

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK AUXILIARY TO DISTRICT 6
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026 *NEWSLETTER* ~ PAGE 1

2025-2026 OFFICERS

President: Aurelia Taylor
17 Old Portage Road Apt. B
Westfield, NY 14787
(716) 269-4041
aureliataylor@yahoo.com

Sr. Vice: Monica Heitzenrater
238 West Main Street
Gowanda, NY 14070
(716) 720-1313
monicakenney54@gmail.com

Jr. Vice: Patricia Measer
5430 Maple Springs Ellery Rd
(716) 450-9055
aoede2149@yahoo.com

Secretary: Deborah L. Cenni
36 Parkside Street
Mayville, NY 14757
(716) 753-3757
bigbear2102@fairpoint.net

Treasurer: Chris Leavor
2027 Cemetery Hill Road
Franklinville, NY 14737
(716) 676-2400
CAL2027@hotmail.com

Chaplain: Steven Kemna
600 Aurora Street
Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 684-9369
skemna@roadrunner.com

Conductor: Beth Ecker
2501 Busti Stillwater Road
Jamestown, NY 14701
(716) 450-5817
Cas_per_68@hotmail.com

Guard: Pamela Spink
6 North 4th Street
Allegany, NY 14706
(716) 307-1773
pamelaspink@aol.com

Department of NY Treasurer
After 5 PM daily or weekends
Kim White
1799 Fred Road
Schenectady, NY 12303
(518) 275-7283
kwhitewvlt@aol.com

Dear District 6 Presidents and Auxiliary Members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year's. Thanks to all those who sent a card or were able to get together with me. It made my Holiday season much brighter. Thank you to District 6 Auxiliaries for making sure their Officer dues were paid by Dec. 31st and congratulations for being the first District to have its component Auxiliary Inspections completed in the Department!

My thanks to District 6 Commander Tom Rabb and Veterans for inviting me to attend their OTI on Nov 1st at Felton Burns Post #5260. I learned a great deal, especially the differences as to how the VFW and Auxiliary operate. It was a very informative day and well worth the drive to Springville.



Veterans Day found me at my own Post/Auxiliary #8647 in Mayville, NY. Despite the inclement weather, there was a nice crowd attending the non-conventional ceremony which was well received. I assumed the role of Chaplain. We were treated to an informative Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight presentation made by American Legion State Chaplain and Brocton's Commander Mattie McIntyre. Mattie encourages all eligible veterans to apply for the trip. She also spoke about the first all-female veteran Honor Flight trip she participated in.

In December, Debbie Cenni delivered your Holiday Cheer donations to Gold Star Mother Ann Davis. Ann was overwhelmed by the generosity of District 6 Auxiliaries and said, "Thank you is just not enough."

URGENT Membership Application! Effective January 1, 2026 use only the *REVISED JANUARY 2026 form* (check the lower right hand corner). A copy is included in this newsletter. Any other forms will be returned. A Zoom presentation will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7 PM. The invitation was recently emailed by Dept. Sec'y/Membership Chairman Chris Leavor. President Aurelia will email a reminder. ***All members are encouraged to attend.***

Please review your rosters! Update contact information and deceased members in Malta. See Resolution 1 from the National Organization below. A few additional reminders as we make our way toward our March 7th meeting in Springville and our April 25th Convention in Mayville:

If you plan to run for a District 6 Line Office, please email your Auxiliary's letter of endorsement to Secretary Debbie Cenni ***preferably*** before the March 7th meeting. We would like to know who is running for office and if we need to seek out interested members to fill any vacancies.

District 6 Member of the Year nominations should be sent to Chris Leavor no later than April 1, 2026. Nomination forms were included in your Organizational Folders which were distributed in June. Contact Debbie Cenni if you need a form.

Auxiliaries should be using the 2026 Podium edition which is available for purchase from the VFW store or for download to your computer through MALTA. The newly approved ritual wording for the Chaplain's and President's opening are found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Winter can be a difficult time for our veterans and members. A quick note or a phone call can make all the difference.

Stay safe and Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue ...
Aurelia Taylor, District 6 President

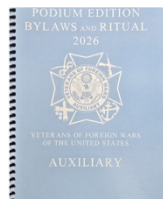
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK AUXILIARY TO DISTRICT 6
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER ~ PAGE 2

2025-2026 National
Program Book



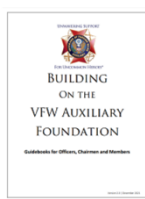
2025-2026 National Program
Book

Podium Edition
Bylaws & Ritual



Podium Edition Bylaws and
Ritual

Building on the VFW
Auxiliary Foundation



Building on the VFW Auxiliary
Foundation

2026 PODIUM EDITION IS IN MALTA (Under Member Resources) AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE VFW STORE!

Effective January 1, 2026, the Chaplain and President have new wording under **Opening Ceremonies as follows:**

OPENING PRAYER: Chaplain:

Please join me in prayer to the extent that your religious and/or personal beliefs will allow.

President: *Brothers and Sisters, we are assembled again to transact business. Do not let petty jealousies or trivial personalities influence our deliberations.*

Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish fellowship and loyalty to our organization.

I now declare this Auxiliary meeting open for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it. Mister/Madam Guard, admit any member who may be in waiting.



Health and Happiness donation for VFW National Home may be made through Malta or USPS mailed to National Aux Headquarters. Requested is \$.25

... or more ... per member based on June 30, 2025 membership. New York supports two homes and depends on your generosity! District 6 and 16 of its Auxiliaries have donated \$629.75 so far this year.

WE'RE GOING TO THE DOGS! See the attached flyer concerning "Spring Conference Dog Parade."

President Aurelia will collect your \$5 registration fee and dog at the Spring meeting to be held on March 7th in Springville. Dogs will then be donated locally.

Please note: There are no January/February calendars as no events were submitted to the District Secretary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **District 6 Spring Meeting** – March 7, 2026 – Felton Burns VFW #5260 (Springville) at 11 AM. Trustees should arrive prior to the meeting to conduct an audit. Program Chairman, please email your report to Secretary Debbie Cenni by March 1st.
- **2026 District 6 Convention** – April 24 and 25, 2026 at the VFW Post 8647 in Mayville. Packets will be emailed in January and a printed packet provided at the Spring meeting. Be sure to adhere to deadlines.
- **Dept of NY Spring Conference** – March 27 and 28, 2026 at the Radisson Hotel in Corning. Packets will be emailed to Auxiliaries by Dept Sec'y Chris Leavor.

SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE! District 6 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essays and Citizenship Teacher of the Year nominations were judged in November. The winners are as follows:

Patriots Pen – 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Sydney Forsythe (DeGlopper Post #9249).

Morgan G. DelConte (Pvt. Leonard Post #6251).

Noah D. Piurek (DeGlopper Post #9249).

Voice of Democracy – 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Oliver Tupper (John F. Ahrens Post #5296).

Cole Anstett (DeGlopper Post #9249).

Eligh L. DeLeon (Tiffany Post #53).

Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year:

Elementary K-5 – Allan Dunlap (Franklinville).

Middle School 6-8 – Virginia Maltbie (Pine Valley).

High School 9-12 – Patricia Rizzo (Bemus Point).

Congratulations to the above winners and thank you to all the students, teachers, posts and auxiliaries that participated in this year's contest.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 adopted at the August 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention, Auxiliaries and Departments are required to review their membership rosters at least annually and ensure that all deceased members are entered as deceased in MALTA or by other official means.

A printed roster was distributed to each Auxiliary at the District 6 re-organizational meeting in June. Please update member contact information, **remove deceased members**, etc. directly in Malta or contact Dept. Sec'y Chris Leavor.

ON VACATION! District Secretary Debbie Cenni will be away from her desk Jan 7 to Jan 28. Contact President Aurelia with any concerns during that time.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Please print legibly. An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, D or E and H,I. Auxiliaries/Departments complete sections B,F,G.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name ☐ Female ☐ Male
 Address Date of Birth / /
 City State ZIP Phone () - Email

Auxiliary Post No. City State
☐ New Member ☐ Transferring Member ☐ Rejoining Member (Prior Member ID Number)
☐ Member at Large in Department of ☐ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

(Transfer only information)

☐ ANNUAL TRANSFER ☐ LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER

Member ID Previous Auxiliary ☐ Paying ☐ Nonpaying

☐ **POST-AFFILIATED** (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)
 VFW Membership ID VFW Post (Must be same as B)

☐ **NON-AFFILIATED** (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)
 Name of campaign ribbons or medals:
 Dates of Service: to Foreign Location:

Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID
 Check one: Aux ☐ VFW ☐

Investigating Committee Signatures

1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒
 Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. ☐ Rejected ☐ Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date

☐ Annual Membership ☐ Life Membership ☐ Check here if this is a gift (Membership card will be sent to Treasurer and not member.)

Payment Method and Amount: Cash ☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ ***

***If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided above for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days; otherwise the application will be voided. If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please list your phone number and email address below to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed.

Phone Email

OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.

Signature ☒ Date

(Must be signed by all members.)

By filling out this application and providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from the VFW Auxiliary. The communications may include updates, promotions, and other information related to our services. Communications may be in the form of emails, SMS text messages, and/or automated calls. You understand that these communications may be sent using an automated telephony dialer system. Standard message and data rates may apply. You can opt out at any time by following the instructions provided in the communications. No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

Revised January 202



Joining is Rewarding!

When you join the VFW Auxiliary, you have the opportunity to:

- **Support Veterans, Service Members and Their Families.**

The VFW Auxiliary offers numerous avenues for service, such as hospital volunteering, the adoption of military units and promoting patriotism. Anyone with a heart for veterans can count their membership as an important way to stand with veterans and the military community on Capitol Hill and on local legislative issues affecting them.

- **Develop New Skills.**

The VFW Auxiliary offers numerous ways for members to acquire and utilize skills such as leadership, public speaking, fundraising, event planning and community outreach.

- **Network and Develop Friendships.**

Through local and national events, members have the chance to meet people from all walks of life and many career backgrounds, creating a vast network of people who are passionate about veterans, service members and their families.

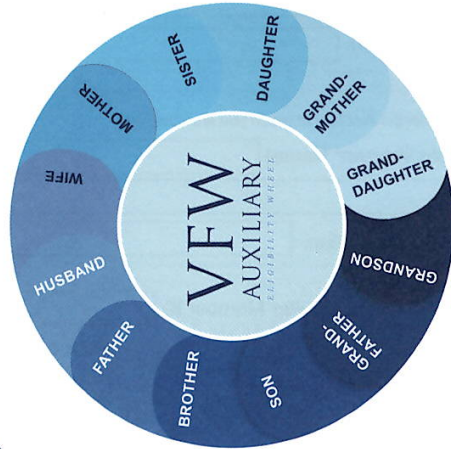
- **Receive Service Benefits.**

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to offer members access to one of the nation's largest networks of money-saving products and services in the insurance and benefits industry.

- Discounted policies for life, health, accident, long-term care and dental insurance, along with many other benefit plans.
- Access to discounts on products and services that are important to you — including local offers!
- Credit cards and certain financial services are available through USAA.

Who Can Join?

Our organization comprises nearly a half million members from diverse backgrounds who have a common connection: all are at least 16 years of age and are relatives of a VFW-eligible veteran.*



Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

*Eligible veteran does not have to be a member of the VFW.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

www.vfwauxiliary.org/join-us

Questions?

Contact National Headquarters at
info@vfwauxiliary.org
or 816-561-8655

Join Us!

Membership in the VFW Auxiliary is an excellent way to show your support of America's veterans.

Our National Programs:

- Assist the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families.
- Provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system.
- Conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students.
- Offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation's youth.

What's expected of me?

As a VFW Auxiliary member, you will be asked to:

- Pay dues.
- Attend meetings and events.
- Use your skills and talents to make a difference.

Volunteer with us and celebrate the freedoms we enjoy thanks to those who served.

SPRING CONFERENCE DOG PARADE

**Come One, Come All!!
Bring Your Stuffed Dogs, Big or Small!!**

A \$5 registration fee will be charged PER dog and PER category.

The 5 Categories will be:

Most Patriotic

Most Unique

Biggest

Smallest

Softest

**Each registered dog will receive a one-of-a-kind Buddy Poppy Bandana,
signed by "Honor", and a tin tab poppy.**

Dogs may be registered in as many categories as the owner wishes.

Tickets will be sold to vote for the winner of each category.

**Dogs may be kept or donated to a local fire department or
police station after event.**

