



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ February/March 2023

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. It is hard to believe that we are coming down the backstretch, to the final two turns of our race for our Veterans! I have made official visits to Districts 1, 4 and 8. I am so proud of each and every one of you and all the work you have done for our Department this year. After the District 1 meeting, PDP Helen Weeks and I set out on an adventure from Long Island and went to see the Christmas Tree in Rockefeller Center. It was so beautiful, and I am so happy to have that special memory with my advisor.

On December 5, 2022, I had the honor of representing the Department at the Trees for Troops sendoff. Past State Commander Ben Thompson and his team work hard on this project and it truly showed that day. Thank you to all of those that participated and helped make this a great success.

I also made an official visit to Canandaigua VA Medical Center. Thank you, Helen Weeks, for arranging this and helping me deliver the baby items collected by District 8 for our female Veterans who are currently expecting.

One very exciting thing took place on December 13, 2022 - Together with organizers Charlene Hooper, Department Guard, and Tina Roberts, District 8 President, we instituted a new auxiliary! A big 'Welcome' goes out to James R Moore VFW Auxiliary #8726! I, along with the others, are excited to watch you all learn and grow as members of this great organization.

I would like to remind you all of a very important date that has just passed by: As of December 31, 2022, if you have not paid your annual dues, you are no longer a member in good standing. That means you are not allowed to attend auxiliary meetings! PLEASE reach out to these unpaid members and see if you can help. You can always pay dues for members that may be having a difficult time from your relief fund. We need to be 100% in membership for the Department to make the Circle of Excellence. I would like to also remind you that the stronger our membership is, the more of a voice we have when working to make sure our Veterans are getting all that they deserve.

Some deadlines that are fast approaching include Scholarship (please refer to the Department Chairmans article), and year end reports. Year end reports are due by April 1, 2023, which is also Spring Conference. You can always bring your report to the Department Chairman at Conference! April is also election of officers, PLEASE make sure that your installation reports are entered into MALTA, and a copy sent to our Department Secretary Chris Leavor.

I am looking forward to my future visits with the remaining Districts and other events. I hope to see you all at our Spring Conference in Albany, as together we will stand, *"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families"* with *"Hands That Serve and Hearts That Care"*.

Loyally, *Lisa*

Lisa Raplee, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Department President Lisa Raplee

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Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette

43 High Street, Carthage, NY 13619
315-493-7520, dgullquist@verizon.net

PDP and OFFICER BIRTHDATES

FEBRUARY



MARCH

17 - Irene Rohde, PDP
18 - Darlene Baker, Jr. Vice
21 - Helen Weeks, PDP
25 - Sharlene Allen, PDP



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

- Feb 14...** Happy Valentine's Day!
~ Remember Our Veterans!
- Feb 27...** Spring Legislative Conference/VOD Awards
to Mar 3... ~ Washington, D.C.
- Mar 29...** National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Mar 31...** VFW and VFW Auxiliary Spring Conference
to Apr 1... ~ Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
- Apr 1...** DEADLINE: Program Chairman End of Year Reports *must be received* by Apr 1st. (USPS or Email).
- Apr 10...** DEADLINE: President's (on all levels) End of Year Reports *must be postmarked or received* by Apr 10th. (USPS or Email).

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

- 📖 **New Auxiliary**-James R Moore Memorial #8726 (D8), Naples, NY
 Pres: Brittany Tierson, 6458 Italy Valley Rd, Naples, NY 14512, 585-313-2575, brittany.tierson@icloud.com
 S/T: Leona Sawyer, 4335 Jersey Rd, Williamson, NY 14589, 585-208-2839, No E-mail
- 📖 Aux 1386-*New Treasurer*: Michelle Cook, 9 Spring Lake Dr, Kingston, NY 12401, 845-338-9541, reader1874@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 1619-*New Secretary*: Pamela Spink (also current Treasurer)
- 📖 Aux 2535 Sec Heather Roncone-*Correct E-Mail*: hlroncone@roadrunner.com
- 📖 Aux 2721-*New President*: Karen Swift Dennis, 5239 Maple Lane, Cuba, NY 14727, 585-968-1961 (h), 585-296-9582 (c), No E-mail
- 📖 Aux 2782-*New Treasurer*: Timothy Guinn Jr., 6 Barnes St, Norwich, NY 13815, 607-316-7263, guinn910@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 5296-*New Secretary*: Erin Spring, 141 Clinton St, Salamanca, NY 14779, 716-378-9222, springerin@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 5885-*New President*: Jean Cavalier, 6 S Division St, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-343-1359 (h), 315-591-0237 (c), jcavalie@oswego.org
- 📖 Aux 5885-*New Secretary*: Sandy Nettles, 58 W Second St, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-529-3854, sandynettles@icloud.com
- 📖 Aux 6472-*New Meeting Day/Time*: 1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm.
- 📖 Aux 6703-*New President*: Shirley Campbell, 1511 Bills Rd, Kent, NY 14477, 585-797-9386, shirdog@aol.com
- 📖 Aux 6703 Treasurer Holly Farmborough-*New E-Mail*: vfwaux6703@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 7289-*New President*: Tracey Clary, PO Box 175, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, 434-770-3588, traceyclary@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 9487-*New Secretary*: Dorothy Vinovrski, 211 Hardy Corners Rd, Franklinville, NY 14737, 716-244-3462, dottievinovrski@gmail.com
- 📖 Department Hospital Chairman Peggy Schweitzer-*New E-Mail*: snowy4931@gmail.com
- ◆ Aux 8645-**Temporary Meetings Dates**: (Jan-Mar, 1st Sat, 11 am.) (Apr-Jun, 1st Tue, 6 pm.) (Jul, 2nd Tue, 6 pm.)

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

As we begin a new calendar year, I want to remind you of the R U Healthy Auxiliary To Do Form and its deadline. This form can be found on the Department website: From the home page, **Click the 'Programs' tab and select "Extension and Revitalization" from the dropdown.** Scroll down and you will see a link to this form. The form is due to me by May 15, 2023. Here is a summary of the information required on the form:

- ◆ Conducted Election of Officers & Delegates at April meeting:
- ◆ Installation Report sent to Department Secretary and National:
- ◆ President to provide a copy of last audit and membership as of June 30 to Post Commander:
- ◆ Bond Application submitted to National:
- ◆ District Dues sent to District Treasurer based on your June 30 Membership:
- ◆ Quarterly Audit Reports sent to Department Treasurer:
- ◆ Annual Dues processed for President, Secretary, and Treasurer:
- ◆ Minimum of ten members dues paid to maintain Charter:
- ◆ Hold Monthly business meetings from July 1 - May 31:

To my Deputy Chief of Staff's now is the time to step up forming our new Auxiliaries that are interested in forming. We have one new Auxiliary 8726 that has been Instituted and Congratulations to all their new members. We are also in crunch time for the Departments Membership Goal of 100%. All of you can take an active part in bringing in our annual members' dues that have not paid as of this article.

Please call us if you need help in anyway. It has been a struggle this year to receive direction from our National office. They appear to be behind for many reasons. We will continue to struggle along with all of you to get answers to your questions.

Loyally, *Marianne, PDP*

Words of Thanks

My heart is full of love and gratitude for the outpour of support and kindness from my Auxiliary family during my Mom's passing. Your love and thoughtfulness helped me get thru this most difficult time. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and love you all! ~ Lisa Raplee, Department President

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I want to thank everybody for all the cards for my husband's passing. It was greatly appreciated. ~ Donna Caudy, Auxiliary 2064 President



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



Brother and Sisters of the VFW Auxiliary Americanism Pit Crews: Please report to the garage area to prep for the final dash to the finish line. The car is ready to take back to the track to finish this race. Lisa's Americanism car is in excellent running condition because of all your hard work. We are only lacking a few reports to be 100% in the Americanism Program.

Spring Conference is right around the first turn of the final lap March 31st - April 1st in Albany New York. Please note that this is the same date as a few of our deadlines. Honor Flight donations are due to me by March 31st and Entry forms for the Americanism National Awards are also due to me by March 31st. Bring these with you if attending the Conference or get them in the mail early so I will come home to a full mailbox. The National Award #1 ~ Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts a patriotic community event. Criteria and entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/member_resources. The National Award #2 ~ Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each Conference that host the most outstanding patriotic event. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/member_resources. I will have these forms available soon on the Department website also. While logged in, be sure to check out our National Ambassador Stephen Doherty's Video Power Point on Americanism.

Springtime will be with us soon, so keep an eye out for old and tattered flags that need replaced in your community. Offer to replace the flag and dispose of it the proper way. I will have your free flags at Conference for you to pick up or I will be sending them with your District Presidents. Can't wait to see all of you.

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

Loyally, *Tamara*

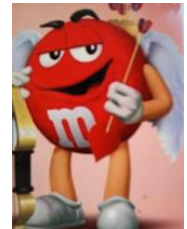
"BUDDY"® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN ~ Flora Becker, Chairman
86 Garden Street ~ Seneca Falls, NY 13148
(315) 521-2675 ~ florabecker74@yahoo.com



We are getting closer to winning the race by supporting our President Lisa Raplee....

Buddy Poppy: With Valentine's coming up, why not use those "Buddy" Poppies on Valentine Decorations. Hand out a Valentine and "Buddy" Poppy at the VA or Nursing Homes. Show how we care. Why not decorate your Super Bowl Party with some Buddy Poppies?

National Home: We still are not 100% in our Health and Happiness. Why not make this new year even better by helping get those Health and Happiness in to help support the National Home by showing how we care and support them. Which District will be the 1st to be 100%? Let's try to get that checkered flag for National home before the end of February. I know we can all get 100%. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have already done so.



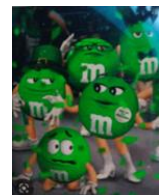
Spring Conference - Buddy Poppy Display Contest: All Auxiliaries are eligible to enter the contest using one of the 3 contest categories: 1) Public Promotion ~ 2) Memorial or Inspirational ~ 3) Artistic or Decorative.

Requirements: At least one "Buddy" Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color with label attached. Awards given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category, with 1st receiving \$50.

Spring Conference - National Home: A reminder to District Presidents to bring in your money shadow box with all those donations received when visiting the Auxiliaries in your District and at your District meetings. Those who purchased a life membership by March 15th will be placed in a raffle to win \$50 at Spring Conference.



NOTE Name Change: National Home has dropped the last part of their name 'for Children' because they help the whole family, not just the children. You will see the change on their new items and logo as well. Stay tuned for more updates.



Happy Valentine's Day and Happy St Patrick's Day - As we are
"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families" with
"Hands that serve, Hearts that care."

Loyally, *Flora*

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

**** Please continue to support the Ways and Means Program! ****

- There are lots of chances left to win. If you do not sell the 9-month tickets or the Race for the Gold tickets, please, please send them back to me. There is still time to sell the Race for the Gold (\$20.00) raffle tickets as the drawings for this is at the June Department Convention.
- Many Districts only need 1 or 2 auxiliaries to participate to get their 100% for the Ways and Means Program.
- I hope to see you at the Spring Conference. Don't forget to bring your lottery tickets if you want credit for this program. If you need more tickets of either raffle, contact me and remember, when you are filling in the ticket stubs, please write legible and fill in all the information.
- ...And stay tuned for the next issue when more 9-month raffle winners will be announced!

Loyally, *Linda*



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



Very Simple - Nobody Deserves to be Homeless, Especially Our VETERANS!!!

- Access VA's services for Homeless/At-Risk Veterans, available 24/7: Dial 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838).
- Homeless/At-Risk Veterans can call or visit their local VA Medical Center (VAMC) and ask for a Homeless Coordinator. Use the VA locator tool www.va.gov/directory to find your nearest VAMC and call or visit today.

T-Shirt/Hoodie/Donations UPDATE: We have new order forms coming out for Zip-Up hoodies and a reminder that all donations are to go to Department Treasurer, Kim White.

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

At the time this is written, our 118th Congress awaits to be sworn in and seated. The legislative agenda and committee hearings should soon be moving forward. We anticipate legislation affecting our Veterans, active-duty service members, and their families, will be addressed.

Our work remains undone. We must continue to lobby and educate our elected representatives on the need to swiftly pass legislation that has languished in committees for far too long. These legislative measures include:

- Expand geriatric extended care services, nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.
- Improve VA's prescribing and deprescribing practices.
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Ensure Affordable Care Act parity and access for VA and TRICARE users.

All members are encouraged to continue lobbying their elected representatives by phone, email, and US mail. Together, our voices can effect change. Many legislative reports have been received from Auxiliaries throughout the State. I look forward to receiving more reports about the legislative activities our members have been doing.

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

Patriotically ~ *Ron*



Greetings to my Auxiliary Family!

There have been many officer changes this year, and many have been appointed as a new secretary mid-way through the year. I certainly STRONGLY recommend that all new officers plan to attend next year's OTI. In the meantime, I have included some of the duties of an Auxiliary Secretary. In the next edition, I will include others that you will have regarding the election of officers in April.

- ✓ Auxiliary Secretary (Refer to Sec. 812) 1. MALTA – If you have not already done so, activate your MALTA account by going to vfwauxiliary.org and click on MALTA Member Login. You will need your membership ID number, which can be found on your membership card.
- ✓ Keep a proper record of the minutes of each meeting: Be sure all expenditure of funds are voted at your meeting. Include the motion, who made it, and who seconded it, as well as whether the motion was approved in your meeting minutes.
 - Treasurer's report and audit reports must be incorporated in the minutes. This means they are part of the minutes- not filed separately somewhere.
 - Copy of President's and Treasurer's bonds shall be incorporated into the minutes each year.
- ✓ The way the minutes of the Auxiliary meetings are read, printed and/or distributed shall be at the discretion of the Auxiliary by vote of the membership. Consideration should be given to the cost of printing when voting. (Refer to Sec. 812).
- ✓ Maintain a roll of deceased members with the date of death. (Refer to Sec. 812A).

I also need to again remind you that when you have an officer change, I need to receive the officer change form completely filled out. The form is on page 53 of the Guidebook. Please use the most recent form. I have received one that was used in 2008! The requested information is not the same and the addresses to send it are very different. If your secretary has already entered the change in MALTA, just indicate it on the form. Note: When there is a change in Treasurer, I need to send the form to National after I record it in our records. Only National can make that change in MALTA.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Spring Conference. Please introduce yourself if you see me around. I have spoken to many on the phone and would love to have a face to associate with the name.

As always, I remain at your service - my contact info is in the Directory, the Guidebook, and on the front page of this newsletter.

Loyally, *Christine*

Inspirational Messages from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Justine Robles

Four Chaplains: February 3, 2023

God of our Fathers and our God, we thank you for the unity that the U.S.A.T. DORCHESTER Chaplains, these four men of God, demonstrated in life and in death. Unity that is not uniformity. Unity that strengthens within each of us every worthy loyalty of faith and practice. Unity that transcends all our differences and makes us one in loyalty to our country and our fellowmen, and to you our God. Grant us now your abiding presence and may we remain faithful to the spirit of our Four Chaplains who, having learned to live and serve together, in death were not divided.

Amen.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

Vietnam Veteran's Day: March 29, 2023

The Vietnam Veteran's Prayer

Dear God, I am praying to you now for them, as I have in the past. Please make their nightmares go away! Stop the screams of dying people within their minds. Make them whole again in body and in soul. Make their pain stop and the scars disappear. Forgive them Lord, for all the people they were involved with killing—and for all the people that they wanted to kill. Please eliminate the bitterness from within their hearts. Allow all to become a productive member of society again. Allow all to know and to freely accept the love of their family and friends. If they become down and out—with no direction in which to go—please show them the way. When the evening hours approach, please allow the grace of a peaceful night's sleep. When the memories of deceased "brothers and sisters" enter the mind, please ease the heartache, and remind them that they did not die in vain. Allow all to freely shed tears and stand proudly as a Vietnam Veteran and know that there are people all around that truly care. Make them unashamed to ask for help when it is needed and to offer help to others when they are in need. Amen.

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

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

**** CHANGE OF EMAIL **** – due to my severe hack back in December, I now have a new email – it is snow4931@gmail.com Please change me in your address book. My yahoo account will remain open at least until the end of this Auxiliary year. Thank you.

I want to thank all the volunteers who have done so much so far during this Hospital Program year. You are all fantastic and truly do so much for our Veterans.

The VFW Auxiliary has been advocating for female combat veterans' healthcare since 2013. It has been slow progress but most VA Hospitals have made significant strides in meeting the needs of our female veterans and service members. Here are a few ideas to consider:

1. Hosting a baby shower at a VA facility. Since many VA's are still closed to volunteers here in NY, your event could be held outside in the warmer weather or have a "Drive Through" baby shower.
2. Provide feminine items, such as shampoo and conditioner, skin lotions, pads, tampons, powders, etc. Please check with the Hospital or your local VAVS Rep.
3. Donate items of clothing for female veterans. Soft nightgowns or pajamas would be most welcomed. Again check with your local VA Rep.

*** Veterans Voices Writing Project** – there have been inquiries whether this project remains a part of the Hospital Program and the answer is YES!. Here is the link to obtain information: <https://veteransvoices.org/>

Remember our reporting year ends March 31, 2023 and all of your Year End Reports must be received to me by that date. If you have someone who is an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer, please contact me and I will email or mail you a form to complete. Please go online and view the Hospital Award forms that are available at either the National website or our own Department website.

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*

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT
1371 ~ Glenn A. Warner ~ Owego, NY



LEFT: Auxiliary 1371 provided items and supplies to help homeless veterans on Dec 2, 22. Bags containing hats, scarfs, t-shirts, socks, toiletries, washcloths, gift cards, bus passes, and sweet treats were given out. Members pictured front row: Dorolyn Perry, Edna Schuler. Back row: President Jean Sabol, Steve Sabol, and Karen Messersmith.

RIGHT: All ears are on Edna Schuler, 100-year-old member of Auxiliary 1371, as she speaks to homeless veterans regarding her husband's experience in the 10th Mountain Division during WWII.



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

I am so proud to see that, when we asked all auxiliaries to get their race cars in gear and pick up more new members, you have blown it off the track. This is the first time we do not have any ties!! D-5 has a commanding lead with 120 new and rejoined; in 2nd is D-6 with 76, in 3rd is D-3 with 62, in 4th is D-4 with 59, coming up fast in 5th is D-8 with 35, in 6th is D-1 with 30, in 7th is D-7 with 25, right behind in 8th is D-2 with 24, and in last place is D-9 with 23. I can't wait for the battle to heat up next month, it's anybody's race to win!

I have a project for all Districts and Auxiliaries to do as one of the projects our ambassador requires: I want each of you to make 2 or more boards to use at your membership drives. I want you to show all the wonderful things we do to entice them to want to join. Show them the things we do for our veterans and our community, the fundraisers, parades, dinners, Poppy Drives, our homeless veterans and anything else you can think of so that they see what we do and have fun doing it. Then I want you to use the amazing boards you make at least 2 membership drives. The membership drives can be held at an event at your post or at the mall, grocery store, and even events at school. You have until April 1, 2023 to complete this project, and send me pictures, of the boards and membership drive. Be creative I will pick the best 3, but to win you must do the membership drives.

When you are at your meeting, remember to make time to do some mentoring. You can talk about a couple of different topics at each meeting; for example, what each officers' duties are - especially for new members. Please make sure that you let your members know that as long as they are members in good standing, they can run for any office they want and if they do, make sure you help them attain their goal.

Thank you for all your hard work mentoring and working hard to help build our Department back to its glory and to be able to help take care of our veterans and our communities. And Congratulations D-5 you rock!!!!

Hugs, *Darlene*



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



My thanks to all of you who have supported the Scholarships Program so far this year. We are so close to 100% in reporting. If you have reviewed the Program Report by Irene Rohde and noticed that an Auxiliary in your area has not yet received credit, please reach out to them and encourage them to send me a report.

Student submission deadlines for both the Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art are identical at all levels. Judging and Auxiliary deadlines, eligibility, rules, and judging criteria remain unchanged. If a student enters both contests in the same year, two entry forms must be completed (one for each contest). Visit vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships to find it. The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest has its own scholarship amounts. Entries are judged on patriotic theme, creativity, and technique. Digital art, photography, and jewelry are not accepted. **Important to Note:** There will no longer be a District judging level for either art scholarship contest. Winning entries advance from the Auxiliary level to the Department to National. Entries must be received at the Auxiliary level by March 31st for judging and at the Department level by April 15th so the winning entries can be received at VFW Auxiliary Headquarters by May 5th.

The Scholarships Program is a wonderful way to introduce youth, our communities, and potential members to the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. We must remember to recognize all of our local participants. From the students to the teachers, parents, members, judges, and local media everyone likes to be acknowledged for their efforts. You will find everything you need to make our contests a huge success at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

If you have not done so already, you can still support Jane's Special Project. Log into MALTA; Click on Make a Gift; Select National President's Special Project; Mail checks earmarked 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn: Scholarship Fund, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111.

As of this writing the Department winners in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarships contests have not been announced. I'm sure you are as anxious as I am to hear who the winners are!

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

Loyally, *Ruth*

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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Hello! Can you believe we are already in February and Spring Conference is just a month away. That means warmer weather is upon us, so much more can be done with our youth during the warmer months.

In the month of February we celebrate Valentine's Day. Auxiliaries can host a Valentine's day dance for our youth. We can also have card decorating parties to send to the men and women that fight for our freedom. Let us not forget about our local neighborhood Veterans that we can give special Valentine's too.

In the month of March we "get our green on" when we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We can host a cornbeef and cabbage dinner at our Auxiliaries and have our youth help. We can also have a "green" bake sale with all green baked goods.

I can't wait to see everyone at the Spring Conference. Please continue all your hard work and send in your reports. Just don't forget they 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*



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

I want to thank all inspectors for doing the inspections this year. I am still receiving reports from the District Presidents and I appreciate the work you have done to complete the inspections.

I still am waiting for reports from one District and when they arrive, I will be putting them on the report coming out next month as I am sending the report for January in the next few days.

Again thank you for your reports which will help our Department President getting assistance to any auxiliary that needs it. Also thank you for your remarks on the new ideas these auxiliaries are using.

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

Inspections are to be completed by December 15th.

Loyally, *Bonnie, PDP*

Say Hello to newly formed Auxiliary 8726 !!

James R Moore Memorial Auxiliary to Post 8726 was instituted on December 13, 2022, in Naples, NY, by Department President Lisa, with help from Guard Charlene Hooper and District 8 President Tina Roberts. Congratulations to Auxiliary President Brittany Tierson and all the new officers and members! We wish them much success as they begin their journey to serve our veterans and their families and become a part of the great Department of New York Auxiliary family!





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



*** FEBRUARY 2023 - Valentine's Day and President's Day**



Happy February! Hoping your snow has all gone and you are enjoying the coming Valentine's and Presidents' Days.

Our caregivers are in need of your support. You or someone you know is or has been a caregiver. You know it is a 24/7 labor of love. But who cares for our caregivers? They need a break, a meal they don't have to cook, a nap they don't



have time to take. Help our caregivers with a bit of your time. Make a meal. Give them a break for a couple of hours. Give them information on the VA's Caretakers programs. Then, report. Log in to MALTA- Member Resources-Veterans and Family Support-Awards. Complete Award #1-caregiver. Send to me by March 31st. Show your love to our caregivers-Valentine's Day! Show your love to our caregivers on "day off"-Presidents' Day!

*** JANUARY 2023 - REPORTS DUE - April 1st!**

In your race to be "*United for our Veterans and Families*" and to show that you have "*Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care*", help our Department President Lisa in teaching us to be aware of the plight of our homeless veterans. They need your help. Help by providing clothing, food and shelter. When you do a fundraiser, earmark your funds for homeless veterans. Make all aware in your community about the needs of our homeless veterans. Use social media, newsletters, posting on your community's Facebook page, newspapers, TV to get the word out. End homelessness for our veterans now! Complete National Award-Veterans and Family Support #2-awareness of homeless veterans and send to me by March 31st.

YOU share your amazing love in all you do every day. Keep up your great work! Keep on reporting! Only 2 months left until final reports are due APRIL 1st!

**March 31 - National Awards
for Veterans and Family Support
#1 and #2 due March 31st to me.**

**April 1 - Department reports
due to me!**

Loyally, *Dee*

National President Jane Reape makes her Official Visit to her Home Department!!



Department President Lisa Raplee and members across the great state of New York greeted National President Jane Reape back for her Official Visit in November. A meet and greet was held at Mattydate Post 3146 to kick things off, and then on to the Finger Lakes region for a tour around Seneca Lake. Stops included Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery, the lake pier, and lunch at Dundee Post 8649. The visit ended with dinner at Waterloo Post 6433. Jane was so happy to see so many familiar faces and they were happy to see her! We are so proud of Jane and her dedication to our Veterans, VFW, Auxiliary, and our Country!



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

Happy New Year!! The new year is all about RENEWAL. Our mission is possible-let's make this happen. Yes, that's right-for those of you who didn't pay your annual dues by Dec 31, 2022, you are no longer a member in good standing as per the bylaws. That being said, you must pay your dues to enter your next auxiliary meeting. If your dues remain unpaid and should you need a cancer grant, you will not be eligible for that benefit.

With six [6] months left of the Auxiliary year, we stress the importance of now paying your dues. That is why the New Year is for renewal. We need each and every one of you to please pay your dues now. Our membership is where our voices are heard for our Veterans. Remember when you joined the auxiliary, you joined on that Veteran who was your dad, brother or sister. They fought for our country-for the freedoms we have today.

Treasurers, please do not hold any dues! Process them the day you receive them. Our Department Treasurer Kim White will be sending out a dues renewal notice to all unpaid members mid-January, even if your auxiliary didn't do a donation to help defray the cost. The last thing we need is members calling us to say I already paid-why did I get this mailing? It takes time to run the labels and print the notices and then get them in the mail.

As of Dec 31, we were at 93.24%. 51 auxiliaries are 100% or more and 82 auxiliaries are 90%. We have a little over 1,000 unpaid dues to collect. Get those phone calls made. We each have to work harder to get those members dues paid. If you know a member is struggling, you can pay them from your relief fund. Imagine when they get their card how thankful they may be knowing you thought about them. Do you have seniors in your auxiliary? After a certain age, you can pay them too. You never know, they may just send in their dues when they receive their card. How about adopting a sister or brother? A simple gesture goes a long way. They may even come to a meeting and want to pay it forward. We all go through rough times and not everyone has the extra, so please at your next meeting, have a copy of those who's dues lapsed-you may know a few of them.

We all know that Jane Reape, our National President, is from our great state of New York. Let's make NY continue to be the best from the East. Our own Department President Lisa Raplee needs to get to the finish line to be in the Circle of Excellence. Let's not let these ladies down-they worked hard for our Veterans and still do. Let's make them both proud of us.

The Presidents and Treasurers of all Auxiliaries are receiving this letter to share with their members. Please print those lapsed members out and have it ready at your next meeting.

Let's stay **"United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families."**

Loyally, *Marcia*



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



Cancer Awareness: February – Gallbladder/Bile Duct ~ **March** – Kidney, Colorectal and Multiple Myeloma

February 4th is World Cancer Day: Let's keep this in mind and raise money to help beat Cancer!

* Please remember to send the Cancer Grant Fund tickets **and** checks to me, **Lori Tunkel**, at the address above before Spring Conference.

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.

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

Loyally, *Lori*



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



Partnerships feed and warm both the body and the soul. You can make a difference!

- ~ Yes ~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Homeless Shelters and County Assistance Agencies:
 1. Collect and distribute blankets, coats, hats, and gloves.
 2. Chop/deliver wood to homeless camps.
- ~ Yes ~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with Animal Shelters:
 1. Clean cages, launder bedding and feed the animals.
 2. Foster one or more pets.
- ~ Yes ~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Elks, Lions, Legions and/or other Service Organization:
 1. Cook/ deliver meals to shut-in families and hopeless especially during “No School” times.
 2. Collect and deliver non-perishable items to the Food Pantry/Shelf.
- ~ Yes ~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Senior Center:
 1. Call and help with Bingo and other activities on Game Day.
 2. Help cook, bake, serve and/or decorate for Ground Hog Day, Valentine’s Day, St, Patrick’s Day or even Candy Making Day – every day is a good day to celebrate life.
 3. Pickup senior members for grocery shopping, medical appointments, or social hours.
- ~ Yes ~ **Partner to Volunteer Hours** with the Nursing Homes:
 1. Visit, read, or just chat (they don’t care what you talk about – they just love company).
 2. Bring in your small house pet (if permitted). Nothing brightens like a child or pet.

Partnerships MUST meet Auxiliary Outreach Guidelines. REPORT HOURS ONLY!!

Your partnered volunteer hours prove that Auxiliary members have **“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”** for our communities as we continue to be **“United to Win the Race for Our Veterans and Their Families.”** Remember simple acts of kindness, smiles and laughter brighten anyone’s day and can change their lives.

Loyally, *Judy*

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

Auxiliary Newsletters – A Great Way to Reach Out to All Your Members
Reaching Out to All Your Members...

Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. With a new calendar year ahead of us, this is a good time to reflect on your auxiliaries’ accomplishments and make sure that you have documented these successes in reports and shared with your membership on social media. It is also a good time to think about those events and ask, “what could we have done differently to make it more successful.” We also wanted to remind everyone that the purpose of using social media is to advertise what the auxiliary is doing. Social media is designed to promote what you are doing and also update membership the results of what you have done. Discussing things on social media that we would normally discuss during a business meeting - like a member resigning a position, or business that the auxiliary needs to vote on should not be addressed on social media. These things are privy to the internal business of our auxiliary and should not be posted on social media

There is a National Award, and I’m sharing it as an incentive to challenge you to use digital media to tell your Auxiliaries Story. It is due by March 31, 2023 and can be found on my program page on the Department website.

“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*

A Note from Jane Reape:

Lisa, and the Department of New York,

*Even though it was cold it warmed
my heart to be home in NY. What a
transformation of Sampson Cemetery!
Thank you for sharing.*

*Most I enjoyed spending time with
our members. Thank you for the
wonderful memories. God Bless!*

Love, Jane

Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery - A Special Place

The history of the Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery dates back to WWII, when a base was built on the land. It was used to train navy recruits, but became a separation station towards the end of the war. After that it became a temporary veteran's college. When the Korean War broke out, Sampson returned to active duty as an Air Force Base. Eventually, the base closed in 2000. They put aside 2000 acres for what is now known as Sampson State Park, leaving 162 acres for a cemetery. It was the determination of several Navy and Air Force Veterans, that it became a *Veterans Cemetery* on Sep 5, 2008. The first burial was Sep 26, 2011.

During the stop at the cemetery for Jane's visit, the group received a briefing in the chapel from Cemetery Director William Yale. The stained glass windows in the chapel were a special project of PDP Cindy Campbell, and it was a touching moment to see the results of Cindy and the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary's efforts.

