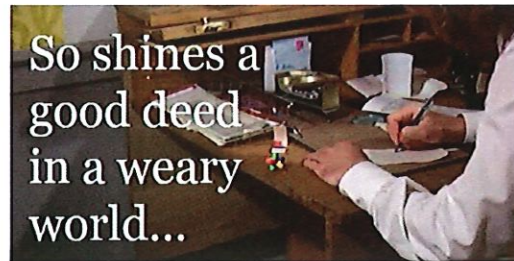




President's Message December 2024



I was watching the original "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (and the only one that truly counts), for like the one hundredth time the other day and heard one of my very favorite sayings, "So Shines a Good Deed in a Weary World".

I feel we've become a weary world. There's a lot of sadness, frustration, division, and a good number of other adjectives that can be used to describe the current mood among people. And then December comes and we have the peace and comfort of the holiday to give us a chance to reset our mind and lighten our hearts.

The month of December has always been that mental reset for me. It's the one month out of all others where people are generally happier, kinder to one another, generous of heart and action. The holiday joy and excitement on children's faces can make the hardest adult's heart soften (hello Mr. Grinch!). I myself love going shopping for Toys for Tots and local shelters – it gives me a sense of fulfillment and gratitude for all I do have instead of focusing on what I don't have. It gives me a month of thinking outside of myself and there's no better therapy for your own heart, then to help others.

Could you use a little internal joy? It's easy to create - buy some dog treats/food and drop it off at your local animal shelter. Leave a poinsettia plant on a neighbor's doorstep randomly. Go buy a toy and drop it off at a nearby Toys for Tots display. Don't have a lot of money? Bake some cookies for a local nursing home and drop it off with a Christmas card, offer to babysit for a mom who needs to do some holiday shopping and has no one to help out with her kids. Have your kids/grandkids draw holiday pics and drop them off at one of the veteran's hospitals. There are truly SO many things you can do to put a smile on someone's face. And I promise you, it'll put one on yours!



And if all else fails, just do what Buddy Elf does:

I wish you a happy holiday month – relax, enjoy and recharge for a busy and productive 2025!

Auxiliary Outreach December 24-25

Camilla M. Albano
153 Indiana Ave
Blackwood N.J 08012

Home [856] 227-6097
Cell [609] 828-7220
camilla.albano@comcast.net

December is the month, we celebrate three holidays, Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa, in this month there will be families in your community who will not be celebrating these holiday without the help of the community. By volunteering with an organization in your community, you can help them celebrate their holidays.

Example:

Food Bank- Volunteer your VFW Post as a drop off point, to collect the toys, help wrap them and deliver them to the families.

Homeless Shelter: We think of people needing coats in the winter, but the one thing they ask for are socks, volunteer your VFW Post as a drop off point, sort them by size, before giving them to the shelter. This is a project that you can participate in all year.

For Midwinter Conference, each Ambassador will be sharing some of the most outstanding projects they have received to date.

Send me one or two of your Projects with photos by January 3rd, then give me time to send them to my Ambassador Bambi Johnson, by January 10th.

Community Service:

With your VFW Post, hold a holiday dinner, for veterans and their family; present them with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Auxiliary Outreach

There seems to be some confusion about reporting Auxiliary Outreach.

There is no form to fill out. All you need to report is your Auxiliary, District number and a description of your project with proof, the number of volunteers and the hours they spent.

Contest for Auxiliaries:

National Contest for Eastern States:

Criteria and entry form {required} available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries must send form to me by March 31, 2025 with a photo collage and a description of your projects. We will hold a judging and the winning project will be sent to National.

Department Contest:

Criteria and year end report [required] a 2-pocket folder with photo and description of projects your auxiliary participated in does not have to be a collage.

If you have any question, please contact me. My email is camilla.albano@comast.net

Auxiliary Outreach, Chairman

Camilla Albano

“BUDDY” ® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME
December 2024

Terri Andryszczak
24 Beech Street
Kearny, NJ 07032
Phone: 732-322-9970
Email: vfwpost1302@gmail.com



“Buddy” ® Poppy

Happy Holidays!!

The holiday season officially kicks off with Thanksgiving. The time we spend with family and friends, giving thanks for what we have and for those in our lives. So, as we zip through December to Christmas, let us continue to not forget the veterans in our community. They would appreciate being remembered, especially this time of year, but it should be all year.

If your Post/Auxiliary is hosting a dinner or delivering meals to veterans, do not forget to include a few poppies. They can become the main (or part of) table arrangement or tape a few to the packaged meals. Poppies always bring a smile to a person, especially a veteran who understands their history and significance.

Speaking of history and significance, if members of your local community are attending any event(s) this holiday season, or any time of year for that matter, why not share the story of the “Buddy”® Poppy. It is a great story and should be told over and over, not just on Memorial Day and/or Veterans Day. We know that most of the community pays attention to veterans on these 2 days. However, by educating our community, positive outcomes can happen – such as, a deeper understanding of our veterans, giving thanks to veterans we encounter, and an appreciation of the sacrifices made.

Remember - Sharing is Caring! Sharing our knowledge of the poppy and caring about our veterans. Honoring those who served, this holiday season and all year round, by helping the living.





VFW NATIONAL HOME

Deadline approaching to send birthday cards to VFW National Home! Have you and/or your Auxiliary sent birthday cards by now? If not, cards should be sent before January 1st. National Home's address is: VFW National Home, 3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Let's hear that birthday cards from New Jersey covered more space than other (and larger) states!

Have you given to VFW National Home this holiday season?! There is still time for Auxiliaries and their members to give via the National Home Amazon Wish List. Why not remember a loved one by selecting (an) items to make this holiday season special for our veterans and their families?

This can be accomplished by visiting the VFW National Home website and look for 'You Can Help' tab, then select 'Other Ways to Give' in the drop down menu and scroll to the bottom of the page to 'Amazon Wish List' (www.vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/other-ways-to-give/). Click on 'giving instructions' to ensure that what gift(s) selected will go directly to National Home. The wish list is updated by the staff.

VFW National Home is searching for families to replace existing families as they transition out. In this season of giving, a great giving opportunity is by spreading the word about how families can qualify for housing at National Home. Many of us can relate to the daily hardships encountered by the families.

The eligibility requirements to apply for housing are simple: be a member of our current military (actively serving), a veteran, and/or a member of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Many do not know this or the numerous resources available. I know I did not!

The best way to see if they qualify is to complete an online application on National Home's website and click on 'Get Help' in the red box at the upper right hand corner of the screen (www.vfwnationalhome.org/get-help/). If anyone has questions or needs more information, please share the helpline number: 1-800-313-4200.



Extensions and Revitalization

December 2024 Communications

This month lets talk about what "RED" light to watch out for

**The following list are bullet points on how to identify struggling or failing Auxiliaries.
Anyone of these could result in a failure to thrive and a suspension.**

- * Unable to fill chairs**
- * Bond not paid**
- * Failure to hold regular meetings**
- * Failure to have a quorum at regular meetings**
- * Audits not submitted on time or not in proper format**
- * Treasurer's books not kept in a proper manner according to the ByLaws**
- * Expenditures made not supported by approved motion or by Standing Rules**
- * Treasurer's books do not tie to checkbook and/or bank statement**
- * Dues not being paid by membership (10 must be paid by February 1st)**
- * Elections not being held**
- * Friction with the post**
- * Conflict between Auxiliary members**

If your auxiliary experiences more than one or two of these bullet points you could be on your way to a red light. Let's prevent this and make a phone call, where we can sit down and try to resolve some of your problems.

And remember, a suspension is not always a bad thing. It could give your Auxiliary time to regroup and come back stronger than ever. I'm available anytime for your questions and/or concerns. We want to keep our Auxiliaries strong to carry on traditions for many more generations to come.

Also attached you will find the Extensions Revitalization award sheet that you can be filled out throughout the year.

**Barbara Wiener
609-464-1791
barb.wiener@yahoo.com**

EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION AWARD SHEET
FOR 2024-2025

Name _____

Aux.# _____

PH# _____

- Did your Auxiliary have a minimum of 10 meetings?
1 point for each meeting.

Jan _____	July _____
Feb _____	Aug _____
March _____	Sept _____
April _____	Oct _____
May _____	Nov. _____
June _____	Dec. _____
- Did member(s) other than the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Auxiliary attend a District Meeting?
1 point for each meeting
 1. _____
 2. _____
- Did your Auxiliary attend a Council of Administration?
1 point for each meeting
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- Did member(s) other than the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Auxiliary attend the school of instruction?
1 point
 1. _____
- Did your auxiliary hand out any Podium Edition: Bylaw and Ritual Books to your new members?
1point for every new or used (2022 or newer) 10 maximum

- Did you give your new member(s) an auxiliary membership or Life membership pin?
Can be ordered through the VFW store. 10 maximum
1 point for each pin given to a member

- BONUS POINTS
2 points for each member (max 10 Members)
Number of traditional obligations/initiation ceremony performed with any new members (not transfers)
(ceremony found in the Bylaws)

Send completed report by April 15, 2025

Barbara Wiener
NJ Department Chief of Staff
Barb.wiener@yahoo.com

Historian/Social Media

December 2024

Mary Ryan Sandman
176 Patty Bowker Rd
Tabernacle, NJ 08088
(609 456-1774
maryryan40@outlook.com



Wishing all of our members a Happy Holiday season!

Now to business.

Historians

First off Historians, now that Department President Denise Beckler has finished her visits for 2024. Those reports from her visit to you District can be turned in at anytime.

Social Media

I know EVERYONE is having with Meta (Facebook/Instagram). This is happening on all levels of the Auxiliary. The easiest solution is to take a screenshot of the post and post it as a photo.

Will the big man 🧑🏻 stopping by your Post this month? First if it will be open to the public, don't forget to post in your community pages. Now back to 🧑🏻, I want to see pics with members.

Hospital Promotion December 2024

Carolyn Rovito
251 Church Street, Apt. 1
Lodi, NJ 07644
Crovito.2@gmail.com
201-233-7010

Happy Holidays!!! During this holiday season be sure to remember our Veterans in the various hospital facilities and nursing homes. Thank you to the auxiliaries sending me their activity reports. It is great to see our Auxiliaries in action! If you need a copy of the activity report it can be downloaded from our Department website or please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. We are quickly moving through our program year! I have included the information for our hospital holiday parties and representatives for each hospital. Join them for these events they would love the participation!

<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Auxiliary Rep Contact Info</u>
East Orange	12/10/24 @ 3 pm	Helen Faison - Sisterface1@verzion.net 973-763-1664
Lyons	12/11/24 @ 12 pm	Lorraine Brooks - lorrainebrooks52@yahoo.com 908-689-2564
Menlo Park	12/21/24 @ 2 pm	Margaret Russo - jersey mom1207@aol.com 732-887-7947
Paramus	12/01/24 @ 2 pm	Kathleen Shanahan - shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814
Vet Haven North	12/7/24 @ 11:30 am	Betty Kitson kitsonbetty@gmail.com 551-655-0511
Vet Haven South	12/5/24 @ 5 pm	Karen Benedetto - krcatt756@comcast.net 609-335-6350
Vineland	12/15/24 @ 11 am	Barbara Wiener - barb.wiener@yahoo.com 609-464-1791

Be sure to fill out your activity reports following your participation to have them on file. Please be sure to get those reports to me and list the volunteers who participated in the hospital activities. Let us know other creative ways you have gotten involved with our hospitalized Veterans this year. Check out our Department blog later this month to find out more about the National Awards for our hospital volunteers. Thank you for all you do and enjoy this holiday season by helping to spread cheer throughout our state.



HOLIDAY PARTY AT MENLO PARK HOME

*Come Join Us as we celebrate the Holidays with our
Veterans at Menlo Park*

*Saturday, December 21, 2024
2:00 pm*

*132 Evergreen Rd.
Edison, NJ 08837*

Music, Gifts, Food & Santa



New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

2024 CLOTHING ROOM WISH LIST

Men's Clothing

All types of clothing are needed. Sizes specifically needed for Men are Large and X-Large.

Below are items needed, in order of most requested by residents.

Sweatpants <i>Sizes Medium to 4XL</i>	White Undershirts in All Sizes— Variety Packs Ex: Hanes	Button Down Sweaters <i>Sizes Medium to 4XL</i>
Long Sleeved T-Shirts <i>Sizes Medium to 4XL</i>	Long & Short Sleeve Polo Shirts <i>Sizes Medium to 4XL</i>	Belts and Suspenders

Women's Clothing

All types of clothing are needed. Sizes specifically needed for Women are Large and XL. Below are items needed, in order of most requested by residents.

Women's Stretch Pants (Preferably with Elastic Waistbands): <i>Sizes Medium to 2XL</i>	Women's Long-sleeve T-shirts: <i>Sizes Medium to 2XL</i> All Solid Colors Needed	Women's Short-sleeved Blouses <i>Sizes Medium - 2XL</i> Colors: Any Colors, Floral or Print
Women's Button Down Cardigans <i>Sizes M to 2XL</i>	Women's No-Wire Bras and soft front-close sleep bras: All Sizes	Women's Matching Set Outfits <i>Sizes Medium-2XL</i>

Due to infection control policies, ALL Clothing Items must be NEW with tags.

Please call Marissa Konopka, Volunteer Coordinator at 732-452-4236
for any questions regarding clothing donations.

Other Items

Men's Orthopedic Shoes : <u>(In many sizes WIDE & EXTRA WIDE)</u> BRAND: ORTHOFEET STYLE: BISMARCK – BLACK MEN'S STRETCHABLE – HOOK – AND – LOOP STRAP – WASHABLE SHOES WEBSITE: https://www.orthofeet.com/products/bismarck-525-black#parentHorizontalTab1	Women's Orthopedic Shoes : <u>(In many sizes WIDE & EXTRA WIDE)</u> BRAND: ORTHOFEET STYLE: WICHITA – BLACK WOMEN'S STRETCHABLE – WASHABLE SHOES WEBSITE: https://www.orthofeet.com/products/wichita-825-black
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Monetary donations / Amazon Gift Cards are welcomed for purchase of clothing for our resident clothing room. Please specify "Clothing Room" in the memo section of your check.

Make Checks payable to: NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

Mail Checks to:

NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park
Attention: Marissa Konopka, Volunteer Coordinator
P.O. Box 3013, Edison, NJ 08818-3013

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park
PO Box 3013, 132 Evergreen Road, Edison, NJ 08818

Wish List 2024

It is through the generous contributions of organizations, corporations and individuals that we are able to provide many of the “extras” as we care for our Residents. Listed below are ongoing wishes and special needs that we have identified for our Home.

ONGOING FUNDING ITEMS:

- ♦ Activity Program Sponsorship (\$150-\$300)
Bingo, Wine & Cheese, Beer & Pretzels, Pizza, White Castle, KFC and other take out Socials
Sport Game Sponsorships, Concert & Play Sponsorships
- ♦ Amazon & Walmart Gift Cards (for Resident Needs/Trips)
- ♦ Resident Catered Events Sponsorship (\$400-\$500)
 - ♦ Movie Theatre Gift Cards (AMC)
 - ♦ Music Sponsorship (\$150- \$250)
- ♦ 22” Flat panel televisions w/ DVD Players for Resident Rooms

SPECIFIC PERSONAL NEEDS:

Electric Razors	Tissue Boxes	Body Spray For Women/Men	CD Players
Zero Alcohol Mouthwash	Body Wash	Sketchers Wide Width Shoes Men's (9 & up)/ Women's (7 & Up)	Headphones/ Wire Extenders
Diabetic Socks Only	Military Branch Baseball Hats	Military Branch T-Shirts	Talking Watches
Body Lotion	Sweatpants <i>Large, XL, 2X, 3X, 4X</i>	Women's Sport Bras <i>Med, Large, XL & 2XL</i>	Zip or Button Up Sweaters Men's/ Women's

OrthoFeet Shoes Sizes 9, 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11, 11.5, 12, 12.5 all X-Wide
Link: [Bismarck Stretchable Men's Arthritis, Diabetic Shoes | OrthoFeet](#)

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:
AEROSOL PRODUCTS, POWDERS OR TRIAL SIZE ITEMS.
Due to an abundance of thoughtful donations of knitted blankets, we are currently not accepting any more at this time.

We are always looking for a great variety of new entertainers in various aspects such as cultural, musical, educational and other arts to enrich our residents.
Suggestions and sponsorships are always welcome!

To Make a Donation Please Contact Marissa Konopka at
732-452-4236 or Marissa.Konopka@dmava.nj.gov

Please make all checks payable to:
“NJ Veterans Memorial home at Menlo Park”

Paramus Home

Our senior veterans at Paramus are doing well. They continue to hold a special place in our hearts. Remember them throughout the year by providing respite activities and donations. If you or your Auxiliary would like to purchase gifts for our Paramus residents, new clothing is always appreciated. Suggested items are slippers, sweats, and pajamas. While all sizes are needed, men's large, extra large, and XXL are needed most. The home can accept donations throughout the year. If you purchase from Amazon, you may send your donation directly to the Paramus Home. Many of the clothing items, etc. are used around the holidays and as birthday gifts for residents that do not have family. You can send donations directly to Paramus. The address is: Paramus Memorial Veterans Home, 1 Veterans Way, Paramus, NJ 07652, Attn: Sini Joseph. If you would like to receive a thank you from Paramus, please email or mail in a donation form, as well. Email Sini at: Mariamma.Joseph@dmava.nj.gov I've attached a donation form for your convenience to print, scan, and email. Any donation, great or small, is appreciated. You may also drop donations at the front reception desk (They will have donation forms on hand.) Other ideas for our vets in Paramus are scratch-off lottery tickets, holiday themed paper party goods, large print coloring books and crosswords, art and craft items, garden supplies, happy hour contributions, and special snacks. Finally, cards made by community youth are sure to bring smiles.

As far as activities that your Auxiliary can provide, I have a few suggestions. BINGO is always a big hit. Don't forget to recruit the youth in your community to help with this. Another favorite is entertainment. You can schedule a performer such as a singer or magician for the residents. Entertainment generally costs between \$150.00 - \$350.00. There are several that I can recommend, so please contact me if you need assistance. Scheduling entertainers to brighten our vets days is a large part of what I do as your Paramus Hospital Representative. We also sponsor outings to baseball games, Post picnics, etc. This is a state run facility. They have a meager budget for respite like this. That is why it is important to send your quotes in and make an effort to donate to our individual hospitals. Donations for Paramus may be sent to our department treasurer. Please put "Paramus Home" in the memo.

Our hospital program is very special. We can never do enough to repay our debt to these individuals. Thank you for everything that you do for our senior veterans. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for assistance.

Yours in Service,
Kathleen Shanahan
NJ VFWA Paramus Hm Rep
shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814

NJ VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT PARAMUS
1 VETERANS DRIVE
PARAMUS, NJ 07652
201-634-8212

DATE:

DONATION FORM

**PLEASE PRINT SPECIFIED INFORMATION.
WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GENEROSITY**

NAME:	
ADDRESS: (Please fill out completely with zip code)	
ORGANIZATION:	
TELEPHONE #	
EMAIL ADDRESS:	

DONATION INFORMATION

PLEASE LIST ITEMS DONATED:

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NJ VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT PARAMUS

CHECK DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

CASH DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____

PLEASE LIST ANY PREFERENCE FOR THE DONATION BEING MADE:

--

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

RECEIVED BY:

DATE RECEIVED:

Paramus Home Christmas Party



December 1, 2024@2pm

Paramus Veteran Memorial Home

1 Veterans Way

Paramus, NJ 07652

Refreshments and entertainment.

*Temperature checks are required for entry. Please check
for facility closure on our VFWA Facebook page at*

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwadepofnj>

**Vineland Veterans Memorial Home
December Communications 2024**

To start we had a great day last Friday with Turkey Bowling, Pies and Bingo. There were plenty of prizes and lots of fun. Everyone enjoyed the pies with extra whipped cream.

Our next big event is our Christmas Holiday State Party, 'Fun with Frosty'. We will have pizza, subs, desserts, lots of gifts and plenty of fun to go around. Everyone is invited to join in on the festivities. Flyer attached with all the information.

January we will be having a carnival, more info to follow with dates and activities.

Don't forget February is National Veterans week, the week of Valentines Day, there will be a fabulous party on the 14th at the Home. Again, all are invited to join in and volunteer.

Attached is the wish list for Vineland. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call.

I can't thank the Auxiliaries enough for all your monetary as well as gift donations. All the residents appreciate everything and so enjoy the parties that we throw.

Barbara Wiener
Vineland Rep.
609-464-1791
barb.wiener@yahoo.com

VINELANDS ANNUAL STATE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY

FUN WITH FROSTY

Sunday December 15, 11 am till...

524 NW Blvd, Vineland NJ

Special guest appearances and lot of surprises!!!!

Pizza, Subs and Desserts

Also... gifts for all the residents

Dancing, singing and lots of memories

to be made!!!

All invited!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!

Any questions, please call Barbara Wiener, Vineland Rep. 609-464-1791

barb.wiener@yahoo.com

RESIDENT NEED AND WISH LIST 2023

524 NW Boulevard

Vineland, NJ 08360-2895

856-405-4214 (Volunteer Office)

RJ Morrison - Acting Volunteer Services Assistant



It is through the generous contributions of organization and individuals that we are able to provide many of the "extras" as we care for our residents. Listed below are ongoing wishes, special needs, and future projects that we have identified for our Home.

SPECIFIC NEEDS

- Body Wash- Scents that can be used for men or women.
- Button Down Cardigans (S-5XL)
- Socks with non-slip tread on bottoms
- Hard Soled Slippers/Sneakers (Full foot, no slip ins. All sizes, Men & Women)
- Body Powder (UNMEDICATED)
- Tissues (Boxes)
- Small Craft Kits- Model Kits Skill Level 1, Wooded kits etc.
- Denture Adhesive and Denture Cleaning Tablets
- Sweatshirts & Sweatpants (S-5XL)
- Gillette TREO Caregiver Razor- Available at Walmart
- Electric Razors
- Undershirts (White) Sizes S-5XL
- Batteries (New only) AA & AAA & C
- Deodorant- Universal scents for men or women.
- Refreshments (Please Check Expiration Dates)
 - Tasty Cakes - Regular & Diet (Individually Wrapped)
 - Chips and Pretzels (Individually Wrapped)
- Seasonal Decoration for Residents' Rooms
- Gift Cards
 - Wal-Mart, Target, Visa, Amazon
- 300 Piece Puzzles (Need this specific Size)
- Ageless Innovation's Joy for All Companion Pets

ONGOING FUNDING ITEMS

- Monetary donation for.
 - Wheelchair Cup Holders & Bags
 - Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions
 - Books of Postage Stamps for mailing cards to loved ones. (Prefer "Forever Stamps"
 - Sponsorship of Music Programs
 - Sponsored Food Related Activities
- Wireless Headphones for TV or Music- Insignia Brand from Best Buy

SPECIFIC WISH LIST ITEMS

PROJECTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are interested in helping with a specific need item or project and would like more information, please contact the Volunteer Services Assistant at (856) 405-4214. If you would like to make a donation to the general fund so that we can use your funds towards upcoming projects or to purchase wish list items, you may send a check, please make the check payable to: New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland (NJVMH of Vineland) - Welfare Fund. Please see our address above.

Thank you so much for your support

Please note: In the event a donation may be better suited for a community based non profit or Veterans Organization, we will assist in redirecting that donation upon the donor's behalf.

Legislation

We do not have an Action Alert to pursue this week.
The Action Corps also includes other important news for veterans and their families. For instance, this excerpt is featured in the current issue.

Military Environmental Exposure Evaluations Program: Veterans Exposure Team-Health Outcomes Military Exposures (VET-HOME) is a new VA program that uses telehealth to perform military environmental health registry evaluations. VETHOME VA clinicians will create a detailed exposure history, record symptoms or abnormalities potentially related to the military environmental exposures, conduct a physical examination (or review the results of a previous examination), and inform veterans of their eligibility for one of VA's six environmental health registries. Read more about VET-HOME or locate an accredited representative for help filing a claim.

VET-HOME offers environmental health registry evaluations and military environmental exposure assessments for Veterans anywhere in the United States or U.S. territories. VET-HOME's current top priorities include evaluations for Veterans in the following groups:

- [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#)
- [Ionizing Radiation Registry](#)
- [Chemical Warfare Agent exposure](#)
- [Qarmat Ali deployment](#)

Enrolled Veterans can contact VET-HOME to be scheduled for a telehealth evaluation with a clinician specially trained in military environmental exposures.

*Image taken from the VA website

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/VET-HOME/index.asp>

Follow these links to learn more:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/radiation/benefits/registry-exam.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/categories/warfare-agents.asp>

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/qarmat-ali/index.asp>

Yours in Service,

Kathleen Shanahan

NJ VFWA Legislation 24/25

shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814



Victoria L Hendrix
P O Box 385
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

legal.vhendrix@gmail.com
(856) 577 – 1314

“We are Family – From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans”

Dynamite December & Merry Christmas to everyone!! It is my hope that everyone had a wonderful and thankful Thanksgiving, surrounded by family, friends, and veterans! It was wonderful seeing all that our members have been doing. Helping one another, extending food and love to the community and making sure our veterans are taken care of, is what we do, and I want to thank every member that helped in any way to help warm the hearts of so many during our Thanksgiving holiday. These are some of the reasons we must continue to build our membership.

December 31st is quickly approaching, and we have deadlines to meet! Auxiliaries and District percentages of 100% must be met by the end of December. There are a few Auxiliaries that have reached this deadline already. Don't be left out!! Let's get out there and invite potential members to apply, help them to feel included, and then invest in their membership. Please don't forget to try to use the QR Code for new applicants.

We are second in membership in our conference – with the Western conference being only 6.11% ahead of us!!! We have this! Now let's recruit, recruit, recruit!

Our paid Department percentage is 90.09% - this proves just what we're capable of!! There's only one number one spot, and it has our name on it!

Please ensure that all the officers in your Auxiliary have paid their dues up through December 31st. Auxiliaries can be placed on suspension for unpaid officers, and we definitely don't want this to happen. This information can be found on MALTA. The MALTA process is as follows: Go to MALTA – sign-in under DUTIES – Go to REPORTS – Under officers, click on UNPAID OFFICERS REPORT – Go to positions drop box and click on ALL – then click VIEW REPORT.

Please consider a Life Time Membership if you don't already have one.

REMINDER of Upcoming Goals:

Madame President Denise Beckler and I would love to see the Department of New Jersey at 100% or better by November 30, 2024. So, let's get it done!!

Department Goals –

- \$50 for Auxiliaries that reach 100% by December 31, 2024.
- \$100 for Auxiliaries that reach 104% by March 31, 2025.
- PLUS - \$50 for Districts that reach 100% by December 31, 2024.
- Spring Conference – (3) \$50 Drawings for Auxiliaries that reach 100% membership.
- (1) Just1One \$25 winner.

National Goals -

Continuing to work towards recruiting new members can and will pay off! There will be a top recruiter in each of the (4) conferences who recruits the most new and/or rejoined members.

For those members who recruit (5) or more members will receive a "Roots to Branches" pin directly from National.

For those members who recruit (20) new members by May 31, 2025, will receive a National Membership Achievement Award.

The Department of New Jersey will again continue the "Just One Cards", which are to be completed whenever a recruiter successfully recruits a new member. Please remember to mail or hand deliver your "Just One Cards" directly to me to be placed into the raffles, which will be drawn at the Fall and Spring Conferences along with Convention. The award for each drawing of the "Just One Cards", will be a prize of \$25.

Remember!! Be creative in your membership outreach!

"Don't Leaf Any Qualifying Member Behind"

Sisterly,
Victoria L Hendrix
Membership Chairwoman
VFW Department of New Jersey Auxiliary

Mentoring December Communications 2024

What is mentoring you ask????

Mentoring is the secret sauce to upskill your Auxiliary, develop future leaders and increase member engagement in the Auxiliary. But to create a mentoring program that works well for the Auxiliary, you first need to understand the true meaning of mentoring.

Mentoring is a reciprocal relationship that involves the transfer of knowledge and sharing of experiences between two individuals: a mentor and a mentee. The mentor, typically more experienced, guides and supports the mentee, who seeks to grow with the Auxiliary.

You can have a group mentoring workshop, where you can have several mentors in different areas working with mentees who are interested in different programs. This approach is beneficial for sharing experiences and learning from 'seasoned' members.

Remember, mentoring is crucial in keeping up with traditions, to teach the newbies and having fun along the way.

Attached I have the Mentoring Award sheet that your Auxiliary can fill out throughout the year.

Have fun with this program, even the mentors can learn from the mentees!!!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you

Barbara Wiener
NJ Dept Chief of Staff
609-464-1791
barb.wiener@yahoo.com

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR 2024-2025

An award will be given to the Auxiliary that has an activity and/or event that supports a mentor program. Citations will be given to all who enter.

This can be done with flyers – social media – photos, meetings, etc... formally or informally.

The more members you have and the more quickly your Auxiliary is growing indicates that you need to have a process in place to get those new members involved and included.

Up to three members could take on this project, especially those who remember what it felt like to be new and are not sure how everything works.

- **Introduce new members to your Auxiliary Department, National web pages and Facebook.**
- **Have meetings with your program chairmen explaining the programs.**
- **Get them a book on the Bi-Laws, (so they can become familiar with traditions and rituals)**
- **Explain the different kinds of meetings, Auxiliary, District, Department and National.**
- **Tell them about the traditions your Auxiliary, District, Department and National has.**

To enter, please send me a write up about your mentoring program, make sure that you put your District and Post number. You can have more than one throughout the year. The more mentoring you can do, the better your Auxiliary can become.

Barbara Wiener

NJ Department Chief of Staff

barb.wiener@yahoo.com

609-464-1791

201 6th St N.

Brigantine NJ 08203

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sandy Reed, Chairman
732-343-1133

vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com

The NJ Auxiliary is the BEST! This statement isn't only because of Scholarship, but the overall commitment and dedication to our organization, hospitals and communities is simply amazing. I am looking forward to the Year end reports to see how the Auxiliaries supported their post with VOD and Patriot's Pen!

At this point, all final entries should have been sent to your District Chairperson and judging is underway to send the best to the State Chairperson. How is your Post and Auxiliary going to recognize entries that came in? Do you send them a certificate? Medals? VFW memorabilia?

Does your district have a lunch or a pizza party to thank the students for their entries? If not, suggest it!! If we make the students happy that they entered the contest, they will tell their friends and schoolmates, and our contest will continue to grow! Recognize them for their hard work and commitment to their education!

As a reminder, the VFW Store has merchandise that you can purchase to give to the students who entered the contest? Make them want to tell their friends and classmates! Make them want to enter again next year.

Don't forget that we also have:

February 15, 2025 - "Continuing Education Scholarship" entry deadline.

As a team, we are going to help our students achieve their goals!

Keep checking out the Auxiliary Scholarship Facebook page! We have more scholarships coming up with entry deadlines in March!

- Invite everyone you know to join the page (schools, PTA, teachers, students, neighbors, etc.)!
- Use the FB page as part of your advertisements. Sponsor posts, Share to your personal page. Share, Share, Share!



If you have any questions or want to share ideas, Please reach out!

Sincerely,
Sandy Reed

Honoring Through Service to our Veterans

**JOINT SPECIAL PROJECT
December Communications**

As you all know, this Department of NJ Joint Special Project will only stay alive with all of your help. I understand times are tough, and we give, and give to honor and help our deserving Veteran's, we need these projects to continue. All donations stay in the state of NJ. Some of our Districts and Auxiliaries have donated, and believe me, we are truly appreciative of their help. Big or small, it all adds up to success. If every Auxiliary just donated \$20.00, that helps approximately 3 Veteran's families with assistance. You can send a check to VFWA Dept. of NJ, ear marked Joint Special Project. Mail it off to our Dept. Treasurer, Paula Pinto.

We are also holding a drawing, that will be pulled at Dept. President Denise Beckler's "Spring Conference" There will be 3 winners.

- #1 \$1000.00 gift card to Golf Galaxy
- #2 a foursome of golf at Golden Pheasant
- #3 \$200.00 cash

All monies will be split evenly between the 3 Joint Special Projects. The drawing will be on April 5th, 2025.

As for the Auxiliaries, Districts, and Posts who have generously donated during Dept. President Denise Beckler's Official Visits thus far, WE thank you. It does take a village to succeed, NJ can make a difference. If there are any questions about these JSP, you can reach out to me anytime.

Donna Avery-Joint Special Project

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Riverside, NJ 08075
856-906-1003
dlynnave@yahoo.com

Youth Activities

December 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

Have you contacted a youth group to assist with the literary program? We are almost halfway through the year. But there is still time as we are never finished. It will instill some good qualities in our youth so they can be a better person.

Also, the Illustrating America Art program, have you been to the schools in your area to let the students know about this program? It will show our youth what America stands for. This is for students' grades K through 8th grade. You also have home-schooled children and other various schools.

Now is the time to give your libraries in your area books of historical value so they have a better knowledge of America and what we stand for. It is almost Christmas, see if a youth group can help you with your post at a Christmas party for the children.

You can sponsor a youth group like Civil Air Patrol to help them get the knowledge of how our veterans have sacrificed themselves for our country. Get them involved in going to our veterans' homes and nursing homes that have veterans. They can also read to them.

Don't forget to report on your activities. There are awards out there that you might win. If you need any of the reports, please let me know and I will give them to you.

From Our Root to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.

Loyally
Mary Dungan
Youth Activities Chairman
marydungan217@yahoo.com
609-351-5852



Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa or Diwali
 We the 2024-2025 VFW Auxiliary
 Line Officers would like to wish you all a happy holiday season,
 a safe and fun New Year's Eve/Day
 and may we all enjoy a healthy & productive 2025!

Storia Luicki

Denise Bechler

Margaret Russo
 Mary Dunbar

Carol Ann Albano

Victoria Angeli

Barbara Wiener

Carolyn Rovito

DIRECTORY CHANGES
DECEMBER 2024

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