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:	November 1, 2026
Subject:	November / December District 8 Newsletter

Happy Holidays to the Members of District 8:

I hope to see you at the December 13th meeting! Please arrange for your Auxiliary President or a delegate to attend. Important information will be shared, and it is vital that this information gets back to your respective Auxiliaries so members know what is happening not only in the District, but also at the Department level.

If you have not yet paid your annual dues, please do so as soon as possible. If your Auxiliary is able to help a member who may be in need, you may use your Relief Fund to pay that member's dues.

Please make sure you are aware of any items or information requested by the District Chairmen. If your Auxiliary is able to participate, please bring the requested items with you to the meeting.

Reminder: Stop 22 advocate Dave Lippa will be in attendance prior to the meeting. If your Auxiliary is able to make a donation to the Stop 22 project, please make your check payable to District 8 VFW Auxiliary and send it to Cindy Winzenried, our District Treasurer, 40 Groton Parkway, Rochester 14623. Please earmark the donation ***"Stop 22 Project."***

Thank you for your continued dedication, cooperation, and commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. If you have any questions, please contact me at 607-368-1435, email lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com. I look forward to seeing you all on December 13th in Waterloo.

****

District Winter Meeting - The District 8 Winter meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 13, 2026 at Waterloo Memorial Post 6433,** 29 West Elisha Street, Waterloo. The District will have a guest speaker, David Lippa, founder of *"Stop the 22 a Day",* who will speak at 1 PM on the program. All Auxiliary and VFW members are welcome to attend.

The business meeting will begin at **2:00 PM**.

A reminder from the Department:

1. **3rd Quarter Audit** – The July, August, September Quarterly Audit is due to the Department Treasurer before November 30**,** 2026. Audits may be sent through the USPS mail, scanned via email or faxed to the Dept. Treasurer. Please do not **TEXT** the Audit.

District Programs

Veterans and Family Support – District Chairman Phyllis Walker shares the following: ***Did You Know*** that over 121,000 military service members and their families are actively supported by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries through the VFW Adopt-a-Unit program.

Popular Adopt-a-Unit activities include:
- Family Days: Supporting military families and their core mission.
- Events: Hosting Welcome Home, Deployment, and Holiday events.
- Community Projects: Contributing to community activities through volunteer hours and donations
- Direct Assistance: Providing practical support such as lawn care, auto repairs, and home renovations to accommodate newly wounded service members.

I encourage you to work with your Post members to identify any local families or neighbors who are currently deployed and see how we can assist them.

Listed below are the requested items for the **December District meeting** to benefit the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center. All items need to be New.

*** Blankets, Gloves, Scarves, Hats, Mittens**



Americanism – District Chairman Ardell Garland reminds everyone to fly your flag on the following patriotic holidays:

1. November 1 – 30, 2026 - Military Family Month & Warrior Care Month
2. November 10, 2026 – Marine Corps Birthday
3. November 11, 2026 – Veteran's Day – *Flags flown at half-staff until sunset*
4. November 26, 2026 – Thanksgiving Day
5. December 7, 2026 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
6. December 13, 2026 – National Guard Birthday
7. December 19, 2026 – National Wreaths Across America Day
8. December 20, 2026 – Space Force Birthday
9. December 25, 2026 – Christmas

Other Holidays Celebrated:

December 4 – 12, 2026 – Hanukkah
December 26 – January 1, 2027 – Kwanza



Buddy Poppy – Department Chairman Flora Becker reminds all auxiliaries that they can add Buddy Poppies to table decorations for your Veteran's Day luncheon/dinner; Buddy Poppies incorporated into holiday decorations such as wreaths, candle settings, place cards, Christmas tree decorations,

gift decorations, table settings etc. Remember to report all the unique ways you utilize the Buddy Poppy.

VFW National Home – **Honey Bee Challenge by Dept. Chairman Karen Scheuneman**
We're expanding the hive! We're seeking monetary donations to create a VFW National Home Early Education Center *"Bee" Teaching Unit*. Donations provide "Bee" theme books, educational toys, classroom décor, and children's beekeeping accessories. Remit donation checks to VFW Aux., Department of NY earmarked "*NHHB Challenge"* to Kim White, Department of New York Treasurer at 1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303. Report your donation to Chairman Karen Scheuneman.

Additionally, please send in your Health & Happiness donation which is 10 cents per member based on your June 30, 2026 membership. Your donation may be made by utilizing the MALTA system under Treasurer's duties or mail a check earmarked "Health & Happiness" to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Health & Happiness
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Please continue to send monthly birthday cards to the VFW National Home – 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas cards are welcome too!

At the December District meeting there will be a raffle board collection for a chance to win a Life Membership at the VFW National Home. Cost is $2.00 for a square.

Cancer Program – District Chairman Cindy Campbell reminds the following Auxiliaries (5092, 8495, 8726) to send their Cancer Blanket Raffle ticket stubs and monies as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to District 8 VFW Auxiliary and send along with ticket stubs to Cindy Campbell, District Cancer Chairman, 36 Inslee Street, Waterloo, NY 13165. Blanket drawing will be held at the **December District meeting**.

Hospital Program – District Chairman Helen Weeks is requesting the following items for the **December District meeting** which 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
-**New Add to List**: Warm Gloves, Hats and Coats – all items must be New

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

Legislation – Department Chairman Tina Roberts is requesting Auxiliaries to keep promoting the Action Corps Weekly, have the QR code available at any event you are hosting or attending. Explain why taking action is important to your veterans.

Remember, if someone needs assistance, help them scan the QR code and show them how to fill in the information and take action.

We are hoping to host our District Legislative Day at our March 2027 meeting. We will be inviting Legislators on all levels. If you have someone from your county you would like to invite, send me all of their contact information. We want to make this event successful. Start getting familiar with the National priority goals. Start writing down your questions! We can also discuss NYS's priority goals that involve Veteran issues. The Veterans Tax Exemption is one of them we can discuss.

I have been sending lots of information from my National Ambassador regarding the Legislative Day. PLEASE read those emails so we are all on the same page. Discuss them at your Auxiliary meeting and forward the information on to your Auxiliary members. You never know you might have a Legislative buff in your Auxiliary.

Membership Program – Department Chairman Karen Dotson is encouraging Auxiliaries to continue contacting your members for their 2027 annual dues.

Reminder - **Department November Queen Bee Award** – Celebrating our Department President, Belinda's birthday, all Auxiliaries that achieve 100% in membership by November 30th will be placed in a drawing for $150.00.

District 8 Membership Drawing – All District 8 Auxiliaries that achieve 100% or 100% Plus in membership by November 30th, will be placed in a drawing at the December District Meeting for a $50.00 Award. Beeelieve It….You can achieve it….."Bee"ing thankful for your support!

Have you suggested to your Annual members the opportunity to Convert to Life? This process can be accomplished on MALTA. If you have questions, please contact me and I will be happy to help.

As of October 30, District 8 has achieved **85.26%** in Membership. The District needs to pay **164** Annual members' dues to reach the goal of 100%. We can do this! Thank you for your support in Membership by "Serving America's Heroes" as we are "Busy as a Bee Working Together for our Veterans".

President's Special Project – District Chairman Tina Roberts confirmed that all Auxiliaries received their Special Project 50/50 tickets at the September District meeting. So far 3 Auxiliaries have returned their ticket stubs and monies.

Remember, anyone can purchase these tickets, your Auxiliary, you, family members, post members, anyone. If all the tickets and money are returned by November 30, 2026 to Tina, we will be able to draw the winner at our December meeting. PLEASE DO NOT hand them to Tina at the December meeting.

You can still order the Special Project shirts and/or coffee mugs if you are interested and missed the Fall Conference deadline. Send the order form and money to Lynne Loga, Special Project Department Chairman at 75A Main Street, South Glens Falls, NY 12803.

Lynn also has a special colony (auxiliary) challenge for each Auxiliary. She wants everyone to think outside the box and come up with the most creative way to gather pollen (funds) for the special project. Make sure you take pictures and write a report giving Lynne all the details on your creative adventure on how you collect the pollen.

Scholarship Program – District Chairman Beverly Gister thanks all the auxiliaries for their submissions for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen applications. Good luck to all students.

1. The Continuing Education Scholarship is due by February 15, 2027 to National Headquarters. Applications can be found on the National VFW Auxiliary website.

2. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3D Patriotic Art Contest are due by March 31, 2027. These art contests are for grades 9 – 12 students as well as Home Schooled students. Applications can be found on the National VFW Auxiliary website

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

Youth Activities – District Chairman Brittany Tierson appreciates all the school supplies that were donated at the September meeting. At the December meeting, we will collect **unwrapped new Toys and Books** to be donated to local schools in need. Thank you for your generosity.

Reminder due date for **Illustrating America Art Contest** for students in K – 8 to Auxiliaries is **December 15, 2026**. This is a change from previous years.

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 Thanksgiving and a Happy Holiday Season!

Loyally,

Lisa Raplee

Lisa Raplee, PDP
District 8 President

Auxiliary Events Happening in District 8

Auxiliary 2883 – Arcadia Memorial Post
Location: 225 E. Union St., Newark

- Saturday, November 7 – Bake Sale & Turkey Raffle
  Bake Sales at 11 am; Turkey Raffle at 1 PM – Come join the fun!
- Saturday, December 12 at 1PM - Children's Christmas Party – Post Only

Auxiliary 4658 – Francis Hibbard Post/American Legion Post #468
Location: 344 Dorsey Road, Rochester

- Friday, November 6 - Happy Hour 5-8pm - Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion. Drink specials, food special, 50/50 and live music by Jenna & the Journeymen.
- Friday, December 4 – Happy Hours 5-8pm – Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion.

Drink specials, food special, 50/50 and live music – TBD

- Monthly Euchre Tournament on the 2nd Saturday of every month
  Location: My Apartment Bar, 2515 Mt Read Blvd, Rochester, NY 14615.
  Arrive by 12:30pm to register to play; there is a fee to play.
  Play starts at 1pm. There will be baskets for raffle and 50/50 during the games.
  Each month a different charity is chosen.
  (Dates: Nov 14, Dec 12, Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8)

Auxiliary 6200 – Arthur G Depew Memorial
Location: 7068 State Rte 96, Ovid

- Sunday, November 8 – Turkey Party – 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM – Homemade Chili will be served to attendees. Turkeys and Shrimp will be raffled
- Tacos & Trivia – First and Fourth Monday of each Month – (11/2, 11/23, 12/7, 12/28)
  - Food available for Eat-in or Take-out 5-7pm
  - Trivia from 6:30 – 8:15 PM; Bring your team and enjoy an evening of great food, great company, and lots of fun!

Auxiliary 6433 – Waterloo Memorial Post
Location: 29 West Elisha St., Waterloo

- Friday – November 20 – Fish Fry - $16.00
- Friday – December 18 – Fish Fry - $16.00
- Friday – January 15 – Fish Fry - $16.00
- Friday – February 12, 19, 26 – Fish Fry - $16.00
- Friday – March 5, 12, 19, 26 – Fish Fry - $16.00

Auxiliary 6703 – Hamlin
Location: 1739 Lake Rd Hamlin

- Military Monday – First Monday of each month a Veteran plus 1 guest receives a free meal and a non-alcoholic beverage. Doors open at 5 PM. Meals served from 5:30 PM to 7 PM.
(Dates: November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1)
- Friday Fish Fry 5:00 – 7:30 PM (eat in or take out) served beer battered or broiled haddock. Other choices available. Cost is $18.00 (Friday Fish Fry are every Friday night.)
- Friday Night Bands – Every Friday night (no cover charge) Starts at 8 PM

Auxiliary 8649 – Goodrich-Smith Post
Location: 125 Seneca St Ext., Dundee

- Meat Raffle - There will be 2- $250.00 meat gift cards each from Morgan's Grocery located in Penn Yan NY tickets are $2.00 a chance. Drawing will be when all tickets are sold.
- Henry Silver Eagle Raffle – The VFW Post is raffling a Henry Silver Eagle .22 LR or $500.00 cash. Tickets are $5.00 a chance – only 400 tickets will be sold. Drawing when all tickets are sold.
- Friday, November 6 – 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
- Friday, December 4 – 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
- Christmas Toys in Wagon Raffle - Raffle chance is $2.00. Winners take all (toys & wagon). Drawing will take place before Christmas. Contact Tina Roberts for tickets.

Auxiliary 8726 – James R. Moore
Location: 7811 NY-21, Naples

- Sunday, November 8 – Veteran's Day Dinner – 4 PM – 7PM
  * Chicken Parm and Spaghetti Dinner
  * All Veterans are Free; Family members $5.00 each; Children 4 and Under Free
  * First Beverage is Free; Door Prizes
  * RSVP to Matt Tierson – 315-521-3893 or Brittany Tierson – 585-313-2575
- Saturday, December 5 – Breakfast with the Grinch – More details to follow

