

VOLUME

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VFW Auxiliary  
to the Department of  
Nevada

# Silver Notes

Newsletter

Department President  
Renee Thayer  
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## this issue

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Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

Our Dept. Mid-Winter Conference was held January 7<sup>th</sup> in Reno. The COA passed the 2022-23 Dept. Budget. This will be sent out to all Auxiliary Presidents with a copy of the Dept. Standing Rules and Bylaws that are the current revisions. The Budget Cmte and Dept. Treasurer worked really hard to revamp and update the format so the Budget is easy to follow and understand for everyone. I owe them the biggest debt of gratitude!

This new budget made one statistic very clear, our membership is dropping drastically. In order to stay viable as a Dept., we need to increase our Life Membership and get more renewals from the Annuals. Each Auxiliary will need to discuss the ways they can increase their membership and implement the necessary steps to achieve this goal. Also, check your membership lists and reach out to members you haven't heard from in a long while. We need to know if they are still out there. We have been finding more and more deceased members that we were not notified about. Please keep working on signing up new members everywhere you go!

I will be making the rounds to the District Conventions starting on April 1st (now that I have a travel budget!). If you would like to see me before then, contact me via phone or email.

I did represent our state at the Western Conference in Portland, Oregon the first week of November. I will be attending the National Mid-Winter Conference Jan 22-27th. I also plan to attend the Legislative Conference the 1st weekend of March. Cdr Dan Sanders and I will be escorting our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners in Washington D.C.

My best wishes for health and well-being to you all!

Respectfully,

Renée Thayer

President 22-23



VAVS/Hospital  
 Sharon Frederick  
[sharonfrederick@cox.net](mailto:sharonfrederick@cox.net)  
 Team K9 Kane – “Shock and Paw”

K9 Kane



Thank you for all your ongoing efforts on behalf of our active duty and military veterans. Wish lists and unmet needs for the two veteran homes and VA Southern Nevada are as follows:

Southern Home (Amanda) – lotion, sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts, belts, postage stamps, sunscreen, gift cards.

Northern Home (Julie) – jigsaw puzzles, hearing aid cases, bingo prizes, postage stamps, gift cards.

VA Southern Nevada – sweatpants, gloves, socks, sweatshirts, underwear, shoes, pants, coats, sweaters, shirts.

All items listed above should be new and not previously worn.

On a side note, K9 Kane and crew are working hard on their hospital rounds here in Southern Nevada. Shock and Paw!

Wishing all of you and yours a very merry, safe, and healthy holiday season!

## Membership

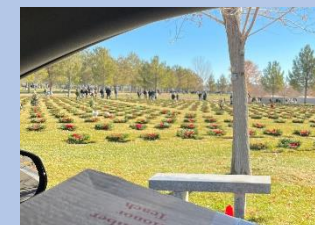
Sue Aguiar  
[deptnvtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:deptnvtreasurer@gmail.com)

**Membership Plan:** As we take on this mission and move forward to the future, every Auxiliary must have a membership plan. If you don't put a plan together, the year will fly by and be over before you know it. Remember to contact current members while also reaching out to former members. Select a mentor for new members to help them learn the Auxiliary way. Don't forget to plan your membership recruitment events. Try to hold four per year in your community. As the Program Year begins, schedule your events and set your calendars for when you plan to do these events. All these little reminders and information will help with the mission at hand.

**Recruitment tips include:** • Smile. • Create your own recruitment speech that is from the heart to make it personal and relatable to potential members. • Always, and I mean always, have membership applications handy and/or a brochure to help explain what the Auxiliary does day-to-day. • Tell people why you joined the VFW Auxiliary. • Have the “8 Ways You Can Help Veterans” cards with you to hand out. These are available on the VFW Auxiliary National website's Program & Publicity Resources page at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). • Smile... you can never smile too much.

**Follow Up!** Most likely, the first time you talk to someone new about the organization, that person will not be ready to commit. It's important to ask for their contact information and then follow up within a week. Ask Them to Participate The key to keeping members is getting them involved. Call or email a new member within a week with the next meeting date and time, or the next possible event or project. Offer to pick him/her up, or invite them to get coffee before or after a meeting. Put a team of members in charge of contacting new members or members who haven't been to a meeting recently. The team should be friendly and knowledgeable about the Auxiliary.

## Auxiliary 12093 Wreaths Across America & Holiday Party



# Youth

Jennifer Shawk  
[9211aux.js@gmail.com](mailto:9211aux.js@gmail.com)

Greetings Auxiliary Members!!

This is such a busy time of year, and so many things happening both in our Auxiliaries and at home and work and other organizations we may be involved in. Whew, it can be overwhelming! "Youth" definitely in big part is about teaching our youth about Patriotism and Americanism and what those both mean, and also about the American Flag, from etiquette to the Pledge of allegiance and the National Anthem. But it's also about teaching our youth and helping them grow into well rounded, prepared for the future, strong yet empathetic adults. And part of that, in my opinion includes teaching them about giving back and being involved in the communities we live in, in a positive manner.

November and December tend to be months where Auxiliaries and Posts are often times doing lots of good philanthropic work that also provides an opportunity to teach our youth great lessons about giving back and community involvement. Such as dinners hosted for the public, or food baskets that are given out, toy drives, Santa events, etc.. These kinds of events are perfect opportunities to involve our youth and teach them about giving back, or giving to the less fortunate.

For example, this weekend Post 9211 and Auxiliary are putting together and handing out holiday food baskets. We often times have the JROTC students come down and volunteer and hand out the food and or toys. Girl scout and boy scouts troops are great options too! They get to see that all kinds of people and families need help now and then. And the appreciation and joy on the families faces makes it feel good to help and give back.

District 3 Auxiliary recently had an event 'Breakfast with Santa' event. It was our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event. It's free. And open to everyone. We had Santa and Mrs Clause this year, we serve pancakes and sausage along with orange juice. We did the event from 11am to 2pm this year and heavily advertised on Facebook along with sharing the flier at local businesses. We also had stations set up for kids to make several different kinds of ornaments. Candy cane reindeer, clear gloves they could decorate with paint and glitter, and also some foam ornaments with gems and other things to glue on. They could make one for themselves and also one for a Veteran. We also had construction paper and coloring sheets with crayons and markers available. We take the ornaments and cards to the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home and also to the CLC wing of the Reno VA Hospital. The kids loved it. And we loved seeing all the smiling, happy kids.

November, with Veterans day is always a wonderful opportunity to educate our youth about our Veterans obviously. But also flag etiquette and honoring traditions. We have a wonderful parade in Reno that we are fortunate to be able to be a part of, and this year we had a group of young men join us that were a part of the Youth National mini bull riders association. And they got a lesson in flag etiquette before the parade started and then they passed out flags during the parade. Then, they all were taught how to do color guard by 9211's Commander, and presented the colors at the semi finals and final competition that weekend. It was really awesome, I must say!! They were pretty respectful kids to begin with, but after all that, the respect they had for Our Flag and our Veterans was heightened, and that was a beautiful thing to see.

Our youth are our future. For me they are my present too. They make me laugh and they make me smile and sometimes they make me crazy, ha ha, but mostly they give me hope. So let's do all we can to nurture them and build them up and show them how to be good and patriotic and strong humans. As always, I'm available by email, text and phone if anyone has any questions or needs any help. I am going to include the youth year end report. Please get it back to me no later than March 31, 2023. You can email me or snail mail. And please feel free to include pics and fun facts about events you did!! One reason I'm sharing with you what we do in my auxiliaries is so you will get inspired, but also so you will hopefully share with me!! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, and a Happy New Year!! Here is looking forward to 2023!



## Governor's and Mayor's Challenges

### Mentoring for Leadership

Saundra Marshall  
tsjmarshall@gmail.com

Hello VFW, Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters:

The holidays have come and gone Please don't forget that . PTSD and Suicide raised its ugly head during the holiday season.

Remember the Veterans, Families, Friends and yourself.

Don't forget self-pampering is necessary.

Reach out to those who maybe alone or struggling.

A phone call or visit can make someone's week, day, hour or minute.

Reach out and let them know you care.

So glad to be able to visit with all of you during Mid-Winter Conference.

Take care and Be Safe.

Through its [Governor's and Mayor's Challenges](#), SAMHSA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs support the implementation of a public health approach for the prevention of suicide among service members, veterans, and their families. These efforts help states and communities develop the capacity to implement interagency military/civilian action plans grounded in evidence-based suicide prevention practices.

#### Focused Priorities

- Identify Service Members, Veterans, and their Families and screen for suicide risk
- Promote connectedness and improve care transitions
- Increase lethal means safety and safety planning

#### Las Vegas Mayor's Challenge Team

Contact Las Vegas Mayor's Challenge Team:

Gregory Gray, City of Las Vegas

Phone: (702) 229-6690

Email: [ggray@LasVegasNevada.gov](mailto:ggray@LasVegasNevada.gov)

Join the Team's Monthly Meeting's: The 3rd Monday of every month, 9:00 am -11:00 am

#### Truckee Meadows Mayor's Challenge Team

Contact Truckee Meadows Team:

Councilman Paul Anderson, City of Sparks

Phone: (775) 530-5066

Email: [panderson@cityofsparks.us](mailto:panderson@cityofsparks.us)

Join the Team's Monthly Meeting's: The 4th Thursday of every month, 3:00 pm-4:30 pm

## 2023 Veterans Legislative Summit



Register now for the 2023 Veterans Legislative Summit! The summit provides you with the opportunity to get involved with the legislative process to advance issues identified as important to Nevada's veterans' community. This event comes right before the Nevada Legislature kicks off its next session. The summit is hosted by NDVS in partnership with the United Veterans Legislative Council. You are encouraged to save the date and save your seat for the event nearest you, either in Las Vegas or Reno.

In Las Vegas, the summit will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at the Dula Community Center, located at 451 East Bonanza Road. The event starts at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and networking. The program will run from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Register [HERE](#) for the Las Vegas summit.

In Reno, the summit will be held a week later, on Saturday, January 21, 2023, at the Washoe Senior Center, located at 1155 East 9th Street, inside the County Complex. The event starts at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and networking. The program will run from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Register [HERE](#) for the Reno summit. We hope to see you in Las Vegas or Reno!

## Historian & Media

Alison McNeill

[amcneill.vfw.aux@gmail.com](mailto:amcneill.vfw.aux@gmail.com)

On Veteran's Day were all reminded of our nation's sons and daughters who gave all for their country. Their sacrifices, their courage, their willingness to protect our country and its freedoms, all speak to the debt owed them. The abiding toll and beauty of this act we only see in glimpses; of a story told between comrades, a tear at the funeral of a brother, the flag handed from hands of honor to hands of love. Not everyone understands this sacred bond between a veteran and his country - that's our mission. I'm proud of my fellow Auxiliary members for the support they give to our veterans and to our communities and their willingness to serve so that our youngest citizens learn the sacrifices made for them. It is so commendable to teach those who don't know the price our veterans pay, then and now for our nation and its people, to labor for our aging and those who are ailing, for putting in the time and effort to help our veterans in need. I am gathering these moments. I want to know your story. Share with me stories about your veteran, your beginnings with the auxiliary, of your time in your post, or even just tell me about your post. Many Nevadans really know very little about the posts here in Nevada. I would also love to add your story to our great state's history. Take a moment and tell me. Looking forward to hearing from you.

## Auxiliary Outreach Q & A

Bonnie Darrell

[hdgramy@gmail.com](mailto:hdgramy@gmail.com)

### Important Community Outreach Reminders:

- Auxiliary Outreach is not to be reported under any other Auxiliary Programs.
- Auxiliary Outreach participation by our members is completely under the direction of the sponsoring organization. Remember you are the volunteer!
- Partnerships are to be approved by vote of the Auxiliary and recorded in your minutes.
- Sponsoring, planning, funding or arranging for activities concerning the event are NOT reportable under the Auxiliary Outreach Program
- Events may only need a handful of Auxiliary members at a time. If the partnership is a regular activity (e.g., monthly intake volunteer at the blood bank), only one member may be scheduled or needed to volunteer. Keep track throughout the year of those long-standing partnerships.
- Can your Post Home or meeting location be the site of your partnership? Yes, under certain circumstances. If the event is completely under the control of your sponsoring partner and all other requirements of the Program have been met, you may volunteer and report this partnership.
- Partnerships in Auxiliary Outreach may be a single event or regular ongoing events throughout the year.



## Brenda Bryant National Jr. Vice President



Brenda Bryant of Hawk Point, Missouri, was elected to the office of National Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary at its 109<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. She is now in the fourth of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2024-2025.

A forty-five year plus member of Humphrey-Schwerdt Auxiliary 2180 in Warrenton, Missouri, she has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President. On the National level she has served as National District Council Member, Big Ten Conference Chairman for the Membership and Safety Programs twice, National Appeals and Grievances Committee, Director of the Voice of Democracy Program and as National Historian.

She joined on the eligibility of her father, Herman Stuck, who served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1952 in Korea. She is married to Wayne Bryant, a retired Vietnam Navy veteran.

Brenda is a retired Special Education Teacher where she worked with High School Behavior Disability and Learning Disability students. Currently, she refurbishes furniture for an antique store, serves as an Alderman on her City Board and is certified to perform weddings.

In her spare time Brenda enjoys crafting, bringing life back to old furniture, learning about the past and interacting with veterans. She is a Life Member of the National Home for Children and a member of Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA), the Fleet Reserve, the Hawk Point Boosters Club and the Daniel Boone Area Retired Teachers Program.

## Pups, Prisoners & Patriots

Commander  
Dan Sanders  
Special Project  
2022-2023



VFW Auxiliary Post 10054 had a working Meeting in December. Wrapping presents and delivering them to Veterans in the Retirement Homes and Rehabilitation Centers in Pahrump, NV.

Those Left Behind, a Las Vegas nonprofit, runs Pups, Prisoners & Patriots. Volunteers find homes for shelter dogs, giving them a second chance at life. First the dogs undergo 12 to 16 weeks of specialized training from handlers that live at Lovelock Correctional Center. This program is run by Maria Ward, a Gold Star Mother. With the assistance of Senior Officers, Ward supervises 168 men. Some of the men participate in the Structured Living Program, a military – style boot camp. Others train dogs for Pups, Prisoners & Patriots. Every six to eight weeks new dogs go to the unit, and they pick up canine graduates. They find homes for the dogs with Veterans, First Responders and people with disabilities. Since inception the program has placed 76 dogs. Donations can be mailed to the local address on the flyer, or for more information visit their Facebook Page or website, TLBfoundation.org.

## Veterans & Family Support

Ganise Vance  
[gan@comnett.net](mailto:gan@comnett.net)

Greetings All,

As we all just finished the holidays, I would like to take a minute to reflect on the importance of mental wellness during this time of year. Many veterans, caregivers and military personnel struggle during the holidays. There is so much to do, missing family, failing health and homelessness are just a few of the triggers that bring on stress and depression.

### Do you know the Five Signs of Emotional Suffering?

Personality Change, Agitation, Withdrawal, Poor Self-Care, Hopelessness.

To quote the VFW Mental Wellness Campaign brochure "If you recognize that someone in your life is suffering, CONNECT, REACH OUT, INSPIRE HOPE, and OFFER HELP!"

This trifold brochure available to print at [vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness](http://vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness) is full of information on the program, its goals and resources.

I hope that all of us have a minute to reach out to those around us and look at ourselves. Self-care is the key to being able to help others.

My hope is that you take that moment for yourself, enjoy the holidays and help where you can.

Happy New Year and Thank you for ALL YOU DO

## Continuing Education Scholarships

Who is Eligible to Apply? • Applicant must be 18 years of age or older. • Applicant must be one of the following: • Current VFW Auxiliary Member\* • Spouse of current VFW Auxiliary Member\* • Son of current VFW Auxiliary Member\* • Daughter of current VFW Auxiliary Member\* \*Qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year prior to submission of application. What is the Scholarship Amount? • Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded each year, one in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences. Visit [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships) for deadlines and submission requirements.

## NEW LOGO, OLD NAME

As some members may have noticed, the VFW National Home has recently dropped “for Children” from their name. This takes them back to their roots.

“The VFW National Home was the name for 75 years,” said Mike Wilson, Executive Director. “In 2000 they changed it to ‘...for Children’ because at that point in time they were doing some things differently and using some different funding...” Which no longer applies, as the National Home is for families.

Regarding the logo, “All we did was take the window off without the tree – the lines at the top make several hearts. WE grow families, the heart represents (those) families,” said Wilson, who added that this is easier to see this way.

The National Home campus currently houses 36 families, including 80 children and 40 parents coming from Michigan, Florida, Oregon, Tennessee, North Carolina, Indiana and National President Jane Reape’s home state of New York.

Each holiday season, the National Home makes sure even the youngest residents of the National Home have an opportunity to experience the joy of giving! In December, the Community Center auditorium is transformed into Santa’s Shop, where children can select the perfect gifts for the important people in their lives. Here, they will find a wide variety of books, toys, games and other useful and fun items they can purchase for family members, teachers and friends, using credits they have earned through community service. Young people at the National Home take part in a variety of community service projects throughout the year, earning credits for their own “credit card” to spend at Santa’s Shop.

How can you help? At your December meeting, explain to your members the concept of Santa’s Shop at the National Home; because of the expense of shipping, the practical thing for Auxiliaries to do is to send a donation earmarked for Santa’s Shop. The money will then be spent to stock Santa’s Shop; children love to give presents to grandparents, parents and other significant adults in their lives and are filled with pride to be able to do so.

Suggest to your members several items that they may want to give and to consider the expense of the item if they were to purchase it (see some suggested items below.) Then take up a collection to send the National Home. The Auxiliary Treasurer can make the donation online by going to the following website, or a check can be mailed to the National Home.

“Santa’s shop spreads the joy of giving to all! - VFW National Home.” When writing a check remember to memo the check for Santa’s workshop. Please have all donations to the National Home by Tuesday, December 13 if possible; donations will be accepted anytime and will be used to maintain Santa’s Shop. Any items that remain after Santa’s Shop closes for the season will be available to the children for birthdays, special events and in the National Home’s incentive closet. Thank you for helping to make this season special for the children at the VFW National Home. When writing your report just attach the above letter to your report, record the number of participants, and money collected and turn it in to your Department Chairman.

### Suggested items:

men’s toiletries electric hair straightener  
Wallets and billfolds electric blow dryer  
Insulated lunch bag inexpensive jewelry for men and women  
Small tool set family games  
Car emergency kit travel coffee mugs  
Small coolers scented body wash and lotion  
Coffee cup sets craft/activity sets  
Nail polish/makeup sets adult coloring book  
Sports equipment dolls (small, large, white, African American)  
Sport bottles/totes sport team clothing  
Belts (men and women) coffee, tea and hot chocolate gift sets

Please have all donations to the National Home by Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Address: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn: Health and Happiness Donations, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Kansas City, MO 64111.

## Americanism

Jill Fishler

[jillfishler@yahoo.com](mailto:jillfishler@yahoo.com)

While most of his high school classmates took a more conventional approach for their class project, Bob G. Heft decided to do something a little more ambitious. He set out to redesign the American flag. It was 1958 and Heft's history teacher, Stanley Pratt, asked his student to make anything they wanted and bring it in for a show-and-tell. At that time, America had 48 states, but there was talk that Alaska and Hawaii might be soon be joining the Union. Heft, a junior at Lancaster High School in Ohio, began to imagine what the American flag might look like if it had 50 stars. His inspiration was none other than Betsy Ross, who is credited as the maker of the first American flag. Heft spent more than 12 hours cutting 50 white stars from iron-on material, adhering the stars to a piece of blue cloth and sewing the new field of stars to his parents' 48-star American flag. He cleverly arranged the 50 stars into a field that included five rows of six stars and four rows of five stars. When Heft brought his flag to school, his teacher was not impressed. "He told me, 'Why you got too many stars? You don't even know how many states we have'," Heft recounted years later. Heft only got a B- for his project. However, Heft was given a chance to improve his grade if he convinced the U.S. government to use his flag. The odds were heavily stacked against him, but Heft was on a mission. He began writing letters and making calls to the White House, asking the president to look at his flag. Two years later, after Alaska and Hawaii became states, Heft received a surprise call from President Dwight D. Eisenhower with the news he was waiting for. His flag was chosen as the model for the new 50-star flag. On July 4, 1960, President Eisenhower invited Heft to Washington, D.C., for a flag raising ceremony at the U.S. Capitol. Even Heft's history teacher was impressed. He said, "I guess if it's good enough for Washington, it's good enough for me," recalled Heft. "I hereby change the grade to an A." Since then, Heft's banner has set a new record as the longest-tenured U.S. flag. Heft went to work as a professor at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio and served as mayor of Napoleon, Ohio. He also became a highly regarded motivational speaker and he visited the White House 14 times. Always one to think ahead, Heft also designed a 51-star American flag, just in case Washington, D.C. or Puerto Rico becomes a state. Heft's 51-star flag reportedly has six rows of stars alternating between rows of nine and eight. Heft, who died in 2009 at the age of 67, will be forever known as the student who designed the 50-star American flag.

## "Soup Off"

Auxiliary 9211 shared that they had a "Soup Off" with a \$25.00 first prize for the best tasting soup, there were 5 entries among the auxiliary members and raised \$132.00 for the National Home. Auxiliary 12108 have shared that have had "Buddy Poppy" drive during "Beaty Days" and raised \$25.00 during the Beaty Days.

From the fundraiser at Post 9211 are the pictures of the soup challenge to raise money for the VFW National Home. They did a great job and it was fun as well.



## Upcoming Events

### • Upcoming District Meetings

- District 5 Meeting February 18 Beatty Post 12108
- District 1 Meeting February 25 Yearington Post 8084

### Upcoming District Conventions

- District 2 Convention April 8 Elko Post 2350
- 'District 5 Convention April 15 Pahrump Post 10054
- District 1 Convention April 22 Carson City Post 3726
- District 4 Convention Hawthorne Post 2313
- District 3 Convention May 6 Reno 9211
- District 6 Convention Mesquite Post 7385