

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT**

~ RUTH HUBER ~

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**DEPARTMENT SECRETARY**

~ *AUXILIARY NEWS* EDITOR ~

~ DEBORAH L. CENNI ~

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**DEPARTMENT TREASURER**

~ KIMBERLY WHITE ~

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**NEW WEBSITE!**

[WWW.VFWAUXNY.ORG](http://WWW.VFWAUXNY.ORG)

**DEPARTMENT WEBMASTER**

~ DEANNA (DEEDEE) GUYETTE ~  
Email: dgullquist@verizon.net

**IMPORTANT DATES!**

**DECEMBER 2021**

**AIDS AWARENESS MONTH**

NOV. 28 TO DEC. 6 ~ HANUKKAH  
~ SUNDOWN TO SUNDOWN ~

7 ~ 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR  
~ FLAGS TO BE FLOWN AT HALF-  
STAFF FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET

11 ~ ARMY NAVY FOOTBALL  
ONE OF THE OLDEST RIVALRIES!  
3 PM KICK-OFF

18 ~ WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA  
~ NOON ~

21 ~ WINTER SOLSTICE ARRIVES  
10:59 AM EST  
~ LEAST DAYLIGHT OF THE YEAR ~

25 ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS

DEC. 26 TO JAN. 1 ~ KWANZAA

**JANUARY 2022**

**CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS**

1 ~ NEW YEAR'S DAY

15 ~ MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY

17 ~ PERSIAN GULF WAR  
~ STARTED IN 1991 ~

17 ~ MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
OBSERVED HOLIDAY

***AUXILIARY NEWS ~ December 2021 – January 2022***  
***The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York***



Dear Auxiliary Members,

Fall ushered its way in and brought more wonderful places for me travel and explore. Fall Conference was filled with much to do and started with a Zoom meeting.

Participants included

VFW State Commander Mike Hoag, VFW Legislative Chair Marlene Roll, committee members and Senator Brooks as they prepared for a public hearing to the VFW response about expanding the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs to a Department. The current Division only does Veterans claims for VA benefits. Assemblywomen Didi Barrett and Pamela Hunter want to expand this Division to a full Department and add all things Veteran under its purview such as Dwyer which is currently under Mental Health. If the expansion happens, the VFW hopes there will be more funding for the Dwyer program and the NYSDVA budget.

There was a wonderful showing for the conference Stop 22 Walk to raise awareness of Veteran Suicide. Your contributions are truly appreciated. What more can I say about the Department Program Chairmen? They worked extremely hard to put together their programs and did an amazing job setting up tables so members could get ideas and information to take back and share with their Auxiliaries.

I hope you enjoyed the Testimonial Dinner to recognize our Presidents and Commanders who, dur to Covid, did not experience the full honor it is to serve our members. I thank everyone who attended Cmdr. Hoag's and my reception Saturday night. We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed having you there.

The Auxiliary was blessed to have National District Council Member No. 4 Buttercup Baker as our National Representative for the weekend. She attended and participated in all activities. Pat Gennarelli was a most gracious hostess who ensured Buttercup's safe arrival and escorted her to and from all activities. To PDP Florence Banks, we all missed your beautiful smile and gentle heart. Thank you for entrusting the Fall Conference planning to PDP Karen Dotson who did an amazing job. Karen ensured everything was organized and went smoothly.

It was off to Rome VFW Post #2246 to attend the Commander and Presidents Dinner the following weekend. Many thanks to the Post and Auxiliary for their generous donations to my Special Project. On Sunday, I attended District 5 in Corning. It was an honor and pleasure to see PDP Jackie Herbert. District President Agnes Stamp executed a beautiful meeting. On Monday, we visited the Bath VA Hospital and I made my official hospital visit. Volunteer Services guided us on a tour of the cemetery, historical building (there was an amazing array of memorabilia from all wars) and the new Community Living Center. Residents were moving in the next day. The CLC is going to offer a lot of Veterans many of the comforts of home.

The first "Did You Know?" Training was held Oct. 25th. There was a question concerning reading Communications and the Department President's letter. The *Auxiliary News* is "The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York." As such, the President's message and General Orders should always be read. If time requires communications to be abbreviated, ensure that all vital information is shared. (See page 6 of this newsletter for Zoom Q's and A's!)

District Presidents/Secretaries are asked to forward Zoom notices to their respective Auxiliary Officers and members so they can attend if they choose. Don't deprive members of the opportunity to expand their knowledge and better prepare them for line officers. The next Zoom is November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM.

With heavy heart my deepest condolences go out to the families of Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman Karen Mack, and Kimberley Burgy, daughter of PDP Bonnie Burgy who went to their heavenly homes. Their smiles and light-heartedness will truly be missed.

I wish all of you a happy and blessed holiday season. Please consider adopting a family or two for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas. The Veteran's Service Officer in your area is a great resource for finding a family in need.

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*



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



The holidays are approaching quickly. Stumped for that perfect gift idea? Why not consider a gift of giving? Give that person who is difficult to shop for a Life Membership in the VFW Auxiliary. Think about the legacy members who your Auxiliary might have already been paying their annual per capita, perhaps for a long time now. Give that member a life membership. It pays for itself over time, both by eliminating the annual per capita your Auxiliary pays and through the pay back from National to your Auxiliary for EACH life member you have.

We gave it a good shot, but as of this writing, we reached our first quarter Department goal, but not our retention goal. With only three more days and needing 953 retained annual members, I expect we might be a little short ... but well on our way to retaining 75% by January 31<sup>st</sup>. So don't give up. The Games are still on!

There were 63 Auxiliaries that reached 85% membership by October 15<sup>th</sup>. They were all entered into a drawing to win the **Vaulting into the Membership Year Award**. The lucky winner was VFW Auxiliary to SSG Michael Ollis Auxiliary to Post No. 9587 in District 2. Congratulations! They will receive a check for \$50.00 from the Department Treasurer. If they had retained 50% of last year's annual members, they would have received an additional \$50.00. However, they were 37% retained on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The **Rounding the Bases Award** for any Auxiliary attaining 95% membership is due by November 30, 2021. If the winning Auxiliary has also retained AT LEAST 75% of their annual members they will be in to win \$100.00 for their Auxiliary. Every Auxiliary can use that extra money with the holidays coming. It might be just what is needed to help adopt a Veteran family for Christmas or provide a shut-in with a Thanksgiving dinner.

Since this newsletter is the last one until after the holidays, I must remind all to look in the Guidebook. The deadlines for eligibility to win the **Worth Your Weight(lifting) Award** (100% membership – 98% retention) is December 31<sup>st</sup> and the **Shooting for the Bull's Eye Award** (100% retained AND 5 new or rejoined) is February 28, 2022. Check out the neat award for the **Bull's Eye** winner.

Be sure to report if your Auxiliary President attended ZOOM OTI and/or Fall Conference. Nearly half of our Auxiliaries were on ZOOM, and there were 172 + members registered for Fall Conference, yet only 7 have reported. Look at what is asked on the Year-end report. Be sure to keep track of the methods used to collect dues.

All Auxiliaries on all levels are also requested to provide membership trainings. Start planning them now and report them before March 1, 2022 to receive your Silver Olympic medals at the Spring Conference in Binghamton.

From my family to yours, I wish you the Merriest, Happiest Christmas ever and a Joyous New Year. Keep ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond”** while we are ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”** Loyal, *Chris*



**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 ALL VA AND ALL NON-VA FACILITIES!**



Well, the Holidays are just around the corner. While we concentrate on our families, we must not forget our Veterans who are in VA Hospitals or nursing homes along with our home-bound Veterans. The holidays can be very depressing for them. It is up to us to help cheer them up!

Even though we can't go into the hospitals or nursing homes, there are other things that we can do – collect and deliver food to your local VA Hospital; make a donation to your local VA to help them with expenses for our Veterans, collect clothing and donate it to your local VA. Call your VAVS Representative and find out what exactly they need. Donate extra calendars that you receive to the VA and send Christmas and New Years Day cards to the patients – this helps to brighten their day!

If you know a home-bound Veteran, you can pick up their mail, do some light grocery shopping for them, make a nice hot homemade meal and deliver it to them – I'm sure that they would appreciate it. If you are able – take a Veteran to a doctor's appointment (remember that the Veteran cannot be related to you if sending a report). If you live near the Albany VAMC Volunteer Program – they are looking for volunteers. Please contact their Volunteer Service Coordinator.

If you live near the Buffalo VA – collect baby items for their Layette Program and make donations of welcome kits: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. I am sure other VA's would also like these items as well. Just please call and check what is needed and what can be donated before you begin to collect.

It is not too early to begin to think about someone who would qualify as Hospital Volunteer of the Year. The form is on the National website or you can contact me and I will send it to you.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022! We will be ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond”** and ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”** Loyal, *Peggy*



CHIEF OF STAFF

PDP KAREN A. DOTSON, CHAIRMAN

19 CALGARY LANE ~ BINGHAMTON, NY 13901

Telephone: (607) 648-9271 – Email: [kdvfwaux@aol.com](mailto:kdvfwaux@aol.com)

Dear Auxiliary Members, When I think of the holiday season, it brings the smells of pine and cinnamon, the taste of gingerbread, the warmth of wooly socks and a flannel shirt, and hearing the joy of laughter and song as we mingle with our family, friends and Veterans. Can you relate?

Our holiday senses of warmth and hospitality can be compared to Auxiliary activities:

- Pine/Cinnamon – Extending a warm welcome to our Veterans and our members as they enter the meeting room
- Baking Gingerbread – Assisting in the orientation of new members
- Joy of Laughter/Song – Educating our members on Auxiliary traditions, resources, programs, etc.
- Wooly Socks/Flannel Shirt – As a VFW and VFW Auxiliary family working side-by-side on projects

By sharing our holiday senses through hospitality, we express the season of giving from the heart to our Veterans and our members.

There was a wonderful response from Department members to the first “Did You Know” Zoom Training that we held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to the second “Did you Know?” Zoom Training that will be held on Monday, November 22 at 7 PM. The main topic of discussion during the November session will be the “Investigating Committee Role for new Membership Applications.” The session will begin at 7 PM. Time will be allotted for questions. *All members are welcome to attend. (If you do not receive a Zoom invitation, email the Department Secretary.)*

A friendly reminder:

Nominations for the National Chief of Staff Award are due to Chief of Staff Karen Dotson by March 31, 2022. Any member who assisted the Department Chief of Staff in nurturing / strengthening a struggling Auxiliary and utilized *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation Guidebook* in their efforts, is eligible to be nominated!

The nomination form can be found on the VFW Auxiliary National Website ([vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) under Resources) or by contacting me.

May we all raise of glass of good cheer to our comrades and Auxiliary members as we approach 2022 with kindness, love and respect from the heart.

From my family to yours, I wish you a very *Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year 2022* as we ...  
**“Soar Above and Beyond”** and remain ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”**

Loyally, *Karen, PDP*

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM**  
**CINDY WINZENRIED, CHAIRMAN**  
 40 GROTON PARKWAY  
 ROCHESTER, NY 14623



Tel: (585) 230-9022 ~ Email: [cindy@wwtruckn.com](mailto:cindy@wwtruckn.com)

Dear Members:

The holiday season is surely upon us and our youth of all ages are excited for an upcoming break from school. This would be the perfect opportune time to meet with the youth in your community at 4H meetings, Girl/Boy Scout meetings and winter sports teams to participate in the



**“Illustrating America”** program. Many Auxiliary members have grandchildren and great-grandchildren to share this program with. This will give the children an opportunity to explore their creativity during their holiday “downtime.”

Complete details can be found on page 34 in this year’s Program Guidebook. The completed application and art work is due to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2022. Local Auxiliary winners, in each division, are due to me by April 15, 2022. If you require application forms, please contact me for assistance.

Students of all ages enjoy singing. I encourage you to share the **“Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue!”** program which promotes patriotism by singing **“The Star-Spangled Banner.”** This year there are two divisions: K-8 and 9-12. This is a solo performance. The words to the song cannot be changed. Complete details can be found on page 34 in the Program Guidebook. Application/video must be submitted to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2022. The Auxiliary must submit the winning application and video to me by April 15, 2022.

Let’s not forgot to donate youth-sized hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to your local schools, rescue missions, and food pantries. One suggestion is to wrap a pair of mittens around a can of soup with a rubber band and donate them to your local food pantry. Or place a microwave mac ‘n cheese in a hat, tie it together with holiday ribbon and donate them to your local food pantry. These are just a few of many easy ideas to help keep children’s hands warm and tummies full!

Encourage children’s groups to visit your Post home to sing holiday songs to our Veterans; have a holiday parade for a Veteran who is homebound, or invite students to sing holiday songs to our homebound Veterans and Auxiliary members to brighten their day.

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 ... **“Soar Above and Beyond”** and remain ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”**

From my family to yours – Season’s Greetings to everyone!

Loyally, *Cindy*



**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT**  
**LINDA LaROSA, CHAIRMAN**  
 501 BLUESTONE CT – APT. 204  
 MAYBROOK, NY 12543  
 Telephone: (914) 805-2743  
 Email: llarosa60@gmail.com



The cold weather is upon us! I'm glad that I have a warm, patriotic hoodie to wear. Thank you to those who picked up shirt orders at Fall Conference and to those who purchased shirts and hoodies at the conference. You can still order hoodies and t-shirts are still available. I will take orders to be delivered at Spring Conference until March 1, 2022!

I mentioned at Fall Conference that I will highlight aspects of the **National Veterans Golden Age Games** that were started 40 years ago by the Department of Veterans Affairs. There were 7 events and 77 participants. Today, the **National Veterans Wheelchair Games** has over 500 participants, competing in 22 events. As you can see, the games have grown to an amazing level.

Wheelchair Games are open to all **U.S. Veterans** with spinal cord injuries, amputations, multiple sclerosis or other central neurological conditions that require wheelchairs. These games have become more popular as therapists are turning to engage Adaptive Sports to help Veterans become more active and gain more confidence and raise self-esteem.

The games help to maintain body weight, combat chronic health conditions, boost energy levels and ensure healthy rest and sleeping patterns. The games also help reduce anxiety and depression by giving the Veterans new experiences and new friendships.

The 2022 Games will be held July 7-12, 2022 in Tempe, AZ. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the 2021 New York City Games were not held! Please keep all Veterans in your thoughts and prayers as we enter the New Year!!

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



**Karen Lynn Mack** went to her heavenly home with the Lord very unexpectedly on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Karen was a life member of VFW Auxiliary to Pine Valley Post No. 2522 in Cherry Creek. She joined under the eligibility of her grandfather Warren Elvers. She would do anything in her power to support Veterans!

Karen held many elected and appointed positions on all levels and was this year's Department Chairman for the Veterans & Family Support Program. She will be missed!

The family requests that Memorials in Karen's memory be made to the VFW National Home for Children.



*thank you*

**VFW Auxiliary  
 Dept of New York  
 Relief Fund**

Shown (left) in the photo is Lynda Essenter as she presents a \$200 check to an Auxiliary in District 3 after a recent flood that destroyed her home and displaced her family.

The family expressed their appreciation for this generous donation.

**INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE FROM  
 2021-2022 DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN  
 DARLENE BAKER**

May everyone enjoy a blessed and joyous holiday with friends and family!

May you have a healthy and prosperous New Year!



**BYLAWS RESOLUTION – PASSED**

A resolution to amend Bylaws Sec.101—Eligibility was adopted at the 108th National Convention in Kansas City.

**This change removes the requirement that an individual must be a citizen of the United States or a United States national from Auxiliary eligibility requirements.**

As of September 1, 2021, the amended Bylaw reads: Membership in the VFW Auxiliary shall be limited to: husbands/wives; widowers/widows; fathers/mothers; grandfathers/grandmothers sons/daughters; grandsons/ granddaughters brothers/sisters of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. They must also:

- Profess a belief in God
- Be not less than sixteen (16) years old.
- Any current VFW member or any person eligible to join the VFW shall not be eligible to join the Auxiliary.
- Women who joined the Auxiliary prior to August 21, 2015 who are current members or are eligible for membership in the VFW shall be eligible for the Auxiliary so long as their membership remains current.



**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT – DARLENE BAKER, CHAIRMAN**  
**42 WILLARD DRIVE ~ BERNHARDS BAY, NY 13028**  
**Telephone: (315) 657-6909 – Email: dbaker1017@aol.com**



As Sally Painter stated “A military family is a family of patriots.” Continue to keep Karen Mack’s family in your thoughts and prayers as we approach this holiday season. Karen exemplified the true meaning of a patriot. It is with great privilege and honor that I am fulfilling this Program Chairman’s obligation for the remainder of this term.

Veterans, active duty military and their families are the most critical infrastructure within our society. It is through their service and sacrifice that we all enjoy freedoms. The many programs we sponsor through the Auxiliary are a great achievement. We are all great Ambassadors within our own communities and we can show that by doing the little things: take blankets and personal care items to homeless shelters, send cards and make telephone calls to Veterans in communities that will put a smile on their face, take them to appointments, provide assistance to mow their lawns (or remove snow as the weather changes). These are a few things that we can do to “make a difference” in the everyday lives of someone in need.

Here are a few of the highlights of the Veterans & family Support Program:

**National Veterans Services** helps to ensure that Veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care including: hospital care; outpatient care; specialized health care for female veterans; alcohol and drug treatment; medical evaluation of disorders associated with military service; and other services. Contributions can be made on the Donation Report form or by mailing a check directly to VFW National Headquarters. (See Guidebook page 32.)

**VFW Veterans and Military Support Program** Three programs fall under this category: Military Assistance Program (“MAP”); Unmet Needs and Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship. (See Program Guidebook page 33.)

**Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness** Make a difference in the life of a Veteran or a service member in crisis. Educate yourself and others about the warning signs. The VFW and Auxiliary are committed to addressing and changing the stigma that surrounds mental health in the United States.

**Veterans Crisis Line** This is a confidential toll-free hotline that connects Veterans in crisis, their families and friends with qualified Veterans Affairs responders. Support is available 24/7, 365 days a year, and also available for the deaf/hearing impaired. Call 1-800-273-8255 – Press 1; chat online at veteranscrisisline.net; send a text to 838255

Refer to the Guidebook page 33 or visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) for additional resources: Give an Hour; The Campaign to Change Direction; Patients Like Me; One Mind; The Elizabeth Dole Foundation; Help Heal Veterans; Veterans Voices Writing Project.

Reports are rolling in! Please send them by the 1st of each month. I look forward to receiving many more. Contact me with questions. “United to Defend Veterans and Their Families” while ... “Soaring Above and Beyond.” Loyally, *Darlene*



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



Holiday time is the perfect time to reach out to donate your time.

Activities need to be approved and recorded in the Auxiliary minutes, volunteers must wear items that easily identify them as VFW Auxiliary members, activities that are reportable to other Auxiliary Program Chairman cannot be reported as Auxiliary Community Outreach (i.e. hospital and nursing home hours must be reported to Hospital Chairman and activities serving/honoring Veterans must be reported to Veterans & Family Support.).

**Report members and hours only – Do not report cash, gifts or other “like” monetary donations.**



- Coordinate with ...** another community organization to collect, sort, package, wrap and/or deliver food, clothes, toys.
- ... the town and local churches to host a holiday party with caroling, snacks and gifts from Santa at a local senior center.
- ... the Assistance Bureau or local food pantry to sort, package and deliver food as well as toys to needy families.
- ... the homeless shelter to cook and serve Thanksgiving and/or Christmas Dinner.
- ... the Christmas Bureau to contact and pickup donated items from local retail and other business locations.

**Remember** – activities cannot be held at your local VFW but you can use other locations in the community such as: the town hall, church basement, senior center recreation hall.

“Reach Out to Help and Honor – National Project Blue Light for Law Enforcement – January 9, 2022  
 Our members continue to be ... “United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families” while ...  
 “Soaring Above and Beyond” to enhance the VFW Auxiliary image in our communities. Loyally, *Judy*



**VFW NY DISTRICT #1 IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
“VFW Military Family Support Center”  
AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR SOLDIERS IN SERVICE  
HOLIDAY CHEER – Deadline is December 2nd**



On behalf of our military personnel serving in Bahrain, Kuwait, Dubai, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, we are again sending Christmas trees, lights, ornaments and menorahs to our military personnel in harm’s way at the above mentioned locations. This is our eighteenth year of running our program sending trees to our deployed troops and we look forward to it being as successful as the previous years.

To support this program, you may fund a tree with the appropriate lights and decorations for a donation of \$25.00. You may fund as many trees as you would like. Working together, we as supporters of our military personnel, can make the Christmas holiday a little more enjoyable for those fighting far away from home.

**If you would like to support this program by funding a tree(s), make your check or money order payable to:**  
PROCTOR-HOPSON POST #1896 (Earmarked “Trees”)

**MAIL TO: BEN THOMPSON – 119-26 204<sup>TH</sup> STREET – ST. ALBANS, NY 11412**

**DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 2, 2021 (Be sure to allow extra time for USPS delivery!)**

For additional information: Telephone (718) 527-6532 or Email: [phpm1896@verizon.net](mailto:phpm1896@verizon.net)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM OCTOBER 25, 2021  
Zoom SECRETARIAL TRAINING SESSION**

*Coordinated by: Department President – Ruth Huber  
Chief of Staff – PDP Karen Dotson, Department Secretary – Debbie Cenni  
and Mentoring for Leadership Chairman – Tammy Cummings*

**Did You Know?**

**Q.** Where can I find the duties of the Secretary?

**A.** Refer to: Bylaws Sec. 812—Secretary, Duties of (All Levels); Sec. 812A—Auxiliary Secretary; Booklet of Instruction (yellow pages) Secretary Minutes; in MALTA [under Resources tab] Resources for Your Auxiliary – Auxiliary Secretary; and in MALTA [under Resources tab] *Building on the Auxiliary Foundation Guidebooks for Officers, Chairmen and Members*. Guidebook 1 – Officers’ Duties – Secretary.

**Q.** Where can I find the responsibilities of Trustees?

**A.** Refer to: Bylaws Sec. 814—Trustees, Duties of (All Levels); Booklet of Instruction (yellow pages) Trustees; and in MALTA [under Resources] *Building on the Auxiliary Foundation Guidebooks for Officers, Chairmen and Members* – Guidebook 5 – Financial Responsibilities – Trustees – pages 9 to 13.

**Q.** Is there a special order that Official Communications should be read at a meeting?

**A.** Refer to the Booklet of Instructions (yellow pages) – Secretary Minutes – Reading of Official and Other Communications. •All communications are grouped under one heading but National letters are read first, Department General Orders and letters [President’s letter in the *Aux. News*] second, followed by District communications, County Council, Post or other Auxiliary communications and finally thank-you notes, cards and communications from outside organizations.

**Q.** How much info should be included in minutes?

**A.** The minutes are a record of business transacted during a meeting, not what was discussed.

**Q.** Is it acceptable to distribute copies of the Department President’s letter (*Aux. News*) rather than read it aloud at the meeting?

**A.** The President’s letter and General Orders are Official Communications and should be read at an Auxiliary meeting.

**Q:** What is the suggested practice for filing correspondence – with minutes, separate file separate tab within minutes binder?

**A.** Refer to Booklet of Instructions (yellow pages) Record Retention Guide. Correspondence, general – 1 year. The Department Secretary suggested filing correspondence with the minutes each month in the same binder using a separate tab.

**Q.** Is the Secretary responsible for keeping track of the events and filing the paperwork to confirm?

**A.** The Chairman of an event is responsible for reporting to the Auxiliary and providing a report to the Secretary to be filed with the minutes. The Secretary is not responsible for compiling the detail for such reports.

**Q.** What is the procedure for contacting Auxiliary members pertaining to a Special Meeting?

**A.** Refer to Bylaws Sec. 210—Meetings, Regular and Special. Members who have provided the Secretary with a valid email address may be notified electronically.

**Q.** Who should update member contact information in MALTA?

**A.** The President, Secretary and Treasurer have access to edit Auxiliary member information in MALTA. Work together as a team to maintain up to date member contact information! It is also important to record deceased members in a timely manner.

**Q.** Can an Auxiliary member make updates in MALTA?

**A.** If a member has Activated an account in MALTA, he/she may edit his/her own contact information except date of birth.



**“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,

**Giving from the Heart**

“Maybe Christmas,” he thought,  
 “Doesn’t come from a store.”  
 “Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ...  
 Means a little be more!”  
 ~ How the Grinch Stole Christmas



During this “*Holiday Season of Giving*”, become a patriotic supporter by helping struggling Military and Veteran Families overcome great challenges and recover from the wounds of war. Honor the memory of America’s heroes and the values that they fought to uphold with your Auxiliary’s *Gift* to the VFW National Home for Children.

**In a world full of Grinches,  
 Be a  
 Cindy Lou Who  
 And Give to**



Health & Happiness Fund ~ The bulk of this fund goes to purchase Christmas Gifts for the children residing on the VFW National Home for Children Campus. Santa will deliver these gifts to every girl and boy prior to Christmas via Fire Truck. Your Auxiliary’s treasurer may process your Auxiliary’s donation directly in the MALTA system at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) under treasurer duties. If your treasurer chooses to remit its donation through the USPS, the correct address is:

VFW National Headquarters  
 406 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Kansas City, MO 64111

Please make check payable to VFW Auxiliary and earmark on memo line: Health & Happiness Fund



Did you know that VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Madam President Ruth Huber’s “Christmas Wish” is for the Department of New York to achieve the goal of 100% participation in the *Health & Happiness Fund Donation*?

Other ways to give:

VFW National Home for Children Life Membership Gift  
 Tribute Bricks  
 Home Front Heroes

VFW National Home for Children Amazon Wish List  
 Additional information visit: [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)

**Don't Be A  
 GRINCH!  
 Have a Very  
 Merry Christmas!**



Loyally, *Karen*

*“Soaring Above and Beyond”*

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

**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**  
**TAMARA CUMMINGS, Co-CHAIRMAN**  
 125 ATLANTIC ST. ~ SALAMANCA, NY 14779



Telephone: (716) 244-3260

Email: [tamara.dudleyhotel@gmail.com](mailto:tamara.dudleyhotel@gmail.com)



Dear Members, The Eagles left their nest and are circling the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York. Our mentors are mentoring; our mentees are learning new skills and are also acquiring the necessary tools needed to lead our Auxiliaries into the future.

I enjoyed meeting many of you at the Fall Conference and was impressed with how seasoned members explained to new members what conferences are all about and the amount of information that can be gained by attending.

The “Did You Know” Zoom on Secretary Duties was well received. All who attended received Program participation credit. The next “Did You Know” Zoom will be Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm. The topic is “Investigating Committee for New Applications.” Have your questions ready and invite other members to attend. **(Email Debbie Cenni if you do not receive a Zoom invitation.)**

As we enter the busy holiday season, I remind you of a few items in the Department Guidebook:

**District Presidents** remember to schedule a “*Mentoring the Mentor*” Session at your District Meeting. This should be done under “For the Good of the Order” and can be as simple as: reviewing the questions from the “Did You Know” Zoom session; reviewing Bylaw changes; teaching Auxiliary Traditions; or reviewing the Program Report Form to answer any questions on what is reportable for each Program. Please be sure to send me a list of attendees so their Auxiliaries will get credit for attending.

The Year-end Report Form asks if your Auxiliary completed the Mentoring for Leadership Survey. This survey will be included in the February 2022 Edition of the *Auxiliary News*. Return completed surveys to me by March 31, 2022.

One last reminder, please review the Department Awards. I know there are great mentors and Auxiliaries are doing a lot of Mentoring. It has become part of your monthly meeting agenda. Help me pay tribute to all those who have taken on this much needed tool that will ensure we are a knowledgeable, well informed and capable organization well into the future. Nominate a Mentor of the Year. Forms are available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under National Awards. Nominations must be sent to me by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thank-you for the Get Well Wishes. They truly helped with the healing process. I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are ... “**Soaring Above and Beyond**” as we are ... “**United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.**”

Keep up the Good Work! Loyally, *Tamara*

**AMERICANISM PROGRAM / PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR – DORIS “DEE” IPPOLITO, CHAIRMAN**

**24 BLUE JAY CIRCLE ~ LANCASTER, NY 14086**

**Telephone: (716) 440-3411 – NEW Email: [dec.ippolito.017@gmail.com](mailto:dec.ippolito.017@gmail.com)**



**December 7<sup>th</sup> – “The Day That Will Live in Infamy.” – President Franklin D. Roosevelt**

On December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a sneak attack on our US. Military and naval base in Hawaii. Our great country suffered 3,435 casualties, more than 2,300 Americans and loss or severely damaged 188 planes, 8 battleships, 3 light carriers and miscellaneous vessels. The USS Arizona was completely destroyed and the USS Oklahoma capsized.



Never to be defeated, in June 1942 the United States Fleet the U.S. Fleet dealt a decisive blow to the Japanese Navy at the Battle of Midway.

Remember the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7<sup>th</sup> in ceremonies and by flying your U.S. flag at half-staff from sunrise to sunset. Share your remembrances at #auxiliarypatriotism and also with #deptofny. Always remember!



**Wreaths Across America** Day is December 18, 2021. Wreaths Across America will place wreaths on the graves of our fallen at over 2,500 cemeteries in the United States. Watch the video at [wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://wreathsacrossamerica.org) and share with your members. **Thank you for your generous support of Wreaths Across America this year!** Watch Department of New York’s website for the number of wreaths and pictures of wreaths being placed.

**REMEMBER** our fallen U.S. Veterans – **HONOR** those who serve – **TEACH** your children the value of freedom.



**Thank you for your support of Holiday Cheer this year!** Through signatures on our giant poster, generously created by Sherman Central School Art Teacher Tammy Hawkins, and the Fall Conference raffle we will be helping send more than 60 decorated trees and menorahs overseas to our troops. #auxiliarypatriotism and #deptofny



Remember to share your remembrance ceremonies, holiday ceremonies and all of your Auxiliary traditions on your Facebook, your Auxiliary and Post Facebook page and the Department of New York’s Facebook page or any other social media by using hashtags. Hashtags



help others to share and note your events to all. Search #auxiliarypatriotism and #deptofny to see others’ events! Share your holiday events and use #auxiliarypatriotism and #deptofny to share your pictures of your holiday celebrations! **Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

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



**CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND – LINDA FLANAGAN, CHAIRMAN**

**155 BRIGGS STREET ~ SYRACUSE, NY 13208**

**Telephone: (315) 475-7526 – NEW Email: [auxd53146@hotmail.com](mailto:auxd53146@hotmail.com)**

December 1st – AIDS Awareness Day ~ January – Cervical Cancer Awareness

**Remember ... Cancer can strike anyone!**



The holidays will come and go but cancer will still be here. It’s not too late to send in your Cancer Grant Fund Donation of \$2 per member based on your Auxiliary June 30, 2021 membership. Completed ticket stubs will be entered into the three remaining drawings to be held at the Spring Conference in March.

At Spring Conference I will have “In Honor of” and “In Memory of” luminaries for a donation of \$5. Candy bars and cancer ribbons will also be available for a donation.

I would like to wish a happy holiday to all of our members. Be sure to get your check-ups and stay healthy!

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



Did you know that the VFW Auxiliary has paid out more than one million dollars in Cancer Grants? Remind your members that they are eligible to apply for a \$550 Cancer Grant (two lifetime grants). The current form can be found on page 52 in the Program Guidebook, on Malta or by contacting me. Using the wrong form will delay the processing of an application.

*thank you*

My sincere thanks to all those who offered rides and assisted me after my car broke down while driving to Eastern Conference in Ocean City, MD. Your concern and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely, *Pat Gennarelli*





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



**OFFICIAL VISITS (INSPECTIONS)**  
**PDP BONNIE L. BURGY, COORDINATOR**  
 330 EAST BLOOMFIELD ST – APT. 2  
 ROME, NY 13440  
 Tel: H: (315) 533-6425 – C: (315) 225-9564  
 Email: bburgy@twcnv.ny.us

Hello Brothers and Sisters! I hope that everyone participated in the many hometown local elections in November. Electing the proper representatives will give us the best chance of assuring that our Veterans and their families will be taken care of. Remember to familiarize yourself with the VFW and Auxiliary legislative interests (Priority Goals). Our National VFW legislative team has done all the leg work for us and all we must do is sign up for the *Action Corps Weekly* e-newsletter. But don't just sign up for it, open it, read it and share it with your members.

In the October 25<sup>th</sup> *Action Corps Weekly*, the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee met to discuss pending legislation. Such as: **H.R. 2568** U.S. Cadet Nurse Corp (CNC) Service Recognition Act of 2021. The CNC was formed on July 1, 1943 to address the nation's nursing shortage during World War II. Nearly 180,000 women from across the U.S. responded to the call to serve their country in uniform for the CNC during this critical time of need. The VFW supports this legislation to honor these service members as Veterans, making them eligible, specifically, to receive a grave-site plaque and an American flag for their wartime, active-duty service but it would not grant Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, other financial benefits or burial at Arlington National Cemetery. It is time to finally recognize these Americans for their honorable World War II service.

**H.R. 4601** Commitment to Veteran Support & Outreach Act. The VFW supports the intent of this legislation to improve outreach to Veterans regarding the VA benefits to which they are entitled. We see this as a duty of the Department, with the help of Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and partners, to continuously seek to improve communications and outreach to Veterans regarding their earned benefits, health care, and other services.

This *Action Corps Weekly* e-newsletter contains everything you need to **EDUCATE, PARTICIPATE AND GET OTHERS INVOLVED** with the legislation that is affecting our Veterans. Share the link: [www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts](http://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts), click on Action Corps Button, enter your email and zip code.



In that same October 25<sup>th</sup> newsletter, we were updated that one of our local MIA/POW's was found. Army Cpl. Robert C. Agard, Jr., age 19, of Buffalo, NY, was assigned to 2nd Platoon, 24th Reconnaissance Company, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported MIA on July 19, 1950 while conducting a night recon patrol with his unit near Tejon, South Korea. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. He will be buried May 30, 2022, in Elmira.

So, please take the time to sign up for the *Action Corps Weekly* e-newsletter. Then read and share with your membership.

And as always, 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*

Here we are nearing the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for doing the official visit and inspections. I hope all visits are now scheduled and are being completed. There are several districts that have only completed a few and sent them to me. One or two have them almost completed and there is one district that has not completed any! The weather is changing and the holidays are approaching so please get these done.

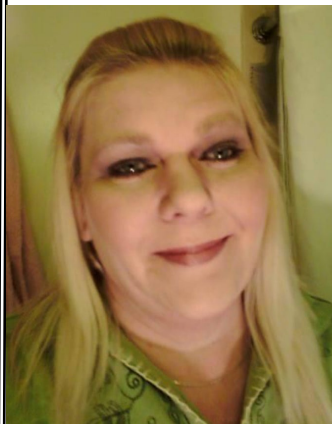
All Auxiliaries should have had their 990's filed by November 15<sup>th</sup>. If an Auxiliary has not filed their 990-n, please put them in contact with Kim White to find out what they need to do ... **but indicate the last date of filing on the Official Visit form.**

The question about an admission fee. **This is what a new member pays in addition to what the regular dues amount is. It is NOT the dues amount plus the fee. If none is charged then check the box for none or indicate -0- amount.**

District Presidents are to appoint inspectors. When the inspection forms are returned to you, go over them and make sure they are complete. If they are not, I will be returning 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. **DO NOT HOLD INSPECTIONS UNTIL YOU HAVE SEVERAL TO SEND AT ONE TIME.**

**If a member cannot do an inspection, return all materials back to the District President and a new inspector will be appointed. The District President is the only one who can appoint an inspector.**

I hope all had a nice Thanksgiving and I want to wish you all a **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.** "United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families" while ... "Soaring Above and Beyond." Loyally, *Bonnie, PDP*



*thank you*

I want to thank all of my VFW and VFW Auxiliary family for the cards, emails and phone calls to express their condolences on the death of my daughter, Kimberley Burgy.

It has meant so much to me.

I love you all!  
*Bonnie, PDP*



**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 helps to provide funds to operate the Department of New York to have a successful and good year. We look for participation from Auxiliaries, County Councils, Districts, Line Officers and all the members of the great state of New York.

**Fall Conference 2021** Thank you to those who dropped off your 9-month calendar tickets and to those who took chances on the lottery tickets. You will be credited on the next Program Report if your Auxiliary donated and/or purchased tickets.

**9- month Calendar Raffle** tickets and donation can still be sent in! The donation is \$5 per ticket. There are monthly drawings and the seller receives \$20. When completing the stub, PLEASE make sure your name and address is legible and be sure to include the name of the seller. Congratulations to the November winner – VFW Auxiliary to Earl J. Santimaw Post No. 1143 (Massena, D9). The Aux. will receive \$120 as they were both the purchaser and seller. \$100 drawings continue each month through May. The final \$200 winner will be drawn at the June 2022 convention. Make checks payable to VFW Auxiliary Department of NY and be sure to earmark “WAYS & MEANS.” Return the stubs and check to me. For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope was provided in all President’s packets.

A “NEW” and exciting raffle “**THINK GREEN**”!! Tickets are \$20.00 each. You will have 15 chances to win. A total of \$5,000 in prize money will be given away. Ticket sales are *not* limited to members only. Friends and family may purchase one, two or more – “**THINK GREEN.**” Good luck! Watch for “**THINK GREEN**” information in the *Auxiliary News*.

“**THINK GREEN**” tickets have been arriving and I hope you continue selling them. This is something new. We need **YOUR** support to make it successful. Winners will be contacted to verify their mailing address before checks are sent.

Remember all proceeds from the Ways & Means raffles benefit the Department of New York. Your Auxiliary will receive participation and donation credit in this program. There is no year-end program report. If you notice that your Auxiliary has not received credit, PLEASE reach out to me. Leave a voice mail or text message. I do respond to all messages.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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



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



As we reach the end of the judging process for the **Voice of Democracy** and the **Patriot’s Pen Contests**, I want to say “Thank You” on all levels of the judging process. It is surely a difficult job choosing winners. Auxiliary members, Thank You. Thank You All for all you have done to assist the VFW’s with these Contests.

*“Alone we can do little, together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller.*

**Time to STAY EXCITED for Scholarships.** We must get the word out about **OUR** next two scholarships!

**Continuing Education** – for VFW Auxiliary members and their spouse, or son or daughter who is at least 18 or older. Entry deadline to VFW Headquarters is midnight on February 15, 2022

**Young American Patriotic Art Contest** – for students in grades 9-12 at time of entry.

Entry deadline to local VFW Auxiliary is midnight on March 31, 2022.

Here are some ideas on how to **get the word out**: hand out flyers and applications at Community events, ask permission to post flyers at your town’s gathering spots (coffee shops, diners, community centers or even your local library), share the information on/in community/neighborhood Facebook pages or groups, your local newspaper, tell your friends who have children. Be EXCITED and inform more people about our contests – you would be surprised how many people don’t even know about them.

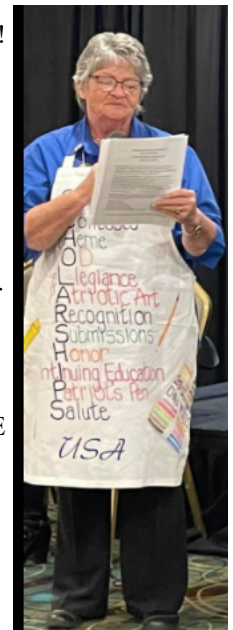
Guess who went to Eastern Conference with our Department President Ruth? The Freedom Family did! How awesome is that? Sammy Freedom even took a sample of one of his paintings to preview his art for the **American Patriotic Art Contest**. Do you think he will get it done on time? After all, he only has FIVE Months to complete it? (Joking!) Art entries are due to your local Auxiliary by March 31, 2022.

As we close this year and start a New Year –

**“May You All Be Blessed with a Happy Healthy Holiday Season.”**

**“Soaring Above and Beyond”** together, we will accomplish great things along the way as we ...

**“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families.”** Loyally, *Dolores*



# 15 UNSPOKEN Rules of E-mail

## THAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO FOLLOW

These might seem like common sense, but implementing these simple changes can greatly improve your everyday email experience.



**1**  
DON'T USE ALL CAPS  
It reads like you are shouting



**2**  
Don't attempt sarcasm  
It's impossible to pick it up from an email anyway



**3**  
Don't use email to deliver bad news  
Make a phone call instead



**4**  
Don't "Reply All"  
Unless your response will be relevant to all- Do you really need to potentially interrupt all of these people?



**5**  
Use proper grammar and punctuation at all times  
This is a no-brainer



**6**  
Use spell check  
Another no-brainer



**7**  
Re-read before you send  
Seriously



**8**  
Understand that emails are permanent  
Never send an email that you wouldn't want on the front page of the paper



**9**  
Don't be a jerk  
If you are a jerk in an email, you are memorializing



**10**  
Don't email angry  
Cool down before you respond



**11**  
Don't forward chain emails  
Microsoft is not sending you a check no matter how many people you forward it to



**12**  
Refrain from using "high priority"



**13**  
Craft an appropriate and descriptive subject  
Be specific in the subject and your messages will be read more, and easier to reference later



**14**  
Complete your signature  
Make it easy for people to contact you by including your phone number, website, and any pertinent contact information



**15**  
Be pithy  
Pithy means brief and to the point. People are busy and time is our most valuable resource



### HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM

KELLIANNE KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN

315 ANCHORS WAY ~ WINDER, GA 30680

Tel: (518) 744-8978 – Email: [kelliannekennedy@hotmail.com](mailto:kelliannekennedy@hotmail.com)

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

Technology is a wonderful thing. Of course, technology can have its ... hiccups. Sometimes, the problem is more human in nature—like when you forget to unmute during a Zoom meeting. Then there's email. Like any technology, email "bugs" are user errors. Sometimes using the "reply all" function is necessary – and sometimes, not!

You're probably thinking you should **avoid the reply all button at all costs**. That's hardly the case. You should often skip reply all, but there are times when reply all is the right move. **The Trouble with Reply All** depends on the topic or your response. Hitting reply all isn't always the best. In some cases, it creates more trouble than it's worth. There's a chance you're including people who no longer need to be included in the email chain and wasting their time with each new email. Sometimes someone on the chain has a side thought about the conversation. In attempting to share it with one or two people on the chain, they accidentally hit reply all.

Mass emails are not uncommon in professional settings, like an invitation to a company-wide meeting. You may need to let the organizer know you can't attend. Unless you're in charge of the meeting, the rest of the attendees don't need to know that.

Some think that everyone should be on every email, even when that's not the case. Don't ask if you're supposed to be included. That only creates a longer response chain and more confusion. Instead, mute the emails (if you can) or ignore them, and reach out to the sender directly to get clarification.

There are many reasons not to use reply all, but there are times when reply all is useful. Follow proper reply all email etiquette. When in doubt, ask yourself if your response adds value to the conversation. If not, consider skipping the response. Using reply all is one way to end a reply all chain. For example, if someone sends out a company-wide email asking about a particular spreadsheet or question, and you've got the information or the answer, replying to everyone with, "I've got it and will send to you directly" can stop the rest of the recipients from replying all with, "Not me," and/or "I don't know."

If the sender instructs you to reply to all then hit reply all without any fear or worry (make sure you're following proper email etiquette). Read emails carefully! Sometimes the sender asks "reply only to me."

You may need to reply to some, but not all, of the recipients. In that case, you should hit reply all to retrieve only those email addresses and delete those who don't need to see a response.

We've all messed up on email. Sometimes, it's a reply all mistake. What if you didn't mean to reply all? Before hitting send on any email, double-check to make sure you've selected the right option. You may have thought you hit reply but hit reply all. It happens!

**USE REPLY ALL WISELY!** Email is a powerful communication tool. Every email we send should be sent in a professional manner.

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*

## VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Deborah L. Cenni, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*

36 Parkside Street ~ Mayville, NY 14757

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 ~ DONNA EMO – DEPT PRESIDENT 1998–99

4 ~ DEBBIE CENNI – DEPT SECRETARY 2021–22

10 ~ JUSTINE ROBLES – DEPT CONDUCTRESS 2021–22

16 ~ JANE REAPE – DEPT PRESIDENT 2011–12

28 ~ KATHY ZYLKO – DEPT PRESIDENT 2002–03

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 ~ EDITH HORST – DEPT PRESIDENT 1988–89

24 ~ ARLENE EYSAMAN – DEPT PRESIDENT 2001–02

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT V&FS PROGRAM REPORTS!

Due to the unexpected loss of our beloved V&FS Chairman Karen Mack ... and to ensure that Program Credit is given ... Auxiliaries are requested to RE-SEND Veterans and Family Support Program Reports for the 2021-2022 year to the newly appointed V&FS Chairman Darlene Baker

Email: [dbaker1017@aol.com](mailto:dbaker1017@aol.com)

Telephone: (315) 657-6909

42 Willard Drive – Bernhards Bay, NY 13028

Please contact Darlene with questions. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

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

### NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY – DECEMBER 18, 2021 – Give the gift of remembrance.



As a mother of six and grandmother of nine, like many of you I start thinking about holiday shopping at this time of year. Thankfully (I guess) technology has made it possible for the older kids to send Nanny a link to make the process easier. Times have definitely changed as the requests involve “in demand” high tech items that even ordering in early Fall doesn’t insure them arriving in time for the holidays.

The current “supply chain” crisis has me thinking about my own Christmases past and simpler times...

Things have certainly changed. One of my best memories was not from the gift I got, but the story I heard about it years later. My sister and I found the most wonderful teddy bears under the tree that year. They were bigger and a little shaggier than the ones we had seen before, but I LOVED Bessy, as she was eventually named. I slept with her every night until her face was lopsided from being my pillow. Then one day my Aunt Giggy told me how that year Mom and Dad were struggling and the money for gifts just wasn’t there. On their weekly trip to the town dump, my mom spied a box that had some discarded womens’ coats in it. Though the outside of the coats were moth eaten, the fur linings were intact. My mother made those wonderful teddy bears from those liners and finished up with

the buttons for eyes. Hearing this example of love and ingenuity was the best gift of all.

Maybe this year with all the uncertainty around delivery dates, it is a good time to give the gift of remembrance that will deliver memories for years to come to those on our shopping lists. A wreath placed in honor of a family, or even a child, is an opportunity not only to remember someone who served but to teach history in a way that becomes very personal.

I learned from my mother’s present years ago that the lesson and story behind the gift can be more meaningful than the gift itself. In the same way, laying a veteran’s wreath not only is a gift of remembrance but an opportunity to teach and share stories of service and sacrifice.

Taking young people to the gravesite of a veteran and saying their name is something that will stay with them forever. I know my husband Morrill - WAA’s founder - first visited Arlington National Cemetery at the age of 12, and he never forgot.

**“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.” Benjamin Franklin**

With gratitude,

**Karen Worcester**, Executive Director – WAA  
REMEMBER. HONOR. TEACH.

