



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ December 2022/January 2023

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is hard to believe how fast this year is going by. Let me begin by thanking you all that attended our Fall Conference in Albany. It was so great to see you all there. To my amazing Chairman, what a wonderful job you all did presenting your programs to those in attendance. I would like to apologize to those first timers who were in attendance for not recognizing you. I will have something at our upcoming Spring Conference for those in attendance. To those who participated in the Stop 22 walk, I would like to thank you for your support in making this project a success with Department Commander Pete Pennelle and I.

What an honor it was to have our own Past Department President, and current National Council Member Number 4, Bonnie Burgy as our National Representative. Bonnie was a wonderful representative as she attended all our activities for the weekend. I would also like to thank Past Department President, Sandy Flynn for being my Fall Conference Chairman. You and your committee did a wonderful job.

With Fall Conference over, it was off to the races! I made my official visits to the following: Erie County Council, Buffalo VA Hospital, and District #3. I traveled every weekend through November up until December 11th! I attended Districts #1, #6 and #7 meetings, the Department Commander's Dinner in Lowville, and the sendoff for the Trees for Troops. I want to thank everyone for the courtesies being shown to me as I continue travelling across our great state.

What a wonderful time I had attending the Eastern States Conference in New Hampshire on November 4-6. It was such an honor to represent our great Department of New York. I would like to thank Charlene Hooper and Darlene Baker for being my riding companions!

November 18-20 we welcomed our very own Jane Reape, VFW Auxiliary National President, back to the Department of New York as she made her official visit. We had a wonderful tour of Seneca Lake and shared time with members in Mattydale, Dundee, and Waterloo. A Big Thank You to Chairman Nina LeFrois for such a fun weekend in the Finger Lakes Region!

Department Chief of Staff Marianne McLane started hosting her Zoom training meetings in November. Please do your best to sign on for a great learning experience as we continue mentoring and teaching about our organization.

Just a reminder to members and officers on all levels to pay your dues by December 31st. If you miss this deadline, you will no longer be a member in good standing.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday season, from Mike and myself. May you all take the time to enjoy the little things and make joyous memories together as we look forward to 2023.

May we continue working "*United to Win the Race for Our Veteran's and Their Families,*" with "*Hands That Serve and Hearts That Care.*"

Loyally, *Lisa*

Lisa Raplee, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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PDP and OFFICER BIRTHDATES

DECEMBER

3 - Donna Emo, PDP
10 - Justine Robles, Chaplain
16 - Jane Reape, PDP
28 - Kathy Zylko, PDP

JANUARY

4 - Edith Horst, PDP
9 - Chris Leavor, Secretary
24 - Arlene Eysaman, PDP



MARK YOUR CALENDERS



- Dec 7...** Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 17...** Wreaths Across America Day
~ Ceremonies at 12 Noon.
- Dec 25...** MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Dec 31...** DEADLINE for Auxiliary Dues
~ (Officers risk removal if not paid.)
- Jan 1...** HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Jan 16...** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 22-27...** Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference Cruise

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDERS (SO)

The following is a summary of National Special Orders received at the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Headquarters:

- ◆ SO #30, Aug 31, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to John W. Tiffany Post 53 in Jamestown to surrender its charter.
- ◆ SO #51, Sep 17, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to Harvey D. Morin Post 2940 in West Seneca to surrender its charter.
- ◆ SO #72, Oct 21, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to Post 3180 in Akron to surrender its charter.
- ◆ SO #75, Nov 3, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to Corp Ralph H. Arrandale Post 7914 in Sidney to surrender its charter.
- ◆ SO #87, Nov 3, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to Sgt. James E. Carty DSC Post 1545 in Windham to surrender its charter.
- ◆ SO #88, Nov 3, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to Mohawk Valley Earl Stock Memorial Post 3275 in Fort Plain to surrender its charter.
- ◆ SO #91, Nov 1, 22: Lifted the suspension of the Auxiliary to Edward M. Maier Memorial Post 4947 in Wurtsboro.
- ◆ SO #92, Nov 1, 22: Authorized the Auxiliary to Watervliet City Post 729 in Watervliet to surrender its charter.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The following are corrections/changes that were reported after the Directory was printed and distributed at Fall Conference:

- 📖 Dept Sr Vice Pres Rosalie Cooper-*New Phone*: 585-403-1390.
- 📖 Directory Page 8-*Addresses for PDPs Irene Rohde and Jackie Herbert are reversed.*
- 📖 Dist 3 Sec Maryellen DesForge-*Correct E-Mail*: marvelcd.aux@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 1895 Pres-*Correct E-Mail*: vfw1895aux@outlook.com
- 📖 Aux 5199-*New Meeting Night*: 1st Thursday, 7:00 pm.
- 📖 Aux 7223-*New President*: Alice Roerden, 156 Lake Dr, Copiague, NY 11726, 631-598-1489, country_fan2000@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 9487-*New Treasurer*: Robin Knaier, 1447 Clark Rd, Franklinville, NY 14737, 716-353-6117, rcknaier@yahoo.com

AWARDS FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION

Americanism: Award 3: 2nd Place Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Doris Ippolito**

Auxiliary Community Outreach: Award 3: Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Judith Lefebvre**

"Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home for Children:

- 1) Auxiliary with the most outstanding use of "Buddy"® Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program: **8649-Goodrich Smith**
- 2) Award 3: Best promotion to educate the community about the VFW National Home: Dept Chairman **Karen Scheuneman**
- 3) Award 4: Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Karen Scheuneman**

Chief of Staff & Mentoring for Leadership: Award 3: 2nd Place Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Karen Ann Dotson** and **Tamara Cummings**

Historian & Media Relations:

- 1) Award 2: Best promotion of media relations training: Dept Chairman **Kelli Anne Martini**
- 2) Award 4: Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Kelli Anne Martini**

Legislative:

- 1) Award 2: Best promotion of legislative education and member involvement: Dept Chairman **Belinda Cole**
- 2) Award 3: Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Belinda Cole**

Membership: Award 2: Best retention program: Dept Chairman **Christine Leavor**

Mentoring for Leadership: No. 1: Member who is instrumental in fulfilling the role as a mentor/leader: 2nd - **Tina Roberts**, 3rd - **Karen Scheuneman**

Youth Activities:

- 1) Auxiliary with the most outstanding promotion of Illustrating America: **8649-Goodrich Smith**
- 2) Award 2: Best promotion of "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!" singing contest: Dept Chairman **Cynthia Winzenried**
- 3) Award 3: 2nd Place Outstanding Performance: Dept Chairman **Cynthia Winzenried**



CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND ~ Lori Tunkel, Chairman
10 Michelle Drive ~ Gardiner, NY 12525
(845) 255-8983 ~ loritunkel24@gmail.com (NEW Email)



Cancer Awareness: **January** – Cervical Cancers

* Please remember to send the Cancer Grant Fund tickets **and** checks to me, **Lori Tunkel**, at the address above before Spring Conference. These donations are helping to keep the National Cancer Grant available to us.

Let's Beat Cancer Together! If you would like to help someone who has Cancer, or those in hospitals, why not either make or purchase some hats for them. They'll be very happy to receive a hat. And then report it to me.

SPRING CONFERENCE:

- ✓ Three Cancer Grant Fund tickets will be drawn: First Place (\$75), Second Place (\$50), Third Place (\$25).
- ✓ Please make sure you send your tickets in time to be entered in the drawing.
- ✓ Each **DISTRICT** is asked to bring a Spring-themed basket to be raffled.
- ✓ "In Memory of" and "In Honor of" Luminaries will be available for a donation of \$5.00 each.
- ✓ Snacks will be available for a donation of \$1.
- ✓ Your help is needed for us to support Auxiliary patients who are fighting cancer.

Have a great Holiday and Happy New Year!

"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families" with "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."

Loyally, *Lori*



AMERICANISM ~ Patriotic Instructor Tamara Cummings, Chairman
125 Atlantic Street ~ Salamanca, NY 14779
(716) 244-3260 ~ tamara.dudleyhotel@gmail.com



To the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary Americanism Pit Crew Members, Wow! What a **“Great Job”** you’ve all done keeping “President Lisa’s Americanism Race Car” in tip top racing condition. The car is in the garage through the holiday season but that doesn’t give the Pit Crew a vacation. It’s tune up time! Time to take stock of what we will need to take this car to the finish line when the cars get back on the track.

Tire Changers: Let’s get that **“Flag Education”** material into the hands of our youth and community members. We don’t want the brakes to seize up later in the race. Youth groups especially look for Programs such as these to hold in the winter months. Also, look to your adult service clubs and offer to come talk to their group about our Flag. Take a Flag along and give it as a prize for a quick flag trivia game.

Catchcan Man: You may not be trying to save every drop of gas during a race, but while you are in the garage maybe you can help the body man. He has your decals to put on the car for **#auxiliarypatriotism**. Document your Christmas Parties, Food Drives or any Auxiliary function on social media...Facebook....Twitter etc.

Jackman: You also are not on vacation; while in the garage start planning your Community Patriotic Event for in the Spring. Christmas time would also be a good time to reach out to our **“Star Families”**. Gold, Blue and Silver Star Mothers and Families may just appreciate being sent a Christmas card or being invited to a Christmas Dinner at your Post. Please be sure to think of ways to remember them this time of the year as their losses, service and disabilities do not take a Holiday.

Lastly, Let’s tune up our own Auxiliaries by teaching “New” and “Seasoned” Members the Auxiliary Traditions at your meetings. There are handouts and videos available at : vfwauxiliary.org. Log in to Malta and go to Member Resources/Americanism for these **“TOOLS”**.

Happy Holidays to you all and the Happiest of New Years! All I want for Christmas is a mailbox full of Reports!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

With **“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”** while being **“United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families.”**

Loyally, *Tamara*

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION ~ PDP Marianne McLane, Chairman
3550 Deer River Road ~ Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 286-2683 ~ mari.mclane1@gmail.com

‘Did You Know’ Zoom Meetings! ~ Every Other Month ~ Third Tuesday at 7:30 pm (time subject to change).

- ★ Meetings are open to all members and especially beneficial for officers on all levels.
- ★ Department Treasurer Kim White will forward the Zoom meeting invitation via E-Mail to Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. Meeting invitation and information will also be available on the Department website: vfwauxny.org
- ★ Meeting Schedule:
 - November 15 ~ Membership and the Investigating Committee
(Follow-up documents will be posted on the website).
 - January 17 ~ Treasurer Duties
 - March 21 ~ Year End Reporting
 - May 16 ~ Installation Forms and Reporting

- We have had several auxiliaries disband; but are also working on several new auxiliaries to join us.
- Remember that when your Inspector comes to your auxiliary it is your chance to ask questions. Don’t be afraid to tell them that you are in need of assistance. We are here to help your Auxiliary become even healthier than what you already are.
- Use Malta at our National web site. It is your source of information and ideas to help your Auxiliary be successful. If you have never been on MALTA give me a call and I’ll help you set up your account and navigate Malta. You will be surprised at how easy and helpful the web site has become.
- The Holiday Season is upon us. Spend time with your families and our Veterans. Merry Christmas from me to you!

Loyally, *Marianne, PDP*

WAYS & MEANS ~ Linda Flanagan, Chairman
155 Briggs Street ~ Syracuse, NY 13208
(315) 475-7526 ~ auxd53146@hotmail.com

**** Thank you to everyone who purchased the 9-month raffle tickets and the Race for the Gold tickets. ****

- At Fall Conference the first 9-month raffle drawing was held. October 2022 winner was Aux. 600 of Dist 4.
- I did 3 more drawings due to the timing of the Auxiliary News. The following are the winners:
 - November 2022 - Auxiliary 5913 from District 2. No seller was listed.
 - December 2022 - Auxiliary 1143 from District 9. The auxiliary was the seller.
 - January 2023 - Auxiliary 6001 from District 4. The auxiliary was the seller.
- Please continue to support the Ways and Means Program. There are lots of chances left to win. Also, if you do not sell the 9-month tickets or the Race for the Gold tickets, please, please send them back to me. If you need more tickets of either raffle, contact me.
- When you are filling in the ticket stubs, please write legible and fill in all the information.

Loyally, *Linda*



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT ~ Charlene Hooper, Chairman
2 Fayette Street ~ Waterloo, NY 13165
(315) 719-1820 ~ chooper70@hotmail.com



Hello Auxiliary members! I hope we all enjoy our Holidays. I would like to share some good news in regards to Homeless Veterans. There was a decline of 11% since 2020 that is the biggest decline in 5 years!!!!

National Center on Homelessness among Veterans

Mission: (the Center) promotes recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. The Center conducts and supports research; assesses the effectiveness of programs; identifies and disseminates best practices and integrates these practices into policies, programs, and services for homeless or at-risk Veterans; and serves as a resource center for all research and training activities carried out by the Department and by other Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to Veteran homelessness.

Keep track - Lisa and I are working on a zip up hoodie for spring conference!

Loyally, *Charlene*



LEGISLATIVE ~ Ron Boyd, Chairman
337 Sunset Drive ~ Holley, NY 14470
(585) 281-9760 ~ reboyd2@hotmail.com



Educate ~ Participate ~ Get Others Involved

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves - and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

By now, the general election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, has been held. Our Nation's 118th Congress will be seated in January 2023. Our legislative priorities remain the same. We continue to rely on and encourage our members to engage legislators on issues and legislation that benefits Veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

Our organization's priority goals are available through MALTA, under "Member Resources", Select "Legislative" from the left-hand side of the page, then "VFW Priority Goals" under "VFW Legislative Resources". Be engaged and help ensure that these priority goals are enacted. If you have not done so, sign up today for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts to receive up-to-date information on current issues.

Please continue to send your Legislative Reports by E-mail or US Mail. I look forward to receiving more reports of legislative activities our Auxiliaries have been involved with.

“United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families”

Patriotically ~ *Ron*

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP ~ PDP Darlene Stanton, Chairman
PO Box 13 ~ Clarksville, NY 12041
(518) 470-7310 ~ wwdeedeass@aol.com

WOW, I want to thank all the District Presidents for the great job they did with our skit on mentoring for Madam President Lisa's Fall Conference. We got many kudos on the content - especially the awesome cars.

Looking over our monthly reports, it is plain to see that you have taken the mentoring challenge to heart. It makes me very proud and we're not even half way through the year!!!! Here are the results so far!!!
1st - Dist 5 (71 pts); 2nd - tie Dist 3, 6 (49 pts); 4th - Dist 4 (41 pts); 5th - Dist 8 (25 pts); 6th - tie Dist 2, 7, 9 (20 pts); 9th - Dist 1 (13 pts). It's a close race and still any Districts race to win. Dig down deep and use all the knowledge you have learned in your mentoring sessions and put them to work to bring the racers to your meetings.

What I want to see more of is reporting - that is as important as bringing in new members to win the race. It only takes a few minutes to send me a quick email, phone call or mail me letter.

This is an assignment for all District Presidents and auxiliaries that have held a mentoring session or OTI School to send me a detailed report of what programs and information was taught during your event. Please let me know who your mentor teachers were; how many attended; what auxiliaries attended; and date of the event.

District Presidents, your mission is to call, email, or at your meetings have your members write a Mentoring report. I know they have done the work, now it's time to take the credit for your district. You must be 100% in membership and have the highest count of new and rejoined members combined to win the race. You have a lot of time to do it, but that time is racing by pretty fast. District Presidents, please make sure all your Mentoring sessions are completed soon.

Remember, Mentoring is the responsibility of all of us and we need to begin today, because we need to find our leaders of tomorrow. Help your mentees feel special, wanted and most of all appreciated. Learn to say please and thank you, bring them into the group and teach them all the workings of your auxiliary. Have them ask you questions. Most of all share all the wonderful knowledge you have stored in your mind to as many mentees as you can, I bet you'll be sharing it with your future leaders. It's important because we never know what tomorrow will bring. So start mentoring today.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Lots of Hugs, *Darlene*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Greeting my Brothers and Sisters!

I want to begin by thanking you all for your patience with me and my "learning curve." I continue to make mistakes daily, but I assure you I have learned from each and every one of them.

You will be seeing changes that you will need to make in your Directories beginning with this issue of the Auxiliary News. Some of the changes were made but didn't make it into the final Directory. (It's just too long a story.) I assure you ALL changes are made in MALTA if your Secretary didn't do that first.

I also want to say "Thank You" to everyone who sent me cards after a recent surgical procedure. They are appreciated and made me feel the "VFW Auxiliary family love."

This month I want to ask all Auxiliaries to please use the most recent forms when completing an officer change. Be sure you provide all information - including membership numbers - and please jot a note on the form regarding why the change is being made. For example: "President resigned due to health issues" or "Secretary relocated out of the area." National has requested that we provide this information. In addition, while your Auxiliary Secretary can enter these changes, I still need a form, but if the Secretary has already entered it in MALTA, a note on the top of the form will save me some time of going into MALTA only to find it already done. The same is true if using the form to report the passing of one of your members. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

In closing, I have received emails and phone calls with many questions regarding helping your Auxiliaries run smoothly and be healthy. Thank you for letting me assist you. It really is my pleasure, so feel free to continue calling (leave a message because we screen unknown numbers), 716-676-2400, or emailing me and I will do my best to find you what you need.

"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families" with "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."

Loyally, *Christine*

HOSPITAL ~ Peggy Schweitzer, Chairman
50 Franklin Avenue ~ Clinton, NY 13323
(315) 853-2419 ~ snow4931@yahoo.com

Overcoming challenges is nothing new to the VFW Auxiliary, and this is especially true for the Hospital Program. In the State of New York, most of our VA Hospitals are still closed to our many volunteers and it is most difficult to go in and visit with our Veterans. Over the last few of years, COVID has created yet another challenge, however, all the Auxiliaries have found so many creative and innovative ways to work around the problems and I commend you for all your efforts.

I suggest that you contact your local VAVS Representative and find out what the patients would like. Some of our Auxiliaries are donating gift cards or giving a donation for canteen cards to be used as prizes for bingo, etc. Some are providing personal care items or whatever their closest VA needs.

I am on a website for all Department Hospital Chairman in the U.S. and have a couple of other ideas: drop off books for their library; collect warm clothing, personal care and hygiene items; donate food to their food pantry. Some of our members are knitting and crocheting items that the Veterans have requested.

All the Hospital forms and resources associated with this program are now available behind our MALTA login. You will need to login in to see them.

I saved the best for last – here are the standings under the Hospital Program as of this writing: District 1 – need 2 more Auxiliaries to report; District 2 only needs 1 Auxiliary to report; District 3 needs 6 Auxiliaries to report; District 4 only needs 1 Auxiliary; District 5 only needs 1 Auxiliary to report; **Congratulations to District 6 and District 7 for being 100% in reporting!!!** District 8 only lacks 2 Auxiliaries to report and District 9 also needs just 2 more Auxiliaries. If anyone needs to know which Auxiliaries are lacking, please contact me or watch Irene's report on the Department website.

Wishing all of you and your families a Blessed and Merry Christmas, along with a very Happy New Year!

**WE WILL HAVE HANDS THAT SERVE, HEARTS THAT CARE AND WE WILL BE
UNITED TO WIN THE RACE FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

Loyally, *Peggy*

Inspirational Messages from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Justine Robles

Wreaths Across America Day: December 17, 2022

Father, we are joined together in Spirit with others who are also participating in "Wreaths Across America" Day. We ask for Mercy and Comfort for the Families of those who have known loss and sacrifice; because when the soldier serves, the family serves. Help us to hear their hearts and share in their sorrows and joys and continue with them... in friendship and care. Grant them Lord, Your peace. Lead us and guide us, Lord; give us deep and abiding love for You, and for our Country which You entrusted to us, to be and to remain, "A City on a Hill," a beacon of light extending across the world with a message of Hope and Liberty as we the citizens, learn to live worthy of the gift of Freedom, in thought, word, and deed. Give us continued courage Lord; let Your Light in our heart never extinguish or flicker down, because so much rests on recognizing You as we maintain Liberty. The gift of Freedom is Golden but its loss, would be darkness, bringing despair beyond description. And finally, to accomplish your Will most efficiently Lord, help us grow in love for each other, in patience, & endurance. Help us hold to our Faith in You, and in knowing what is possible by Your Mercy and by Your Grace. Father, be with us as we move forward to fulfill your Will today as Your People, as American People, this day and every day, with all our soul, with all our heart, and with all our strength... while we yet... have breath. God Bless & Keep America... America. Amen

New Year's Day: January 1, 2023

Thank You Lord for giving me a brand-new year ahead. Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread. Give me gentle wisdom, that I might help a friend. Give me strength and courage so I might lend a shoulder if needed. The year ahead is empty, help me fill it with good things. Each new day filled with the joy and happiness it brings. If I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. If I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.
Amen



SCHOLARSHIPS ~ Ruth Huber, Chairman
95 Bucktooth Run Road ~ Little Valley, NY 14755
(716) 801-2003 ~ poofalina@yahoo.com



What a wonderful job our Auxiliaries are doing! After reviewing the donations made to the Scholarships Program that have been made to date, reading your reports, and follow-ups I made with telephone calls I am happy to say the Department is only missing a few reports to be 100%.

The Auxiliaries within the following Districts are all 100% as of 11/07/2022: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 along with Cattaraugus-Allegany County and Erie County Councils have also received credit for either donating, promoting, and/or participating in the Scholarships Program. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for doing a tremendous job. Your Post judging should now be completed with the entries in the hands of the District judges. Congratulations to all of the local winners!

The deadline for the Continuing Education Scholarship will soon be upon us. This scholarship is open to any Auxiliary member who has been a member for at least a year, their spouse, son, or daughter with a financial need. Applicants need to write an essay of 300 words or less and submit the application so it is received at National Headquarters by February 15th. What student doesn't need extra money to buy books, pay for room and board, put gas in their car, pay for childcare, or eat? Please help spread the word about this scholarship.

Our National Ambassador Melody Judd has done a nice job of breaking down the new three-dimensional art contest. You might ask, how is this a new contest when three-dimensional art entries have been part of Young American Creative Patriotic Art since the 2018-2019 Program Year? Here is the answer, this program year these entries will belong to a separate contest called the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest entries are now all two-dimensional (2-D art), while the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest entries are exclusively three-dimensional (3-D) art.

Please see the Department Guidebook and/or MALTA for additional information you may need to know about the contests, deadlines, resources that are available, examples of individuals you can reach out to, and most certainly ways to recognize your entrants.

We will forever be ***"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families"*** with ***"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."*** Have a wonderful holiday season!

Loyally, *Ruth*

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS ~ Kellianne Martini, Chairman
315 Anchors Way ~ Winder, GA 30680
(518) 744-8978 ~ kelliannekennedy@hotmail.com

The key point of the Historian & Media Relations Program is to publicize/capture/preserve your Auxiliary's story so you can share it with your community. One way to publicize and promote your Auxiliary is to use hashtags when you post something to a social media platform like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. Using hashtags makes it easier to find things you post and share online. More importantly, it makes it easier for others to find what you have posted. Use them like signposts to direct the viewing public to your photos, flyers, and announcements. You can create a hashtag when you pair up the pound sign / the number symbol (#) with a word or words used for describing a topic or theme – with no spaces. If you use a smartphone, mobile device, laptop, or a computer, you can do it. For example, The Department of New York VFW Auxiliary has a hashtag, we use #deptofnyvfwaux or #deptofny or #deptofnyaux. If you type that into a social media platform like Facebook or Instagram, the result is the same – you'll be taken to whatever the Department has posted of photos, flyers and other information on that platform. Many Auxiliaries share a Facebook page with their Posts – creating a hashtag that puts your Post/Auxiliary number after the prefix #vfw (for example, #vfw123456) will help your members, and the community, find your material. It's smart to create a hashtag that you will use repeatedly – such as #vfwaux123456, because if you broadcast that information to your members, it will help them locate your postings right away. You can make up and use multiple hashtags on the same post. This allows you to use several different key words or phrases – casting a wider 'net' -- to pull in the viewing public to see your posts. Treat them like a trail of markers to lead the readers to learn more about your Auxiliary's activities, events and programs. Be sure to put in a "Historian & Media Relations" report if you create and use a new hashtag on a social media site. So, here's to working smarter – not harder -- to showcase our Auxiliaries, our activities and highlight our support to our cause. As always, please don't hesitate to call or drop me a line if you have any questions or comments

***"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families" will provide us with wonderful memories while
"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."***

Loyally, *Kellianne*

"BUDDY"® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN ~ Flora Becker, Chairman
86 Garden Street ~ Seneca Falls, NY 13148
(315) 521-2675 ~ florabecker74@yahoo.com



We are at the half way point of the race, but we still have a ways to go....

"Buddy" Poppy: As we get ready for Christmas and New Year's, let's remember that you can do so much with the "Buddy" Poppies. There are craft shows being done at this time of year and why not do some crafts with using Buddy Poppies on them? Use "Buddy" Poppies and display on the Christmas tree or other Christmas decorations. When giving a gift this Christmas put a "Buddy" Poppy on your gift packages and gift bags for your family and friends. Let them know that with the "Buddy" Poppy, it reminds us to remember our military who have served and fallen. While we are heading into Winter, when you're snowed in, you have some time to get a jump start on the "Buddy" Poppy Display that is to bring to Spring Conference in March.

National Home: Please don't forget to get your Health and Happiness in if your Auxiliary has not yet done so. Thanks to all the Auxiliaries that have already donated. District Presidents will be getting a list of Auxiliaries that have not gotten theirs in yet. I will also will follow-up up with the Auxiliaries that have not gotten theirs in. We did not reach our goal of 100% by the end of October. Could we get our 100% by the end of December? Ask your Auxiliary to have the National Home in your standing rules so your Auxiliary can get it in by July of each year Let's show our support to the National Home this Christmas to help the children receive a Christmas present. What a good time this Christmas to purchase a brick from the National Home in memory of or honor of someone. The cost is \$100. The info is on the vfnationalhome.org/you-can-help/. Another way to help this Christmas is to purchase items from the National Home wish list on Amazon. Also shop with Amazon Smile.

"Rosie" (our special guest puppet from Fall Conference) wanted to say Hello and to remember to help the children out at the National Home so they won't be forgotten this Christmas.



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - As we are
"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families" with
"Hands that serve, Hearts that care."

Loyally, *Flora*



MEMBERSHIP ~ Marcia McKinney-Williams, Chairman
PO Box 405 ~ Remsen, NY 13438
(315) 725-6582 ~ mmmckinney24@aol.com

Our Mission is Possible, and we all have been working toward that Mission. The mission is to get those members' dues paid by the end of the year. Our Department Treasurer Kim White has sent out the dues reminders for those auxiliary's that donated on the donation report. Do not hold those dues-process them when you get them in the mail.

We are racing around the race track with our Driver Department President Lisa Raplee as she comes out of turn 2 from Fall Conference. We are cruising along to get to turn 3 which is Spring Conference. Let's reach the checkered flag with 100% and get Lisa in the Circle of Excellence in Phoenix Arizona.

If you find a member who hasn't paid their dues and are having a tough year, your auxiliary can pay their dues. Send them a thinking of you card and tell them to watch their mail - you might have just cheered them up. A little cheer goes a long way.

When you take a new member in be sure to have them set up their Malta account. It only takes a few minutes. Have them do their profile and sign up for the National Digital magazine. Show them how to navigate thru Malta. Show them the VFW store and how to set up an account. Welcome that new member; ask them if they have any ideas which might be helpful and would they like to volunteer for the next project you might be having. Do you have any parades coming up? Poppy Drives? You never know how much talent they may have. Explain our programs to them. You never know, they may find one that interests them and want to work with the chairman. But most importantly process those dues when you get them do not hold them.

I wish to extend to everyone a Happy Safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families with Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care
Loyally, *Marcia*



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT ~ Doris "Dee" Ippolito, Chairman
24 Blue Jay Circle ~ Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 440-3411 ~ dee.ippolito.017@gmail.com



*** DECEMBER 2022 - *Happy Holidays to All! "Time to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families!"***



As part of this race, this tree is one of the ninety (90) trees that will be shipped to our military who are serving overseas, along with decorations and menorahs through your generosity. Your donations and signatures on our Department's "Card" will go along with the trees to share your love for our military!

Continue to show your loving hearts and hands that care. You bring joy through dinners to our Veterans and their families, help with needed items, warm coats, help caregivers take a break, help our deployed military's families cope with everyday needs, and help provide a myriad of random kindnesses to our Veterans and families everyday!

Very special holiday wishes to all of you for sharing your love with all during this special time of year!

*** JANUARY 2023 - *Happy New Year! Events show how you care all yearlong!***

In January, when the holidays are over, the need is even greater for our Veterans and their families. The need for caregivers is greater as the winter progresses. They have fewer opportunities to care for themselves. If you or someone you know is caring for a Veteran, remember the Assistance for Family Caregivers Program (PCAFC). You could receive assistance from the VA if your Veteran is eligible. Support may include resources, education, support, beneficiary travel and more. Visit caregiver.va.gov for more information.



In your race to be "*United for our Veterans and Families*" and show that you have "*Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care*," center your January events around supporting the VFW's **Veterans and Military Support (VMS)**. VMS includes Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarships.

YOU share your amazing love in all you do everyday! **You** have earned 100% reporting/donating in Veterans and Family Support Program for President Lisa!

Keep on reporting! Only 3 months left until final reports due APRIL 1st! Happy Holidays and Happy 2023!

Loyally, *Dee*



OFFICIAL VISITS ~ PDP Bonnie Burgy, Coordinator
330 E. Bloomfield Street, Apt 2 ~ Rome, NY 13440
H: (315) 533-6426, C: (315) 225-9564 ~ bburgy@twcny.rr.com

Inspections are a vital part of our auxiliaries.

It is the way we learn if an auxiliary is in need of assistance and mentoring.

Auxiliary Presidents, when being visited be sure all necessary forms are at your meeting. If the secretary or treasurer is not able to be at the meeting, it is your responsibility to have required items at your meeting.

District Presidents, who have County Councils in their District, please see that they have the correct forms for doing an inspection. If they do not have the copy titled Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary Department of New York County Council Official Visit Report Form, please contact me and I will send you one. This form is different than the one for the Auxiliaries.

If for some reason the meeting cannot be held, contact the Inspector immediately and set a new date.

Inspectors, if you are not able to make the visit return all paperwork to the District President and she will appoint another person to do the visit. He/she is the only one who can appoint an inspector.

District Presidents, when all copies of the visit are returned to you, please go over the report and see that all questions are answered and sign or date up in the right-hand corner and send to me within 5 days of receiving the report.

**** INSPECTORS ARE NOT TO LEAVE ANY COPIES OF THE REPORT WITH THE AUXILIARY ****

Inspections are to be completed by December 15th.

Loyally, *Bonnie, PDP*

Words of Thanks

Thank you to all the members for your cards, phone calls, and well wishes hoping for me to feel better. I had the hip replacement and feeling better each day. It really did help me when I saw a card or received a phone call. I love you all and hope to see you by the Spring Conference. ~ Irene Rohde, PDP

I want to thank everyone for all the cards and phone calls on the passing of my Sister Sara Hathaway. ~ Helen Weeks, PDP

The Fall Conference for the “United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families” was held October 14-16, 2022 at the Albany Marriott with 156 preregistrations (plus 9 more registrations at the meeting) and 125 signed up for the luncheon. Thank you, Lisa, for this appointment. It was an honor to serve you and the membership in this manner. Special thank you goes to Lynne Loga, Donna Caudy and Patti McSweeney for handling the registration duties at the conference and to Dolores Sheeley for making the beautiful centerpieces for the luncheon and the one on the podium. ~ Sandra Flynn, PDP

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR ~ Irene Rohde, PDP
40 Schuylkill Court ~ Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-9194 ~ imallard4@yahoo.com**

Happy New Year 2023 to all! Time again to do a check on reporting. It is not too late to send reports in for the department programs. There are some programs that are 100% reported. Great job all. Now some of the programs just need one or two more auxiliaries to send in reports to reach that 100% mark.

The January, February and March Program reports will be out and you can check to see if your auxiliary is one of those auxiliaries that need that one more report to be 100% in any of the programs. You still have more time to get these reports in to your chairman. Also please remember to send in your end of the year report to the Department Chairman, by April 1st, even if you have already sent in a report for each program. Do not wait until the March report comes out and you do not see credit under a program that you know you sent in a report. Contact the Department Chairman right away to see why you are not given credit. Mistakes can happen by the chairman and by me!

At this time, I want to thank all the Department Chairmen for doing a great job this year in getting their reports to me by the monthly deadline of the 7th of the month. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.

So Happy Valentine’s Day, Happy St. Patrick’s Day and Happy Easter!!!! And remember to wear the green on March 17th, I will be watching! But first, have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Loyally, *Irene*

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT **1017 ~ John T. Murray ~ Dunkirk, NY**



Auxiliary 1017 recently donated 50 winter hats and 50 lap afghans for all the Veterans on the October 2022 Honor Flight. Accepting the donations on behalf of the Honor Flight is Tom Petri. Pictured left is Auxiliary member Robin Richmond with Tom and pictured right is Auxiliary President Pat Rabb with Tom. Pat and Robin crafted the hats and afghans from donated yarn, along with a few others. They are always looking for smoke-free yarn to use for their projects, which includes nursing homes, VA facilities, and the maternity wards in local hospitals.





AUXILIARY OUTREACH ~ Judy Lefebvre, Chairman
316 Pellerin Road ~ Plattsburgh, NY 12901
H: (518) 563-7558, C: (518) 593-5628 ~ biljud@aol.com



Can we partner? Can you volunteer? If you don't ask, the answer will always be "No!"
Report ALL partnership hours because UNREPORTED HOURS never receive "Credit."

~Yes~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Christmas Bureau:

1. To pick up, sort, wrap, pack, and deliver gifts.
2. To play Santa, Mrs. Claus or his Elves.

~Yes~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the American Legion or other Service Organization:

1. To cook/serve holiday dinners for the Homeless.
2. To sell entry & raffle tickets at Shelter Benefit.

~Yes~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Senior Center:

1. To teach residents computer and technical skills.
2. To help shop/wrap gifts for residents' families.
3. To help residents read/write notes and cards.
4. To prepare residents' tax returns.

~Yes~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Town or County Welfare, Food and Meal Agencies:

1. To call and perform welfare and safety visits.
2. To sort, wrap and deliver gifts to Needy Families.
3. To pick up, sort, and assist with Food Pantry.
4. To shovel and de-ice public walks.
5. To deliver meals to senior residents and home bound residents.

All partnerships MUST be approved and recorded in the Auxiliary minutes.
Volunteers MUST be easily recognizable as VFW Auxiliary Members.
Volunteer hours reportable under other current VFW and Auxiliary programs MUST be reported to those Auxiliary Chairman and your Post Community Service Chairman.

As members continue to be **"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families,"** they are volunteering hours in their communities to prove that members have **"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."**

My best wishes to each of you and your families for holidays filled with love and memories and a healthy 2023. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call, text or email me.

Loyally, *Judy*

YOUTH ~ Melinda Ingoglio, Chairman
585 Park Avenue, Apt 3C ~ Brooklyn, NY 11206
(347) 356-0194 ~ mingoglio0129@gmail.com

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

With the holidays in full gear there are a ton of activities our Auxiliaries can do to work with the youth. There are many different collection drives (clothing, toys or even food) your Auxiliary can host and involve the youth. All these items can be donated in various places (schools, shelters and even hospitals) to help make the holidays a little bit more special for those in need.

December 7th is National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We as Auxiliaries can invite children and parents to join us in remembering that day. This can be used as a teaching/learning experience. Auxiliary members can explain what took place on Pearl Harbor Day and why we remember it or even read books to our youth about the events that took place on this sacred day.

In January we ring in the New Year! It's the time of year we celebrate new beginnings. Now it's time to get back to business. In this month we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. On this day we can work with local youth groups and give back to our communities. Food pantries are looking for donations all year round so with our youth we can continue our collections.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have submitted reports. I love reading how everyone is getting the youth involved. Just don't forget reports are due the 1st of every month. Until next time...

Together with our youth we can be... **"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families"** with our **"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."**

Loyally, *Melinda*

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Deanna Guyette, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*

43 High Street ~ Carthage, NY 13619

Words from the Editor:

As we begin the most joyous time of the year, when we look forward to spending time with our family and loved ones, let us not forget about our Veterans who may be alone in nursing homes or hospitals, our active-duty service members who may be deployed, and the families who are left behind without their veterans.

Keep them in your hearts and pray for their safety and good health. The power of faith and love has no limitations and can reach those in need no matter where they are.

I wish you all a very Blessed Holiday Season and hope you are surrounded by love from every direction!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Much Love, *DeeDee*



Need ideas on how to set-up a display table and information booth?

On September 24-25th, the Town of Bellmore held a street fair and Auxiliary 2770 setup a booth so they could present material related to the Auxiliary. Included in their booth was a display promoting both VFW and Auxiliary Scholarships information. On both days, between 8 am-4 pm, approximately 4 members manned the booth at all times to answer any questions. In an effort to attract visitors to the booth, they offered various giveaways, which had been purchased by the Auxiliary, along with some donated giveaways. They were able to distribute several scholarship brochures and were hopeful to see the applications returned. Thank you to Chairman Kathy Burns and President Marylou Peterkin for sharing this information!

