

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

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FEBRUARY 2022**EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**GALL BLADDER / BILE DUCT
AWARENESS ~ NATIONAL
CANCER PREVENTION MONTH**

IMPORTANT DATES!

2 GROUNDHOG DAY

WILL PHIL SEE HIS SHADOW?

4 WORLD CANCER DAY

12 PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S

~ TRADITIONAL BIRTHDAY

13 LVI SUPER BOWL

~ SOFI STADIUM

INGLEWOOD, CA

14 VALENTINE'S DAY

15 CONTINUING EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

DUE AT NATIONAL

21 OBSERVED PRESIDENTS DAY

22 PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S

~ TRADITIONAL BIRTHDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 25-26 - SPRING CONFERENCE
BINGHAMTON, NY

APRIL 1 ~ CHAIRMEN MUST

RECEIVE YEAR-END REPORTS

APRIL 10 ~ PRESIDENT'S YEAR

END REPORT [ON ALL LEVELS]

MUST BE POSTMARKED

AUXILIARY NEWS ~ February 2022
Visit the Department of New York Website: www.vfwauxny.org



Dear Auxiliary
Members,

I am happy to report that every President, Secretary and Treasurer had their annual dues processed by the December 31, 2021 deadline. Thank you to all those who made phone calls and sent emails to meet this Bylaws requirement.

Refer to Bylaws Sec. 104—Members in Good Standing. •The membership year of the Auxiliary is from January 1 to December 31. •A member ceases to be in good standing on January 1 immediately following the year for which dues have been paid. Sec. 109—Members and Officers—Rights of • ...reasons an officer may be relieved of their office: •Non-payment of dues. Please make sure all officers and members pay their dues and are in good standing! The Relief Fund can be used to help anyone who may be experiencing hardship.

The Department of New York is very fortunate to have members who are willing to volunteer their time and share their knowledge to provide support to Auxiliaries that, for whatever reason, are in need of assistance. I thank Department Chief of Staff, PDP Karen Dotson, District Deputy Chiefs of Staff, PDP's and our seasoned members who do an amazing job by extending themselves to help others. I must also thank the Auxiliaries that have welcomed our teams of wonderful mentors into their Auxiliaries to provide guidance and support. If you feel your Auxiliary wants and/or needs assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. We are all here to help!

My recent travels have taken me to wonderful places. From Eastern Conference in Maryland with the Scholarships "Freedom Family" to Tupper Lake (D9) to Long Island (D1). Both District 9 President Jeff Platt and District 1 President Margie Ginn ran excellent meetings.

The timing was perfect for my December visit to Long Island! It was an honor and a blessing to attend, and participate in, this year's "Trees for Troops" event. State Commander Mike Hoag and I were given the opportunity to speak before heading to JFK Airport. We helped load Christmas trees onto the DHL airplane that transported trees, menorahs, and decorations overseas to our active-duty servicemen and

women. On board was the "In Lieu of Cards" poster that Dee Ippolito, Americanism Chairman, worked tirelessly to be sure the poster was filled with inspirational messages from members located all across New York State.

Commander Hoag and I attended the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor "Dropping of the Roses" on December 7th. It was a true honor to be in the presence of so many fine men and women including several WWII Veterans. My sincerest appreciation goes out to Suffolk County Council for all courtesies extended and VFW State Historian Richie Tibbetts who did a fabulous job escorting us as we visited several Posts including the 75th Anniversary of VFW Post No. 7223 in Amityville.

I hope you have explored the Department's website and Facebook page. There are many pictures of my travels and visits ... and more!

As Valentine's Day approaches, I encourage you to get our youth involved in making cards and writing letters for our Veterans. It would warm their hearts and brighten their spirits to know someone is thinking of them. Especially with COVID numbers on the rise.

Our annual Spring Conference is scheduled for March 25 and 26, in Binghamton. Packets will be in the March *Auxiliary News* and on the website. I hope you will be able to attend.

"Did You Know" training sessions are going wonderfully. I thank you for attending. If you haven't participated in a session please consider doing so. Presentations are available on the website and in the newsletter. Please share the information with your members.

It has been a difficult year for so many of our members and their families. Please keep them in your prayers. My Special Project Chairman Linda LaRosa recently had surgery. I know she would appreciate thinking of you notes.

On behalf of the Huber family, I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and messages of sympathy during our recent loss. We are truly all in this together. In a world where you can be anything ... *be kind*.

Let us all ... **"Soar Above and Beyond"** as we have committed ourselves to being ...

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

Loyally, *Ruth*



DID YOU KNOW? – Role of Investigating Committee November 22, 2021 – Questions and Answers

Q1. What does the Investigating Committee do with a DD214 once it completes reviewing a new member application?

Ans. The DD214 must be returned to the Veteran or the person who submitted the application.

Q2. Where can an applicant obtain a copy of the DD214?

Ans. Visit the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) at vetrecs.archives.gov/ or archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/

Q3. What other resources can help to obtain a DD214?

Ans. •The County Veterans Office in your county office building. You may need to make an appointment.

•If a military funeral was performed or a Veteran's headstone was ordered, the funeral director had to verify military service.

•Check with your VFW Post. The Veteran may have been a VFW member, and the Post may have the information on file.

Q4. What does a Veteran's widow/er need to do to join?

Ans. See Bylaws Sec. 102—Application—New Member Second bullet – Applications must be accompanied by •Proof of VFW membership of person in whose right the application is made. If the widow/er can provide the veteran's VFW membership card, the applicant should be eligible to join. The Post Commander or Quartermaster may be able to confirm the eligibility information. Indicate **“non-affiliated”** since the veteran is deceased.

Q. What is “Post Affiliated” and “Non-Affiliated”?

Ans. **“Post Affiliated”** – the **veteran is a current VFW Post member** affiliated with the Auxiliary the applicant is applying to. **“Non-Affiliated”** – the **veteran is not a current VFW Post member** affiliated with the Auxiliary the applicant is applying to. This includes Post members who are deceased.

Q. Who may join the Auxiliary based on the Eligibility Wheel?

Ans. Eligibility is governed by the IRS. The veteran and prospective member must have a familial relationship within two generations. Please note: Step, half and adopted family members DO meet the standard set forth by the IRS.

Refer to Bylaws Sec. 101—Eligibility —Husbands/Wives, Fathers/Mothers, Sons/Daughters, Brothers/Sisters, Widows/Widowers, Grandfathers/mothers, Grandsons/daughters.

Note: Great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran **DO NOT** meet the familial relationship.

Q. What is a DD214?

Ans. It is a complete and thorough document that verifies a service member's proof of Military Service typically issued by the Department of Defense at the final out-processing prior to retirement or separation from active service. The DD214 identifies the Veterans condition at time of discharge: honorable, general, other than honorable, dishonorable or bad conduct.

Q. What qualifies a service member to receive a DD214?

Ans. The DD214 captures periods of continuous active-duty service accomplished from start to finish of active-duty through release date. One is considered a veteran if they were deployed for at least 180 days and were honorably discharged.

Q. Does having a DD214 make you a Veteran?

Ans. The DD214 is proof of discharge after being deployed under federal orders. If discharge was due to reasons other than dishonorable then one is considered a Veteran. DD214's were issued to all military services since January 1, 1950. Similar forms were used prior to January 1, 1950.

Q. How can one obtain a copy of a DD214 to join the VFW or Aux.? Ans. If you are the next of kin of a deceased veteran, show proof of death of the Veteran such as a copy of death certificate, letter from funeral home, or published obituary. DD214's can be requested online or via USPS mail. It takes 3-4 weeks to process your request.

Q. Why the history of a DD214?

Ans. Carefully read Article I Membership in the Bylaws. The DD214 is used to determine if one is eligible to join our organization. The Veteran must have served in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which is recognized by the award of a campaign or service medal of the United States. Carefully read the Bylaws. Those who served in Korea and those who earned Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay is outlined in the bylaws and ritual.

Q. You have a new member application to review. What is next?

Ans. The investigating committee compares information on the DD214 with the service branch, qualifying dates and campaign medals with the bylaws to determine an applicant's eligibility.

DID YOU KNOW? – Role of Trustee DECEMBER 6, 2021

Q. Where can I find **“Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation”**?

Ans. This document is found on the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary website under the Resources tab: www.vfwauxny.org and the National website at: www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources Refer to Guidebook 5 – Information for Treasurers and Trustees.

Q. Can an Auxiliary accept ‘Zelle’ donations? Ans. No!

Q. Does the President stop the Auxiliary meeting once the Trustees have received receipts for review/approval from the Conductor/ress? Ans. The President should continue the meeting without delay.

Q. Can Trustees review/approve multiple receipts?

Ans. Trustees should review and approve each receipt. Receipts should note the purpose and cost of each item.

Ex: Receipt #1 - Stamps and envelopes for dues notice mailing.

R #2 - Halloween candy, treat bags, drinks, and napkins – Children's Halloween Party; R #3 - Paper products for Veterans Day Dinner.

The Conductor/ress should bring the receipts to the Treasurer once reviewed and signed by the Trustees. • Under **“Report of Trustees”** (after New Business), a motion is required to approve/pay the bills.

Q. What are Standing Rules?

A. Refer to Bylaws Sec 211—Standing Rules (Auxiliaries, County Councils, Districts, and Departments) Standing Rules allow the Auxiliary to do business between meetings. They need to be clear and concise and answer “what if's.” They shorten meeting time since Standing Rules disbursements do not need to be approved during the meeting. They should be reviewed annually and amended if needed. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer should have a copy of the current approved Standing Rules.

Here are a few examples of Standing Rules:

• Auxiliary will provide financial aid to an Auxiliary member in good standing upon approval of the Trustees. The amount shall not exceed \$100 during the Auxiliary year (July – June).

• Kitchen Chairman may spend up to \$100 per month to purchase food and/or kitchen supplies for Auxiliary events. Receipts must be provided at the next Auxiliary meeting to receive reimbursement.

• The Auxiliary may donate 25¢ per member to Health & Happiness based on the June 30th membership.

Q. Where can I find the information on the Role of Trustee?

Ans. **Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual**

Sec. 814 – Trustees – Duties (All Levels)

Podium Edition – Booklet of Instruction (Yellow Pages) – Trustees **“Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation”** Guidebook 5



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



Outreach – Auxiliary members reaching out and being visible as they partner (under the direction) with other organizations to improve the community including any group of people; such as: youth, senior citizens and/or those with disabilities. Activities that benefit the entire community and not one particular church, or one specific neighbor or one specific family in distress. Communities can be rural, suburban, urban, small or large.

Volunteer Service – Auxiliary members of any age donating their time (time only) to work together with another organization on projects that benefit any group of people, animals, the environment or public spaces while members are wearing identifying Auxiliary apparel. It is only time that is partnered with another organization – **NOT** donations of cash, food, homemade gloves, sweaters, blankets, new clothing or gift cards, etc.

Report by the 1st – Members and time spent that was approved and recorded in the Auxiliary minutes, including activity details about partnering organizations. **Activities CANNOT be reportable under another Auxiliary program.**

Report by the 1st – Projects recognizing and honoring First Responders and essential workers.

Submit to Department Chairman by March 31st 8”x10” photo or collage of Auxiliary members volunteering with First Responders at a community activity and/or event. Criteria and entry form (required) are available on the National website: vfwauxiliary.org/resources or by contacting me. Auxiliary year-end report must be received by April 1st for collage to be judged.

Submit by April 1st – Auxiliary Community Outreach Program Year-end Report (see Guidebook or Dept website).

Report to VFW Post Adjutant – All activities to be included on the Post Community Service Report.

The following do Not Qualify for ACO Program Credit ...

▀ Auxiliary activities at the Post. Most of those activities can be reported to other Auxiliary program chairmen.

▀ Time donated at hospitals, long-term care, nursing homes and number of hours making homemade items. That time should be reported to the Hospital Chairman or Veterans and Family Support Chairman. Activities assisting veterans and their families and veteran memorial tributes should be reported to the Americanism or V&FS Chairman.

References: *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*, January 2022, pages 11 and 12 and July 2021, pages 13 and 14.

vfwauxiliary.org/resources **Auxiliary Community Outreach Guide: What Does and Does Not Qualify**

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*

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM – CHRIS LEAVOR, CHAIRMAN

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



The holidays are behind us and it's time to get back to the business of membership. I want to thank the 49 Auxiliaries that were 95% or better before the November 30th Department deadline. As of this writing, there are 24 Auxiliaries that have already hit the 100% or better mark! Thank you for your hard work.

Congratulations to Pine Valley Memorial Auxiliary No. 2522 in District 6. They won the \$100 drawing for the “Rounding the Bases” award – 95% membership and 75% retained by November 30th. They were 98.98% with over 86% retained.

The “Worth Your Weight(lifting)” award deadline was December 31st. Auxiliaries that were 100% with 98% of their annual members retained were eligible for the drawing.

We all have those annual members who have not renewed their dues yet. PLEASE reach out to them. Their dues card was for 2021. 2021 is now gone and they are not in good standing. They are not eligible for any Auxiliary benefits from attending a meeting, applying for a cancer grant or club privileges – if your Post is a “members only” post. They have until June 30th to get back into good standing. But

what if one of those members receives a dreaded diagnosis of cancer before that? Let's not let that happen to any of our members. If COVID, or some other adversity has affected one's ability to pay, please consider using your Auxiliary Relief Fund to help them.

Don't forget to schedule – and REPORT the details – your Membership trainings. These must be reported by March 1st to receive your silver Olympic medal at Spring Conference. County and District Presidents, 50% of your Auxiliaries need to report this in order for you to receive your silver medal.

The last update I had from my National Ambassador, we only needed 305 annual retentions by January 31st to meet the National Program goal. This is definitely attainable.

You've done a great job recruiting those new members! Thank you. Now, please take a few moments to mentor them as they attend your meetings. Have a “seasoned” member sit near them and explain what's going on. Hand out the sheet explaining the Auxiliary acronyms. Above all, INCLUDE them and encourage them to express their ideas and ask their questions. If we want them to keep coming back, we need to consider them “our best customers” and treat them as such.

“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families”
as we go ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond”** Loyally, *Chris*





YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM – CINDY WINZENRIED, CHAIRMAN

40 GROTON PARKWAY ~ ROCHESTER, NY 14623

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



February is a special month as we extend our hearts and love to all our special veterans in our lives. All Auxiliaries are encouraged to engage with the youth to create “Valentine’s Day” cards for your Post Veterans. Veterans will appreciate the thoughtfulness of a child’s sincerity.

A few simple Youth Activities Program ideas to engage our youth in spreading kindness to others include: sending Valentine’s Day cards to nursing home residents, Winterfest Music Night of Songs, poetry, and/or instrumentals shared with veterans and homebound neighbors. Create a “Kindness Chain” adding a loop to the chain each time a child performs a simple act of kindness. Include their name on the loop! How long will the chain grow during February?



Food insecurity is a huge problem and our youth are at risk at being hungry. Our youth also need warm clothing during the winter. If you have not already done so, please donate hats, scarves, mittens, coats and sweatshirts to local schools, rescue missions, or homeless shelters. Encourage your Auxiliary members to collect non-perishable food items and donate them to your local food pantry. Examples of items that are always in demand include: peanut butter, cereal, Spaghetti’s, canned soup, and mac’n’ cheese boxes. Thank you in advance for your support!



“Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!” is an opportunity for youth in grades K to 8 and 9 to 12 to showcase their vocal talent and demonstrate their patriotism and creativity by singing “*The Star-Spangled Banner*.” Complete details are found on Guidebook page 34. Contact me for an application or log on to vfwauxiliary.org/resources under the Youth Activities Program. **March 31st** is the deadline to submit the vocal performance and application to Auxiliaries.

“Illustrating America” allows students in grades K to 8 to display their artistic creativity. It is open to all students including private and home-schooled students. Entries will be judged on **patriotic theme and technique**. Complete details are found on Guidebook pages 34-35. Deadline for art submissions to Auxiliaries is **March 31st**. Contact me if you have questions.

Our youth are busy supporting veterans and their families. Be sure to recognize them and submit an application for the **Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans**. Contact me or log on to vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Scroll down to **Youth Recognition** found under Youth Activities Program. Youth Activities Program Reports can be sent via USPS or email.



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



Thank you for sharing your heart with our youth and our veterans on Valentine’s Day! Loyally, *Cindy*

HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM – KELLIANNE KENNEDY, CHAIRMAN

315 ANCHORS WAY ~ WINDER, GA 30680

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

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



Happy New Year! President Ruth has been a busy eagle flying all over our great state! Thank you all for the emails, the pictures and reports! As much as I hate to admit, the nasty C-virus is thriving again, so please make sure you are staying safe! Despite having the vaccine and booster, I had COVID again with flu symptoms at Christmas time. As much as I appreciate all the happenings around the state, please continue to social distance and practice safe measures according to the state’s guidelines.

Don’t give up! Continue to encourage everyone to work for our Veterans – safely of course! Make sure you are using social media! We want to share what Auxiliaries, Districts and Department Officers are doing in their communities. E.g. volunteer work, hosting food drives, delivering supplies, etc. Show how your Auxiliary is getting creative during COVID! We want to make sure our members stay safe while supporting veterans, their families, and their communities.

Let me know if you have something to share that will help all of us. We will get through the rest of this Auxiliary year by helping and supporting one another. Let me know if you have an out-of-the-box idea to help promote the Auxiliary and our programs. I can always post S.W.A.P. (Share Wonderful Auxiliary Projects) on Facebook.

One of the most important things that I can continue to share with you is to make sure we are mentoring and encouraging our Auxiliaries to succeed. As a leader, we are only as good as those with whom we work.

In closing, I am so pleased with all the reports that you sent and have been received. We are on track for a very awesome and successful year! It’s great to see that our Auxiliaries are bouncing back from last year with more fury and enthusiasm! Right now I am loving our Department more than ever!!

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*



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

I hope everyone had a great Holiday and will have a Very Happy and Healthy New Year!

As previously promised, I am highlighting another aspect of National Veterans Competitions – **The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival**. The first festivals were initiated in 1981 by Shirley Jeffries, a recreational therapist, in Waco, Texas. In 1984 the name changed to “The Music Festival.” In 1989 it went national and the name was changed to “The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.” By 2005, there were five creative arts divisions – Art, Music, Dance, Drama and Creative Writing. 2019 saw nearly 3,600 Veterans from 130 VA Medical Facilities join in the Festival. The 2022 Festival is scheduled for April 20-25 in St. Petersburg, FL.

Veterans are eligible to participate if they receive medical care through the Department of Veterans Affairs and are enrolled at a VA Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic or Veterans Center before their LOCAL competition. Look into this at your local VA and see if you can help. And if you do look into it, please, please, please send me a report.

I'm still taking order for shirts!!! Email me if you need an order form, and I will send you one.

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

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

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday. I am very grateful for the way District Presidents handled their inspections this year. You were all excellent for getting them completed and sent to me in a timely manner.

Please continue to keep in contact with your Auxiliaries and the mentoring that is being done. It is important to provide them with assistance when needed.

I want to thank the District Presidents and also the inspectors, for visiting the Auxiliaries and letting the Department know if there is anything we can do to assist our Auxiliaries.

Remember we are ... **“United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families”** as we continue ...

“Soaring Above and Beyond!”

Loyal, *Bonnie, PDP*



SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM
DOLORES B. SHEELEY, CHAIRMAN
 PO BOX 1025 ~ ROCK HILL, NY 12775



Tel: (845) 796-1322 – Email: sheeleyd@gmail.com

At the time of this writing, the results of the Department of New York **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarships Program** have not been announced. Please remember that **Recognition Is Key!!** It is important that Scholarships Contest Winners receive recognition at every level. There are many ways to recognize winners: certificates, host an awards ceremony, present awards at a school assembly, contact local media or invite winners to a Conference. Don't forget to also recognize their parents and teachers.

Continuing Education Scholarship – This scholarship is open to only VFW Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. The two qualifications are: 1.) The Auxiliary member whom the applicant is applying under must have been an Auxiliary member at least one year and 2.) The applicant must be at least 18 years of age. One winner in each of the (4) four conferences will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest – This VFW Auxiliary's Patriotic Art scholarship has been awarded for the last 42 years to students in grades 9-12. This year there are 12 National awards totaling \$33,000. The first-place winner will receive a \$15,000 scholarship. Since Sammy nor Dora won their essay contests, Sammy is working very hard on his painting for the **Young American Patriotic Art** entry. Hope he finishes and has it to his local Auxiliary by the **due date of March 31, 2022**.

Our National President Jean Hamil has created the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund**. Help us recognize more students by sending a personal donation or a donation from your Auxiliary. Ask if you can display a small poster and donation jar at your Post's next function. Include the mailing and website address for National Headquarters and also contact information for your local Auxiliary.

“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.”**

Loyal, *Dolores*



Members of VFW Aux. to Glenn A. Warner Post No. 1371 (Owego, D5) visited homeless vets @VOA. Top photo shows members engaging in conversation before distributing presents and cards. Vets received socks, tee-shirts, toiletries, hand-knit hats and scarfs and washcloths.



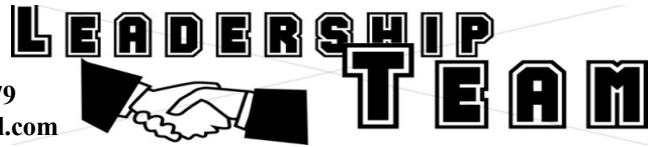
Standing with veterans in front row (right to left): Edora Shuler and Karen Messersmith. Back row (right to left): Aux. V&FS

Chair Dorolyn Perry, Steve Sabol and Auxiliary President Jean Sabol.



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

Telephone: (716) 244-3260 – Email: tamara.dudleyhotel@gmail.com



Dear Members,

“Leadership is not only having a vision, but also having the courage, the discipline and the resources to get you there.”

Those are wise words from George Washington, the father of our country. We all joined the VFW Auxiliary for different reasons. Hopefully it was because we had the vision of supporting our Veterans and their families, our youth and the community. It takes a certain amount of courage to take an Office or a Leadership Role in the VFW Auxiliary.

You might ask, “How do I do it? Where do I send it? When do I need this done?” It can all be a bit confusing. Do I have the discipline to get to the meetings, do the leg work for an event, and submit the paperwork? The key to your success is using the **“Resources.”** Presidents are asked to complete the short survey below and return to me by March 31, 2022.

The VFW Auxiliary has all the **“Resources”** you need to take on a Leadership Role. Many of these are available online but you have the best resource right at your fingertips. The Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual 2022. This has the answers to many of the most commonly asked questions. Take some time and review the Table of Contents. You will find topics from the duties of each Officer to how to conduct an Election Meeting.

The National website is found at: vfwauxiliary.org and the Department of New York website is: vfwauxny.org. There is a **“Resources”** tab found at both of these websites. Click on that tab a whole world of information is available to any member. Our “new” Department website includes Membership Reports and Program Participation Reports. You can check to make sure your Auxiliary received proper credit for your hard work on a program.

Join one of our **“Did You Know”** Zoom Sessions. There is an opportunity to ask questions. The questions and answers can be found right here in the *Auxiliary News* and on the Department website. One Auxiliary reported that they review the questions and answers at their meetings during *“For the Good of the Order.”*

The most abundant **“Resource”** we all have is the guidance of our fellow seasoned members. Department, District and County Council Officers are always willing to help. If they don’t know an answer they will contact someone who does.

Congratulations to District #9 and Catt/Alle County Council for being 100% in reporting for this program.

Keep up the Good Work and let us continue ... **“Soaring Above and Beyond”** as we are ...

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

**Auxiliary President, please complete the survey below and return to
 Mentoring and Leadership Co-Chairman Tamara Cummings by March 31, 2022.**

AUXILIARY _____ COUNTY COUNCIL _____ DISTRICT _____

Do you feel confident fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of your Office as President? _____ Yes _____ No

If No, Have you reached out to County Council, District or Department Officers with questions or concerns?
 _____ Yes _____ No

If No, Please briefly explain why not? _____

Did you appoint or create a Mentor or Mentoring Team to assist your members with questions or to Welcome New Members and answer their questions? _____ Yes _____ No

Did you or any members participate in **“Did you Know”** Zoom Sessions so far this year? _____ Yes _____ No
 If Yes, did you/your members find the sessions and the subject matter helpful? _____ Yes _____ No

If No, please indicate one or more reasons below:
 _____ Do not have a computer or smart phone access _____ Do not know how to use Zoom.
 _____ The Day and Time does not fit my schedule Other: _____

Have you recognized Auxiliary members with a **“Good Job” Award** for their contributions of time and hard work for the Auxiliary? _____ Yes _____ No

How many “Good Job” awards have you presented since July 2021? _____

Do you have suggestions and/or mentoring topics you feel would assist Auxiliaries in the Dept. of New York?

Aux. President: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

AMERICANISM PROGRAM / PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR – DORIS “DEE” IPPOLITO, CHAIRMAN
 24 BLUE JAY CIRCLE ~ LANCASTER, NY 14086

Tel: (716) 440-3411 – *NEW* Email: dee.ippolito.017@gmail.com



Happy Valentine's Day

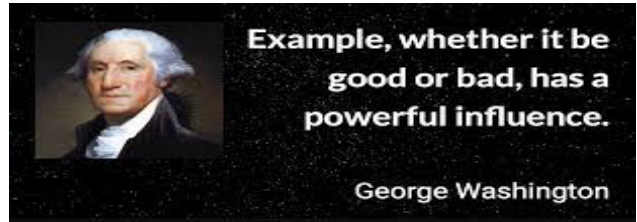


PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR:

HONOR OUR PRESIDENTS ON FEBRUARY 21, 2022

“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in.” – Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln. 16th President
 Feb. 12, 1809 – April 14, 1865



George Washington, 1st President
 Feb. 22, 1732 – Dec. 14, 1799

AMERICANISM:



HONOR FLIGHT – This spring the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York is seeking donations for your local Honor Flight! See attached form. Select your local Honor Flight, donate (checks payable to VFW Aux. Dept of NY) and USPS checks and form to: Dee Ippolito, 24 Blue Jay Circle, Lancaster, NY 14086 ~ *Thank you for your support!*

Use hashtags (no spaces in the hashtags) in your social media!

Just put #auxiliarypatriotism and #deptofny and #yourauxiliarynumber in your reports on social media.

Contact me with questions! Americanism awards will be based **ONLY** on your hashtag use this year!

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

To a special Honor Flight Veteran



Thank you for your Service and Sacrifices

HONOR FLIGHT ~ “THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICES” CARDS
 DONATION IS \$5.00 EACH ~ DISTRIBUTED DURING THE MARCH VETERANS’ MAIL CALL
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: VFW AUX DEPT OF NY EARMARKED “HONOR FLIGHT”
 USPS TO CHAIRMAN DEE IPPOLITO BY MARCH 1, 2022
 24 BLUE JAY CIRCLE, LANCASTER, NY 14086

Name _____
 Aux. _____ Dist. _____ Telephone: _____
 Brief Message _____

___ HUDSON VALLEY



___ BUFFALO/NIAGARA



___ LEATHERSTOCKING



___ SYRACUSE



___ NORTH COUNTRY



___ BIG APPLE/JFK AIRPORT



___ TWIN TIERS



___ ALBANY



___ ROCHESTER



___ LONG ISLAND





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

I hope everyone is having a good start to the new year!!

The Ways and Means Program provides necessary income for the Department's operating expenses. The 9-month calendar raffle has been successful and I am still receiving checks and stubs for this program. Continue to send in stubs as five (5) months remain for those ticket drawings.

Congratulations to the December and January winners and sellers: James J. Cruden Aux. No. 5007 (Gowanda, D6) and Yates County Aux 745 (Penn Yan, D8). They will each receive \$120. Next drawing is February 1, 2022.

"**\$\$Think Green\$\$**" tickets have been arriving nicely. As a reminder, there are 15 chances to win. The first place prize is \$1,500, second place prize is \$1,000, then three (3) prizes of \$500 each and finally ten (10) \$100 dollar prizes. There will be 15 Lucky winners drawn at Department Convention in June. The donation is \$20 a ticket. Valentine's Day will soon be here. Why not give your Sweetheart a ticket? Hosting a Valentine's Day breakfast, brunch or dance? Sell tickets then. If you are feeling lucky, St. Patrick's Day is not too far behind. Imagine winning a pot of cash!!

Contact me if you are interested in taking tickets to sell outside of your Auxiliary and I will send them to you. There will only be 1,000 tickets available. I would love to see them all sold. This may seem like a very steep goal but I know we can do it. In the past, you have all supported the Ways & Means Program. It is difficult to think of new ideas to meet the Department's budget and fundraising goal.

"**\$\$Think Green\$\$**" tickets are not limited to members only. Anyone is welcome to purchase a ticket. Display tickets at Auxiliary dinners and functions. Wouldn't it be nice if a guest attending a function at your post purchased a ticket to support veterans and won? I bet they would support future raffles you have. Bake sales are another good time to sell tickets.

Does your Auxiliary have a membership drive coming up? The possibilities are unlimited. Did you ask post members to purchase a ticket? They like to get involved and are usually eager to help support our Auxiliary programs. This is just one more way to show their support for all we do for our Veterans.

Be sure to share the above information with your members. Mention the "**\$\$Think Green\$\$**" raffle if you send a newsletter to members. There may be members unable to attend meetings who would be interested in purchasing a ticket.

I want to thank all those who have already mailed back their checks and stubs. If you have tickets left, please try to sell them or return them to me before Spring Conference. The goal is to sell all 1,000 tickets. Loyally, *Marcia*

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



HOSPITAL PROGRAM
PEGGY SCHWEITZER, CHAIRMAN
NEW ADDRESS! 50 FRANKLIN AVENUE APT. 228
CLINTON, NY 13323
Telephone: (315) 853-2419
Email: snowy4931@yahoo.com

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

Happy New Year!! Wishing all of you a very happy and healthy 2022.

Please note my new address above. I moved back to New York two weeks before Christmas. The ground is covered with snow and I love it!

There are only 28 Auxiliaries that need to send in a report or a donation on the Donation Report Form – and then we will be 100% in this program. District Presidents will be advised of those Auxiliaries in their Districts. Even though we cannot visit our Veterans in the VA Hospitals, there are many other things that we can do to support them. We can even help out our senior citizens.

April 1st is not too far away. That is when your Year-end reports are due. You must send a Year-end report for your Auxiliary to be considered for Department Program awards. You did the work ... you deserve the credit!

NATIONAL AWARDS: Now is the time to complete your award applications for the following awards:

1. Hospital Awards for Members –
 Recruits the most Hospital volunteers.
Report must be received by March 31. No exceptions!
2. Outstanding Hospital Volunteer – from
 March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022.
Report must be received by March 10. No exceptions!
3. Hospital Awards for Auxiliaries –
 Honors Escort Program.
Report must be received by March 31. No exceptions!

Forms may be obtained by contacting me or log on to the Department website: www.vfwauxny.org

The VA Voluntary Service is celebrating 75 years of service to our Veterans. They have a new name:

Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE).

Remember these 9 positive words:

- V ... Valuable
- O ... Ongoing
- L ... Loyal
- U ... Uplifting
- N ... Nifty
- T ... Thoughtful
- E ... Enthusiastic
- E ... Empathy
- R ... Resourceful

You may see this change in your facilities. For more information visit www.volunteer.va.gov.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact your local VA Hospital or State Veterans Home.

Hospital Volunteers will always ... **"Soar Above and Beyond"** and stand ... **"United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."**

Loyally, *Peggy*



**INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE FROM
2021-22 DEPT CHAPLAIN DARLENE BAKER**



Dear VFW Auxiliary members,
Words cannot express how thankful we are for your support after the passing of our beloved Karen Lynn Mack.

We will be forever grateful for your cards, phone calls, emails, and kind expressions of sympathy to help us get through a difficult and sad time. Our love goes out to each and every one of you!

Sincerely,
Raymond and Margaret Sheldon
James and Jill Kenney

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



Hello Brothers and Sisters! Happy New Year!!
How about we make our New Year’s resolution to advocate for the things our Veterans need and deserve ... such as better health care, mental health, education and housing assistance.

NOW is the time to reach out to your local senators and congressman. Thank you to those who supported the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2022. The House and Senate have passed it. It is currently on the way to the President’s desk.

You may recall from my presentation at Fall Conference, the NDAA Act provided for a pay raise for service members, uniform code regarding sexual assault and authorization to locate a Global War on Terrorism Memorial on the National Mall ... a project that is near and dear to me! But there is much more to accomplish.

Please support the **H.R. 147: Brave Act**. This bill requires the Department of Labor, in the implementation of the Transition Assistance Program, to provide information concerning apprenticeship programs to members of the Armed Forces who are separating from active duty.

Continue to support the **H.R. 1115: Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act**. This bill authorizes the establishment of a National Global War on Terrorism Memorial in the area of the National Mall.



Editor’s note! Belinda’s picture appeared in the *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*, January 2022, page 19.



Details about these two bills, and much more, is available when you sign up to receive the *Action Corps Weekly* Newsletter. Share the link with our members www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts, click on Action Corps button, enter your email and zip code. This free e-newsletter is

packed full of updates on pending legislation and other information to keep you informed. We need to continue to EDUCATE, PARTICIPATE and GET OTHERS INVOLVED. By doing so, our numbers will speak volumes!

We need to continue to engage with our legislators as much as we can. We need their support in Veteran’s issues. If you are not sure who to advocate with here are a few links. Log on to <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/> then type in your address to locate your assemblymember. You will be able to locate your senator at: <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator> and lastly, to find your representative, log on to: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>.

Most importantly ... REPORT, REPORT, REPORT! District 6 and District 8 are very close to obtaining 100% in Legislative Program reporting. Keep those reports coming!!



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*





CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND
LINDA FLANAGAN, CHAIRMAN
 155 BRIGGS ST ~ SYRACUSE, NY 13208
 Telephone: (315) 475-7526
 NEW Email: auxd53146@hotmail.com


Gall Bladder/Bile Duct Awareness
National Cancer Prevention Month

It is now 2022. The holidays are over. It's not too late to send in your Cancer Grant Fund Donation of \$2 per member. All completed tickets will be entered into the three drawings at the Spring Conference. Prizes are \$25, \$50, and \$75. You or your Auxiliary can be one of the lucky winners. Continue to send in reports and tickets. Watch the monthly Program Report for donation and participation credit.

Spring Conference EACH DISTRICT is asked to bring a spring theme basket to be raffled off to support the Cancer Grant Fund. "In Honor of" and "In Memory of" luminaries will be available for a \$5 donation and candy bars for a donation.

Did you know that the VFW Auxiliary has paid out more than one million dollars in Cancer Grants? Be sure to use the current application form. Incorrect forms can cause delays in receiving grants.

I would like to wish a happy Valentine's Day to all 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*



Our dear VFW and Auxiliary Family,
Thank you to each of you who sent cards or emails, made calls or visited when our daughter, Holly, passed away November 14, 2021.

We are eternally grateful for the expressions of sympathy, the love and friendship shown to our family during this awful time.

Judy and Bill
and all the members of the Lefebvre and St Dennis families



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

Dear Auxiliary Members, Welcome to 2022! I hope this New Year brings happiness and health to all our members.

There have been three "Did You Know" training sessions so far this year. We have received positive feedback after each one. Questions/answers are posted on the Department Website. Monday, January 17, 2022 at 7 PM is the next scheduled "Did You Know" session. Topics presented will include Standing Rules and the Relief Fund. I hope you will plan to attend. Email the Department Secretary if you do not receive a Zoom invitation from your District President.

Calling All Auxiliary Presidents!! Department President Ruth was advised that not all Auxiliaries submitted a copy of their April 1 to June 30, 2021 quarterly audit and June 30th Auxiliary membership status to their Post Commander. This should have been provided by July 31, 2021. If you have not yet given him/her this information, please do so immediately! Feel free to contact me if you need assistance.

Refer to Bylaws Sec. 810—President, Duties of (All Levels)
 • The President of the Auxiliary to a Department, District, County Council *or Post shall, within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Commander* of the respective Department, District, County Council or Post *the last quarterly audit, membership status report*, and such additional reports as may be required by the liaison committee.

Auxiliary Presidents are encouraged to utilize the materials included in the R U Healthy Checkup Tool Kit that was included in your President's packet. The materials are also

available on the Department website under Programs – Chief of Staff. Please return the completed R U Healthy? Auxiliary To-Do's and Deadlines Checklist by June 1st. For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope was included in President's packets! Contact me if you have questions or need assistance.

This is a reminder that members should follow proper channels when they have an Auxiliary question or concern. Members should first reach out to their Auxiliary President. If the matter is not resolved, refer to **Matters of Concern** in the Booklet of Instructions (yellow pages).

Using Proper Channels

1. Those concerns, problems, etc. of an Auxiliary MAY be addressed to the District President who will take the concerns directly to the Department President for his/her consideration.
2. The Department President then decides who should be assigned to handle the concerns of that particular Auxiliary.
3. If the concern warrants it, the Department President may address it to the National President for his/her consideration.

Auxiliaries are encouraged to use the RESOURCES listed on Guidebook page 19 and submit a report to qualify for the **Strengthening Auxiliary of the Year Award**. The deadline is February 1, 2022. A citation and \$25 will be presented to one Auxiliary that best used the resources to strengthen an Auxiliary.

I wish each of our members a Happy Valentine's Day as we ... **"Soar Above and Beyond"** being ... **"United to Defend the Freedoms of Veterans and Their Families."** Loyally, *Karen, PDP*





“BUDDY”® POPPY
VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
KAREN SCHEUNEMAN, CHAIRMAN
 126 VISTA DRIVE – ARCADE, NY 14009
 Telephone: (585) 492-1994
 Email: wdstock90@yahoo.com



Happy Valentine’s Day Members,

Go the Extra Mile
 So you see!
 There’s no end
 To the things you might know,
 Depending how far beyond Zebra you go!
 ~ On Beyond Zebra!



Celebrate this Holiday of Love by going the extra mile and become a life member of the VFW National Home for Children.

Being a life member is one way to create a special bond with the mission of the National Home. Your membership honors the sacrifices of America’s Veterans and assists Veteran and Military Families in time of crisis. The membership is the force that drives the VFW National Home for Children with its time, energy, and funding necessary for the National Home to exist. It is through the work of its members that the mission of the VFW National Home for Children to serve as a living memorial to America’s Veterans by helping our Nation’s struggling Military and Veteran Families is carried out. The membership is truly the heart of the National Home.

The VFW National Home for Children has two classification of Life Membership:

- LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** The VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation.
- ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home’s mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.

There is a one-time membership fee of \$50.00 for both member classification. Applicants will receive a membership certificate, wallet card and a Life Member pin. Additional Life Member pins may be purchased for \$5.00.

To obtain the VFW National Home for Children Life Membership application, visit:

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/>

Friendly Reminder: Purchase a Life Membership to the VFW National Home for Children and be entered into a drawing to win a monetary award of \$50.00. Drawing to held at 2022 Spring Conference. Applications must be received by National Home no later than March 15, 2022.

DEADLINE! National Program Award forms must be received by Department Chairman prior to March 31, 2022. National Program Award forms may be obtained at: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources/> End of Year Reports must be received by Department Chairman prior to April 1, 2022.

Loyally, *Karen*

“Soaring Above and Beyond”

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



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
DARLENE BAKER, CHAIRMAN



42 WILLARD DR ~ BERNHARDS BAY, NY 13028
 Tel: (315) 657-6909 – Email: dbaker1017@aol.com

Veterans, active duty military and their families are the most critical infrastructure within our society. Their service and sacrifice allow us the freedoms we all enjoy. The programs we have through the Auxiliary are a great achievement. We are great Ambassadors within our own communities. We can show that by offering to do little things: take blankets and personal care items to homeless shelters, send cards and make calls to veterans that puts a smile on their face, take them to appointments, provide assistance to cut their lawns/snow removal. These are a few examples of the little things we can do to make a difference in the everyday lives of those who are in need.

If your Auxiliary has supported homeless veterans or done work to support National Caregiver Work go to National’s website to obtain the Veterans & Family Support Award for Auxiliaries No. 1 Entry Form •2021-2022 Program Year and No. 2 Entry Form •2021-2022 Program Year. The deadline is March 31, 2022 to send completed forms to me.

A few highlights of the V & F S Program include:

National Veterans Services: helps ensure Veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care including: hospital, outpatient, specialized female veterans, alcohol and drug treatment, medical evaluation of disorders associated with military service and other services. Donations should have been made on the Report Form (Guidebook page 6) or mail a check to VFW National Headquarters – Attn: NVS, 406 West 34th Street – 11th Floor – Kansas City, MO 64111.

VFW Veterans and Military Support Program: The three programs under this are Military Assistance Program (“MAP”), Unmet Needs and Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship. See Guidebook page 33 for specific details.

Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness: Make a difference in the life of a Veteran or 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: A confidential toll-free hotline that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders. Support is available 24/7, 365 days a year, as well as for the deaf and hearing impaired. **Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 –**

Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net – Text to 838255. Additional Mental Wellness and Support Resources can be found on Guidebook page 33.

Remember to report by the 1st of each month. Reports continue to roll in. I look forward to receiving many more. Congratulations to Putnam County and District 7 Auxiliaries for being 100% in reporting for this program. The eight remaining Districts lack fewer than five for donation or participation to be 100%. Contact me if you have questions!

“United to Defend Veterans and Their Families” while
 ...*“Soaring Above and Beyond.”* Loyally, *Darlene*

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
 Deborah L. Cenni, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*
 36 Parkside Street ~ Mayville, NY 14757-9624

SPRING CONFERENCE
 March 25 – 26, 2022

VFW Auxiliary Department of New York
 Spring Conference is scheduled for
 March 25 – 26 in Binghamton, NY.
 Conference Packets – including all forms –
 will be included in the
 March edition of *Auxiliary News*.
 (USPS mailed mid-February)
 Packets will also be available on the
 Department website: vfwauxny.org
 Reservation deadline is March 15th.

JANUARY 5, 2022 – NEWS FLASH

As we begin a new year, we want to make sure that the slate is cleared of all previous Executive Orders; therefore, there are NO EXECUTIVE ORDERS IN PLACE AT THIS TIME. Thus, all members and entities (Auxiliaries, County Councils, Districts and Departments) must follow the National Bylaws.
 Loyally, Ann Panteleakos
 National Secretary-Treasurer

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



HOLIDAY CHEER – TREES FOR TROOPS – 2021

A few excerpts from the many emails and letters received from our troops serving overseas ...

... Operation Holiday Cheer/Trees for Troops in Bahrain was a success. Within 2 hours we had placed the 8 trees we received Monday afternoon. Some went south for the deployed folks to enjoy and the rest went to our NSA Bahrain Sailors and Marines. Live trees are a rarity in Bahrain. Many people stopped by our table just to look at and take in the wonderful aroma of the fresh trees. It definitely brought much happiness!
 ... We were at most expecting 2 to 4 trees not the 12 that arrived, thank you very much! Several troops have commented on enjoying smelling the fresh tree coming into work. A real feel of home.
 ... Joe and I were on FOX and FRIENDS a few years back and a viewer whose husband was deployed at the time in Kuwait, tracked down Joe at Dees' Nursery after seeing the clip. We made contact with the viewers husband and we were able to deliver Christmas Trees to him while he was deployed in Kuwait. In 2020 he was in Abu Dhabi and again we were able to get Christmas Trees to his Air Force Squadron. This year he is stateside, but his wife Carol Ann serves as a "Key Spouse" for units deployed overseas. We were again able to get Christmas Trees delivered to the 302nd Airlift Wing currently deployed in Abu Dhabi.

