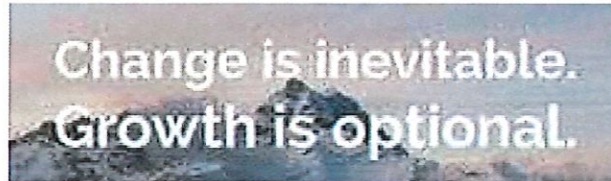




President's Message November 2024



I read this phrase the other day and it made me think about how this applies to the VFW Auxiliary.

In just my short 14 years with the organization, a lot of changes have occurred. Most auxiliaries have adapted, though some rather reluctantly. And there are still those who fight the changes that have occurred. I find this can cause misunderstandings, hurt feelings and bad attitudes amongst members within an auxiliary, which results in membership loss and closings of auxiliaries – such a waste.

We all need to understand, without CHANGE, there is no CHANCE of moving forward. Change, as painful as it can be, does open doors to new opportunities, ***if you allow it.***

“One reason people resist change is because they focus on what they have to give up, instead of what they have to gain. The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”

As an auxiliary, we need to accept changes as they occur and work together to embrace that change and focus on the new possibilities it brings. We owe that to the veterans we serve.

“It’s all about how you handle Plan B”. This has been a personal mantra of mine for many years and helps me deal with change as it comes, easy or painful.

My wish for our auxiliaries is while you don’t have to like change, you give it a chance. We really only two choices, move forward or stay stagnant – which do you Plan do you choose?

Loyally,

Denise Beckler



Americanism National Ambassador Katlyn Burke is promoting “lesser-known” patriotic holidays. Please see the updated list below, which includes, but is not limited to, patriotic holidays, Military birthdays, remembrance, and special occasions.

Patriotic Holidays/Recognition Days

Iwo Jima American Flag raised (Feb 23, 1945)
Presidents Day (third Monday of February)
Star Spangled Banner Day (March 3)
K-9 Veterans Day (March 13)
Rosie the Riveter Day (March 21)
Kosovo campaign begins (March 24, 1999)
Medal of Honor Day (March 25)
National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29)
Gold Star Spouses Day (April 5)
U.S. entered WWI (April 6, 1917)
Gulf War recognition – day it started (April 11)
Loyalty Day (May 1)
Children of Fallen Patriots Day (May 13)
Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday in May)
V-E Day/Victory in Europe (May 8)
Memorial Day (Last Monday of May)
Anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 1944)
National Women Veterans Recognition Day (June 12)
Flag Day (June 14)
Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress (June 22, 1942)
PTSD Awareness Day (June 27)
Made in America Day (July 2)
Independence Day/Fourth of July (July 4)
National “Hire a Veteran” Day (July 27)
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (July 27)
National Buffalo Soldiers Day (July 28)
Purple Heart Day (August 7)
Agent Orange Awareness Day (August 10)
Navajo Code Talkers Day (August 14)
V-J Day (September 2)
Patriot’s Day/September 11th (September 11)
Uncle Sam Day (September 13)
Constitution Day & Citizenship Day (September 17)
POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September)
Gold Star Mothers/Families Day (last Sunday in September)
Johnny Appleseed Day (September 21, alternative date: March 11)
Global War on Terrorism & Gulf War Veterans Day (October 7)
Day of the Deployed (October 26)
Veterans Day (November 11)
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7, 1941)

Auxiliary Outreach
November 2024

November is the perfect month to volunteer in your community

Thanksgiving is one of the busiest months for your local foodbank, the other month is December. They always need help in preparing, Thanksgiving Baskets. There are many ways you can volunteer, you can help sorting food, prepare baskets to give out or delivering them in time for Thanksgiving.

Last year National changed the rule about using the VFW Post for functions for Auxiliary Outreach. There are small communities, especially out west where the VFW is the only place they can hold their functions, "example" The Red Cross wants to hold a Blood drive at your post, you can volunteer to help, by registering, give out juice or any other things that they need, You can report it as Auxiliary Outreach as long you do not make any donation, just your time.

When participating in your community, take photos, create a collage, showcasing auxiliary members, fill out the form for the Eastern State Award. Then send to me no later than March 31, 2025, any questions contact me.

Ambassador Bambi Johnson reported that National Headquarters is always happy to see and share pictures of our auxiliaries in action. Send any photos to info@vfwauxiliary.org with the subject line Auxiliary Outreach.

Volunteering is time spending helping an organization. Vote on each project; record them in your minutes. Wear something that identifies you as an auxiliary member.

Community Service:

Veterans at nursing homes are often forgotten This Thanksgiving, visit a nursing home honor them with cards, made by school students and a gift bag. This may also be reported under Youth Activities, you will get credit for both programs.

From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service To Our Veterans

Honoring Through Service To Our Veterans



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

November 2024

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

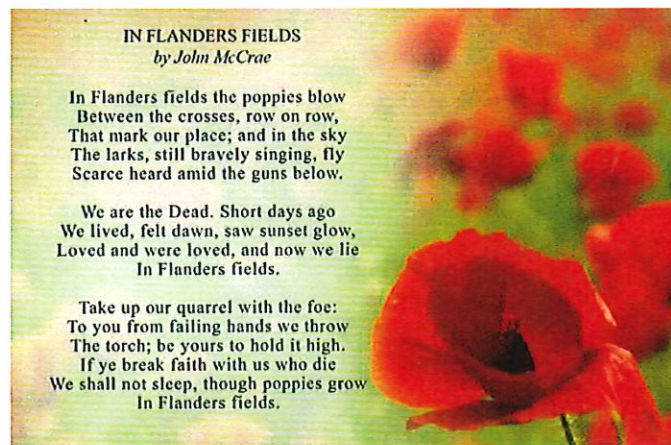


“Buddy” ® Poppy

As we head into November, a month of giving and thanking, let us not forget to reach out to our veterans and the community. How many Auxiliaries (and their Posts) have community activities planned or will participate in – i.e. Veterans Day Parade, Veterans Day ceremony, Marine Corps Birthday dinner/gala, or feeding veterans at Thanksgiving? Any Auxiliaries planning to visit veterans in a VA home or VA hospital or non-VA homes? If yes, include some poppies with your donations.

Be sure to incorporate the “Buddy” ® Poppy in whatever event your Auxiliary participates in. Wear them while marching and/or hand them out to the crowds. Make “Buddy” ® Poppy centerpieces for the veterans and community coming to your Post for dinner(s). Add them to the meals being delivered to homebound veterans or those in VA homes/hospitals.

If hosting special dinners/events for the community, it would be a good opportunity to educate the community about the history of the “Buddy” ® Poppy. Reiterate the significance of it beyond being a ‘little red flower’. Share with others that the “Buddy” ® Poppy is about honoring those that paid the ultimate price and those that continue to serve. By giving this knowledge to the community, we can hope that they support and appreciate our veterans more than before. Building a stronger relationship with our local community and local organizations goes a long way.





VFW NATIONAL HOME

It is the Season of Giving! Why not give to VFW National Home?! Auxiliaries can give via an Amazon Wish List. Visit the VFW National Home website and look for 'You Can Help' tab, then select 'Other Ways to Give' in the drop down menu and scroll to the bottom of the page to 'Amazon Wish List' (www.vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/other-ways-to-give/). Click on 'giving instructions' to ensure that what gift(s) selected will go directly to National Home. The wish list is updated by the staff.

Another opportunity to give is by spreading the word about how families can qualify for housing at National Home. As existing families transition out, new families are needed. These days, many can relate to the daily hardships, and it can be even tougher for our current military (actively serving), veterans, and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Each meet the eligibility requirements to apply for housing but may not know this or the numerous resources available. The best way to see if they qualify is to complete an online application on National Home's website and click on 'Get Help' in the red box at the upper righthand corner of the screen (www.vfwnationalhome.org/get-help/). If anyone has questions or needs more information, please share the helpline number: 1-800-313-4200.

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

NOVEMBER PROMOTION **CANCER**

REMEMBER EARLY DETECTION CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

This month is Pancreatic Cancer, Lung Cancer, Carcinoid Cancer, Stomach Cancer awareness Month. November is also a month during which we honor Caregivers.

Pancreatic Cancer type of cancer that forms in the pancreas, the organ that produces enzymes for digestion & hormones for blood for blood sugar management. 4th leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States.

Lung Cancer it forms in the tissues of the lung, usually in cells that line of the air passages. Two types are small and non-small cell lung cancer, the two types grow differently and are treated differently.

Carcinoid Cancer this is a slow growing cancer it can arise in several places throughout your body, mostly in the digestive system or lungs.

Stomach Cancer symptoms in early stages are indigestion, heartburn, mild nausea, loss of appetite or feeling bloated after eating.

Caregiver This is the month you thank and tell caregivers how they are appreciated. They take care of individuals with activities of daily living.

Remember to send all your donation to the Department Treasurer Paula Pinto ear mark your check for Cancer

Historian/Social Media

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

Have you seen the interactive map for "Brenda's Lost and Found" on the national website? It can be found at the bottom of the home page (vfwauxiliary.org). They include photos of National President Brenda Bryant since Sr Vice President until the present.

I have been doing something similar on our Department's Facebook page. I keep the photos updated as I can. I am also working on creating the content you (the members) want.

National Award for Auxiliaries

Did you know there is a National Award for Auxiliaries under the Historian/Social Media program? This award is for the **Most Outstanding Promotion of the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the Community through Social Media. Entries for this contest are due to the Department Chairman (aka me) by March 31, 2025.** In the entry please describe how your Auxiliary promoted the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the Community through media sources. Please include any flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc. The winning Auxiliary entry will be sent to the National Historian for judging. Department winning entry will be announced at the Department Convention in Wildwood at the end of May.

The Blog is back!

Have you seen the Department website lately? I have been working on updating the website. I have been also adding some new sections. We will have pages dedicated to the Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain. But I have also brought back the blog. I am not the only person contributing to the blog, you will also be getting information from Department Chairman about their respective program. Please make sure you subscribe to the blog for future posts.

Department President Denise Beckler is over halfway through her District visits. District Historians – Don't forget to submit the report from her visit to your District.



Hospital Promotion

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

We are quickly moving through our program year! I have included the information for our hospital representative for each hospital that is updated from your communication centers received at the school of instructions. Invite them to your events! They would love to participate!

<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
East Orange	Helen Faison	Sisterface1@verzion.net 973-763-1664
East Orange Deputy	Alice Kordowski	alcurt@verizon.net 201-991-2454
Lyons	Lorraine Brooks	lorrainebrooks52@yahoo.com 908-689-2564
Menlo Park	Margaret Russo	jerseymom1207@aol.com 732-887-7947
Paramus	Kathleen Shanahan	shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814
Vet Haven North	Betty Kitson	kitsonbetty@gmail.com 551-655-0511
Vet Haven South	Karen Benedetto	krcatt756@comcast.net 609-335-6350
Vineland	Barbara Wiener	barb.wiener@yahoo.com 609-464-1791

Thank you to the Auxiliary chairs for getting me their activity reports. Please be sure to get those reports to me and list the volunteers who participated in your activity. Did you know the National organization recognizes the service of our sponsored hospital volunteers and the Auxiliary members who assist us to conduct our activities? The first recognition given to Auxiliary members is for 150 hours of service and more pins as your hours increase. These recognized hours are for your entire time of membership you do not have to complete these volunteer hours in 1 years' time. Your Auxiliary hospital chair or VAVS representative can fill out the application for our auxiliary members and/or sponsored volunteers who complete the hours-of-service requirements. Behind your Malta login under member resources, you will find the application for both auxiliary members and sponsored volunteers to receive their recognition pins.

Volunteer Awards

- [Application for Hospital Service Pins and Bar Guards for Auxiliary Members-Fillable](#)
- [Application for Sponsored Volunteer Pins-Fillable](#)
- A VAVS Representative or VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman will complete three copies of the application.
- A Voluntary Service Program Manager, a supervisor or Chief Nurse of the VA Hospital or non-VA facility MUST sign and date the form to verify volunteer hours.
- A VAVS Representative or VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman will retain one copy for their file, forward one copy to the Department Hospital Chairman, and send the original to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attention: Program Awards Administrator, 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111
- Pins and bar guards will be mailed to the VAVS Representative or the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman submitting the application.

Paramus Home

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/vfwadepofnj>



**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**

The date is set for our annual Department VFW/VFWA Christmas Party.
We have 75 residents residing within Veterans Haven South!

This Annual Event is to show our Comrades that we care and are
grateful for their service!

Desserts are needed.

Ideas for Christmas gifts,
Gift cards or personal items
are always appreciated.

We hope you will be able to join us!

Please reach out if you have any questions.

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



LEGISLATION – NOVEMBER 2024

Friends, I have a lot to report this month. there is exciting stuff going on!

First, did you get your **Action Corps** email? Mine arrived in my inbox on Friday, October 18th. The first thing I did was hit the **red** button that says **"Take Action"**. It took me to a page which explained how important it is to support the **TAP Promotion Act, S2888/H.R.3933**. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) supports transitioning service members with pre-discharge claims.

It's important that our Veteran Service Officers (VSO) and other accredited claims representatives are knowledgeable in making the transition from active service to veteran. Our Department of Defense and Department of Veteran Affairs are two separate organizations that must understand each other to allow them to work in tandem. The VFW has started the ball rolling by getting service officers into training this year. However, we need to ensure that training continues by making it law. Passage of this bill into law will not require any additional funding from taxpayers.

I knew after reading this that I indeed needed to *take action*. Knowing how to handle claims properly can make a difference in assuring our veterans receive proper care upon exiting military duty. This will impact their mental and physical care. It may even save a life.

It took less than two minutes for me to fill out the digital form my **"Take Action"** button provided and for me to hit **"Send Message"**. That act told Senator Cory Booker that I feel it's important for him to support the TAP Promotion Act. It lets Senator Booker know that I feel it's important for VSOs and accredited claims representatives to be properly trained.

The very next day, I received confirmation from Senator Booker that his office received the message I sent. I had been heard. Now please, brothers and sisters, raise your voices.

1. Hit **"Take Action "** in your **Action Corps** email.
2. Fill out the digital form.
3. Hit **"Send Message "**.

Next, I want to let you know how hard your NJ VFW is working for your veterans. Recently, Commander Austin traveled to the NJ State House in Trenton with fellow VFW members, Jon Hinker and Filipe Oliveira, to testify on several issues facing those that have faithfully served in the military. Fillipe Oliveria testified before New Jersey State Assembly, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on A3161, which opens up pension eligibility by eliminating requirement of service during specified dates or in specified locations. Jon Hinker testified before the State Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on S3504, which would allow for a gross income tax deduction for surviving spouses of certain veterans. Commander Austin was interviewed by News Pix 11 about a Resolution bill proposing a VA inpatient medical facility at Joint Base

McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. This would directly impact many of your family members living in South Jersey. In the interview, Commander Austin stated, "I'm currently enrolled in the Philadelphia VA health care system and that becomes a burden to veterans who may have to go to an appointment with finding travel over there, having to pay tolls, traffic, and things of that nature." Commander Austin is one of over 50,000 veterans living within a 50 mile radius of the Joint Base. For the full interview, go to <https://pix11.com/> and type "VFW" into the search bar. It will be the first article listed; a clickable pop-up-box will appear with video footage of the Commander's interview.

Finally, I'd like to tell you about a recent personal experience. My husband and I visited the Nation's Capital this past month. While we were there, I had the opportunity to tour our Washington, DC VFW building. This is where the magic happens! The District VFW office is in a prime location for the monitoring of legislation that affects veterans and their families. Those that work there diligently alert our membership about key legislation that is under consideration. It allows them to actively lobby Congress and the administration on these pertinent issues. Everything that they do and research is organized into the weekly Action Corps. We have a stellar system in place to advocate for our veterans and their families. However, it is currently under utilized. A very small percentage of Action Corps subscribers take the step to contact their legislators. Let's change that. I spoke about this issue with Joe Grassi, Associate Director of the National Legislative Service, while at our DC VFW office. The Action Corps website is very busy. I am still learning to navigate it, myself. Luckily, there is that big, red **"TAKE ACTION"** button. For now, that's all we need to concentrate on. I trust our leadership to guide us in choosing what to research and contacting our legislators. We'll learn the rest together throughout this year. I will be exploring the Action Corps in the next VFW Auxiliary blog spot. Keep an eye out for it!

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

For the Action Corps, scan below or text "VFW" to 50457





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

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

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

Notable November & Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Happy Marine Corp Birthday and Happy Veterans Day - Oorah! Our current membership percentage for the Department of New Jersey is **84.04%**. The Eastern States Conference is quickly approaching, and it would be awesome if we could put our boots on the ground and work hard to get as close to 100% as possible!

We are facing the last two months of this year, and all members need to pay their dues, which would increase our membership immensely. Then, go out and **RECRUIT RECRUIT RECRUIT!!!!** November and December are both holiday months! Oh, what fun for membership!!

“Get your **ASK** in gear”! Make a list with two columns – **Column A** - this would be family you are certain will qualify. Then, sign the family members up that you don’t have to struggle with. For those family members who need a little push – try a different approach with them and commit to gifting a membership to them for their birthday or to celebrate a holiday. Purchase a birthday card or holiday card with a filled-in application enclosed, which would make it easier for them to just sign it and hand it back to you. Once you’ve completed that task – for every year thereafter, for their birthday or holiday, **ASK** if they would be interested in upgrading their already paid for membership, to a “LIFE MEMBERSHIP” and guide them through the process. If this doesn’t work encourage them to pay their annual dues.

Column B - this is for family members who **MAY** qualify for the VFW Auxiliary, but you are unsure they will qualify. Break the ice with those family members, and then change the subject of the conversation. By this time the family member is excited to hear from you. If they qualify, you can offer to gift them a membership! If being active is a concern for the family member...explain that despite of their ability to be “active”, their membership alone gives us the necessary numbers we need to make our voices heard in congress on behalf of our Veterans. If they desire to be active – that’s and add bonus!!

REMINDER of Upcoming Goals:

Madame President Denise Beckler and I would love to see the Department of New Jersey at 100% or better by December 31, 2024. So, let's get it done!!

Department Goals –

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

National Goals -

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

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

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

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

Remember!! Be creative in your membership outreach!

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sandy Reed, Chairman
732-343-1133

vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com

Can you believe the first round for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen have come and gone? It was a long three months of advertising and reaching out to schools, parents, teachers and anyone who knows a student, but once my phone started ringing from Posts and Auxiliaries who received their **first entry, Ever!!** It confirmed that every moment was worth it!

Now onto the next round!

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

How is your Post and Auxiliary going to recognize entries that came in? Do you send them a certificate? Medals? VFW memorabilia?

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

Don't forget that we also have:

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

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

Keep checking out the Auxiliary Scholarship Facebook page! We have more scholarships coming up.

- 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

November 2024 Mailing

Dept. of NJ Joint Special Projects

****Just reiterating, ALL donations made to these Joint Special Projects will be divided equally between the three and will stay in our Great State of N.J! This was a priority of Dept. Commander Luddie Austin.**

Brig-Vet's Surf Therapy Program- Live Golf- N.J Veterans Assistance Program

The NJVFW Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) was included in this year's Commanders Project to ensure the Department of New Jersey VFW sustains this important program to serve Veterans in the future. This program started in 2017-2018 and has helped so many Veterans in need since the beginning. This program has improved so many lives of our veterans and their families. The donations help keep a roof over their heads, food on the table and keeps them safe and to avoid crisis.

No matter how big or small the donation is, every penny helps to keep them safe. Remember why we are here as an Auxiliary.

If your Auxiliary, or District would like to donate, you can send it to Dept. of NJ Treasurer (earmarked Dept. of NJ Joint Special Project) Paula Pinto-Dept. of NJ Treasurer. If you are attending Dept. of NJ President's luncheon, you can also bring it there or send it off to me. I am the Committee Chair, and I will present it to the treasurer that day.

Let's all show our Dept. of NJ Commander Luddie Austin that we do work hard for his programs.

Donna Avery
126 Delaware Ave. Apt. A
Riverside, NJ 08075
1 (856) 906-1003
dlynnave@yahoo.com

Veterans and Family Support November

Happy Holiday,

Hope everyone is getting ready for the holiday. As you know Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Christmas will be here before you know it. What kind of things does your auxiliary have planned for the holiday for your veterans and their family? It doesn't matter what it is, big or small, it could be just putting together a Thanksgiving basket, or baskets and giving it to a veteran that really needs it. When you take the basket(s) to the veteran's home, make sure you take pictures with the Veteran and his or her family and share the pictures with your auxiliary members, especially your new members that you have in your Auxiliary. You might be able to get your Commander to come out with your Auxiliary to help deliver the basket(s).

When you ask your Commander to participate in any of the events that the Auxiliary is having, it shows your commander that the Auxiliary is willing to work with the post and want to support the Veterans and their family. An Idea is to feed the homeless Veterans or if you know a place that is servicing food for Thanksgiving you might want to volunteer for the day. Let's not forget our veterans that don't have family in the state or are unable to visit their family for the holiday. At least give them a call or stop by and see if they need anything. Or if you have time, sit and talk with them or maybe play games. There is more than one way to show our veterans that we care about them.

Send me pictures and tell what you have done for your Veterans

Brenda Bailey
bb.bailey27@gmail.com



Youth Activities

November 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

There has been an updated form for the VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest. There will be a citation to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Divisions and a \$25.00 award given to the Auxiliary deposited in their account from National. If anyone needs one that doesn't have Malta, please let me know and I will provide you one.

There is also an award for the Youth Activities National Program Award. This is for the most outstanding activity or event of youth reading to veterans or veterans reading to the Youth. There will be a Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding event or activity of youth reading to veterans or veterans reading to youths. Citations will be mailed directly to the VFW Auxiliary that wins the award and the money will be deposited into their account. The form must be mailed to the Department Chairman by March 31, 2025.

Don't forget our veterans for Halloween. You can see if a Youth Club can spare some time to read a book. Veterans Day is right around the corner maybe you can invite some veterans to your post for the ceremony and try to read a book to them from our youth.

I will touch on the ten points for working with our youth next month.

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

AUXILIARY/DISTRICT AUDIT REPORT

Secretary

President

Treasurer

Auxiliary to Post _____ District _____

DISTRIBUTION OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS and CASH BALANCE

BY FUND FOR THE PERIOD OF _____

DUE IN DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S OFFICE

Paula Pinto, State Treasurer

436 Locust Ave.

Burlington, NJ 08016

FUND	CASH BALANCE LAST REPORT	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	CASH BALANCE THIS REPORT
General Fund				
Relief Fund				
TOTALS				

BANK BALANCE SHOWN ON BANK STATEMENT

PLUS DEPOSITS

TOTAL

LESS OUTSTANDING CHECKS

TOTAL BOOK BALANCE

~~~~~  
This is to certify that the books of the Secretary and Treasurer have been audited and found correct and all money properly accounted for.

Audited this date: \_\_\_\_\_

Trustees:

3 Year \_\_\_\_\_

2 Year \_\_\_\_\_

1 Year \_\_\_\_\_

## **REMINDER!**

ANYTHING THAT GOES TO THE NJ DEPARTMENT  
TREASURER, SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

**DEPT. TREASURER PAULA PINTO  
436 LOCUST AVE.  
BURLINGTON, NJ 08016**



**THANK YOU!**

## DISTRICT DUES - WHAT TO KNOW

### 2024 Bylaws Changes Will Impact 2025

As many of you know, at National Convention this summer (2024) delegates voted to allow Districts to raise District Dues, which was the topic of discussion in regards to proposed Resolution #4. That section of the Bylaws now reads as follows:

#### **Sec. 506—District Dues**

A. Delegates assembled at a District Convention may assess annual dues not to exceed One Dollar (\$1.00) per member per Auxiliary

Please note that an increase must be voted upon at District Convention. District Conventions are typically held in the spring and changes usually go into effect with the start of the next Program Year, unless otherwise voted upon. This means your District should not yet have raised dues for the 2024-2025 Program Year.

Should you have any further questions about **Sec. 506 - District Dues** please reach out to your National District Council Member for clarification.

## MEMBER RECRUITER AWARDS

### Who is Eligible for Which?

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding the Member Recruiter Awards and, in particular, who is ineligible for which. We hope this serves to offer clarification.

#### **Membership Program:**

National Membership Achievement Award, Top Recruiter Award and VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing\*. The only members who are **NOT** eligible for these awards are **VFW Auxiliary Treasurers** on all levels. See page 40 of the *2024-2025 National Program Book* for full details about these awards.

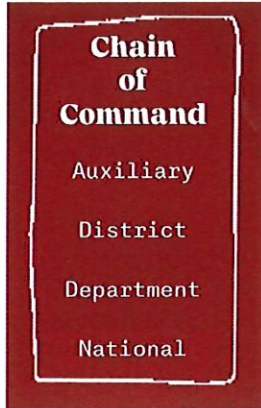
\*VFW recruiters are eligible for the Recruiter pin (for recruiting five new and/or rejoined members) and NMA (for recruiting 20 new and/or rejoined members). However, they are ineligible for the Top Recruiter award and VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing.

#### **All National Programs - Reporting:**

Auxiliaries must report to their Departments. Some Departments do online reporting. Check with your Department for reporting guidelines. **Only Department Presidents** are responsible for entering reports to National via MALTA.

# KNOW YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

## Auxiliary, District, Department, National



I often get emails sent to me from National, stating a member reached out to them. It apparently seems to be happening country wide, because National supplied this article in November's E-newsletter. National wants us to remind members of the importance of knowing who to contact about what, and not to rush to seek answers from National to problems that could easily be solved or questions that could readily be answered on a local level.

There are a number of reasons not to take a local issue to a National level which go beyond the simple belief that one "shouldn't put their business in the streets," and these include quicker response time, consideration for local customs and, hopefully, a de-escalation of potential interpersonal conflicts.

### WHY KEEP IT LOCAL?

On an Auxiliary level, there are anywhere from 20 to 2,000 members, give or take, with good odds that an Officer or Past Auxiliary President will know the answer to one's question or have the skills to problem-solve otherwise, but on a National level, we have 475,000 members and a small staff, most of whom would not work directly with members on the sorts of issues or questions that typically arise. Simply put, we only have about one staff member per hundred thousand members who could help you with these issues, which means your inquiries would potentially take a longer amount of time to reach the top of our "to do" piles.

Additionally, we at National do not know the ins and outs of every Auxiliary. Some Auxiliaries prefer casual attire and round table meetings. Others prefer to dress in uniform and focus on floor work. At some, members may consider themselves family, while at others, they may be more like professional acquaintances than close friends. Your Auxiliary or District Officers are more likely to be familiar with the dynamics of your Auxiliary and be able to guide you in a more personalized way.

Lastly, many of the issues that reach National Headquarters concern interpersonal conflicts, but we find many of these could be handled at the ground level before escalation has occurred. As a diverse group with members from all different generations, cultures, political affiliations, religions, mindsets and regions, we know that we will not all agree on all things all the time - who does? But we are united in our mission to help veterans, active duty military, their families and our communities, even if we aren't always on the same page in regards to how. At a local level, Officers and mentors can spend the time needed to truly listen to each side of an issue and help those in disagreement come to a consensus that serves both parties and the organization as a whole. Unfortunately, once such an issue has made it all the way to the National level, it has typically become much harder to do so.

### SO WHAT IS THE CHAIN OF COMMAND?

The Chain of Command starts with your own Auxiliary. Depending upon your question or issue, the best person to whom to address it may be the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, a Program Chairman or even a member you personally consider a Mentor, perhaps a Past President who has been around for a long time.

If your Auxiliary President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, etc. is unable to help, seek out the person in the relevant position on a District level (if your Department has Districts). If they are unable to help or cannot be reached, the next level is Department, again starting with those in the aforementioned positions.

Only after the Department Officers have done their due diligence and concluded that an issue cannot be solved or a question cannot be answered should it be sent along to the National Level. For many issues or questions there are potential other people to contact before reaching out to National Headquarters directly, such as your National District Council Member and/or National Ambassadors.

If you have exhausted all of these options or if the question is not appropriate to ask of those in the aforementioned positions, sending an email to National Headquarters is the next step. If you contact us at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) and describe the question or issue, we will be able to forward it to the person best suited to help you, while sending a direct message to us on social media will only be read by our social media team, who may be able to assist if the issue is social media-related or if the answer is a simple one (for example, a link to the Patriotism Through Literacy list of recommended reads, or the date the next HQ Roundtable is scheduled), but in most cases, the social media team member will ask you to send us the inquiry as an email.

Just remember, the chain of command is much like the chain of judging for National contests: local Auxiliary, District, Department, National.

## HOW DO I REACH MY OFFICERS?

For members familiar with MALTA, our online system (also available as a mobile app), it is easier than ever to find contact information for those aforementioned. When looking at your Member Profile, scroll down below Dashboard and Membership/Auxiliary Information to the Officers section. Officers for your Auxiliary, District and Department will be in blue, as each is a clickable link, as seen in the example. Once selected, a pop-up will show their position, full name, email address and phone number.

| Officers                                        |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Barringer-Holshouser Auxiliary</b>           |                                               |
| President                                       | <a href="#">Q'Shannus Wood Perry</a>          |
| Secretary                                       | <a href="#">Alexandria Rogers</a>             |
| Treasurer                                       | <a href="#">Margaret Barringer-Holshouser</a> |
| <b>District 12 Department of North Carolina</b> |                                               |
| President                                       | <a href="#">Theresa Billos</a>                |
| Secretary                                       | <a href="#">Kimberly Bata</a>                 |
| Treasurer                                       | <a href="#">Diana McGee</a>                   |
| <b>Department of North Carolina</b>             |                                               |
| President                                       | <a href="#">Sandra A. Jeffries</a>            |
| Senior Vice President                           | <a href="#">Anna C. Hobbs</a>                 |
| Junior Vice President                           | <a href="#">Beth N. Moore</a>                 |
| Secretary                                       | <a href="#">Tracy Armstrong</a>               |
| Treasurer                                       | <a href="#">Sandra S. Johnson-Lisa</a>        |
| Chaplain                                        | <a href="#">Wendy D. Roberts</a>              |
| Conductor                                       | <a href="#">Tracy Armstrong</a>               |
| Guard                                           | <a href="#">Theresa Billos</a>                |
| Chief of Staff                                  | <a href="#">Julia L. Stancil-Warren</a>       |
| <b>National Officers</b>                        |                                               |
| President                                       | <a href="#">Brenda Bryant</a>                 |
| Senior Vice President                           | <a href="#">Lori E. Callahan</a>              |
| Junior Vice President                           | <a href="#">Dorina K. Mills</a>               |
| Secretary                                       | <a href="#">Ann Pantelidakos</a>              |
| Treasurer                                       | <a href="#">Kim Harney</a>                    |
| Chaplain                                        | <a href="#">Sandra L. Utzell</a>              |
| Conductor                                       | <a href="#">Margaret Jane Fisher</a>          |
| Guard                                           | <a href="#">Betty A. Arnold</a>               |
| Chief of Staff                                  |                                               |

At North Carolina Auxiliary 9134, members can reach President Perry quickly with a text; she sends regular text messages about meetings, special events and fundraiser opportunities to ensure no one misses anything, so it is as easy as clicking "reply." For those who have opted out of text message alerts and lack access to MALTA, they can also reach someone quickly by sending a message through the Post and Auxiliary's joint Facebook page. Many other Auxiliaries have similar texting systems and frequently monitored social media pages - check with your President and Secretary at your next meeting to find out whether yours does! Additionally, some Auxiliaries and most Departments have their own web pages with Officer contacts, lists of upcoming events and Program information, much like the VFW Auxiliary's National website.

And then, of course, there are *Directories*. Most Departments publish and distribute *Directories* each Program Year just as the National organization does. These typically list the names and contact information for Auxiliary Presidents, District Presidents (if applicable), Conference Presidents, Program Chairmen, the National District Council Member, Officers and more.

National Headquarters thanks you for following this chain of command and we look forward to helping you in any way we can should your inquiry reach us in the future!