

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: Tina Roberts, District 8 President
Date: January 29, 2025
Subject: February District 8 Newsletter

Happy St. Valentine's Day to all Auxiliary Members! I hope you are staying warm during these very snowy and bitter cold days. We can only hope that Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow on February 2nd and Spring will be here soon,

Key Dates for your Calendar

Spring District Meeting - The Spring District 8 meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, March 9, 2025 at Waterloo Memorial Post 6433**, 29 West Elisha Street, Waterloo. The Audit will be held at 1 PM; and the meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Each Auxiliary is encouraged to have a least one representative to attend the District meeting.

Reminder - Each Auxiliary is asked to bring an Easter Basket for a raffle. The proceeds from the raffle will go towards the President's Special Project.

A reminder to share with all Auxiliaries from the Department:

1. **4th Quarter Audit** – The October, November, December Quarterly Audit is due to the Department Treasurer by February 28, 2025 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. **March 21 – 22** – VFW Auxiliary Spring Conference – Holiday Inn Downtown Binghamton – Information should have been received by the Department Secretary, Chris Leavor. If you have not received the information, please contact Chris Leavor or Conference Chairman, Karen Dotson. Hotel reservation due date – **February 21st**. Advance Registration and Meal Reservations due by **March 10th**.
3. **Items for Spring Conference** – President Tina will be more than happy to bring to the Spring Conference the items requested. Baby Diapers/wipes, Scratch Off Lottery Tickets, Buddy Poppy Displays
4. **April 1** – All Department Program Year End Reports are due to the Department Chairmen

District Corner

- District Membership Drawing! Congratulations to Auxiliary 6703 Hamlin as the winner of the \$50 drawing for attaining 100% in member by December 31st.
- Congratulations to Auxiliary 8649 for winning the Attendance Raffle for their Relief Fund of \$25.00 at the December meeting.
- Congratulations to Denise White for winning the 50/50 Raffle drawing at the December meeting.

District Programs

Americanism Program – February Patriotic Holidays – Reminders from District Chairman, Ardell Garland

- February 12 – President A. Lincoln's Birthday
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 17 – President's Day
- February 22 - President Washington's Birthday

Remember to fly your flags proudly especially on these days.

Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home – Cash Bash - Department Chairman Flora Becker

- A “Cash Bash” ticket was in each President’s package in June. If you have not already sent in your “Cash Bash” ticket, you still have time. Ticket is \$20.00 payable to VFW Aux., Dept of NY, earmark Cash Bash. Drawing will be done at the Spring Conference. Thank you for your support of the VFW National Home.
- Reminder to start to plan for the “Buddy” Poppy Display Contest which will be judged at the Department Spring Conference. The three categories are: Public Promotion, Memorial or Inspirational, Artistic or Decorative. Please see Department Guidebook for further details.

Hospital Program

Hospital Chairman, Helen Weeks reported for the March 9th District meeting in support of our homeless veterans program at the Canandaigua VA, Auxiliaries are asked to bring the following household items:

- Alarm clocks, laundry baskets, pillows, bedding, blankets, brooms, mops, kitchen items, pots & pans, dishes & utensils, paper towels, cleaning items, paper products (plates & napkins), bath towels, shower curtains, shower curtain hooks, laundry detergent, fabric softener, toilet paper. Thank you for your support.

Membership – Retaining Auxiliary Members - Membership Chairman, Phyllis Walker

The key to retaining VFW Auxiliary members is to ensure that they are receiving value from their membership and that they are aware of the value they are receiving.

Engaging with your members on a regular basis to communicate this value to them helps keep it fresh in their mind and reminds them of why they became members in the first place. So, what are some of the top retention ideas and strategies? Here are three that you may want to try:

1. Communicate through a channel that the member has said they prefer by allowing members to specify their preferred way of communicating, then being able to tailor your communication with them in that format, you are more likely to get a level of engagement back from them. Whether it is email, text message, telephone, or letter, make sure you’re communicating with them how they’ve requested.
2. Focus on the first year. It has been well documented that if you can keep a member for more than a year, then the chances of subsequent renewals increase. This is why the first year is called the “Conversion Year.” Tailor your communication to target these new members specifically and make sure they are as engaged with your local Auxiliary as possible.
3. Let them know their membership is about to expire. Believe it or not, some members may not renew simply because they forgot.

People are busy, and often renewing their membership is not at the top of their “to-do list.” So, make sure you let people know in advance when their membership is about to expire, and communicate with them on a regular basis before December 31.

Remember – if they do not renew, it’s not all lost. Keep on communicating with them on a regular basis – let them know the value they received while they were members, how easy it is for them to rejoin, and what’s in it for them if they do rejoin (for example, benefits, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, etc.). Don’t stop communicating with them until they specifically request it!

Mentoring – There will be two Zoom Training Sessions during the month of February. The zoom invitations will be emailed by the Dept. Secretary.

- a. **February 18**– 7:30 PM – Zoom Training Session on Relief Fund presented by Karen Dotson – All members are welcome to attend.
- b. **February 25** – 7:30 PM – Zoom Training Session on Review of Installation Reports / Delegate Forms with Chris Leavor – All members are welcome to attend.

A Mentoring Moment – Sec. 810 – Secretary’s Duties (All Levels) – General Reminders

- A. The Secretary shall keep in books or files:
1. The current “Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual”
 2. A record of all the minutes of each meeting of the Auxiliary
 - b. It is permissible to secure typed or computer generated minutes in the permanent book or insert in a three ring binder or clip folder.
 - c. **Each minute page of the minutes shall be numbered consecutively and provide a space for the Trustees to initial at audit.**
 - d. **The Treasurer’s reports and the audit reports must be incorporated in the minutes.**
 - e. Corrections shall be made in the margins.
 4. A **General or Special Order file for the current year** in which shall be preserved all orders and circulars issued by the National and Department Headquarters.
 - a. In the order in which they are received
 5. A letter file in which shall be kept all correspondence of the Auxiliary.
 - a. General correspondence to be **retained for one (1) year.**
 - b. Policy and rulings are to be maintained in a **permanent file.**
 - c. **All communications from National or Department Officers are official and shall be read at a meeting before being filed for reference.**

Scholarship Program

Scholarship Chairman, Charlene Carnright wants to remind Auxiliaries they should be contacting Schools, Youth Groups, and connecting on Social Media communicating the VFW Auxiliary Art Contests. The Illustrating America Art Contest, which is part of the Youth Activities Program, is open for students in grades K-8. The 3-D Patriotic Art Contest and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is open to students in grades 9-12. Applications can be printed from MALTA under Member Resources then scroll down to Scholarship. Due date for art submissions is **March 31st**.

The Continuing Education Application is available on Malta. This scholarship is open to all Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. The application must be received by National Headquarters by **February 15, 2025**.

Youth Activities

Youth Activities Chairman, Brittany Tierson is requesting members to bring new baby blankets to the March District meeting. The request is to bring color to a sterile environment at the Strong Memorial Neonatal Unit. Baby blankets may be homemade but not used.

I appreciate all that each of you do for our veterans and their families. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 315-694-0326 or email tinaroberts@frontiernet.net. I encourage you to share this information with your Auxiliary members.

Loyally,

Tina Roberts

Tina Roberts, District 8 President

District Q's and A's Section

Question 1: Where can I locate a form to submit the 45 Plus Year Members?

Answer 1: The 45 Plus Year Member form can be located on the Department website under **Resources** → Secretary Notes → **End of Year Forms/Reports**.

The form is a fillable form where you can input the information and email it to the Department Chairman, Karen Dotson at kdvfwaux@aol.com. If you do not have access to the Department website, please contact Karen at 607-648-9271 and a form will be sent via USPS.



[Download](#) or [Open](#) PDF File Format [HERE](#)

END OF YEAR FORMS/REPORTS:

- [2025 45+ Year Member List Form - Fill-In](#)

Question 2: Who is not able to sign as an Investigating Committee Member on the Membership Application?

Answer 2: Per the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws, Sec 102, Bullet I sub-bullet 2.
- The member making the recommendation **shall not** be a member of the investigating committee.
In addition, sub-bullet 3.a.
ii. The **President shall never** appoint themselves to the committee.
Found on page 13 of the Podium Edition By-laws and Ritual 2025.

Question 3: Who selects the members of the Investigating Committee?

Answer 3: Per the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws, Sec. 102, Bullet I sub-bullet 3.a.i.
Each (membership) application shall be referred to a committee of three (3):
a. **Appointed by the President**.
i. Investigating Committee can change meeting to meeting (not a standing committee), depending on who is in attendance.
Found on page 13 of the Podium Edition By-laws and Ritual 2025.

Auxiliary Events Happening in District 8

Auxiliary 4658 – Francis Hibbard Post

Location: 344 Dorsey Road, Rochester

- **Friday, February 7th** – Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Happy Hour – 4 – 7 PM

Auxiliary 6200 – Arthur G. Depew

Location: 7068 State Route 96, Ovid

- **Saturday, February 1st** – Fire Victim and Community Benefit – **See attached flier**

Auxiliary 6433 – Waterloo Memorial Post

Location: 29 West Elisha St., Waterloo

Waterloo VFW Fish Fry: Fish, Shrimp, or Clam Strips dinner with French Fries and Mac salad.

No Reservations required. For takeout/pick up orders please call 315-539-9771

- **Friday, February 7th** – Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, February 14th** – Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm, (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, February 21st** – Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm, (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, February 28th** - Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm, (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00

Auxiliary 8649 – Goodrich-Smith Post

Location: 125 Seneca St Ext., Dundee

- **Friday, February 7th** – Fish Fry - 4 PM – 8 PM (eat in or take out service available)
Serving fried or broiled Haddock or breaded Shrimp dinners – Cost \$15.00