



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ November/December 2023

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

This year has gone so fast, I cannot believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I have been making my visits to the districts and time is just flying by. In August I attended the Batavia VA Hospital party sponsored by District 7. What a fantastic time was had by all and it was great seeing so many veterans enjoying the event. I also spent a couple days at the state fair and recruited a couple potential members.

I had the pleasure of visiting District 8 in Fairport on September 10th, the day before my birthday. I received many wonderful gifts and the members sang Happy Birthday.

On Monday September 11th, I visited the Canandaigua VA hospital with PDP Helen Weeks. We were given a tour of the outpatient clinic area. They have a lot of state-of-the-art equipment and they have streamlined the outpatient experience.

On September 14th, Department Secretary, Chris Leavor and I went to Patchogue to institute District 11. Congratulations to Anne Anderson and all the newly installed officers.

I hope everybody that attended the Fall Conference had a good time. PDP Karen Dotson worked very hard on making it a success. It was nice seeing everyone, especially so many first-time attendees.

I would like to thank VFW and VFW Auxiliary 6912 in District 4 for inviting me to attend the State Commander's dinner in Lowville in October. It was an honor to attend and I had a great time.

On November 5th, I head to Tupper Lake for my District 9 official visit – my second to the last district.

I will be attending the trees for troops with Veterans and Family Support Chairman Dee Ippolito in Dec. I cannot wait to see how the trees get sent off to the troops overseas. I wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May you all be healthy and successful in the new Year!

As a friendly reminder:

- December 15th – All Official visits must be completed.
- ALL Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers dues **MUST** be paid.

I have enjoyed my travels throughout New York State this year. It was great seeing everybody and learning about all the work you do for our Veterans. 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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Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette

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315-493-7520, dgullquist@verizon.net

PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

November

6 - Karen Dotson, PDP
9 - Bonnie Burgy, PDP
10 - Ruth Huber, PDP
24 - Cindy Campbell, PDP
27 - Belinda Cole, Chaplain

December

3 - Donna Emo, PDP
10 - Justine Robles, JV Pres
16 - Jane Reape, PNP
28 - Kathy Zylko, PDP

January

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

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Nov 11... VETERANS DAY ~ *Honor Our Veterans!*

Nov 5... Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember: set your clocks back 1 hour at 2 am

Nov 23... HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Dec 7... Pearl Harbor Day

Dec 17... Wreaths Across America Day
~ Ceremonies at 12 Noon.

Dec 25... MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec 31... DEADLINE for Auxiliary Dues
~ (Officers risk removal if not paid.)

Jan 1... HAPPY NEW YEAR!



NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 328 ~ JUNE 29, 2023
Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 348 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President and in accordance with the National Bylaws, Article II, Sec 209, the Charter of VFW Auxiliary to Salt City Post No. 348, Syracuse, New York is hereby suspended for the period not to exceed ninety (90) days-from June 29, 2023 to September 27, 2023 (3 meetings) - for:

1. Failure to elect and install Officers for 2023-2024.

The following procedures are to be followed:

1. While under suspension, the business and affairs of the VFW Aux may be carried on in a sphere limited to current activities (paying financial agreements already incurred and reinstatement from suspension under a Department Committee. **The Auxiliary may hold meetings but is not to make and pass motions to expend money until the suspension is lifted unless the Committee approves.** If motions to expend money were passed **prior** to the suspension, then those motions should be honored, and the expenses incurred paid.
2. Membership dues should be continuously transmitted.
3. The Department President shall establish this Committee and she shall grant it written powers and limitations.
4. The Committee shall consist of three (3) members- Darlene Baker, Linda Flanagan, and Agnes Stamp-but does not include the Department President nor the current District President. The Committee is to attend the monthly business meetings as well as other meetings deemed necessary.
5. The Committee members may use the "Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit" and other mentoring tools available in Auxiliary Resources such as Building on the Auxiliary Foundation and the Booklet of Instructions and Treasurer's Guide to assist the Auxiliary Officers and members in understanding their duties and roles in the VFW Auxiliary.
6. All acts and actions of the committee shall be subject to the approval or disapproval of the Department President, who, in addition to each Committee member, shall submit to the National President through the National Secretary-Treasurer—shall forward her/his written report for each meeting attended regarding the situation and resolution of the suspension.

The Department President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:	Attest:
Jane Reape	Ann Panteleakos
National President	National Secretary-Treasurer
	AP:jc

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 33 ~ AUGUST 31, 2023
Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 6105 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Hilton-Parma Memorial Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 6105, Hilton, New York, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure of the Auxiliary to elect and install officers for 2023-2024 term, 2023-2024 bond was not paid, and audits weren't conducted and presented at regular meetings before forwarding to Department Treasurer.
2. The Auxiliary did not hold meetings during the 2022-2023 term.
3. A letter was written to the members and a majority responded that they favored disbanding Auxiliary.

The following procedures are to be followed:

1. **All business transactions shall cease immediately and no business may be transacted in the name of the Auxiliary upon receipt of this Special Order.**
2. **No money shall be spent, nor debt(s) incurred upon receipt of this Special Order.**
3. As soon as possible, and not to exceed thirty (30) days, the property of the Auxiliary including books of record, original application cards, papers and all money belonging to the Auxiliary shall be turned over to the Department President or his/her Representative for disposition as directed by the Department Council of Administration. All accounts in any financial institutions shall be closed and a cashier's check(s) for the balance in said account(s) made payable to the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for disposition by the Department Council of Administration.
4. The Department President shall forward the new VFW Auxiliary Charter to National Headquarters.
5. If the Auxiliary is Incorporated, a dissolution of the corporation must be filed by the Auxiliary with the appropriate state office.

The Department President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:	Attest:
Carla J. Martinez	Ann Panteleakos
National President	National Secretary-Treasurer
	AP:jc

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 46 ~ SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 153 ~ New York

The Charter of Albert Glen Richardson VFW Post No. 153, Baldwinsville, New York was cancelled by direct order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on August 21, 2023, and received by the National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters on August 23, 2023, in accordance with letter from the Commander-in-Chief, therefore:

1. Albert Glen Richardson Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 153, Baldwinsville, New York, is hereby cancelled and dropped from the rolls of the National Organization due to the Commander-in-Chief's order and since the Auxiliary has failed to pay its bond, the Dept President concurs that the Aux should be cancelled at this time rather than being suspended. The Aux did receive notice that it would be cancelled due to the cancellation of the VFW Post.

The following procedures are to be followed:

1. **All business transactions shall cease immediately and no business may be transacted in the name of the Auxiliary upon receipt of this Special Order.**
2. **No money shall be spent, nor debt(s) incurred upon receipt of this Special Order.**
3. As soon as possible, and not to exceed thirty (30) days, the property of the Auxiliary including books of record, original application cards, papers and all money belonging to the Auxiliary shall be turned over to the Department President or his/her Representative for disposition as directed by the Department Council of Administration. All accounts in any financial institutions shall be closed and a cashier's check(s) for the balance in said account(s) made payable to the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for disposition by the Department Council of Administration.
4. The Department President shall forward the new VFW Auxiliary Charter to National Headquarters.
5. If the Auxiliary is Incorporated, a dissolution of the corporation must be filed by the Auxiliary with the appropriate state office.

The Department President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:	Attest:
Carla J. Martinez	Ann Panteleakos
National President	National Secretary-Treasurer
	AP:jc

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 57 ~ SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 1314 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President and in accordance with the National Bylaws, Article II, Section 209, the Charter of VFW Auxiliary to Columbia County Post No. 1314 Hudson, New York, is hereby cancelled and declared defunct due to:

2. In accordance with Section 207 of the National Bylaws, Auxiliary No. 1314 did not follow the procedure as outlined to surrender its charter by notifying members and other District and Department Officers of the failure to elect and install officers for 2023-2024, so at a meeting held on May 31, 2023, there were only the President, Sr. Vice President and Treasurer present, the Auxiliary will be closed due to no quorum to support the direction of the Auxiliary and the Department President was notified of the need to cancel Auxiliary 1314.

The following procedures are to be followed:

1. **All business transactions shall cease immediately, and no business may be transacted in the name of the Auxiliary upon receipt of this Special Order.**
2. **No money shall be spent, nor debt(s) incurred upon receipt of this Special Order.**
3. As soon as possible, and not to exceed thirty (30) days, the property of the Auxiliary including books of record, original application cards, papers and all money belonging to the Auxiliary shall be turned over to the Department President or his/her Representative for disposition as directed by the Department Council of Administration. All accounts in any financial institutions shall be closed and a cashier's check(s) for the balance in said account(s) made payable to the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for disposition by the Department Council of Administration.
4. The Department President shall forward the new VFW Auxiliary Charter to National Headquarters.
5. If the Auxiliary is Incorporated, a dissolution of the corporation must be filed by the Auxiliary with the appropriate state office.

The Department President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:	Attest:
Carla J. Martinez	Ann Panteleakos
National President	National Secretary-Treasurer
	AP:jc

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

- 📖 Aux 569-*New Secretary*: Samuel Vezzose, 412 Fremont St, Fulton, NY 13069, 315-806-7409, samuel.vezzose@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 7393-*New Secretary*: Patricia Zima, 27 Walnut Dr, Whitesboro, NY 13492, 315-736-2837, No E-Mail
- 📖 Aux 8137-*New Treasurer*: Edward Fitzsimmons, 8679 Dwyer Rd, Port Byron, NY 13140, 315-776-8387, trumble1970@gmail.com



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



I am so proud to report that Auxiliaries have been sending in their Tickets and Donations for the Cancer Grant Fund campaign. Thus far 119 Auxiliaries have turned in their \$2 Cancer tickets or have donated, allowing the Department of New York to be at 65.74% of our Goal for 2023-24. Let's keep our great work continuing every day. We are able to provide relief to our Brothers and Sisters, and their families during their fight against Cancer. At the luncheon, Cash Drawings were held from the very ***BIG TOTE!***

Congratulations to the winners:



- \$75 – Auxiliary #1470, Bath, NY ~ District 5
- \$50 – Auxiliary #7466, Polstenkill, NY ~ District 3
- \$25 – Anna Wrobel (Auxiliary #6338) ~ District 9

* **Remember**, your tickets continue for the same 3 Cash Drawings at Spring Conference! *

Our other very active event was "Rose's Cancer Fund Shoe Store" where each Auxiliary was requested to submit a Shoe or Boot Box by Thinking "IN THE BOX", with creative and/or mysterious items of their choice. What a wonderful array of shoe boxes. Raffle tickets purchased count towards Cancer Program participation, and sales were overwhelming. We hope your mystery boxes were a pleasant surprise and made you very happy!

At the Store, there were 2 Fact Sheets of "7 Cancer Warning Signs" and "7 Things to do when YOU feel isolated with your Cancer diagnosis." They are quite informative and can be accessed through our Website: <https://www.vfwauxny.org>. Please locate them, read them, and use them daily as you deal with your treatment and potential attainment of the phrase "You are Cancer FREE!"

As this is Breast Cancer Awareness month, if you feel as though something is just NOT RIGHT with your body; if you feel a lump in your breast self-exam; or perhaps a skin problem appears; please go see your Doctor. Get it checked, sooner than later. Be safe and remain healthy.



Your wishes for a cancer cure can be obtained when we
"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while ***"Banding Together for Our Veterans."***
Today be generous to yourself and spread your "Kindness" to everyone every day!

Loyally, *Phyl*

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

Happy Fall – My favorite time of year!

... the colorful leaves and the cool temperatures, however, I don't like what follows Fall – that white stuff. LOL

Fall Conference was last month and I want to thank everyone for participating because I had a cough and all weekend, I was at a "low roar." As I mentioned at Conference, this program is volunteering with and helping other organizations or local groups. This program is all about YOUR TIME – no donations. We have a shortage of volunteers and every organization would like to have people HELP them. Please contact some of your local organizations to see how you can help. Make sure that whatever you do is noted in your Auxiliary Minutes once the Auxiliary approves the same.

Check your local community calendars for upcoming fall events. We all see signs on our supermarket calendar boards. If you are on Facebook, you will see other organizations advertising their events. Contact them to see if they need additional help. Of course, when you go and volunteer, please wear some sort of Auxiliary attire, i.e. shirt, hat or badge. I had many badges at the conference and was pleased that so many of you took one or two back to your Auxiliary.

Please remember that the holidays are right around the corner and there should be lots of activities going on in your community. Reach out and help make their activities successful!

A couple of ideas that I have received from the reports this year – helping a Church who is collecting food, treats, and supplies for cats and dogs, and distributes those items to the community; volunteering at a senior citizen by calling and working bingo (that's what I do); volunteer for Meals on Wheels; volunteer at your local food pantry or volunteering with the SPCA by fostering an animal who is under hospice care.

Unfortunately, I have not received too many reports. This program is easy and I'm hopeful that I receive more reports as the months go by. Remember, we are...

"Banding Together for Our Veterans" to "Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Peggy*

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

*When Men and women have gone to war
Through the Army, Navy, or Marine Corp
Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force too
Defending the Constitution is what they do.*

*Family members left at home.
Worry about them in a war zone.
Some may return therefrom.
While others may succumb.*

*Family members, then want to do more.
For their loved ones who went to war
They band together sisters and brothers.
Sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers*

*Men and women then unite.
To help their veterans with their fight
When they go to capitol hill
To endorse a veteran's bill.*

*The pledge of allegiance they do teach
To every child they can reach
They teach children and adults too
To honor our flag, red, white, and blue.*

By ~ Rose Cooper

WORDS OF THANKS

Dear President Rose, Officers, Chairmen, PDPs, and fellow Auxiliary Sisters & Brothers,

I've been pleasantly surprised and overwhelmed almost every day with all your best wishes, love, and support via cards, emails, texts, and phone calls for my recent hip replacement surgery. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. You certainly have made each day of recovery brighter. Surgery was a great success, and my recovery progress is going very well. I'll be fully back in the swing of things very soon.

The VFW Auxiliary Members in this great State of New York are exceptional and I love you all. You all ROCK!!

Peace & Love, *~Debb*
Deborah A. Fucina, Assistant Guard,
Department of NY VFW Auxiliary

Thank you to all the auxiliaries and members who sent sympathy cards on the passing of our daughter-in-law, Carolyn Flynn. Everyone was such a comfort to us.

~Sandy Flynn, PDP

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

First let me start by wishing everyone happy holidays!

We all know we tend to get very busy during them. Let's not forget our Veterans. If you know someone who might be eating alone set a place for them or take them a care package.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who supported president Rose's special project Higher Ground. At Fall convention we watched a clip and it gave more highlights about the program. Well, I can say we received some nice donations - I thank those who presented one. I also know of some who have a program still going, so I'm sure those donations will be given at Spring conference.

We only have a few shirts left. The Polo's were a success and the hoodies sold good too. I have 5 hoodies and 4 long sleeve t-shirts left. I have had a few inquire if we will place another order for spring conference. I spoke to Rose and if there is an interest, we will, but it will mainly be preorders. So, what I'm asking is for each of you and your auxiliary to drop me a line if interested. And if there is enough interest, I will get back to you to send me a check as we have to pay for them before they release the order. The hats are all sold. I will need to know by the 1st week of January if there is interest, so don't hesitate or wait till last minute.

Let's make Rose happy and continue to support the Higher Ground program and have her present a nice donation from the Department of New York.

"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 Legacy Member Edition!

National Historian Diana Morris has a new project for Auxiliary Historians - to complete a 3-5-minute video interview with a legacy member—someone who has been around for a long time and has served in multiple capacities. The details are outlined on the entry form, which can be found on MALTA, or the Department website under the Historian Program.

Here are some sample questions: Ask why they joined. Ask about their favorite memorable moments. Place emphasis on bringing the past to life. We would like you to ask them what they like about the organization. What have they seen change. What they would like to have come back, that might not happen anymore. Remember you only have 3-5 minutes so make them count. Note: If your Auxiliary has no legacy members, you can also interview a District or Department member. You might also want to ask them how being a volunteer has affected their lives. All interviews should be sent to me.

Since the interview is a new concept, I have had lots of questions about it. I think it would be beneficial to all if I went over some of the guidelines for the video.

Why are our members being asked to make a video interview? Members of the VFW Auxiliary are made up of a diverse group that spans many generations. Whether you are a member of the Silent Generation (1928 - 1945) or the latest tech savvy Gen Alpha Generation (2013-to present), we all have something to contribute. Recording the interview helps us preserve our past and leaves a footprint for the future.

How Do I record and submit the video? There are multiple ways to send your videos to me. An easy way to do this is with your phone or iPad, because it can be easily shared by email. I encourage you to post these interviews on social media as well. You can also send them to me by using a thumb drive and mail them to me.

What do I need to include with the video when sending to the Dept. Historian? This is very important! I am asking every person who sends a recording to also send the National Historian Award #1 Form. This is necessary because at the end of the year, every Auxiliary will receive a National citation for carrying out this project. This gives me the opportunity to track who has sent reports for the numbers to National at the end of the year.

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

Loyally, *Kellianne*



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



“Traditional one-on-one mentoring or Group mentoring”

Catch & Create Ask & Answer Remember & Relate Engage & Encourage

Meetings, Conferences and Conventions:

1. Presidents share copies of your monthly agenda with the Vice Presidents.
2. Show new members the different sections of the ritual and explain meeting procedures.
3. Appoint newer members to fill in for absent officers.
4. Review current year National and Department Auxiliary program goals.
5. Review Auxiliary Standing Motions and meeting procedures annually.
6. Review officers’ duties during “Suggestions for the Good of the Order” monthly meetings. Reviews should be completed before the April elections to ensure enlightened candidates.
7. Review District, Department and National meeting procedures with delegates prior to any Meeting, Conference or Convention. Pair 1st timers with experienced delegates.

Membership Drives, Family Fun Festivals and Fund-Raising Events:

1. Appoint Chair (Co-Chairs) and ask for “helpers” to serve on the committee.
2. Stress experience not required but “many hands make light work.”
3. Share when, where and how events were organized in the past.
4. Offer tactful suggestions instead of negative comments.
5. Encourage other members to:

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

Memorable mentors lead by example as they welcome members with their smile, share their knowledge and experiences; show resources, such as: the by-laws, the ritual, and the sections of the “Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation; support their members while they learn and advance.

Smile Share Show Support

May your memories of holidays past bring you smiles as well as tears as you are surrounded with the love and laughter of family and friends this holiday season. Best wishes for 2024.

Loyally, *Judy*

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

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat...and so are my files with all the reports I have been receiving! Thanks for all your dedication and hard work with this important program, as our focus is Veteran Care. The cards, gift cards, afghans and walker bags you have been delivering to our Veterans is greatly appreciated as you make their day to day lives easier to let them know they are not forgotten and someone cares. Don’t forget to honor those volunteers with a pin, along with a certificate, to show your appreciation. With all the traditional holidays coming soon, I know you all have been busy planning and preparing your upcoming celebrations.

Have you been considering holding a non-traditional holiday celebration? If you plan on doing this remember to include the hospital staff in your celebrations with treats, gifts and special moments. What a nice way to say thank you. Once again, the link to find a month-by-month list of holidays is:

<https://calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023>

I hope all that attended Fall Conference had a good time, and once again, thank you for your reports. I know with Covid 19 on the rise again, the challenges are back. So keep being creative in your ways to serve our hospitalized veterans. 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*

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

What a wonderful Fall Conference we had in October!

Thanks to all the Auxiliaries that donated baskets to be raffled at the Conference for the "Buddy Poppies" and for stopping by my table and picking up things about "Buddy" Poppy and National Home. Also, thank you for all the reports I have been receiving.

"Buddy" Poppy: I hope you incorporate "Buddy" Poppies in all your events.

- If there are craft shows this holiday season, why not incorporate "Buddy" Poppies with the crafts?
- Put a "Buddy" Poppy in an envelope when mailing dues notices.
- Hand a "Buddy" Poppy to a local Government Official when working on our legislative objectives.
- Invite local scouts to your Poppy drives. Who can resist a child handing out a "Buddy" Poppy?

National Home: There are several ways to support the National Home.

- If your Auxiliary has not gotten their Health and Happiness in, it's not too late. With the holidays coming, the National Home needs your help with Christmas presents for the kids, supplies for the cottages, and so much more.
- On MALTA, you can donate to National President Carla's Special Project, the VFW National Home Welcome Center Renovation Project.
- Purchase bricks that are placed in the National Home gardens.
- Send Christmas cards to say you care.
- Purchase a National Home Life Membership.
- Visit <http://www.vfwnationalhome.org> and sign up for the National Home e-newsletter to stay informed.



Remember that not all our soldiers will be home for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Let's remember the family as well at the holiday season to show them Hope. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Let our light be bright as we

"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."

November entering the political season - Let your voices/vote be heard and counted. Take a family member or a friend to the poles to register, if need be, and to vote. This is a new generation of young returning home Veterans; they are hungry for change in our service organizations. We the VFW and Auxiliary have to be there to mentor the change and teach what this 100 plus years of support means to our veterans, their families and the community. *Action Corps Weekly* is reporting on a number of issues:

* **Claim Representative Access Bill Introduced: S.2888 TAP Promotion Act** – to authorize accredited claims representatives to be present in DOD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classrooms.

* **Report on Military Barracks Released:** Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported on a study mold and raw sewage among other health safety and well-being concerns. This report bolsters the need to pass VFW-supported H.R.3165 Military Housing Transparency and Accountability Act.

* **National Cemetery Administration Survey:** Take a few minutes and answer the survey questions regarding burial options and end-of-life benefits.

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.

I have read from the reports coming in that our members have been encouraged to sign up for the *Action Corps Weekly News*. *Why!* Apart from what This chairpersons states there is so much information there for you.

"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

Thanksgiving is almost here and many of you are getting ready for your feast. Maybe your Auxiliary is preparing meals for veterans, families in need, or planning a big dinner at the Post. With all that going on, I am sure you have some youth related to members hanging around! Why not create a youth group and get these amazing kids and teens involved? As we get older we always say, "Age is just a number." That applies to youth, too! They love to help with everything from wrapping silverware to licking the spatula to decorating and clearing tables. They are willing to do their part if given the chance. This is a great way to teach and promote patriotism with them. Email me pictures of what Thanksgiving preparations look like for your Auxiliary! This group and the next would qualify under Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations found in MALTA.

Perhaps your Auxiliary could hold a Christmas coloring contest for lower elementary and a writing contest for upper elementary. Whether it be cards, coloring pages, or letters they can be sent to a VA Hospital, nursing facility, or the Veteran who lives next door for the holidays. The creation of a contest for students in grades K-5 is something any Auxiliary can implement. Prize ideas might include gift cards, cash, a pizza party, a dessert buffet, or ice cream sundae party. This would be a great way to get in the schools and libraries and spread patriotism. Don't forget to recognize the youths with a Patriotic Youth Award also found in MALTA and be sure to use the R.A.P. cards to recognize them for a job well done. These are great ways to recognize and honor the hard-working youth of the community and of the Auxiliary.

It is not too late in the school year to consider purchasing and donating school supplies to your local school. Quite often teachers need to purchase supplies for students in need out of their own personal budgets. You could help ease this burden by checking with a teacher to see what is needed for the classroom or simply deliver your donation to the school. I truly appreciate the generosity of the Auxiliaries who have already reported donating to schools in their area.

Send pictures of the fun you all are having! Let's share our ideas with one another and catch the interest of the youth in your area. 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. And please, report, report, report! 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*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



I hope everyone enjoyed the Fall Conference as much as I did. The Chairmen were GREAT!

By the time you read this, all Auxiliary Presidents should have received their 2023-2024 Directories. I tell you this, because after Convention in June, I USPS mailed Presidents' envelopes to EVERY President who wasn't at Convention to take it themselves. I sent every President with an email (and either the Secretary or Treasurer for those Auxiliaries that have a President without an email) on the day I took them to the Post Office telling them to look for it and whether it was in one envelope or two. I also said to let me know if it wasn't received. To date not one was returned as "undeliverable" yet now, 4 months into the year, I'm being told that some Presidents did not receive them. I know very well how easy it is to put Auxiliary mail in my Auxiliary bag and forget about it. That's why I let everyone know it was coming. Mailing them is a considerable expense to the Department and we wouldn't do it if it wasn't important to get the information to you.

If you are a President and haven't received your Directory yet, PLEASE call me. My number is in your Guidebook and on the Department Website. I will need to verify that I have your correct contact information.

Our next administrative goal is to be sure ALL officers in your Auxiliary have dues paid before December 31st. Any officer whose dues are not paid by then must be removed from office because they are no longer a member in good standing. That's true of all members, but when not in good standing a member cannot hold an office, attend a meeting, or receive a Cancer Grant. Let's try to get ALL our annuals paid before December 31st. Oh, what a happy New Year that would be!

If there are any questions or concerns, feel free to call as ***we "Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."***

Loyally, *Christine*



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



NOVEMBER – National Veterans and Military Families Month!



As you “Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans,” use your Veterans Day and Thanksgiving events to support Veterans and Military Support (VMS).

VMS includes Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and “Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarships. Veterans Day and Thanksgiving provide all of us with the opportunities to celebrate our love and support for our veterans, military and their families. An open house

after a Thanksgiving Day parade in your community, an open house after watching the Macy’s Day Parade, just coffee and donuts, dinner delivered to a veteran or military member’s family or any gathering to show your support will be welcomed. It’s always a perfect opportunity to recognize our veterans with a Thank You Coin and with a card! Thank you all for your service!

*** A final reminder to send your checks for The Card” (\$5/signature) and to “Trees for Troops” (\$25/tree) ***
 (payable to “VFW Auxiliary-Dept. of New York” and must be received by me by November 4th.)

DECEMBER: December brings us another chance to remember our troops who made the ultimate sacrifice as we honor our military lost at Pearl Harbor, “The day that will live in infamy,” December 7, 1941.

As we honor those fallen, the time of giving and sharing our love of our military now serving Overseas, our “Card” and “Trees for Troops” will be shipped as part of the VFW/Auxiliary partnership again this year to our military serving overseas. Remember to check out Facebook and the news about the shipment on December 4th.



Always a concern, but especially as the cold weather is upon us, know that veteran homelessness is on the rise with 1 in 5 homeless persons being a veteran. Both Department Commander Kell and President Rose have selected Homeless Veterans as their joint project. December is a wonderful time to donate warm clothing, food, and your time to working with veterans’ homeless projects in your area. As you are sharing your love for our veterans and families this season, remember to be thoughtful of their mental health, too. Show your thoughtfulness by keeping in touch with our veterans and military. You can still do a Stop 22 walk, etc. to heighten suicide awareness and prevention. AND, after your “walk”, remember to report on the National Award #1-Veterans and Family Support on MALTA or contact me by phone or email to receive a form!

*Thank you for serving our veterans and families! Report! Report! Report! (You know how I love your reports.)
 Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

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

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

I hope that you attended Fall Conference and picked up the information that I had at my table. If you didn’t attend and you need anything please let me know.

By the next newsletter, I can hopefully give you the winners of the Department Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen Contest. Please make sure to recognize your local winners or contestants, their families, and their teachers. This will help get the word out about this program and hopefully increase involvement in your area.

Now we need to work on your second part of the program, the Continuing Education, which has a **Deadline of February 15, 2024**. Applications are on the National website, along with those for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3D Art Contests. **Deadline** for these art contests are **March 31, 2024** at the Auxiliary level and then sent to me for Department judging by **April 10, 2024**.

I have received some reports saying that money has been given to students for education other than these specific scholarships. For example, money given to a student upon graduation does not qualify for this program, but should be sent to the Youth Activities or Veterans and Family Support Chairman. However, you can report money spent to promote these programs, such as purchasing applications or posters. If you have any questions, please let me know and remember to report to me by the 1st of the month so I can give you credit.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

*“Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans” as we are “Banding Together for Our Veterans”
 Loyally, Joan*



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



REMEMBER: 11/11/2023: A day to honor and remember. I would like to dedicate this Veterans day to my little brother Edwin Lee Shaw. A VietNam Veteran who came home but never really came home. He passed away alone on his small farm in Idaho in 2020. My little brother had PTSD till the day he passed. He passed alone. It was 4 days before they found him. He served in both the US ARMY and US Navy. He retired after 22 years of service to our country.

As we participate and donate to the different programs our VFW Auxiliary has to offer, remember all those who gave so much. Let's travel that extra mile for them. They have already given their all for us.

Fair winds and following seas little brother. R.I.P. No more PTSD

Dear Members,

The first Drawing of the 9-Month Raffle was won by Auxiliary 6778 Palmyra Memorial. There are still over \$1000.00 worth of prizes to be awarded...**YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT !**

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 next drawing on Nov 1st for a chance to win \$100 and \$20 to the seller. As of this newsletter, I have only received Ways & Means donations from about half of the Auxiliaries. Districts #2 and #6 are tied with Auxiliaries that have donated.



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



The winner of the Bonus \$100 lottery basket was Frank C. Auxiliary to Post 5913.

You could be the next Big Winner! ~~ Congratulations to all the winners!

Thank you to all the Members that Participated in our Fall Conference Raffle!

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 the Fall conference. A great big thank you to all of you that stopped by my table.

- November is upon us. In this month we celebrate Marine Corps Birthday, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.
- Every year the USMC has Toys for Tots drives, so your auxiliary can collect brand new toys and donate to this amazing cause.
- For Veterans Day you could have your local youth group make Thank you cards and distribute them to local Veterans and also veterans in senior centers/nursing homes.
- The biggest holiday of November is Thanksgiving. On this day we should try and get involved in food drives or even helping with feeding the homeless. This can be done all year round, but during the holiday season it means so much more to people who are struggling to feed themselves.
- In the month of December we have National Pearl Harbor Remembrance day (December 7th). We can invite friends and families to join us in remembering that day and also explain why it is a day of remembrance.

I would like to thank everyone for continuing to send me their reports. Keep up the excellent work. Don't forget reports are due the first of every month. I hope everyone enjoys their holiday with their loved ones.

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

Loyally, *John*

MALTA TIDBITS

✍ In an effort to make reporting Community Service work to the VFW a little easier, the VFW Auxiliary National Organization has developed an Auxiliary-to-Post Community Service Form, found in MALTA under Miscellaneous Resources.

HOWEVER – this form is ***NOT*** compatible with the system that the Department of New York VFW uses, so it will not be beneficial to them at this time.

Inspirational Message from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Belinda Cole

Almighty God,

We, your servants, turn to You for continuance of Your blessings upon us. You who have spared our veterans from the grasp of our enemies, grant us the full understanding of Your precious comfort. We thank You for the privileges of life and the blessings we enjoy in our country, the land in which we are given the freedom of speech, religion, and the pursuit of happiness. In Your mercy, may we, the living, find our peace; and God, may we also live our lives treasuring the memories of those precious ones we have loved and lost. We trust that You are treasuring them with us. Help us, God, to bring light and hope to others. Amen.



**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!

Our production of our movie, "Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans," is underway! I would like to thank all those Auxiliaries that made the first group of deadlines. However, we still have a lot of work to complete to assure that President Rose is eligible for her Golden Malta and can enter The Circle of Excellence.

Has your auxiliary held a membership drive? Did your auxiliary set up a table at a Buddy Poppy Drive and hand out applications? Did you have a public event and have membership applications available to those that attended? If so, I am waiting to hear from you! Please be sure to send me a report so I can give you credit. If you do not see that I have given you credit, please let me know so that I can correct it.

At the Fall Conference, I discussed the VFW Auxiliary Member Center Benefit Hub. Please use this when recruiting new members, as it is a great tool to make them aware of the many benefits of being a member of our great organization. There are so many tools on MALTA that your auxiliaries can use when they are doing membership drives and recruiting new members. All you need to do is sign into MALTA, click on member resources, click on the membership tab and they will all come up for your use. If you have any questions on how to access them, please contact me, and I will walk you through it.

I will be sending the District Presidents, who are also Rose's ten co-stars, an email and they will be contacting those who lack reports for membership. Please work with them so that we can accomplish the goal of being 100% in reporting. By the time that you are reading this the dues reminders will have arrived to those who have not paid their dues for the current calendar year. Please get them in as soon as possible, and fill Department Treasurer Kim Whites mailbox, while helping the star of our movie, President Rose, gain her spot in the Circle of Excellence.

I would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday Season, from my home to yours!

I am looking forward to seeing all your reports as we continue

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

Loyally, *Lisa*

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.
February/March articles are due January 5th.

**CONGRATULATIONS!
to the newly elected
District 11 Officers!**



Fall Conference Recap

Dear Members:

Thank you to all the members who attended the Fall Conference at the Albany Marriott, October 6-7. The Auxiliary had 149 members who attended the Fall Conference and 106 members who attended the President's Harvest Luncheon.

Congratulations to the Fall Conference Registration 50/50 Winner Lisa Duncan from Mattydate Auxiliary 3146, District 5. Lisa went home with an additional \$254 from the raffle. The Fall Conference Registration Basket Raffle winner was Lynne Loga from Adirondack Auxiliary 2475, District 3. Thank you to Patricia Gennarelli who donated the Registration Basket.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Marita Fredette, Margie Sorrentino, Lynne Loga, and Dee Ippolito for their time and support at the Registration table during the Fall Conference.

President Rose and I truly appreciate the members support of our Department Programs, Stop-22, and Fall Conference Raffles as we :Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans". The Fall Conference was a huge success!

Loyally,

Karen Dotson, PDP, PECP
Fall Conference VFW Aux, Chairman

