



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ August 2023

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

I cannot express enough how honored I am to be serving as your Department of New York VFW Auxiliary President. I hope I can follow well in the footsteps of those that have served before me. They have all done tremendous work and have accomplished great things for our Veterans.

Many thanks to my longtime friend, mentor and advisor, PDP Mary Kreuzer for the wonderful nomination speech, and other PDPs for additional guidance and suggestions, and district 6 for their support. I would like to thank my Parent's for their years of support and undying dedication to me and the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. I thank my sister for attending this convention and a special thank you to my Army son, Fred, for coming to Albany just to escort me to the altar and to the podium.

My thanks go out to Chris Leavor who has done a great job continuing as secretary and preparing the guidebook, mini directory, and directory and preparing all information for the President's packets, **which if they were not picked up were mailed immediately after the convention.** Please carefully review all materials and pass the information on to your membership. To Kim White and Lori Tunkel for preparing my budget, I also say Thank You.

My joint special project with Commander Dan Kell is Higher Ground and Homeless Veterans. The money to Homeless Veterans will be divided among the 13 VA facilities in NY. Dan and I have been working together as a "team" for the past couple years and hope everyone else will do the same, as this will make the organization stronger in unity and partnership.

My chairmen have worked hard on the programs and are awaiting your reports. Deadlines given by the department are based on deadlines sent down from National and should be adhered to. Your Election and Installation reports should have been sent into the Department Secretary **and** entered in MALTA or your auxiliary has been put on suspension. The requested completion date for all Treasurers and Presidents to be bonded is by July 31, 2023, **but** if not done by August 31, 2023, the Auxiliary will be put on suspension, the bonds can be processed through MALTA.

The Donation report Form, found on page 6 in the guidebook needs to be sent in by September 30, 2023, to Kim White. Please note that the line item for the Department of NY Scholarships on the donation Report form now includes Postage to return artwork to the participants, please consider this extra expense when making your donation.

All Auxiliaries are to complete at least one project, activity, or donation that benefits veterans by April 30, 2024, or a request for suspension **MUST** be made by the Department.

To receive monthly credit on the program report form, all reports must be into the chairmen by the 1st of every month.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at OTI at the doubletree in Binghamton on August 4 – 5, 2023.

National President, Carla Martinez, is having an Auxiliary member of the year award and the nomination form was put into the presidents' packets and can be found on the Department of New York Auxiliary Website.

If we work together and remember why we belong to this organization, we can "**Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans**" while "**Banding together for Our Veterans.**"

Loyally, *Rose*

Rose Cooper, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Department President Rose Cooper

3 Elm Street, Cuba, NY 14727
585-403-1390
Navyvet8194@gmail.com

Department Secretary Christine Leavor

2027 Cemetery Hill Road
Franklinville, NY 14737
716-676-2400, cal2027@hotmail.com

Department Treasurer Kimberly White

1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303
518-275-7283, kwhitewvlt@aol.com

Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette

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

PDP and OFFICER BIRTHDATES



AUGUST

15 - Mary Kreuzer, PDP
21 - Denise McHugh, PDP
28 - Nina LeFrois, PDP

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Aug 4-5... OTI (Officer Training Institute)
~ Double Tree Hotel, Binghamton

Aug 7... National Purple  Heart Day

Aug 31... **DEADLINE** to process Auxiliary Bond.
~ Bond is to cover the offices of
President and Treasurer.
~ Auxiliaries may face suspension if
bond is not processed.

Sep 4... Labor Day

GENERAL ORDERS # 1 ~ JULY 2023 – (Must be read at the FIRST meeting following receipt before being filed.)

1. Having been duly elected by acclamation and installed as Department President at the 98th annual convention held June 6-11, 2023 at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY, and working in accordance with the Bylaws and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I, Rosalie Cooper, hereby assume command of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York. All previous appointments are declared null and void and the new officers and chairmen assignments are now in effect.

2. Official communications intended for the Department President shall be addressed to: Rose Cooper at: 3 Elm Street, Cuba, NY 14727

3. Requests for rulings shall come through the VFW Auxiliary Secretary, by order of the VFW Auxiliary President, and shall bear the VFW Auxiliary seal. All requests must be in writing and addressed to the Department President who shall forward the request for a ruling to the National president.

4. The official headquarters for the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York is hereby declared to be located at:
1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303

All mail intended for the Department Secretary should be addressed to: Christine Leavor, 2027 Cemetery Hill Rd., Franklinville, NY 14737

5. Checks intended for the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary shall be payable to “**VFW Auxiliary Department of New York (VFW Aux DNY)**” earmarked for the fund intended. Checks for Department business should be mailed to:

Department Treasurer, Kim White, 1799 Fred Road,
Schenectady, NY 12303

Checks for specific projects or fundraisers should be mailed to the Program Chairman unless otherwise specified.

6. The VFW Auxiliary President shall countersign all checks drawn by the Treasurer. VFW Auxiliaries may not possess credit cards. Auxiliaries may possess a debit card for Auxiliary business purposes only. Trustees must then **initial and date bank statements monthly**. The disbursement of money shall be upon motion made and passed at a meeting with the exception of the transmittal of membership dues, which does not require a motion. Refer to Sec. 801A- Auxiliary President of the current Bylaws.

7. VFW Auxiliaries are reminded of the suggested donation of \$2.00 per member to the Cancer Grant Fund based on Auxiliary membership quota as of June 30, 2023.

8. VFW Auxiliaries are encouraged to donate a minimum of \$0.10 (10 cents) per member for the VFW National Home for “Health and Happiness” based on the June 30, 2023 membership quota. Treasurers may process this donation directly through MALTA or mail a check made payable to “**VFW Auxiliary**” earmarked **Health & Happiness**” directly to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 West 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

9. Inspectors are required to attend a School of Instruction held in their respective District. Official visits (on all levels) are to be completed by **December 15, 2023**.

10. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to ensure that the offices of the VFW Auxiliary President and Treasurer are bonded with an indemnity company authorized by the National Headquarters or the Department as surety in a sum at least double the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the VFW Auxiliary President and Treasurer may be accountable. Refer to Sec. 814- Trustees, Duties of (All Levels) of the current Bylaws.

11. The President shall hold the original bond for both the President and Treasurer. A copy of the President and Treasurer bonds shall be incorporated into the Minutes book.

12. Per VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters: There is no minimum age requirement for the bond to cover an officer. If a loss occurs, the bonding company may legally pursue indemnity against the person regardless of age. Therefore, any member in good standing is eligible to hold the office of President or Treasurer.

13. Presidents on all levels shall, within thirty (30) calendar days of assuming office, submit to the Commander of the corresponding VFW unit a financial report and membership count of their Auxiliary. Refer to Sec. 810- President, Duties of (All Levels) of the current Bylaws.

14. Auxiliary Treasurers shall, upon the death of an Auxiliary member, immediately enter the name and date of death in MALTA or send the information to the Department Secretary.

15. It shall be the duty of the Auxiliary Trustees to properly audit the books and records of the Treasurer and Secretary no later than thirty (30) days following the expiration of each quarterly period. Refer to Sec. 814- Trustees, Duties (All Levels) of the current Bylaws. Quarterly Audit report forms must be received by the Department Treasurer no later than sixty (60) days following the end of each quarter as follows: August 31st (Apr 1-Jun 30); November 30th (Jul 1-Sep 30); February 28th (Oct 1-Dec 31); May 31st (Jan 1-Mar 31). The quarterly Audit report form should be submitted to the Department Treasurer, Kim White, by USPS mail or scanned and emailed only. The Audit report form may not be sent via text message.

16. Auxiliaries should submit the 2023-2024 Donation Report Form by September 30, 2023 to the Department Treasurer.

17. All Department correspondence to the Auxiliaries is to be sent to the Auxiliary President. The Auxiliary President is an elected officer and is responsible for seeing that the correspondence is properly complied with. He/She has the authority to act on the correspondence if it is something that must be taken care of before her/his next Auxiliary meeting.

BY ORDER OF: *Rosalie Cooper*, Rose Cooper, Department President

ATTEST: *Christine Leavor*, Christine Leavor, Department Secretary

***Inspirational Message* from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Belinda Cole**

O Almighty and merciful God, Lord of the universe and of history. All that You have created is good and your compassion for the mistakes of mankind knows no limits. We come to You today to ask You to keep in peace the world and its people, to restore friendship and instill in the hearts of your creatures the gift of trust and of readiness to forgive. We pray to You for the ones who have been wounded in acts of inhuman violence: children and young people, old people and innocent people accidentally involved in evil. Heal their bodies and hearts; console them with Your strength and, at the same time, take away any hatred and a desire for revenge. Make them find again in You and in themselves the strength and courage to continue to be brothers and sisters for others, giving witness to Your love by their lives. We turn to You with great hope, full of trust for the gift of peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congratulations To All The Department Award Winners!!

The following awards were unavailable for the June Newsletter and were announced during the June 2023 Convention.

PRESIDENTS AND RUNNER-UP PRESIDENTS OF THE YEAR

	<u>Auxiliary President of the Year</u>	<u>Auxiliary President Runner-Up</u>
GROUP 1:	Ann Ferguson, Aux 5861, D6	Lorena Bennett, Aux 8691, D7
GROUP 2:	Joann Fentner, Aux 416, D6	Nancy Barrett, Aux 2913, D11
GROUP 3:	Tina Roberts, Aux 8649, D8	Karen Dotson, Aux 412, D8
GROUP 4:	Donna Bates, Aux 3146, D5	Charlie Peterson, Aux 942, D3
GROUP 5:	Amy Darling, Aux 7545, D6	Cheryl Pearson, Aux 1231, D9
GROUP 6:	Deanna Guyette, Aux 7227, D4	Kathleen Blake, Aux 9249, D6

District President of the Year: Tina Roberts, District 8

District President Runner-Up: Raymond Sheldon Sr., District 6

MEMBERSHIP ~ MARCIA WILLIAMS, Chairman

- * **Turn 1:** \$100 Drawing for attaining 30% of its annual members by **Sep 1, 2022:** Auxiliary 8961 (D7)
- * **Turn 2:** \$100 Drawing for attaining 85% membership by **Oct 15, 2022:** Auxiliary 2718 (D1)
- * **Turn 3:** \$100 Drawing for attaining 95% membership by **Nov 30, 2022:** Auxiliary 6001 (D4)
- * **Turn 4:** \$100 Drawing for attaining 100% membership by **Dec 31, 2022:** Auxiliary 546 (D1)
- * **Crossing the Finish Line:** \$100 Drawing for attaining **100% plus 1:** Auxiliary 6912 (D4)
- * **Caution Flag:** Life Membership Drawing for recruiting 5 new/rejoined members: Auxiliary 3350 (D10)
- * **Membership Drive:** \$50 Drawing for at least **1 new member:** Auxiliary 982 (D4)
- * **Membership Drive:** \$100 Drawing for **5 new members, at least 1 life member:** Auxiliary 8647 (D6)
- * **Membership Drive:** \$150 Drawing for **10 new members, at least 3 life members:** Auxiliary 6533 (D6)

WAYS AND MEANS ~ LINDA FLANAGAN, Chairman

*** 9-Month Calendar Raffle Winners:**

\$100 - May: Bobbie Rogers, Aux, District 6

\$200 - June: District 6 Auxiliary

*** "Win the Race for the Gold" Raffle:**

\$100 - Auxiliary 1231, District 9

\$100 - Mary Ellen Prell, Aux 6251, District 6

\$100 - Auxiliary 6338, District 9

\$100 - James McElroy, Aux 6811, District 4

\$100 - District 4 Auxiliary

\$100 - Sarah & Jeff Platt, Aux 6338, District 9

\$100 - Auxiliary 2246, District 4

\$100 - Auxiliary 9487, District 6

\$100 - Auxiliary 3357, District 9

\$100 - Auxiliary 6472, District 6

\$500 - Auxiliary 2064, District 2

\$500 - Amanda Irwin, Aux 6472, District 6

\$500 - Auxiliary 1384, District 11

\$1000 - Auxiliary 7127, District 5

\$1500 - Auxiliary 9487, District 6

EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION ~ MARIANNE MCLANE, Chairman

- * **Special Citation:** Presented to District 6 President Raymond Sheldon for all the hard work he did helping his Auxiliaries and members.

HOSPITAL ~ PEGGY SCHWEITZER, Chairman

- * **Department of NY "Hospital Volunteer of the Year":** Patricia Gabriel, Auxiliary 2159, District 2

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT ~ CHARLENE HOOPER, Chairman

- * **Award for the Most Unique Fundraiser:** Auxiliary 2064, District XX, "Mad Hatter Tea Party"

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The following are corrections/changes that were reported after the Department Convention in June 2023:

📄 Aux 7414-Pres Patricia Tirao-*New Address:* 129 Saltonslall St Lot 112, Canandaigua, NY 14424

📄 Aux 524 (D5)-*New Meeting Time:* 6:00 pm.

📄 PDP Kathy Zylko-*New Address:* 85 Durr Rd, Jeffersonville, NY 12748

📄 PDP Mary Kreuzer-*New Address:* 5953 Broadway Apt 117, Lancaster, NY 14083

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

Away we go....Another Auxiliary year with new leaders and new ideas.

We will be working on establishing the new Auxiliaries that were already in the process last year. Deputy Chief of Staff's, I'll be contacting you to see where the Posts are in the process of forming their Auxiliary.

On the other side of the coin we'll be working on those existing Auxiliaries that need revitalization.

District Presidents, you will be the first to detect Red Flags within your Auxiliaries. Without any County Councils the Districts are the only source our Auxiliaries have to reach out for assistance. I would like to ask each District President to contact me after your District meetings to let me know which of your Auxiliaries did not attend your meeting. This would be our first Red Flag that this Auxiliary might need our help.

So much of this program is repetitious from last year, but on the other hand, very important in maintaining our organization.

So let's *"Light The Flame of Hope For Our Veterans"* by *"Banding Together For Our Veterans."*

Loyally, *Marianne, PDP*

SCHOLARSHIPS ~ Joan Barnhart, Chairman
689 Southside Road ~ Cold Brook, NY 13324
(315) 368-3957 ~ jbarn98674@aol.com

Our new Auxiliary year has begun! I am looking forward to being this year's Scholarship Chairman. Get the word out about our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen part of this program as soon as possible by contacting your local youth and telling them about this year's themes, which are:

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12): "What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?"

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8): "How are you inspired by America?"

The deadline for these programs is October 31, 2023. For more information check your guidebook page 31 or contact me at the above information and I will help you. Don't forget to report to me by the first of the month.

"Banding Together for Our Veterans"

"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans"

Loyally, *Joan*

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT ~ Marcia Williams, Chairman
PO Box 405 ~ Remsen, NY 13438
(315) 725-6582 ~ mmmckinney24@aol.com

Each year the Department President picks a special project. This year President Rose and her Commander have decided to do a joint project for Higher Ground. This does not relate to any other program and all donations received will go to this program to support our Veterans. You may have already seen in the guidebook, the order form for the polo shirt, hoodies, long sleeve t-shirts, and for the 1st time, ball caps. We sold quite a bit at the end of the department convention, and I have several orders for the polo shirts which we will be reordering, as they all sold out. I will have the items at OTI in Binghamton, along with order forms, or you can purchase there. All orders received will be ready for Fall Conference pickup. They will need to be signed for if you are not attending. We will not be mailing as postage is super high - but, if you do need them mailed, please call me to discuss.

At the fall conference I will have a donation jug for individual donations and a sign in sheet to give you credit. Any donation will be accepted including checks made out to the Department of NY Aux and earmarked Special Project. I will be speaking more on Higher Ground at the Fall Conference as I hope to have the memory stick by then to present it.

Again, thank you for your continuous support of the VFW AUX programs.

"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" as we are "Banding Together for Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Marcia*



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



Mentoring for Leadership is sharing knowledge and experiences about our organization, to educate, train and encourage members to grow, advance and lead our Auxiliaries into the future.

WHAT – One-on-one and/or group mentoring sessions that encourage individuals to join the Auxiliary, advance in leadership roles including Auxiliary officers, chairmanships, and fundraising organizers that help your Auxiliary achieve your program goals.

WHY – The mission of the VFW Auxiliary has remained the same for over 100 years, but our ritual procedures, bylaws, officers’ duties, programs, and technology are constantly changing. There will always be something to teach and something to learn. Remember when you were a new member. You were excited and wanted to learn where your interests and skills would be the most useful. You can understand the need for mentors.

WHO – **MENTOR** – An officer or member who is knowledgeable in the by-laws, ritual procedures, resources, and program goals of the Auxiliary; who wants to help new and seasoned members.

MENTEE - Anyone who wants/needs to learn the duties and responsibilities of officers and chairmen to enable them to aid our organization, veterans, and their families most effectively.

WHERE – Face to Face – both one-on-one and group mentoring; Post Home; meeting room; fundraising setup; any place where knowledge and experience can be shared or demonstrated.

- Newsletters must include “instructions” to be reportable as group mentoring.

WHEN – Anytime and all the time, not only during meetings, activities, and fund raisers.

Establish your Auxiliary Mentoring Program based on your unique membership, environment, and program goals that will, also, enable your Auxiliary to recruit, train and advance members into leadership roles that can

“Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans” while “Banding Together for Our Veterans.”

Loyally, *Judy*

AUXILIARY OUTREACH ~ Peggy Schweitzer, Chairman
50 Franklin Avenue, Apt 228 ~ Clinton, NY 13323
(315) 853-2419 ~ snowy4931@gmail.com

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Auxiliary Outreach Program!

I’m very excited to chair this program and I thank Department President Rose Cooper for asking me to do it. When National rolled this program out three years ago, I was the first chairman to chair it and we had a banner year! I’m hoping that all of us can “Lend a Hand to Help Others” within our community again this year.

This program is relatively easy. Your Auxiliary must “volunteer” for another organization by giving your time. You can ask other members of your Auxiliary or your friends to find out where they volunteer so you might be able to do the same. You can also check out your local supermarket for events happening in your area and give them a call. I’m sure that they are looking for volunteers. There are lots of things that Auxiliary members can do, which include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Volunteer with local police, fire, and EMTs. | ✓ Volunteer with local animal shelters. |
| ✓ Serve food at your local kitchens. | ✓ Assist with local youth activities. |
| ✓ Help distribute food at a food bank. | ✓ Volunteer at senior citizen centers. |
| ✓ Volunteer at the library. | ✓ Drive/prepare food for Meals on Wheels. |

As I begin to receive reports, I will give you some more ideas. **REMEMBER** you must report what you are doing in your Auxiliary Minutes and have it approved by your Auxiliary. Also, please wear a badge which is available at the Dollar Store to show that you are an Auxiliary Volunteer. You can also wear a cap or other suitable attire to show that you are affiliated with the VFW Auxiliary.

I will have some more ideas at OTI and once I attend the National Auxiliary Outreach Seminar in Phoenix, I will have more information for you.

Have a great and safe summer.

“Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans” as we are “Banding Together for Our Veterans.”

Loyally, *Peggy*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Welcome to a new Auxiliary year! Let's get things off to a great start. Does your Auxiliary have a new Treasurer? Then be sure to file IRS form 8822-B within 60 days. The form is available at irs.gov or contact me and I will mail you one.

Secretaries, I want to really focus on completing forms- **accurately and on time**. There was a real issue with this when completing election, installation, and delegate forms. Every blank on the election forms needs to be filled in- Aux number, District, Auxiliary name, dues amount, EIN number, phone number of meeting location, as well as the address of the meeting location. The Department or District President or the person coming for your official visit need to be able to put the address in a GPS and the number is for "just in case." In addition, ALL the offices need to be filled with all their contact information and MEMBERSHIP numbers. Do not elect a member who hasn't paid their dues- that individual is not in good standing and shouldn't even be at your meeting. Please read the forms- the election form says to IMMEDIATELY send to the Department Secretary- even if you have already entered it in MALTA.

Read the forms- send District delegates to your District Secretary, Department Delegates to the Department Secretary, and National delegates can either be entered in MALTA or sent to Department. This is all the responsibility of the Auxiliary Secretary.

The Change Form: This form is in the Guidebook, and you can make as many copies as you need. Use it when you have a member who dies, a change of contact info (email address, phone number) or when you change officers. The email, address, and phone number in MALTA is the contact information the Department uses. An incorrect email might mean you miss important information that is going to the digital waste bin. An address that doesn't get updated means you don't get your new dues card from National or reminder from Department.

You are also encouraged to contact the Department President, Chief of Staff, Secretary, or District President if you see that your Auxiliary is having trouble with- holding the minimum 10 meetings/year, having a quorum, completing audits on time, etc. Reach out for help before it's too late and you lose your Auxiliary. Your officers are there to help you. I look forward to a great year...

"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" and "Banding Together for Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Christine*



**MEMBERSHIP ~ Lisa Raplee, PDP, Chairman
4259 State Route 226 ~ Dundee, NY 14837**

H: (607) 243-0031 ~ C: (434) 594-2539 ~ lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com



Lights, camera, action! The new year has begun and it's time to start production on our Department of New York movie! The starring role has been assigned to President Rose Cooper! Together we're going to help her complete the movie and see that she gets her star at The Circle of Excellence at National Convention, next July.

With summer upon us, many auxiliaries are setting up at festivals, fairs, and other community events. Did your auxiliary hold a membership drive at one in your area? If so, please send me a report and attach pictures. Send me a report letting me know how many applications were handed out, how many members were signed up and how many members participated with the number of hours volunteered.

Please go into MALTA and make use of all the membership material that is available to you. It will be very useful when you hold your membership drives.

With the first Membership Program deadline approaching, be sure you are working on getting your annual members to pay their dues. If your auxiliary is able, a few ways to encourage them to pay their dues early is to hold a dinner for all members paid by a certain date or hold a life membership drawing for all annual members paid by a certain date.

Upcoming Deadlines:

- \$50 Drawing at Fall Conference for each Auxiliary that has all officers paid by **Sep 30, 2023.**
- \$100 Drawing at Fall Conference for each Auxiliary that has attained 50% of its annual members processed by **Sep 1, 2023.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I am looking forward to working with you all this year, as we will be **"Banding Together for Our Veterans"** as we **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Lisa*



CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND ~ Phyllis Roseboom, Chairman
PO Box 87 ~ Woodgate, NY 13494
(315) 392-2289 ~ garphyl@charter.net



America has been encouraged by the research and many strides in the fight against COVID 19. We now turn our energy and donations toward our Auxiliary members in their fight against Cancer. The Cure is within our reach! A wonderful privilege of being a member of the VFW Auxiliary is the gift of a Cancer Grant. Two \$550 Grants each in your lifetime that never need to be repaid. The Grant Application can be downloaded from the National Website; is in our Program Guidebook or you can contact me for help and answers to your questions.

In your Auxiliary President's Packets [on all levels] are Cancer Grant Fund tickets, with the number allotted being based on the Auxiliary membership as of June 30, 2023. Ticket donation is \$2 per member and you are asked to please send the Cancer Grant Fund tickets and checks payable to the "VFW Auxiliary Dept. of New York" to me, Phyllis Roseboom, using the attached self-addressed envelope. Please do not send money to MALTA as I can't give you credit for your participation.

Each ticket returned will be entered in a Cash drawing at both Fall & Spring Conferences for:





First place
\$75.00



Second place
\$50.00



Third place
\$25.00

- A Heads Up for Fall Conference, Auxiliary Request – be on the "look out" for Shoe or Boot Boxes.
- June was Survivor Month  Cancer & July was Sarcoma & Bone Cancer Awareness Month. 

So let's all share our Wishes for a Cancer Cure and **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while "Banding Together for Our Veterans."**

Do great things today for you and "Be Kind" to all every day.

Loyally, *Phyl*

"BUDDY"® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME ~ Flora Becker, Chairman
86 Garden Street ~ Seneca Falls, NY 13148
(315) 521-2675 ~ loveourveterans17@gmail.com

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Let's "LIGHT" the path this year with "HOPE" for our Veterans. Let's help do our part for the "Buddy" Poppy-National Home to work together with the other programs and help President Rose to light the path this year.

How do we use "Buddy" Poppies? We can use them in other programs as well. We can decorate, centerpieces, displays, gifts, and much more. Summer is a great time to do Buddy Poppy drives along with membership and other programs. When doing "Buddy" Poppies drives or other events, take a picture and use #poppiescount.

* For Fall Conference this year I am asking each Auxiliary to bring a theme basket of your choice.

National Home: New this year- The District that has all their Auxiliaries donate to the Health and Happiness Fund will be put into a drawing to win a monetary award of \$20. Drawing will be at the Fall Conference.

Health and Happiness- Please ensure your Auxiliary donates at least \$.10 per member based on Jun 30, 2023 membership quota or increase your Auxiliary donation to \$.25 or more and receive a Citation from National Headquarters. Remit by Sep 30, 2023. Donations may be processed by Aux Treasurer directly in Malta at vfwauxiliary.org under Treasurers duties. To donate by mail, send a check earmarked "Health and Happiness Fund" to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Attn: Health and Happiness Fund Donations, 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Here are ways to donate to the VFW National Home:

- Become a NH Life Member for a 1-time \$50 fee.*
- Donate to Health and Happiness Fund.
- Donate to help with the technology upgrades.
- Purchase a tribute brick.
- Purchase items from their Amazon wish list.
- Visit vfwnationalhome.org for more ways.

* If you purchase a Life Membership, you will be entered into a drawing for \$20 at Spring Conference).

** Remember to report all the work you did as of April 1st. Thanks to those who have already sent reports.

Let's **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while "Banding Together For Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Flora*



LEGISLATIVE ~ Georgian (Ann) Davis, Chairman
97 Ridge Park Ave Rear ~ Buffalo, NY 14211
(716) 491-8096 ~ anndavis311@gmail.com

Barack Obama said "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time, We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Legislation is the most important tool which affects our daily lives. This is so important, as to what we see and read in our daily news. Grassroot organizations are springing up and bringing attention to the ills of our Government. Yours, Our voices Matter and Count - let it be heard. This is the matra – I hope that everyone has signed up to receive or is already receiving the *Action Corps Weekly*. This publication includes all federal congressional hearings and testimony by VFW Staff and Officers. www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts.

*** Senate Committee Hearing:** VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Thomas spotlighted S.928 (Not Just a Number Act), by stating "VA has only recently begun reporting on the convergence of VA benefits and veteran suicide, but not in any substantive manner. We must identify, study, and utilize information regarding economic opportunity benefits, and leverage that information to successfully prevent suicide among veterans."

*** House Subcommittee:** VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified in support of H.R. 4278. He stated, "The Restore VA Accountability Act would improve the Secretary of Veteran Affairs' authority to discipline and remove employees who commit malfeasance."

Read all testimonies at the VFW website:

www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service/congressional-testimony/2023/7-hvac-pending-legislation-oi

"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" as we "Band Together for Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Ann*

YOUTH ACTIVITIES ~ Ruth Huber, PDP, Chairman
9511 W Bucktooth Run Road ~ Little Valley, NY 14755
(716) 801-2003 ~ poofalina@yahoo.com

The 2023-2024 Youth Activities National Ambassador Joyce Caldwell recently had this to offer: "Our youth today are our leaders of tomorrow. We can ensure this aspect if we instill in our youth the value of our veterans and their sacrifices to help them understand our freedom and patriotism. How do we define patriotism for our youth? It is the "love or devotion to one's country." Focusing attention on our youth beginning at a young age is vital for them to appreciate our history and our veterans' sacrifices....Education is the key to helping our youth become who they will be tomorrow."

As in the past, the Auxiliary is promoting the following; 1) Patriotism Through Literacy - promote and support reading among our youth; 2) Supporting and Working with Youth Groups - sponsor a youth group and engage them in of our programs; 3) Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue! - National Anthem singing contest; and 4) Illustrating America - expressions of patriotism in art through the eyes of students K-8. By logging into MALTA you will have access to everything you need to successfully promote each program i.e., entry forms, Facebook posts, information sheets, press releases, and especially downloadable R.A.P. cards you can print on cardstock to present to youths who demonstrates a random act of patriotism.

The Department is also promoting both a Scrapbook and Poster/Collage Contest, with judging for both to be held at the Spring Conference. All entries are to be judged on the Auxiliary level; with the first-place entry(ies) advancing to the Department level. You will find more details and required information in the guidebook.

Please reach out to your local school districts early into the school year to give teachers ample time to promote these programs and allow students the time necessary to complete their projects.

I am also challenging every Auxiliary to recognize at least one youth in their community who goes above and beyond to help someone in need, whether it be an elderly person, handicapped, a person in need of companionship, ill, etc. Use your personal resources to identify that special someone who is willing to give unconditionally to another; then acknowledge him/her for their efforts.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a report. If you haven't done so already, please send one soon. I look forward to reading about what your Auxiliary is doing to foster a community where our children can grow and become responsible caring adults.

By *"Banding Together For Our Veterans" we will "Light The Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."*

Loyally, *Ruth*



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



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Program Year!
We need to support all of our military and veterans!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There are **MANY** changes to the Veterans and Family Support Program this year! Again, we will support the following VFW programs. Please make a large donation on the Donation Report Form (found in the Guidebook) and host a fundraiser(s)! All of these programs help our Veterans and military!



National Veterans Service (NVS) - Support our Service Officers.



Veterans and Military Support (VMS) - Unmet Needs, “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship” & Military Assistance Program.



AND, “HOLIDAY CHEER” We are partnering with Proctor-Hopson VFW Post to purchase trees, menorahs and decorations to send to our troops serving overseas at the holidays. Each Auxiliary is being asked to sponsor 4-8 trees this year. The sponsor form may be found in your President’s Packet.



AND, “IN LIEU OF CARDS” To further support “Holiday Cheer” and offset the expense of sending trees, we are again offering a giant poster for you to sign. The donation is \$5 per signature. The poster will be on the plane with the trees! Donate in person at the Fall Conference or USPS mail the “CARD” form found in your President’s Packet along with your check to the address above.



AND, “HOMELESS VETERANS” We are supporting Department Commander Dan Kell’s and President Rose Cooper’s joint project, HOMELESS VETERANS. Please donate at your District meetings and at Department Conferences and Convention.

AND, “STOP 22” Walk for Suicide Awareness and Prevention will be held at our Fall Department Conference. Join us for a \$1.00 per person donation. If you cannot attend in Albany, please consider hosting your own STOP 22 Walk. Suicide is on the historic rise in our military and veterans. Help create awareness and prevent those suicides. They have honorably served us.

Report at your District Organizational Meeting and at Fall Conference on National Report #1 – Veterans and Family Support! Looking forward to a great year as we

“Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans” as we are *“Banding Together for Our Veterans.”*

Loyally, *Dee*



Sincerely,
Deborah A. Fucina, Personnel Officer
WNY Freedom Lounge, Inc.
(Auxiliary 898, District 6)

Thank you on behalf of the WNY Freedom Lounge for your generous donation and support. As you know, the Lounge is self-funded, relying on donations and volunteers. Your donation came at the perfect time as we have moved to our new location and are replacing the furnishings in the Lounge for our guests.

WNY Freedom Lounge, Inc. is a NYS non-profit corporation, formed for the purpose of operating a military lounge (the WNY Freedom Lounge) at the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport (BNIA). The need for a military lounge in Buffalo has been proven by the attendance that we have had since opening in 2016. We created a very welcoming place for military personnel and veterans to rest and recreate between flights. Due to that success, we have been given a much better location in the airport, on the second floor past security. This Courtesy Center is a private area, away from the normal stresses of travel, to enjoy light refreshments and rest between flights in an atmosphere that enhances the morale of those who are away from home. Please feel free to visit the Lounge when you’re at BNIA.



WAYS & MEANS ~ Gene Shaw, Chairman
133 Dwarfskill Court ~ Milford, PA 18337
(570) 240-2337 ~ gene.shaw47@gmail.com



Dear Members,

The Ways and Means Program was initiated to help pay for the administrative cost the Department incurs during the year. To have a successful year we need your participation in this year's raffles. The 9-Month Raffle is coming soon. Get your tickets in as soon as you can.



YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

The 9-Month Raffle: Enclosed in each Auxiliary president's packet was 10 tickets for this year's 9-Month Raffle, to include a self-addressed envelope. The tickets are \$5.00 each. We will draw one ticket a month starting in October. Then each month after, we will draw a ticket on the 1st of the month through May. The prize will be \$100.00. We will be drawing the final **Lucky** ticket at the Department convention in June, 2024. The final Lucky ticket will be worth \$200.00. The seller of each winning monthly ticket will receive \$20.00 for their support.

- Please return ticket stubs to me as soon as possible so you don't miss out on a single monthly drawing.
- Make your checks payable to VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.
- Mail the ticket stubs and checks to: Gene Shaw, 133 Dwarfskill CT, Milford PA 18337.
- If you need more tickets contact me, Gene Shaw, at the information above.
- We are looking for 100% participation from each Auxiliary. I know together we can succeed!

Scratch-Off Lottery Tickets: Auxiliaries And Districts, remember to bring your \$10.00 worth of scratch off tickets to Fall Conference. Remember to get them to the Ways and Means table Friday early. This will give us time to consolidate giving the winners more chances to win.

- We need each Auxiliary and District in the Department of New York to participate.
- Be at the Fall Conference to win in the Scratch-Off Lottery Raffle and maybe win the big bonus Lottery Basket! Plan now to attend this year's **FALL Conference!**



Loyally, *Gene*

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...

We must continue to reach out to both members and non-members to tell the story of whom we are, what we do, how we help veterans and educate others about our nation's patriotic traditions. If we don't, fewer people will know about our organization and how we raise money for our veterans and their families, how we fight for our veterans' rights on Capitol Hill and how we support young people with scholarships and other opportunities.

Our National Ambassador states it well, "Media is a piece of the puzzle that creates a successful auxiliary." Not just our standard media, such as newspaper, TV and Radio, but also, through digital technology, like Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, Websites, and of course, email. And yes, we still need to reach out to our traditional community media contacts, we must use everything available to us to get the word out about what we do in our community for our Veterans, Military and their families! We can use the fillable press/media release forms found at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. You can find the VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide there also, which will help you do an outstanding job!

I'm sure digital media may be new to most of you. However, I'm sure your grandchildren or the neighbor's children would just love to show you what they can do! Who says you can't learn from a child? Tell them I said "My grandchildren teach me something new all the time and I love it!"

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, 2024.

"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" will provide us with wonderful memories while we are
"Banding Together for Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Kellianne*

AMERICANISM ~ John Horsky, Patriotic Instructor, Chairman
585 Park Avenue, Apt 3C ~ Brooklyn, NY 11206
(347) 356-3829 ~ j_horsky@yahoo.com

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Hello! My name is John Horsky. I will be your 2023-2024 Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Chairman. The Americanism program still has almost all the same elements as previous years: *Flag Education/Etiquette, Wreaths Across America, Honor Flight, Honoring our STAR Families, and Prisoner of War- Missing in Action.*

This year I would like everyone to really educate friends, families, and even people in neighborhoods on the **#morethanletters**. This teaches people what the Black and White flag stands for that we usually see proudly displayed with the American Flag. The **Prisoner of War- Missing in Action** flag is a reminder to never forget those who are captured and imprisoned by our enemies during times of war. Included in your Presidents packet is a form to request a **FREE Prisoner of War Missing in Action** flag from the Department of NY.

Honoring Our Stars! Do you know the meanings of the three Star Banners? A **Gold Star** is when a family member has made the ultimate sacrifice while active during wartime. A **Blue Star** is when a family member is actively serving in the armed forces. A **White Star** is when a family member has been wounded, contracted a serious illness/injury in a war zone. On the last Sunday of September we recognize **Gold Star Families**. Honor them by having an event or inviting them to talk about their **Star** and sharing their **Stars** name.

Also in your packets are the order forms for *Wreaths Across America* and *Honor Flights*. Wreaths Across America prices have changed a little. 1 wreath for \$17 or your Auxiliary can do 3 wreaths for \$34. Order forms and money are due by October 31st. I will give more information about Honor Flights in a future article.

Patriotic Days to Remember:

August: 4th-Coast Guard Birthday

7th-Purple Heart Day

29th-Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

September: 11th-Patriot Day

15th-Prisoner of War- Missing in Action Day

18th-Air Force Birthday

24th-Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

I want to thank everyone who has already sent in their flag requests and reports. Keep up the good work NY.

Until next time, let us continue to

"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" as we are *"Banding Together for Our Veterans."*

Loyally, *John*

HOSPITAL ~ Agnes Stamp, Chairman
2622 Hamilton Street ~ Weedsport, NY 13166
(315) 834-6921 ~ agnes.stamp@gmail.com

It is the start of a new reporting year, and I would like to thank all the members who have sent in reports for this program for activities in April, May, and June. It is a great start, keep up the good work. Although the pandemic has altered the Hospital Program in many ways, our goal remains the same. Let's make volunteerism an actual event again. I know this remains a challenge as some facilities still do not allow visitors or volunteers, so check with your VA and Non-VA facilities to find out what they are allowing, and as always follow their protocols. Please continue to use your great ideas in providing for our veterans in other ways. Gift cards to local businesses is another great way to help our veterans with day-to-day needs.

The VAVS Program, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, is another way to serve our veterans. Information on this program is outlined in the VAVS Participation Guide, which can be found in MALTA - (login) under MALTA Member Resources. Remember - hours earn VAVS and VFW Auxiliary Awards!

The Program Guidebook provides a lot of information on this very important program. Read about the challenge to celebrate non-traditional holidays with our Veterans and remember to include hospital staff in your celebrations. Here is a link to a month-by-month list of holidays - you will be amazed at the many choices you have: <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023>

We can make a difference by

"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while **"Banding Together for Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Agnes*

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Deanna Guyette, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*
43 High Street ~ Carthage, NY 13619

The *Auxiliary News* is published six times a year:
August, September/October, November/December,
February/March, April/May, June.
Deadline for submissions is the 5th of the previous month.
September/October articles are due August 5th.

**Congratulations District 8
on an Awesome Year!**

Your hard work and dedication to our Veterans paid off! At the June Convention I received District 8 President of the Year on all of your behalf. Thank you for a great year!

~ *Loyally, Tina Roberts,*
District 8 President, 2022-2023

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT
1143 ~ Earl J Santimaw
Massena, NY

VFW Auxiliary 1143 held a Scholarship Award Ceremony in May, combining Patriotic Art, Illustrating America, and Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue contests. The event attracted nearly 100 students, parents, and members - what a fantastic turnout! Frances Marcil, Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman, wrote it was 'Wonderful to see all the support.' According to Frances, they are looking to increase that next year! (See the full article from the Watertown Daily Times on the Department website in 'Auxiliaries in Action' under 'News'.)

Great Job!!

<https://www.vfwauxny.org>



Frances Marcil



Guests look over the art displays.



Winners of the Patriotic Art contests.