



## President's Message September 2024

Greetings All,

I hope if you had the opportunity to attend our School of Instruction, you learned something new. I had a great time visiting and talking with you all and I wish you the very best of this upcoming year!

For those that weren't able to attend, never fear, we can come to you! I am working on what we're calling "Road Trip Training" and we would love the opportunity to visit with any Auxiliary or District that would like to have us visit. It'll be a mini School of Instruction, with a little bit of what we just did and a couple new things to keep it interesting 😊. Right now, we're looking at doing this during the winter months, when things quiet down a bit. So weather permitting, if you are interested, please reach out, I'm always just a phone call, text and/or email away!

Some food for thought...Social Media can be an entertaining and a fun way to spend some time. I know I spend plenty of time "liking" or viewing videos, friends posts and such. However, I do want to stress one thing: **comments you post matter**. How you reply to someone's post of FB or Instagram matters for one very important reason – other people can see what you post!

As a member of a veterans organization and especially if an officer of such a group, you should read carefully before you "like" or comment on a particular post. While the post may mean one thing, depending on how to you reply to it, can create a misunderstanding or reflect an opinion you didn't necessarily mean.

Additionally, please be careful when following other organizations and/or groups pages, that you don't say anything that could put a bad light on the VFW Auxiliary. Remember, we are always looking to grow our numbers and Social Media is a great platform for that. But a misguided comment or a comment said out of context, could cost us a new potential member.

OK – go have a fantastic September! Be sure to follow our Scholarship Chairman Sandy Reed's info on Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen essays – let's gets lots submitted this year!

Loyally,

*Denise Beckler*



Dear Members,

For 110 years, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary members, through their dedication and passion, have shown how much our veterans and their families mean to us. It is building on this unmovable foundation which has made the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary so strong. Each of us has a veteran in our lives who made us eligible for membership in this organization—a veteran who served our country with the hopes of making it a better place for their families. We need to continue remembering our veterans and their mission as this organization moves forward into the future.

My theme for this year is: ***From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans.*** The pin this year is a tree that represents this organization. The roots are our veterans and Auxiliary members of the past — the people who helped shape us into who we are. The trunk of the tree represents our veterans because they are the strong individuals who hold us up and why we work so hard for this organization. The branches signify all the members in this organization, as well as all the branches of the military. Finally, the leaves are all the many Programs we do for our veterans, our families and our communities. And as the tree branches reach up and out, by working together, we can also reach for the skies.

This year, there will only be 11 National Programs. You asked for us to reduce the Programs and I have been listening. Mentoring has been incorporated into the Extension & Revitalization Program. We must continue mentoring for leadership within our Auxiliaries, so we have new members who can replace us when the time comes, but you are right, it doesn't need to be a standalone Program. I encourage each of you to read this 2024-2025 National Program Book and the future Program material put out by the National Ambassadors. It is their goal to "think outside the box" and develop ways for all of you to receive credit in each of these Programs.

Our Auxiliaries do great things for our veterans and our communities because of the uniqueness of the members within them. Find those special talents that each of your members bring to the meetings and let them all shine. Take that enthusiasm with you as you go into the communities with our Programs. Our communities depend on the outstanding work we do.

My goal this year is to encourage unity among our VFW and VFW Auxiliary members. Think what a difference we can make if we work together as one. We are a family of like minds and there is no limit to how much we can accomplish, working together on our common goal, making life better for our veterans, their families and our communities.

Henry Ford said it best: "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success."

Wishing for each of you a very successful year,

Brenda Bryant  
National President





## Americanism September 2024

Promoting Americanism and honoring the American flag are vital expressions of national pride and respect for the nation's values. Displaying the flag proudly, regardless of the weather, symbolizes a commitment to the country, but it's crucial to properly dispose of flags that have become worn or tattered. By spreading awareness about drop-off locations, such as those at local VFAs or stores like Lowes, communities can ensure that flags are retired respectfully. Organizing a yearly burning ceremony can also serve as a meaningful way to honor the flags after their service, reinforcing the importance of upholding the ideals of Americanism for future generations.

### Flag Disposal:

1. The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
2. It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.
3. Place the flag on the fire.
4. The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and have a brief period of silent reflection.
5. After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.
6. Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

Kelly Dowdy  
Kelly02farrell@gmail.com



- **Please send me any ways you, your Auxiliary or your community promotes Americanism, I want to hear from you!**

Auxiliary Outreach  
September 2024-25

Camilla M. Albano  
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Blackwood N.J 08012  
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Home [856] 227-6097  
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The Auxiliary Outreach program gives the auxiliary a chance to be visible and involved in the community.

The Auxiliary Outreach program is based on the premise that no organization has the right to exist within the community without giving something to the community in return.

The Auxiliary and outreach chairman and their committee study the community need and then recommend projects to the auxiliary, then the auxiliary members vote on the project to participate in and then it is recorded in their minutes.

Find new and creative ways to promote the project by thinking outside the box for fresh ideas. Examples include to participate in blood, CPR Training, National Night Out and support for women in shelter home.

Wear something that shows you are a VFW Auxiliary member. your membership pin, a hat, shirt or jacket with the VFW Auxiliary logo on it.

Community service is working with our posts for veterans and the community where monetary donations as gifts are given.

Examples include, holding a breakfast for veterans and charging them, and donating money to an organization in the community [fire department, food bank], any organization in the community and veteran that does not belong to a VFW Post.

**“FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES, EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR  
VETERANS”**

**“HONORING THROUGH SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”**

Gloria Lisicki  
45 Wheeler Avenue  
Carteret, NJ 07008

Home: 732-541-5392  
Cell: 732-841-8037  
[glisicki@comcast.net](mailto:glisicki@comcast.net)

## **SEPTEMBER PROMOTION** **CANCER**

The most important thing to remember is **EARLY DETECTION!**

The month of September has various Cancers:

Childhood Cancer	Hodgkin's (Lymphoma)
Leukemia Lymphoma	Ovarian Cancer
Prostate Cancer	Thyroid Cancer
Uterine Cancer	

If you need additional information on any of these Cancers please go on line at American Association for Cancer Research, Cancer.net, and American Cancer Society.

All above will give you information on causes, diagnosis, treating pain, medication caregiving basics, questions to asks when making appointments.

I am running a fund raiser which will go off at the Fall Conference. The cost is \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. It is a beautiful queen size quilt and a bat from Louisville, with engraving Department of New Jersey Auxiliary 2024-2025. Come to the meetings so you can see them. I will be bringing it to all the Official Visits. Remember all donations go to our Department Treasurer Paula Pinto, ear mark check for Cancer.

"Honoring through Service to our Veterans"

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



**“BUDDY” ® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME**  
**September 2024**

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



**“Buddy” ® Poppy**

Did you know that in 1955, “Buddy” ® Poppy officially became a joint program of the VFW and Auxiliary? Assembling the poppies was done by disabled veterans, providing an income to them. Money earned from donations went to VFW National Home to help children and families.

Fast forward to today. Post Covid-19, a revamped “Buddy” ® Poppy has been introduced. It is made from tin – pinch it together to hold in place – are available through the VFW Store ([www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org)). Do not fear! The ones we all love are still available. However, the people involved in assembling the poppies has changed post pandemic. Adults with developmental disabilities are assembling the poppies, earning an income, and gaining self-confidence at Cottonwood Incorporated near Kansas City. Many of these adults are children and grandchildren of veterans (watch a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BZDIwgH-wY>).

A portion of the money earned from donations is still going to VFW National Home to help children and families. We continue to “honor the dead by helping the living”. Some things do not change.

So, I hope all auxiliaries are fired up and contacted their Commander and/or their Quartermaster to order extra poppies. You can never have too many! Be creative in displaying at the Post. Have “Buddy” ® Poppy centerpieces for Post events. Check Pinterest for some suggestions. The possibilities are endless. Feel free to send me pictures of your creativity.





## VFW NATIONAL HOME

As I mentioned under “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy, money earned from donations of poppies help the children and families at VFW National Home. However, it is not the only way to help. There are many ways of making an impact.

For instance, you can purchase a personalized Tribute Brick. Bricks are placed in walkways in front of the community center, health & education building, museum and World War II monument. What a way to honor a loved one. For more information, click on <https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/tribute-bricks/>.

Or, you can become a Life Member. For a one-time fee of \$50, you can make an impact. Life Members may vote for the Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation. Plus, you receive a membership certificate, a wallet card and a Life Member pin.

Or, you can become a Centennial Life Member during VFW National Home’s Centennial year (available to current members and nonmembers through December 31, 2025). It is a one-time fee of \$100 and you receive an exclusive Centennial membership pin, 10% off souvenirs and apparel, reduced guest lodge rate, and exclusive member-only apparel. More information about National Home membership can be found at [www.nationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership](http://www.nationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership).

Since I mentioned VFW National Home’s centennial, 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. Would love to hear that the Department of New Jersey sent in the most birthday cards!



**VFW NATIONAL HOME**



## Historian/Social Media

Mary Ryan Sandman  
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Happy September Everyone!

I am writing this promotion trying to unwind from today's School of Instruction.

I hope everyone was able to learn something new today.

I hope you enjoyed the PowerPoint Presentations, I have been working on them since late June for a little something different. Thanks to the Officers and Chairman who gave me their Fun Facts, especially Department President Denise Beckler! All of the information about the programs came right from the National Program book.

If you have any questions about Malta Training, or the Online Auxiliary Academy, please do not hesitate to reach out. I will walk you through it if necessary, I can also arrange to meet you.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Do you follow the VFW Auxiliary Department of New Jersey on Social Media?

Currently on Instagram we have 238 people following our page and we are following 6 pages. If you follow VFW Auxiliary – National Organization, they will follow you back. You may even be featured in #AuxiliariesInAction.

Currently on Facebook, 595 people have "liked" our page and we have 739 people are following our page.

Any questions about Social Media, please do not hesitate to ask.

At the School, I handed out 2 surveys. The first was a Social Media Survey, and the second was an interest form for Social Media training.

FB and IG -- [vfwdeptofnj](https://www.facebook.com/vfwdeptofnj)





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## Historian/Social Media

Would you be interested in an online training about both the Historian and Social Media aspects of this program?

Items Covered in this training:

- ✓ What do I need? (Supplies)
- ✓ What does a Historian do? How to compile a year-end book (both scrapbooking and digital)? (It really is just more than taking photos)
- ✓ Social Media (It really isn't that scary)
  - How to set an Auxilliary/District Facebook page?
  - How often to post?
  - How to "tag" the Department Auxilliary page?
  - How to setup an Instagram (IG) page?
  - How link IG to Facebook pages to post at once?
- ✓ What to look for when taking photos
- ✓ #hashtags - What are they and which ones to use

These trainings will be held over Zoom.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxilliary #: \_\_\_\_\_



I am interested in Online Trainings.

Mary Ryan Sandman

[maryryan40@outlook.com](mailto:maryryan40@outlook.com)

609-456-1774



Public Information

**VFW Auxiliary  
Department of New Jersey  
Social Media Survey**

District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Age Range:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Under 30    \_\_\_\_\_ 30-40    \_\_\_\_\_ 40-50    \_\_\_\_\_ 50-60    \_\_\_\_\_ 60+

1. Do you use Social Media (any platform)                      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

2. What Social Media Platforms do you use?

\_\_\_\_\_ Facebook    \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram    \_\_\_\_\_ X (Twitter)    \_\_\_\_\_ TikTok

\_\_\_\_\_ Threads    \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Not on Social Media

3. Do you follow the Department Social Media pages? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

4. What do you want to see on the Department Social Media pages?

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5. What do you **not** want to see on the Department Social Media pages?

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## Hospital Promotion September 2024

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

Well, our program year is up and running! I hope all members enjoyed the summer and the school of instruction. We have a fun filled year of serving our NJ hospitalized veterans.

We will be better able to serve our veterans with additional volunteers! How have you been successful in the past to recruit new volunteers? Are there any new programs this year that you are organizing to recruit new volunteers? Let's be sure to share our successes and challenges. Connect with your community to share the news of the work you are doing for the hospitalized veterans the more you get the word out for your goals the easier it will be to foster support. You can do a press release. We have a great team of Hospital representatives throughout the state to help you work with our 7 Department sponsored facilities:

<b><u>Hospital</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Info</u></b>
<b>East Orange</b>	Gloria Corno	vfwa5@aol.com 732-287-6598
<b>East Orange Deputy Lyons</b>	Helen Faison  Lorraine Brooks	sister@verzion.net 973-763-1664 lorrainebrooks52@yahoo.com 908-689-2564
<b>Menlo Park</b>	Margaret Russo	jerseymom1207@aol.com 732-887-7947
<b>Paramus</b>	Kathleen Shanahan	shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814
<b>Vet Haven North</b>	Betty Kitson	kitsonbetty@gmail.com 551-655-0511
<b>Vet Haven South</b>	Karen Benedetto	krcatt759@omcast.net 609-335-6360
<b>Vineland</b>	Barbara Wiener	barb.wiener@yahoo.com 609-464-1791

Did you know that the National organization recognizes our non-auxiliary member volunteers with a service pin? "The sponsored hospital volunteer/student volunteer who volunteers a minimum of 100 hours under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship in any VA or non-VA facility is eligible to receive this pin from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. This award is for non-members and only one pin awarded during volunteer's lifetime." This is a great way to recognize those that help us to accomplish our mission. Working together with our community is an amazing way to continue honoring our veterans through service.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am excited for our year to come! Be sure to fill out your activity reports and coordinate with your hospital representatives to capture all the great work we do!



**VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH  
2024-2025 Program Year**

Karen Benedetto  
35 Easy Street  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
609-335-6350 [kr Catt756@comcast.net](mailto:kr Catt756@comcast.net)

**Making a Monetary Donation to Veterans Haven South?**

Vets Haven South can no longer accept checks made payable to them directly. If you choose to send a donation check directly to Veterans Haven South, please note the checks must now be made out to the "Treasurer State of NJ" and in the memo put VHS and where you want the money to go. Example VHS Gift Cards, Food Truck ect.

When VHS receives your check, they forward it to the State, who in turn places the funds into a dedicated account for Vets Haven South. VHS can and will apply the funds to those items you specify you want your donation to go towards.

You can also continue to send your donation check(s) made out to the Dept of NJ VFW Auxiliary, to our Department Treasurer Paula Pinto, with a note stating it's for Veterans Haven South.

If you mail checks directly, please use:  
Vets Haven South  
Attn: Cheryl Evans  
301 Spring Garden Road  
Hammonton, NJ 08037

No worries your money will be designated to your request!

**Vineland Veterans Memorial Home**  
**September 2024**

Hello everyone!!! Welcome to September, What happened to Summer!??

National Bear Day is September 18 @2 PM. We will be giving a stuffed bear to all the residents. Plus snacks, beverages, song and Dance!! All are welcome and encouraged to come and join the festivities.

Events for the next few months:

\* October 31 Halloween Party

\* November 22 Turkey Bowling and Crafts

\* December 15 State Christmas Party

They are also requesting Baseball caps, Army, Navy and Vietnam Veterans. Another request is sunglasses and \$1 store reading glasses.

Attached is the wish list from Amazon if anyone is looking to donate other items.

But remember, the thing most veterans want is your time and company.

Thank you to all who have already donated and sent in the your hospital funds.

Any questions please feel free to call me anytime.

Thank you

Barbara Wiener  
201 6th St N  
Vineland Rep  
Brigantine NJ 08203  
barb.wiener@yahoo.com  
609-464-1791

## RESIDENT NEED AND WISH LIST 2024

524 NW Boulevard

Vineland, NJ 08360-2895

856-405-4214 (Volunteer Office)

RJ Morrison – Volunteer Services Assistant-Raymond.Morrison@dmava.nj.gov



**It is through the generous contributions of organizations 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)
  - 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
  - Refreshments (Please Check Expiration Dates)
    - Tasty Cakes - Regular & Diet (Individually Wrapped)
    - Chips and Pretzels (Individually Wrapped)
  - Gift Cards
    - Wal-Mart, Target, Visa, Amazon
  - 300 Piece Puzzles (Need this specific Size)
  - Ageless Innovation’s Joy for All Companion Pets
- Scan the QR Code below with your phones camera to access our Amazon Wish/Need List-This list frequently changes throughout the year.



### 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

### SPECIFIC WISH LIST ITEMS

- Wireless Headphones for TV or Music- Insignia Brand from Best Buy (Model: NS-HAWHP2 Sku#6281625)

### 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. We are unable to accept any used items. We are unable to accept trial/travel size items.*



## Legislation

Since the House and Congress recess for most of August, I thought it would be an excellent time to celebrate the victories our VFW has accomplished in legislation. Our voice matters.

The following is taken directly from VFW.org at <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>

Our Recent Legislative Victories Include:

- Passage of the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the PACT Act. This historic, comprehensive legislation expands health care for generations of veterans who previously had to prove their conditions or illnesses were the result of service-connected exposure to toxic substances or environments. It includes VA provisions for 23 presumptive conditions for rare respiratory diseases and cancers, and creates a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure.
- Passage of the *Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act* expands eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in certain areas during specific time periods, and the *Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options (MAMMO) for Veterans Act* addresses provisions of mammograms and breast cancer treatment within VA.
- *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act* and Uniform Code of Military Justice reform on sexual assault and harassment included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.
- Implementation of VA's maternity care coordination program to equip community care providers with training and support for the unique pregnancy and postpartum needs of women veterans.
- Passage of the *PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act* which will establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance.
- Inclusion of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of Department of Veterans Affairs presumptive conditions for herbicide exposure.
- Passage of the *Deborah Sampson Act*, which will remove the barriers to health care impacting women veterans.
- Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.
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I'd also like to share some highlights from our NJ VFW Legislative Director, Jay Boxwell. The following is taken directly from his July report:

1. Department Legislative Team has had multiple conversations and meetings with the leadership in the NJ Senate regarding the separation of the Department of Military and

Veterans Affairs. We have had an ongoing dialogue with Senate and Assembly Leadership on how this bifurcation will benefit the veterans but their dependents that currently receive services through this state agency. We are the only VSO in NJ calling for the breakup because of the deaths and care that was not provided during covid. The VFW wrote a proposal that was submitted to the Majority Leaders of the Senate and Assembly. Our proposal was to create an authority not another cabinet level position. In NJ an Authority is more transparent and is run by a board.

2. Department Legislative Team Members participated in multiple meetings and calls about a new piece of legislation that we have asked for since the deaths and failures of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. This piece of legislation creates a new office of Veterans Advocate. This office would be independent of DMAVA's and have investigative powers and subpoena powers. This new office would be staffed by investigators, clinicians and case workers and would have to be veterans to be eligible for hire. This new office would be a big piece to ensure our most disenfranchised veterans have a voice when they feel they have been mistreated or taken advantage of. Once again, the VFW is the ONLY VSO that is in support of this legislation and had a hand in writing the legislation.
3. The Legislative members have continued to have a dialogue with Congressman Van Drews office about multiple pieces of legislation that the congressman is looking to introduce.
4. Gubernatorial Candidates: Legislative team members have been working with gubernatorial candidates for the state of New Jersey, providing an opportunity for them to engage directly with department leadership, veterans and address their concerns and needs. As of this writing we have met with 2 gubernatorial candidates, with invitations sent out to the other six. The Department is currently developing a questionnaire that would allow them to show how they stand on multiple veteran issues. This will be distributed as we get closure to the Gubernatorial Primary.
5. Department leadership contacted our congressional members once it was found out that our troops were staying in substandard conditions in both Texas (NG Pre-deployment Training) as well as rodent infested living conditions at a base in Korea. We had the support of our legislative members, the DoD was engaged, and the situations were addressed. We are currently monitoring improvements.

There are currently not any Call to Action items for us to support since both houses are in recess. I did want to elaborate on one key bill in Congress, H.R. 5633 , the Veteran Suicide Prevention Act. *This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to complete a review of the deaths of all covered veterans who died by suicide during the five-year period preceding the enactment of this bill. Covered veterans are those who received VA hospital care or medical services during the five-year period preceding the death of the veteran. The VA shall report on the results of the review and make such reports publicly available. (Taken directly from VFW. org)* On 9/21/23, the bill was introduced to the House. Representative Andrew Gaborino (R-NY-002) sponsored the bill. It was referred to the House Committee on Veteran Affairs on 9/21/23. Following that it was referred to the Subcommittee on Health

on 9/28/23. Read more about H.R. 5633 at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5633>

I bring this bill to your attention because September is Suicide Prevention Month. We should all be passionate about reducing the number of veteran suicides. If you feel as strongly about this as I do, you may be inspired to write to your representatives. Keep an eye out for it when your weekly Action Corps arrives.

Yours in Service,  
Kathleen Shanahan  
NJ VFWA Legislative Chair 24/25  
201-410-6814





**Membership Promotion September 2024**  
**From Our Roots to Our Branches**

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Spectacular September to everyone - Oorah!! First, I would like to thank everyone for an Awesome August!! Congratulations to the Auxiliaries who have already hit 80% in Membership!! For those who haven't, please continue to work and recruit from our "Roots to Our Branches, and beyond!!

It was such a pleasure to visit with Auxiliaries last month, just to see the hard work you're already putting in by strapping up your boots, getting on the front line of service for membership, and growing our Auxiliary. I was able to give out recognition medals, which made me feel great! Guess what? There are certainly more to come for the month of September!

Now, that everyone has gone to Boot Camp and School of Instruction, we should all be ready and equipped with the tools and artillery needed! I encourage you to plan membership drives in order to recruit new members. I am also, encouraging everyone to get Life Memberships for all existing members! A few ideas for Life memberships are gifting a Life Membership to someone, having a Life Membership Raffle, saving up to simply purchase a Life Membership, etc. Think outside of the box!!

Remember to get your "ASK" in gear! Our goal is to be "Sempre-Virens" - We are constantly reaching skyward. So, don't leave any qualifying member behind". Meet them where they are!! Use the QR Code, reach out to them on social media, use new member engagement guides, retention tools, etc.

Please don't forget that Fall Conference is quickly approaching, and we want to be ready!

Upcoming:

Those Auxiliaries which hit 90% in membership by the end of September, will earn \$30 for the Auxiliary!!!

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!

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



## Mentoring September 2024

Mentoring can be a great way for mentors to develop leadership skills by guiding someone, helping them understand concepts and explaining procedures.

Do you know what the 3 C's of Mentorship are?

\* Communication

\* Clarity

\* Commitment

These are essential components of an effective mentorship program.

Here are some suggestions for Mentoring programs for your Auxiliary.

\* Set clear goals and timelines

\* Promote confidentiality

\* Encourage diversity

You can also host a networking activity. Networking is an important part of mentoring, so it can be helpful to host activities that allow participants to form relationships and learn something new.

Remember....

**WE MUST WELCOME and MENTOR ALL MEMBERS.**

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

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

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Sandy Reed, Chairman  
732-343-1133

[vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com](mailto:vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com)

The "Ber" months are coming!

...And that means school will soon be back in session. The "Ber" months are when we really get to connect with students and advertise for all scholarships.

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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- 300-400 word essay

Don't forget about the "Continuing Education Scholarship". The deadline is February 15, 2025.

***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***



**Dept. of NJ Joint Special Project**

**September, 2024**

I hope you all that attended Dept. President Denise Beckler's Homecoming had a good time. We raised lots of donations to start off the 2024-2025 year. If you could not attend, and would still like to donate, you can send a donation to: Dept. of NJ VFW Auxiliary, earmarked Dept. Joint Special Project. Send it off to Dept. Treasurer...Paula Pinto. I thank you in advance.

I attended my first C of A meeting on August 17 as District 11 President. I presented our first check to Dept. Commander Luddie Austin and Dept. President Denise Beckler in the amount of \$3,478.50.

I proposed a fundraiser to be approved by Council to go into effect from 8/17/24 and to be pulled on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Dept. Presidents Spring Conference Dinner. If every Auxiliary bought 1 ticket, and every VFW bought 1 ticket, we would raise so much money for our Dept. JSP The \$20 dollar ticket has 3 prizes.

1st.....\$1000.00 gift card to Golf Galaxy (donated by Post 3020 Post and Aux.)

2<sup>nd</sup> .....A Free 4some of Golf (donated by [Pheasantinfo@aol.com](mailto:Pheasantinfo@aol.com))

3<sup>rd</sup> .....\$200.00 cash

As you can see, all gifts were donated at no cost to us, so every ticket we sell goes toward these amazing projects and stays right here in NJ.

If anyone has any questions, just reach out. I do know, that everyone is not a golfer, but I also know we do all most likely know someone that does golf.

**Lets raise some \$\$\$\$\$\$.**

Thank You,  
Donna Avery 856-906-1003  
126 Delaware Ave.  
Riverside, NJ 08075  
[dlynnave@yahoo.com](mailto:dlynnave@yahoo.com)

Youth Activities  
September 2024-2025

Brothers and Sisters,

Wendy Akers from National gave us an update on the Illustrating America Art Contest. There were some problems this year with the contest. Please make sure that you submit the right student's entry form with the right artwork. We will have to write the students' name on the back of the Artwork with the grade.

I am just giving you this information for future reference. We don't want any disqualifications because the students work hard.

Did you know that September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, is National Read a book day? So, if you can celebrate by hosting a veterans and children reading day at your post or a nursing home that has veterans it would be great.

The next thing I am going to touch on is the youth groups. There are a few different groups such as The Scouts, the Civil Air Patrol, Jr. ROTC, Church youth groups these are just a few. You can ask them to come to help you out at your post for different functions like Thanksgiving dinner for the senior citizens, your yearly picnic if you have one, Halloween for the children.

Some of these groups get points for their college education and badges for the Scouts.

Loyally,  
Mary Dungan  
Youth Activities Chairman  
46 Jones Mill Road Lot 220  
Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562  
[Marydungan217@yahoo.com](mailto:Marydungan217@yahoo.com)  
609-351-5882

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES 2024-2025

I hope everyone is ready for this year. I hope that we have a fun year. There are a number of awards that are available:

1. Illustrating America (Auxiliary Scholarship to be submitted by **March 31, 2025**)

- Students in grades K-8
- Patriotic Art that encourages students to express how they see America through art.

2. Literacy in your community.

You can provide reading material to our youth in schools.

There will be an award for the best promotion in illustrating America Art Contest.

There will also be an award for the Literacy in your Community project.

For judging in either of these awards, please submit a two-pocket folder with your promotions to me by April 15<sup>th</sup> 2025.

You can get involved with youth groups such as boy scouts and girl scouts. You can also get involved with the Civil Air Patrol if you have one in your area. They can do service hours at your VFW.

During the year I will give you information on the various programs.

I look forward to us having a great year.

Mary Dungan  
Youth Activities Chairman  
[marydungan217@yahoo.com](mailto:marydungan217@yahoo.com)  
609-351-5852

## VFW/VFWA Running Team

First of all, don't let the name fool you. *We love walking, too!*

Commander Austin, along with some VFW and VFWA members have formed a running team. VFW and VFWA members are invited to join the team at any time this year. Look for updates on runs we are doing together in our monthly mailing or on social media. We like to lead by example. We want our VFW members and their military veteran comrades to adopt healthy outlets for their mental and physical health. *If you do not run, you can still participate as a walker as almost every event offers that option.*

At our recent School of Instruction, Commander Austin explained that this team was formed to give our veterans encouragement to find healthy outlets for physical and emotional traumas sustained in military service. The team really drives that home by participating in runs together. Every formal run they do will raise awareness for important community and veteran issues. Some will even raise funds to help with the cause.

On June 13, 2024, a dozen VFW/VFWA members participated in Community Hope's **23rd Annual 5k Run and 1 Mile Walk**. This event raised \$505.00 for homeless veterans. The event was held at the Lyons VA facility. Twelve VFW/VFWA members formed the team and represented our organizations.

We have several races lined up for fall.

### **Spruce Run Memorial VFW Running for the Fallen - 9/8/24 at 12 pm**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/?raceId=160459>

Questions, tricky tray donations, etc. can be directed to Patti at spange888@gmail.com. Please give your phone number in the email.

### **Edison VFW 3rd Annual Run/Walk - 9/15/24 at 10 am**

All registration fees will be donated to the Entertainment Fund at Menlo Park Veterans Home and a local shelter.

[https://www.facebook.com/events/744214917733330/?acontext=%7B%22event\\_action\\_history%22%3A%5B%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/744214917733330/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%5B%7D)

### **The Army Ten Miler - 10/13/24 in Washington DC**

All race proceeds benefit Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

<https://www.armytenmiler.com/>

We want to encourage our members and veterans to join us at any of these events. Run, walk, or come as a spectator to cheer us on. For more information call Kathleen Shanahan at 201-410-6814.



# RUNNING FOR THE FALLEN 5K RACE

In remembrance of September 11, 2001

## Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

### USTAF Sanctioned **5K Run**

Start time 9am

Everyone is invited to a picnic with food, DJ,

Raffles, 50/50 Picnic at 12 noon

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/GlenGardner/WalkingfortheFallen>

Sign up \$30.00 + 2.80 sign up fee

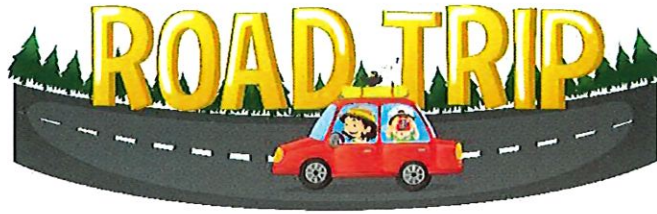
Veterans, Military, & First responders run for free, Enter discount code "free" at checkout

MARKERS!  
Welcome!



All proceeds benefit Spruce Run Memorial VFW Post 5119  
179 Main Street, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826





The 2024-2025 Line Officers are hitting the road to visit YOU!

Since the months of January - April tend to be "quiet", we want to offer a little winter fun! Weather permitting, we would like to come visit any auxiliary or District that might like us to give a little mini-school of instruction. This can be during your regular monthly meeting or on a special date that works for you.

If interested, please complete the form below

Auxiliary/District Name and No: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time to visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name & PH # (in case of bad weather): \_\_\_\_\_

Anything in particular you would like us to discuss? (i.e. bylaws, programs, protocol, etc)

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Send via email: [denise.beckler@aol.com](mailto:denise.beckler@aol.com) or snail mail: 12 Wright Ave., Stratford, NJ 08084

Any questions, give President Beckler a call: 856-448-3501

District 12 Auxiliary to the  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
of the United States



September 1, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is our distinct honor to invite you to join with District 12 President, Diane Merfert , as she welcomes State President, Denise Beckler on her official visit to District 12 on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon will be held at Brick Township Post 8867 at 12:00 pm. The meeting will open immediately following the luncheon.

The cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 per person. Tickets will be held at the door. Please fill out the form below and mail to Kathie Reichenbach, Official Visit Chairman, 7 Ashley Road, Whiting, NJ 08759 no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. ***Make checks payable to District 12 VFW Auxiliary.*** Please remember that each Auxiliary in the district is responsible for at least 3 dark horse gifts valued at a minimum of \$10 each. Please bring these with you when you attend the official visit.

Please join with District 12 as we welcome State President, Denise Beckler to our District.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen A. Reichenbach*

Kathleen Reichenbach

Official Visit Chairman

District 12 Secretary

[kreich325@gmail.com](mailto:kreich325@gmail.com)

732-740-1526

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ # of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

ANYONE WHO NEEDS A NAME BADGE PLEASE CONTACT MARY RYAN SANDMAN AT:

(609)456-1774

[maryryan40@outlook.com](mailto:maryryan40@outlook.com)

MADAM PRESIDENT WANTED TO INFORM EVERYONE THAT OUR ANNUAL FINNS POINT SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 2024.





# VFW AUXILIARY

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes™

## MEMO

**DATE:** August 26, 2024

**TO:** National Line Officers                      NDCMs  
Past National Presidents                      Department Presidents  
Department Secretaries                      Department Treasurers

**FROM:** Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary/Treasurer

We have been informed that Past National President Armithea "Sissy" Borel is recovering from recent back surgery. Please keep PNP Sissy in your thoughts and prayers as she heals.

Cards of encouragement and cheer may be sent to:

Armithea Borel  
4818 Mazilly Rd.  
Starks, LA  
70661-3316

AP: np



# VFW AUXILIARY

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes™

## MEMO

**DATE:** August 26, 2024

**TO:** National Line Officers                      NDCMs  
Past National Presidents                      Department Presidents  
Department Secretaries                      Department Treasurers

**FROM:** Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary/Treasurer

We have been informed that National Council Member Area A Karen Hoover has recently undergone hip replacement surgery. Please keep Karen in your thoughts and prayers during her recovery.

Get Well and Thinking of You cards may be sent to:

Karen Hoover  
582 Hoover Ln.  
Halifax, PA  
17032-8328

AP: np

# **NOT ADOPTED**

## ***RESOLUTION #1***

### **RESOLUTION OF VFW POST 8688 AUXILIARY REGARDING MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

**WHEREAS**, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary was established in 1914 as a Missouri nonprofit national organization to serve the veterans of this country and its communities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary empowers its Departments to establish Auxiliaries in their respective states to carry out the purpose and Programs of the National Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary; and

**WHEREAS**, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary in the Department of North Dakota was chartered in 1936 to carry out the purpose and Programs of the National Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary and those of the Department of North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, the VFW POST 8688 AUXILIARY was chartered in 1971 to carry out the purpose and Programs of the National Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary and those of the Department of North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, Departments such as North Dakota are losing Auxiliaries due to our aging membership, especially in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, The VFW Auxiliary membership eligibility restrictions are causing Auxiliaries within the Department of North Dakota to lose badly needed potential members; and

**WHEREAS**, neither the Department of North Dakota nor its chartered auxiliaries have been able to attract younger members due to these unnecessary membership eligibility restrictions; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been the experience of VFW Post 8688 Auxiliary that potential members cannot join under the eligibility of an uncle or aunt although many potential younger members would be honored to be part of the Auxiliary if their eligibility were not prevented by this membership restriction; and

**WHEREAS**, it has also been the experience of the VFW Post 8688 Auxiliary that grandchildren can join but great-grandchildren are not eligible to join under their great-grandparents who served in WWI, WWII, etc., and who would be honored to represent their family in the VFW Post 8688 Auxiliary; and

**WHEREAS**, the current VFW Auxiliary regulations allow non-citizens of the United States to be eligible for Auxiliary membership, but do not allow closely related American citizens of great grandparents, uncles, and aunts to be eligible for Auxiliary membership; and

**WHEREAS**, if the above membership requirements are not reconsidered, our Auxiliaries, who are an integral part of supporting our veterans and promoting patriotism, will continue to decline and our organization will suffer; and

**WHEREAS**, Membership is a main focus of the Programs of the National Office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that VFW Post 8688 Auxiliary strongly urges the Council of Administration of the Department of North Dakota to enact this Resolution, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that once this Resolution has been duly enacted by the Department of North Dakota, the VFW Post 8688 Auxiliary strongly urges the Department of North Dakota to forward this Resolution on to the Agenda of the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary to consider expanding its membership eligibility requirements to address the above unreasonable restrictions, all of which are in the best interest of sustaining and increasing auxiliary membership such that they can continue to support veterans and their families.

### **CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned President and Secretary of the VFW POST 8688 AUXILIARY do hereby certify that the VFW POST 8688 AUXILIARY met on February 16, 2023, that the meeting was duly called, that a quorum was present, and that the foregoing Resolution of VFW Post 8688 Auxiliary Regarding Membership Eligibility was adopted by an affirmative vote of the membership.

---

Mae Streich  
President

Michelle Schumann  
Secretary

Adopted at the Department of North Dakota Convention on June 10, 2023.



# ADOPTED

## RESOLUTION #2



*Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
of the United States  
Department of Virginia*

January 2024 Virginia Winter Conference

Treasurer's Ledger Resolution

Whereas the By-Laws permit the Secretary's typed minutes be kept in a permanent (bound) book or inserted in a three-ring binder or clip folder; and each minute page be numbered consecutively ... Trustees to initial at audit. (Sec 812.A.2.a-b).

Whereas the Treasurer's books are secured in a permanent record book per Sec 813.D.2.a.-b. while both the Secretary and Treasurer are allowed to use a computer to generate the minutes and the ledger, and the Secretary is allowed to maintain the minutes in a binder by vote of the Auxiliary, the Treasurer should be afforded the same option by vote of the Auxiliary to maintain the ledger in a three ring binder.

Be it resolved that Sec 813.D.2.b. page 78 of the 2024 Podium Edition Bylaw and Ritual be changed to include the words "It is permissible to secure typed or a computer-generated ledger in a permanent record book or inserted in a three-ring binder or clip folder. Each ledger page to be numbered consecutively and signed by the Trustees at each audit."

Submitted and Adopted by Department of Virginia Resolution Committee:

Dee Guillory, PNP  
Resolution Chairman

Catherine Graham, #6 NCM  
Resolution Committee Member

Dawn Kuhn, Senior-Vice President  
Resolution Committee Member

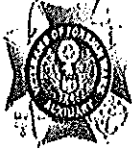
Vicki Butler  
Department President

Ellen Stogsdill  
Department Secretary

Adopted and Approved By  
Delegation at January 2024  
Conference

**ADOPTED**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



**RESOLUTION #3**

*Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
of the United States  
Department of Virginia*

from UNCOMMON Moments

January 2024 Department Of Virginia Winter Conference:

Whereas Section 602.A.2.a. states:

"A past Department President who transfers from the Department they served as Department President to another Department, is allowed to keep the status of a Past Department President for recognition purposes only. They will not have voting rights as a Past Department President of their previous Department."

Whereas a District President can transfer Auxiliaries and may transfer between Districts, the protocol should be equivalent to the Department President changing Departments.

Be it resolved that Sec 503.A.3.a page 38 of the 2024 Podium Edition Bylaw and Ritual be changed to read: "If a Past District President transfers their membership to an Auxiliary in another District within their Department, they are allowed to keep the status of a Past District President of their new District for recognition purposes only. They will not have voting rights as a Past District President of their previous District."

Submitted and Adopted by Department of Virginia Resolution Committee:

Dee Guillory, PNP  
Resolution Chairman

Catherine Graham, #6 NCM  
Resolution Committee Member

Dawn Kuhn, Senior-Vice President  
Resolution Committee Member

Vicki Butler  
Department President



Adopted and Approved By  
Delegation at January 2024  
Conference

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# ADOPTED AS AMMENDED

“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Article 5, Section 506 - District Dues of the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws be changed to increase from fifty cents (50¢) to one dollar cents (\$1.00) the amount per member that Districts may not exceed when annually assessing their Auxiliaries.”

## **RESOLUTION #4**

RESOLUTION -To increase funds available to Districts to operate effectively.

WHEREAS, The cost of sending cards to Auxiliary members and families in their District and throughout the Department has increased for District Chaplains;

WHEREAS, Awards presented at the District level to contestants in the *Patriot's Pen* and *Voice of Democracy* Program should be increased to encourage more student participation;

WHEREAS, Being able to provide District Presidents financial assistance to attend Department functions that require purchasing tickets would increase District representation at Department activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Article 5, Section 506 - District Dues of the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws be changed to increase from fifty cents (50¢) to seventy-five cents (75¢) the amount per member that Districts may not exceed when manually assessing their Auxiliaries.

---

CATHERINE GISTEDT, Auxiliary 2678 Secretary

---

HELEN CROSSETT, Auxiliary 2678 President

Adopted January 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Auxiliary to Wells-McComas Post 2678 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States located in Edgemere, Maryland.

---

OONNA AULD, District 14 Secretary

---

PAUL OLIVARES, District 14 President

Adopted January 14th 2024 at a scheduled meeting of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary to District 14, Department of Maryland.

---

Committee Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PDP

---

Francine Cornish, PDP

---

Johnnie Townsend, PDP

Adopted March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at a scheduled meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of United States Auxiliary, Department of Maryland.

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*Adopted 3-3-2024*  
*Received*  
*3/4/2024*

# NOT ADOPTED

## ***RESOLUTION #5***

Submitted by Department of Maryland Resolutions Committee

Subject: Continuing Auxiliaries

Whereas, Many VFW Posts are being disbanded due to any reason in accordance with the VFW By Laws;

Whereas, National VFW states that no Auxiliary can continue without a Post;

Whereas, many Auxiliaries want to continue on as an Auxiliary when their Post is disbanded;

Whereas, In order to keep our organization intact and assist in care for our Veterans for years to come;

THE RE FORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Section 208B to be amended to read as follows:

At the close of the National convention in 2024, and forward, should a Post be disbanded for any reason, the Auxiliary will be allowed to continue as a functioning Auxiliary as long as it is able to do so with at least ten members actively involved, continuing to serve and care for our Veterans and not being financially viable.

**Motion of the committee is to NOT adopt this resolution**

---

Committee Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt, PDP

---

Francine Cornish, PDP

---

Johnnie Townsend, PDP



# NOT ADOPTED

## ***RESOLUTION #6***

**WHEREAS**, Bylaws Section 101 Eligibility pertains to membership in the VFW Auxiliary; and

**WHEREAS**, Language in Bylaw Section 101 does not mirror the language of VFW Bylaws Section 1102 -- Eligibility, which contains the VFW established eligibility for the VFW Auxiliary and does not contain a requirement to profess a belief in God; and

**WHEREAS**, Our parent organization, the VFW, does not require persons joining the VFW to profess a belief in God; and

**WHEREAS**, Legitimate issues and concerns have been raised pertaining to such a requirement by the VFW Auxiliary, particularly freedom of religion and equal rights, when our Objects contain the very clear language "to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women"; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Bylaws Section 101 be amended to delete the language "A. Profess a belief in God" and renumber the remaining sections.

The committee moves to adopt Resolution #6, as above

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# **ADOPTED**

## ***RESOLUTION #7***

**WHEREAS**, Bylaws Section 606E, Department Audit Committee, allows members of the Budget Committee to be members of the Audit Committee, which is contrary to accounting practices of internal controls pertaining to segregation of duties; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Bylaws Section 606E, A. 1. read as:

- A. The Department President shall appoint an Audit Committee.
  - 1. The Audit Committee shall consist of a Chairman and a minimum of two (2) members of the Council of Administration or any Past Department President. This committee shall not include any member of the Budget Committee, the Secretary or the Treasurer.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# **TABLED**

## ***RESOLUTION #8***

***WHEREAS***, Bylaws Section 804E, National, pertains to the election of National Regional District Council Members; and

***WHEREAS***, Concerns about Departments not having a candidate for their turn to elect their Council Member for the subsequent term have been raised; and

***WHEREAS***, To alleviate potential future problems if a Department does not have a candidate for or does not elect a Council Member in accordance with Bylaws Section 804E, it is believed appropriate for the current Council Member to hold over for the next term; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, That a sentence be added to the end of Bylaws Section 804E., to read as follows:

- B. In the event a Department does not have a candidate for or does not elect a National Regional District Council Member, the current National Regional District Council Member shall hold over and remain in office for the upcoming term.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# **ADOPTED**

## ***RESOLUTION #9***

**WHEREAS**, Bylaws Section 807, Term of Office, does not specify a time frame to replace Officers and Chairmen when a vacancy occurs; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Bylaws Section 807 read as follows:

A. An Officer elected or appointed and installed into office and a Chairman shall continue to hold office for the period for which elected or appointed, as long as:

1. their appointment remains in effect,
2. they comply with the duties of their office or position,
3. their office or position has not been declared vacant in accordance with these Bylaws, and
4. they remain a member in good standing.

B. A member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy shall continue to hold office or chairmanship for the duration of the un-expired term of the office or chairmanship to which elected or appointed.

C. The term of office of a chairman of a standing committee shall run concurrently with the term of office of the appointing President.

D. In the event of a vacancy in an appointive office or chairmanship, the President shall fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days.

E. If the President is unable to complete their term of office, their appointments remain in effect until the next term of office begins.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# ADOPTED

## ***RESOLUTION #10***

***WHEREAS***, Bylaws Section 810A, Auxiliary President, and Bylaws Section 813A, Auxiliary Treasurer, both contain language pertaining to receipt and disbursement by charge cards, which language is best suited to Auxiliary Treasurer duties; and

***WHEREAS***, The language used requires clarification; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, That subsections B, C, D and E of Bylaws Section 810 be deleted and the subsequent subsections be renumbered; and, be it further

***RESOLVED***, That subsections A, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Bylaws Section 813A be deleted and rewritten as follows:

5. An Auxiliary may not possess a credit card.
6. An Auxiliary may vote, by majority vote, to possess a debit card to make payments for Auxiliary business purposes only.
  - a. The Treasurer shall be in possession of the debit card.
  - b. Debit cards shall not be used for cash advances.
  - c. Trustees shall review, date and initial statements containing reports of the debit card transactions every month to ensure that all debit card purchases were made in accordance with votes of the Auxiliary and/or standing rules.
7. An Auxiliary may vote, by majority vote, to accept payment by credit and/or debit card, using a third party processor through point of sale in person or online. A record of transactions must be provided to the Trustees at each audit.

And, be it further

***RESOLVED***, That the remaining subsections be renumbered.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member



# **ADOPTED**

## ***RESOLUTION #11***

**WHEREAS**, Bylaws Section 814, Trustees, Duties of (All Levels), A. is unclear about the Trustees required to conduct an audit; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Bylaws Section 814 A. read as follows :

- A. All audits are to be completed by the Trustees.
1. A minimum of two (2) Trustees shall conduct the audit. At least one (1) must be an elected Trustee and one may be a Trustee pro tem. It is preferable that only elected Trustees conduct audits.
  2. The President, Secretary and Treasurer should attend the audit. They are not allowed to perform the audit.
  3. The audit must be completed and signed by the Trustees.
  4. The Auxiliary must vote to accept the audit and then forward a copy of the accepted audit to the Department Treasurer.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# **ADOPTED**

## ***RESOLUTION #12***

***WHEREAS***, Bylaws Section 822, Musician – Soloist, Duties of, is not clear as to the duties of the Musician; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, That Bylaws Section 822. A. read as follows:

A. The Musician shall direct musical presentations.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# ADOPTED

## ***RESOLUTION #13***

**WHEREAS**, Various issues have been raised about property ownership, particularly when an Auxiliary, District or Department places items it acquires in a building or facility owned or operated by a VFW organization; and

**WHEREAS**, Clarification of the issues about Auxiliary property ownership appears to be needed; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That a new Bylaws Section 920 be enacted, to read as follows:

### **Section 920. Property Ownership.**

- A. Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments own personal property acquired by it and retain ownership until disposed of by a majority vote, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or Booklet of Instruction.
- B. For the purposes of these Bylaws, personal property is defined as tangible and intangible property that is movable, even if a small amount of disassembly is required to move.
- C. For the purposes of these Bylaws, real property is defined as land and permanent structures on the land.
- D. Auxiliary, District or Department personal property placed in or on real property or facility owned or operated by a VFW organization that is not being donated to the VFW organization shall remain the property of the Auxiliary, District or Department.
- E. Personal property acquired by an Auxiliary, District or Department and donated by majority vote of the Auxiliary, District or Department with intent for the item to remain with the real property or facility owned or operated by a VFW organization shall belong to the VFW organization.
- F. Personal property donated to a VFW organization by a majority vote of an Auxiliary, District or Department may not be reclaimed by the Auxiliary, District or Department without consent of the VFW organization.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# ADOPTED AS AMENDMENT

(additions in red, below)

## RESOLUTION #14

**WHEREAS**, Bylaws Section 810C J., Department President; Section 812B A.9. Department Secretary; and Section 813C A.5. Department Treasurer, Funds – Disbursement of, pertain to expenses of Department Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers; and

**WHEREAS**, Departments may not have the funds to pay for their expenses; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Bylaws Sections 810C, 812B and 813C be amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 810C—Department President**

J. The President's travel expenses, including, but not limited to, mileage and lodging expenses, to and from the Department Convention and Council of Administration meetings shall be paid from the Department Treasury in accordance with Department Bylaws, Standing Rules, **budget**, policies and/or procedures.

### **Sec. 812B—Department Secretary**

9. The Secretary's travel expenses, including, but not limited to, mileage and lodging expenses, to and from the Department Convention and Council of Administration meetings shall be paid from the Department Treasury in accordance with Department Bylaws, Standing Rules, **budget**, policies and/or procedures.

### **Sec. 813C—Department Treasurer**

5. The Treasurer's travel expenses, including, but not limited to, mileage and lodging expenses, to and from the Department Convention and Council of Administration meetings shall be paid from the Department Treasury in accordance with Department Bylaws, Standing Rules, **budget**, policies and/or procedures.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member

# ADOPTED

(with housekeeping updates in red below)

## RESOLUTION #15

**WHEREAS**, Bylaws Section 304, National Convention, A.1. (and A.4.), pertains to the number of delegates of an Auxiliary for the National Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of members and Auxiliaries has dramatically declined and the number of delegates is now smaller in comparison to the number of other votes at the National Convention; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Bylaws Section 304 A.1. (and A.4.) be amended to read as follows:

### **Sec. 304—National Convention**

A. Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April;

1. One (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each thirty-five (35) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary on March 31.

(Sec. 304 A.4 – Auxiliaries instituted or reactivated between April 30 and the date of the National Convention shall elect one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each thirty-five (35) members or fraction thereof for the National Convention based on the number of dues received by the National Treasurer at the time of election.)

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee:

Armithea "Sissy" Borel, Chairman  
Diana Stout, Member  
Janice Criswell, Member