

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

~ RUTH HUBER ~

9511 BUCKTOOTH RUN ROAD
LITTLE VALLEY, NY 14755
TEL: (716) 801-2003
Email: poofalina@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY~ *AUXILIARY NEWS* EDITOR ~

~ DEBORAH L. CENNI ~

36 PARKSIDE STREET
MAYVILLE, NEW YORK 14757
TEL: (716) 753-3757
FAX: (716) 753-3572
Email: bigbear2102@fairpoint.net

DEPARTMENT TREASURER

~ KIMBERLY WHITE ~

1799 FRED ROAD
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12303
TEL: (518) 275-7283
Email: kwhitewvlt@aol.com

DEPARTMENT WEBMASTER

WWW.VFWAUXNY.ORG

~ DEANNA GUYETTE ~

Email: dgullquist@verizon.net

NEW WEBSITE!

WWW.VFWAUXNY.ORG

IMPORTANT DATES!**JULY 31 – AUGUST 3**

NATIONAL CONVENTION

KANSAS CITY, MO

**JULY 31 – PLEASE PROCESS
AUXILIARY BOND BY THIS DATE!
CONTACT DEPT SECRETARY OR
DEPARTMENT TREASURER
IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE**

AUGUST 2021

14 – DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
RUTH HUBER'S HOMECOMING
POST # 8734 – LITTLE VALLEY

21 – ZOOM OTI

DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED

UPCOMING EVENTS**SEPTEMBER 18**

STATE OF NY VFW COMMANDER
MIKE HOAG'S HOMECOMING
POST #2475 – GLENS FALLS

SEPTEMBER 30

SUBMIT DONATION REPORT FORM
TO TREASURER KIM WHITE

OCTOBER 8-10

FALL CONFERENCE
MARRIOTT HOTEL ~ ALBANY, NY

AUXILIARY NEWS ~ August 2021

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York



Dear Sisters and
Brothers,

It is truly my honor and a privilege to serve as your Department President for the VFW Auxiliary in the great State of New York this year. Together we have overcome many challenges over the past year and a half, much to the credit of Jr. Past President Mary Makosky and PDP Debbie Casella. They held fast through all the trials and tribulations, leading us to where we are today, stronger and better than ever. Now that a large number of people have received the COVID-19 vaccine, I hope New York will stay on track as we begin to resume in-person meetings and events without restrictions.

My sincerest appreciation to my daughter Merrie Maxon for the nomination, Advisor and Installing Officer PDP Mary Kreuzer, Chief of Staff PDP Karen Dotson for the “suggestions,” Debbie Cenni for the countless hours spent preparing the program guidebook and materials, and to Kim White and Lori Tunkel for preparing our budget. The list is too long for me mention everyone to whom I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to for all you have done for, and with, me to prepare for this year. All I can say is thank you! To all of our members, thank you for having faith in me and electing me to serve as your President.

As you will learn throughout the year, my Department Chairmen have put a great deal of thought, time and energy into developing our programs. Each of them is hoping you will send them a report to let them know what your Auxiliary has done for their program. While you are encouraged to participate in every program, National is requesting that Auxiliaries then choose three of the programs they are strongest in and concentrate additional efforts on those programs.

***National is mandating the following:
“All Auxiliaries MUST complete at least one project, activity or donation that benefits veterans by April 30, 2022.***

If not, the Department MUST submit a request for a suspension by that date.”

With all the work the Chairmen have put into the programs I am sure you will have no trouble accomplishing this task early in the year, if you haven't done so already.

There were only a few Auxiliaries that did not submit Department Election and Installation reports by June 30th. 2021-2022 Officer information must be sent to the Department Secretary or entered in MALTA by July 31st.

The same holds true for the President and Treasurer bond. The requested completion date is July 31, 2021. National sets the standards. It is the duty of the Auxiliary President to ensure all deadlines are adhered to. Presidents, you were elected by your Auxiliary members. You took the Officers' Obligation during Installation and promised to perform the duties of that office to the best of your ability. Please follow through with the promise you made. If you are a new Officer or need assistance entering Auxiliary information in MALTA, please contact our Dept Treasurer Kim White or Department Secretary Debbie Cenni. Both are happy to help you.

A few important notes:

- ✓ President's should review all the materials contained in their packet (mailed June 11th).
- ✓ Donation Report Form is found on page 6 of the Guidebook. Please submit this form and donation by September 30th to the Dept Treasurer Kim White.
- ✓ Health and Happiness Donation (flyer was included in packet) and District Dues should be a priority.
- ✓ Change Form, Guidebook page 53, should be sent to the Dept. Secretary any time there is a change of Auxiliary/Member information.
- ✓ New Treasurers must file IRS Form 8822-B within 60 days. Contact the Dept Secretary if you need assistance completing this form.

District and County Council Presidents are asked to send me available dates to schedule Official Visits. The sooner the better as Western New York winters are cold and long!

I hope to see all of you on August 21st for Zoom OTI. Presidents should plan to attend.

Let us all ... **“Soar Above and Beyond”**
as we commit ourselves to being ...
**“United to Defend the Freedoms of
Veterans and Their Families.”**

Loyally, *Ruth*



SPECIAL ORDER #1 Emailed to Presidents on all levels on July 7, 2021

Cancellation of Special Order #3 issued by Jr. Past Department President Mary Makosky

Dear Auxiliary Presidents and Members:

On June 15, 2021 New York Governor Cuomo lifted COVID-19 restrictions as 70 percent of New Yorkers aged 18 or older have received the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccination series.

Based on Governor Cuomo's lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, Special Order #3, dated September 28, 2020, is no longer in effect.

Effective immediately, Auxiliaries will not be required to record the temperatures of members and guests entering a meeting or event. VFW Auxiliary Department of New York COVID Screening forms are no longer required.

Please note that all COVID screening forms, previously filed with the Secretary Minutes, may be shredded and properly disposed of.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, contact Dept. Secretary Debbie Cenni (716-753-3757) or me (716-801-2003).

Loyally, **Ruth Huber**

Ruth Huber, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

GENERAL ORDERS # 1 ~ AUGUST 2021 – must be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed.

1. Having been duly elected by Acclamation and installed as Department President during a Zoom Department Convention held on June 12, 2021 and working in accordance with the Bylaws and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I, Ruth Huber, hereby assume the command of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York. All previous appointments are declared null and void and the new Officers and chairmen assignments are now in effect.
2. Official communications intended for the Department President shall be addressed to: Ruth Huber at:
9511 Bucktooth Run Road, Little Valley, NY 14755.
3. Requests for rulings shall come through the VFW Auxiliary Secretary, by Order of the VFW Auxiliary President, and shall bear the VFW Auxiliary seal. All requests must be in writing and addressed to the Department President who shall forward the request for a ruling to the National President.
4. The official headquarters for the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York is hereby declared to be located at:
1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303.
All mail intended for the Department Secretary should be addressed to: Deborah L. Cenni, 36 Parkside Street, Mayville, NY 14757.
5. Checks intended for the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary shall be payable to "**VFW Auxiliary Department of New York (VFW Aux DNY)**" earmarked for the fund intended.
Checks for Department business should be mailed to:
Department Treasurer Kim White
1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303.
Checks for specific projects or fundraisers should be mailed to the Program Chairman unless otherwise specified.
6. The VFW Auxiliary President shall countersign all checks drawn by the Treasurer. VFW Auxiliaries may not possess credit cards, ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) cards, and/or debit cards. The disbursement of money shall be upon motion made and passed at a meeting with the exception of the transmittal of membership dues, which does not require a motion. Refer to Sec. 810A—Auxiliary President of the current Bylaws.
7. VFW Auxiliaries are reminded of the suggested donation of \$2.00 per member for the Cancer Grant Fund based on Auxiliary membership quota as of June 30, 2021.
8. VFW Auxiliaries are encouraged to donate a minimum of \$.10 (10 cents) per member for the VFW National Home for Children "Health & Happiness" based on the June 30, 2021 membership quota. Treasurers may process this donation directly through MALTA or mail a check made payable to "**VFW Auxiliary**" earmarked "**Health & Happiness**" directly to:
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.
9. Inspectors are required to attend a School of Instruction held in their respective District. Official Visits [on all levels] are to be completed by January 15, 2022.
10. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to ensure that the offices of the VFW Auxiliary President and Treasurer are bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters or the Department as surety in a sum at least double the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the VFW Auxiliary President and Treasurer may be accountable. Refer to Sec. 814—Trustees, Duties of (All Levels) of the current Bylaws edition.
11. The President shall hold the original bond for both the President and Treasurer. A copy of the President and Treasurer bonds shall be incorporated into the Minutes book.
12. Per VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters: There is no minimum age requirement for the bond to cover an Officer. If a loss occurs, the bonding company may legally pursue indemnity against the person, regardless of age. Therefore, any member in good standing is eligible to hold the office of President or Treasurer.
13. Presidents on all levels shall, within thirty (30) calendar days after assuming the duties of office, submit to the Commander of the corresponding VFW unit, a financial report and membership count of their Auxiliary. Refer to Sec. 810—President, Duties of (All Levels) of the current Bylaws.
14. Auxiliary Treasurers shall, upon the death of an Auxiliary member, immediately enter the name and date of death in MALTA or send the information to Department Secretary.
15. It shall be the duty of the Auxiliary Trustees to properly audit the books and records of the Treasurer and Secretary no later than 30 days following the expiration of each quarterly period. Refer to Sec. 814—Trustees, Duties of (All Levels) of the current Bylaws. Quarterly Audit report forms must be received by the Department Treasurer no later than 60 days following the end of each quarter as follows: Aug 31st (Apr 1-Jun 30); Nov 30th (July 1-Sep 30) Feb 28th (Oct 1-Dec 31); May 31st (Jan 1- Mar 31, 2022). The Quarterly Audit report form should be submitted to the Department Treasurer Kim White by USPS mail or scanned and emailed only. The Audit report form may NOT be sent via text message.
16. Auxiliaries should submit the 2021-2022 Donation Report form by September 30, 2021 to: Department Treasurer Kim White
1799 Fred Rd, Schenectady, NY 12303.

BY ORDER OF: Ruth Huber
Ruth Huber, Department President

ATTEST: Deborah L. Cenni
Deborah L. Cenni, Department Secretary



**VFW AUXILIARY ~ DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT – LINDA LaROSA, CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES
501 BLUESTONE COURT – APT. 204 ~ MAYBROOK, NY 12543
Telephone: (914) 805-2743 – Email: llarosa60@gmail.com**



Ruth Huber's year as VFW Auxiliary Department of New York President for 2021–2022 has just begun. Ruth chose National Veterans Golden Age Games as her Special Project. To support this project, t-shirts and hoodie sweatshirts will be available for sale in a variety of sizes.

T-shirts – \$12 each for sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large – **\$16 each** for sizes 2X, 3X or 4X
Long-sleeved Hoodie Sweatshirts: \$28 each for sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large
\$32 each for 2X, 3X or 4X

Purchase a **SET and save \$5!** (*T-shirt and long-sleeved hoodie sweatshirt must be the same size.*)
\$35 Set for size Small, Medium, Large, X-Large – **\$43 Set** for size 2X, 3X or 4X

**ORDERS WILL BE DELIVERED AT FALL CONFERENCE UNLESS OTHER
ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE, BY CONTACTING LINDA LaROSA IN ADVANCE!**



COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM BELOW.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW AUX DEPT OF NY ~ EARMARKED SHIRTS

MAIL FORM AND CHECKS TO:

LINDA LaROSA ~ 501 BLUESTONE COURT – APT. 204 ~ MAYBROOK, NY 12543

**ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY
OCTOBER 1, 2021 – ORDERS WILL BE DELIVERED AT FALL CONFERENCE**

Indicate the number of t-shirts, hoodie sweatshirts or sets for each size:

T-Shirts	Long-Sleeved Hoodie Sweatshirt	Set (T-shirt & Hoodie)
Small: _____ @ \$12 = _____	Small: _____ @ \$28 = _____	Small _____ @ \$35 = _____
Medium: _____ @ \$12 = _____	Medium: _____ @ \$28 = _____	Med _____ @ \$35 = _____
Large: _____ @ \$12 = _____	Large: _____ @ \$28 = _____	Large _____ @ \$35 = _____
X-Large: _____ @ \$12 = _____	X-Large: _____ @ \$28 = _____	X-Lg _____ @ \$35 = _____
2X-Large: _____ @ \$16 = _____	2X-Large: _____ @ \$32 = _____	2-XL _____ @ \$43 = _____
3X-Large: _____ @ \$16 = _____	3X-Large: _____ @ \$32 = _____	3-XL _____ @ \$43 = _____
4X-Large: _____ @ \$16 = _____	4X-Large: _____ @ \$32 = _____	4-XL _____ @ \$43 = _____

Auxiliary Number _____ CC _____ District _____

No. of T-shirts _____ No. of Sweatshirts _____ No. of Sets _____

Date: _____ Total Dollar Amount \$ _____ Check No. _____

Name of person who will pick up shirts _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____ Email _____

Order by October 1, 2021. Shirts will be distributed at Fall Conference

“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families!”



OFFICIAL VISITS (INSPECTIONS)
PDP BONNIE L. BURGY, COORDINATOR
330 EAST BLOOMFIELD STREET – APT. 2
ROME, NY 13440
Tel: H: (315) 533-6425 – C: (315) 225-9564
Email: bburgy@twcny.rr.com



It is time to start a new year and hopefully it will be an easier year than we have had. There were several problems with checking accounts last year. I need to mention an important item to everyone:

If there is a new Auxiliary President or Treasurer ... **YOU MUST VISIT THE BANK WHERE THE ACCOUNT IS HELD, TAKE A COPY OF THE ELECTION REPORT AND GET THE NAMES OF THE CURRENT PRESIDENT AND TREASURER ON THE ACCOUNT. THIS IS TO BE DONE BY JULY 15TH. NO OTHER NAMES ARE TO BE ON THE ACCOUNT. If the names of the current President and Treasurer are not on the account, checks cannot be signed which means monies cannot be expended. You are also putting your bond in jeopardy.**

Inspectors, I expect you to conduct your official visit, not as a friend, but as someone who is there to recognize if an Auxiliary needs help. That is the purpose of your visit. You should familiarize yourselves with the instructions for your inspections, what documents you are to either look at and sign or initial.

When you have completed your visit, review the inspection sheet and be sure all questions are answered. Be honest when completing the remarks section. **Make sure that the checks are being signed by the CURRENT President and Treasurer!** Send all three copies of the report to the District President within 5 to 7 days of the completion of your visit.

District Presidents, you are to appoint inspectors. Once the inspection sheets are returned to you, review them to make sure they are complete. I will be returning them to you if they are not complete. Place the date in the upper right-hand corner and return all copies to me within 5 to 7 days after you receive them. **DO NOT hold inspection forms until you have several to send at one time.**

If a member cannot do an inspection, return all materials to the District President and he/she will appoint a new inspector. The District President is the only one who can appoint an inspector.

We are ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond” ... “United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”**

Loyally, *Bonnie, PDP*

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 15 – Mary Kreuzer – *Dept. President 1999-2000*
- 21 – Denise Ellen McHugh – *Dept. President 2017-2018*
- 28 – Nina LeFrois – *Dept. President 1997-1998*



“BUDDY”® POPPY
VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
KAREN SCHEUNEMAN, CHAIRMAN
126 VISTA DRIVE – ARCADE, NY 14009



Telephone: (585) 492-1994 – Email: wdstock90@yahoo.com

Members,

Whether you are just starting out or are already off and running, this Seuss-isms Quote offers advice to assist you in being Prepared to Promote your Auxiliary’s Participation in the “BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN Program.



Make a Play

**Do you ever sit and fidget when you don't know what to do ... ?
 Everyone gets the fidgets.
 Even me and you.**

~ Hunches in Bunches

It is that time of year to starting planning your Auxiliary’s agenda for the upcoming year. A “Friendly Suggestion”: Consider planning a “BUDDY”® POPPY DRIVE Campaign for Veteran’s Day. Email BuddyPoppy@vfw.org for a reply if you are interested in assembling “BUDDY”® POPPIES. When ordering “BUDDY”® POPPIES, note: Effective May 20, 2021: If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received it. If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8 week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge and you will have to resubmit your order. For guidelines and ideas, plan on reviewing the “BUDDY”® POPPY CHAIRMAN’S MANUAL located at vfwauxiliary.org under resources.

It is also that time of year where your Auxiliary’s Financial Obligation September 30th Deadline is fast approaching. At your next Auxiliary’s meeting, whether it be conference call, zoom or even in person, plan on remitting your Auxiliary’s donation to National’s Health & Happiness Fund to benefit the VFW National Home for Children. Please refer to your Auxiliary’s President Packet Health & Happiness Fund Flyer for details. Plan on making a Difference and bring a greater joy this Holiday Season for the children with your Auxiliary’s Gift.

Need inspiration to create a plan

Brainstorm



**Think! Think! She cried.
 Her Thinker-Upper gave a snorty snore.
 It started thunk-thunk-thunking
 As it never had before.
 With all her might, her eyes shut tight,
 She cried, Thunk-Thunk some more!
 ~ The Glunk That Got Thunk**

I am looking forward to receiving your “BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN Program Reports full of creative projects, activities and events.

Loyally, *Karen*



**“Soaring Above and Beyond”
 “United to Defend the Freedoms
 of Veterans and Their Families”**



HOSPITAL PROGRAM – PEGGY SCHWEITZER, CHAIRMAN
19 MONTAQUE DR. ~ DILLSBURG, PA 17019
Tel: (315) 853-2419 – Email: snowy4931@yahoo.com



Welcome to a new Hospital year!! I'm excited to chair this program for President Ruth and I know that New York will do great once the State is fully open and we can, once again, visit our Veterans and patients.

Do you know about the Honors Escort program? Well, I did not know about this service until my National Ambassador stated it in her informative packet. Upon reading this, I started talking to members and found out that New York has a few VA Hospitals who have this program in place. For those of you who do not know about this service provided to Veterans after they pass away, please read my Guidebook article. On a short note, the ceremony begins with a bedside Flag ceremony; then the gurney is draped with the American Flag and a procession to the morgue where other Veterans can pay their respects. If you are associated with a VA Hospital or VA Nursing Home, please ask and let me know if that facility does the Honors Escort.

We can volunteer in many different types of facilities – local hospitals, Veterans' homes, nursing homes and both VA and non-VA medical facilities and clinics. We can do many things to help the patients and residents. Each facility offers varying types of opportunities to suit different ages and abilities.

Remember to report to me via mail or email – I have already received a report from an Auxiliary! In each *Auxiliary News* article, I will cover a different aspect of this wonderful Program. Loyally, *Peggy*

We will be ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond”** and ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”**



**INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE CHOSEN BY
 2021-2022 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
 DARLENE BAKER**

Dear Members, As we embark on a new journey coming out of the pandemic over past year, let us remember the sacrifices we have all made. Let us come together to fulfill our duties to the organization that we are blessed to belong.

As we stand ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families”**
 and continue ...
“Soaring Above and Beyond.”

Loyally, *Darlene*

2021-2022 *AUXILIARY NEWS*
Order Form – PLEASE PRINT !!!
\$15 PER SUBSCRIPTION ~ 9 PRINTED EDITIONS
USPS MAILED FIRST CLASS POSTAGE
PRESIDENT [ON ALL LEVELS] RECEIVES
ONE COMPLIMENTARY SUBSCRIPTION

 (Name) Aux No. _____

 (Address)

 (City) (State) (Zip Code)

() _____
 (Telephone No. – Include A/C) Email _____

No. of Subscriptions _____ @ \$15.00 per subscription

Total enclosed _____
 (Check Amount) (Check No.)

Make Check Payable to: VFW Aux. Dept. of NY
Earmark “Aux. News”
Mail *Auxiliary News* Subscription Order Form
AND Check to:
Deborah L. Cenni, Editor
36 Parkside Street ~ Mayville, NY 14757
Questions? Telephone: (716) 753-3757
Email: bigbear2102@fairpoint.net

2021-2022 PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK
Order Form – PLEASE PRINT !!!
\$7 PER GUIDEBOOK
INCLUDES USPS FIRST CLASS POSTAGE
PRESIDENT [ON ALL LEVELS] RECEIVES
ONE COMPLIMENTARY GUIDEBOOK
WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THEIR PACKET

 (Name) Aux No. _____

 (Address)

 (City) (State) (Zip Code)

() _____
 (Area Code / Telephone No.) Email _____

No. of Guidebooks _____ @ \$7.00 per Guidebook

Total enclosed _____
 (Check Amount) (Check No.)

Make Check Payable to: VFW Aux. Dept. of NY
Earmark “Guidebook”
Mail Guidebook Order Form AND Check to:
Deborah L. Cenni, Department Secretary
36 Parkside Street ~ Mayville, NY 14757
Questions? Telephone: (716) 753-3757
Email: bigbear2102@fairpoint.net



HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM – KELLIANNE KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN
315 ANCHORS WAY ~ WINDER, GA 30680
Telephone: (518) 744-8978 – Email: kelliannekennedy@hotmail.com

I'm Keeping an Eagle Eye on the Eagle's Nest



It is time to start making a record your Auxiliary's year. You ask, "How do we do that?" Well, it is easy and exciting!

- Get your camera ready and start taking pictures of your events.
- Have paper and a pen handy. Start writing down the function, dates, times and special guests who attended.
- Start collecting newspaper clippings that document your Auxiliary special events.
- Start planning your media coverage and decide what's newsworthy?
- Take Auxiliaries in Action pictures or Take a Selfie with a Vet and send them to Kellianne Kennedy!!!!

Did you know that our Department of New York VFW Auxiliary has a Facebook page? I encourage you to "Like" our Department page or "Join" the group if you haven't already done so. By connecting with the Department's page, you will stay connected with what is going on at the Department and National levels. How can your Auxiliary benefit from a Facebook Page? Many Auxiliaries are limited in budgets and resources for outreach to constituents, donors, the media and the public. While a web site can serve as an effective destination for an Auxiliary, many people these days consider web sites as places for background and archived information rather than an active and dynamic communications tool. Facebook is a fast way to get important information and events out quickly. Tag us on your Facebook pictures @DeptofNYVFWAux



Auxiliary, County Council and District Presidents are asked to send pictures, along with a brief description about what you did, when President Ruth Huber made her official visit. The photos and description must be sent to the Department Historian within ten days of her visit. The more pictures the better! Please include anything regarding her visit! Also, I want to see your Facebook Pages, and newsletters! I will feature vital and stimulating news and pictures on all our social media pages and in the *Auxiliary News*.

Please send me photos (using cameras or smart phones) and write-ups as soon as you can once an event has occurred. Try to send high quality pictures that can be reproduced for Ruth's scrapbook(s) and be sure to record what is happening in the picture and who is in the picture. Use local media outlets and social media to keep everyone up to date on your Auxiliary's activities. Note! This year you MAY send photos to me electronically via email or text – but tell me the **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN and WHY!** Remember, the more pictures the better! Send anything and everything regarding President Ruth's visit.

It is an honor to serve as Department Historian /Media Relations Chairman this year and will do so with much excitement!

"United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families" ...

will provide us with wonderful memories while ... **"Soaring Above and Beyond."** Loyally, *Kellianne*



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM – CHRIS LEAVOR, CHAIRMAN
2027 CEMETERY HILL ROAD ~ FRANKLINVILLE, NY 14737
Telephone: (716) 676-2400 – Email: CAL2027@hotmail.com

The 2021-2022 VFW Auxiliary Membership Olympics have begun!

It's time to lace up your track shoes and begin the 50-yard dash. Everyone is in good "running" condition and I expect it to be a sprint to the finish line. Take a look at where your membership finished the 2020-2021 year, paying close attention to your annual members. Transmit dues for 30% of them before **September 1, 2021** and your Auxiliary will be in the running to win \$100 in our first award "ceremony."

Good luck and let's get this year off to an "OLYMPIC" start.

Please take time to read the Department Guidebook for all programs, but pay special attention to the deadlines included in the Membership Program. There are many awards to qualify for throughout the year. There is special emphasis on retaining our annual members. Recruiting new members is always a goal, but it is very important to retain those we already have. They already have knowledge about our organization and already chose to join us. Invest some time and energy into retaining them. Be sure they know we VALUE their membership as well as the special skill sets they bring with them.

Auxiliaries are reminded to send me a report with details about their first membership drive before **October 1st** in order to receive your Bronze Olympic medal. County Council and District Presidents must have at least 50% of their Auxiliaries to earn their Bronze medal. Work together as a team to earn your medals!

With the Zoom OTI approaching on August 21st, I remind Presidents that you must attend in order to be in the running to obtain your GOLD medal. I hope to see you all at that Zoom meeting. Loyally, *Chris*

"Soaring Above and Beyond" "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."



**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT – KAREN MACK, CHAIRMAN**

PO BOX 71 ~ GERRY, NY 14740

Telephone: (716) 985-1000 – Email: mack_karen25@hotmail.com



Dear Sisters and Brothers, It was a relief when Governor Cuomo lifted restrictions that allowed New Yorker's to resume many of their normal activities. Our Veterans made many sacrifices to ensure our freedoms. Their needs did not stop in spite of the pandemic. Their needs did not return to normal when the pandemic restrictions were lifted. Our Veterans and their families are depending on us ... pandemic or no pandemic! Social restrictions and regulations may require us to think outside of the box. However, I have faith our VFW Auxiliary Department of New York shall succeed! We are all ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”** With your support we will honor our Veterans while ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond.”** Loyally, *Karen*

Refer to the Program Guidebook for more information and details concerning the following Veterans' issues:

Veteran and Family Caregivers The parents, spouse, child(ren), other family members or a friend/acquaintance often provide emotional and/or physical support to Veterans. The VA has many services to assist caregivers within the VA System. For more information, visit caregiver.va.gov. Spouses are now able to file to receive benefits for being a Veteran's caregiver.

Women Veterans – comprise 15% of active-duty military and 18% of the Guard/Reserve. We must ensure women have a VA's able to care for them when they are transitioning back to civilian life.

Homeless Veterans Approximately 10% (67,000) of the homeless population are Veterans. Auxiliaries are asked to sponsor at least one project that will benefit homeless Veterans. A suggested project is a Stand Down.

National Veterans Service (NVS) – provides a nationwide network of VFW Service Officers, who are highly skilled professionals, help veterans and their family members navigate the Veterans Affairs system to obtain VA benefits. Contributions to support NVS can be made on the Donation Report Form or mailing a check payable to VFW earmarked “NVS” to: VFW National Headquarters – Attn: NVS – 406 West 34th St – 11th Floor – Kansas City, MO 64111

VFW Veterans and Military Support Program – Serves active-duty and recently discharged military. Three separate programs fall under this one main category:

Military Assistance Program (MAP) – Offers ways for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send-off's, homecomings and casual get-togethers.

Unmet Needs – provides up to \$1,500 to bridge the gap to cover unexpected bills. Funds are sent directly to creditors.

Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship Awards up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals.

Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness – 20 Veterans commit suicide each day. Get educated about the warning signs of suicide.

The Veterans Crisis Line is a confidential toll-free hotline available 24/7/365 that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified responders.

Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 – Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net – Send a text message to 838255

Explore Mental Wellness Support and Resources – listed in the Guidebook.

CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND

LINDA FLANAGAN, CHAIRMAN

155 BRIGGS ST ~ SYRACUSE, NY 13208

Telephone: (315) 475-7526

Email: lindaflanagan@hotmail.com



As we start a new Auxiliary year, Cancer awareness is still very important. If you develop symptoms or notice something that has changed or does not feel right, you should schedule an appointment with your doctor immediately. Remember! **Early detection may save your life.**

One of the benefits of belonging to this great Organization is the availability for members to apply for a \$550.00 Cancer Grant. This is a gift from the Auxiliary and never has to be repaid. A copy of the Application is found on the National website, Guidebook page 52 or contact me.

The VFW Auxiliary depends on you to sustain funding for the Cancer Grant Fund. Cancer Grant Fund Tickets were included in all President's Packets. One ticket for each Auxiliary member – based on its June 30, 2021 membership. The requested donation is \$2.00 per member.

Won't you donate to help support this project?

Fall Conference will be here before you know it!

Three Cancer Grant Fund tickets will be drawn. Make sure you send your tickets to be entered.

♥ First – \$75.00 ♥ Second – \$50.00 ♥ Third – \$25.00

Each DISTRICT is asked to bring an “eagle” item to be raffled. **“In Memory of”** and **“In Honor of”** Luminaries will be available for a donation of \$5.00 each. Candy bars and various Cancer awareness ribbons will be available.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support for this very important program.

“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families” **“Soaring Above and Beyond.”** Loyally, *Linda*

THANK YOU






I would like to thank my team for their love and support during my year as Department President. 2020-2021 will be remembered in the history books! You were ... **“Angels of Mercy Caring for Our Veterans!”**

Best wishes to team Ruth Huber and much success in 2021-2022. With much Love and Respect, *Mary*

**AMERICANISM PROGRAM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR****DORIS "DEE" IPPOLITO, CHAIRMAN****24 Blue Jay Circle ~ Lancaster, NY 14086****Telephone: (716) 440-3411 – NEW Email: dee.ippolito.017@gmail.com****NEW WAY TO REPORT!****#AuxiliaryPatriotism****NEW WAY TO REPORT!***Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2021-2022 Americanism year!*

This year, we are unveiling a first-ever hashtag to promote **PATRIOTISM** as the next-level tool to continuously connect with our communities. Tag your patriotic activity or event using hashtag **AuxiliaryPatriotism**. Post those events to social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and put in your title: **#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM**

Several ideas when tagging **#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM**:

-  Participate in a community PATRIOTIC holiday and include youth groups to hand out Flags.
-  Host or participate in patriotic holiday ceremonies, Patriotic Art Contest display or awards, legislative activities involving Veterans, sponsor Veterans, "Buddy"® Poppy drives.
-  Honor POW/MIA's with a balloon release or Flag-folding service.
-  Honor Star families.
-  Display a video demonstrating Flag etiquette and share with schools.

*Department of New York and National Awards will be based on the best display using **#AuxiliaryPatriotism**.

***Other ideas for reporting with #AuxiliaryPatriotism:**

#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM Wreaths Across America For the past few years, the Department of New York has assisted **Wreaths Across America** in distributing wreaths on graves of those deceased Veterans in National Cemeteries on the third Saturday in December. For \$15, one wreath will be placed on a grave in a National Cemetery of your choice. For every \$30 you donate, you will send THREE wreaths. A real 3 for 2 bargain! Information and order form along with a self-addressed return envelope were included in President's Packets. ***You can place your order for wreaths now or at Fall Conference!***

#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM In Lieu of ... We will again have a giant holiday poster available for you to sign at the Fall Conference. For \$5.00, you can sign the poster that will be displayed with Wreaths Across America for our troops. Information and order form along with a self-addressed return envelope were included in President's Packets. ***You can place your order for In Lieu of ... now or at Fall Conference!***

Report **Now** on social media and use **#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM** with your pictures and written reports to explain your patriotic service this year. Thank you! If you are not sure how to use **#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM** in reporting, telephone or email me. All questions respectfully answered! Loyally, **Dee**

"Soaring Above and Beyond" ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."

WAYS AND MEANS PROGRAM – MARCIA MCKINNEY, CHAIRMAN**PO BOX 405 ~ REMSEN, NY 13438****Cell Telephone: (315) 725-6582 – Email: mmmckinney24@aol.com**

The Ways and Means program is to help operate the VFW Auxiliary Department of NY with funds to successfully have a good and exciting year. Our Veterans depend on you to support this program.



As we begin this new year, let me just say thank you to those who have already sent in their ticket stubs and donation. I was surprised when they started arriving just one week after our Zoom convention. The 9-month calendar program has been successful for many years and continues to be successful because ***you all care for our Veterans***. Tickets, along with a self-addressed envelope, were included in President's Packets. Auxiliary Presidents received 2 sheets (10 tickets) in their packet. Anyone can purchase the tickets. If you did not receive tickets and would like to have a chance to win cash ... or if you need more tickets ... leave a phone or text message and I will send tickets to you.

Donation of \$5.00 per ticket gets you in the running for 8 drawings of \$100.00 on the 1st of the month and \$200.00 to be drawn at the June 2022 Department Convention. The seller of each winning ticket receives \$20.00. The first drawing will be at the Fall Conference, October 8-10, in Albany, NY. Make your checks payable to VFW Auxiliary Department of NY and earmark the memo line 9-month calendar raffle. Use the self-addressed envelope that was provided in packets and mail the check and stubs back to me. At Fall Conference I will have a large container for all the ticket stubs sold and collected to date. Wouldn't it be exciting if you won the first drawing? So be sure to send those tickets off to me as soon as you have your first meeting. By donating, your Auxiliary will receive participation credit in this program.

We also will have a new and exciting "Think Green" cash raffle that will begin at Fall Conference. Drawings will be held at Department Convention in June 2022. I am excited that we will have 15 winners for this raffle. Watch for more information to come. Think Green!!! Thank you for supporting this Department program. Loyally, **Marcia**

"Soaring Above and Beyond" and ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."



SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM – DOLORES B. SHEELEY, CHAIRMAN

PO BOX 1025 ~ ROCK HILL, NY 12775

Telephone: (845) 796-1322 – *NEW* Email: sheeleyd@gmail.com



It's that time of year again to get **EXCITED** about the Auxiliary's new Program Year!

There are four Scholarships to promote this year: **Patriot's Pen** and **Voice of Democracy**, (which are the two VFW contests that we help to promote) along with **Continuing Education** and the **Young American Patriotic Art** contests.

The first to focus on are the **Patriot's Pen** and the **Voice of Democracy** contests as their deadlines are coming up on **October 31, 2021**. This year's theme for the Patriot's Pen is: **"How can I be a good American?"** Entrants must submit a 300 to 400-word essay, in their own words, about the theme.

This year's theme for the Voice of Democracy is: **"America: Where do we go from here?"** This scholarship is an audio-essay competition for students in grades 9-12. The student is to record their original 3 to 5-minute audio-essay and submit it along with a typed version, to their local VFW Post. Both of these contests are for public, private, parochial and homeschooled students. Applications for these contests were included in all 2021-2022 Convention Packets mailed to Line Officers, District and County Presidents and all Auxiliary Presidents to share with their Scholarships Chairman.

Please get the information out!! We need to put our thinking caps on and think of ways to get the word out to our youth about the wonderful scholarships that the VFW and Auxiliary offer. Work as a team!! We must come together and work together to get the word out. I hope you are as **EXCITED** as I am for this year. If more information is needed, do not hesitate to contact me or our National website at: www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.

"Soaring Above and Beyond" together, we will accomplish great things along the way as we are ...
"United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families." Loyally, *Dolores*



YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM – CINDY WINZENRIED, CHAIRMAN

40 GROTON PARKWAY ~ ROCHESTER, NY 14623

Telephone: (585) 230-9022 – Email: cindy@wwtruckn.com

Programs to Learn, Grow and Serve



Dear Auxiliary Members, Our youth of today are our leaders of tomorrow. It is our responsibility to ensure we provide the youth every opportunity to learn and grow.

Once again this program year we continue with the following youth programs:

- **"Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!"** – Provides an opportunity to encourage our youth in grades K-12 to showcase their vocal talent and demonstrate their patriotism and creativity by singing **"The Star-Spangled Banner."**
- **Patriotism through Literacy** – This program helps to promote and support reading among our youth. A few of the benefits reading offers include: increases grammar and writing skills, improves focus and concentration and allows the reader to stretch their imagination.
- **Illustrating America** – Open to all students in grades K to 8, including those who attend public, private, parochial schools and those who are home-schooled. The Art entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.
- **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans** – Provides our Auxiliaries with the opportunity to sponsor a youth group that engages in service projects to help our veterans or assist our service members and their families. Youth Groups are school clubs, sports teams, JROTC, Girl and Boy Scout Troops, faith-based youth groups, and Homeschool Association groups.
- **Patriotic Youth Award** – This award allows an Auxiliary to **recognize** our youth in your local community.

Hot off the Press ... Fall District Project – All Auxiliaries are requested to donate new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for our youth. Items are to be delivered to your Fall **District** Meeting. Donated items will benefit a local homeless shelter or a local elementary, middle or high school. District Presidents should report the Auxiliaries that participated in this project.

There are so many opportunities for the Auxiliary to help sponsor a sports team, cheerleading team, dance team, school chorus, band, drama club, or other school club. The sponsoring of an activity/event is great publicity for the VFW Auxiliary as it displays community support for our youth.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or need copies of application forms for any of the programs identified above.

I look forward to receiving your reports this year to learn about the variety of ways your Auxiliary works with our youth.

Thank you in advance for your support as we are ... **"Soaring Above and Beyond"** ...
"United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families." Loyally, *Cindy*



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM – BELINDA COLE, CHAIRMAN
6 BEECH STREET ~ HUDSON FALLS, NY 12839
Tel: (518) 260-1694 – Email: belinkisses@gmail.com
EDUCATE! PARTICIPATE! AND GET OTHERS INVOLVED!



Hello to my Brothers and Sisters! It’s the start of a new year and we need to get educated by reviewing the **Priority Goals** which can be found on the vfw.org website. Click on Advocacy and select Legislative Priorities. These goals will keep us informed of the key issues the VFW will be advocating on our Veterans’ behalf. Important legislation involving healthcare, education, disability assistance, fully funding programs for our Veterans, POW/MIA and much more. Goals are updated every January!

Sign up for the free “*VFW Action Corps Weekly*.” This weekly email newsletter will keep you informed about legislation that is being introduced and/or passed. Links are provided for us to participate by taking action in contacting our local senators and representatives. Do it now and tell our U.S. Congress to Support the COST of War and Honoring our PACT Acts which are bills that address the urgent needs of veterans suffering from military toxic exposure.

Help spread the word by getting others involved! Encourage Auxiliary members, family and friends to sign up to receive the *Action Corps Weekly*. There are several important bills currently in Congress. These are just a few ...

H.R.67 – Veteran Overmedication and Suicide Prevention Act of 2021 – This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to report on the deaths of covered veterans who died by suicide during the last five years. A covered veteran is any veteran who received VA hospital care or medical services during the five-year period preceding the veteran's death. Among other elements, the report shall include the total number of covered veterans who died by suicide, violent death, or accidental death, as well as certain demographic information.

H.R. 344: Women Veterans TRUST Act – This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a nationwide analysis of the need for women-specific VA programs that treat and rehabilitate women veterans with drug and alcohol dependency. Based on the findings of the analysis, the VA must implement a women-specific pilot program to treat and rehabilitate women veterans with drug and alcohol dependency.

Remember to report monthly about everything you do to promote legislation. Let’s be the voice that helps our 22 million Veterans as we are ... *“Soaring Above and Beyond”* as we stand ... *“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”* Loyally, *Belinda*



AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM – JUDY LEFEBVRE, CHAIRMAN
316 PELLERIN ROAD ~ PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901
Tel: (518) 563-7558 (H) – (518) 593-5628 (C) – Email: biljud@aol.com



I am honored to serve as this year’s ACOP Chairman. Several program changes were made since last year. However, the goal remains the same: *“for members to volunteer with other organizations and be visible in the community doing the kind of work the Auxiliary has participated in for years. This kind of involvement fosters awareness about the Auxiliary in our communities and builds good will.”*

Please remember to report by the first of each month. To qualify for program credit, listed below are a few reminders:

- Projects **MUST NOT BE AFFILIATED** with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs.
- Support Projects to Recognize and honor First Responders (note: 20th Anniversary of the attack on America (9/11/2001).
- Department and National Awards for the outstanding collage of Auxiliary member community activities.
- Auxiliary motions **must be specific for the activity** but can cover one day, several months or the entire Auxiliary year. Example: Member ABC moves that the Auxiliary will sponsor members volunteering at the County Food Shelf every month this Auxiliary year,” or Member ABC will volunteer at the water station for the Walk for Life on October 1st, etc.
- You must wear Auxiliary apparel (scarfs, membership and/or Presidents’ pins, vehicle decals) for Auxiliary recognition. Refer to the July 2021 *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*, pages 13-14 and Ambassador Mary Ryser’s Blog #1.

“MEMBERS & HOURS” TO REPORT	DO NOT REPORT
Assisting in packing and distributing food in your community	Foods donated or funds raised to feed the homeless
Organizing EMT, Police, Firefighter appreciation	Cost of food, signs and decorations
Volunteering at water stations, etc. for benefit walks/runs	Funds raised or registration fees paid
Park beautification, road/street clean-up, snow removal	Any hours counted under another Auxiliary Program
Assisting students with school projects and reading to them	School supplies, toys & Scouts (Youth Program)
Helping Non-veteran Senior Citizens	Assisting veterans (Veterans & Family Support)
Coordinating Red Cross blood drives and CPR classes	Blood and safety equipment donated

Use your imagination to continue ... *“Soaring Above and Beyond”* ... while being ... *“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families”* and ... at the same time you “Reach Out to Help” your community and enhance the Auxiliary image. Loyally, *Judy*



CHIEF OF STAFF – PDP KAREN A. DOTSON, CHAIRMAN
19 CALGARY LANE ~ BINGHAMTON, NY 13901

Telephone: (607) 648-9271 – Email: kdvwaux@aol.com

Welcome to the 2021-2022 year as defenders of our freedoms for our veterans and their families! At the beginning of each new program year, there are commonly asked questions by Auxiliary Officers and members. Below are questions and answers to help kick off a successful 2021-2022.

Q1. I am a newly elected/re-elected Auxiliary President. Is there anything I am supposed to provide to my Post Commander?

Ans. Refer to Bylaws Sec. 810—President Duties of – The President, within 30 days after induction into office, shall submit to the Post Commander the last quarterly audit and membership status report. You may provide a copy of the most current Audit and note your membership as of June 30, 2021. (Contact the Dept. Secretary with questions.)

Q2. How should I prepare for my first meeting?

Ans. a. Begin by reviewing the 2021-22 Program Guidebook that was included in your President's packet. Highlight due dates and requests for each program. Provide Auxiliary Chairmen with a copy of their program. For your convenience, additional Program books may be purchased for \$7 each. (Order form is on page 5 of this newsletter.)
 b. Prepare a written agenda prior to your meeting. Ensure that you also have the most current edition of the Podium Book, a gavel, and *Auxiliary News* for each of your meetings.

Q3. When is the April 1 – June 30, 2021 Audit due?

Ans. Refer to Bylaws Sec. 814—Trustees, Duties of The **TRUSTEES** should complete the April 1 to June 30, 2021 audit by July 31, 2021. The audit should be voted on at the August meeting. The Senior Trustee should USPS mail or scan and email the Audit report to Department Treasurer Kim White. Please do NOT text Audit reports!

Q4. Program Reporting – How and when do I send a Program Report?

Ans. The Department Program Report form is found on the page 55 of the 2021-22 Program Guidebook. The program report form can be documented and emailed, scanned or USPS mailed to the Department Chairman after each project/event is completed. If you cannot make a copy of the program report, Dept Chairman will accept reports via email, post cards, and other paper reports. Ensure to include your **Auxiliary Name/Number** and **District Number** on your report.

New and Exciting – Communication and training are important to achieve success. The Mentoring for Leadership Co-Chairman Tammy Cummings and I will co-host monthly “**Did You Know?**” Zoom sessions. All members are encouraged to attend. Starting in September, a different VFW Auxiliary topic will be featured each month. The Zoom will last approximately 30 minutes with time allotted for questions and answers. After each “**Did You Know?**” session, the information will be included in the *Auxiliary News* and posted on the Department Facebook page and Department website.

I look forward to working with all members of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York team. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

We are ... “**United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families**” while ... “**Soaring Above and Beyond.**”

Loyally, **Karen, PDP**



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

TAMARA CUMMINGS, Co-CHAIRMAN
125 ATLANTIC ST ~ SALAMANCA, NY 14779

Telephone: (716) 244-3260

Email: tamara.dudleyhotel@gmail.com

Dear Auxiliary Members, Welcome to an exciting 2021-2022 Program Year. National combined this Program with the Chief of Staff Program, so I will be the Co-Chair with Chief of Staff PDP Karen Dotson this year. As a first time Chairman, I will have the wonderful opportunity to assist you with the Mentoring for Leadership Program and it will also allow me to be a mentee along with you.

We have some wonderful plans for this year which include a monthly Zoom “**Did you Know?**” session. The informative Zoom will cover a wide variety of subjects, de-bunk myths and give you a chance to ask questions. Sessions will begin in September and will last approximately 30 minutes. Details will be forthcoming at OTI and in upcoming *Auxiliary News*.

Please review Department Guidebook pages 28-29 and share the information with all your members. **Auxiliary Presidents!** Have you appointed a Mentor or Mentoring Team for your Auxiliary? Now is the time to do this, as we are starting our year. At each meeting, during “*Suggestions For the Good of the Order*” or at the end of the meeting, find time to review Bylaws, National/Department Programs. You may want to review the informative guidebooks found at National's website: “*Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*” and “*Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future.*”

There are so many resources available that are just a click away. The future of our organization depends on enabling our members to become our future leaders. Now is the time to take advantage of the experienced members, to listen to the ideas of the new members and to educate all members on the proper workings of our organization.

I look forward to reading all of your reports. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about this program. Hope to see you on August 21st for Zoom OTI.

Until then we will be ... “**United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families**” as we ... “**Soar Above and Beyond.**”

Loyally, **Tamara (Tammy)**

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Deborah L. Cenni, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*
36 Parkside Street ~ Mayville, NY 14757

A Special Act of Kindness to Remember an Auxiliary Life Member

Newly elected President Linda White, and newly elected Treasurer Karen Sayers, of VFW Aux. to Sgt. M. J. Labetti Post #2159 were contacted by a Staten Island family with a request to conduct a Memorial Service for their mother, Life Member Anne Coughlin. Anne lived in Florida but was born in Staten Island. She was very active in her local Sarasota Auxiliary. She was 101 years old.

Thank you to Leona McDermott, Dept. of Florida Secretary, for her assistance. On behalf of Anne's Florida Auxiliary, the emblematic flag was draped over her casket and three white roses placed over her hands.

The family wrote, "What a beautiful, touching service VFW Auxiliary provided. Mom would have loved it as a former Conductress in Florida. It was so special to all of us. Sincerely, Judy O'Donnell

AUXILIARY NEWS ~ The Official Communication of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York



Lt Katlin Forster

Jill Orlowski, 2019-2020 District 6 Teacher of the Year (sponsored by Harvey D. Morin VFW Post and Aux. No. 2940) was selected to fly with the Blue Angels in practice flight on June 16th in Niagara Falls, NY.

A teacher at Cheektowaga Central School Middle School, Jill encourages her grade 7 and 8 students to enter the Patriot's Pen contest, helps them understand and participate in patriotic holidays, helps them contact and then interview Vietnam Veterans, and each year organizes volunteers to place wreaths on graves of our fallen heroes through Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery.

#AUXILIARYPATRIOTISM

~ Submitted by
Auxiliary President Dee Ippolito



Thank you on behalf of the WNY Freedom Lounge for your generous donation and support. As you know, the Lounge is self-funded, relying on donations and volunteers. Your donation came at the perfect time as we have moved to our new location and are replacing the furnishings in the Lounge for our guests.

WNY Freedom Lounge, Inc. is a NYS non-profit corporation, formed for the purpose of operating a military lounge (the WNY Freedom Lounge) at the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport (BNIA). The need for a military lounge in Buffalo has been proven by the attendance that we have had since opening in 2016. We created a very welcoming place for military personnel and veterans to rest and recreate between flights. Due to that success, we have been given a much better location in the airport, on the second floor past security. This Courtesy Center is a private area, away from the normal stresses of travel, to enjoy light refreshments and rest between flights in an atmosphere that enhances the morale of those who are away from home. Please feel free to visit the Lounge when you're at BNIA.

Sincerely, Deborah A. Fucina, Personnel Officer
WNY Freedom Lounge, Inc. (Aux. 898, Erie CC, D 6)