away. Prayers go out to all the families and friends of our deceased sisters. I will work to inspire you while holding the AMVETS family and all Veterans in my prayers.

O God, help us to always show mercy and kindness toward others while being honest and true as we members of the AMVETS Family work to "Energize Our Programs and Be the Spark for Our Veterans." May God be with you.



PNP Leslie Wunderle National Honors and Awards Chairman

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National Convention here we come! The planning for our Honors and Awards program is full steam ahead. Your Convention Digest should be in your hands with all the information about applying for awards. Please check the requirements carefully and get your applications in by the deadline. We want to reward you for all the hard work you do for our Veterans and communities.

I am looking forward to a great program as we celebrate our 70th Anniversary and Madam President Kathy's year as our National President. Be prepared to have some FUN!



Nancy Carrier
History/Scrapbook Chairman

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Have you heard this question while you were traveling to your vacation site? I have even said it a few times in joking. Vacation time is not here yet or we would be close to convention in

August. Many times the long time traveling somewhere can be relieved by early planning. The same thought goes with getting your history/scrapbook ready for convention.

It is time now to pick a theme for your book and keep it throughout the book. You should have already started taking pictures and promoting your auxiliary projects. Make some notes regarding the highlights of the project, so you won't have to try to think about it when you are putting your book together several months later. Gather all the required documents and put them in the proper order. Make sure you follow all the rules listed in the Convention Digest and the Auxiliary manual. Remember there are awards for the books themselves and the covers. Be creative. Proofread everything and ask a friend to go through it also and get some feedback. If you start preparing now, you will have a great book and cover to present at convention. I am not a crafty person, so I am always amazed by the talent of our auxiliary sisters.

The books need to be at convention by Monday August 8, 2016. No entries will be accepted after 10:00am. The entries are to be delivered to the History and Scrapbook Chairperson or one of the Committee members in the room posted. Mailed entries must be sent in time to reach Auxiliary National Headquarters no later than Friday, July 15, 2016. Department or Local auxiliaries mailing their book to Headquarters are asked to send a letter of notification or an email to the Chairperson, so as to prevent any misplaced or overlooked books. If you use UPS for mailing entries, make sure they are sent in enough time to arrive at Headquarters by Friday July 15, 2016. We suggest using the US Post Office to make sure your entries are received.

Judging will be done on Monday August 8, 2016. I want to thank the people who have agreed to sit on this committee, but I can always use a few more. If you know you will be available at convention on Monday and want to help, just let me know. The more people we have helping the better. Also it really gives you a chance to look at some wonderful craftsmanship. I never have enough time during convention to really look them over well.

So, even though **we are not there yet**, we will be when convention comes. Enjoy the time you spend gathering memories in your book and see you in August.

Amy M Stopyra
National Sergeant at Arms
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Greetings to everyone! Happy New Year here is wishing you all a great 2016. I truly hope everyone's holiday season was wonderful.

This year's Spring NEC is quickly approaching. The 2016 Spring NEC and Silver Helmet Banquet will be held on March 3 – 6, 2016, for reservations visit www.hiltonalexandriamc.com. Please continue to check the National Ladies Auxiliary website - www.amvetsaux.org and the AMVETS website - www.amvets.org for updates.

I would like to thank those who have signed up to page for the NEC meeting on Saturday, March 5, 2016. If you plan on attending we would love to have you volunteer to page this is a great way to help and assist our sisters as well as reconnect with old friends and make new ones. If you are interested please contact me directly by email or phone.

Please feel free to call, write or email me with any questions you may have regarding the American Flag, protocol, our uniform, or other questions about being a Sqt.-At-Arms. I look forward to hearing from you. God Bless you and your families.



Marie Rorrio **National VAVS Representative**

16 Till Street Enfield, Connecticut 06082 860-836-3468 mcrorrio@yahoo.com

VAVS Representatives and Deputies have 3 requirements:

- Attend the four quarterly meetings of the VAVS Committee at their VA facility.
- Complete an Annual Joint Review with the Chief of Voluntary Services in the month of September.
- RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS.

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary currently has VAVS representation in 72 VA facilities. In 2011 we had representation in 77 facilities. During FY 2015 we had 526 Registered RS (regularly scheduled) Volunteers, with a total of 26,989 hours. Our numbers are slowly decreasing but all of the Voluntary Service Organizations (VSO) appears to be having the same issues. We need to actively recruit volunteers to help us serve our hospitalized Veterans, starting with youth Volunteers.

Every VA has a special program scheduled for the "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans", which is usually held the week of Valentine's Day. Check with your VA and bring a few friends along to volunteer.

In November I attended the NAC (National Advisory Committee) E Board meeting in Washington, DC. The 2016 VAVS NAC Conference is scheduled for May 3-6 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This will be the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the VAVS program. When I receive more information on registration I will pass it on.



CLARICE POISSON **National Snappiest**

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Smmrfn21@yahoo.com

Greetings from the National Sackettes. We will be attending our annual Spring Fracas (meeting) March 4th at 9:30 AM. Please feel free to join us in our fun and games - sometimes we even conduct a little business! We welcome all Auxiliary sisters to visit us and observe all our antics in complete disorder. Some of us might even surprise you by behaving abnormally.

Of course these actions cause us to get fined. Getting fined is one way we raise monies to grant scholarships to deserving students attending accredited Nursing Schools, a very worthwhile program.



"Scholarships do help to Make Individual and families Lives Exceptional" Sheila Jackson

National Scholarship Officer

4433 South 18th Place Phoenix, Arizona 85040 602-702-9421 (cell) 602-431-7126 (fax) she2042457@maricopa.edu

Greetings, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. May all the blessings of the season stay with each of you and your families this New Year 2016.

As we continue to Share a <u>S.M.I.L.E</u> for our Scholars, please remember that February is Scholarship month. Let's go out there and promote education, let's promote advancement and achievement of each goal set while working together for Scholarship.

Thank you so much to all the NEC Women for sending in your Mid-Year reports. It was such a joy to see all the ways our members are working for Scholarships early in the year, that's the best way to build the funds for our Scholars. The only area I would like to see more of is in the details on the various activities you do for Scholarship when sending in your reports.

Please make sure your applicants are submitting the correct and updated applications for the scholarship they are eligible for. This is important in determining our scholarship winners. Another area we see that perhaps warrants mentioning is please make sure that your applicant is submitting under a current member and don't forget the copy of the membership card.

Let's continue to working on placing a <u>S.M.I.L.E</u> on more students faces by encouraging each member to make a small donation of just \$1.00 to the National Scholarship program, by each Local and Department hosting at least 1 National Scholarship project and by handing out at least 1 or all 3 of the *most current* National Scholarship Applications.

AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Scholarships:

General Scholarship - \$1000.00 and \$750.00 Career Start Scholarships - \$500.00 College Support Scholarships - \$500.00 Deadline: July, 1st, 2016 to headquarters

The most current scholarship applications and criteria are available on the AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary website: www.amvetsaux.org

Thank you for the all work you do in making sure we promote Scholarship on all levels. Please know that without your donations to our National Scholarship Program we will not be able to help our scholars achieve their educational goals.



Service With A Smile -



Leslie Nell National Hospital Chairman 913 Truman Drive Pekin, Illinois 61554-1511 309-346-2175 Lnell_1973@yahoo.com

I send Greetings and Happy New Year to all. We have had a mild winter so far with some very sunny days and warm temps. I'm not looking forward to when the bottom drops out and we become a frozen tundra. I think it's coming very soon according to the weatherman.

Our National program is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital which we have supported for over 30 years. On average, 5,700 active patients visit the hospital each year; most of them are treated on an outpatient basis. As you know, no one is turned away for their inability to pay. Thanks to AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and other organizations like ours they are able to provide lodging, meals, and transportation for the patient and their family. I will be sending out fundraising ideas to the Department Hospital Chairman that I hope they will share with their local counterparts. Donations for the first part of our reporting year are down so I'm hoping these ideas can take seed and our second half of the year will be much better.

I would like to talk about our VA Hospitals and their need for volunteers. Staff at our VA Hospitals are busy caring for the medical needs of our Veterans. While they would like to spend more one on one time with a patient they are needed in other areas. This is where our volunteers are important. Sometimes all a patient needs is a friendly smile, a warm hand to hold, someone to talk with or someone to listen. This is as important to the healing process as the medical procedures and care they receive. Some areas don't have a hospital close to them, but may have a clinic. Call the Volunteer Service officer at your local VA or at the clinic close to you to see what volunteer opportunities are available. When your Department VAVS Rep has a program planned, volunteer to help. Don't forget "The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" is in February and "Because We Care Day" is held the first Wednesday in April.

The reporting year is quickly coming to an end. Please remember to report all of your volunteer hours, activities or donations. Don't forget to apply for the Hospital awards to be given at our National Convention. Keep up to good work you're doing to help our hospitalized Veterans and St Jude Children's Research Hospital. This is the way you "Measure Up in Hospital Work".



PNP Charlene Kee National Convention Chair P. O. Box 457 Eustis, Florida 32727 352-357-0866 CHRLNKEE@aol.com

Start making plans to attend our 70th AMVETS National Ladies Auxiliary Convention Sunday, August 7, 2016 - Sunday, August 14, 2016.

Hotel Information:

Nugget Casino Resort 1100 Nugget Avenue Sparks, Nevada 89431

www.nuggetcasinoresort.com

Reservations: (800) 648-1177 or (775) 356-3300

Room Rate: \$89.00

Cut-off Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2016

Parking: Complimentary

I will share more information at our upcoming Spring NEC Meeting and tickets for Reno Night will be available at that time

PNP Betty S. Lawson Training Chairman

3595 Tally Road Morristown, Tennessee 37813 423-581-0074 423-258-5257 Law846@comcast.net Snow, rain, ice and sunshine...we had it all in Tennessee this year but it did not dampen the spirit of the ones who attended the Leadership Seminar in January. I was very happy to see so many of you who continue to support the training program and show so much interest in our great organization. We had 14 National Officers in attendance as well as 10 Past National Presidents.

The seminar was well attended and everyone enjoyed having Jason Raia from Freedoms Foundation who enlightened all of us about what is going on at Freedoms and how we can help promote the program.

Also attending was Deb Davis and Seymour from PAWS® With a Cause. She also gave us a detailed program for PAWS®. Everyone got to meet Seymour who is such a beautiful dog.

It was a pleasure having them with us and to share their knowledge and also to be able to meet our members and share some much needed materials.

My thanks to our other instructors PNP's Carol King, Linda McGriff, Leslie Wunderle, Hiedi Dineen-Serpis and Sylvia Rowland. I couldn't have done it without you.

I look forward to seeing each of you at NEC and at National Convention in Reno where we will be focusing on our last 70 years.

FEBRUARY 2016 HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

On behalf of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary National President Kathy Berning it is my pleasure to announce that Lynda Carter, actress of stage and screen, will be in attendance at the 2016 Silver Helmet Awards Banquet to receive the National Auxiliary Humanitarian of the Year award.

Other confirmed attendees include former Miss America and previous Humanitarian Award recipient Heather French Henry, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, John Scocos, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and former Marine and talk show host Montel Williams. As confirmation of other attendees is finalized I will update you.

I finally have a link for Silver Helmet Banquet tickets – yippee! https://2016silverhelmetgala.eventbrite.com If you prefer to send a check for your tickets, please send your request to AMVETS National Headquarters, ATTN: Dawn Perry, 4647 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706. Earmark your check Silver Helmet Tickets and enclose a brief note.

For the Spring NEC you need to fly into Reagan National Airport (DCA). Hotel information is:

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center 5000 Seminary Road Alexandria, VA 22311 www.hiltonalexandriamc.com

Reservations: (800) 445-8997 or (703) 845-1010 Room Rate: \$117.00/Parking: \$8.00 per night

Visit the **NEC/CONVENTION** tab on our website to find the First Call to NEC as well as the **TENTATIVE** NEC Meeting agenda and Registration.

The National Sons of AMVETS will be hosting their annual "Storm the Hill" event on Wednesday, March 2, with a pre-event meeting scheduled on Tuesday, March 1 at 7:30 at the Hilton Mark Center, room to be announced. If you are interested seeing the Sons in action on the Hill, please contact Ramona Joyner at <u>r.joyner@sonsofamvets.org</u>

As previously announced there will be a breakfast reception in honor of the AMVETS Congressional Silver Helmet Award recipient at 8:00am Thursday, March 3 and the National Commander's Testimony to Congress at 10:00am. Following those events a memorial service will be held at AMVETS National Headquarters. Buses will be providing transportation from/to the Hilton. IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS PLEASE EMAIL ME THE NAMES OF THOSE NEEDING TRANSPORTATION BY FEBRUARY 19, 2016.

If you are still having difficulties saving documents you have filled out from the website, please see the notice in the yellow area for directions.

On a personal note, thank you for the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers sent to me and my family when my mother passed. Your kindness made a hard time more bearable.



Looking for something to do Saturday night after all the meetings and hoopla is over? Then join the Training Committee for BINGO!!! More details to be announced at the NEC Meeting!

Bring your dauber, bring your friend! See You Saturday, March 5 at 6:30!

Thanks for your support – The Training Committee!!

