

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: September 2, 2026
Subject: September / October District 8 Newsletter

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of District 8:

This is a friendly reminder that District dues are now due. Please submit them as soon as possible so we can keep our records current and ensure all obligations are met in a timely manner.

All Auxiliaries will be notified regarding their Official Visit/Inspection. We ask that everyone cooperate with the individual assigned to conduct your visit as there is a specific timeframe in which all inspections must be completed. As a district, we would like to meet our deadline and appreciate your assistance in making that happen.

Please refrain from changing meeting dates whenever possible. The members assigned to conduct Official Visits and Inspections are working within a limited schedule and rescheduling meetings can make it much more difficult to meet required deadlines.

As a reminder, the Donation Report Form must be completed and submitted prior to *September 30, 2026*. Please do not wait until the last minute to get your reports turned in.

Also, please remember to submit your Health & Happiness donations for the VFW National Home. These funds are used to help provide Christmas gifts for the children at the National Home and assist them in purchasing gifts for their families during the holiday season. Your generosity helps make the holidays brighter for those who depend on our support.

Thank you for your continued dedication, cooperation, and commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Together we can ensure a successful and productive year for District 8. 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. Department President, Belinda Cole will be attending the meeting. A light lunch will be served at 12 Noon for a donation to the President's Special Project. All are welcome to attend.

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.

A reminder from the Department:

1. **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
2. **Department Fall Conference** – Scheduled for September 18-19, 2026 at the Albany Marriott. On-site Registration will be \$10.00 per person.

District Programs

Veterans and Family Support – Chairman Phyllis Walker would like to extend her appreciation for the overwhelming amount of non-perishable food items and personal care items that will benefit the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center. The Rochester VOC truly appreciates all the support we have provided their veteran's programs.

September is also Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month. We are promoting the "STOP 22" initiative, which aims to reduce veteran suicide to zero. Please encourage your auxiliary to host an event at your post or in the community to raise awareness and distribute information on available resources. Please remind everyone that veterans in crisis can call **988 (press 1)** for 24/7 support 365 days a year. Additionally, we ask that you hold a "STOP 22" fundraiser at your September auxiliary events, with proceeds benefiting the Suicide Prevention Project.

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

1. September 7, 2026 – Labor Day
2. September 11, 2026 – Patriot's Day
3. September 17, 2026 – Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
4. September 18, 2026 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day
5. September 18, 2026 – United States Air Force Birthday – Established in 1947
6. October 12, 2026 - Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day
7. October 13, 2026 – US Navy Birthday – Established in 1775
8. October 26, 2026 – National Day of the Deployed – Honors service members currently deployed away from home
9. October 27, 2026 – Navy Day - Celebrates the men and women serving in the U.S. Navy



Buddy Poppy – Department Chairman Flora Becker reminds everyone to continue to distribute your Buddy Poppies to benefit your Relief Fund. Reminder – if you are attending the Dept. Fall

Conference, Auxiliaries are asked to donate a \$10 gift card to be raffled. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Department Relief Fund.

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.

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.

In addition, all District auxiliaries should have received raffle tickets for a Cancer Blanket from District Cancer Fund Chairman, Cindy Campbell. The Cancer Blanket Raffle ticket stubs and your Auxiliary check should be sent to Cindy Campbell, 36 Inslee Street, Waterloo, NY 13165 as soon as possible. Checks should be made payable to District 8 VFW Auxiliary.

Hospital Program - Chairman Helen Weeks appreciates all the Auxiliaries who donated the \$20 Wal-Mart Gift Cards for the Christmas Project to benefit the veterans at Canandaigua VA along with the T-shirts, Sweatshirts and personal care products.

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

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 current Legislation Action Alerts as well as to read the Legislative Column in the Dept. Auxiliary Newsletter. If you do not receive the Auxiliary newsletter, you may access the information on the Dept. Website, vfwauxny.org and go to News → Auxiliary Newsletters.

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

Reminder - Department **October Buzzing Bee Award** - Auxiliaries that achieve 85% in membership by October 31st will be placed in a drawing for \$100.00.

Membership Dues – Has your Auxiliary sent out dues reminders to your Annual Members? If your Auxiliary sent the Donation Report form and donated to the Department Postage for Mailing Dues Notices – dues notices will be mailed. The Dues Donation MUST be received prior to September 30th to the Department Treasurer.

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 August 31, District 8 needs to pay 313 Annual Members dues to achieve 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 – Chairman Tina Roberts is reminding all members if they would like shirts or mugs in support of the Dept. President’s Special Project to please get your orders in so they can be picked up at Fall or Spring Conference. Tina is willing to pick up the items at either Conference and make arrangements to get them to the auxiliaries. Order forms can be found in the Auxiliary President’s Packet or on the Dept. website, vfwauxny.org → Programs → President’s Special Project.

District 8 will have a District 50/50, where each auxiliary will be asked to sell 15 tickets at \$2.00 a chance. Anyone may purchase a ticket. Sold ticket stubs and Auxiliary checks need to be sent to Tina Roberts at the following address: 1215 Crawford Rd., Dundee, NY 14837. Checks should be made payable to District 8 VFW Aux, earmarked **President’s Special Project**. If you have any questions, please contact Tina at 315-694-0326. Thank you for your support of this special project for our veterans.

Competition Challenge.... President Belinda and Chairman Lynne Loga are issuing a challenge. We want to see who can come up with the most creative, unique, and successful way to raise money for our veterans through the **Helmets to Hives** project. The competition is officially on, and it is time to get buzzing! Show us why your Auxiliary is the most un-bee-lievable team in the State. I cannot wait to read your reports and see exactly how you are staying Busy as a Bee Working Together for our Veterans!

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”*. The due date for both programs is **October 31, 2026** to the VFW Post.

Ways and Means – The District theme basket raffle for the September District meeting is Fall/Autumn. The District will have a Holiday Themed Basket Raffle at the December District meeting. All auxiliaries are asked to participate.

Youth Activities – Chairman Brittany Tierson appreciates all the school supplies that were donated at the September meeting. At the December meeting, we will collect donated New Toys and Books to be donated to Toys for Tots. 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 Halloween!

Loyally,

Lisa Raplee

Lisa Raplee, PDP
District 8 President

The below picture are members of Pennington Moyer Aux. 9251 at the Henrietta Town Hall on August 12th. The Town of Henrietta was honoring Cynthia Tarver (sitting middle) for her years of service to the community as well as celebrating her 104th birthday. District 8 extends our best wishes to Cynthia on her Community Service Award and her 104th birthday.



Rada Cutlery Fundraising Project

Dept. Sr. Vice President, Charlene Carnright is sponsoring a RADA Cutlery Fundraising Project.

The fundraiser is to help Dept. Sr. Vice President, Charlene Carnright with additional funds as she completes her final year getting to be Department of NY VFW Auxiliary State President. Please check it out and share with your family and friends. There is some great cutlery. Below is the url so you can review the website. Thank you for your support. There is a QR code below you can use as well.

<https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=9268344.f22a7ca>



The banner features the RADA CUTLERY logo on the left, followed by the text "Fundraising Store" in a red script font. Below this is a navigation bar with links: KNIVES ▾, UTENSILS ▾, KITCHEN GEAR ▾, QUICK MIXES ▾, GIFT SETS ▾, and BEST SELLERS. The main visual is a collage of food items, including a bowl of fruit, a plate of food, and a bowl of ice cream. Overlaid on the right side of the collage is the text "Shop our Catalog" in large red font, with a red arrow pointing to the left. Below this text is the phrase "All products 100% made in USA" in a smaller red font. At the bottom right of the banner is a dark blue button with the text "SHOP CATALOG" in white capital letters. A small inset image on the left shows a RADA Cutlery product box with the text "USA MADE" and "Trusted in Kitchens Since 1907".



Auxiliary Events Happening in District 8

Auxiliary 6433 – Waterloo Memorial Post

Location: 29 West Elisha St., Waterloo

- Non-perishable Food Collection – The auxiliary is collecting non-perishable food items in support of Harmony Food Pantry. Items can be dropped off at the VFW Post. Thank you for your support.

Auxiliary 6703 – Hamlin

Location: 1739 Lake Rd Hamlin

- Saturday, October 3 - Hamlin VFW Post 6703 is sponsoring an Oktoberfest. Doors open at 4:30 PM. \$15.00 gets you in the door. Advance tickets are \$10.00 under 16 are free. A limited # of tickets will be sold. The Krazy Firemen Band will play from 5 – 9 PM. German Food and Beer are available for purchase.

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, September 4th – 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, October 2nd – 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

Auxiliary 8726 – James R. Moore

Location: 7811 NY-21, Naples

- Friday, September 11th - Chicken BBQ at 5, presale tickets are \$5 for veterans and first responders, \$15 for all others.
- September 19th - Chicken BBQ at 5PM, presale tickets are \$5 for veterans and first responders, \$15 for all others.
- September 25 and 26th – Naples Grape Fest! Come find us on Main Street!

