

CONVENTION FORECAST

SHE (Salute Heroines Everyday)

JUNE 2026

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida

Sacrifice Honored, Security Ensured: Our Sisters' Keeper

A Call to Convention

Rosen Centre, Orlando, Florida

June 18-21, 2026

Christina Albright, Department President

Nikki Anderson
Convention Chairman

PNP Evelyn McElvin
Awards Chairman



GREETINGS!

The Call to Convention Forecast!

This booklet is published each Mid- Winter SEC, prior to the State Convention of AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida.

It is neither a souvenir nor a keepsake, but rather it is a collection of information, which **MUST BE SHARED** with all members of your local auxiliary. This booklet is a means to describe, to inform, to direct, to invite, to urge and to plan for your activities.

Make copies and distribute to the proper officers in your auxiliary, making sure each member is informed. Fill out the forms; mail them to the correct Department Officer or Chairman.

As the recipient of the Convention Forecast, it is your responsibility to make sure that all service reports are received by the Department officers by the deadline date of May 5th.

PLAN THE PROJECTS

REPORT THE PROJECTS

APPLY FOR THE AWARDS



THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Come join us for our Department Convention. Below are all the deadline dates you will need to make your experience of Convention easier and worry free.

Pre-registration forms and hotel information will be mailed in the April 2026 Hot Line and when the February 2026 SEC minutes are distributed.

- Service Reports due from Locals for End of Year Deadline- MAY 5,2026
- Annual reports for Convention Book- BY: MAY 13, 2026
- **These are e-mailed to the Exec. Secretary:**
 - All Local Auxiliary Presidents & District Presidents
 - VAVS Representatives
- **These are e-mailed to the President, 1st Vice & Parliamentarian**
 - Department Officers and Chairmen
- Revalidation form submitted to **Executive Secretary.- BY: MAY 31, 2026**
- Department Patrons' Page and Money to **Executive Secretary BY: MAY 15, 2026**
- Ads & Money to **Executive Secretary BY: MAY 13, 2026**
- Donations to charities to **Executive Secretary - BY: MAY 13, 2026**
- Pre-registration Deadline- **MAY 19, 2026 in hand.**
- Changes in Local & District Bylaws due to **Dept. Parliamentarian-BY: MAY 15, 2026**
- **Resolutions** must be received by the Parliamentarian, **thirty (30) days** prior to the opening of the Department Convention.
- Meet deadline for **AWARDS** entries: **Postmarked by: SATURDAY MAY 31, 2026**
- **JUNE 7th Date on Membership Score Card. To be used for all Awards.**
- Department Scholarships- **MAY 15, 2026 - Postmarked to DEPT. Scholarship Chair**
- Hotel Cut-Off Date Deadline: **MAY 17, 2026 - Room rate: \$145.00**

Our First Lady Reception Recognition 1st vice President

As we celebrate our Convention, let us show our President appreciation for her hard work and accomplishments during her tenure in office. This is the time to honor her as a person, a leader and a dedicated member of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

At her reception, the Department Officers, Past Dept. Presidents and District Presidents may present the Department President with a token of love as a thank-you for her dedicated service. They may also present gifts in person or mail it to the Department.

Mail your contributions to the Department First Vice President May 24, 2026. We want to make this evening one that she will never forget.

Send your donation and this form to: Sharon Sheldon **Dept. First Vice President**
AMVETS Ladies Aux., Dept. of Florida
4440 NE 127 Court
Williston, Florida 32696
Phone: 352-278-6166
ssheldon230@gmail.com

Please make your checks payable to: **Christina Albright**, Dept. President

Name _____ Amount of donation \$ _____



Our First Lady Reception Recognition 2nd Vice President

As we celebrate our Convention, let us show our President appreciation for her hard work and accomplishments during her tenure in office. This is the time to honor her as a person, a leader and a dedicated member of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

At her reception, the local auxiliaries may present the Department President with a token of love as a thank-you for her dedicated service. Auxiliaries may present it in person or mail to the Department.

Mail your contributions to the Department Second Vice President by May 24, 2026. We want to make this evening one that she will never forget.

Send your donation and this form to: Wendy Luzader. **Dept. Second Vice President**
702 SW 5th Avenue.
Trenton, Florida 32693
Phone: 352-214-8700
Wendyluzader@yahoo.com

Please make your checks payable to: **Christina Albright**, Dept. President
Name _____ Amount of donation \$ _____

JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

The service is scheduled for Friday, June 19, 2026

Immediately following joint opening

Please submit a list of your deceased Auxiliary members for this year. This information is necessary to plan for the last roll call at Convention. All names received by May 5, 2026 will be in the Convention book.

We will also accept names at the Convention. Please submit all information to the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain and Executive Secretary in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or need any information, please direct them to the Auxiliary Chaplain.

Dawn Stewart, CHAPLAIN

820 Walker Drive

Tampa, Florida 33613

PHONE- 813-378-9464

dawnstewart0620@gmail.com



BE PROUD - SHOW YOUR COLORS

“Red, White and

Blue” to all

THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

At our Department Convention there is that opportunity for all AMVETS Ladies Auxiliaries to display their colors. In addition to the Stars and Stripes we are proud of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Flag.

Once each year the auxiliaries are requested to bring their flags to the Convention to advance the colors at the opening ceremony and then to have them posted during the entire Convention. Many auxiliaries have worked very hard to purchase their colors, so why not show your colors?

Please don't forget your stands and mark them for identification purposes.

Remember, you and you alone are responsible for YOUR flags.

Direct any questions to the Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms

Tajuana McKenzie, Sergeant At Arms

5110 Overton Drive

New Port Richey, Florida 34652

PHONE-727-564-7523

Tajuana_gland@yahoo.com

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
80st ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL – ORLANDO, FLORIDA
June 18– 21, 2026

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

Thursday, June 18, 2026

- 4:00 P.M. Pre-con Meeting (Designated officers only)
AMVETS Commander, Auxiliary President, AMVETS Executive Director, AMVETS Finance Officer, Auxiliary Treasurer, AMVETS Provost Marshall, Auxiliary Convention Chair and Auxiliary Sgt-At-Arms
- 4:30 P.M. Finance Committee Meeting
Audit Committee Meeting
- 5:30 P.M. Honors & Awards Judging

(1st Vice, All Service Officers, NEC, Alt. NEC,
Current & Past Awards Chairman are **required** to attend)

Friday, June 19, 2026

- 12 Noon – 4:00 P.M. Registration Open
- 11:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. Quartermaster Open
- 9:00 A.M. By-Laws Committee Meeting
- 10:00 A.M. Scholarship Judging
- 11:00 A.M. Joint Elected Officers Meeting
Department Commander and President

(AMVETS/Auxiliary Elected Officers, AMVETS Executive Director, Sons of AMVETS and Jr. AMVETS Coordinators)
- 1:00 P.M. Convention Advisory Committee Meeting
Honors and Awards Committee Meeting (immediately following)
- PRIOR to 3:00 P.M. Local Scrapbook Deadline
- 3:00 P.M. Elected Officers Meeting with Appointed Officers
(PDP's are welcome to attend)
Service Officers Meeting with NEC/PDP Sherry Marecek (immediately following)
- 3:30 P.M. AMVETS/Auxiliary/Sons Joint Convention Chair

4:00 P.M. Local Scrapbook Judging
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

**FOLLOWED BY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
IN PRESIDENT'S SUITE**

Saturday, June 20, 2026

7:30 – 9:30 A.M. Registration Open
3:00 – 4:00 P.M. Registration Open
7:30 AM Quartermaster Open (Closed during business sessions)
2:30 P.M. Quartermaster Audit

8:15 A.M. Official Opening of 80st AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Convention

11:45 A.M. Gaveliers Meeting
1:00 P.M. Honors and Awards Ceremony
2:30 P.M. Local Officer's Training/Orientation,
Department Officers
6:00 P.M. **Reception Cocktail Hour**
7:00 P.M. **Banquet**

Sunday, June 21, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 A.M. Registration
8:15 A.M. All Raffle Drawings
8:30 A.M. General Business Session

POST-CONVENTION MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT

All newly elected and appointed officers must attend

HOSPITALITY ROOM SUITE

Thursday	June 18, 2026	5:00PM – 12:00AM
Friday	June 19, 2026	12:00PM - 6:00PM 8:30PM – 12:00AM

Saturday June 20, 2026

4:00PM–12:00AM

Rosen Centre Hotel

9840 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819

Phone: (407) 996-9840

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida

Convention: June 18 – June 21, 2026

HOTEL CUT-OFF DATE: May 17, 2026

ROOM RATE: \$145.00



- Parking:**
- 1) Complimentary self-parking- Garage-FREE
 - 2) Valet parking- Full price- \$35.00

Handicap Parking



- 1) SELF-PARK Handicap in valet parking lot FREE
- 2) Handicap VALET parking



Mail TO: AMVETS Ladies Aux
 Dept. of FL
 PDP Donnajeanne Merritt
 Executive Secretary
 7520 NE 105th Ave
 Bronson, FL 32621
 Phone: 352-306-0030



**2026 AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
 Patron's Page Sign Up - Sheet**

(Please Type or Print Legibly)

	Name	Auxiliary/Post	Amount
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
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20.			
21.			
22.			
23.			
24.			
25.			

Total amount \$ _____

List MUST be received at Department Headquarters **postmarked on or before May 15, 2026 to be included in this year's convention book. Any Patron's Pages postmarked after May 15, 2026 will not appear in the Convention Book. This deadline will be adhered to.**

Submitted by: _____
Name Auxiliary #
_____ Phone number or Email address



AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
2026 Department Convention
AD Space Request Form
Personal Information:

NAME:

AUXILIARY NUMBER: _____ CITY: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

AD INFORMATION: (Please state how many of each ad you would like to order)

ADS are Black and white only

_____	Business card size	2" long x 3 1/2" wide	\$10.00
_____	1/4 page block	5 1/2" long x 4 1/4 wide	\$25.00
_____	1/2 page block	5 1/2" long x 8 1/2" wide	\$50.00
_____	Full page	11 1/2" long x 8 1/2" wide	\$75.00

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADS _____ TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Send your copy-ready artwork and ready to print according to the size you have selected along with a check made out to AMVETS Ladies Aux Dept. of FL to:

AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Department of Florida
PDP Donnajeanne Merritt
7520 NE 105th Ave
Bronson, FL 32621
Earmarked: Convention Ads

Call the Executive Secretary for more information.
352-306-0030

Deadline: May 13, 2026 – must be in Headquarters

Thank your members that work your programs, say hi to someone, thank a special person, thank a Veteran, wish someone a Happy Birthday or anniversary, get someone a “that’s the way to go! Campaign for the next office you want to hold. Congratulate someone who has accomplished something outstanding. Have some fun with the ads, but nothing inappropriate. Get your Post and Sons to participate with an ad.

If you would prefer to email your ad, it MUST be copy ready and it MUST be sent in Word. Please do not send just wording. E-mail copy will be accepted for printing once payment has been received.

Email to: execsecyfl@gmail.com Thank you for your patronage

AMVETS LADIES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
JUNE 2026 CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-Registration Fee: 20.00 On-site Fee: 30.00 Deadline: May 19, 2026

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMVETS LADIES AUX., DEPT. OF FLORIDA Mail to: April Higgins
P.O. Box 2920
Arcadia, FL 34265

Tel. No. 863-444-3899

E-mail: arhiggins1978@gmail.com

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

(Registration is paid for Department Officers & PDP’S/PNP’s)

Local President SEC Alt. SEC District President

Delegate(s)/Alternate (s) Attach sheet if additional space is needed

Honorary Member/Guest (NO VOTE):

Mark an asterisk (*) next to members attending for the first time

AWARDS Not Requiring Entry Form

PDP RUTHIA R. HESTER MEMORIAL AWARD (Presented by Aux. # 17)- (Individual) Auxiliary member doing the most to aid the Department President to further the Aims & Purposes of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary.

GAVELIERS AWARD- (Each Local Auxiliary President and each State Executive Committee Woman) Each must answer roll call at EACH SEC meeting (October and February meetings) and attend meetings on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to receive the Gaveliers Award. Also she must attend HER individual Council meeting with HER signature on roll call.

At the Department Convention held in June: The President and SEC must answer roll call at business meetings on Saturday and Sunday. The attendance will start at the June (State Convention) and end at the Spring SEC Meeting.

(Local Presidents and State Executive Committee Woman- ONLY - no substitutes).

PNP RUTH K. NICKERSON MEMORIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD (Chairman) Largest number of renewals. The number of renewals will come from the Executive Secretary. 1st Vice shall be responsible for acquiring the winner.

PDP TRUDY WOOD - LARGEST NUMERICAL INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP AWARD - (Auxiliary) Auxiliary with the largest numerical increase in membership. (Take last year's total membership and subtract from this year's total).

MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS- (Auxiliary certificate) Achieving 100% total membership counts based on previous year.

100% MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS- (Auxiliary certificate) Each Auxiliary renewing all members of the previous year.

THREE LARGEST MEMBERSHIP AWARDS- (Auxiliary certificates) Awarded to the three largest auxiliaries in the Department.

PDP CARYLON SPENCER MEMORIAL JOHN TRACY CENTER AWARD (Presented by Aux #78) - (Auxiliary) collecting the most money for John Tracy Center.

PDP GLORIA JASINSKI MEMORIAL AWARD (Paws With-A-Cause) (Auxiliary) with the largest percentage per member of contributions to Paws With-A-Cause.

PDP MARY LOU MASLO FISHER HOUSE AWARD (Auxiliary) Presented to the Auxiliary donating the most money to an OPERATING Fisher House.

(Continued) **AWARDS Not Requiring Entry Form**

FOUNDING FORWARD- (Auxiliary) with the largest cash donation for Founding Forward.

FOUNDING FORWARD - (Auxiliary) Largest per member donation to Founding Forward.

Awards Requiring an Entry Form

AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR SERVICE AWARD—(Auxiliary) reporting the most service work (Percentage per member) to the Department Service Chairmen.

NO SERVICE REPORTS REQUIRED.

Total auxiliary service evaluation divided by the total members.

PDP LOUISE O'DONNELL MEMORIAL AUXILIARY #1 "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD – (Presented by Aux. #1) (Individual) doing the most service to further the Aims & Purposes of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. **The entry form MUST be signed by the President ONLY. The letter can be signed by the President or one of the Vice Presidents.**

PDP VIRGINIA (GINNY) MARTIN MEMORIAL LOCAL GOOD SAMARITAN AWARD- (IN HONOR OF PDC AL WOODARD)- (Presented by Aux. #15) (Auxiliary) who has supported its Post above and beyond the call of being a helper.

PNP EVELYN R. McELVIN PRESIDENT'S GREEN HAT AWARD- (Individual) Local green hat member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist the President. Dept. Pres, District Pres. Or Local Pres. Can nominate an individual member.

PDP ESTRELLA YOUNG HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD – (Individual) Awarded to the individual Honorary Member who has done the most to assist the local auxiliary with furthering the Aims and Purposes of AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary. **Must have a copy of membership card with entry form.**

PNP ANNE E. HALL MEMORIAL SCRAPBOOK AWARD- (Auxiliary) preparing the best scrapbook following **the National criteria**. It should contain permanent records as well as tell the story of achievements during 2025-2026 auxiliary year. Book must be submitted no later than 3PM Friday of Convention to the PRO Chairman.

(Continued) **Awards Requiring an Entry Form**

PDP JOANNE HENSON MEMORIAL SERVICE AWARD- (Presented by Aux. # 9) (Auxiliary) Auxiliary reporting greatest evaluation in any three service categories, with the largest percentage per member. NO SERVICE RPORTS REQUIRED
(Total of all three service evaluations added together and divide by total membership)

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE CHAIRMAN AWARD- (Individual) Demonstrating ability in forming committees to successfully complete projects and forward reports promptly to Department Chairman. Will require total hours & evaluation. No Service reports needed.

PDP LUCILLE T. HENSON MEMORIAL AWARD- (Individual) Collecting the most money for John Tracy Clinic. No service reports required.

PDP DORIS A. MILLER MEMORIAL CHILD WELFARE AWARD-(Presented by Aux. # 30) (Individual) Doing the most child welfare service. No service reports required.

PDP LINDA BEST GFELL MEMORIAL AWARD ST JUDE'S CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL AWARD- (Auxiliary) with the highest percentage per member in total evaluation.

Total evaluation divided by total membership)

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN AWARD- (Individual) demonstrating ability in forming committees to successfully complete projects and forward reports promptly to Department Chairman. Will require total hours & evaluation. No Service reports needed.

PNP CHARLENE D. KEE RONALD McDONALD AWARD- (Auxiliary) with the highest total evaluation for Ronald McDonald House for AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, in terms of hours, money and etc.

PDP BERTHA M. ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD- (Presented by Aux. #30) (individual) doing the most outstanding Community Service.

No service reports required.

PDP DELIA J. RAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AWARD- (Presented by Aux. #30) (Auxiliary) with the highest hospital totals including hours, money, and donations. No service reports required. **Total Evaluation in Hospital.**

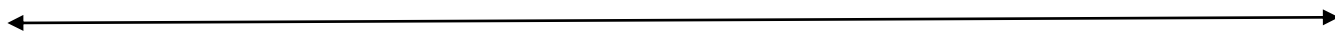
PDP SHERRY MARECEK HOSPITAL AWARD- (Auxiliary) with the largest percentage per member of contributions to a State-Veterans Nursing Home sponsored by Dept. of Florida Service Foundation.

(Continued) **Awards Requiring an Entry Form**

PDP NORA McPHERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD- (Presented by Aux. #78) (Auxiliary) Awarded to the auxiliary contributing the most money for Scholarship, largest percentage per member. Specify the amount of money contributed, as well as identify the persons or institutions receiving the same. No service reports required.

PDP DOROTHY JOHNS AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN AWARD- (Individual) Demonstrating ability in forming committees to successfully complete projects and in forwarding legible and correct service reports promptly to Department Chairman. Will require total hours & evaluation. No Service reports needed.

PDP DONNAJEANNE HAKLER MERRITT- Americanism Show and Tell Award- (Auxiliary) who presents the most interesting program/project for an Americanism project.

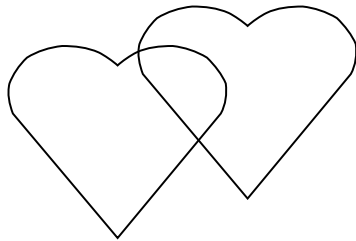


PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ENTRY FORMS FOR THE AWARDS REQUIRING AN ENTRY ARE FOLLOWING. YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE COPIES OF EACH OF THESE FORMS AND SUBMIT WITH YOUR AWARD APPLICATION. PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AS THEY APPEAR ON EACH AWARD APPLICATION IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE.

CONVENTION FORECAST

Please join us in making a difference
By applying for awards and
Volunteering

This booklet is meant to be shared !



DON'T FORGET THE PATRON'S PAGE AND ADS.

We ask that you collect at least \$1 for each name on the
Patron's page from your members, family and friends.

Convention ads will only be in black and white

Business card- \$10.00

¼ Page - \$25.00

½ Page- \$50.00

Full Page- \$75.00