



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



101ST DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY CONVENTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

Convention Chairman Nina LeFrois introduced the Officers' March. The Department floor and Line Officers then completed the Cross of Malta. Nina welcomed everyone to the 101st Department Convention. She presented President Justine Robles and National Guard Cynthia Davis with their Convention badges. The meeting was then turned over to President Robles. Justine requested that everyone silence all cell phones and reminded all in attendance to remain still and silent when the Chaplain or flags are on the floor.

The President asked everyone to rise for the posting of the Prisoner of War, Missing in Action flag by James Lisa.

Madam President asked Guard ProTem Jeff Platt to close the doors until the opening services were completed. She informed Mister Conductor Craig Keitel that he would not need to check dues cards as all members were checked at the door and were in possession of their Convention badges.

The Secretary Chris Leavor called the roll of officers. Except for the following, all were present ProTems:

Guard: Jeff Platt (Guard was in the room at the Secretary's station)

Patriotic Instructor: James Lisa

Parliamentarian: Sandra Flynn PDP

Color Bearer #1 Debra McCarthy

Color Bearer #3: Wanda Riethmiller

The Secretary then called the roll of Past Department Presidents.

Present were:

Sandra Flynn (1994-1995)

Marianne McLane (1996-1997)

Nina LeFrois (1997-1998)

Bonnie Burgy (2013-2014)

Irene Rohde (2014-2015)

Karen Dotson (2016-2017)

Mary Makosky (2020-2021)

Ruth Huber (2021-2022)

Lisa Raplee (2022-2023)

Darlene Baker (2024-2025)

Next the Secretary called the roll of Chairmen.

All were present except Americanism Chairman Ashleigh Horsky and Extension and Revitalization Chairman PNP/PDP Jane Reape.

Lastly, the Secretary called the roll of Deputy Chiefs of Staff:

All were present except: Linda LaRosa from District 2, Jackie Herbert and Jean Sabol from District 5, Margaret Sheldon from District 6, Phyllis Walker from District 8, and Keri Najdzion from District 11. Deputy Sabol arrived a little later.

Conductor Craig Keitel was then requested to secure and present the colors. Chaplain Deanna Guyette offered the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States was led by the ProTem Patriotic Instructor James Lisa. Department soloist Esther Reape led the singing of the National Anthem accompanied by Department Musician Becky King.

President Robles then officially declared the meeting open.

Introduction of Guests:

President Robles instructed the Conductor with the colors to escort a guest into the room. She then introduced the National Representative, Cynthia Davis National Guard from the Department of Maryland. Cynthia was given a warm welcome.

Next President Robles requested the Conductor and Colors to retire to escort other guests- Eastern Conference Soloist Esther Reape and the Past Department Presidents into the room.

President Justine introduced them and they received a warm welcome as well.

President Justine then recognized all Veterans in the room and all “Star” families present. All were thanked for their service and sacrifices. All first-time attendees were asked to stand and were given a small gift from the President.

The President then thanked Convention Chairman, Nina LeFrois PDP, for all her hard work putting this convention together and the Council of Administration dinner on Wednesday night. She also recognized and thanked PDP Marianne McLane as the luncheon Chairman, and Judy LeFebvre as the Registration Chairman.

President Robles then called on Past Department President/ District 10 President Mary Makosky and Scholarship Chairman Lori Juszkievicz to present the Department pages for this convention.

The pages were called up to dais, introduced and received their identification ribbons.

Pages for the President: Kim Cavallo, Sharon Combs, Jill Pieprzak

Pages for the Sr Vice President: Maryellen DesForge, Lynne Loga

Page for the Jr Vice President: Terri Shoots

Page for the Secretary: Ruth Huber PDP

Page for the Treasurer: Denise White who did not attend after all

Page for the Chaplain: Frances Inslee

Page for the Conductor: Jodee O’Dell

Page for the Guard: Marlene Webster

Page for the Floor Officers: Tina Roberts

Page for the District Presidents: Jean Sabol

Page for the Past Department Presidents: Cathy Howard

The President announced that the minutes from the 100th Department Convention would not be read as they were distributed previously, and hearing no objections, the minutes from the 100th Department Convention would stand approved as previously distributed.

The President then stated that we would not need to read the Convention Appointments as they had been printed and were in everyone’s Convention folder.

President Robles called upon Ruth Huber PDP, District 1 President John Horsky, and PDP Cindy Campbell who couldn't attend the Convention, but who served on the Convention Rules Committee, to make their report.

PDP Ruth Huber reported that the rules have been printed and are in the Registration folders so they will not be read. A motion was made by Ruth, on behalf of the Committee, to accept the Convention rules. Motion was approved unanimously.

PDP Marianne McLane, District 7 President Lorena Bennett, District 4 President Marcia Williams, and District 11 President Anne Anderson next presented the annual Report of Officers and Chairmen. Marianne stated that the reports are in good order and will not be read but have been posted to the website. They noted that the District 4 and District 1 Presidents did submit reports, but they were not scanned with the full document. Marianne, on behalf of the committee, made a motion to accept the report as posted. Motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation of Official and other Communications by the Secretary

The secretary announced that the following communications were read at last evening's Council of Administration meeting, but she summarized for those not present, including the reading of greetings from National President Lois Callahan and the memo dated 5/6/26 concerning safety using Social Media.

- National President Lois Callahan's letter to the Convention
- National Memo dated 3/31/26 PNP Peggy Haake was recently hospitalized and will now be placed in Hospice Care
- National Memo date 4/2/26 Informing of the passing of PNP Peggy Haake
- National Memo dated 4/7/26 Department of Virginia PDP Ellen Stogsdill went to her Heavenly Home
- National Memo date 4/9/26 Information about memorial service and burial of PNP Peggy Haake
- National Memo dated 4/14/26 Mother of Department of Alabama's Mother passed away
- National Memo dated 4.25.26 PNP Helen Lenehan was hospitalized and is now home recuperating
- National Memo dated 4/29/26 Dept of Alabama President fell and was injured
- National Memo dated 4/29/26 Department of Maryland President was injured in a car accident.
- National Memo dated 5/6/26 about social media
- National Memo dated 5/13/26 New address for PNP Sandy Messenger
- We have all the flyers for individuals running for National offices
- one communication from the Department VFW Special Order 037- passing of PSC Mel Garrett
- Thank you- National Home for \$100 donation in Memory of PSC Melvin Garrett
- - National Home for \$100 Patriotic gift
- - National Home for \$50 gift in Memory of Doug Herbert
- - National Home for purchase of a brick in Memory of PDP Mary Kreuzer
- Thank you from the following Honor Flights: North Country, Twin Tiers, Long Island, Rochester, Leatherstocking, and Buffalo-Niagara
- Thank you from Clifford E Galbraith Memorial Post 7127 for \$100 donation in Memory of PSC James Vinsonhaler

- Receipt for Love Gift to National Guard Cynthia Davis
- Thank you from the following VA Facilities for donations: Samuel S Stratton in Albany, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Batavia, and Oxford Home
- Thank you cards from the families of: PSC Melvin Garrett, District 3 President Kathleen Hayward, and District 7 Secretary Sarah Little
- A letter from America's Guide Dogs regarding a puppy sponsored by funds raised during the tenure of PDP Debbie Casella. Whit has returned to the Guide Dog Foundation for three months of formal training and certification.

The Resolutions Committee, Jr Vice President Charlene Carnright, Dept Conductor/ District 2 President Craig Keitel, and PDP Barbara Hodges, who regretfully could not attend, were called for their report next. There were no Resolutions to present. However, the Committee decided to present a Proclamation at the Joint Opening. Jr Vice President Charlene Carnright made a motion on behalf of the Committee to approve the presentation of a Proclamation of Appreciation to the Albany County Veterans Services Director, Scott Leslie for his work on behalf of Veterans. This proclamation is to be presented at the joint opening. Motion was approved unanimously.

Nomination of Officers:

President Justine announced that the next order of business would be nomination of officers. Nominations could be made from the floor or at the President's station. Nominations do not need to be seconded. Barring any objection, she announced that she would call for nominations two times and then leave nominations open until tomorrow.

The following nominations were made:

Belinda Cole was nominated by Lynne Loga for the office of Department President
Charlene Carnright was nominated by PDP Lisa Raplee for the office of Department Senior Vice President

Deanna Guyette was nominated by PDP Marianne McLane for the office of Department Jr Vice President

Darlene Baker was nominated by Secretary/Guard Chris Leavor for the office of Department Treasurer

Kim White was nominated by Sr Vice President Belinda Cole for the office of Department Treasurer.

Craig Keitel was nominated by PDP Irene Rohde for the office of Department Chaplain.

Chris Leavor was nominated by PDP Ruth Huber for the office of Department Conductor

Kimberly Cavallo was nominated by James Lisa for the office of Department Guard

Karen Dotson PDP was nominated by District 8 President/PDP Lisa Raplee and Past District 8 President Tina Roberts for the position of National District Council member #4.

Debra McCarthy was nominated by Sharon Combs for the position of National District Council member #4.

Kim White was nominated by Sr Vice President Belinda Cole for the position of National District Council member #4.

Nominations were left open.

Registration Chairman, Judy Lefebvre was called on for a registration report. Judy reported that there were 16 onsite registrations and 143 preregistrations and ironically 16 of the preregistered were no-shows. Treasurer Kim White was not ready at that time to announce the winner of the Theresa

Klein Early Registration Drawing. But she later announced the recipient as Becky King Department Musician.

The Chaplain closed the Bible, and we had a short break.

The meeting resumed with the Presentation of the Past Department Presidents.

Past Department President Karen Dotson presented a PowerPoint presentation as she presented the Past Department Presidents with the assistance of Sr Vice President Belinda Cole and Jr Vice President Charlene Carnright. Each PDP was given a certificate and pin.

Chaplain then reopened the Bible.

PDP Ruth Huber presented the 45+ Member Recognitions to those members in attendance. Letters and a blank certificate were included in presidential bags for those Auxiliaries that had 45+ members, but they were not in attendance.

The Bylaws Committee: PDP Bonnie Burgey, District 6 President Aurelia Taylor, and District 9 President Marie-Aymee Fisk reported that there were no proposed changes to the Bylaws at this time.

The Credentials Chairman, Lynn Halstead, gave her first report. For Thursday Credentials there were 97 voting. She announced that Credentials would remain open until 11 AM on Friday.

PDP Marianne McLane gave the Official Visits Report. She announced that the Auxiliaries were 100% inspected and thanked those who made Official Visits, who mentored, and in any way shared their knowledge with the membership.

The Auxiliary News Editor and Webmaster< Deanna Guyette, gave a brief report and formally announced that she will continue as Webmaster, but the Auxiliary News will have a new editor.

Announcements:

Reminder to all delegates to register at the credentials table before 11 AM Friday.

The Massing of the Colors and Joint Memorial Service begin at 1:00PM. Line officers will be seated on the Dais. Those who will be carrying flags were requested to be outside the main ballroom to line up around noon according to the VFW.

The Testimonial Dinner will begin with cocktails at 5 and dinner will be served at 6 Thursday evening.

Friday the meeting will start at 8:00AM

Madam Chaplain closed the Bible and the session was adjourned.

**Friday, June 12, 2026
Day 2
Department of NY VFW Auxiliary Convention**

The Friday morning session was opened by Department Secretary/Guard Chris Leavor. She congratulated President Justine on a great opening on Thursday and wished continued success for today.

The meeting was turned over to Department President Robles, who asked Chaplain Guyette to open the Bible.

The Secretary called the roll of Officers, Chairmen and PDPs and the only change was the arrival of Deputy Chief of Staff from District 5 Jean Sabol who assumed her duties as Page for the District Presidents.

Credentials Chairman said she would have a full report after lunch and reminded all delegates to register with credentials before 11AM when credentials would close.

President Justine announced that we were going to begin Program Reports and awards, but first she presented her final Presidential report.

Program awards for Auxiliaries: First place-\$20, second place \$15, and third place \$10

Kim Cavallo, **Veterans & Family Support** Chairman gave a brief report and handed out program awards

Group 1: First Place: Haspel Staab Auxiliary to Post 551 District 1

Second Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2

Third Place: Evans Township Auxiliary to Post 5798 District 6

Group 2: First Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6

Second Place: Sheehy Palmer Auxiliary to Post 6776 District 3

Third Place: Cpl. George Benkert Jr Auxiliary to Post 516 District 10

Group 3: First Place: John T Murray Auxiliary to Post 1017 District 6

Second Place: Chili Memorial Auxiliary to Post 412 District 8

Third Place: William F. Wigand Auxiliary to Post 8444 District 3

Group 4: First Place: Clifford E Galbraith Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7127 District 5

Second Place: Ballston Spa Auxiliary to Post 358 District 3

Third Place: Upton Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8259 District 4

Group 5: First Place: Mattydale Auxiliary to Post 3146 District 5

Second Place: Edward & Moses Wells Auxiliary to Post 125 District 9

Third Place: The Red Hook Auxiliary to Post 7765 District 2

Group 6: First Place: Auburn Auxiliary to Post 1975 District 5

Second Place: Lewis County Memorial Auxiliary to Post 6912 District 4

Third Place: Little Valley Auxiliary to Post 8734 District 6

District President's Citation: Aurelia Taylor District 6

Americanism Chairman Pro Tem James Lisa handed out the Americanism awards:

Group 1: First Place: Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Auxiliary to Post 5861 District 6

Second Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2

Third Place: Evans Township Auxiliary to Post 5798 District 6

Group 2: First Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6

Second Place: Canastota Memorial Auxiliary to Post 600 District 4

Third Place: Jayne Lattin Auxiliary to Post 2913 District 11

Group 3: First Place: William F Wigand Auxiliary to Post 8444 District 3

Second Place: Hamlin Auxiliary to VFW Post 6703 District 8

Third Place: John T Murray Auxiliary to Post 1017 District 6
Group 4: First Place: Goodrich Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8
Second Place: Dusenberry-Flannery Auxiliary to Post 2064 District 2
Third Place: Peru Memorial Auxiliary to Post 309 District 9
Group 5: First Place: Victor L Bracone Auxiliary to Post 5913 District 2
Second Place: James J Cruden Auxiliary to Post 5007 District 6
Third Place: Lockport Auxiliary to Post 2535 District 7
Group 6: First Place: Little Valley Auxiliary to Post 8734 District 6
Second Place: Pine Valley Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2522 District 6
Third Place: Lake Chautauqua Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8647 District 6
District President's Citation: Aurelia Taylor District 6

The Department Guard Pro Tem Jeff Platt announced we had guests. Conductor Keitel and the Colors escorted Department Commander James MacArthur into the room. Next, the VFW National Representative National Assistant Adjutant General Brian Walker and National Home Trustee #2 Judy Barnes were escorted in. Both were introduced and received a warm NY welcome. They spoke briefly, mentioned the dunk tank fundraiser set up outside for the joint special project, and were escorted out by Conductor Keitel and Assistant Conductor Alyssa Horsky and the Colors.

Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Maryellen DesForge presented her final report and awards:

Group 1: First Place: Evans Township Auxiliary to Post 5798 District 6
Second Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2
Third Place: Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Auxiliary to Post 5861 District 6
Group 2: First Place: Albert A Gonyea Auxiliary to Post 3357 District 9
Second Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6
Third Place: Pennington-Moye Auxiliary to Post 9251 District 8
Group 3: First Place: Harlem Valley Auxiliary to Post 5444 District 2
Second Place: Hamlin Auxiliary to VFW Post 6703 District 8
Third Place: Sgt. John A Kissell Auxiliary to Post 5199 District 10
Group 4: First Place: Frontiersmen Auxiliary to Post 7545 District 6
Second Place: : Goodrich Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8
Third Place: Peru Memorial Auxiliary to Post 309 District 9
Group 5: First Place: Arcadia Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2883 District 8
Second Place: Lincoln Auxiliary to Post 1483 District 7
Third Place: The Red Hook Auxiliary to Post 7765 District 2
Group 6: First Place: Charles N DeGlopper Auxiliary to Post 9429
Second Place: Dionne Rumble Auxiliary to Post 7227 District 4
Third Place: Pine Valley Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2522

District President's Citation: Aurelia Taylor District 6

Buddy@Poppy/ National Home Chairman Debby McCarthy was next:

Group 1: First Place: Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Auxiliary to Post 5861 District 6
Second Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2
Third Place: Stuyvesant Falls Auxiliary to Post 9593 District 3
Group 2: First Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6
Second Place: Cpl. George Benkert Jr Auxiliary to Post 516 District 10
Third Place: Pennington-Moye Auxiliary to Post 9251 District 8
Group 3: First Place: Chili Memorial Auxiliary to Post 412 District 8

Second Place: Daniel J O'Brien Auxiliary to Post 1374 District 2
Third Place: Palmyra Memorial Auxiliary to Post 6778 District 8
Group 4: First Place: Ballston Spa Memorial Auxiliary to Post 358 District 3
Second Place: Goodrich-Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8
Third Place: Levittown-Island Trees Auxiliary to Post 9592 District 10
Group 5: First Place: Edward & Moses Wells Auxiliary to Post 125 District 9
Second Place: James J Cruden Auxiliary to Post 5007 District 6
Third Place: Lockport Auxiliary to Post 2535 District 7
Group 6: First Place: Little Valley Auxiliary to Post 8734 District 6
Second Place: Crystal City Auxiliary to Post 524 District 5
Third Place: Pine Valley Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2522 District 6
District President's Citation: Lisa Raplee PDP District 8

Cancer Grant Fund Chairman Amber Sullivan had a final report and told members who purchased ribbons to be sure to take them from the display in the hall if they wanted them.

PDP Marianne McLane delivered the report for **Extension & Revitalization** Chairman PNP/PDP Jane Reape. She announced the winner of the "Buddy Award" to be Phyllis Walker nominated by Auxiliary 6703 in District 8 and the "Mentor of the Year" award was presented to Jim Bach from Auxiliary 369 in District 5.

Hospital Chairman, Marie-Aymee Fisk made her final report and presented awards:

Group 1: First Place: Stuyvesant Falls Auxiliary to Post 9593 District 3
Second Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2
Third Place: Brewster Auxiliary to Post 672 District 2
Group 2: First Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6
Second Place: East Greenbush Auxiliary to Post 7338 District 3
Third Place: Everett F Herrel College Point Auxiliary to Post 885 District 1
Group 3: First Place: Robert L Weininger Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8692 District 3
Second Place: John T Murray Auxiliary to Post 1017 District 6
Third Place: Palmyra Memorial Auxiliary to Post 6778 District 8
Group 4: First Place: Michael S Pliseck Auxiliary to Post 4915 District 4
Second Place: Levittown-Island Trees Auxiliary to Post 9592 District 10
Third Place: Rex Field Auxiliary to Post 901 District 5
Group 5: First Place: Perinton Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8495 District 8
Second Place: Mattydale Auxiliary to Post 3146 District 5
Third Place: Lt John F O'Grady Auxiliary to Post 1384
Group 6: First Place: Town of Cuba Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2721 District 6
Second Place: Barben-Jones Auxiliary to Post 1400 District 4
Third Place: Rome Auxiliary to Post 2246 District 4

District President's Citation: Lisa Raplee PDP District 8

Legislative Chairman Tina Roberts made her presentations:

Group 1: First Place: Mohawk Valley Auxiliary to Post 3275 District 3
Second Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2
Third Place: Frank P Curry Jr Auxiliary to Post 2718 District 10
Group 2: First Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6
Second Place: Cpl. George Benkert Jr Auxiliary to Post 516 District 10
Third Place: Albert A Gonyea Auxiliary to Post 3357 District 9

Group 3: First Place: Chili Memorial Auxiliary to Post 412 District 8

Second Place: Hamlin Auxiliary to Post 6703 District 8

Third Place: Palmyra Memorial Auxiliary to Post 6778 District 8

Group 4: First Place: Goodrich-Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8

Second Place: Ballston Spa Auxiliary to Post 358 District 3

Third Place: Dusenberry-Flannery Auxiliary to Post 2064 District 2

Group 5: First Place: Perinton Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8495 District 8

Second Place: Lockport Auxiliary to Post 2535 District 7

Third Place: Lt. John F O'Grady Auxiliary to Post 1384 District 10

Group 6: First Place: Little Valley Auxiliary to Post 8734 District 6

Second Place: Hamburg Township Auxiliary to Post 1419 District 6

Third Place: Franklinville Auxiliary to Post 9487 District 6

1. \$50 Award for Most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative Education:

Goodrich Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8

2. \$50 award for the Most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative Participation:

Goodrich Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8

District President's Citation: Lisa Raplee PDP District 8

Gold Star Mothers Kim Vandenburg, Terry Farley, and Ann Davis were each escorted individually with the colors. They spoke about their STARS and about their organization. After speaking they were given a gift from President Robles and were invited to stay for the Auxiliary's Memorial Service. They accepted the invitation.

The Bible was closed and a short break was taken before the Memorial Service.

The Bible was reopened

President Robles called the meeting back to order. She reminded attendees that our Memorial Service was about to begin. She requested phones be silenced to avoid any disturbance during the service and asked Mr. Guard Pro Tem to allow any members waiting in the hall to enter before we began the service.

Conductor Craig and the colors draped the charter in Memory of Past National President Peggy Haake and our Brothers and Sisters who went to their Heavenly Homes this year.

One verse of "Nearer My God to Thee" was sung as part of the service.

The Conductor and Chaplain prepared the altar for the Memorial Service. President Robles requested Chaplain Guyette to preside. The traditional Auxiliary Memorial Service was conducted.

520 Members as well as PDP Mary Kreuzer and PNP Haake were memorialized.

Soloist Esther Reape sang "May the Road Rise to Meet You" and "How Great Thou Art" and PDP Mary Makosky delivered the Memorial Address. The altar was then rearranged.

Before the meeting adjourned for the Awards Luncheon President Robles reminded everyone that the luncheon would begin at noon and we had a lot of business including finishing awards and election of officers in the afternoon session which would begin promptly at 1:30.

Chaplain Guyette closed the Bible and the meeting recessed to begin again at 1:30 PM.

**** Note-** no minutes were recorded at the luncheon, but for the record the following awards were presented:

Auxiliary President and Runner-Up President per Membership group were read by Secretary Leavor while certificates and gifts were presented by the Department President.

Group I- Runner-Up: Steven Kemna Aux 5861 District 6

President of the Year: Amber Sullivan Aux 7276 District 2

Group II- Runner-Up: Guy Hoffman Aux 600 District 4

President of the Year: Gina Rabideau-Norton Aux 3357 District 9

Group III- Runner-Up: Patricia Rabb Aux 1017 District 6

President of the Year: Joan Russell Aux 1374 District 2

Group IV- Runner-Up: Judy Lefebvre Aux 309 District 9

President of the Year: Frances Inslee Aux 9592 District 10

Group V- Runner-Up: Cyndee Butler Aux 5913 District 2

President of the Year: Lori Juskiewicz Aux 7765 District 2

Group VI- Runner-Up: Rodger Keenan Aux 524 District 5

President of the Year: Ruth Huber Aux 8734 District 6

District President of the Year Runner-Up: PDP Lisa Raplee District 8

District President of the Year: Aurelia Taylor District 6

Friday Afternoon

June 12, 2026

PDP/ District 8 President Lisa Raplee opened the afternoon session welcoming everyone back and congratulating President Justine on a great convention and year. Control of the meeting was then returned to President Justine Robles.

The Chaplain opened the Bible.

Lynn Halstead presented a final credentials report. She went through the list to verify how everyone was voting. Final result Lynn made a motion on behalf of the Committee to accept the final report of 345 votes/ 173 needed to be elected. After some discussion, the motion was accepted unanimously.

President Robles appointed PDP Marianne McLane as Judge and District 6 President Aurelia Taylor and Secretary Deborah Cenni as Tellers.

The President then called the third time for nominations. Hearing no further nominations Belinda Cole was elected by Acclamation as President of the Department of NY for the 26-27 membership year.

Charlene Carnright was elected by acclamation as the Sr Vice President for the 26-27 membership year.

Deanna Guyette was elected by acclamation as the Jr Vice President for the 26-27 membership year. There were two nominees for Department Treasurer. By a majority vote Kim White was elected as Treasurer for the 26-27 membership year.

Craig Keitel was elected by acclamation as the Chaplain for the 26-27 membership year.

Chris Leavor was elected by acclamation as the Conductor for the 26-27 membership year.

Kimberly Cavallo was elected by acclamation as the Guard for the 26-27 membership year.

There were three nominees for the position of National District Council member #4: Debra McCarthy, Kimberly White, and PDP Karen Dotson. By a majority vote PDP Karen Dotson was elected to represent the Departments of New York and Delaware on the Council of Administration as Council member #4. Karen expressed her thanks for the support.

President Justine thanked her Judge and Tellers and dismissed them.

Membership Chairman Chris Leavor gave a final report and presented the last Membership awards. The Brooklyn Bridge Award: for the Greatest Numerical Increase in Current Membership on May 31, 2026- Franklinville Auxiliary to Post 9487 District 6

Membership Blue Awards: For the Auxiliary in each membership Group with the Highest Paid membership percentage on June 1, 2026

Gr I- Aux 551 District 1	Gr II Aux 8726 District 8
Gr III Aux 6778 District 8	Gr IV Aux 7127 District 5
Gr V Aux 5913 District 2	Gr VI Aux 9487 District 6

Lori Juszkievicz, Chairman presented program awards for the **Scholarships** Program.

Group 1: First Place: Samuel Cimino Auxiliary to Post 6472 District 6

Second Place: Frank P Curry Auxiliary to Post 2718 District 10

Third Place: Allan Milk Memorial Auxiliary to Post 7276 District 2

Group 2: First Place: Amherst Township Auxiliary to Post 416 District 6

Second Place: Jayne-Lattin Auxiliary to Post 2913 District 11

Third Place: Albert A Gonyea Auxiliary to Post 3357 District 9

Group 3: First Place: Chili Memorial Auxiliary to Post 412 District 8

Second Place: Col John B Weber Auxiliary to Post 898 District 6

Third Place: Hamlin Auxiliary to Post 6703 District 8

Group 4: First Place: Goodrich-Smith Auxiliary to Post 8649 District 8

Second Place: Peru Memorial Auxiliary to Post 309 District 9

Third Place: Levittown-Island Trees Auxiliary to Post 9592 District 10

Group 5: First Place: The Greater Mahopac Auxiliary to Post 5491 District 2

Second Place: The Red Hook Auxiliary to Post 7765 District 2

Third Place: Lockport Auxiliary to Post 2535 District 7

Group 6: First Place: Little Valley Auxiliary to Post 8734 District 6

Second Place: Charles N DeGlopper Memorial Auxiliary to Post 9249 District 6

Third Place: Silas Wainwright Auxiliary to Post 6338 District 9

District President's Citation: Marie-Aymee Fisk District 9

Tracy Damato, **Youth Activities** Chairman presented next.

Group 1: First Place: Brewster Auxiliary to Post 672 District 2

Second Place: Elma, Marilla, Wales, Rademacher Auxiliary to Post 5861 District 6

Third Place: H Russell Kenyon Auxiliary to Post 5808 District 2

Group 2: First Place: Albert A Gonyea Auxiliary to Post 3357 District 9

Second Place: Jayne-Lattin Auxiliary to Post 2913 District 11

Third Place: East Greenbush Auxiliary to Post 7338 District 3

Group 3: First Place: Chili Memorial Auxiliary to Post 412 District 8

Second Place: Hamlin Auxiliary to Post 6703 District 8

Third Place: Lyons Memorial Auxiliary to Post 5092 District 8

Group 4: First Place: Ghent Auxiliary to Post 5933 District 3

Second Place: Peru Memorial Auxiliary to Post 309 District 9

Third Place: Sgt Edward R Miller Auxiliary to Post 7336 District 1
Group 5: First Place: Perinton Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8495 District 8
Second Place: James J Cruden Auxiliary to Post 5007 District 6
Third Place: Lockport Auxiliary to Post 2535 District 7
Group 6: First Place: Little Valley Auxiliary to Post 8734 District 6
Second Place: Pine Valley Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2522 District 6
Third Place: Town of Cuba Memorial Auxiliary to Post 2721 District 6
District President's Citation: Lisa Raplee PDP District 8

Announcements:

- 26-27 Presidents, Chairmen, PDPs, Officers everyone except District Presidents will have ½ hour to sign out their Pres Packs in the hallway after this meeting
- Joint Special Project Fund raiser- Dunk Tank is outside. Anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome.
- 26-27 District Presidents will get their packs after the Council of Administration meeting tomorrow afternoon.

President: We will prepare to recess until 8:15 tomorrow morning.

The Chaplain was directed to close the Bible, and the meeting was adjourned until 8:15 Saturday morning.

Saturday, June 14, 2025 Day 3 Department Convention

Veterans & Family Support Chairman Kim Cavallo opened this session of the convention with congratulatory comments and well-wishes. She turned the gavel over to President Justine Robles.

President Robles asked the Chaplain to open the Bible.

Secretary Leavor called the rolls again. The only change was Color Bearer #2 Lisa Potter had to leave. Pro Tem for Saturday was Debbie Swantz.

The Committee to Audit the VAVS books, Sandra Flynn PDP, District 9 President Marie-Aymee Fisk, and District 4 President Marcia Williams reported.

Historian PDP/District 8 President Lisa Raplee presented the Historian's Reel Award to Auxiliary 7227, District 4

The Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary 2025-2026 Grand President Karen Dotson and the incoming 2026-2027 Grand President Darlene Baker were escorted into the room. They spoke about their organization and material that had been included in the Convention folders.

President Robles and National Guard Cynthia Davis left to visit the VFW.

Madam Sr Vice President Belinda Cole introduced her Chairmen for the 2026-2027 year.

When Madam President Justine returned from visiting the VFW she was escorted to the altar with the colors. Soloist Esther Reape sang "My Way" President Robles received a heartfelt welcome as she returned to the dais and Sr Vice Cole returned the gavel.

Ways & Means Chairman Jr Vice President Charlene Carnright announced that Gina Rabideau-Norton, President of Auxiliary 3357 won the weekend in the Finger Lakes fundraiser.

Special Project Chairman/District 4 President Marcia Williams announced that \$1445 was raised by the dunk tank. More donations were made, and the final amount raised by the Auxiliary for the HeadStrong Project was \$12,260.53.

PDP Marianne McLane gave the Spring Conference (Corning) report. The Auxiliary had 114 attendees. The Radisson Hotel does not recommend their hotel as a location for a Joint Conference in the future. It is not large enough.

Americanism Chairman ProTem James Lisa distributed 31 participation certificates to the units that carried their Colors at Thursday's Joint Opening Massing of the Colors.

Historian PDP Lisa Raplee presented President Justine with a digital photo frame with over 500 photos on it.

The Line Officers presented a gift to President Robles
The District Presidents presented a gift to President Robles
The Chairmen presented a gift to President Robles.

The Chaplain closed the Bible. A short break was taken before installation

The Bible was reopened.
The family of President-elect Belinda Cole was escorted to the dais.
Installing Officer PSC Michael Hoag was escorted to the dais.
Installing Conductors were Maryellen DesForge and Flora Becker

Officers installed were:

President: Belinda Cole who was escorted to the altar by her husband.	
Sr. Vice President: Charlene Carnright	Jr Vice President: Deanna Guyette
Treasurer: Kim White	Secretary: Amber Sullivan
Chaplain: Craig Keitel	Conductor: Chris Leavor
Chief of Staff: Ruth Huber PDP	Guard: Kimberly Cavallo
Jr Past Department President: Justine Robles	District 1 Pres: John Sanford
District 2 President: Lori Juskiewicz	District 3 President: Patricia McSwain
District 4 President: Robin Ireland	District 5: President Darlene Baker
District 6 President: Monica Heitzenrater	Abs. Will be installed at the Fall Council meeting)
District 7 President: Jane Howard-Beaudoin	District 8 President: Lisa Raplee PDP
District 9 President: Jeff Platt	District 10 President: Mary Makosky PDP
National District Council Member #4 Karen Dotson PDP	Patriotic Instructor: Rebecca Sweet
Historian: Lisa Raplee PDP	Color Bearer #1: Lynne Loga

Color Bearer #2: Vanessa Preston
Color Bearer #4: Sharon Combs
Flag Bearer: Carol Kraus
Musician: Becky King
Assistant Guard: Maryellen DesForge
POW?MIA Flag Bearer: Roberta Fox Boone

Color Bearer #3: James Lisa
Banner Bearer: Joan Russell
Soloist: Esther Reape
Assistant Conductor; Charlene Favata
Assistant Soloist Mary Makosky PDP

Deputy Chiefs of Staff if not already in the line were asked to stand and take their oath at their seats.

District 1: Kim Cavallo, James Lisa

District 2: Debbie Casella (Absent, will be installed at Fall Conference) Sandra Flynn PDP

District 3; Marie McClumpha, Maryellen DesForge, Michael Joyce

District 4: Deanna Guyette, Marianne McLane, Karen Kravec

District 5: Linda Flanagan, Jean Sabol, Agnes Stamp

District 6: Deborah Fucina, Margaret Sheldon (Absent, will be installed at Fall Conference), Chris Leavor

District 7: Charlene Favata, Lorena Bennett

District 8 Phyllis Walker (Absent, will be installed at Fall Conference), Charlene Carnright

District 9: Judy Lefebvre, Marie-Aymee Fisk

District 10: Frances Inslee

District 11: Keri Najdzion (Absent, will be installed at Fall Conference)

After President Belinda addressed the members, the 2025-2026 officers returned to their stations.

The Secretary requested that Conductor Craig Keitel and Assistant Conductor Alyssa Horsky escort Jr Past Department President Justine and PDP Lisa Raplee to the altar. Jillian Pieprzak was also escorted to the altar to assist PDP Raplee in presenting Jr Past Department President Robles with her pin.(and a teary-eyed hug)

After pinning- Lisa and Justine will remained at the altar, and Madam Chaplain Deanna closed the Bible. The PDPS gathered at the altar and announced the conditions of Justine' probationary period. She either gives up Dunkin' for a year or brings NY bagels to PDPs at all Department meetings for the ensuing year.

Chaplain reopens the Bible.

Madam National Guard Cynthia Davis addressed the membership. She spoke about Legacy Life Membership, recognized the great work of the floor team, in particular "the twins" and Conductor Craig. She had a \$25 donation to The HeadStrong Project, discussed the expense of printing annual dues cards. PDP Lisa Raplee delivered a response.

The meeting was closed according to the Ritual, to reconvene at the Fall Conference.

Respectfully submitted:

Chris Leavor

Department of NY VFW Auxiliary Secretary