

### For Uncommon Heroes

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## DEPARTMENT TREASURER

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NEW WEBSITE! WWW.VFWAUXNY.ORG UNDER CONSTRUCTION PLEASE BE PATIENT! DEPARTMENT WEBMASTER ~ DEANNA (DEEDEE) GUYETTE ~ Email: dgullquist@verizon.net

### OCTOBER 2021 National Breast Cancer Awareness Month IMPORTANT DATES!

SEPTEMBER 30 – DEADLINE FOR ADVANCE FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND TESTIMONIAL DINNER

3 - FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS DAY

**3 to 9** – National Mental Illness Awareness Week

7 – Operation Enduring Freedom began in 2001

 $\begin{array}{l} 8 \text{ and } 9-\text{Fall Conference} \\ \text{Marriott Hotel} \sim \text{Albany} \end{array}$ 

11 - COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED

- 12 COLUMBUS DAY TRADITIONAL
- 13-US NAVY ESTABLISHED 1775
- 15 NAT'L MAMMOGRAM DAY

16-NATIONAL Boss's Day

23 – USA WEEK-END MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

27 - NAVY DAY

 $\mathbf{28}-\mathbf{S}\mathsf{TATUE} \text{ of } L\mathsf{i}\mathsf{BERTY} \text{ Anniv.}$ 

31 - HALLOWEEN

# AUXILIARY NEWS ~ October 2021 The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York



Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers, It has certainly been a very busy and rewarding summer.

Since writing my last newsletter article I had the tremendous honor of welcoming so many of you, on

August 14<sup>th</sup>, including our VFW Department Commander Mike Hoag and several of his staff, at my homecoming in Little Valley. My sincerest appreciation goes out to both the members of the Post and the Auxiliary for their hard work and dedication for making that a day I will never forget.

On August  $15^{\text{th}}$ , both Commander Hoag and I attended the Veterans Services at the Erie County Fair. We placed the American Flag and a rose in honor of our Veterans. It was unfortunate the parade this year was cancelled due to COVID. However, we were in the best of company surrounded by so many who were there for the same very important reason – *to pay tribute to our Veterans*.

The month of September was Military Suicide Awareness Month. The VFW and Auxiliary will be hosting a Stop 22 Walk at the Fall Conference on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot attend the conference your Auxiliary can host a walk or event of its own in support of this vital cause. Information was included in the Fall Conference packet.

### National Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW) is October 3 to 9, 2021. This week is marked by community education efforts in all 50 states to raise awareness about all mental illnesses. They are medical conditions that can be treated. *Help is available* for children and adults with mental illnesses including for their families. *There is hope*!

We all need to educate ourselves and others about the warning signs of suicide, not only for those who have served or active military, but for our families and friends as well. There are several resources listed in the Guidebook under Veterans & Family Support Program. Those offer options for our Veterans to obtain the services they need. One suggestion is to make brochures or flyers that can be placed in your Post home. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer Awareness is as important as it has ever been. Due to COVID-19 and the pandemic, many men and women postponed annual check-ups, including breast cancer screening. While appointments were rightfully delayed, medical centers are open and they are taking steps to keep patients safe. Imaging, including mammograms, has resumed. *Now* is the time to schedule your appointment – *early detection saves lives*!

Thank you to those Auxiliaries that donated to my Special Project, National Veterans Golden Age Games. If you attend Fall Conference, be sure to spin the Carnival Wheel! Of course, the biggest winners will be our Veterans. Nearly half of our Auxiliaries donated to Health and Happiness (\$3,000). Wreaths Across America information was recently emailed announcing that Pembroke cemetery is now officially sponsored by WAA.Contact Chairman Dee Ippolito for more details.

A quick reminder that annual dues for Officers must be processed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Chief of Staff Karen Dotson recently emailed a list of unpaid Officers to District Presidents. Please process annual Officer's dues *now*!

Auxiliary Official Visits are well underway. It will not take a lot of time and everything should go smoothly if you prepare in advance. Presidents should complete the worksheet prior to the meeting. It is helpful when the Treasurer and Secretary are present in case the District Representative has any questions.

The Department website is under construction. Please be patient as our webmaster uploads more information and forms. If you cannot find what you are looking for, contact our Department Secretary Debbie Cenni.

Fall Conference information was included in the September *Auxiliary News*. Be sure to pay attention to RSVP's and deadlines (allow time for USPS delivery). I hope you will plan to attend the Testimonial Dinner on Friday and the Reception to honor State Cmdr. Hoag and Dept. President Ruth Huber on Saturday night.

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



#### GENERAL ORDERS # 2 ~ OCTOBER 2021 These General Orders must be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference.

1. The 2021 Fall Conference will be held October 8 and 9 at the Albany Marriott. PDP Karen Dotson is the conference chairman. The National Representative will be National District Council Member No. 4 Buttercup Baker. Advance registration, due September 30<sup>th</sup> is \$8 and registration at the door is \$10. The Council of Administration meeting will start promptly at 8:30 AM on Saturday. The Conference Business Meeting will begin immediately following the C of A meeting. Due to increased cost, the Auxiliary will not host a luncheon.

2. In accordance with National Bylaws Article V Districts Section 506—District Dues. •Delegates assembled at a District Convention may assess annual dues not to exceed 50 cents (50¢) per member per Auxiliary •Based on the June 30 membership of the preceding year. •Dues cannot be assessed per Auxiliary on a flat rate basis. •Dues should be remitted to the District Treasurer by September 30 of the current Auxiliary year or as established by the District Standing Rules.

Section 507—Quorum •The minimum number of Delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a District meeting or Convention shall not be less than Officers and/or Delegates representing one-fourth (1/4) of the Auxiliaries of the District. •A minimum of five (5) members in good standing are required to constitute a quorum. •For the purpose of this section, the Auxiliary President shall be considered a Delegate.

3. In accordance with National Bylaws Article VIII Officers Section 809—Resignations •All resignations of Officers shall be in writing and sent to the Secretary of the body from which the Officer is resigning. •If the Secretary is resigning, the resignation shall be sent to the President of the body from which they are resigning. •Resignations are effective when issued. •Verbal resignations are binding.

Section 809A—Resignations—All Levels (Presidents & Vice-Presidents). •In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President •The Senior Vice President shall at once succeed to the title and duties of such office. •The Junior Vice President shall succeed to the title and duties of the Senior Vice President.

•Due notice of contemplated election shall be deemed given if the President announces that the election will be at the next regular meeting. •If the Senior Vice or Junior Vice-President chooses not to succeed to the next higher office, they should resign.

Section 812—Secretary, Duties of (All Levels) •The Secretary shall keep in books or files: •A record of all minutes of each meeting of the Auxiliary •The manner in which the minutes of the Auxiliary meetings are read, printed and/or distributed shall be at the discretion of the Auxiliary by vote of the membership.

Section 813—Treasurer, Duties of (All Levels) •Duties of the Treasurer are most efficiently conducted through electronic means. •The Treasurer is responsible for keeping National Headquarters up to date with bank information (i.e. account number and/or routing number). •Upon approval by the National President, the Auxiliary President may appoint an acting Treasurer when the Treasurer is unable to function for a period of time due to illness, death, resignation, or extended vacations. •The request must be in writing to the National President.

**4.** Auxiliaries should immediately report any change of Officer or Auxiliary information to the Department Secretary. The Auxiliary Secretaries may enter changes of member mailing/ contact information in MALTA or notify the Department Secretary. The Auxiliary Secretary may enter Death of Member in MALTA or contact the Department Secretary. Please refer to the form found on Guidebook page 55.

### BY ORDER OF:

### Ruth Huber

Ruth Huber, Department President

ATTEST:

Deborah L. Cenní

Deborah L. Cenni, Department Secretary

### WELCOME BUTTERCUP BAKER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK FALL CONFERENCE! 2020-2022 – National District Council Member #4

Buttercup Baker of Rehoboth Beach, Del., represents Delaware and New York on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of ForeignWars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary between National Conventions.

She is serving a two-year term as one of 29 representatives who make up the Council along with the top seven National Officers, the National Chief of Staff and the four Junior Past National Presidents.

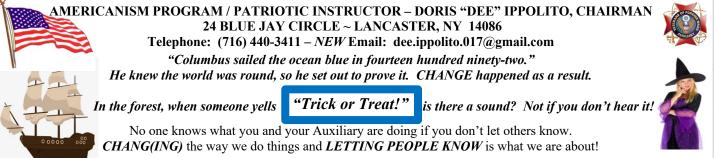
A Life Member of Rehoboth Beach Auxiliary 7447, Buttercup joined on the eligibility of her father, David Hunnings, who served in the U.S. Army during WWII. She has served the

organization in many capacities including Department and Auxiliary President, and as Eastern Conference Membership Coach. Over the course of her 43-year membership, Buttercup has held all Auxiliary offices and Chairmanships.

In her spare time, her favorite activity is spending time with her grandchildren. Buttercup is also amember of the Elks Lodge and serves as the Secretary of the Past Department President Club in Delaware.

Buttercup and her husband Billy's family include two adult children, and five grandchildren.





**TREAT (and CHANGE)** your friends, community, other Auxiliaries in the Department of New York and all to information about your Auxiliary. Use **#auxiliarypatriotism** in all your Facebook, Twitter and Instagram postings! All you do is go to your personal FB, your Auxiliary's FB, your Post FB and/or the Department of New York's FB and post your pictures and captions AND include **#auxiliarypatriotism** in your write-up. Also include your District and Auxiliary number and the Department of New York in your write-up. When you post your activities, you provide ideas for others, too.

Post your events on FB, Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag auxiliarypatriotism. Anyone can search *#auxiliarypatriotism* and easily see all the events which have occurred. Share your ideas and events! You can post Auxiliary traditions about patriotism, what you are doing for Auxiliary Community Outreach, collections for Hospital, efforts to support Veterans' Legislation, activities with Youth, events held for Veterans and Families and/or Mentoring activities. Anything you are doing. Post it for others to see. *When someone does yell out, others will hear*!



<u>Tick-tock. Time is running out! Donate before October 31<sup>st</sup> to *Wreaths Across America* WAA's mission is to <u>REMEMBER</u> the fallen, <u>HONOR</u> those who serve and their families and <u>TEACH</u> future generations about the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms. Donate now so that your wreaths can be placed on soldiers' graves on National Wreaths Across America Day, December 18<sup>th</sup>. One wreath will be placed on a grave in a National Cemetery of your choice for \$15 or 3 wreaths for \$30.00 and any multiples of \$30. Send checks and cemetery information to Dee Ippolito so it arrives by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Note: Pembroke was recently added to the list.</u>

<u>Time is also running out to donate for "In Lieu of …</u>" A giant poster will include your name(s) for each donation of \$5.00. This card will be displayed with Wreaths Across America for our troops. Your donations will help cover the cost of sending holiday trees and menorahs to our overseas servicepeople. Donate now so Dee Ippolito receives your checks by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Report <u>Now</u>* on social media and use **#AuxiliaryPatriotism**. Call or email me with questions. All questions respectfully answered! *Happy Change and Happy Halloween!* **"Soaring Above and Beyond"** and ... **"United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."** Loyally, *Dee* 

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



REMEMBER ... VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE EARNED FOR SERVING VETERANS IN <u>ALL</u> VA AND <u>ALL</u> NON-VA FACILITIES!

Hi! Happy Fall! As our temperatures begin to cool down and we enter the Halloween and leaf peeping seasons, I would like to remind you of a few things you can do for our Hospital Program. Due to Covid, I realize most of the VA's are not yet open in New York. However, there are things that you can do.

I am sharing a few of the activities reported by Auxiliaries: •Volunteer at your local Hospice facility (not affiliated within the VA); •volunteer at a Medical Center; participate in a food drive for needy community members; •drive a Veteran to a doctor's appointment (this Veteran cannot be related to you); •be a caregiver to someone who needs assistance; •volunteer at your local hospital's gift shop; •help a Veteran prepare meals once a week; •deliver wrapped candy to a nursing or rehab facility for staff and patients; and please remember to •always send cards to all of our hospitalized Veterans.

If you know of any VA's, other than Buffalo and Syracuse, that are currently accepting volunteers, contact me so I can pass the word. I was notified that the Finger Lakes Healthcare System in Canandaigua has a great need for Walmart and Wegman's gift cards. If you are near this area, contact Pat Gough for further information. For those unable to volunteer at a local VA or non-VA facility, consider making lap robes, hats, quilts, cards, etc. to donate to those facilities.

For more information on how to become a volunteer, download the VAVS Participation Guide and Hospital Program at: vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Both of these documents will provide you with some great ideas!!

Finally, please read the "Honors Escort" article that appeared on page 13 of the September 2021 *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*. "Honors Escort" is a big part of our Hospital Program this year. We will be ... "Soaring Above and Beyond" and ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families." Loyally, *Peggy* 

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM – CINDY WINZENRIED, CHAIRMAN 40 GROTON PARKWAY ~ ROCHESTER, NY 14623 Telephone: (585) 230-9022 – Email: cindy@wwtruckn.com

Dear Members, One of our greatest assets is our Youth. Our Youth are *Assets with Creativity*! Partnering with a youth group provides our members with a new perspective on the projects that we invest our time and energy for our veterans and active-duty personnel.

It is not too early to establish a plan with a youth group. One project you may wish to request them to do is write "Thank you for your Service" cards/letters. Then present those cards/letters to your Post's veterans and/or to your local VA Hospital or Nursing Home facility. This makes a perfect project for Veterans Day. Many of our veterans have been homebound due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To receive a greeting card from a student will brighten their day.

**Illustrating America** is a unique opportunity for students to display their artistic creativity. This contest is open to public, private and homeschooled students enrolled in grades K to 8. Entrants must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National at the time of the entry. The Art Project will be judged on **patriotic theme and technique**. Details can be found in the Guidebook. Due date to submit art to local Auxiliaries is March 31, 2022. Contact me if you have any questions.

"<u>Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!</u>" provides an opportunity to engage our youth between the ages of 6 to 16 to showcase their vocal talent by demonstrating their patriotism and creativity by singing the *"Star Spangled Banner."* Participants must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. More details can be found in the Guidebook. The application form is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources under the Youth Activities Program or you can contact me.

**Patriotism through Literacy** – We are encouraging Auxiliaries to introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. Many schools and public libraries are in need of monetary donations to enhance their historical collection of books for students of all ages.

<u>Fall District Project</u> – Thank you in advance to all Auxiliaries and Districts who are participating in the collection of hats, gloves, mittens and scarves which will be donated to a local homeless shelter or local school.

I look forward to reading your reports as you work with our youth. Reports can be sent to me either USPS or email. Thank you in advance for your support as we are ... "Soaring Above and Beyond" while ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and their Families." Loyally, *Cindy* 



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

I'm so excited by the way reports are pouring in telling me about those Membership Drives and your retention ideas. Remember, to qualify for your bronze medal you must **report your Membership Drive to me before October 1, 2021**. You can find many materials to use for your Membership Drive at: vfwauxiliary.org/resources.



Our next Membership goal deadline is **October 15, 2021**. By that date your Auxiliary wants to reach 85% membership and have retained at least 50% of your annual members from the June 30, 2021 membership totals. This is absolutely attainable! Reach out to your annual members. Why not invite them to a small get together at your Post or someone's home? You can serve some refreshments or do a potluck end of summer picnic.

Remind your members about the benefits of their membership and the importance of renewing early. Then collect their dues. Have fun. Maybe play a game of BINGO with the winner receiving their 2022 dues for a prize. Remember! Per capita only costs your Auxiliary \$12.00! Avoid a "meeting" atmosphere. Talk about upcoming projects – you might strike an interest. Above all, be EXCITED! Your excitement about your Auxiliary is contagious.

Please do not wait for the Department to send out dues reminders. Contact your members FIRST. It's a personal touch that makes your members know you care about them not just their membership. Keep track of the emails, phone calls, etc., as noted on the year-end report. The Department needs that information for OUR year end reports.

The \$100 winner of the Department Olympic Award drawing for September, <u>50-yard Dash Award</u>, will be announced at the Fall Conference. Auxiliaries that processed at least 30% of its annual members by September 1, 2021 were entered.

The Olympic Challenge for October is <u>Vaulting Into the Membership Year Award</u>. To be eligible for the \$50 drawing, an Auxiliary must attain at least 85% in membership by October 15, 2021. <u>In addition</u>, if that Auxiliary has also retained at least 50% of its annual members, the Auxiliary will receive another \$50. \$100.00 total awarded for meeting both criteria.

Please report if you attended the ZOOM OTI. Remember, in order to achieve your GOLD medal, Presidents must report attendance at OTI, Fall Conference and Spring Conference. Loyally, *Chris* 

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



### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM BELINDA COLE, CHAIRMAN 6 BEECH STREET HUDSON FALLS, NY 12839 Telephone: (518) 260-1694 Email: belinkisses@gmail.com

### EDUCATE! PARTICPATE! GET OTHERS INVOLVED!

Hello Brothers and Sisters! I am so impressed with all the reports received and all that you are doing to support our Veterans' rights. *Keep up the great work!!* We need to stay on track to *Educate! Participate! and Get Others Involved!* 

I cannot stress enough that the best way to stay in tune to what's happening is getting your membership to subscribe to receive the *Action Corps Weekly* newsletter. It's free! Take a few moments to print a few copies to distribute at your meetings for those members who do not have computer access. The e-newsletter contains what you need to be informed of all the legislation that is important to the VFW.

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Sign up at: www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts click on Action Corps Button, enter your email and zip code.

Women Veterans will be one of the primary focuses for the VFW. This topic was discussed after a recent VFW Zoom Legislation meeting. With more women joining our armed forces, we need to ensure that Women Veterans receive the benefits and services to honor their commitment to our country. Examples include improved health care that identifies and treats their unique health care needs, Peer to Peer Outreach Programs and homelessness. Please advocate with your local Assembly Member, Senator or Congress Member to support such Bills as:

H.R. 958, Protecting Moms Who Served Act – This proposal will structure the VA's maternity care programs to support the needs of pregnant and postpartum veterans. Women veterans of child bearing age are among the second largest group enrolled in the VA health care system. <u>NYS Senate Bill # S4423</u> relates to Peer Support Programs to develop and establish regional and county-based peer support services programs for Women Veterans. Peer support programs help Veterans transition back to civilian life and cope with stress, depression or substance abuse.

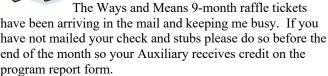
Not sure how to advocate? To find your Assembly Member ... Go to ... nyassembly.gov/mem/search/ type in your address to locate your assembly member or To find your Senator ... Go to ... www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator

To find your House Representative ... Go to ... www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative

The times are changing and we need to change our legislation. Thank you for all you do as we stand ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families" while ... "Soaring Above and Beyond." Loyally, Belinda



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



The first \$100 drawing for the 9-month raffle will be held at the Fall Conference. All ticket stubs received before the first drawing will be entered to win! If you bring checks and stubs to Fall Conference be sure to sign the sheet so you receive program credit! The calendar raffle has always been very successful and everyone looks forward to it. Make your check payable to VFW Aux Dept of NY and earmark it "9-month raffle."

Back by popular demand! Each Auxiliary is again asked to bring \$10 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets to Fall Conference. There will be a sheet to sign so your Auxiliary receives program donation and participation credit.

The Department will soon begin its new "*Think Green*" cash raffle at Fall Conference. If you have been following the Way & Means Program, "*Think Green*" is a new and different kind of raffle. For each ticket donation of \$20, you will have a chance to win the first prize of \$1,500! Yes, that is correct! Second place \$1,000; then there are three \$500 dollar winners and ten \$100 winners. Total cash prizes will to 15 lucky participants! Remember ... you have to have a ticket to have a chance of winning!

Your Auxiliary will receive program credit for participation and donation by purchasing even one ticket. If you would like to split the cost of a ticket with someone you may do so. Make checks payable to VFW Aux Dept of NY and earmark it *"Think Green"* Raffle. I am excited to see how this new and exciting raffle plays out. We must think out of the box and create new ideas. And that is just what I tried to do!

In closing, please remember to bring your 9-month raffle and lottery tickets to Fall conference. *"Think Green"* tickets will be ready for Auxiliaries to pick up. Anyone who wishes to take tickets to sell, please feel free to ask.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference. It will be nice to see everyone who we haven't seen in over a year. If you call my cell phone and I do not answer, please leave a voice mail message and I will get back to you! **"Soaring Above and Beyond"** and ... **"United to Defend** 

the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."

Loyally, Marcía

A QUICK REMINDER ... ANNUAL DUES FOR OFFICERS MUST BE PROCESSED BY DECEMBER 31ST.

A LIST OF UNPAID OFFICERS WAS RECENTLY EMAILED TO DISTRICT PRESIDENTS.

PLEASE PROCESS ANNUAL OFFICER'S DUES NOW!





### CHIEF OF STAFF PDP KAREN A. DOTSON. CHAIRMAN 19 CALGARY LANE ~ BINGHAMTON, NY 13901 Telephone: (607) 648-9271 – Email: kdvfwaux@aol.com

Our organization depends on everyone's efforts to welcome all of its members. By welcoming members and inviting them to participate in projects, our Auxiliaries will stimulate, retain, and increase the number of members in every Auxiliary.

Auxiliaries are encouraged to keep members informed about all current projects and overall goals needed to achieve. Keep your members engaged so they will want to contribute to programs, special projects, and serve our veterans, active military and their families. Take time to explain traditions, bylaws, ritual and especially mentor new members. This investment will make members feel welcome and keep lines of communication open.

Members like to be asked to participate. Ask, "How would you like to be involved?" Recognize Auxiliary members for what they do. Promote the "Good Job Award" by thanking members for supporting VFW Auxiliary programs and goals which make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families.

Listed are five tips to engage/energize Auxiliary members:

• Contact members when they experience an important event (new grandchild, marriage, anniversary, graduation, etc.). Go "above and beyond" to genuinely extend your good wishes. Do not miss an opportunity to call them. Members will remember! • Invite members to attend a District meeting, training event, a Department Conference or Convention. Offer them a ride! • Send "We Miss You" cards/notes to members who missed

several meetings. Their reason for not attending doesn't matter. A note will let them know they are important and missed.

• Include photographs of members who participate in service projects and events on your Auxiliary website, social media and newsletters. Recognize the contributions your members make to our organization. Remember to use #auxiliarypatriotism when you post pictures on the Department Facebook page.

• Encourage members to serve on committees that suit their interests and skills, not necessarily related to their profession. Members may be looking for a different volunteer experience. By extending a warm welcome to our Auxiliary members, we offer kindness, compassion, and willingness to work as a team.

Through these actions, our Auxiliaries continue to be strong and a unified voice in our mission to of all veterans, active-duty military and their families.

Refer to the Change form found on Guidebook page 53. All changes should be sent to Department Secretary Debbie Cenni.

Auxiliary Presidents should review the "R U Healthy Tool Kit" found in their packet. Contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for reporting on all the ways your Auxiliary is encouraging engagement of all members as we ... "Soar Above and Beyond" and are ... "United to Defend

the Freedoms of Veterans and their Families."

Loyally, Karen, PDP

**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT** KAREN MACK, CHAIRMAN PO BOX 71 ~ GERRY, NY 14740 Telephone: (716) 985-1000



Dear Sisters and Brothers, Autumn is here! The days are shorter, leaves are changing colors and falling off the trees. While the season is changing, the needs of our Veterans and their families remain the same! Our Veterans and their families need us! They are depending on us!

Veteran and Family Caregivers Our Auxiliary mission includes assisting the family of veterans ... the ones who care for our veterans. Caregivers often lose themselves while caring for others. Stress levels may rise until it becomes overwhelming. These are many simple ways we can show our support and acknowledge their importance such as: • Be a good listener. • Visit caregivers – in-person, by phone or electronically. • Take over caregiver duties for a short time or offer to assist them. • Bring a meal or deliver a gift card to a local eatery. • Send thinking of you cards and/or flowers. • Provide a spa day gift card.

The VA offers support services to assist the caregivers within the VA System. Visit caregiver.va.gov for more information. October 2020 was the first time spouses could file to receive caregiver benefits.

Auxiliaries are asked to bring (or send) a cash donation to Fall Conference to support our Military Caregivers.

Women Veterans need VA's that are able to care for them when they are transitioning back to civilian life.

Homeless Veterans Please help our homeless Veterans.

National Veterans Service (NVS) supports VFW Service Officers. Donate on the Donation Report Form or mail a check directly to VFW Headquarters (earmarked "NVS.") VFW Veterans and Military Support Program There are three separate programs fall under this one main category: Military Assistance Program (MAP) supports send-off's, homecomings and casual get-togethers for troops. Unmet Needs provides funds to cover unexpected bills. "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" helps qualifying veterans and service members meet their education goals.

Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness Know the warning signs of suicide. Many resources are listed in the Guidebook. I hope you will join the Stop 22 Walk at Fall Conference.

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

Reminder! April 30, 2022 is the deadline for all Auxiliaries to sponsor at least one project, activity or donation to benefit Veterans and SEND ME A REPORT! I hope to see all at Fall Conference. Loyally, Karen

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





*Approved motions must be recorded in the minutes for specific activities*. For example: Motion approved for our members to coordinate with the Food Assistance Program to shop and deliver food every week this year. Then be sure to send me a Report with the number members and hours by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

Wear appropriate Auxiliary volunteer identification. Shirts, other apparel items, pins, badges and decals are available for purchase at the VFW Store (vfwstore.org). Auxiliary patches (less than \$5) can be sewn on any shirt or jacket.

Visit my table at Fall Conference to receive an Auxiliary Volunteer badge. Our members continue to be ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families" while ... "Soaring Above and Beyond" and at the same time they ... "Reach Out to Help" their communities and enhance the Auxiliary image. Loyally, Judy



# **VFW** NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

# LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION						
Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss	Name:					
Address:						
City:	State:			ZIP Code:		
Date of birth:	Email:			Phone:		
Membership Type:						
Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary)						
□ Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)						
<b>VFW &amp; VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION</b> (Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)						
□ I am a member of VFW Post		in 1	in the Department of		VFW	
I am a member of VFW Auxiliary		_ in	in the Department of		VFW Auxiliary	
RECRUITER (Not required)						
Recruiter name:			Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number:			
PAYMENT INFORMATION						
certificate, card and other information to be sent. You can also <b>apply online at:</b>		One time membership fee and Life Member pin \$50				
www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership						
□ Check enclosed and made payable to <b>VFW National Home for Children</b> □ Charge my □ Visa □ Mastercard □ Discover □ American Express						
Name on card:			Card number:			
Signature:			Expiration date:			
WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER						
BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honors our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.						

3573 S Waverly Rd Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 tel 866 483-9642 www.vfwnationalhome.org info@vfwnationalhome.org

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

President Ruth's Special Project is something very special – National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG)

All fundraising proceeds for Ruth's Special Project will benefit Veterans from every VA hospital in New York.

In 1985, the first National Veterans Golden Age Games took place in Albany, Georgia, with 115 competitors representing VA medical facilities across the United States. The 2021 Games were scheduled to be held in Madison, Wisconsin from June 21 – 26, 2021, but due to Covid, the event was modified to an at-home event from May 10 - 28.

The Games are designed for veterans who are over the age of 55 and are VA patients. The goal is to help veterans make physical activity part of their daily lives, and to support the rehabilitation therapy and recreation programs offered by the VA. Participants also get the chance to build relationships with other athletes.

Approximately 500 Veterans participated from their own home and sent in videos of their competition. You can Google National Veterans Golden Age Games and view the blog and results online. These Veterans are Amazing!!!

New York did awesome!! If you know or meet the following Veterans from New York, extend them a huge *sCONGRATULATIONS!!!* 

Luann Vanpeursen – 1<sup>st</sup> place for age 65-69 Female – Air Rifle and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Power Walk

Kurt Carlson – 1<sup>st</sup> place for age 65-69 Male – Air Rifle

George Charnitski – 2<sup>nd</sup> place for age 75-79 Male – Air Rifle

Stephen Snell –  $3^{rd}$  place for age 65-69 Male – 5k Cycling

Weslie Boyea – 3<sup>rd</sup> place for age 70-74 Male – Discus and 1<sup>st</sup> place Male – Shot put

**Douglas Goodfellow** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place for age 65-69 in both Men's 400-meter and 800-meter Track & Field

Next year's games are scheduled to be held July 18 to 23 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota! *Remember* ... "We are Soaring Above and Beyond" and ALWAYS remain ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."

Loyally, *Línda* 

## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY ~ PDP's

4<sup>th</sup>~ Jackie Herbert (Dept. President 2015-2016) 8<sup>th</sup>~ Sally A. Gagnon (Dept. President 2007-2008) 9<sup>th</sup>~ Sandra Flynn (Dept. President 1994-1995) 13<sup>th</sup>~ Darlene Stanton (Dept. President 2018-2019) 29<sup>th</sup>~ Debbie Casella (Dept. President 2019-2020)



"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,

Save the Date! Fall Conference is October 8 - 10, 2021 at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York.

## Be True to Yourself



You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who 'll decide where to go. ~ Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Decide on attending Fall Conference! Decide to visit the "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Information and Program Promotional Table.

Here is a sneak preview of a few promotions that will be available at Fall Conference:

- Department of New York "Buddy" Poppy Drive.
- "Buddy" Poppy Cross Over Event.
- VFW National Home for Children Life Membership. Is your Auxiliary a life member of VFW National Home for Children? If not, decide to purchase a life membership and be entered into a drawing to win \$50.00. Applications will be available. See Guidebook for additional details.
- Health & Happiness Fund Donation Status.
- "*Dimes to Dollars Donation Dash!*" Proceeds to benefit the VFW National Home for Children Program Special Project. See Guidebook for additional details.

## Expand Your Horizons

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.  $\sim 1 \text{ Gay Read with My Eyes Shut}/$ 



Decide to acquire this program's available promotional flyers. Decide to leave a report of your visit at the "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Information and Program Promotional Table. Decide to Sign-In and receive program participation credit. Decide to Smile and have Fun!



## Surround Yourself with Good People

But the YEPS on the Steps... Theyre great fun to have around. And so are many, many other friends that I have found... ~There s a Wocket in My Pocket!

I am looking forward to seeing all of You at Fall Conference! Loyally, *Katen* 



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



TAMARA CUMMINGS, Co-CHAIRMAN 125 ATLANTIC ST ~ SALAMANCA, NY 14779 Telephone: (716) 244-3260 Email: tamara.dudleyhotel@gmail.com

Dear Auxiliary Members, It is that beautiful time of the year. The leaves are turning those gorgeous shades of red and orange. We also know soon the leaves will slowly fall from the trees. They will turn brown, be raked up and forgotten.



Is this how your Auxiliary Meeting is starting to look? Are fewer people attending because the weather has changed and the initial excitement of the beginning of a new Program Year is waning? Instead of raking those members up and forgetting about them maybe we should pick them up while they are still beautiful and preserve them.

There are usually reasons that members don't attend an Auxiliary meeting. Do your members know the date and time of your meeting? Make sure to post your meeting date and time in a prominent place at the post home and on your Facebook or social media page. Send out an email, call or text members to remind them about the meeting.

Are your meetings too long? Everyone is busy these days. Try to keep your meetings to one hour or less. Presidents should prepare an agenda in advance and stick to business! Socializing is great but get your business done first and don't socialize during the meeting. Limit conversations to the subject at hand. Presidents ... use your gavel! Mentor your Auxiliary Officers as to their duties to help make the meeting run smoother.

Most importantly, make your members feel needed and involved. Offer a ride to a "new member" to attend a meeting or an event. "Susie" might really appreciate an extra hand to help her chop the veggies for the macaroni salad that she always brings for the monthly dinner!

Always remember to thank your members for what they do and for attending a meeting or event. At Fall Conference, stop at my Program table. I will have items and information available to help make your members feel *"special"* for all the wonderful things they do for our Great Organization!

There are many Tools available to help your Auxiliary meeting run more smoothly and efficiently. Visit vfwAuxiliary.org/resources. Scroll down to Chief of Staff *"Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit."* 

Remember as we ... "Soar Above and Beyond" we are ... "United to Defend the Freedoms of our Veterans and Their Families." Loyally, *Tamara* 

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



As we welcome new refugees to our communities, may we continue to grow and prosper our own organization and welcome all those who may be settling in the United States who have left behind their families, as we remain ... **"United to Defend Veterans and Their Families"** and ... **"Soaring Above and Beyond."** 

Loyally, *Darlene* 



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

District Presidents, Many of you have held the first meeting of the year and school of instruction for inspectors. You should have covered the instruction sheets and importance of official visits. The Department depends on Official Visits to know if an Auxiliary is in need of assistance.

Inspectors need to be familiar with the questions on the report. After your visit, review the inspection sheet and be sure all questions are answered. Write your comments in the remarks section. The Department wants to know about any questions or problems and to learn about all the good things an Auxiliary is doing. Make sure that the CURRENT President and CURRENT Treasurer are the ONLY TWO who are signing the checks! Send all three copies of the Inspection Report to the District President within 5 to 7 days of the completion of your visit.

District Presidents, you appoint inspectors! When the forms are returned to you, review them and make sure they are complete or I will send them back to you for completion. Date the upper right-hand corner and return all copies to me within 5 to 7 days after you receive them. *PLEASE DO NOT HOLD INSPECTIONS UNTIL YOU HAVE SEVERAL TO SEND AT ONCE.* 

If an appointed inspector is not able to complete an Official Visit, they should return all materials to the District President who will then appoint a new inspector.

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

Loyally, Bonnie, PDP



### SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM – DOLORES B. SHEELEY, CHAIRMAN PO BOX 1025 ~ ROCK HILL, NY 12775 Telephone: (845) 796-1322 – *NEW* Email: sheelevd@gmail.com

### Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!

Did you remember that at midnight October 31, 2021 is the submission deadline to VFW Posts for both **Patriot's Pen** and **Voice of Democracy** Scholarship Competitions? There are NO exceptions, so please remind students, parents and educators of this important date. We do not want a young person's work to be disqualified because they missed a deadline. Post judging should be completed by November 15, 2021, and winners sent immediately to the District level by your VFW.

Remember! The Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy are VFW Programs - and we are to assist!



Take the time to jot down how many Auxiliary members helped and how much time was spent on one or both of these programs. It is extremely important. Be sure YOU get credit for the great work you do. <u>Your report matters for next year's Talking Points Facts Sheet</u>.



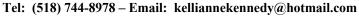
### "FUND THE FUTURE" - VFW Auxiliary Scholarships

VFW Auxiliary National President Jean Hamil's Special Project will increase the VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Art and Continuing Education Scholarship Funds. The goals are to:

- 1. Increase the number of Patriotic Art Scholarships awarded at the National level from 12 to 20.
- 2. Increase the award amount of the Continuing Education Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
- 3. There are three ways to support students Donate online in MALTA, send a check by mail or establish a Patriotic Art Scholarship. More information can be found at 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* – #AuxiliaryPatriotism

#### HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM – KELLIANNE KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN 315 ANCHORS WAY ~ WINDER, GA 30680 Tal: (518) 744 8078 Emeil: kellionnekennedy@hotmeil.com



<u>I'm Keeping an Eagle Eye on the Eagle's Nest</u>

### Facebook Tips for An Active and Awesome Auxiliary Page

Not all social media platforms are created equal. Facebook is a must – especially if your Auxiliary or District does not have its own website! Social media experts suggest you post AT LEAST once or twice per day to Facebook. How do you have time for that? How do you come up with that much stuff to post? It can seem overwhelming, especially with all of your other responsibilities and duties! Listed are best practices and helpful tips to help you generate content and keep your Auxiliary or District Facebook page active and awesome!

• Assign two or three people in your Auxiliary or District to be Administrator of the Facebook page (President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Secretary, Historian, a social media savvy member, etc.) • Upload a great Cover Photo and Profile Picture. A Cover Photo is horizontal (across); choose one that was originally horizontal. A Profile Picture is square; choose one that was originally square. • Review the "About" section. Does the contact information need to be updated? Address, phone number, email address of Post, Auxiliary or District. (Do not post your personal contact information.) • Review the Company Overview Story. • Know the Facebook URL (web address) for your Auxiliary, District or Department. For example, the url for Auxiliary National Headquarters is: https://www.facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary.

Tip: Add the Facebook web address to all communications. Include a hyperlink in your email signature; list it in newsletters, promotions, dues notices, etc. • Have a Plan! Think about everything that will be going on in the next three months. Develop a plan/schedule and post events, meetings, etc. on a calendar so your members can see what's coming up. Schedule Facebook posts in advance on your Auxiliary or District page to save time.

What to Post?: Stories about how members/Auxiliaries in our Department are making a difference in our community and the lives of veterans and their families. Include Member of the Week/Month, Question/Conversation starters, ask for members' opinions or to share their own member experience, • Event promotion; photos of events that took place; links to Department forms, program guidebook, etc. Share posts from •VFW Headquarters, Auxiliary Headquarters and/or • VFW National Home for Children.

In review, maintaining an active and awesome Auxiliary Facebook page can seem overwhelming. By having multiple administrators and developing a plan and scheduling posts in advance will help this method of communication and publicity become easier.

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" Loyally, *Kellianne* 

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW	YORK
Deborah L. Cenni, Editor ~ <i>Auxiliary News</i>	
36 Parkside Street ~ Mayville, NY 14757	

## FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 8 and 9, 2021 ALBANY MARRIOTT HOTEL

NOTE: THE TIME FOR FRIDAY REGISTRATION HAS CHANGED. IT IS 2 TO 5 PM.

FALL CONFERENCE INFORMATION WAS INCLUDED IN THE SEPTEMBER AUXILIARY NEWS.

PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES ... AND ... ALLOW TIME FOR USPS DELIVERY (Suggested 5 Days Minimum)

SEPTEMBER 22 DEADLINE ... • Room reservation to receive group rate

SEPTEMBER 30 DEADLINE ... • Conference Advance Registration Form

• VFW Testimonial Dinner Reservation

• RSVP for Reception Honoring VFW State Commander Hoag and VFW Auxiliary Department President Huber

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



### RESULTS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND REVISIONS TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS PRESENTED AT THE 108TH (2021) NATIONAL CONVENTION

To view and download the results of each of the following go to the National Website www.vfwauxiliary.org. Click on EVENTS then National Convention. (Do NOT log in to MALTA).

### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS:

- Resolution to amend Section 604 Quorum (Bylaws and Resolutions Committee) ADOPTED AS AMENDED
- Resolution to amend Section 1001 Official Look (Bylaws and Resolutions Committee) ADOPTED AS AMENDED
- Resolution to amend Section 1001 Official Look (Department of Virginia) NOT CONSIDERED
- Resolution to amend Section 101 Eligibility (Department of Delaware) ADOPTED
- Resolution to amend Section 210 Allow for Video Conference and/or Teleconference of Meetings (Department of Louisiana) – ADOPTED AS AMENDED
- Resolution to amend Section 810 Attendance at District Convention and/or Meeting (Department of Minnesota) ADOPTED
- Resolution to amend Section 802 Elective and Appointive Officers (Department of North Carolina) NOT ADOPTED
- Resolution to amend Section 104 Member in Good Standing (Department of Utah) NOT ADOPTED
- Resolution to amend Section 109 Relieve of Office (Department of Utah) ADOPTED
- Resolution to amend Section 210 Quorum (In-person and Remote)
  - (Department of Massachusetts) NOT CONSIDERED
- Resolution to amend Sections 1201 & 1202 Frequency of amending Bylaws and Ritual (Department of Montana) **NOT ADOPTED**
- Resolution to amend Section 801 Proof of Eligibility (Department of Texas) NOT ADOPTED
- Resolution to amend Section 201 Formation of Auxiliaries (Department of Delaware) NOT ADOPTED