

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: December 29, 2024
Subject: January District 8 Newsletter

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025 to all District 8 Members. Thank you to all District 8 members who purchased a Glass or Coffee mug for the Department President's Special Project as well as those members who donated, participated, and purchased items from the Bake Sale.

On a personal note, I would like to extend to all District 8 members my sincere appreciation for all the cards, texts, and telephone calls during and after the passing of my mother, Jackie Cosh. Your thoughtfulness meant a lot to my family and I.

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.

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. **January 7 – 7 PM** – Zoom Virtual Birthday Party with the VFW National Home – the Zoom invitation will be sent to all Department Auxiliaries who wish to participate one week prior to event. Attendees are asked to have a cupcake with a lit candle if available to help celebrate and sing “Happy Birthday” to the VFW National Home.
3. **March 21 – 22** – VFW Auxiliary Spring Conference – Holiday Inn Downtown Binghamton – Information will be arriving electronically early January.

District Corner

- District Membership Drawing! One auxiliary in the district will win \$50 for attaining 100% by December 31st. Every auxiliary in the district who reaches 100% by December 31st will be placed in the drawing. Drawing will be held once the Department Membership Report is received in January. A District announcement email will be forthcoming.

District Programs

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

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 20 – Martin Luther King Day

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. Drawing will be done at the Spring Conference. Thank you in advance 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 – Attracting Younger Members

Membership Chairman, Phyllis Walker reminds us about attracting younger members to our Auxiliaries.

Adding younger members is essential to the future of VFW Auxiliary. However, younger people often have hectic schedules, family obligations, and financial constraints that make it difficult to commit to local Auxiliaries. We need to make VFW Auxiliary membership more attractive and more feasible for younger members. Here are several ideas that Auxiliaries can consider attracting younger members to the organization:

- Reach out to current or past Scholarship winners/applicants to join.
- Create social and networking activities that are interesting and convenient for younger people. Encourage younger members to be involved in the planning of these events.
 - Invite groups of younger people to join at the same time to make them feel more comfortable. Help them encourage their peers to get involved as well.
- Foster an auxiliary environment that accepts occasional absences. Perfect attendance is typically not attainable for today’s younger members.
 - Highlight monthly opportunities to get involved in local service projects.
- Assign a current Auxiliary member to serve as a mentor for the first six months to make a new younger member feel welcome.
- Get younger members involved from the start. Younger members are creative and eager to generate new ideas for solving persistent Auxiliary problems. Ensure that the fresh ideas and knowledge of younger members have a voice and a space to grow.
- Offer variety. Be open to the several ways that younger members can participate in your Auxiliary. Find out about their abilities and interests and find ways to put them to good use in your auxiliary’s work.
- Incorporate youth-welcoming messages in all Auxiliary communications that begin with the assumption that younger members are important to the organization because they make valuable contributions, and they are needed at all levels of Auxiliary leadership.

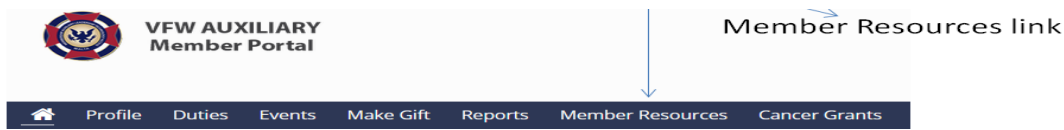
Mentoring – There will be two Zoom Training Sessions during the month of January. The zoom invitations will be sent by the Dept. Secretary.

- January 14, 2025 – 7:30 PM - Programs scheduled are: Membership by PNP Jane Reape, Legislative by Tina Roberts, and Americanism by Rose Cooper
- January 28, 2025 – 7:30 PM - Col, Joe Morris (Retired) will be presenting a program entitled: Modernization of Charitable Gaming

A Mentoring Moment – VFW National Website MALTA – Member Resources

All Auxiliary members have the ability to view the VFW National Website for Member Resources. Members Resources is located under the MALTA login and provides members with the most recent 2024-2025 copy of the National President’s Program Book, the 2025 Podium Edition of the Bylaws and Ritual, and the Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation.

To access MALTA you need to use your Membership Number and Members need to activate their password. Once you log into MALTA, you will be presented with the tool bar and it will have the Members Resource link as shown below.



Click on the Member Resources link and the following page will display:

All Programs will be listed on the left of the screen and the guidebooks are in the middle of the page. You can click on the link under each book in blue and the information will be presented to you. Remember to “Log Out” when you are done reviewing and/or printing the information.



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.

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: Can only Auxiliary Officers view information on the Department VFW Auxiliary website?

Answer 1: All Auxiliary members may view all the information on the Department VFW Auxiliary website. Popular items to view are the Monthly Program Report, Monthly Membership Report, Department Program and Award Information, upcoming conference information and gallery of pictures.

Question 2: Does the Department have a Fillable Program Report form and where is the fillable form located?

Answer 2: Yes, the Department has a Fillable Program Report form. The form is located on the Department Website (www.vfwauxny.org) under the heading of **Programs** → click on **Programs** → scroll down to **2024-2025 Program Report Form Fill-in**. Click on the form link – your screen will display the form. You will be able to enter all information into the form. Save the form and then email the form to the Department Program Chairman.

Auxiliary Events Happening in District 8

Auxiliary 4658 – Francis Hibbard Post

Location : 344 Dorsey Road, Rochester

- **Friday, January 3rd** – Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Happy Hour – 4 – 7 PM

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, January 3rd** – Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, January 10th** – Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm, (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, January 17th** – Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm, (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, January 24th** - Fish Fry – Serving from 5pm-7pm, (or until sold out) Cost \$16.00
- **Friday, January 31st** – 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, January 3rd** – 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