

Department President's Report 2024-2025

After installation on June 9, 2024, we headed off to Louisville, Kentucky for the National Convention. The Patriotic Rally was an amazing event with my granddaughter, Taylor, leading in a "Let's Go Orange" cheer with Past National Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento. His support of our youth gave Taylor the opportunity to become a Cheerleader of the Game for the Syracuse University Football Game at Half-Time on September 28, 2024.

As my journey began, I have had the privilege of attending meetings in Districts 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. We also had visits to the Batavia VA Hospital, Buffalo VA Hospital, and Canandaigua VA Hospital. Craig Keitel, Department Guard, attended the 75th Anniversary Dinner of Peru Memorial Auxiliary on my behalf on September 28, 2024.

O&MT in Binghamton, NY brought many first-time attendees and the TEAM looks forward to seeing this group of first timers at more events! Many questions were asked during the training session, which was a signal of great things to come for the organization's growth. We received many positive comments for our guest speakers from the State Troopers regarding "what to do in the event of an Active Shooter" and Colin Anderson on how the Veteran Service Officers provide support to veterans, spouses, family members etc.

We were on the road in September to attend the National President's Café (Celebrating America's Freedom Event) at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The National Home is an amazing place, and if you get the chance, it is worth the trip! Many new friends were made, and we have continued to reach out to each other.

During September 16-19, National President Brenda Bryant made her official visit to the Empire State of New York for her birthday. Many thanks to our Chauffeur for the National President, Nina LeFrois; Navigators to the National Ambassador/Conductor Deanna Guyette and her husband Randy, Ruth Huber; Cheerleader and Aide to President Brenda, Jane Reape; Karen Dotson, Jack of all Trades in assisting and providing guidance on the scheduling of events; Line Officer Morale, Deanna Guyette; and lastly to our Travel Guide, Doris "Dee" Ippolito for her knowledge and wisdom of the Buffalo Area. Lastly, many thanks to VFW Post 416's Commander as MC of the dinner as well as the Auxiliary President and their members for a wonderful dinner event. Seeing Niagara Falls combined with the Lighting of the Falls and Maid of the Mist were checked off President Brenda's Bucket List. We also had the pleasure of meeting Tony Baldinelli's, Canadian Cabinet Member, Assistant Beth and her husband, Mike. Brenda thoroughly enjoyed her visit in speaking with Beth on how Canada and U.S. differ in services.

At our Fall Conference weekend, we welcomed our National Representative, National District Council Member #4 Millie Hayes from Delaware. Millie is a wealth of knowledge and enjoyed meeting you the members. Thank you to all the members who participated in the Stop 22 Walk immediately following the Fall Conference at the Albany Marriott.

I would like to thank each Auxiliary member for their support by attaining the Department's first three milestones under the Circle of Excellence. All installations were received prior to July 31, 2024, all Bonds were processed prior to the August 31, 2024, and our Training Session the weekend of August 9 - 10 was successfully completed.

We hoped that you enjoy your Fall Conference weekend and that many members will participate in the Fall Conference Stop 22 Walk tomorrow, October 12, 2024.

After Fall Conference, my family and I attended the District 1 meeting and the Holiday Cheer (aka Trees for Troops) event on December 8-9, 2024. PSC Ben Thompson and Margie Ginn did an amazing job in coordinating the event. The planning for this event is an amazing feat and I commend

both for their dedication. On December 16, 2024, I participated in Wreaths Across America in Rome, NY honoring those family members and friends of the family to honor their service and sacrifice to our country.

I was able to make a presentation to the Syracuse VA Hospital with Rebecca Ross during my trip to deliver Adopt a Family items during the holidays.

We started off the new year with the January 7, 2025, Birthday Zoom with the VFW National Home with PNP Sandi Kriebel and Executive Director Mike Wilson.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Mid-Winter in Cancun.

We collaborated on a special Zoom session with Col. Joe Morris and his partner, Allen Lund, to discuss the Modernization of Charitable Gaming and how the Auxiliary members can assist in obtaining passage of the legislation that is before the New York State Assembly, New York State Senate, and onto the Governor's desk for passage during the 2025 legislative session.

March, April, May and June were busy months but as I wind down my time, I want to remind everyone that when one Auxiliary succeeds, the organization will succeed, and everyone comes out a winner in the support of our veterans! As John F. Kennedy said in his 1963 Thanksgiving proclamation issued before his death, **"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."**

After the VFW Auxiliary Spring Conference my tour of New York finished with the Military Order of the Cootie Convention and escorting National Supreme President, Patricia "Patches" from the Syracuse Airport to Norwich Post 2782, where we had a wonderful weekend with the MOC and MOCA groups on April 4-6.

Following the MOC-MOCA Convention and Installation, it was off to Corning for the VFW Spring Conference at the Radisson Hotel where we presented the Service Officers with a Department of New York VFW Auxiliary check in support of the VSO program in the amount of \$1,552.

During my time at the VFW Spring Conference, it was my pleasure and honor to present two Certificates of Appreciation to PSC Ben Thompson and Margie Ginn for their dedication and hard work in organizing the Holiday Cheer (aka Trees for Troops) in December 2024.

Also in attendance at the VFW Spring Conference were the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen 1st place winners where we presented the two young men with their plaque and 1st place award checks. As always, their words of wisdom were a great inspiration to many in the room.

Following the VFW Spring Conference, it was off to Maybrook to celebrate Auxiliary 2064's 50th Anniversary Dinner. As I indicated during my words, this was a dinner I was not going to miss. I was given April 26, 2025, as a date of importance in my year as Junior-Vice. Congratulations to Donna Caudy for her 50 years of service to the Auxiliary since 1975 when the Charter was organized. Many thanks to Auxiliary President, Linda LaRosa for a wonderful evening and it was great to see people you do not get to see at the different department events.

Following the 50th Anniversary Dinner it was off to District 10's Convention in Levittown on May 4, District 5's Convention in Hornell on May 10, District 2's Convention on May 17 in Yonkers and District 11's Convention on May 18 in Patchogue. Thank you to all District's and Auxiliaries for your hospitality during my visits this past year. I have enjoyed my time visiting our members and veterans.

Remember that membership is the key to the growth of our organization. If your members have not paid their dues before June 30, the member will lapse and they will need to re-join with submission of all new paperwork. As a reminder, access to any cancer grants and other benefits may lapse that the individual would be entitled to for one year.

As John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama and Lyndon Johnson stated respectively "A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on."; **"Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."**; and **"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose."**

As a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) we will continue "Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and Their Families" so that "*From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans*" we continue to GROW!

Loyally,

Darlene Baker
Dept. President

Report of National District Council Member #4 – Millie Hayes

National Officers, Department President, Department Officers, Auxiliary Presidents, Auxiliary members, I hereby submit my yearend report.

I was elected as the National District Council Member representing both Delaware and New York in June 2024. The elected office is a two-year term.

As the junior elected national council member, I was welcomed by the many seasoned members of our organization. My first meeting as your council member was following the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky. We reviewed and approved the standing rules and budget for the national organization.

My first official visit as a council member was the New York Fall Conference held in Albany. I was met and welcomed at the airport by the Department President Darlene Baker and Hospitality Chair Pat Gennarelli. President Darlene and I were both nervous “first timers” in running large meetings and I quote, “we made it through!” The Auxiliary Fall Conference was informative and allowed me to see how a large department with many auxiliaries present outstanding program displays, navigate through areas of concern, and celebrate opportunities and accomplishments on jobs well done. The VA hospital in Albany is both warm and welcoming to the many veterans that attend medical services or are residents and call it home. The Staff members that I spoke with are passionate and dedicated to providing the best to the veterans. Albany, New York is home to the very first Fisher House. It is currently getting “remodeled” with new flooring, paint and upgrades. The VFW and Auxiliary participated in the “Stop 22 Walk” during this conference. This simple act of the “walk” spoke volumes.

My second official visit as a council member – Delaware Council Meeting in November 2024. I was welcomed by the many members attending the council meeting. I presented the talking points of information provided by the national organization, the national presidents special project, bonds and the National Malta website. Malta is not being utilized enough by the members.

Midyear Conference was held in Cancun, Mexico. We were met by the smiling faces of our national officers. The food was delicious and the opportunity to have fun in the sun was fantastic. The meeting was both informative and educational. During the Midyear Conference in Cancun, a motion was made and passed to provide information of the National Standing Rules, National Budget and council information to the members of this organization. The motioned passed overwhelmingly.

So, one of the newest features in Malta / Members Resources / Miscellaneous tab is where you will find a copy of the National Standing Rules, National Budget, the COA Packet and so much more.

Madam President, I wish you a successful convention.

“From Our Roots to our Branches, Extending service to our Veterans” – National

“Clear the way between the veterans and their benefits” – Department of Delaware

“Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and Their Families” – Department of New York

To the Members of the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary, I herewith submit my report

I would like to thank the members and Auxiliaries of District 1 that entrusted me in being their President this year, as well as the members of the Department of NY for having the faith in me to elect me to the high office of Sr. Vice. It has been an amazing year, the places I've been to and the people I've met will never be forgotten.

I enjoyed learning new things along the way, to better help our veterans. I attended quite a few events not only at the District and Department levels, but also by going to the Posts. The Posts are still our boots on the ground, that do things every day in their communities.

I attended the Gold Star Brunch at the Levittown Post for the fourth year representing at the District and Department levels. Being invited to attend this event is quite an honor, as it is a very beautiful ceremony.

I attended the Trees for Troops event in Oceanside with our VFW Auxiliary Department President Darlene Baker and Dan Kell Department Commander.

I attended the Department OTI in Binghamton.

Both Fall and Spring Conferences.

I think the highlight of my year was attending the National Senior Vice Convention in Kansas City. It was a great being able to meet my fellow VFW Auxiliary Senior Vice President counterparts.

I still enjoy mentoring Haspel-Staab Post 551 Auxiliary that I organized last year.

For the first time ever, I led my home Post 5806 in their annual Veterans Day ceremony. We wanted to let the comrades enjoy their day and the commander gave us the go ahead to do it. I learned so much

while researching poems, prayers and music to put the ceremony together. The comrades were very pleased.

I will be accompanying PDP Jane Reape to West Point to make a presentation to an environmental engineering cadet.

I am also looking forward to going to the Department Convention in June and hopefully being elected and installed as the Department of NY President.

Loyally Submitted,

Justine Robles

DNY Sr. Vice President

VFW Auxiliary Department of New York - June 2025 Officer and Program Chairman Reports

100th Annual Convention

Jr. Vice President

Department President Darlene, Past National President Jane Reape, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents and members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Officer's Report:

While serving as Department Jr. Vice President, I had the distinct pleasure of mentoring the Fort Plain VFW Post 3275 auxiliary in District 3, which was instituted in April 2024. I enjoyed attending their monthly meetings, watching them grow and learn, plan community events, and especially supporting our Veterans. I was very proud to congratulate them on reaching their one-year mark and electing officers in April 2025. We established a strong and positive connection that will last for years to come.

I attended Madam President Darlene's OTI in Binghamton in August 2024. I presented to the members how to properly fill out a Program report form and for fun, I learned to balance a cookie on my forehead and wiggle it down to my mouth without touching it. All learned a lot and had fun in the process.

Being Jr. Vice president, it was my responsibility to design the ways & means program. I picked Marcia Williams as my chair and we put our thinking caps on. Together we came up with the "Think Big"! Raffle. A 55" Samsung Smart TV with Surround sound and wall mount to be raffled at convention. She donated two HD tablets to raffle at Fall and Spring conference. I can't thank her enough for all her dedication and hard work that made this program successful. I also need to shout out to Tracy Damato and Jill Mosher for covering the Ways & Means table at Spring Conference due to Marcia's inability to attend.

I appreciate you, Madam President Darlene, for trusting me to go into two separate auxiliaries who needed assistance. It was also very nice attending the District 9 Convention on your behalf. I always love visiting other Districts and bringing back ideas to my own District.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to the incoming officers of 2025-2026 for a successful year but more importantly, I want to say thank you Madam President Darlene, and the members of this great organization, for having the confidence in me as we are

"Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!" so that
"From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans" we continue to
GROW!

Loyally,

Belinda Cole

Belinda Cole

Dept. Jr. Vice President

DEPARTMENT TREASURER'S REPORT
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION - COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Department President Darlene, Past National President Jane Reape, Line Officers, PDP's, and members, I herewith submit my year end report:

As of the writing of my report, we have obtained 97.03% in membership. I hope that we can obtain 100%+ this Auxiliary year. Our Auxiliaries have recruited 375 new life and 376 new annual members. We have also managed to rejoin 46 former members. That is certainly impressive! Please remember that the integrity of our organization is the responsibility of the investigating committee. It is your job to ensure that all prospective members meet the eligibility requirements as stated in the podium edition of our bylaws. We still have some work to do to make sure that submitted applications are completed properly. Reviewing these before submitting them for processing will avoid delays. Please take the few minutes required to do so!

The Department has continued our efforts to try to make us as efficient as possible and work with the funds that we have coming in. Thank you for your cooperation, support and suggestions while we become more fiscally responsible and make the most of our resources. Enclosed in this book you will find our latest budget summary report through April 30, 2025, as required by our National Bylaws. The full details will be available at the Council of Administration meeting.

Please remember that if your Auxiliary elected a new treasurer this year, form 8822-B must be filed with the IRS within 60 days. The form can be found at IRS.GOV. It is a very simple form and literally takes 2 minutes to complete.

I have enjoyed this year as your Department Treasurer. I continue my efforts to be of assistance to you and broaden my knowledge of our bylaws. I strive to be as much of an asset as I can to our Department and our Officers on every level. I look forward to continuing to work with each Auxiliary and your officers.

Loyally,

Kim White

Kim White
Department Treasurer

5:52 PM

05/13/25

Accrual Basis

Department of New York VFW Auxiliary
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 2024 through April 2025

	Jul '24 - Apr 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Auxiliary News Income	3,221.00	2,800.00	421.00	115.0%
CONV & CONFERENCE INCOME	15,890.60	4,903.00	10,987.60	324.1%
DUES INCOME	201,562.25	143,000.00	58,562.25	141.0%
Eastern Conference Income	495.00			
Investments	2.33			
National Award Income	1,900.00	1,000.00	900.00	190.0%
National President's Pins	300.00			
Officer's Training School	10,258.00	300.00	9,958.00	3,419.3%
Other Income	12,612.99	6,400.00	6,212.99	197.1%
Pres. Sp. Project Program	12,990.86			
Program Income	78,560.23	31,727.00	46,833.23	247.6%
Restricted Fund Income	20,041.00	1,520.00	18,521.00	1,318.5%
Total Income	357,834.26	191,650.00	166,184.26	186.7%
Expense				
Administrative Expenses	52,304.07	66,630.00	-14,325.93	78.5%
Auxiliary News Expense	2,679.41	4,660.00	-1,980.59	57.5%
Bank Adjustment	58.90			
CONV. & CONFERENCE EXPENS...	24,067.76	26,217.00	-2,149.24	91.8%
Dues Expense	110,006.43	50,360.00	59,646.43	218.4%
Line Officer Expense	15,057.44	27,400.00	-12,342.56	55.0%
Nat'l Pres Year End Love Gift	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
National Pres Visit Expenses	600.00	800.00	-200.00	75.0%
Officer Training School Expense	8,281.24	800.00	7,481.24	1,035.2%
Other Expense	738.01	3,033.00	-2,294.99	24.3%
Pres Sp Proj Chairman Exp	2,820.90	125.00	2,695.90	2,256.7%
Program Expense	31,209.28	11,525.00	19,684.28	270.8%
Restricted Fund Expense	13,403.45			
Total Expense	261,226.89	191,650.00	69,576.89	136.3%
Net Ordinary Income	96,607.37	0.00	96,607.37	100.0%
Net Income	96,607.37	0.00	96,607.37	100.0%

Department Secretary Convention Report June 2025, Albany NY

Madam President, Darlene, Madam Past National President Sandi Messenger, Past national President Jane Reape, National Legislative Ambassador Deanna Guyette, National Flag Bearer Nina LeFrois, Eastern Conference Soloist, Esther Reape, Department Officers, Past Department Presidents, and my Auxiliary Family, I herewith submit my year-end report.

I began the 2024-2025 year right where I left it- getting the few straggling election reports filed in MALTA. Some Auxiliaries tried and were just not able to get members to "step up" and take an office, and they ended up surrendering their charters.

I attended the National Convention in Louisville, KY, and the Department Officer/Member Training in Binghamton in August. I recall driving through a typhoon to get there! At this training I did a presentation regarding how to do an audit.

I attended many of the ZOOM trainings. I admit not all, because the Thursday night ZOOMs conflicted with my Thursday night bowling. How grateful I am for the PowerPoints that Dee Dee graciously put on the Department website. I had the honor of presenting on four of the ZOOMs- Secretary duties, How to Complete the Change Form, and twice about how to complete and return the Auxiliary election, delegate, and installation forms. The first time I did this one, I was visiting my son and presented from Sacramento.

I attended the Eastern Conference in Vermont (and assisted in the Program presentation) as well as the Auxiliary Fall and Spring Conferences. When at the Conferences I attended the Budget & Advisory Meetings and the Spring Council of Administration meetings as well as the General Sessions. I missed the Council meeting at the Fall Conference due to assisting a member with a family emergency. I am thankful to PDP and Chief-of-Staff Karen Dotson for taking minutes at the Fall C of A for me.

In the meantime, I have worked with Sr Vice Robles, attending the Sr Vice Conference in Kansas City, preparing for her Chairmen's meeting, and putting her Guidebook together. I worked putting her President's packs together while at the same time organizing Convention folders, creating the Memorial book, printing Department certificates, and now, I'm back where I began this journey- election reports.

I also attended the Parliamentarian training with the VFW National Parliamentarian in Medina NY. It was a full day presentation and pretty overwhelming but oh, so informational. I wish more had been able to take advantage of this training.

I really enjoy this office. I have the opportunity to talk to many of you on the phone, I have conversations via email and meet so many at the Department functions. I have had the

opportunity to see some of you "step up," scared to death because you didn't THINK you were prepared, but you ACED IT!! I am so proud of you- the members.

Madam President, Darlene, thank you for allowing me this journey.

Respectfully

Chris Leavor

I was elected to the office of Department Chaplain at the June 2024 convention at the Albany Marriott.

In my year as Chaplain, I sent many, many grievance cards, birthday, get well and cards of cheer and support across the states. You get to see by doing this how large our organization is. I'd be happy to never write another card again. lol

During this year, I have traveled with President Darlene Baker and PDP Lisa Raplee and President Darlene is a hoot to travel with. You laugh A LOT!

I attended the National Café in Eaton Rapids Michigan; being able to see the homes and hear how they came about was very memorable. It is a place everyone should see.

The rest of the year has been pretty laid back. I was asked to attend the 79th Anniversary at Post 6338 in Gouverneur, was able to meet many new people, and this was truly an honor to fill in for President Darlene.

I have accepted the secretary position for the remainder of this year and on into next in my new post home Waterloo 6433.

I look forward to another year of learning and retaining the knowledge of our great organization.

Loyally

Dept. of NY Auxiliary Chaplain

Charlene Carnright

VFW Auxiliary Department of New York - June 2025 Officer and Program Chairman Reports
100th Annual Convention, June 11-15, 2025
Department Conductor Report

Madam President Darlene, Madam Past National President Jane, Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, and members of the great Department of New York, I herewith submit my final report:

In June 2024, I was elected as the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary Conductor, at the 99th Annual Department Convention in Albany, NY. My heartfelt thanks goes out to District 4 President Marcia Williams for a wonderful nomination, and to my entire Auxiliary family for their confidence in me. My second year thru the Department chairs has been extremely enlightening, as I continue to gain knowledge and acclimate myself to the duties ahead of me. I am also most grateful for the opportunity to forge new friendships with members across the Department and learn all about their home Districts.

As Conductor, I represented the Department of NY at many events; beginning with the VFW Auxiliary National Convention, July 2024, in Louisville, KY. I was also appointed by National President Brenda Bryant to serve as the National Legislative Ambassador for the 2024-2025 year. This was in and of itself a most rewarding experience, but the fact that I also represented our great Department of New York, made it even better. Every time I spoke about what department I was from put a huge smile on my face!

The Annual CAFÉ event held at the VFW National Home in September 2024 was a big highlight of my year. Although I was not able to walk in the parade with my fellow New Yorkers due to my Ambassador obligations at the CAFÉ, I was proud to represent New York and cheer on our Department President when she was announced during the official ceremony.

Also in September, I joined Department President Darlene as she hosted our National President Brenda's visit in Buffalo and Niagara Falls. We had a great time watching Brenda change the colors of the Falls!

Fall Conference was held in October 2024, but my duties were light because we did not do floor work.

In November 2024, I attended the annual Eastern States Conference in Burlington, VT, where I was part of President Darlene's Buddy Poppy/National Home skit during the program portion of the conference.

The National Mid-Winter Conference in Cancun, February 2025, was one of the most relaxing events of the year. We missed President Darlene, but we still had a great turnout of New York members.

This year, the VFW and Auxiliary had separate Spring Conferences, but I was able to attend both. At the Auxiliary Spring Conference, held March 2025 in Binghamton, I conducted all floor work as prescribed, and was accompanied by a fantastic floor team! At the VFW Spring Conference, held April 2025 in Corning, I supported the Service Officers Dinner and winners of the VOD and PP Scholarship awards.

Also in April 2025, I had the honor of representing President Darlene at the District 6 Convention in Mayville, NY. I delivered her message of well wishes and was extremely humbled by their hospitality.

In addition to Department Conductor, I completed another year as the Aux News Editor and Department Webmaster. At OTI last August 2024, I conducted training sessions for both the website and Aux News.

In closing, I would like to thank President Darlene for giving me the opportunity to be part of her Team! I would also like to thank the members of the Department of New York Auxiliary, especially my Auxiliary 7227, for their faith and confidence in me. I wish President Darlene and her chairmen much success in Columbus at the National Convention and I look forward to serving the Department again next year!

Loyally Submitted,

DeeDee Guyette, Conductor

Aux News Editor and Department Webmaster

Department President Darlene, Department Officers and Department of NY Members,

This is my report for my activities from June 2024 to May 15th, 2025, as your Department Guard and District 2 President.

1. I attended the Department Convention June 5th to 9th at the Albany Marriott.
2. Attended the District 2 reorganization meeting on July 13th in Poughkeepsie.
3. Attended the National Convention July 26th to August 3rd in Louisville, KY.
4. Attended the Department OTI school August 10th in Binghamton, NY
5. Attended the Department Commander and Department President homecoming August 31st in Constantia, NY.
6. Conducted inspections on the following Auxiliaries:
 - a. Wurtsboro Auxiliary, Edward M. Maier Memorial 4947 on September 4th.
 - b. Kingston Auxiliary on September 10th.
 - c. Brewster Auxiliary on September 12th.
 - d. Carmel Auxiliary on September 17th.
 - e. Dover Plains Auxiliary on October 3rd.
 - f. Long Eddy Auxiliary on November 14th.
 - g. Port Jervis Auxiliary on November 19th.
 - h. Staten Island Auxiliaries 7172, 9587 and 2159 on November 23rd.
 - i.
7. Attended the Peru Memorial VFW Post 309 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner representing Department President Darlene on September 28th.
8. Attended Yonkers City Post Auxiliary 1666 Annual Italian Dinner on Saturday, October 5th.
9. I have participated in the following ceremonies and events:
 - a. POW / MIA Remembrance Day ceremony on September 20th.
 - b. Conducted the 9 11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 11th.
 - c. Purple Heart Day Ceremony on August 7th.
10. I attended the Department Conference October 11th to 13th at the Albany Marriott.
11. Attended the Yonkers City Post Auxiliary 1666 meeting on October 17th.
12. Met with District 2 Treasurer Sandy at the Middletown Bank to be added onto the bank accounts.
13. Attended the Department Zoom Training on October 29th.
14. Attended the Dover Plains Auxiliary Breakfast on November 3rd.
15. Met with Past District President Clarice on November 6th in Wingdale to take possession of the District paperwork and flags.
16. Attended the Brewster Auxiliary breakfast on November 10th.

17. Attended the Veteran Chow Down hosted by Putnam County Executive Kevin Burn November 10th.
18. Participated with the Mahopac Auxiliary in the Veteran's Day Parade on November 11th.
19. Attended the Dover Plains Auxiliary breakfast on December 1st.
20. Supported the Brewster Auxiliary bake sale drive on November 17th.
21. Attended the Army Navy Game Party at the Yonkers City Auxiliary on December 14th.
22. Attended the "Rat Pack Fund Raiser" at the Levittown VFW Auxiliary in District 10 on February 22nd.
23. Attended several meetings at Wurtsboro Auxiliary 4947 and have been mentoring and assisting the President and Officers.
24. Conducted an official visit to the Washingtonville Auxiliary on Monday, March 17th.
25. Attended the Department Spring Conference March 20th to 23rd in Binghamton.
26. Attended Department Sr. Vice President Justine's Chairman meeting April 4th and 5th in Poughkeepsie.
27. Installed the incoming officers at Yonkers City Auxiliary 1666 on April 25th.
28. Attended the Maybrook Auxiliary 50th Anniversary Celebration on April 26th.
29. Represented Department President Darlene at the District 3 Convention May 2nd to 4th in Latham, installing their incoming officers.
30. Attended the District 3 Auxiliary's Gold Star Mother's / Gold Star Family's Tea on May 4th at the East Greenbush VFW.
31. Conducted an official visit to the Red Hook Auxiliary and installed their incoming officers on May 12th.

I am scheduled to attend the following:

1. Department Convention June 11th to 15th in Albany.
2. Department OTI School July 25th and 26th in Binghamton.
3. National Convention August 9th to 14th in Columbus, Ohio.

It has been an honor to serve this year as the Department Guard and District 2 President. Thank you for the trust you have put in me to represent of Department and District 2. Thank you for the guidance and support so many have given me this year. I look forward to continuing to serve our Department.

Loyally,

Craig E. Keitel

Department of NY Guard

District 2 President

Department of New York
VFW Auxiliary

Convention Report for Chief of Staff
June 12, 2025

Department President Darlene, Past National President, Sandi O. Messenger, National Legislative Ambassador Deanna Guyette, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents and members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Officer's Report.

After being installed as Chief of Staff on June 8, 2024, I have attended the Advisory & Budget and Council of Administration meetings on June 5 and 8, 2024; the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky; and attended Officer & Member Training School on August 9-10, 2024. In October, I joined the Department President on her Official Visit to District 2 at Auxiliary 1666 in Yonkers, New York. Next, I attended the Eastern Conference Meeting scheduled November 1-3, 2024 in Burlington, Vermont and participated/promoted the Buddy Poppy program with the Department President, Department Secretary, and National Legislative Chairman. Additionally, I attended the Budget and Advisory and Council of Administration meetings during Fall and Spring Conferences as well as all Auxiliary meetings and District meetings.

For the 2024-2025 program year, the Department scheduled monthly Zoom Training Sessions for all members to attend. The Department had a total of 10 Zoom Training Sessions and provided presentations to the members prior to the training sessions. The presentations were a benefit especially to those members who could not attend the training sessions or who joined via the telephone. In an attempt to provide promotion of the National and Department Programs into the Training Sessions, the Department Chairmen were given the opportunity to present their program which in turn provided a face to the program. All presentations were posted to the Training Sessions link on the Department website for future reference. Thank you to the Presenters, the members who attended the training sessions, and Deanna Guyette for posting the meeting link and presentations to the Department website.

With the support of the Auxiliary members, the Department accomplished these milestones in support of the Circle of Excellence Program:

- Installation Reports were submitted by July 31, 2024.
- Bonds were paid by August 31, 2024.
- President, Secretary, and Treasurer's Annual Dues paid by December 31, 2024.
- All Auxiliaries promoted/participated in a program/project/donation benefiting veterans.

As of May 5, 2025, the Department has had seven (7) Auxiliaries Surrender their Charter, one (1) Auxiliary is in the process of Surrendering their Charter, two (2) Auxiliaries are currently on Suspension; and seven (7) Auxiliaries will continue to receive mentoring/guidance to become healthy auxiliaries. Post 4927 located in Port Jefferson Center, New York (District 11) is working to Reactivate their Auxiliary with the completion due date by June 12, 2025. Lastly, the Department is working with three (3) additional Posts that are interested in having Auxiliaries to support their veterans and communities. Thank you to the District Presidents and Deputy Chiefs of Staff for their support and mentoring activities this year.

Lastly, in the process of doing a special assignment for the Department President, it was discovered that 245 "At Large Department Members" had gone to their heavenly home. These members will be remembered at our annual Memorial Service at the Department Convention and have been removed from the Department Membership total.

Department President Darlene, I wish you a successful State Convention and I sincerely hope you and your chairmen are successful at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio as we continue "Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and their Families" while "From our Roots to our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans".

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen A. Dotson

Karen A. Dotson, PDP, Chief of Staff

President Darlene, PNP Jane Reape, Department line officers, PDPs, and members I hereby submit my end of Year report for District 3

To begin my year, I attended the joint district picnic, held in July. Where I introduced all the officers of our district, touched base on the year's schedule, and passed out the visitation envelopes to my officers that were helping me this year. I appointed and introduced the Program chairs for this year.

I attended Department OTI and learned more about many things that have changed. I used the knowledge to help me prepare my program for the District OTI.

I held OTI for the district in August, 13 auxiliaries attended, I covered officers' duties, how to do reports of programs and what activities go into which program. I handed out examples of suggestions for programs. I decided to have some fun by asking questions on Auxiliary basic foundation, and I gave \$1 lottery ticket or poppy can coolers for each right answer.

My goal this year was to visit as many auxiliaries as I could fit in my schedule, I visited many, I wanted them to know they can reach out to me about anything no question is too stupid or small.

Two auxiliaries asked me if I would hold a mentoring session on programs, so I set one up and Maryellen and I answered many questions and handed out information for each program. I really wanted Auxiliary Presidents and members to know I was here to help with things they were doubting themselves about.

My biggest challenge this year was revising district standing rules, finding out what rules could be deleted to save funds for district and what we needed to add, the importance of doing standing rules. and not to have a cough drop in my mouth when someone makes me laugh.

My favorite part of this year was relating to the auxiliaries about Stop 22 a Day, the importance of helping to include all veterans and families in any activity we think would be beneficial to let them know they are not alone, and I lead by example.

I tried to make this year learning but also fun at meetings so more Auxiliaries would enjoy coming to meetings. and at each meeting we had an increase in attendance..

Loyally,
Kathleen Hayward, District 3 president

**Department of New York VFW Auxiliary District 4
President Marcia Williams**

I herewith submit my year-end report as District President. I was nominated and installed by Past National President Jane Reape. It was an honor as she also served as my District Secretary.

I held 4 meetings during my term of office with my last meeting being re-elected as District 4 President. During my year I worked closely with my District Commander Matthew VanEtten. We both belong to the same post.

Some highlights from my year as President.

District 4 has been in first place in Membership for the last 2 months and we are shooting to hold first place right up to the June Convention.

At my first meeting I purchased a case of placemats that were distributed to all the auxiliaries. We also held our Toy Drive under the Youth program where I was asked by Back the Blue to help fill the cruisers. It was very successful as we more than filled the box with gifts. From all the boxes they had they were able to fill 5 different village police cruisers.

We had some winners from the VOD Scholarship and Patriot Pen with the students.

The highlight of my year was my special project a luncheon with the Gold Star Families. Each family received a gift and a special pin.

Loyally,

Marcia Williams

Ways and Means Program

I would like to thank all who purchased the 9-month calendar. Without everyone's support this program would not be successful each year. We raffled 2 tablets at the conferences and our Big Raffle was the 55-inch flat screen TV with surround sound and wall bracket. We also had 2nd and 3rd prizes. Again, thank you for all your support during the year.

Loyally,

Marcia Williams

District 5 President's Year-end Report

Promoted the National and Department Programs

My Secretary, Jackie Herbert, handled almost all of the communications with our auxiliaries. She made sure all chairmen did their part promoting all programs, offering guidance and assistance to them all.

Our District is strong with devoted leadership providing guidance and assistance to our chairmen. They have all made my job easier doing everything that needs to be done. Our members do not support us, not reading their program books and attending meetings.

We were able to work with the VFW District Commander some of the time, but she would not work with me. All meetings had to be on her schedule, and she would make out a schedule in advance. Unfortunately, we had to hold some meetings separately but now there is a different Commander, and we are having our District Convention together.

I used the three best talking points at my official visit and left the sheet with the President to read 1 or 2 at future meetings. I believe the members will get more out of them this way. Reading them all is too much to keep their attention.

I did 7 official visits, enjoying meeting more of our officers and members while doing these. It was a pleasure seeing their Posts and meeting their members.

We lost 2 auxiliaries this year because they could not get a full slate of officers and we are having difficulties with 2 more.

Respectfully,
David Bennett
District 5 President

**OFFICERS' AND PROGRAM CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS – COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
100TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION - JUNE 12, 2025 – ALBANY, NY**

**VFW AUXILIARY-DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
DORIS IPPOLITO, PRESIDENT OF DISTRICT 6**

As District 6 President this year, 2024-2025, it has been my deep honor and privilege to serve President Darlene, the Past Department Presidents, the Past Department Presidents, the Line Officers, my fellow District Presidents and all the members of the Amazing Sixth District!

We accomplished MANY things this year:

- ✓ Renewed our commitment to our mission to serve all veterans and families through our programs to the best of our collective ability and to be unified with District 6 VFW in all our activities.
- ✓ Presided over and mentored our auxiliaries through Schools of Instruction during our Organizational Meeting of July 13, 2024, our District 6 meetings of September 21, 2024, and March 8, 2025, OTMI of September 21, 2024, and our Convention of April 25-26, 2025.
- ✓ Visited and mentored all twenty-four (24) auxiliaries of District 6 between June and November 2024 and visited 5 of the auxiliaries again throughout the year in the span of the four counties of Western New York-Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany on programs, the use of MALTA and vfwauxny.org and drove over 5800 miles to mentor and to support all our members as mentors.
- ✓ Attended and participated in activities representing all of District 6 across our Sixth District -Stop 22 Walk in Williamsville, with #416, with District Commander Marcello Rotunda at the annual K.I.A. Memorial Roadmarch at Chestnut Ridge Park, Orchard Park, NY in August with donations of food and funds for veterans, with Cmdr. Rotunda with the National President Brenda at the Buffalo Naval Park and dinner at #416, with Cmdr. Rotunda at Riverworks for a Veterans Benefit, attended the VFW District 6 OTI with District 6 VFW comrades and officers, the Little Valley Baby Shower, the 9249-Grand Island's Sou-a-palooza, a Past District President's wedding, a breakfast at #7545, the Veterans Day Ceremony in Williamsville, the VA Gold Star Mothers' Tailgate, delivering with District 6 Secretary over \$10,000 of toys, gift cards, the District 6 VFW and Auxiliary's monetary donations totaling over \$2500, all for VA's Women's Clinics' women and children; the laying of Wreaths at the Corfu WNY National Cemetery in December, the delivery of 30 lbs. of food to the VVA food pantry in Tonawanda, the Mid-Winter National Conference in Cancun in February 2025, the Friendship Festival at Head Start in Buffalo in February, many wakes for former members or auxiliary family members, visited ailing members at the VA Hospital or in assisted living, a VA Meeting for Mental Health once each month, quarterly VAVS meetings on behalf of the auxiliary at the VA in Buffalo, VA meeting for VA baby shower in April with donations totaling \$600 from the Sixth District Auxiliary, the Final Wreath Laying for Vietnam Veterans at the National Cemetery on March 29th, with the Sixth District Cmdr. at the K.I.A. Memorial Roadmarch Fundraiser in Hamburg, NY with NY Congressman Nick Langworthy in April, the Spring Celebration with parents, children and staff at Head Start, Buffalo, NY in April, the Evans #5897 Baby Shower for the VA Women's Clinic in May, assisted in completion of 4 auxiliary elections and installations, and attended and participated in the Department's Fall and Spring Conferences and June Convention.
- ✓ Mentored every auxiliary to complete expected Departmental and National deadlines, i.e., bonding, elections, special requests, dues payment for officers, and as soon as the Department's Program Report was published each month by calling, emailing, texting ideas to auxiliaries to complete their reports for each program and for each donation. Thus, 100% of our Sixth District auxiliaries completed all their donations and 99% all of their program reports this year.
- ✓ Reinstated the District 6 newsletter, added a District calendar to encourage auxiliaries to publish their activities, encouraged through a monetary incentive to visit other auxiliaries and to publish on the District's page of the Dept's website.

Thank you to all of the auxiliaries of District 6 for the honor of serving as your president as we are "*Soaring into the Next Century of Service to Our Veterans and Their Families*" as we move "*From Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.*"

Loyally, Doris "D." Ippolito, President, District 6 VFW Auxiliary 2024-2025

2024-2025 End-of-Year-Report - Programs

Department of New York VFW Auxiliary

District #7

On a separate sheet of paper, describe how you and your chairmen promoted the National and Department Programs within your District. Identify areas you believe were strong and areas that need to be strengthened.

Our National and Department Programs support and advance the goals of our organization. Throughout the year, the District Chairmen and myself have promoted these programs to the best of our abilities. The majority of promotions for these programs have been done through email. At our District meetings and Official Visits, I have spoken about each of the programs, how they support Veterans and their families, and the importance of doing our best to support them.

I believe that we strongly support the Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home for Children, the Hospital Program, the membership program, the Mentoring for Leadership Program, the Scholarship Program, and the Veterans and Family Support Program. District 7 holds an annual picnic at the Batavia Veterans Hospital and solicits contributions and donations for VA Hospital residents during holidays. For the Community Outreach Program, District 7 holds an annual Halloween party at the Batavia School for the Blind and Visually impaired. I believe that we could have better means to support the Legislative Program and the Youth Activities. I am still trying to convince component Auxiliaries that one of the best ways to develop community involvement, in my opinion, is to establish a relationship with the school districts in our District, particularly to send information home to families in our communities.

On a separate sheet of paper, describe the most successful part of your year as District President. What was your greatest accomplishment?

I believe that the greatest accomplishment during my tenure as District #7 President remains through keeping the District active. Our membership remained stable despite losses from deceased members. I am disappointed that Auxiliaries are penalized for member deaths in membership reports. At this time I am aware of one Auxiliary in District 7 that is in danger of closing or turning in their Charter due to not having active members willing to hold office. I have enjoyed the support of many key members across the District but often do not receive information from Auxiliaries or requests for assistance. I had anticipated serving as District President for at least one more year, but circumstances require that I relinquish the position sooner. I look forward to serving District 7 in other ways.

Explain how you used the Talking Points developed by National during your Official Visits to the Auxiliaries.

I have used the talking points to highlight the different ways that our members can offer support to Veterans, families of Veterans, active-duty Service members, and Veterans in hospitals, nursing homes and Veterans Hospitals. I also remind members of our history, our mission, and our goals.

Ron Boyd District 7 President

DISTRICT NO. 8 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Department President Darlene Baker, Past National President Sandi Messenger, Line Officers, PDP's and members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Officer's Report:

I am very proud of the milestones that District 8 was able to accomplish this program year. All Installation Reports and Bonds were completed prior to the due dates. The Official Visits to Auxiliaries and associated reports were completed before the January due date. At each District meeting, a school of instruction was held for our members. This year we implemented a section for "Mentoring Moment's" in the Monthly District Newsletter on various topics to provide training to our Officers and members.

At the September District Meeting, the Auxiliary members supported our Youth Activities Program with donations of personal care items to the Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes "Domestic Violence Survivors Closet". In support of our Hospital Program, members donated Diapers, Diaper Bags, Wash Cloths, Blankets, PJ's, Rompers, and onesies which were distributed to Canandaigua VA. For the Veterans and Family Support Program, Auxiliary member's donated canned fruits, vegetables, soups, beans, pasta, rice, peanut butter; personal hygiene items along with toilet paper and laundry detergent to benefit the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center.

At the December District meeting the Auxiliary members donated Heavy/Insulated men's winter gloves, hats, neck warmers/gators, new winter coats, sweatpants and sweatshirts t-shirts and men's boxers in support of our Hospital Program to the veterans at Canandaigua VA. The Youth Activities Chairman requested the Auxiliaries to collect toys and books for the Toys for Tots Program.

At the March District meeting, the Auxiliaries donated cleaning supplies, laundry baskets, laundry detergent, kitchen supplies and shower curtains in support of the Homeless Veterans Program at Canandaigua VA. In addition, the members supported the Youth Activities Program by donating colorful baby blankets to the Neonatal Unit at Strong Memorial Hospital located in Rochester along with Grab and Go snacks for the Neonatal Nurses. Lastly, in support of the devastating fire in the Ovid community, Auxiliaries donated gift cards from Aldi's, Tops, and Wal-Mart for the fire victims.

At the May District Convention Meeting, the Auxiliaries will be donating non-perishable food items and personal care supplies to the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center in support of the Veterans and Family Support Program. Additionally, the Auxiliaries will be supporting the Hospital Program by donating Baby Diapers, Diaper Bags, and gender neutral new baby clothes for Canandaigua VA Hospital.

District 8 supported the Department President's Special Project with 3 different fundraisers this year. The District sold District Mugs and Cups celebrating our 100th Anniversary, held a Holiday Bake Sale at the December District Meeting, as well as an Easter Basket Raffle at the March District Meeting. At the Spring Conference, a check from the proceeds of the fundraising activities was presented to Department President Darlene for her Special Project – Women Veteran's Health Care and Baby Shower Program.

Our District was very active with the Legislative Program. At the December and March District meetings, letters to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand as well as the Congress representatives were signed and mailed in support of the Call to Action Alerts.

As District President, I have been working with the members of Auxiliary 7414 and the District Deputies have been providing mentoring support for Auxiliaries 1323, 6703 and 6778.

President Darlene, it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as the District 8 President. I wish you a very successful Department and National Convention by **"Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and their Families"** as **"From Our Roots to our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans."**

Loyally,

Tina Roberts

Tina Roberts, District 8 President

As District 9 President, I inspected 4 Auxiliaries and had 4 official visits. While I was at the Gouverneur Post, I had the honor to swear in a new Trustee for the VFWAUX. I attended a dinner there as well as a guest where Jeff Platt was honored. I also attended, as a guest, the 100th anniversary dinner at the Peru VFWAUX post. Both were memorable experiences. Great welcoming atmosphere, great people, delicious foods and wonderful music..

My first school of instruction took place at my first official district meeting in September 2024. After I discussed the Fall Conference and OTI, I discussed the importance and meaning of the American flag. This included the proper ways to display it and how to fold it. I provided handouts on the meaning of the colors and what they stand for. I also provided hand outs on the proper way to fold the flag and what each fold means. Our guest speaker was Madam President Darlene Baker. Gifts were exchanged between President Darlene and me.

At my November District 9 meeting, we did not have a special guest. We discussed upcoming events, such as the Spring Conference. The next meeting was in April after the Spring Conference. In December, I attended the Wreaths across America in Plattsburgh, laying wreaths on the graves of our brave fallen soldiers.

At the April District 9 conference, we had a joint memorial service with the VFW to remember our sisters and brothers who have gone to their heavenly home. We discussed the Spring Conference. Also discussed were upcoming events , such as OTI and June Department Convention. Our guest of honor was Junior Vice Department President Belinda Cole. We were honored when she accepted the request to swear in all the new officers.

During my term, I shared emails and phone calls with different VFW Auxiliaries assisting with answering questions, giving advice, and giving emotional support. If I was not sure of an answer, I would reach out to my mentor, Judy Lefebvre and then contact the Auxiliary with the answer. If it was a membership question, I would reach out to Kim White, who, like Judy, is a fountain of knowledge.

This has been a tremendous learning experience. I know I made mistakes, but I also learned from them.. Our auxiliaries do a tremendous job supporting our veterans and their families. Thank you to all who have supported me throughout the year as we soar into the next century of service with our veterans and their families.

Loyally,

Marie-Aymee Fisk

District 9 VFW Auxiliary President

DEPARTMENT OF NY AUXILIARY

CONVENTION REPORT

DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

JUNE 11, 2025

Madam President Darlene, Past National President Sandi O. Messenger, National Legislative Ambassador Deanna Guyette, Past Department Presidents, Department Line Officers, delegates, and members. I herewith submit my Convention report.

Since being installed, I have held 4 District meetings. At my September meeting, I held a School of Instruction on running a meeting following the Bylaws and Ritual. All Officers' duties were explained, both appointed and elected. After my March meeting, I held a Trustees Training session.

From August through December, I made Official visits to all Auxiliaries in District 10. Auxiliaries needing assistance were mentored and additional visits made. All Department communications were forwarded to the Auxiliaries along with reminders about membership and timelines for program participation.

I attended OTI and all Conferences, Council of Administration and Budget meetings this year.

As of May 12th, District 10 membership is at 100.64%. Only 2 Auxiliaries have not reached 100%.

Most of District 10 Auxiliaries are at 100% in Program participation.

Considering that we have only been a District for a year and a half, all the Auxiliaries have come a long way in being educated on Auxiliary procedures and running a proper meeting. I have sent monthly emails with instructions on how to fill out forms and I kept them updated after I attended conferences.

The promotion of all events held by the Auxiliaries in the District has resulted in participation of Auxiliary members in other Auxiliary events. This has created a camaraderie among the members of District 10.

I want to thank all the members of District 10 for all their hard work this year and their continued support as we go forward as a District.

President Darlene, I wish you a successful Convention "From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans" as we go "Soaring into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families".

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Makosky PDP

District 10 President

Rosalie A. Cooper
Americanism Chairman
2024-2025

Since my appointment as Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman for the 2024 - 2025 year by President Darlene Baker I have written 6 articles for the Auxiliary News. In those articles I quoted several notable Presidents and listed the dates of the Patriotic Holidays. I stressed the importance of the Americanism program and the many ways an Auxiliary can get credit.

They can receive credit by doing the simplest of things from purchasing postage stamps to visiting a National monument or attending the graduation of someone from one of the six branches of the Armed Forces.

I explained what Americanism is and what it is to be a Patriot. I promoted the "STAR" families... Gold Star lost a loved one on active duty; Blue Star has a loved one in the Military; Silver Star loved one wounded in a war zone; and the White Star A loved one who committed suicide.

The Wreaths Across America and the Honor flight program were also promoted throughout the year. I handed out Pledge of Allegiance certificates at OTI in August as well as citizen education student worksheets. I explained what the American Creed was and the importance of it.

This year has been very enjoyable and one of education for not only the Auxiliary members but for me as well. I thank President Darlene Baker for appointing me to this position.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary – June 2025

Department President Darlene, Past National Presidents, Sandy Onstwedder and Jane Reape, Past Department Presidents, Department Line Officers, and members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Chairman's Report:

Madam President Darlene, thank you for asking me to be your Auxiliary Outreach Chairman. I love this program, Everyone recognizes the importance of Auxiliary Programs, such as: Veterans and Family Support, Americanism, Cancer, Membership and Youth – they are designed to support our veterans and their families. The Auxiliary Outreach Program recognizes the time its members partner with local community organizations to support the needs of their communities. It enables us to educate "outsiders" about Auxiliary programs as we continue *"Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families."* Since we are *"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans,"* it is amazing the many ways we continue to volunteer time to help our communities.

As Chairman, I was given the opportunity to educate or re-educate Auxiliaries about the guidelines, restrictions, challenges, and sometimes, frustrations, and how it differs from other Auxiliary programs. I challenged our Auxiliaries and their members by suggesting they answer "Who? What? When? Where? Why? & How?" when submitted Auxiliary Program Reports.

Bright colored informational fliers were included in the June President's Packet, OTI, and Fall Conference packets plus verbal presentations at Officers' Training Institute, Fall and Spring Conferences and articles in the New York Auxiliary News. The VW Auxiliary Volunteer lanyards were available to any member, on request. In November, during a Zoom Training Sessions, I narrated the Power Point Presentation I developed and answered attendee questions.

Luckily, ninety (90%) of Auxiliary Program Reports were received via email. To my knowledge I answered all of them. Answering emails provided me with the opportunity to thank Auxiliaries for their hard work, request clarification or additional needed information needed for me to give Auxiliaries' Participation Credit for their partnerships and the donation of member hours. Emails and phone calls were the perfect opportunity to provide one-on-one training to individuals that could be passed on to other Auxiliary members.

I opened my Chairman's year with a "packet" to my National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador. The packet included my program, year-end report, a VFW Auxiliary Volunteer lanyard, and President's packet flier. Monthly correspondence with her included updates, fliers, presentations, Auxiliary News Articles, and clarification questions. In April, I mailed my Ambassador, New York's entry for the Auxiliary Outreach Photo Collage and submitted the Year-end Report to President Darlene. My final Auxiliary News Article will be published in June.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the New York Auxiliary Outreach Chairmen for the 2024-2025 year. My best wishes to Madam President Darlene and her Program Chairman at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Loyally,

Judy

Judy Lefebvre,
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

"Buddy" Poppy/ National Home
Flora Becker Chairmen
86 Garden Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Telephone:315-521-2675 Email: loveourveterans17@yahoo.com

Department Year End Report

Dear Madam President Darlene Baker, Past National President Sandra Messenger, Past Department Presidents, Officers and VFW Auxiliary members of the GREAT STATE of New York. I herewith submit my report.

For the "Buddy" Poppy/ National Home program we did a lot this year.

1st of which, the National Home is celebrating the 100th Birthday. As a Department we celebrated together via ZOOM on January 7, 2025 at 7:30pm. Each Auxiliary had decorations, party favors, cupcakes/cakes, and sang [Happy Birthday](#). Megan Mitchell from the National Home was on with us. We also had each Auxiliary send birthday cards to the National Home and also had them sign them at the Fall and Spring Conference.

We supported Health and Happiness; that is a key Fundraiser for the VFW National Home. The goal is to have all Auxiliaries contribute by December 31st. The District President that had all their Auxiliaries contribute would be put in a drawing for a monetary award of \$20 to the District. That was drawn on the ZOOM meeting on January 7th, 2025.

Auxiliaries also supported the National Home by purchasing Life Memberships or Centennial Life Memberships. If anyone purchased one would be put in the drawing to win a monetary award of \$50 in a drawing at the Spring Conference.

At the Fall Conference Auxiliaries brought gift cards of at least \$10 and we held gift card drawings. The money raised went to the "Guitar for Heroes" at the National Home.

We also raised money for the 100th Birthday by selling Cash Bash tickets of \$20 each to win money prizes ranging from \$50 to \$600. The drawing was at the Spring Conference.

We had decorations up for the 100th Birthday at the Fall and Spring Conference and promoted Auxiliaries to send in for the outstanding Auxiliaries for National Awards for "Buddy" Poppy and National Home.

We had "Buddy" Poppies out and "Buddy" Poppy Decorations at the Fall and Spring Conference. We had our "Buddy" Poppy Display contest at our Spring Conference. We had more displays than in our previous years. We had coloring books, pamphlets, posters, wooden [Happy Birthday](#) decorations to hand out. We had swap Ideas on the Department website.

Thank you to President Darlene Baker for letting me be her "Buddy" Poppy/National Home Chairman. Also thank you to all that participated and donated to this great program.

"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans " as we are "Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families ". Loyally- Flora

Cancer Grant Donation Fund Report
100th State Convention - Council of Administration June 11-15, 2025-Albany, NY

To the Officers and Members assembled at our 100th State Convention of the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary convened in Albany, New York from June 11-15, 2025, I herewith submit my Chairman's report.

Department President Darlene Baker chairmanship of the "Cancer Grant Donation Fund" has been very rewarding during the Auxiliary Year of 2024-2025. I began the year with an article for the Guidebook that outlined the procedure that allows for Auxiliaries to donate to the Cancer Grant Donation Fund and also participate in two Dept of NY Cancer Program Raffles. I introduced a new process for this year wherein a donation decision is voted upon at your Auxiliary meeting. With that result, the Auxiliary Treasurer can enter that amount through his National VFW Auxiliary MALTA "Make A Donation" level and it will be accepted. This is a more streamlined action and then a notification can be sent to me for reporting each Auxiliary's monetary participation. And those responses and donations were amazing and showed our Membership's dedication to supporting the mission of "Erasing CANCER" soon and contribute to our National program.

By the Fall Conference, President Darlene and I were so delighted by the many 'Grocery Bags' filled with items that celebrated our Auxiliary's 100th birthday. They came to the table and were hung on the clothes rack for display. What wonderful imaginations our members have demonstrated. Also, while at the table, members bought tickets to win one, or more of the Grocery Bags.

As the months went by, the donations designated through the National MALTA entries continued and their donation participation was recorded. We were asked through the Auxiliary News articles to support, show kindness and compassion to our family, friends and others as they receive treatments to fight Cancer. And then, a repeat response was felt at our Spring Conference in Binghamton, NY with the 11 District Presidents being asked to submit "Hot Air Ballon" replicas. Again, with items celebrating NY VFW Auxiliary 100th Anniversary and of course, dedication to our hero Veterans & their families. Those were 'one of a kind' replicas - even a glass fishbowl filled with 100 one-dollar bills. They inspired attendees to purchase the raffle tickets and winners were delighted with the many items contained in each "Hot Air Balloon."

I am very proud of how our NY VFW Auxiliaries supported the Cancer Grant Donation Fund program and thank them for its success again this year. Congratulations to all my Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters on their ease to process their donation s via MALTA and/or snail mail. We all know this has kept our Member Cancer Grants [two within their lifetime] available to our members as they file the lifetime Grant application.

And of course, thanx to Department President Darlene for your confidence in my ability to conduct this year's Cancer Grant Donation Fund. Please take care and keep kindness to all during your life ...

Loyally, Phyl Roseboom, Cancer Grant Donation Fund Chairman

Agnes Stamp
Hospital Chairman
2622 Hamilton St. Weedsport, NY 13166

2024 – 2025 Year End Report

Department President Darlene Baker, National Representative Past National President Sandra Messenger, Past National President Jane Reape, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents and Members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Officers Report.

I was appointed as Hospital Chairman by Department President Darlene Baker for the 2024– 2025 reporting year. This appointment as a chairman is my second, and as last year, was a rewarding experience to receive all the reports and pictures to show how you are truly the “Ray of Sunshine.” I was continuously amazed at all the wonderful things our members did to improve the lives of our veterans who did so much for us.

Promoting this Program with the newsletter articles I wrote, and a table promoting the hospital program, as well as encouraging different ways to participate in the program helped to make it a success. The Zoom meeting I participated in about the Program, I hope provided new information. Asking for auxiliary members to send cards, donate items, volunteer at VA and Non-VA facilities where possible, and sending gift cards surely was a success as you all responded by knitting lap robes, hats and mittens to keep them warm, sent birthday and holiday cards to cheer them up, provided gift cards, Christmas stockings, and much needed personal care items. Where and when you could, you visited with the veterans, you held pizza parties, BBQ’s and held various outings to cheer them up and brighten their day. You collected items for expectant Mother’s and supported National VFW Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant’s Operation Bottom Cover.

Thank you so much for all you do and continue to do for our Veterans, the Military and their families.

I would like to thank President Darlene Baker for the opportunity to once again chair this important Program.

Loyally,
Agnes Stamp
Dept. of NY Hospital Program Chairman

Legislative Convention Report

Department President Darlene Baker, Past National President Sandi Messenger, Life Officers, PDP's and members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Officer's Report:

I am very proud of the work the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary has done on the Legislative issues this year. I promoted the Legislative Program by reminding the members to educate, participate and get others involved.

At the June 2024 Department Convention, I included handouts in the President's packets, which were Don't feed the Sharks and the 2024 Priority Goals.

In the Department Program book, I highlighted the 60th Presidential Elections, and reminded members to vote. Additionally, I listed the Priority goals, and how to help support our Veterans through the Legislative Program as well as providing the websites to locate Senators and Congress representatives.

In the August Department Newsletter I identified the Priority goals, and requested members to take action on HR 8371 the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health care and Benefits Improvement Act. I suggested to our members to get involved, vote, get others involved, contact your elected New York and US Representatives and Senators, and make your voices heard.

At our Officers and Members Training Session in August, I had the current Priority Goal handouts for all members and had directions on how to sign up for the Action Corps Weekly, the VFW Auxiliary involvement in Elections and Political Activities and how to Register to Vote. I did a demonstration on how to sign up for the Action Corps Weekly by walking all the members through the process of signing up for the Action Corps step by step. Members were supporting the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health care and Benefits Act at the training session. We had 20 members report that they signed up for the Action Corps.

At the Dept of New York Fall Conference, I reminded the members to get out and Vote for the Presidential elections, be familiar with the VFW Priority goals and to participate in the VFW Action Alerts. On my table I had 2 posters displaying the VFW Action Corps, VFW 2024 Priority Goals, Don't Feed the Sharks, and your vote counts. I provided the process on how to sign up for the Action Corps Weekly, VFW involvement in Elections and Political Activities and several children's activities, word finds, crossword puzzles, and fill in the blank, songs and oaths for children of all ages.

During the January through April time frame, I shared with members the passing of the Dole Act, the VFW Auxiliary magazine Jan 2025 issue: VFW Advocacy in Actions, Legislation in the 118th Congress article and the article from the VFW Aux e-newsletter from 12/19/2024 Legislative & Legislation. These articles also talked about the Major Richard Star Act and they would like the members to help get this bill passed. The Guard VA Benefits Act was introduced to both houses but has had no further movement (Don't Feed the Sharks). On January 29, 2025 I emailed the District Presidents the new 2025 Priority Goals.

I shared the February 17th Action Corps Weekly as it had information on the VFW Presents Education on Legislative Priorities: the house passed the Veterans Homelessness Bill and a bill to safeguard VA Benefits and Second Amendment Rights. In addition, I shared the House of Representatives who passed 7 Bipartisan Veterans Bills and the expansion of the NYS Military Museum and Veterans Research Center. Lastly, I promoted the Modernization of Electronic Gaming Bill for New York and asked our members to reach out to their Representatives and Senators to pass the Bill.

President Darlene, it has been an honor and pleasure to serve as the Department of New York's Legislative Chairman. I wish you a very successful Department and National Convention by "Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and their Families" as "From Our Roots to our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans."

Loyally,
Tina Roberts
Department of NY Legislative Chairman

Department of NY Convention
June 2025

Currently we are _____ in membership. Congratulations,
Department of NY.

A few statics:

New Members; _____

New Life Members: _____

of Auxiliaries 100% or more in paid members:

of deceased members:

Now for the awards:

March Madness: - Highest % increase in March (Auxiliary 551)

Hot Air Award: - Auxiliary with the highest % - Auxiliary 551 (170.59)

Century Award: - Drawing for \$200 for Auxiliaries over 103%

Recruiting Award: - Drawing for \$50 for member recruiting 20
members or more

President Darlene thank you for having faith in me. We did our very
best in membership this year. Wishing you and your chairmen much
success and many awards at the National Convention.

- The Membership Chairman want to give the latest information and will provide it at the
Convention.- Note from Department Secretary

To the Officers and Members assembled at this State Convention In Albany, NY, I herewith submit my final report.

It has been an honor and privilege to have been appointed as the Department Scholarship Chairman I thank all of you for the ongoing support of this program. The reports I have received the Axillaries have been outstanding. We have had 157 Auxiliaries participation.

I am happy to report that the total donations for this year in all Scholarship programs was \$2,358.50.

Thank you for allowing me to chair this program and I wish you all successful Convention.

“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families!”

“From Our Roots to our Branches Extending Service to Our Veteran.”

Respectfully submitted by:

Joan Barnhart

Department Scholarship Chairman

YOUTH ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Department President Darlene, National Representative, Sandra Onstwedder Messenger, National Legislative Ambassador Deanna Guyette, Line Officers, PDP's and members, I herewith submit my Department Convention Chairman's Report:

I attended and presented the Youth Activities programs at Officers Training School on Zoom as well as the in-person Spring Conferences. I attended all of my own Auxiliary meetings and District 8 meetings.

In 2024-2025, we continue to face challenges getting into schools with our youth programs. However, the Auxiliaries have found unique ways to get our youth program to the students and to their families.

Auxiliaries set up trunk-or-treat activities for the students. At these events, the students made cards for our Veterans and received Halloween treats. There was also Christmas with Santa. And youth participated in Veterans Day events.

This year there were 9 submissions for the "Illustrating America" art contest from Auxiliaries in the Department of New York. Congratulations to the first-place winners for each of the three group divisions. I wish them success as they compete at the National Level:

Grades K-2: Daisy Mae Westling – Sponsored by Pine Valley Auxiliary 2522, (D6)

Grades 3-5: Wallis Enders– Sponsored by Cuba Auxiliary 2721 (D6)

Grades 6-8: Roan Kohler– Sponsored by Pine Valley Auxiliary 2522 (D6)

The Department had 56 Auxiliaries that participated in the "Patriotism through Literacy" program. Monetary donations were made to schools, libraries, and daycare centers. There were also donations of patriotic books to local elementary schools.

Thank you to all Auxiliaries that participated in sending "Thank you for your Service" cards to the Veterans for Veteran's Day. We would also like to thank the Auxiliaries who collected toys for the department drive for families in New York; it was a tremendous success! There was also great success with Decorating Placemats for senior centers and nursing homes. In April, auxiliaries hosted Easter events with our youth. Thank you all for all you do with our Youth!

Department President Darlene, I wish you a successful Convention. Thank you for the appointment as 2024-2025 Youth Activities Chairman. It has been a pleasure working with

you this year and I hope you have a successful National Convention as we are "Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!"

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis

Phyllis Walker Youth Activities Chairman

**OFFICERS' AND PROGRAM CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS – COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
100TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION - JUNE 12, 2025 – ALBANY, NY**

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Department President Darlene, Past National President Sandra Messenger, Past National President Jane, National District Council Member No. 4, Past Eastern Conference President Karen, Past Department Presidents, Department Line Officers, and members, it has been my honor to serve you this year and herewith submit my Department Convention report:

100% of our 170 Dept. of New York's Auxiliaries have participated in the great Department of New York's Veterans & Family Support Program and attained 100% in reporting/donating as of November 30, 2024!

This year 2024-2025, it was my pleasure and honor to promote the Veterans and Family Support Program through the following strategies:

- ✓ Presented information at the June Convention in 2024 on the program for the coming year.
- ✓ Presented at the OTI in August
- ✓ Presented at the Fall Conference where we focused on Suicide Awareness and Prevention (Stop 22), "Trees for Troops" and "In Lieu of Cards."
- ✓ Presented at the Spring Conference where we focused on Operation Bottom Cover.
- ✓ Developed six Department Newsletter articles and sent out seven additional Veterans and Family Support promotions to District Presidents and FB and Department Website for distributions to all auxiliaries and members.

Again this year the program encompassed the Veterans of Foreign Wars' **National Veterans Service (NVS)**, the three-part **Military and Veterans Support (MVS)** -Unmet Needs, Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarships, and Military Assistance Program (MAP); Suicide Awareness and Prevention, the Joint Project with Department Commander Kell-VA Women's Clinic and VA Clinic Maternity Care Program and Awareness of and service to Homeless Veterans, and **again** this year, the joint project with Proctor-Hopson Post and Past Department Commander Ben Thompson, "Trees for Troops"/Holiday Cheer for holiday trees for our service members deployed overseas.

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS) 100% of -Our auxiliaries donated. The Veterans Service Officers in the VFW Dept of NY in Buffalo and New York City reported that they serve an average of new 90-140 Veterans and survivors/month; and, New York's Service officers recovered in the Buffalo Office **\$76,711.59** in benefits for Veterans and dependents and in NYC office **\$87,963.26** for period October 2024-present.

VETERANS MILITARY AND SERVICE (VMS) The National VFW reported that 95% of our Department's auxiliaries donated to **UNMET NEEDS, SPORTS CLIPS HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIPS** and the **MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION-Again this year, The Dept of NY VFW Auxiliary collaborated with the Dept's VFW to do a STOP 22 Walk at the Fall Conference, and we encouraged our auxiliaries to hold local STOP 22 "walk" in their communities. In total, we collected donations for the VFW Department of New York in the amount of **\$9,348** and our auxiliaries submitted a total of 21 National Award #1 follow-up applications.

ACTS OF KINDNESS-. Our auxiliaries have provided goods/services, monetary assistance in total amounts of **\$378,144.59** to more than **36,475 Veterans and their families**, nearly **double** the amounts donated and veterans and families served in 2023-2024! Very special thanks to all our members for their "soaring into service" this year!

"IN LIEU OF CARDS"-. Our Department donated through signatures on our giant card and especially of note was that President Darlene carried the card with her to as many District meetings as possible for members to become more acquainted with the Card and how it brings cheer to our military serving overseas at the holidays.

"TREES FOR TROOPS"/HOLIDAY CHEER- Our auxiliaries donated \$9,000 to send trees, menorahs and decorations to our troops serving overseas during the holidays.

In closing, I would like to thank President Darlene for appointing me to the chairmanship of Veterans and Family Support for this year. Thank you to you and all the members of our great Dept of New York for your service as we are *"Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families"* *"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans."*

Loyally, **Doris (D.) Ippolito**, Veterans and Family Support Chairman 2024-2025

Department of New York VFW Auxiliary
Program Coordinator's Year-End Report
2024 – 2025

June 2025

To President Darlene and members:

Thank you, President Darlene, for this appointment; and thank you for including me in your year. My only regret is that I could not be there in person for you.

As I have said many times – this year was a learning year for me. No matter how old you are, you can benefit from trying new things.

It was wonderful working with our Department Chairmen. I know they will receive many awards at the National Convention.

It's amazing how many of our auxiliary presidents and members keep track of their program reports with this monthly report. There is a lot of work involved in putting it together, and it's good to know that the website is used by so many members.

I wish President Darlene, and our members, a great convention.

Loyally,

Jackie

Jackie Herbert, PDP
Department Program Coordinator

REPORT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT COORDINATOR
STATE CONVENTION-JUNE 2025-ALBANY, NY

To the Officers and Members assembled at the 100th State Convention of the Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary convened in Albany, NY from June 11-15, 2025, I herewith submit my final report as Official Visit Coordinator.

I wish to thank the District Presidents and others who inspected the Auxiliaries in the Department of New York this past year. As of May 12, 2025, all active auxiliaries have been inspected. It has been a bit of a struggle this year getting everyone inspected, but the goal has been reached.

There are a few auxiliaries who are experiencing problems. President Darlene and Chief of Staff Karen have received copies of all inspections and assistance has been given those needing extra help to get their auxiliaries "Healthy" again.

Thank you to Department President, Darlene, for this appointment. It has been a real learning experience for me.

Loyally,

Sandra Flynn, PDP

Inspection Coordinator

No reports received:

District 11

Historian/Media Relations

Department President's Special Project

Committee:

Bonnie Burgy PDP

Marcia Williams District 4 President

David Bennett District 5 President