

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY DISTRICT 8



To: District 8 Line Officers, VFW Auxiliary Presidents, Program Chairmen,
District 8 Past Department Presidents
From: Lisa Raplee, PDP, and District 8 President
Date: March 25, 2026
Subject: April / May District 8 Newsletter

District President's Message.....

I would like to thank all members for your hard work this year! We are ending our program year with year-end reports due to all Department Chairman no later than April 15, 2026.

Please keep track of all your activities from April 1, 2026 and on so that you can submit them to the new chairmen after the Department Convention. Please be sure to read all information in this newsletter as it is important to remind your auxiliaries of all that will be coming up with elections and dates for submission of all forms.

At our May 3, 2026 District meeting, we will be holding elections. If you are unable to attend, please submit a letter to the District Secretary if you are willing to accept any office elected or appointed. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding auxiliary elections, or anything else your auxiliary may need.

I would like to leave you with this: Alone we can ponder many things; together as a team we can conquer them!

If you have any questions, please contact me at 607-368-1435, email lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com. I look forward to seeing you all on May 3rd in Waterloo.

District Convention Meeting - The District 8 Convention meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 3, 2026 at Waterloo Memorial Post 6433**, 29 West Elisha Street, Waterloo. The Audit will be held at 1 PM; and the business meeting will begin at **2:00 PM**.

A reminder from the Department:

1. **1st Quarter Audit** – The January, February, March Quarterly Audit is due to the Department Treasurer by May 31, 2026 or sooner. Audits may be sent through the USPS mail, scanned via email or faxed to the Dept. Treasurer. Please do not **TEXT** the Audit.
2. Dept. Program Year End Reports – due to Dept. Chairmen before April 15, 2026.
3. President Year End Reports – due to the Dept. President, Justine Robles before May 1, 2026.
4. Dept. Convention – Scheduled for June 10 – 13, 2026 at the Albany Marriott, Albany, NY.
More details to follow from the Dept. VFW

District Programs

Veterans and Family Support – Chairman Phyllis Walker would like to extend her appreciation for the overwhelming amount of personal care products to benefit the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center. The Rochester VOC truly appreciates all the support we have provided this program year.

Unmet Needs program has been set up to help America's service members who have run into unexpected financial difficulties. The program provides financial aid of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant – not a loan – so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, the creditor is paid directly. The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for a service connected injury/illness and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

*Veterans Crisis Line serves veterans, families and friends and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. **Call 988 and press 1.***



Americanism - Chairman Ardell Garland reminds everyone to fly your flag on the following patriotic holiday:

1. April 5, 2026 – Gold Star Spouses Day
2. April 9, 2026 – National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day
3. April 13, 2026 – Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
4. April 14, 2026 – Air Force Reserve Birthday
5. April 23, 2026 – Army Reserve Birthday
6. May 1, 2026 – Loyalty Day
7. May 8, 2026 – V-E Day – Victory Day in Europe
8. May 16, 2026 – Armed Forces Day – Recognizing all branches of Service including National Guard and Reserves
9. May 25, 2026 – Memorial Day observed – May 30th – Decoration Day



Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home – Chairman Flora Becker reminds everyone to continue to distribute your Buddy Poppies to benefit your Relief Fund. Please continue to send monthly birthday cards to the VFW National Home – 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Cancer Program – Chairman Sara Raplee reminds everyone of the "In Memory of" and "In Honor of" paper ribbons are available for a donation of \$5.00 each. The ribbons are designed to honor loved ones, celebrate remarkable achievements, and support those affected by cancer.

- Personalization: Each ribbon can be personalized with a name and/or a heartfelt message, allowing you to honor those who have battled cancer or celebrate survivors.
- These ribbons will be prominently displayed throughout the 2026 Dept Convention for all to see, creating a powerful visual tribute.
- The form is a fillable form on the Dept. Website to complete. Checks must be made payable to VFW Aux., Dept. of NY. Completed form and check to be sent to the Dept Cancer Fund Chairman, Amber Sullivan.

Hospital Program - Hospital Chairman, Helen Weeks appreciates all the Pantry Items to be donated at the March District meeting benefiting the veterans at Canandaigua VA.

SCAN TO VIEW VFW-SUPPORTED BILLS
INTRODUCED IN THE 119TH CONGRESS



Legislation – Department Chairman, Tina Roberts is requesting all members to take action on the Action Alerts. The Major Star Act did not pass the Senate. We need to make our voices heard and help get this bill passed.

Remember to send in your monthly reports by the end of the month. Year-end reports are due by April 15th. Also remember to check the national website for the National Legislative Report that needs to be to me by April 15th as well.

Membership Program – Chairman Cindy Campbell shares the following message. I wish to congratulate the following auxiliaries for attaining their 100% in membership: # 412, # 2883, # 4658, # 5092, # 6778, # 8649, and # 8726. Some of the other auxiliaries are very close keep up the good work. If you have some members who have not paid their dues, they have until the end of June to keep their continuous membership. Once they don't pay, they will need to rejoin all over again.

Mentoring – Election of new officers are to be completed during your April meeting. If your meeting is after April 12th, you may do the Auxiliary Installation and Report immediately after the election. Per the Dept. Secretary's email, no Installation may be performed prior to April 12th. If your Auxiliary meets prior to April 12th, your Installation should be completed during your May meeting. Please note the due dates for all forms previously emailed to Auxiliary President's and Secretaries. If you need additional copies, please contact District Secretary, Karen Dotson at kdvfwaux@aol.com. A copy of the Auxiliary Election and Installation Reports need to be sent via email or by USPS to the Dept. Secretary, Chris Leavor, 2027 Cemetery Hill Road, Franklinville, NY 14737. This information is used for the creation of the Department Directory.



The Headstrong Project

<https://theheadstrongproject.org>

President's Special Project – Chairman Lisa Raplee reminds auxiliaries to bring their Auxiliary's 50/50 raffle tickets and payments to the District 8 meeting on Sunday, March 29th. The proceeds of the raffle will benefit the Department President and Commander's Special Projects: Headstrong, 2 NY National Home Cottages, and Homeless Veterans. Drawing will be held at the March 29th District Meeting. Additionally, donations from the Dept. President's luncheon will benefit the President's Special Project.

Scholarship Program – Chairman Beverly Gister reminds Auxiliaries that the deadline for the *YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST AND 3-DIMENTIONAL CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST* is March 31, 2026. Please send your Auxiliary winners to the Dept. Scholarship Chairman, Lori Juszliewicz.

Youth Activities – Chairman Brittany Tierson appreciates the baby blankets and snacks for the Neo-Natal Unit at Strong Memorial Hospital. Thank you for your generosity.

As a reminder, the Illustrating America Art Contest submissions are due to Auxiliaries by March 31, 2026. Auxiliary first place winners are to be submitted to the Dept. Youth Activities Chairman, Tracy Damato by April 15th.

Thank you for your support to our veterans, their families, and your community. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 607-368-1435 or email at lisavfw2425@outlook.com. I encourage you to share the District 8 Newsletter with your auxiliary members. I wish everyone a very blessed Easter holiday.

Loyally,

Lisa Raplee

Lisa Raplee, PDP, District 8 President

Enclosure (1)

Auxiliary Events Happening in District 8

Auxiliary 2883 – Arcadia Memorial

Location: 225 East Union Street, Newark

- Sunday, May 3rd – 11:30 til sold out - Annual Chicken BBQ on May 3rd. \$16 - half a chicken, 4 sides, roll, butter and dessert. 11:30 till sold out

Auxiliary 4658 – Francis Hibbard Post

Location: 344 Dorsey Road, Greece

- Friday - April 3rd - Fish Fry 4PM to 6 PM (Cost \$20.00 – Eat in or Take Out). Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion. Tickets on sale at the Post. Call Post at 585-663-2091 to order your Fish fry or stop in before April 3 to place order.
- Friday – April 3rd - Happy Hour from 5 PM – 8 PM - Music by Harris & Grillo – Last Happy Hour until Fall.
- Saturday – April 4th – 9 AM Sharp - Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast to follow after the hunt – Cost \$5.00 for Adults and children. Open to Community, Post Members and families.
- Sunday, April 26th – American Legion Chicken BBQ – pre-purchase ticket at Post before event. Begins at 4 PM until sold out.

Auxiliary 6200 – Arthur G. Depew Memorial

Location: 7068 State Route 96, Ovid

- Saturday, April 25th – 3PM – 6 PM - Spaghetti Dinner – Cost - \$15.00 per person. Proceeds from fundraiser to benefit the Ovid Federation Church for a new roof
- “Depew Chow Hall” – Open Monday – Friday – 7 AM – 2 PM
Breakfast Served from – 7 AM until 10:30 AM * Lunch Served from – 10:30 AM – 2 PM

Auxiliary 6433 – Waterloo Memorial

Location: 29 West Elisha Street, Waterloo.

- Friday, April 3rd – Fish Fry – 5 PM – 7 PM
- Saturday, June 6th – 80th Anniversary Open House – 2:00 – 4:00 PM; Buffet served at 4:30 PM – Buffet Cost \$10.00 per person; Reservations by May 2nd – Check payable to Waterloo Memorial Post #6433 - Attire – Business Casual
- 40” TV Raffle and Scratch Off Basket Tickets – Tickets are 1 for \$1.00, 3 for \$2.00 or 10 for \$5.00
- Post is Open Friday through Sunday 3 PM to 5 PM

Auxiliary 8649 – Goodrich-Smith Post

Location: 125 Seneca St Ext., Dundee

- Friday – April 3rd – Fish Fry – 4 PM – 8 PM (eat in or take out service available)
- Friday – May 1st – Fish Fry – 4 PM – 8 PM (eat in or take out service available)
- Friday – June 5th – Fish Fry – 4 PM – 8 PM (eat in or take out service available)
- Cash Bash - \$20.00 a Ticket / only 250 Tickets sold – For tickets contact Tina Roberts or Lisa Raplee
- Post Hunters Banquet Tickets Available - \$20.00 donation. Scheduled for May 16, 2026: Ticket includes chance to win 20 guns or cash value, Chicken BBQ dinner and drinks. For more information, please contact Tina Roberts, Aux. President.

Auxiliary 8726 – James R. Moore Memorial Post

Location: 7811 Rt. 21, Naples

- Friday, April 10th - -\$15 at the door – Menu: Fried Haddock, Salt Potato’s or Fries, Cole Slaw or Mac salad, Roll, Dessert