



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ February/March 2024

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

Visit our Website: www.vfwauxny.org

Like us on Facebook: [@DeptofNYVFWAux](https://www.facebook.com/DeptofNYVFWAux)



Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

Happy New Year! I hope everybody had an uneventful Christmas and New Year celebration. In November I attended the Eastern Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, and had a great time that weekend. I was also invited to the Veterans Day Ball in Carthage, NY. What a great time I had. Thank you to Dee Ippolito for accompanying me. I was unable to attend District 9's meeting in November, so I would like to thank Sr. Vice President, Darlene Baker for attending for me. I plan on attending their District Convention in April.

In December, I attended District 1's meeting and had the honor and pleasure to institute District 10 the same day. Congratulations to Mary Makosky and all the newly installed officers. Thank you again to Dee Ippolito for accompanying me on this trip.

We also attended the Trees for Troops event and what a great thing to see. I recommend everyone to attend this event at least once. It takes place in Long Beach, NY. Everybody was very friendly and welcoming.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Batavia VA and Syracuse VA Hospitals. Thank You to Charlene Favata and Sharon West for setting these up. I haven't visited all the VA's yet but hope to visit some more before my year is over.

I would like to thank all members who made official visits and completed them by December 15th. I would also like to thank all those Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers who paid their dues by December 31st.

I am looking forward to the Spring Conference in March, in Binghamton and thank you to Chris Leavor and Dee Ippolito for chairing this. I hope there are a lot of first-time attendees at this conference.

I would like to congratulate **All** the Auxiliaries for completing at least one project, activity, or making a donation that benefits veterans by October 2023.

It has been great working alongside Dan Kell this year and I continue to look forward to working with him the rest of the year.

I am looking forward to going on the Mid Winter Cruise in February. I continue to enjoy my travels throughout New York State this year. It is 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

Department President Rose Cooper

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

Department Secretary Christine Leavor

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

Department Treasurer Kimberly White

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

Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette

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

PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

March

- 17 – Irene Rohde, PDP
- 18 – Darlene Baker, Sr VP
- 21 – Helen Weeks, PDP
- 25 – Sharlene Allen, PDP



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Feb 12... VFW Auxiliary Mid-Winter Cruise
to Feb 17... ~ Leaves from Port Canaveral, FL.

Mar 3-7... Spring Legislative Conference and VOD Awards, Washington, D.C.

Mar 15... VFW and Auxiliary Spring Conference
to Mar 17... ~ Doubletree by Hilton, Binghamton, NY

Mar 31... DEADLINE: Program Chairman Year-End Reports **must be received** by Mar 31. (USPS or Email).

Apr 10... DEADLINE: President's (on all levels) Year-End Reports **must be postmarked or received** by Apr 10. (USPS or Email).

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL ORDER # 1 ~ DECEMBER 2023

(Shall be read at all Auxiliary meetings following receipt before being filed.)

Dear Auxiliary Presidents and Members,

With deep sadness, I must report to you the passing of Past Department President Arlene Eysaman, who went to her Heavenly Home on December 9, 2023.

Arlene served as Department President from 2001-2002. Please keep her husband, Doug, and her family in your thoughts and prayers. A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.

Cards may be sent to: Doug Eysaman, 11279 North Rd, Freedom, NY 14065.

Auxiliaries are instructed to drape their charters for a period of 30 days in her memory.

Loyally,

Chris Leavor

Department Secretary

By Order of:

Rose Cooper

Department President

Inspirational Message

from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Belinda Cole

Almighty God,

stretch forth your mighty arms to strengthen and protect our armed forces. When met with danger, grant them courage, discipline, and loyalty so they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace. God, lead them in their prayers and answer them clearly, that they might be channels for your peace, ambassadors of justice, and bringers of hope. May you guard their hearts with your love, their minds with your truth and their bodies with your power. We ask all this in your holy name. Amen.

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

Happy New Year to everyone. It's hard to believe we are in the last 6 months of Rose's term as President. I know we have all been busy with the holidays and family but now is the time to make the big push for our Veterans. I know I was very lax from doing anything during Dec as my concentration was on my surgery and getting better. Now that I'm doing well, I will be back in my office working on everything I didn't get done.

I still have auxiliaries that haven't sent in any donations. It's not too late, as we need everyone to participate. If you have a small auxiliary and you feel you can only donate \$1, something is better than nothing.

I will be bringing the balance of what is left in inventory with me to Spring conference. It is mostly sweatshirts, to include some small sizes. I spoke to Rose and there was not enough interest to place another order.

I will have a table at spring conference where you can drop a donation in the jug and still get credit to make us 100% in the program. We always see different faces at the conferences and the convention so please stop by.

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

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

Loyally, *Marcia*

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

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday, but now it is time to get to work on this program!

- ★ Continuing Education applications are due to National by February. 15, 2024.
- ★ We have to get our grade 9-12 students doing our art contest by the March 31, 2024 deadline. Then complete your local judging by April 10, 2024 so that you can send it to me at the above address by April 15, 2024. If you need any information, I will have it at Spring conference or I can get it to you just let me know.
- ★ Our Department VFW chairman have completed their judging for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, but as of this writing I can't give out any information until it has been checked out and sent to National.

I would like to thank Districts 6 & 7 for being 100% in reporting. We have a lot of Auxiliaries that only lack 1 or 2 more to be 100% so please send me anything that you have done by the 1st of the month so I can give you credit for all you do.

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

Loyally, *Joan*

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

New District 10

Pres: Mary Makosky, 112 Lambert Ave, Farmingdale, NY 11735, 516-633-7098, mary.makosky@yahoo.com

Sec: Patricia Vogues, 440 E Fulton St, Long Beach, NY 11561, 516-672-0320, vogespataol@aol.com

Treas: Christine Hillaris, 28 Kensington Ave, Massapequa, NY 11758, 516-903-0597, chillaristv@verizon.net


New Auxiliary 9593-Stuyvesant Falls #9593 (D3)


Pres: Tammy McDermott, 1365 Route 9, Hudson, NY, 518-704-1866, tammys2toads@gmail.com


Sec: Jessica Richards, 31 Falls Rd, Hudson, NY 12534, 518-755-9660, jessica.richards005@gmail.com


Treas: Laura Richards, 50 Oak Leaf Dr, Stuyvesant, NY 12173, 518-929-8898, llarock1128@gmail.com


 Department Conductor Charlene Carnright-*Name Change*: (was Hooper)


 Department Color Bearer #1 Lynne Loga-*Correct E-Mail*: mybuddy2454@gmail.com


 PDP Sally Gagnon-*New Address*: Lewis County Health Center, Room 106, 7785 N State St, Lowville, NY 13367

 Aux 478-*New Secretary*: Gloria Benedetto, 17 Langdon Park Dr, Kirkwood, NY, 607-775-2818, No E-Mail

 Aux 502-*New Meeting Date/Time*: 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 am


 Aux 885-*Correction to Aux name*: Everett F Herrel College Point


 Aux 1384-*New Treasurer*: Jessica Cappelli, 951 Oceanfront, Apt 33, Long Beach, NY 11561, 917-513-0932, jessness112@aol.com

 Aux 1417 President-*New Phone Number*: 607-263-3318


 Aux 1975-*New Meeting Date/Time*: 4th Tuesday, 5:30 pm

 Aux 2883-*New Meeting Date/Time*: 2nd Monday, 6:30 pm


 Aux 4915-*New Secretary/Treasurer*: Michael Stone, (was already treasurer)


 Aux 4915-*New Meeting Date/Time*: 3rd Monday, 7 pm

 Aux 4947-*New President*: Josef Grobusch, 15 Mountainview Rd, Wurtsboro, NY 12790, 845-648-7048, jgrobusch@aol.com

 Aux 7466 Secretary-*New Name/Address*: Nikita Phillips (name change from Ritrovato), 1313 Blue Factory Hill Rd, Cropseyville, NY 12052, nikitaphillips819@yahoo.com


 Aux 7765-*New Secretary*: Mikki Glass, 43 Sunrise Dr, Red Hook, NY 12571, 917-273-5821, mikki@tildenmarketing.com


 Aux 7765-*New Phone Number for meeting place*: 203-490-7512

 Aux 8137 Secretary-*Correct E-Mail*: sandraccpb7536@gmail.com


 Aux 8495-*New Secretary*: Anne Jordan, 2047 Woodgate Dr, Ontario, NY 14519, 315 573-0938, annejordan@gmail.com

 Aux 8645-*Different Meeting Dates/Times*: (Jan-Mar, 1st Saturday, 11 am) (Apr-Dec, 1st Tuesday, 6 pm)

 Aux 8823-*New Secretary/Treasurer*: Maureen Jones (name change from Stetson), (was already treasurer)

 Aux 9591-*Officer Changes*: Sr Vice has resigned and Jr Vice Karen Loveland assumed Sr Vice. No update regarding Jr Vice.

 Aux 9591-*New Meeting Date/Time*: 1st Wednesday, 5:30 pm

 Aux 9594 Secretary-*New E-Mail*: vfwaux9594secretary@gmail.com

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

Now that the holidays are over, let's make that last push to get reports in with a few months left to report to your Department Chairman. Reports are coming in very nicely but some programs still need to have reports sent in. I know you do the work, now just take a minute to write something up and send in a report.

I want to thank all the Department Chairman for getting their reports to me on time so I could get my report out on time. And a big thank you to all the Auxiliary Chairman for reporting all their auxiliary activities to the Department Chairman. Many projects were completed and you can just see by the number of boxes already filled in on the monthly report form that our auxiliaries are working very hard this year in all the programs.

.Auxiliary members keep up the great work you continue to do for our Department. Keep those reports coming in so we can reach our goal of 100% in all our programs. This year I am sending a copy of the monthly report to all District Presidents so they can pass on the information to their District Auxiliaries and I will continue to do so. This monthly report is also posted on our Department website, www.vfwauxny.org.

Again, thank you to all the VFW Auxiliary members for the work you do and reports that are sent in. At this point I am waiting to see all the boxes on the main report filled in leaving no box left blank so we can all reach 100% in all programs for our President, Rose.

Loyally, *Irene*



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



- ◆ As 2024 begins, we should look to the remainder of our Auxiliary Year. Remain aware as the research to cure cancer evolves. Whether a cancer patient now or a survivor, Thank You everyone for your continued challenge to this disease. We will be victorious!
- ◆ Our 11 districts may be holding meetings or be in communications soon. I want to remind all Auxiliaries that they can begin to think **INSIDE THE BOX** – again

At the SPRING CONFERENCE – Each **DISTRICT** President is asked to bring a “Mystery ?? Shoe Box” to be raffled. This time, each district will be assigned a letter to their shoe box from the words **CANCER** and **LIGHT**. Those eleven letters will be the designation of the shoe box mystery ?? items. Ex.: The items in District 1’s shoe box will begin or relate to **C**; so, on and on.

Auxiliaries, please select an item for that ‘lettered box’ and get it to your district meeting/president to submit to the Cancer table at Spring Conference. Let’s enjoy the **FIGHT** to beat cancer with some interesting items.



Also, remember, you are still in the \$2 Cancer Ticket **TOTE** for the three (3) cash drawings held at the Spring Conference. If your Auxiliary hasn’t submitted their tickets yet, you can still enter them. Fill them out, write the check and send them to me at the address above. And, Good Luck in the Drawing!!

The aim to **“Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans”** extends to our wishes for a cancer cure soon! We remain **“Banding Together for Our Veterans”** as we spread “Kindness” to yourself and everyone - every day!

Loyally, *Phyl*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Happy 2024! By the time you read this, your Spring Conference information should have arrived. It was emailed to every Auxiliary President with an email on file, to be shared with members. If I have no email for the President, it went to the Treasurer or Secretary. ANY Auxiliary that didn’t receive it, or have it shared at their meeting needs to let me know. My contact information is in the Guidebook and on the Department website. The hotel deadline is Feb 21, 2024; dinner deadline is Mar 1, 2024; and registration/luncheon deadline is Mar 7, 2024.

Soon I will be sending the April election materials, which will include your Auxiliary election report-**PLEASE** fill it out **COMPLETELY** and **IMMEDIATELY** after your elections and send to me- **EVEN IF YOUR SECRETARY ENTERS THE INFORMATION IN MALTA**. I still need a copy. There will also be delegate forms to complete. The **Department** delegates and **National** delegates will be sent to me. Please complete them and send them **with your election report**- even if you don’t **think** anyone from your Auxiliary will be attending the Department or National Conventions. The **District** delegates will be mailed to your **District Secretary** whose address will be at the bottom of the form. And, as always, please read all directions carefully. Feel free to call me with any questions.

I also want to remind all Auxiliaries that when you have an officer change, you need to alert the Department so that I can keep our Directory information current.

Lastly, just before Christmas, I had to notify 59 officers in 39 Auxiliaries and one District that they had officers with unpaid dues. That’s halfway through the membership year. Please do your best to ensure your members know annual dues become collectible July 1st. Don’t wait until the Department sends notices in October to contact them. Any member not paid by Dec 31st is **NOT** in good standing; cannot attend meetings or hold office; or take advantage of Auxiliary benefits until dues are current. The last thing I wanted to do was contact people at holiday time, when money gets tight, to pay their dues. Auxiliary Presidents should also be prepared if your Auxiliary is not 100% as of Jan 31st. You will be contacted by a Department officer, who is required to file a report regarding why your Auxiliary is not 100%. This is a National requirement. Be kind and understanding when you receive the call- the officers are just doing their jobs. Better yet, let’s get those members paid before the phone calls start.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone for all the birthday cards, texts, and well wishes in whatever form they arrived. It is amazing to receive so much love. I am sincere when I say you are my Auxiliary family!

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

Loyally, *Christine*

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

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Years!

And now it's time to get ready for Spring Conference in March and get working on your "Buddy" Poppy displays for the annual contest. You can also use "Buddy" Poppies to decorate Valentine and St. Patrick Day gifts.

"Buddy" Poppy: Raffles and more at the Spring Conference:



- 5 baskets left from the fall conference will be raffled off.
- We will also be raffling a framed picture of "Buddy" Poppies made from Diamond Art poster kits.
- "Buddy" Poppy Display contest: Winners will be judged in 3 categories: Public Relations, Memorial or Inspirational, and Artistic or Decorative. There must be one "Buddy" Poppy in the original form and color with label attached. Entries must have a 3x5 card attached with the Auxiliary, District, and category information. Auxiliaries can only submit 1 entry. 1st place winners in each category will go to National.
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st (\$30), 2nd (\$20), and 3rd (\$10) place in each category.

National Home: Raffles and more at the Spring Conference:

- Each District that had all component Auxiliaries contribute to the Health and Happiness by Nov 30th will be entered into a \$20 raffle drawing. Auxiliaries can still donate at Spring Conference.
- Any member who purchased a National Home Life Membership will be entered into a \$50 drawing.
- A reminder to all District Presidents to bring in their Bird Cottage and turn in the money collected. The cottage is yours to keep.

I have received a lot of reports, and enjoyed reading what the Auxiliaries are doing - but some Auxiliaries are still missing. Please get your reports in for "Buddy" Poppy and National Home so we can be 100% in Reporting and also 100% in Health and Happiness for President Rose. Let's stand behind her and show our support. Hope you all have a Happy Valentine's and Happy St. Patrick's Day. Let our light be bright as we

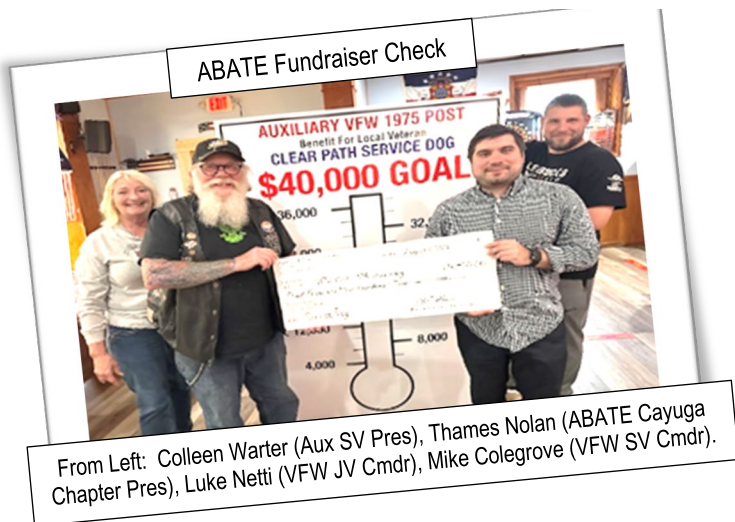


"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while "Banding Together For Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Flora*

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT
1975 ~ Auburn ~ Auburn, NY

VFW Auxiliary to Post VFW 1975, Auburn, NY, initiated a project to earn money to purchase a service dog for a local veteran. This project was spearheaded by Auxiliary Members Bonnie Barwinczak and Colleen Warter. The auxiliary has been working with Clear Path to achieve their goals. They have held fundraisers, raffles, dinners and more. The local Chapter of ABATE (Cayuga County) held a fundraiser motorcycle run to help them reach their goals. ABATE raised 4,400.00 to help with this project. Keep up the great work Auxiliary 1975! We applaud you!





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



Auxiliaries must submit at least one (1) program participation report and the completed year-end report must be received by March 31st, 2024, to be eligible for Department and National Awards.

Sometimes, mentoring happens without words – one member signals with their hands or a simple head nod, then the answering nod and smile. Mentor/Mentee connected without saying a word. Watch our members “*Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans*” while “*Banding Together For Our Veterans*” as they are mentors/mentees every day, at every event. Mentoring can happen without planning. It isn’t complicated; it can be simply “sharing” something you learned or something someone “mentored” to you. Congrats! You are a mentor! Now, report it!

AWARDS

Awards for Members: Citations awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place members with the most unique and/or creative way they mentored members to become leaders. Did you think outside the box?

Awards for Auxiliaries: Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or training that educates members on how to find and train mentees while using and promoting Auxiliary resources and learning materials. Did you try something new or different? List details in description section.

<u>Activity or Event Examples Only</u>	
School of Instruction or Training Day	Suggestions for the Good of the Order
Monthly Program Training under reporting	Social Hour before or after regular meeting
Newsletter (USPS or email or social media)	Contest, Game or Special Event
<u>Examples of Training Tool Examples Only</u>	
By-laws including 2023 changes	MALTA and Ambassador videos
Ritual including various procedures	Flyers, brochures and/or pictures
Building on a VFW Auxiliary Foundation	vwfauz.org and/or vfwauzny.org

Mentoring for Leadership - Auxiliary Award No. 1 Entry Form • 2023-2024: Required National Award entry form is available in MALTA Member Resources.

Loyally, *Judy*



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



Let’s Start the New Year off right!

We must never forget our Veterans and all they have given up for us. It is time to remember; the Ways and Means Program helps to offset administrative costs for the Department of New York, as well as, projects for our **Veterans and their Families**. Together, as team New York, we can reach 100% participation in our raffles.

The more Auxiliaries and members we have participating in this program, the more the Department of New York can do for our **Veterans and their families**. Please help! We can show our veterans how much the Department of New York really cares.

9-Month Raffle: is in full swing! October’s winner was Auxiliary 6778, Palmyra NY; November’s winner was District #9 Auxiliary; December’s winner was Auxiliary 420 District #3; and January’s winner was VFW Auxiliary to post 2770. Each monthly winner was also the seller and will receive an additional \$20 for selling the tickets. For all those Auxiliaries that have not yet participated in the 9-month raffle, get your tickets in ASAP. There is still \$720 yet to be won.



Spring Conference Scratch-Off Raffle: Each Auxiliary is asked to donate \$10 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets for the Spring Conference. Bring your tickets to Spring Conference and deliver them to the Ways and Means table. There will be a bonus Basket of \$100 worth of scratch off lottery tickets raffled off at Spring Conference. Come to Spring Conference and you could be the next winner!



Participation by all Auxiliaries in the entire Department of New York is needed to ignite and “*Light the Flame of Hope for our Veterans*” while “*Banding Together for Our Veterans.*”

Loyally, *Gene*

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

Happy New Year to all! I know from the reports I have received that so many of you worked hard to make sure that our Veterans holiday was merry and bright. Thank you so much for making a difference in their lives by showing them they were not forgotten! Our focus has always been Veterans Care, and you continue to do this on a daily basis. I was overwhelmed and warmed by the number of items that was donated to the various VA hospitals and facilities. It shows what truly hardworking and giving members of the VFW Auxiliaries are.



The following Districts are at 100% reporting: District 7 (the first!), Districts 2, 6, 8, 9, 4. There are some that are only 1 Auxiliary away from achieving 100%!

Have you been considering holding a non-traditional holiday celebration? There is still time to plan something; and many days to choose from. If you plan on doing this, remember to include the hospital staff in your celebrations with treats, gifts and special mementos. What a nice way to say thank you.

Once again, the link to find a month-by-month list of holidays is calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2024. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Spring Conference which will be here before we know it! 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*

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,

I hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season with your family and loved ones! With the New Year, brings new work for our Auxiliaries. On March 29, we will be observing National Vietnam Veteran’s Day. Let our veterans and community know they are not forgotten. I also have a few reminders for you regarding Spring Conference:

- Orders for the free Prisoner of War-Missing in Action flags from the Department will be available for pick-up.
- Sign the Honor Flight Thank You card for \$5. All donations will go to area Honor Flight Hubs. Or be sure to send in the form that was included in the Auxiliary President’s packets.

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

Loyally, *John*



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



Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers!

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

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*

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

Happy New Year to Everyone! Let's hope that 2024 will be happy and healthy for all of us. I would like to tell you the five basic steps in order to make your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful:

1. Find local groups and organizations than need assistance. Search local newspapers, nonprofit organizations in your community, websites and Facebook or ask your members what other organizations they belong to. Most organizations are short on volunteers; be eager to help them.
2. Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help them make their event successful. Do they need help setting up, tearing down, cleaning up? Manning stations, assisting participants, answering phones or serving.
3. Vote at your Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity. Once you have found an organization that needs your assistance, bring the activity back to your Auxiliary for approval. Have it in the minutes that one or more of your members will be participating. This can be a one-time event or a reoccurring event.
4. Form the partnership with the other organization. Be sure to show up on time and bring your "A" game. Wear your Auxiliary hat, shirt, pin or your badge that you got at the conferences. Be recognized as a volunteer from your Auxiliary.
5. Report the details. At your next Auxiliary meeting, report the number of hours each member participated and how many miles it took to drive to and from the event.

REMEMBER you are there to volunteer your TIME. If the event overlaps with another Program, it must be reported in that Program. Here are some ideas: serving food at a fireman's breakfast, helping a church with a dinner for the public, organizing books for a library tent sale, delivering meals to seniors, helping in the kitchen with the meals for the food, collecting items for food cupboards, distribute food baskets to the homebound or volunteering at the senior center.

Please Refer To The Guidebook For Upcoming Award Deadlines. Any Questions, Please Contact Me.

Remember, we are...**"Banding Together for Our Veterans"** to **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Peggy*



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

Martin Luther King Jr. said "The time is always right to do what is right."

I am receiving many reports, and from what's being reported, you are involved with the Legislative issues that your Senators and Assembly Representatives are working on. Again, this new generation of voters will be making the difference. The voting population includes young returning veterans, looking for change. We, the VFW and Auxiliary, have to be there to mentor the changes and teach what this 100 plus years of support means to our veterans, their families, and the community.

Action Corp Weekly - membership is growing and for you to stay informed, it's not too late to sign up: www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts. There are key bills in Congress, too many to mention at this writing, but available to you in your Action Corps Weekly. These are very interesting.

Legislative Priorities – The most recent VFW important victories include **1) Forever GI Bill** - the expanding of college education benefit for military service members; and **2) VA Mission Act** - ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve, whenever and wherever they need.

2024 Priority Goals: - Be sure to read about the 2024 Priority Goals – there is so much to learn:

- ▶ *Budget*
- ▶ *Education, Employment & Transition Assistance*
- ▶ *- Disability Assistance & Memorial Affairs*
- ▶ *Health Care*
- ▶ *Military Quality of Life*
- ▶ *National Security, Foreign Affairs, & POW/MIA*

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

Loyally, *Ann*



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



FEBRUARY – Happy Valentine’s Day and President’s Day!



This year, Department of NY’s VFW Auxiliary President Rose Cooper and Commander Dan Kell’s joint project is HOMELESS VETERANS. Donate to the Homeless Project on the form emailed to your auxiliary. Be loving and be generous! Remember, too, that the Department’s VFW is also holding a raffle to support the Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) of New York. Our VSOs work diligently to help our veterans and dependents with gaining benefits, educational services and help with any assistance needed. Raffle tickets have been received by your auxiliaries. Be generous!

February is cold! It’s 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 month, remember to also be thoughtful of their mental health. 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 in your community. 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!

***Special thanks for all your support of Holiday Cheer/Trees for Troops in the fall. Between the Department’s VFW (Ben Thompson and Proctor-Hopson VFW) and our Department’s VFW Auxiliary, 500 trees, decorations and menorahs were sent to Bahrain for distribution to our troops serving overseas at the holidays! ***

MARCH: March forward to send your Final Reports and National Awards!

Our goal this year: *100% of auxiliaries file their Final Veterans and Family Support Report by April 1, 2024. (Not Apr 2,3,4, etc-APRIL 1!) Submit at Spring Conference!* Remember, too, the National Award #1–Suicide Awareness and Prevention and National Award #2–Outstanding Program of Serving our Veterans and Families. You may submit those anytime during the year, **But** they are due at Spring Conference, by email/USPS by Mar 31st. Remember our Vietnam Veterans especially on March 29th. They have served our country to keep us free. We owe them not just a debt of gratitude, but the honor and respect they deserve. Honor them on their special day by holding an event at your post and auxiliary for them, by personally contacting them and by providing them the love they deserve. They are our spouses, family and friends. A special thank you to each of our Vietnam Veterans for your service. Welcome home!



Report! Report! Report! (You know how I love your reports.) Send those Final Reports and National Awards #1 and #2! Wishing you all a loving Happy Valentine’s Day, Presidents’ Day, St. Patrick’s Day and Vietnam Veterans Day – March 29th!

Loyally, *Dee*

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

A new calendar year has begun and another Auxiliary year is half over. We are going to begin the second half of President's Rosie's year with excitement over forming new auxiliaries? Yes, we are...

There are several VFW Posts trying to form an auxiliary. I would like to ask our organizers to send me an email and let me know the status. It is so important that our organizers and the VFW Post take each step and complete it fully before you move on to the next step of forming your auxiliary.

I just received a nice report from Marie and Lynda on forming Auxiliary 9593 in District 3. If you feel you need more help let us know and we will get you the help you need.

On the other hand, **Revitalization** is also so important. Many of our auxiliaries are in need of some type of assistance. We can help guide during these times. But, we cannot help if we do not know you are struggling.

My chairmanship overlaps several other chairmanships like membership and mentoring. Let's move our department to the top under President's Rose's leadership.

I hope you benefitted from our January Zoom meeting, where we reviewed audits. Our next Zoom is tentatively being planned for March – details will be forthcoming.

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

Loyally, *Marianne, PDP*

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

Dear VFW Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year! You are doing a wonderful job sending in reports. You are helping and assisting our youth in many ways by providing school supplies for students, purchasing and donating books to local or school libraries, hosting read-a-thons, giving out R.A.P. cards to youth who demonstrate patriotism, providing new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves or mittens to needy youth, providing Christmas gifts for children/families in need, and visiting Veterans in the VA medical centers.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the warmer weather as winter will soon be coming to an end. With that comes the point where our older youth will be considering what their future will look like. Now would be an excellent time to connect with your local school to host or co-host a career event where students can gain an insight into various careers where they can meet, talk to, and explore work opportunities with local employers.

Remember to bring your first-place winning entries for the Scrapbook & Poster/Collage contests to the Spring Conference! An index card needs to be attached to the back of each of the entries indicating the age of the student and/or grade category, Auxiliary name and number, and District.

The deadline to receive entries by your Auxiliary is March 31st for the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! singing of the National Anthem contest. The two grade divisions are K-8 and 9-12. Entries will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, interpretation and originality and entertainment value and must be received by the Department by April 15th. The same deadlines apply to the Illustrating America two-dimensional art contest for students in grades K-8. Entry forms with all requirements are located on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

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

Loyally, *Ruth*



Youth Activities at work in Auxiliary 7765!

Youth Activities Co-Chairmen Carol Wheeler and Michelle Wheeler organized their Auxiliary's annual Trunk or Treat on October 29. Due to the rain, the event was held in the hall. The kids that came colored Thank You pages for Veteran's Day, which will then be displayed at their Veteran's Day lunch. What a great way to incorporate Youth Activities and Veteran's and Family Support Programs together!!





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!

We have finished our first movie production for the Department of New York. I would like to congratulate those who starred in this production and became eligible for your Golden Awards. There are so many auxiliaries that are close to that magical number of 100%, that we will soon start casting calls for the sequel! I would like to award every auxiliary a Golden Award so let us get this movie started! Remember, our goal is to make Department President Rose shine bright on the red carpet, leading up to the Circle of Excellence.

If your auxiliary is not 100% in membership, a Department Line Officer will soon contact you to see if there is any way that your auxiliary may need assistance to reach that magical number. Has your auxiliary reached out to those unpaid members? It is important that we not only focus on new members, but we need you to retain our current membership. By reaching out to them, asking them if there is anything your auxiliary can do to help them, you may even find that they are willing to assist in an upcoming auxiliary project. If you find that the member is having financial difficulties, offer to pay their dues from your relief fund.

Please check your Program Guidebook, under the Membership Program for all awards that your Auxiliary could be eligible for. If there is anything I can do to assist you, please reach out to me.

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

Loyally, *Lisa*



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

Dear Members,

Now that we have sailed through the holidays, it is time to get back to work! We are currently at 94.13% in membership. There are currently 1340 lapsed annual members who have not paid their 2024 dues yet. We need to collect 1071 of those to obtain our 100% membership for President Rose Cooper. Department has sent a second dues notice mid-January. One was mailed to each unpaid annual member. While it is wonderful to have so many new members, we need to work harder on retaining our annual members. These are the people who built this organization. We cannot afford to lose their support, knowledge and experience!

There are several Auxiliaries that are still behind on requirements. If you have not submitted any of your audits, please make that a priority and submit them immediately. They can be scanned and emailed to me or sent by snail mail. The October-December 2023 audit is due by February 29, 2024. Chief of Staff Marianne McLane will be offering a Zoom training regarding audits on January 30, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Emails will be sent a few days prior. You can also get the information on the Department website.

Stay warm and safe! Please remember that the best time to reach me is in the evenings or over the weekend.

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

Loyally, *Kim*



CONGRATULATIONS!!

to the Winners of the Department of NY
 2023-2024 Stop-22 Walk-a-Thon Initiative!



- 1st Place, \$500 – Lt. John F. O'Grady Post 1384 & Auxiliary, Long Beach
- 2nd Place, \$250 – Dayton-Soehlke-Ohlhorst Post 5350, Westhampton Beach
- 3rd Place, \$100 – Francis E. Hibbard Post 4658 & Auxiliary, Greece

The criteria utilized for this years' competition included type of event, number of participants, local media coverage, newspaper articles and photographs. State Commander Kell would like to thank all that participated in this year's very successful event.

Words of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the sympathy cards, for the death of my brother. It is very much appreciated, quite overwhelming.

~ Loyally,
Cindy Campbell
PDP

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.

April/May articles are due March 5th.

Do you live outside New York? ~ No Problem !!

Sharon Connolly (Aux 7227), who resides in North Carolina, is shown here volunteering with the NC Pack for Patriots, a group that supports deployed troops with care packages and more. Be sure to report all your volunteer work, no matter where you live! Thank You Sharon!



Get Ready to Spring into Spring Conference!



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Department President Rose Cooper invites you to attend the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary Spring Conference at the Doubletree by Hilton, 225 Water St, Binghamton NY 13901, on March 15-16, 2024.

The Doubletree rate is **\$129.00/night** with a cut-off date for reservations of **February 21, 2024**. **Call the hotel directly at (607) 722-7575**, press 0 for operator and state that you are attending the VFW Spring Conference. Again, the **cutoff date for reservations is February 21, 2024**. Please bring your Tax-Exempt form.

The President's Luncheon on Saturday will be a sit-down meal with information for choices on the form for the cost of \$25. **Deadline for luncheon reservations is March 7, 2024.**

There will be a dinner on Saturday evening. The cost of the dinner is \$45 and there are three choices. **Checks and reservations should be sent to the VFW. Dinner is under the direction of the VFW- Please adhere to their deadline of March 1, 2024 and mail dinner reservations to them.**

Registration in advance is \$8 each and \$10 at the door. **Auxiliary deadlines are March 7- except for hotel which is February 21st and the 45+.** All forms can be found on the department website, www.vfwauxny.org, under the News tab, then Spring Conference.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Dee Ippolito and Chris Leavor
Spring Conference Co-Chairmen

Tentative Schedule:

Friday

- 1-5 pm: Registration in the hallway outside the North Ballroom.
- 1 pm: Budget and Advisory Meeting, Location TBD.
- 7 pm: Council of Administration Meeting, North Ballroom. Open to all members.

Saturday

- 7 am: Chairman at tables outside meeting room.
- 7-10 am: Registration in hallway outside North Ballroom.
- 8:30 am: Meeting begins in North Ballroom.
- 12 pm: President's Luncheon, Location TBD.
- 1:30 pm: Meeting resumes.
- 5 pm: VFW Cocktail Hour/Dinner