

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: July 1, 2026
Subject: July / August District 8 Newsletter

District President's Message.....

I am so honored to again be serving as your District President this year. I have had a slow start due to some health issues within my family. Thank you to everyone for your kind words, thoughts and prayers. Everyone is on the mend and doing well. I would like to thank our District 8 Secretary, Karen Dotson, for being so patient and helping me keep things going.

By the time you receive this newsletter, all Auxiliary Presidents should have their Presidents Packets. If you have not received them, please contact me so I can make sure you get them and are able to meet all the required deadlines. Please make sure you note any changes with who is the new Department Chairman.

Our Department President Belinda Cole will be making her *official visit to District 8 at our September 13, 2026*, meeting in Waterloo at VFW Post 6433. We will have lunch prior to the meeting at **12:00 p.m.**, the audit will take place at 1:00 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. The cost of the luncheon will be *by donation* with all money received being donated to the Department President's Special Project.

Your official visits will be getting scheduled, please be prepared when they arrive so things go smoothly. I would like to have them completed as soon as possible so that we do not run into issues with the weather.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 607-368-1435, email lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com. I look forward to seeing you all on September 13th in Waterloo.

District Fall Meeting - The District 8 Fall meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, 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**.

District Dues – District dues for each Auxiliary is 50 cents per member. Auxiliary checks should be made payable to District 8 VFW Auxiliary and mailed to Cindy Winzenried, District 8 Treasurer, 40 Groton Parkway, Rochester, NY 14623.

District Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027 – All Meetings will be held at Waterloo Memorial Post 6433. Please share the dates with your Auxiliary delegates. All members are welcome to attend.

*** September 13, 2026; December 13, 2026; March 14, 2027; May 2, 2027** – District Convention

A reminder from the Department:

1. Auxiliary Presidents are to provide a copy of the Auxiliary's last quarterly audit; notate Auxiliary membership as of June 30, 2026, and provide the copy to the Post Commander before July 31, 2026.
2. **Auxiliary Bonds for President and Treasurer** – Will be available for processing through MALTA **after July 6, 2026**. All bonds **MUST** be paid prior to August 31, 2026.
3. **2nd Quarter Audit** – The April, May, June Quarterly Audit is due to the Department Treasurer by August 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
4. **Department Fall Conference** – Scheduled for September 18-19, 2026 at the Albany Marriott. More details to follow.

District Programs

Veterans and Family Support – Chairman Phyllis Walker would like to extend her appreciation for the overwhelming amount of new clothing, flip flops, and sunscreen received at the May meeting to benefit the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center. The Rochester VOC truly appreciates all the support we have provided their veteran's programs.

Listed below are the requested items for the **September District meeting** to benefit the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center.

- Pasta; Mac and Cheese cups; Ramen packages
- Cereal bars; Ready-to-Go Cereal cups
- Men's 3-in-1 wash (full size preferably)
- Women's shampoo and conditioner (full size preferably)
- Toothpaste (full size preferably)
- Men's deodorant (full size preferably)

*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 holidays:

1. July 4, 2026 – Independence Day
2. July 27, 2026 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
3. August 4, 2026 – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
4. August 7, 2026 – Purple Heart Day – Commemorates the creation of the Purple Heart in 1782 by George Washington.
5. August 29, 2026 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday – Established in 1916



Buddy Poppy – Department Chairman Flora Becker reminds everyone to continue to distribute your Buddy Poppies to benefit your Relief Fund.

VFW National Home – For 2026-2027, this is now a stand-alone program. Health and Happiness donations should be processed through MALTA after July 15th. Please continue to send monthly birthday cards to the VFW National Home – 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

Cancer Program – Chairman Cindy Campbell reminds all Auxiliaries to send their Cancer Fund Tickets to Department Chairman, Tracy Damato. Tickets are \$2.00 per member. Auxiliary checks should be made payable to VFW Aux., Department of NY.

Hospital Program - Chairman, Helen Weeks appreciates all the Baby Items donated at the May District meeting benefiting the veterans at Canandaigua VA.

Items requested for the **September District meeting** are as follows:

- * \$20 Walmart gift cards for the VA Christmas as they need to be turned in before December
- * T-shirts and Sweatshirts in sizes Large to 4XL
- * Personal care items (Regular size only)

Items requested for the **December District meeting** will benefit the Homeless Veterans Program at Canandaigua VA:

- Alarm Clocks, New Bed Pillows, New Blankets
- New Pots & Pans; New Dishes
- Laundry Soap; Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Paper Plates



Legislation – Department Chairman, Tina Roberts is requesting all members to take action on the current Legislation Action Alert. Attached to the newsletter are two letters; one for Senator Gillibrand and one for Senator Schumer. Tina requests that you share these letters with your Auxiliary members to copy, sign, and place in the USPS mail. Please remember to report your Legislative Actions to Department Chairman, Tina Roberts.

Membership Program – Department Chairman Karen Dotson is encouraging Auxiliaries to begin contacting your members for their 2027 annual dues. **Hot off the Press** – Department **August Buzzing Bee Award** - Auxiliaries that achieve 75% in membership by August 31st will be placed in a drawing for \$50.00. Let's see how many Auxiliaries in District 8 can be put into this drawing. Remember to have a membership application with you at all times. You never know when you need one. A copy of the application can be found in the Department President's Guidebook.



President's Special Project – Chairman Tina Roberts wants all members to know that the President and Commander's Special Projects for 2026-2027 is the Helmet to Hives Program. Details on the District fundraiser in support of the special project will be forthcoming at the District meeting.

Scholarship Program – Chairman Beverly Gister reminds Auxiliaries to contact your local Libraries and Middle/High Schools to promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen applications. The theme for both programs this year is: *"What a Veteran Taught Me about America"*. Our District Commander is encouraging all Posts and Auxiliaries to submit at least 1 application for the programs. Let's help Commander Quinones with her request.

Ways and Means – The District will have a Fall Themed Basket Raffle at the September District meeting. All auxiliaries are asked to participate.

Youth Activities – Chairman Brittany Tierson is requesting school supplies to be brought to the September meeting in support of the needs for our youth.

Donation suggestions are: crayons, #2 pencils, erasers, rulers, wide ruled notebook paper, spiral notebooks, color pencils, markers, composition books, pencil cases/boxes, blue and black pens, pocket folders, glue sticks, etc. Thank you for your generosity.

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 Happy 250th Independence Day!

Loyally,

Lisa Raplee

Lisa Raplee, PDP
District 8 President

Enclosures (2)