



President's Message October 2024

Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn! I hope some of you were able to help your VFW Post with the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests. And I hope you get to be one of the judges. I have always enjoyed reading how our young people answer the essay questions.

Are your officers dues all paid up? Don't forget any officer not paid by December 31 automatically loses their position – don't let that happen! Your auxiliary members and veterans need you! And keep up with your membership drives – let's hit 100%!

Have you planned something for one of our sponsored hospitals for the holidays? Or how about making a plan to drop items off to one of your local nursing homes that has veterans in it? Now's the perfect time to get your party planning geared up. Let's share some holiday cheer with our veterans.

I have enjoyed my visits so far with the various districts and I look forward to continuing these visits through the next couple months.

Let's keep "Extending our Branches" to assure our veterans and their families are taken care of, cause that's who we are and that's what we do!

Loyally,

Denise Beckler

Americanism October 2024

Kelly Dowdy
132 Spring Garden St.
Riverside, NJ 08075
609-251-1321
Kelly02farrell@gmail.com

Fall is here, cooler days, leaves are changing colors, and football season is upon us. Football is the "American" thing. Did you know that the NFL is known for not only football but, for bringing people together from all walks of life? Football has provided a platform for social and cultural unity. Fun fact, right?

Americanism is more than displaying the American flag or parades and picnics. It is about respect, traditions, teaching, honoring, values, and so much more. No two people see everything the same, just like Americanism can, be defined in many ways. This is why I want to hear from, everyone on how you promote Americanism.

I was honored to attend District 8 POW/MIA (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) services held at Menlo Park Veterans Home this month. As the service was solemn, during the solo signing of the National Anthem, one Veteran joined in with the rest in attendance to follow. This is Americanism, pride, and love for our country.

November is quickly approaching, and a friendly reminder that November 11th is Veterans Day.

Take this time to spoil our Veterans even more.

Fun Fact #2 -

"Originally called Armistice Day, it officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had truly been "the war to end all wars," November 11 might be still called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (The first Veterans Day parade took place in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date. "

- https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotic-Holidays-updated_2020.pdf

As always, I want to hear from you! Tell me how you promote Americanism. Holding a service or event I would love to attend.

Kelly Dowdy

Auxiliary Outreach

October 2024-25

October, the month of goblets, witches, black cats and a perfect month to volunteer in your community

Fire companies and other organization are sponsoring trunk and treat events, contact them to see how you can volunteer, it could be give out candy and treats or helping in other way. Also contact your local library, in October they hold their book fair, where students purchase books . Volunteer to help set up and assist the librarian with her duties.

Each year National gives an award, in each of the four conferences, Enclosed is the form for the Eastern State Award. This will give you an idea of what is required; you can keep a record of project you participate in, and this will make it easier, when filling out the application. More information will be coming.

VFW Auxiliaries in conjunction with their VFW Posts can volunteer in their local community, by conducting a safety program, cleaning parks, conducting health clinics and aiding the homeless through volunteering in their community. VFW Auxiliary and VFW Post making their community more aware of what our organization do.

Auxiliary members do many projects, good deeds that help your community and veterans. If you are unsure of which program to report on, contact me at Camilla.albano@comcast.net. Spread your roots out to you community and your VFW post, become an active volunteer and member and encourage others to join you. By getting involved you will find the time is worth the effort.

“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service To Our Veterans”

“Honoring Through Service To Our Veterans

Auxiliary Outreach Chairmen,Camilla Albano



Auxiliary Outreach

National Program Award 2024-2025 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding photo collage created by the VFW Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach partnerships during the current Program Year.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most outstanding photo collage of their VFW Auxiliary partnerships during the current Program Year.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activities and/or events that were partnered with in the photo collage. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.) _____

The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form along with Department-winning photo collage to the National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador Bambi Johnson by April 30, 2025 for judging.

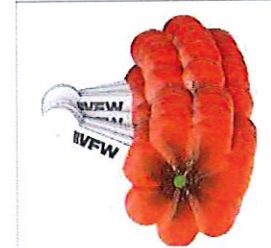
Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

“BUDDY” ® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME
October 2024

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

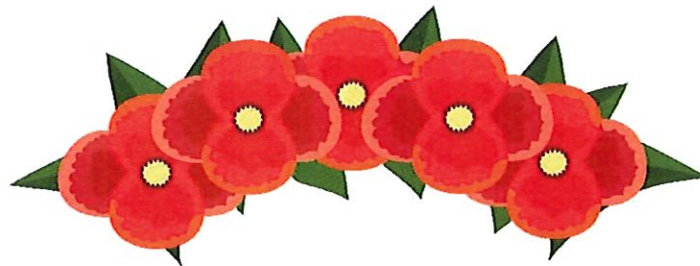


“Buddy” ® Poppy

How many auxiliaries have contacted their Commander and/or their Quartermaster to order extra poppies? Was the order for the traditional poppies? Most likely, because they are the ones we are most familiar with. It is understandable if anyone is hesitant to switch to the metal “Buddy” ® Poppy. However, change can be good – another choice to offer members, their families, and the community.

Whether you choose the traditional “Buddy” ® Poppy or the new metal ones, they are still serving the same purpose. Continuing to honor our veterans. Continuing to support our programs. Continuing to provide a portion of donations to VFW National Home to help children and families. Continuing to “honor the dead by helping the living”.

So, get your orders in! You will need them especially for next month – Veterans Day - and for every month. Remember, Buddy” Poppies can be promoted all year long.





VFW NATIONAL HOME

National Home Update! Many improvements are happening on campus!

We all know how weather plays a major role in the timetable of projects and delayed this one a bit - restoration of the road, which should be completed by now. A new roof and wheelchair access ramp was installed at the Early Education Center (EEC). Another project that is in process is adding two pavilions. There is always something going on at National Home. Everything to make it better and easier for the families.

A new initiative, Operation Red, White & Blue, has been introduced to support the families living on the campus. The goal is to empower the families as they grow and move along.

It consists of 3 phases:

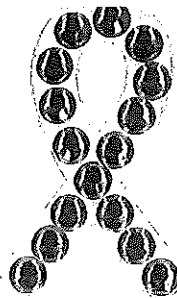
1. Red – this is where families begin and will focus on completing specific tasks and goals.
2. White – as families meet the objectives and continue growth and development during this phase.
3. Blue – final phase for the families in preparation for exiting the program.

VFW National Home does so much to provide resources for families for their success. This cannot be accomplished without the support of VFW and the Auxiliary. “Buddy”® Poppy donations make an impact on the children and families. It is reassuring to hear how everyone is thriving and succeeding.

REMINDER: Do not forget to send in those birthday cards to the home before January 1, 2025. The address is: VFW National Home, 3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.



Gloria Lisicki
45 Wheeler Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008



Home: 732-541-5392
Cell: 732-841-8037
glisicki@comcast.net

CANCER
OCTOBER PROMOTION

October is Breast Cancer month in 2024 more than 360,000 people will be diagnosed. But there is hope. Advancements in early detection and support continue to increase the chance of survival. When caught in it's earliest, localized stages, the 5 year relative survival rate of breast cancer is 99%.

Your dollars will provide immediate support to those who need it right now. Share free resources with your loved ones to empower and help everyone in need. Take the Mammo Pledge to commit to prioritizing your breast health all year round.

Remember to send in your donations to, Paula Pinto Department Treasurer and earmark for Cancer.

South Jersey Cancer Fund is an organization that brings awareness, support and a path to curing this disease that affects us all. Once they receive a request, a patients liaison will contact them. Once the medical professional verifies the diagnosis, the patient will be enrolled into the program. Types of financial assistance they will provide are medical bills, doctor bills, prescriptions, travel costs, nutrition, medical supplies and utility bills.

Central Jersey Breast Cancer Intentions in Middletown, NJ. This organization was started by two 15 year old high school students in 2007. They witnessed at first hand the struggling and treating breast cancer. After their mother & 2 aunts were affected within the same year. They began by selling t-shirts, candy & bracelets outside of grocery stores & churches to raise money for healing families in the community. They purchased wigs, prosthetics paid living expenses transportation, co-pays and utility bills.

TODAY'S RESEARCH IS TOMORROW'S VICTORY

"Honoring through Service to our Veterans"

"From our Roots to our Branches-Extending Service to our Veterans"

Cancer Grant Application

Instructions:

- * Member must meet eligibility requirements below.
- * Member and Physician sections must be completed **legibly** and in its **entirety**. If member is unable to sign, a Power of Attorney (POA) may sign. If POA signs, then POA documentation must be submitted.
- * If the member is deceased, next of kin may submit application with documentation of proof of death such as obituary, doctor's letter, death certificate, etc. Application and proof of death must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters within 30 days of member's passing.
- * Grants will **ONLY** be made payable to the VFW Auxiliary member.
- * Do **NOT** send any other supporting documents, as it will not be considered.
- * **Mail** original, completed application to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Cancer Grants
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111



Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Applicant must be a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) full year and current dues must be paid.
- 2) After twelve (12) months have passed from date of diagnosis or last treatment, application will be rejected.
- 3) A member is allowed two grants during lifetime.

*Twelve (12) months must elapse between new diagnosis and/or treatment from date of first grant.
Continuous treatment which lasts beyond the twelve (12) month period may qualify for a second grant.*

| THIS SECTION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY MEMBER | THIS SECTION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN |
|---|---|
| Membership ID # | Type of cancer diagnosed |
| Auxiliary Post # | Date diagnosed with this cancer (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| Member's Name (as shown on membership card) | Date of most recent/last cancer treatment: (MM/DD/YYYY) |
| Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) | Physician's Office / Hospital Name |
| Email Address | Phone Number |
| Phone Number | Physician's Name |
| Street Address | Street Address |
| City, State and ZIP Code | City, State and ZIP Code |
| Member's Signature | Physician's Signature |
| Date Member Signed (MM/DD/YYYY) | Date Physician Signed (MM/DD/YYYY) |

*By submission of this application, you grant authority for the VFW Auxiliary to contact the attending physician.
If grant is approved, funds must be deposited within six months or the grant is forfeited. REV. 8/24*

Historian/Social Media

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

I was catching up on e-mails, when I saw the latest VFW Auxiliary E-Newsletter.

In between highlights from CAFÉ at the National Home, the new Director of Administrator Services at VFW Auxiliary Headquarters, a new Social Media initiative (Don't Forget to send in photos of **Sunday Funday** at your Posts.), an update from the VFW Fall Legislative Conference, and lastly September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and Gold Star Mother's and Family Day there was an update to our favorite subject.....Facebook.

We use the VFW Auxiliary – National Organization for program updates and announcements from National Headquarters. I also play "Where's Waldo?" when pictures are posted from events hosted by the National Organization.

But lately posts have been getting flagged, banned or even removed. *Don't you just love Meta.* You may have even gotten a spam notification or even a notification explaining how the post violated their rules when trying to share their posts.

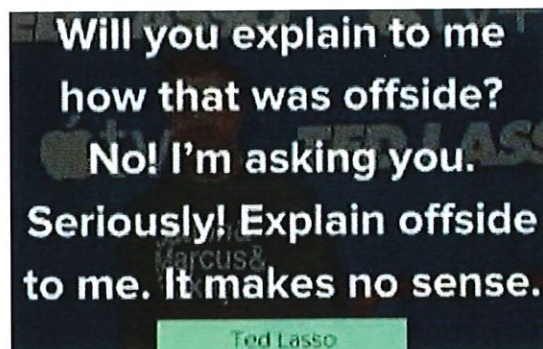
The upside to this is that this is not isolated to a specific area of the country, or a specific type of post. The negative for this is that there is very little we can do about this.

We are being encouraged to still share the posts from the VFW Auxiliary – National Organization.

Now onto the Department website, I have begun an update to the website, Please be patient as I complete the annual overhaul. I am also bring back the Department blog, Department Chairman will also be chiming in with blog content.

Members – Please be sure to subscribe to our blog.
www.njvfwaux.com/blog

Department President Denise Beckler has started making visits to the Districts throughout the state. District Historians – Don't forget to send in your Historian Reports.



Hospital Promotion October 2024

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

Happy Fall! Let's not let the support of our hospitalized veterans fall to the wayside! Here are some great ways you can get involved and report the work you and your auxiliaries are doing!

There are many ways to get involved.

- Bingo Parties
- Collect and deliver items on the hospital Wishlist to veterans
- Distribute items for different seasons/events
- Mystery Boards with prizes for the residents

Please remember we do lots of hard work to make sure the veterans in New Jersey are taken care of and we must report on the different activities we complete. The activity report in your communication center has 3 parts. Each section represents a different interaction that our membership has had with the veterans in our 7 sponsored facilities. Each section is specific for the type of interaction that has occurred.

Section 1 – is to be completed when you donate items of monies to a facility. Be sure that you are including values for the items donated and track the time spent by volunteers who helped to gather and distribute these items. Make sure to list the names of your volunteers so that their service hours can be tracked and recorded.

Section 2 – is to be completed when you sponsor a party or activity for the residents of the facility. This event does not have to take place at the facility. Make sure to list the names of your volunteers so that their service hours can be tracked and recorded.

Section 3 – is to be completed by the hospital volunteer who regularly volunteers their time. The Auxiliary relies on an honor system to distribute Hospital Service Pins (we will explore more about these next month). You must report the hours volunteered through your activity report and include the requested information ie. Where the work was done, how many different events were conducted, how many hours were donated and how many people participated.

We must report the work we are doing! Once we report the work, it shows our outstanding service and then that service can be recognized. There are many ways the Auxiliary recognizes and acknowledges the hard work of our members and volunteers, yet we must report our work through the proper channels to receive the recognition.

Keep Honoring through service to our Veterans as I know this is going to be an outstanding year!

Paramus Home

Our Paramus residents recently enjoyed the District 2 picnic. Our vets enjoyed a BBQ, music, dancing, camaraderie with our VFW members, and time with some adorable puppies! Call Sini Josep at 201-634-8505 if you would like to have the Paramus vets at your event.



Upcoming Events

63rd Army Band  November 10, 2024 @ 2pm



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/vfwadepstofnj>



**VFW/VFWA Department of New Jersey
Annual Veterans Haven South Christmas Party
Thursday, December 5, 2024**

5PM to 7PM

**301 Spring Garden Road
Winslow, NJ 08036**



Mark your Calendars!

The date is set for our annual Department VFW/VFWA Christmas Party
With the residents of Veterans Haven South!

We hope you will be able to join us!
Please reach out if you have any questions.
I will have more information next month.

Karen Benedetto
Dept of NJ VFWA Veterans Haven South Rep.
krcatt756@comcast.net 609-335-6350



Legislation

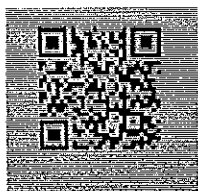
I want to take this opportunity to tell you that your NJ VFW and VFWA members are fighting a good fight for our veterans. Recently, Commander Austin, several VFW members, and one of our very own Auxiliary members traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for those that have served our great nation. They spoke at length with some of our government officials. Among the political leaders that they met with are Congressman Tom Kean, Congressman Andy Kim, Congressman Chris Smith, Congressional Policy Director Pallone, Senator George Helmy, and Senator Cory Booker. Our VFW members are **#still serving** as purveyors of freedom as voices for those that have served in the military. As Auxiliary members, we offer unconditional support in these efforts.

This week's Action Corps reports another victory that our veteran advocates have secured. Almost 7 million veterans came precariously close to a cessation of their VA benefits. Crisis was averted when "Senate passed the House-introduced emergency appropriations bill to cover the VA's \$3 billion-dollar budgetary shortfall." (VFW Action Corps 9/23/24) Our Washington D.C. VFW office provides an opportunity to monitor legislation that directly impacts our veterans. We can actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues in situations like this. We are able to testify at congressional committee hearings. The combined total of over 1.4 VFW and Auxiliary members speaks loudly on Capitol Hill and will not be ignored. Working alongside congressional members, your VFW continues to serve the United States. I am attaching the VFW Legislative Year in Review to familiarize our Auxiliary members with other triumphs that the veteran voice has made.

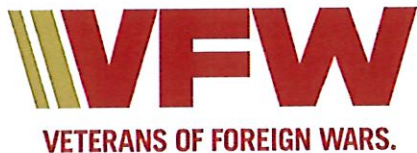
While there is not currently a Call to Action, you can familiarize yourself with key bills in Congress that the VFW is following. Find them in your Action Corps or follow this link:

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/bills> All citizens may write their legislators. You can start by letting your local officials know what is important to you. Find out more about bills, proceedings, government budgets, and contact information for your government officials here: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

Do you still need to sign up for the VFW Action Corps? Scan the QR code.



Yours in Service,
Kathleen Shanahan
NJ VFWA Legislation 24/25
shanahank2@gmail.com
201-410-6814



Legislative Year in Review

The VFW is a nonprofit veterans service organization composed of eligible veterans and military service members. The VFW and its Auxiliary are dedicated to veterans service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs.

Legislative Inquiries: Action Corps, vfwac@vfw.org

National Legislative Service Origins:

In recognition that veterans of all wars need compensation, pensions, hospitalization, jobs, and assistance adjusting to civilian life, and to combat the public's post-war tendency to forget and neglect war veterans, the VFW established the National Legislative Service at the 1919 National Encampment in Providence, Rhode Island. The mission of the National Legislative Service has always been to stay abreast of legislative issues, safeguard existing benefits and secure new ones.

HEALTH CARE

S. 2372, *VA MISSION Act of 2018*

- Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras, which were previously limited to post-9/11 veterans.
- Consolidates access to private sector doctors into one simplified and improved program.
- Improves VA's ability to hire and retain high-quality health care professionals.
- Established a process to evaluate and improve VA buildings across the country to better serve veterans.

TRICARE

- Successfully defeated proposed fee increases for beneficiaries.

Electronic Health Records (EHR)

- Worked with Congress, VA, and DOD to ensure the veterans and military health care systems have an integrated EHR.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

Forever GI Bill

- Veterans discharged after January 2013 will have a lifetime to use their education benefits.
- Adds additional months of eligibility for veterans pursuing a STEM degree.
- Grants full eligibility for all Purple Heart recipients.
- Restores benefits for veterans who attended schools that were abruptly closed.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Individual Unemployability (IU)

- Successfully defeated proposed cuts to the IU program.

H.R. 2288, *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*

- Ensures veterans receive quicker decisions on their claims appeals.
- Provides veterans easy to understand rating decisions, new claim resolution options at regional offices, and dedicated staff to oversee claims appeals.
- Preserves effective dates on claims for benefits.

H.R. 299, *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017* (passed house 382-0, awaiting Senate passage)

- Restores benefits for Vietnam veterans who served off the coast in territorial waters.
- Expands benefits to Korean DMZ veterans who were exposed to toxins.
- Provides spina bifida benefits to the children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange in Thailand.

Improved Benefits for Homeless Veterans

- Extended authority for seven programs to assist homeless veterans, ranging from reintegration programs to grants for homeless women veterans with children.
- Updated definition of homelessness in accordance with McKinney-Vento to include individuals fleeing domestic violence.

POW/MIA

H.R. 1892, *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*

- Secured additional funding to ensure Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is able to continue the mission of recovering and returning all MIAs.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sandy Reed, Chairman
732-343-1133

vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com

IT'S HERE! IT'S HERE! OCTOBER IS HERE! VOD AND PATRIOT'S PEN DUE DATES ARE HERE!

- ❖ How many entries has your post received?
- ❖ How have you helped recruit entries?

I want to hear from you!! If your end of year report was due now, what would you submit?

Dates to know:

Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen (VFW scholarship supported by the Auxiliary to be submitted by your Post by **October 31, 2024**).

VOD: "Is America Today our Forefathers' Vision?"

- Students in grades 9-12 Audio Essay and typed essay

Patriot's Pen: "My Voice in America's Democracy"

- Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th grades 300-400 word essay

November 15, 2024 – Judged essays are due to the District VFW Chairman.

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

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

Reminder, we have an Auxiliary Scholarship Facebook page!

- 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

October 2024

This month we are going to talk about the Brig-Vet Surf Project.

Our PDP Brian Wiener is off and running on this project. He has been on the news, was featured in the VFW Magazine, and now they own a trailer that holds equipment, and they can travel to other shorelines and pamper our Veterans. This project is a wonderful 2-day event in July, and it is all free to our Veterans. Any donation, big or small, is appreciated.

You can donate through VFVA Dept. of NJ (Earmarked Joint Special Project.) Send it off to Dept. Treasurer Paula Pinto. OR.....mail it off to me at the address provided. I will make sure it gets to Paula.

Donna Avery
JSP Chair
126 Delaware Ave.
Apt A
Riverside, NJ 08075

Youth Activities

October 2024-2025

Brothers and Sisters,

Since it is almost Halloween have you set up something with a nursing home that our veterans are in? It probably is not too late. I think the veterans would enjoy the youth dressing up in costumes,

If you need a book to read to them, you can find a list on MALTA in resources under Youth Activities; MALTA is also a go to place for a lot of our information. Have you given out any R.A.P. cards? If you don't have any you can get them from The VFW store.

Did you know that you can sponsor a youth group? There should be a few in your area. By sponsoring them it will give them a knowledge of what we do. Then they may want to join us when they become of age.

Loyally.

Mary Dungan
Youth Activities Chairman
46 Jones Mill Road Lot 220
Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562
Marydungan217@yahoo.com
609-351-5882

DIRECTORY CHANGES

OCTOBER 2024

Pages 6 & 9

New Address
Assistant Guard & District 13 President
Catherine Burkhardt
310 North Brook St., F-6
Carney's Point, NJ 08069

Page 25

Auxiliary 493
New Secretary
Maureen Doll
669 Joralemon St., Apt. 4A
Belleville, NJ 07109
Phone: 973-759-3732

Page 31

Auxiliary 2226
New President
Patricia Drescher
4 Jessica Place
Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750

New Secretary
Lynn Myskowski
13 Eton Place
Eatontown, NJ 07724