

MICHIGAN CONNECTION

March/April, 2019

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(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Department Theme: United We Stand

Special Announcements

Per Section 809E of the National Bylaws, notification was previously sent on December 18, 2018, concerning the vacancy of the office of National Treasurer. The only name placed in nomination was Past National President Ann Panteleakos. Therefore, by acclamation, Ann Panteleakos has been elected to the office of National Treasurer and will be installed on March 16, 2019 during the National Mid-Year Conference.

Per Section 809D of the National Bylaws, notification was previously sent on November 8, 2018, concerning the vacancy of the office of Department Conductress. At the January 25, 2019 Council of Administration meeting the name of Diana Ward was placed in nomination and subsequently elected by acclamation to the office of Department Conductress. The names of Jane Dady and Sara Manke were subsequently placed in nomination for the office of Department Guard. By majority vote of the Council of Administration, Sara Manke was elected to the office Department Guard.

Reminder: Department is always available to assist an Auxiliary with any issues or concerns. However, we cannot fix any personality conflicts.

Department Delegate Information

In March, the Auxiliary President will be receiving, in the mail, the Department Delegate form that must be completed, as instructed, and returned, with payment, to the Department Office no later than Wednesday, May 29. Even if your Auxiliary does not plan to attend the Department Convention, your Auxiliary is mandated to

still pay the delegate fees pursuant to Department Bylaws in conjunction with the National Bylaws. Election of Delegates is to take place at your April meeting.

Please note that failure to pay Department Delegate fees puts the Auxiliary delinquent and in arrears and subjects them to being placed on Suspension.

District Delegate Information

In the same mailing will be the District Delegate forms with instructions. The forms will also be available on our website.

Report of Installation forms and National Delegate forms are currently not available. As soon as they are, they will be put on our website.

Testimonial

The Department Testimonial honoring Department President Sandy Medos and Department Commander Phil Patterson is April 12-13 at the Pohl Cat Golf Course in Mt. Pleasant. Information and reservations forms are available on our website. The dress code for the event is business.

Reporting The 2018-19 Department Chairmen will be approving reports up to midnight on Saturday, April 20. The judging for awards will be based on the reporting up to that day. Beginning April 21, the reporting will be approved by the 2019-20 Department Chairmen and counted for the next administrative year. Any questions, please call the office.

Department Convention is June 5-9 at the Gateway Holiday Inn in Flint. Hotel registration forms are on our website. The

tentative agenda should be available by mid-March.

Below is a listing of candidates for the following Department Offices for the 2019-20 Administrative year:

For the office of President, Della Steege, endorsed by Post and Auxiliary #4005 and District 9.

For the office of Sr. Vice President, Carrie Turner, endorsed by Post and Auxiliary #2406 and District 8

For the office of Jr. Vice President, Stephanie Krueger, endorsed by Post and Auxiliary #4422 and District 4.

For the office of Treasurer, Nicole Koutz, endorsed by Post and Auxiliary #3055 and District 9.

For the office of Chaplain, Diana Ward endorsed by Post and Auxiliary #3243 and District 10

For the office of Conductress, Sara Manke endorsed by Post and Auxiliary #9411 and District 7

Election of Officers - Pursuant to Section 804A – Auxiliary, Elective Officers shall be nominated and elected at a regular business meeting in April. No member shall be elected to office unless the member is in attendance at the election or unless they submit in writing their willingness to be elected and hold office. If you feel your Auxiliary will have issues with electing a full slate of officers, please contact the Department Office or Department Chief of Staff immediately, so that we may provide assistance.

Words from National Jr. Vice President Sandi Onstwedder

I give thanks to every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in the Department of Michigan and my sincerest gratitude is extended to each of you. I have been the beneficiary of your generosity in raising funds to serve as National President in 2020/2021.

I will never forget the time, energy and effort you have extended to making these fundraising events the success they have

been. I won't name individuals who stepped up, above and beyond to accomplish our goal, because as sure as I breathe, I would leave someone out and that would be the ultimate heartbreak for me. Please accept my humble thanks to all. There will be one more in the 10th District on April 27, 2019. After that, we will put fundraising for me to rest. It is time for **US** to focus on our Department Auxiliary and all Veterans.

Many of my future plans are in place. Time is nearing and I pray that I am able to serve as National President in a manner each of you will take pride in. For everyone in this Department, Past Department Presidents, and most importantly, you the members have shaped me into this leadership role. I will endeavor to not disappoint any of you.

Treasurer's Tips

The Department Treasurer still has not received a copy of the 990 from many of the Auxiliaries. Please submit a copy as soon as possible. If you have not completed your 990, please contact the office for assistance.

National has revised the Application for Membership and it is available on our Department website.

Connection Corner

Q: Our Auxiliary and/or District have endorsed to support one of our members for an office at the Department level. Does that mean we all have to vote for the candidate or just the President?

A: No vote is obligated on an endorsement. It is implied that most will cast their vote for that person, but there is no obligation to do so. Delegates have their own vote means each person voting may vote for their personal choice. Please refer to Section 805 of the National Bylaws and Ritual.

Questions? If you have any questions or comments, please email the Department Office at misec@asiserve.net and we will answer your question and also incorporate it into our next Michigan Connection

By Order of:

Sandy Medos

**Sandy Medos
Department President**

Cindy Peto

**Cindy Peto
Department Secretary**