



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ September/October 2023

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

It was a pleasure to attend the National Convention in Phoenix, and I am happy to be home, it was extremely hot. It was an honor to be escorted in with the flags and walk through the aisle of honor after the presentation. Thank You to Darlene Baker and Belinda Cole for escorting me.

Congratulations to PDP Lisa Raplee for being inducted into the Circle of Excellence and to her team for the awards they won.

I hope everyone that attended OTI, in Binghamton learned a lot and had fun doing it. Thank You to Dean Helen Weeks for a great weekend.

Aside from attending the National Convention, I also attended the Family Freedom Festival sponsored by Dundee Auxiliary #8649 on July 15th. Later this month, I will begin visiting the District Auxiliaries, and plan on attending the State Fair a day or two.

Thank you to those Auxiliaries that met the deadline for getting their election and installation reports in by the deadline set by National, and those that got their bonds processed by July 31st. Bonds on all levels must be processed by August 31st or they will be put on suspension. Annual dues for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers **MUST** be processed by December 31st and IRS Form 990 **MUST** be filed by November 15th. If you need any assistance, you may contact the Department Secretary, Treasurer, or Chief of Staff; they are only a phone call or email away.

The Fall Conference information should be coming forth with as it is only 2 months away, October 6 - .8th in Albany, NY. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

As a friendly reminder:

- NEW Treasurers should file IRS form 8822b within 60 days of election.
- Health and Happiness Donations can be processed through MALTA or a check mailed to National Headquarters.
- September 30th – Donation Report forms are due.
- December 15th – All Official visits must be completed.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you during my travels throughout the great state of New York. Remember “working together with the VFW will make us stronger in unity and partnership” as we

“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

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PDP and OFFICER BIRTHDATES

SEPTEMBER

- 9 -Marianne McLane, PDP
11 -Rosalie Cooper, President

OCTOBER

- 4 -Jackie Herbert, PDP
8 -Sally Gagnon, PDP
9 -Sandra Flynn, PDP
13 -Darlene Stanton, PDP
29 - Debbie Casella, PDP

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

- Sep 15...** Prisoner of War/Missing in Action
~ POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sep 18...** National Café Event
~ Promontory Point, Utah
(*Golden Spike National Historic Park*)
- Sep 30...** **DEADLINE** to submit Donation Report
Form to Department Treasurer.
- Oct 6-7...** VFW & Auxiliary DNY Fall Conference
~ Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
- Oct 20-22...** Eastern Conference - Dept of NJ
~Resorts Casino Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ
- Oct 31...** Happy Halloween!

And the Winner Is.....the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York!!
The following awards were announced during the July 2023 National Convention in Phoenix,

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE: - Jr Past Department President **Lisa Raplee**

- ✪ \$500 Award to the Department for achieving all criteria for the Circle of Excellence

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT - Auxiliary Award #2: - **Auxiliary 1371** Glenn A Warner, Owego

- ✪ Citation and \$25 to the Auxiliary for the most outstanding activity that increases awareness of homeless veterans.

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT - Department Award #4, Second Place: - Department Chairman **Doris Ippolito**

- ✪ Citation to the Chairman and \$100 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

AMERICANISM - Auxiliary Award #1: - **Auxiliary 8649** Goodrich-Smith, Dundee

- ✪ Citation and \$25 to the Auxiliary for the most outstanding activity that increases awareness of homeless veterans.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH - Chairman Award #2: - Department Chairman **Judith Lefebvre**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Card to the Chairman for the 'most effective promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program.'

AUXILIARY OUTREACH - Department Award #3, First Place: - Department Chairman **Judith Lefebvre**

- ✪ Keepsake to the Chairman and \$200 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

CHIEF OF STAFF/Extension & Revitalization - Chairman Award #2: - Department Chairman **Marianne McLane**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Card to the Chairman for Best Promotion of 'how to revitalize a struggling Auxiliary.'

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS - Chairman Award #2: - Department Chairman **Kellianne Martini**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Card to the Chairman for Best 'training on Media Relations.'

HOSPITAL - Chairman Award #2: - Department Chairman **Peggy Schweitzer**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Card to the Chairman for Best Promotion of 'innovative methods to serve hospitalized veterans.'

MENTORING for LEADERSHIP - Department Award #3, Second Place: - Department Chairman **Darlene Stanton**

- ✪ Citation to the Chairman and \$100 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Department Award #3, Second Place: - Dept Chairman **Melinda Ingoglio/Ruth Huber**

- ✪ Citation to the Chairman and \$100 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.



Congratulations

to Jr PDP Lisa Raplee and
Team New York for making
the 2023 Circle of Excellence!!

And

to the *inaugural* 1st place
3-Dimensional Patriotic Art
National Winner Kayla Neale!!



Kayla Neale
Found Object Eagle Sculpture
Holley Central School District - Grade 11
Sponsored by VFW Aux 202, Holley, NY

Inspirational Message from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Belinda Cole

Dear Loving Father,

We pause to remember the great losses and courageous acts of September 11th. We lift up those who are still affected -- families of the victims, police officers, firemen, first responders, and all who were involved. We pray for the light of Christ to flood the hearts of people everywhere. We believe You desire to redeem Your creation, and we trust that beauty will continue to come from the ashes of those dark days. Surround us with Your mighty angels of protection, give us compassion for one another in all of life's circumstances, and instill in us the courage to answer Your call. Amen.

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

Spring has sprung and fall has fell...well, almost! As the reporting year progresses and the seasons change, one thing remains the same - All the hard work and care auxiliary members provide for our Veterans! Once again, thank you to all who have sent in reports. It is heart-warming to read about all the good things you are doing. I like to think of all the work you have been doing as an **Opportunity for Improvement**. You have found countless ways to improve the quality of life for the Veterans, Military, and their families and ways to improve the hospital program as restrictions are still in place in some areas.

MALTA and the Department of NY website continue to be great sources of information on this program. There is information about awards, volunteer information for both Hospital and VAVS, Volunteer Flyers, also links to the Veterans Voices Writing Project and a VA Welcome Kit. Remember, hours earn VAVS and VFW Auxiliary Awards. Find out how to become a VAVS Volunteer.

Have you been considering holding a non-traditional holiday celebration? If so, remember to include the hospital staff in your celebrations. After all, they were the ones seeing to the needs of our Veterans during the pandemic and beyond until restrictions were lifted. Once again, the link to find a month-by-month list of holidays is calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023. OTI is behind us, what a great event to attend, and there is always so much to learn. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference. I will have a table set up with Hospital Information and a box for reports. Remember, by supporting the Hospital Program:

We can make a difference by
"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while "Banding Together for Our Veterans."
Loyally, *Agnes*



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



Here it is already mid-August and I am so encouraged by your response to the Cancer Grant Fund \$2 ticket campaign. Your membership strengthens our goal to care for each other and provide relief to our fellow brothers and sisters and their families during their fight against Cancer.

I just want to remind you that the Cancer Grant Fund tickets your Auxiliary received were allotted based on the Auxiliary membership as of June 30, 2023. The \$2 per member Ticket donation check can be made payable to the "VFW Auxiliary Dept. of New York" and sent to me, Phyllis Roseboom, using the attached self-addressed envelope. A question concerning money sent to MALTA (and that I cannot give you credit) – relates to their system being unable to breakdown individual donors and then report it to the Department of New York. Your donations will be credited through NY if received here.



At Fall Conference, your tickets will be entered in Cash drawings for **\$75 First place; \$50 Second place, and \$25 Third place. Good Luck to all who have their tickets in the BIG TOTE already.**

At our Fall Conference table, each Auxiliary is requested to submit a Shoe or Boot Box for "Rose's Cancer Fund Shoe Store." Think IN THE BOX, be creative and/or mysterious:

- ▶ The box can be filled with whatever items you choose, making it a mystery box. One item can be Cancer related or another could be LIGHT related, as in Rose's "LIGHT a Flame of Hope for our Veterans" theme.
- ▶ And in turn, you can purchase tickets on the "Shoe/Boot Boxes" raffle as your Cancer Program participation. Cost will be 1 ticket for \$1, 3 tickets for \$2, or 10 tickets for \$5.



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*

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



As most of you know, President Rose has chosen Higher Ground for her special project. It is located in Buffalo NY. Veterans go for a week at no charge and they are tracked after the program for any additional help they may need. If you attended OTI, you got the chance to see a wonderful presentation of the program. If you missed it, you will get another chance at Fall Conference in October. The original Polo shirt/t-shirt/hoodie order was a great success as we sold out with very few items left. FYI-I will be taking orders for shirts and hoodies for delivery at Fall Conference. If I received your order, it will be filled. The DEADLINE for me to order for Fall Conference is Sep 4th. So please don't wait...get those orders in. Also please note that at Fall Conference we will have a donation jug on the table with all proceeds going to Higher Ground in Buffalo NY. There is also a line item on the donation report form-let's make this project 100%. Hope to see everyone at Fall Conference in Albany on Oct 6-7.

Pictured: Marlene Rolls, Higher Ground Board of Directors, and Marcia Williams, President's Special Project Chairman

*"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" as we are
"Banding Together for Our Veterans."
Loyally, Marcia*



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



If it Flies it spies!



Hashtag Edition #

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 will 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 is 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. Therefore, here is to working smarter – not harder – to highlight our Auxiliaries and activities and our support to our cause. As always, please do not hesitate to call or drop me a line if you have any questions or comments.

It is an honor to serve as Department Historian /Media Relations Chairman this year and will do so with much excitement! **"Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans"** will provide us with wonderful memories while **"Banding Together for Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Kellianne*



TREASURER'S Checks & Balances ~ DEPARTMENT TREASURER, Kimberly White

Dear Members,

As we move into Fall, there are some things to remember - Please understand that the integrity of our organization depends on your thorough and honest inspection of the eligibility qualifications listed on these new member applications.

It is the responsibility of each investigation committee to know who is eligible for membership and who is not. Review the information provided in your podium edition for these qualifications. If you need help, please let me know. Make sure that all applications submitted are accurate, complete, and legible. This will avoid errors that need to be corrected later. Also, you need to send payment of the per capita of \$12.00 per member with each application. I do not have access to deduct payments for anything from your bank account. All checks should be made payable to VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.

Donation Report Forms are due September 30th, so please get them in ASAP so we can proceed to dues notices. The first dues notice will be mailed the beginning of October. Department is continuing to mail them only for Auxiliaries that contributed to the dues mailing fund on the donation report form. We are assuming that if your Auxiliary did not contribute, you have mailed your own notices.

Remember that your 990 is due by November 15th. It is required of **ALL** Auxiliaries. Our National Organization has two very good instructional videos on their website. Please go to vfwauxiliary.org, login with your username, choose Online Auxiliary Academy. The 2 videos are: 990N ePostcard Instructions and IRS Form 990N ePostcard Guide.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference in Albany! Until then- we will continue to **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans"** while we are **"Banding Together for Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Kim*

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

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is off and running!

I have received many reports so far and in my Officer's Training Institute presentation, I offered many ways that your members can volunteer. To those who did not attend, here are some of them:

- ▶ Members helped with the Volunteer Fire Department by attending calls, meetings, etc.
- ▶ Members helped with a Church by collecting food, treats and supplies for cats and dogs and distributed these items to the community in conjunction with their local animal shelter.
- ▶ Volunteering at a Senior Center lunch program. They set up tables, served the luncheon, and then cleaned up. You can decorate for various events, answer phones, and do paper work.
- ▶ Volunteer at a Senior Center by calling bingo. That's what I do.
- ▶ Volunteer at a Food Bank.
- ▶ One Auxiliary assisted the Elks Club with a Mother's Day breakfast.
- ▶ One Auxiliary assisted the Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club in an event to raise money for two of their members who were hurt in an accident.
- ▶ One member presented information and music on Memorial Day at a local nursing home.
- ▶ One member volunteers for Meals on Wheels.
- ▶ A member taught a CPR class to individuals and they all obtained certification.
- ▶ A couple of members assist with registration with the American Red Cross when they hold their blood drive at their Post. You can also hand out soda and water or provide a free lunch to the Red Cross volunteers.
- ▶ Another member volunteers for the Telethon and answers phones for donations for the children.
- ▶ Members volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce to help clean up their town.

This program is all about your TIME. At OTI, I gave out lanyards to wear around your neck. I will have more at the Fall Conference. Stop by my table to pick one up.

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

Loyally, *Peggy*



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.

Designing your Auxiliary Mentoring for Leadership Program

1. No two (2) Auxiliaries are the same . Your members' knowledge and experiences are NOT the same as any other Auxiliary. Your Auxiliary is unique. So your Mentoring for Leadership Program should be designed for your Auxiliary. Make it your own.
2. The Program is the plan for your Auxiliary. Since plans change, that means that your Mentoring Program can change. Your plan will have both types of Mentoring for Leadership types.
 - A. One-on-One mentoring, for example:
 - a. Long-time members sitting with new members to example and answer questions about meeting rituals and procedures.
 - b. Kitchen or bar manager demonstrating opening and closing procedures.
 - B. One-to-Group mentoring, for example:
 - a. Patriotic Instructor demonstrating "parade rest" and/or "heart salute".
 - b. Members explaining the new by-law changes and other procedures during the "Good of the Order".
Note: The President should always have the latest Podium edition.
 - c. Auxiliary Program Chairmen outlining this year's programs.
 - d. Event Chairman explaining the details and procedures to make the events successful.
3. Any member (new or long-time) can be a Mentor; not only officers and chairmen. Everyone can be a Mentee and learn new procedures and skills. New members bring new ideas/knowledge.

Remember that as we Mentor members and others about our programs, we
"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while ***"Banding Together for Our Veterans.***

Loyally, *Judy*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Welcome to Fall, fellow members! I hope you were able to attend OTI and enjoyed it as much as I did. It was a little different this year- new games were a lot of fun, and having the State Commander as our special guest was so nice. PSC Marlene Roll and Special Project Chairman Marcia Williams had a wonderful presentation about President Rose's special project Higher Ground. It really made one proud that Rose chose this as her Special Project.

I'm now looking forward to Fall Conference. Every President and Chairman should have received an email with everything you need to know to plan to attend Fall Conference at the Marriott Hotel on Wolf Rd in Albany. This is a school of instruction, a time for you to hear directly from the Chairmen and ask questions as you visit their tables. Please take advantage of the opportunity.

Already, some Auxiliaries are changing officers. I understand this happens, but I need to ask for a little help from your end when you report those changes to me. On the "Change Form" please put the membership number of the NEW officer. That's the number I need to pull up the information to enter into MALTA. And even if your Secretary makes the changes, please send me the form- just write at the top that it's already been changed in MALTA. I still need to know about officer changes. I remind you that an officer can only hold ONE elected and one appointed position the exception being the Trustee which can hold two elected offices, as long as the Trustee is NOT the President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

The same "Change Form" is used when reporting a death in your Auxiliary. In this case, again, you can enter that yourself directly in MALTA. Just mark the form that it is already done. I will use the MALTA report when I create the Memorial book for Convention.

I wish you and your Auxiliaries well- keep up your great work for our veterans. And report, report, report. Looking forward to seeing you at Fall Conference as we are

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

Loyally, *Christine*



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."

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.

*** 44 Attorneys General Agree with VFW to Pass the Guard Act:** The National Association of Attorneys General issued a letter on behalf of a bipartisan coalition of 44 attorneys general expressing support for the passage of the (Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding) (GUARD) VA Benefits Act.

*** PACT Act Claims:** The VA has extended the deadline to file a claim and receive retroactive benefits backdated to last year. Please be sure to contact accredited representative to ensure your claim is submitted properly. The VFW championed the PACT Act. To learn more log onto *PACTActInfo.org*

*** Mental Health Care Services During Transition:** This program aids service members, veterans, and retirees regardless of component, time served, or discharge category to establish or transfer mental health care during times of transition. **The program is free and no time limit.**

*** MIA:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced six burial updates WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War returning home for burial with full military honors.

Hey! Reports are coming in and THANK YOU!

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

Loyally, *Ann*

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

"Buddy" Poppy: I hope everyone is lighting the Flame of Hope for our Veterans by getting out in the community!



- ◆ Each Auxiliary is asked to bring a themed basket to raffle at the Fall Conference.
- ◆ At my Fall Conference table, I will have info and little "Buddy" Poppy projects to make.
- ◆ Students will be going back to school soon. The Buddy Poppy projects can go with 'back pack' and school supply drives for the kids/teens to take and put together.
- ◆ For Halloween, you can decorate a sweater or sweatshirt with "Buddy" Poppies on them. You can also hand out bags of candy with "Buddy" Poppies and a card to explain the poppy.
- ◆ When doing events, remember to tag #poppiescount in the pictures you send. Send in your pictures with your report of what you are doing with the "Buddy" Poppies to promote them.

National Home: 1-800-313-4200 (M-F 8am-4:30pm ET, except holidays), or help@vfwnationalhome.org. For more than 90 years, the National Home has helped Military Veteran families who need a fresh start.

- ◆ There will be a drawing for \$20 at Fall Conference to one District - Each District that has all their component Auxiliaries 100% in Health and Happiness will be entered in the drawing.
- ◆ Auxiliaries are asked to give at least \$.10 per member based on June 30, 2023 membership to the National Home. If an Auxiliary gives \$.25 or more per member, the National Home will send a Citation. The National Home needs your help to help those families less fortunate.

Don't forget to report. I look forward to reading what you do for the "Buddy" Poppy and National Home. Also, please note that my email should be at yahoo - loveourveterans17@yahoo.com. Happy Halloween!

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

Loyally, *Flora*

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

The youth activities program is a wonderful way to interact with and get youth involved in all of our Auxiliary programs. When I am thinking about ways to get our youth involved in activities, I first like to consider the cost involved to the teachers, leaders, family, and community members. Not only are we instilling good values and morals in our youth by giving them an opportunity to be involved but we are also teaching them the importance of recycling. Start by recycling all of those holiday cards. Cut out all of the useable wording and images. You can use as much or as little of the cards as you would like. Fold your cardstock in half and start gluing. I prefer to use mounting squares to avoid the rippling that will occur if you use too much glue. Write a simple message on the inside of the card, or leave it blank so the sender can add his or her own message if you are sending them overseas for our servicemen and women to send home to their loved ones. When the cards are completely dry slide them into envelopes. If you are not sending them overseas, finish them as you would like and they can be sent to a hospitalized Veteran. There are many lessons to be learned when we engage our youth and they will be proud of their accomplishments! Be sure to use the R.A.P. cards to recognize them for a job well done.

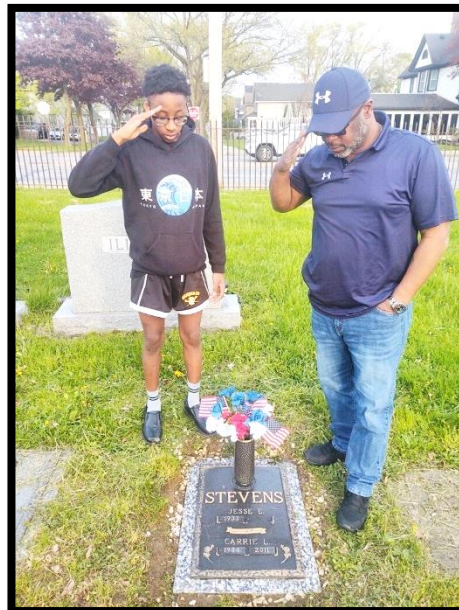
Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups - A great way to do this is by creating a youth group within your Auxiliary, whether it be made up of 2 or 22 youth, it is a wonderful way to create a positive outlet for the youth of today. I want to hear all about the fun and amazing things you are doing with your Auxiliary's youth group or youth groups in the community. When we engage youth in our activities, we teach them the true meaning of patriotism. I want to hear all about ways you are engaging youth. Report, report, report!

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*

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT
9251 ~ Pennington-Moye ~ Rochester, NY

Youth Chairman Phyllis Walker reported how the Auxiliary supported a local cemetery cleaning project. Auxiliary members also brought along other family members and youth to work on the project. One particular gravesite belonged to one of the Post members, and special care was given to clean the cut grass away from the grave stone. What a great project to involve our youth and honor our veterans!





MEMBERSHIP ~ Lisa Raplee, PDP, Chairman
4259 State Route 226 ~ Dundee, NY 14837
H: (607) 243-0031 ~ C: (434) 594-2539 ~ lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com



Our year is well underway! I know you have all been working hard and have planned or already completed a membership drive. Please be sure to report them to me as soon as you have completed them. One of our goals as a department is to create blockbuster membership drives so we are not only increasing our numbers, but making everyone aware of all the great things our organization does for our veterans, communities, and their families.

Please log into MALTA and utilize all the tools they have on the site for membership. There are invaluable resources for us to use, so make sure to use them when doing your membership drives.

Thank you to all the auxiliaries that reached the first goal, by obtaining 50% by September 1, 2023. You will all be entered in the drawing for \$100 at our Fall Conference in Albany. Our next deadline is **October 15:**

- \$100 Drawing for all Auxiliaries that attain 85% in membership by **Oct 15, 2023.**

It is so important to get your annual members paid as soon as possible so we can also assure President Rose makes her membership deadlines for the Circle of excellence. Every point she can earn is extremely important and could be the difference at the end of the year on whether she makes it to the Circle of Excellence.

I look forward to hearing from you all soon and seeing how great you have done with your membership drives! 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*



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



SEPTEMBER - Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month:



"STOP 22" - Suicides among our military and veterans are on the rise. You can learn resources and strategies for working with our military and veterans in crisis. Resources are listed in the 23-24 Program Guide and on the web (Va.gov, VFW.org, VFWauxiliary.org). Ask the Community Engagement Coordinator of your Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare to present their *SAVE* Suicide Awareness Training. Plan and hold a Stop 22 Walk for Suicide Awareness at your auxiliary or district. Complete the VFS National Award #1 on MALTA. Send it to Dee Ippolito, Chairman. That's a report!

- ★ A Stop 22 Walk will be held at our Fall Department Conference. Join us for a \$1.00 donation per person.
- ★ Encourage any veteran in crisis to call **988 press 1 to chat 24.7.**

"Homeless Veterans" - the joint project of Dept. Pres. Rose Cooper and Commander Dan Kell. 1 in 5 Homeless Persons IS a VETERAN!...And your donations will help provide food, clothing, and shelter. Contact your VA Homeless Program, local Veterans' Homeless coalitions for other ways you can assist in this effort to stem homelessness. If you haven't donated on Donation Form 1 in this year's Program Guide, do so generously now! Donate at your District meetings and at Department Conferences and Convention. AND, always send a report.

OCTOBER - FALL Department Conference:

"Trees For Troops"/"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. The form to donate trees may be found in your President's Packet and each Auxiliary/District is being asked to sponsor at least **4-8 trees**. Donate at Fall Conference or send our form to Dee Ippolito by **Oct 31st.**



"In Lieu of Cards" - To further support "Trees for Troops"/Holiday Cheer" and help offset the expense of sending trees, we are again offering a giant poster for you to sign. The donation is \$5 per signature. Our military so appreciates our trees, menorahs and decorations and they love all your personal messages on our Department's giant card. Donate in person at the Fall Conference or USPS mail the "CARD" form found in your President's Packet along with your check. Our military is serving for us. Give them a bit of home at the holidays! Donate now and send to Dee Ippolito by **Oct 31st.**



REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!
 Goal is 100% in Veterans &
 Family Support by **October 31st.**
 Thank you for all you do!

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

Loyally, *Dee*



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



ACTION - The more you Participate, the more we can do for our Veterans!

Dear Auxiliary Members,



The first 9-Month Raffle Drawing is coming soon. Get your tickets in as soon as you can.

YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT! - Don't miss out on a single chance to win.

9-Month Raffle: If you/your Auxiliary did not yet return the 9-month raffle tickets, please be sure to get them to me before the first drawing on Oct 1st for a chance to win \$100 and \$20 to the seller. As of this writing, I have only received Ways & Means donations from a few of the Auxiliaries.



We need the efforts of ALL Auxiliaries in the Department to make the 9-month raffle successful this year!

District Presidents: Please remind the Auxiliaries in your district to bring \$10 worth of lottery scratch off tickets to the Fall Conference. Did all the Auxiliaries in your district participate?

** 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.

Auxiliaries: If you are not able to attend the Fall Conference, please make arrangements with your District presidents to bring your scratch-off lottery tickets to the fall Conference for you.

Together we can **"Band Together for Our Veterans"** while we **"Light the Flame of Hope for our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Gene*

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,

It was great seeing everyone at OTI in Binghamton! The cooler months are here, that means school will be starting very soon. We can promote the Americanism program by maybe going to our local schools and teaching the younger students the Pledge of Allegiance or how the American flag should be properly taken care of and treated. In September there are quite a few important days we should honor and remember:

September 11 - Patriot Day: This is a day many of us will never forget as some of us might have been or known someone who has been personally affected by the tragic events in 2001.

September 15 - Prisoner of War Missing in Action Recognition Day: Remember our hashtag **#morethanletters**.

September 18 - Air Force Birthday: The US Air Force was founded in 1947. They will turn 76 years old.

September 24 - Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day: This is a day to honor Mother's and Family's of fallen service men and women.

The month of October we will all see each other at the Fall Conference. I hope many of you will stop by my table. There will be a few giveaways and information you can take back home to your Auxiliaries and share with other members. Some important days in October to remember, besides Halloween when we could bring cards and treats to Veterans in our neighborhoods or nursing homes, are:

October 13 - Navy Birthday: The US Navy was founded in 1775. They will turn 248 years old.

October 26 - National Day of the Deployed: This day we honor Military service men and women that are deployed around the world.

I want to thank everyone that has already sent in their flag requests, reports, and the many beautiful pictures. 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*

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

Hopefully you were able to attend OTI in Binghamton. It was very informative from all the instructors! We have begun another Auxiliary Year with Auxiliaries from last year still needing mentoring and we are working on finishing up with the Post Commanders on forming their Auxiliary.

All of the District Presidents that were in attendance at OTI were given a list of mentored auxiliaries and those VFW Posts that wanted to begin a new auxiliary. They will be a major part of my program since they would be the first to know of any auxiliary that needs our assistance. The Department is ready and willing to help you with any problems that occur this year. Your first contact for assistance will be your District President and they in turn will contact me to assist them with your situation.

Please go on the VFW Auxiliary National Website and look up the Extension Program. The information will assist your Auxiliary with any questions or concerns. Please explore the website for all your auxiliaries needs. If you need help going on this site; please give me a call and I will help you. Looking forward to working with you again this year! So, let's

"Light The Flame of Hope For Our Veterans" by "Banding Together For Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Marianne, PDP*

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



District Presidents: I hope when you received your inspections materials that you familiarized yourselves with the materials. I hope all have had a school of instruction at their organizational meeting (if you have one) or at you first District meeting. Remember, as District President you can do whatever inspections you prefer BUT do not try to do all of them. Be sure to go over inspections when returned to you to be sure all is complete.

Inspectors: When you receive your materials, please get familiar with all forms. Do not skip over questions and please do not leave the remarks section blank. If an auxiliary is in need of assistance, let us know in this section. Also, if they have done something you think should be passed on to other auxiliaries as a great idea for a program, list it in this section. You can also write more on a sheet of paper and attach it with your report.

Be sure all forms are signed, the date of the last inspection is put up in the right-hand corner of the first page, and seals are put on the last page. All forms not completed will be returned to the District President for completion. Return all copies to the District President within a few days of your visit.

District Presidents: Do not hold inspections until you have several. Mail all copies to me within 5 days of receipt. I will send your copy back to you and the auxiliaries copy to them.

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

Inspections are to be completed by December 15th.

Loyally, *Bonnie, PDP*

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

Schools are opening soon and now is the time to get permission to setup a table at Open House. It is also a perfect time to reach out to parents and students to explain the VFW and Auxiliary Scholarship opportunities.

Don't forget your deadlines for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contest - applications must be submitted to the Post by October 31, 2023 and Post judging needs to be completed by November 15, 2023. Please make sure that you remind everyone of the rules of these contests when they enter - they are also on page 30 of the Program Guidebook. I can send you an entry form or it is available from the national website: www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarship. I will also have them at Fall Conference, along with information on the Continuing Education and Patriotic Art contests. Please let me know if you need any help.

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

Loyally, *Joan*

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.
November/December articles are due October 5th.

Word of Thanks

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the members for their phone calls, cards, and messages of condolence during the recent loss of my granddaughter.

~ *Loyally,*
Ruth Huber, PDP

Did Someone Say Fall Conference? ~ YES ~ Make Plans Now! ~ October 6-7, 2023

On behalf of Department President Rose Cooper, the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York cordially invites you to attend its annual Fall Conference on Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the:

Albany Marriott ~ 189 Wolf Road ~ Albany, New York 12205

- ★ **The VFW room rate is \$125.00 per night. Call the Albany Marriott directly at (518) 458-8444 to make hotel reservations. The deadline to receive the VFW group rate for hotel rooms is Friday, September 15, 2023.**
- ★ The Council of Administration Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 6, 2023 at 7:30 PM. All members in good standing are invited and encouraged to attend. The Fall Conference Business Session will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday, October 7, 2023.
- ★ Fall Conference Registration begins on Friday, October 6, 2023 from 1:30 – 5:00 PM and will be open again on Saturday, October 7 2023 from 7:00 – 8:30 AM. The cost for Advance Registration is \$8.00 per person and the cost of registration at the door is \$10.00 per person. The deadline for advance registration is **September 25, 2023.**
- ★ Department President Rose will host a luncheon at the 2023 Fall Conference at 12 Noon. The cost of the luncheon is **\$42.00** per person. VFW members, Auxiliary members and guests are invited to attend. Luncheon tickets may be picked up at the Registration table. Luncheon Reservation deadline is **September 25, 2023.**
- ★ Registration/luncheon reservation forms are included in conference packet or can be found on the Department website.
- ★ At the Department of NY Fall Conference on Saturday, October 7, 2023, a STOP 22 Walk-A-Thon will begin at 3:30 PM for VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to participate in a 22-minute walk/run to increase public awareness on Veteran suicide. All are welcome to participate. See information in the Fall Conference packet.
- ★ We hope that you will join us for the Fall Conference to gather important information from our Department Chairmen so together we will.... ***“Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans.”***

Loyally,
Karen Dotson, PDP, PCP
Fall Conference Chairman

***Don't miss this great opportunity to learn, share,
collaborate, celebrate, and have fun with fellow members!!***