

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY TO DISTRICT 6 DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
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Dear District 6 VFW Auxiliary Members,

It's only 21 days to Spring! At last, we will see the crocuses and tulips start to push their heads out of the dreaded snow of Western New York. As we are waiting for the end of Winter, it's time for us to do all those End-of-Year Reports.

The reports are found at the end of the Program Guide and are due March 31<sup>st</sup> to the respective Department Program Chairmen. You may email them as an attachment or take a picture and send as a text or take your reports to the Spring Department Conference in Binghamton on March 21-22.

Please make sure that you add up **ALL** the Veterans who were helped and **ALL** the donations collected. That means **all** the veterans and donations from the programs of Americanism, "Buddy" Poppy, National Home, Legislative, Scholarship, Special Project and Veterans and Family Support and put those totals on the Veterans and Family Support End-of-Year Report. Our District 6 auxiliaries do SO-O-O-O much and donate SO-O-O-O much. Get credit for your work!

So far, on the Department Program Report, we are only lacking a few reports-a few Membership Drives and a few Auxiliary Outreach reports. Keep up your great work and "REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!"

Keep up your membership recruitment and do your best to get those last few annual members to pay their dues. We do have 36 life members on our District membership roster who are over 100 years old and 132 life members who are 90 – 100 years old. Please check your auxiliary membership roster to see if they are still with us. Our Goal is 100+% by June 30<sup>th</sup>!

In February, it was my pleasure to attend the National Mid-Year Conference in Cancun, Mexico with our District 6 Secretary Debbie Cenni. It was a special networking opportunity for District 6 and, of course, to enjoy the beautiful sunny weather, the calming pools and the great food. After that, it was my one chance to visit #5861 EMW Radmacher in Elma and see the great progress President Steve Kemna and auxiliary members are making after the loss last year of their president, Ann Ferguson and treasurer, Marlene Baumgartner.

In last month's newsletter article, I encouraged members to visit other auxiliaries. As a special incentive, it is my pleasure to sponsor a special \$50.00 award to the auxiliary with the highest percentage of members visiting other auxiliaries. Of course, your members have to visit and complete an easy report about their visit. All entries are to be submitted to the District Secretary by June 15<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the award. Report form to be provided at the District 6 meeting in Salamanca on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Spring! Happy St. Patrick's Day! Happy End-of-Year Reporting!

Loyally, *Dee Ippolito*

Doris "Dee" Ippolito, District 6 President

*Department President Darlene Baker's motto: "Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families"*  
*National President Brenda Bryant's motto: "From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans"*

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According to Bylaws Sec. 810A.J Auxiliaries are to “Assure that the President or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings.”

• **District 6 Spring Meeting** is March 8 in Salamanca at 11 AM. Auxiliary members will be meeting at the American Legion.

District Program Chairmen are requested to email a copy of their report to District Secretary Debbie Cenni prior to the meeting.

• **District 6 Convention** will be held at Post 8647 in Mayville on April 25 and 26, 2025. Packets were emailed. A printed copy will be distributed at the March meeting. *Save a stamp! Complete the forms – bring your checks to the March meeting and – submit them to respective chairmen! Pay attention to the following deadlines!*

March 24, 2025: Hotel Group rate (\$79.99)

April 15, 2025: Advance Convention Registration

April 15, 2025: Lunch and/or Dinner Reservation

April 15, 2025: Booster / Ad Book

• **Deceased Member Names for Memorial Book** will include those names entered in Malta from May 1, 2024 to April 15, 2025. Enter names in Malta or submit them to Dept Sec’y Chris Leavor.

Department President Darlene Baker wrote the following in the Feb/Mar *Auxiliary News* President’s letter: “I would ask that you review your roster to confirm that it is accurate and if you have any deceased members, please record the death by February 28, 2025. We want our records to be as complete and accurate as possible.”

District 6 has many deceased members on their active member rosters. Debbie Cenni has a listing of members 90+ years old who are deceased.

• **VFW National Home Health and Happiness**

All Auxiliaries in District 6 and District 6 donated to the VFW National Home Health and Happiness fund. The VFW National Home receives NO government support or funding. It depends solely on your generosity. New York currently supports two homes.

• **District 6 Member of the Year** Nomination forms were included in packets distributed at the organizational meeting in June. Return your form by April 15<sup>th</sup> to this year’s chairman, Chris Leavor.

Contact Chris if you have questions.

• **First Day of Spring – March 20** The Vernal Equinox arrives 5:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time.



• **Zoom Trainings** – Topics TBA March 11 and March 27 at 7:30 PM. You don’t need a computer to Zoom – you can dial in with a cell or land-line phone!

• **Membership News!** District 6 was at 95.71% as of January 31<sup>st</sup>. We only need 123 more to attain 100%. Please DO NOT hold membership dues! Contact District 6 Treasurer Chris Leavor with ??’s.

• **Deceasing members who have passed away!**

Department Secretary Chris Leavor removed six deceased life members from just one Auxiliary. They had passed away ranging from 3 to 7 years ago. That auxiliary collected National’s rebate all those years ... totaling over \$76. That is just one auxiliary in one Department ... imagine how many deceased members there are in the National organization. This is essentially theft of funds. *Those auxiliaries are collecting money they are not entitled to.* We lament about the rising cost of membership yet collectively contribute to it. Just imagine how many life members National pays for who have gone to their Heavenly Homes ... it must be thousands of dollars! Something to think about. Please do the honorable thing by reporting/ entering deceased members in a timely manner.

• **Daylight Savings Time** arrives Sun, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Set your clocks AHEAD one hour. A good time to check your smoke detector and/or CO batteries.

• **Saint Patrick’s Day – March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Despite the name, “corned beef” does not contain corn! The term dates back to at least the 17th century when the ‘corns’ of salt were large enough to be referred to as ‘corns,’ which is an old term for grains or small particles. Traditional Irish stew is a hearty soup made with lamb, potatoes, carrots and celery.

• **March 29 – Vietnam War Veterans Day** was signed into law in 2017. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil.

• **45+ Year Member Recognition** If your Aux has members who have belonged in good standing for 45+ years, and you wish the Department to recognize them with a certificate, complete the form found on the Dept. website (vfwauxny.org) under ■Resources ■Secretary Notes ■45+. USPS or email form to PDP Karen Dotson by May 1<sup>st</sup>.