



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ April/May 2024

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

Hello Spring! I hope everybody had a safe winter. I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. In just a few months I will be turning the gavel over to the new President, Darlene Baker. As this year comes to an end, remember elections are coming up in April. Please be aware of the responsibilities that come with the offices for which you are being elected and become familiar with your responsibilities.

I attended the mid-year conference and had a Great Time on the cruise! I would like to thank those in attendance for the wonderful gifts, they will be cherished forever and will bring me great memories. Thank you to Dee Ippolito for accompanying me on this trip.

I attended the Legislative Conference in early March and was able to escort the New York State VOD winner with Commander, Dan Kell. It was an honor and a privilege. After the Legislative Conference I attended the Gold Chevron Ball in District 3, and had a very enjoyable time.

The Spring Conference followed soon after. I want to thank Chris Leavor and Dee Ippolito for working very hard to make the conference a successful event. I hope everyone had a great time, including the first timers, and enjoyed the luncheon. It was nice having National Conductor, Kim Harney, in attendance.

I know Dee Ippolito and Karen Scheuneman have been working hard planning for the National President, Carla Martinez's visit April 13 – 15th. There are a lot of great events happening that weekend. I hope many of you are planning to attend in Buffalo, NY. National President Carla enjoys playing games in the evening and I'm sure she will have some with her and hope many of you join the fun.

As a reminder, all year-end reports must be to Department chairman by April 1st to be eligible for any awards. Best of luck to all auxiliaries and congratulations on all the hard work you have done over the past year, don't let it go unnoticed. In order to be eligible for President of the Year your year-end report **MUST** be into me by April 10th. And don't forget to send your 45 year members into Debbie Fucina before the deadline of May 1st.

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

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585-403-1390
Navyvet8194@gmail.com

Department Secretary Christine Leavor

2027 Cemetery Hill Road
Franklinville, NY 14737
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Department Treasurer Kimberly White

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

Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette

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

PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

APRIL



MAY

8 – Mary Makosky, PDP
27 – Margaret Bergeron, PDP



MARK YOUR CALENDERS

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).

Apr 13-15.. National President Carla Martinez –
- Official visit to Dept of NY, Buffalo.

May 27... MEMORIAL DAY!
- Remember Our Veterans!



Jun 6-10... VFW and Auxiliary Dept Convention
~ Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 131 ~ JANUARY 16, 2024

Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 348 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Salt City Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 348, Syracuse, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to hold regular meetings.
2. Failure to communicate with assigned Suspension Committee.

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 Dept President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:

Carla Martinex
National President

Attest:

Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 136 ~ JANUARY 24, 2024

Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 3211 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Dept Pres and by order of the National President, the Charter of William M Gouse Jr Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 3211, Hicksville, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. The William M Gouse Jr Auxiliary to Post No. 3211, Hicksville, NY is hereby cancelled and dropped from the rolls of the National Organization as of January 24, 2024, which is at least sixty (60) days from the date of notification to finalize its business in accordance with the procedure listed below:

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 Dept Pres or his/her Rep for disposition as directed by the Dept C of A. 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 Dept of NY for disposition by the Dept C of A.
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 Dept President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:

Carla Martinex
National President

Attest:

Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 137 ~ JANUARY 24, 2024

Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 1466 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Dept Pres and by order of the National President, the Charter of Thomas J Duffy Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 1466, Beekmantown, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. The Thomas J Duffy Auxiliary to Post No. 1466, Beekmantown, NY is hereby cancelled and dropped from the rolls of the National Organization as of January 24, 2024, which is at least sixty (60) days from the date of notification to finalize its business in accordance with the procedure listed below:

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 Dept Pres or his/her Rep for disposition as directed by the Dept C of A. 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 Dept of NY for disposition by the Dept C of A.
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 Dept President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of:

Carla Martinex
National President

Attest:

Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer



Inspirational Message
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Belinda Cole

God, we profess our faith in You. You are the Light of the world, and in You there is no darkness. Forgive us for fearing and focusing on the darkness around us instead of being filled with faith and shining like the star in the sky that You have called us to be. Forgive us for the times when we have been the absence of light, allowing darkness to dwell in America. Thank you for the men and women who have stepped up to serve and protect our country. May they know the blessing of serving well. Thank you for your promise to never leave or forsake your people. We pray for the protection of our Armed Forces serving our country at home or abroad, whether in drills or in deployment. Help them to be strong and courageous and do not let them be discouraged. Help them to stay morally strong and free from untoward influence. Keep them healthy and free from sickness as well as injury. Guide them, be their eyes and their ears as they move about and carry out their order and missions. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

Letter of Endorsement for Darlene Baker ~ 6 February 2024

VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 5

To the Officers, Delegates and Members of the VFW Auxiliary, Department of New York:

District 5 members voted unanimously to endorse sister Darlene Baker for the high office of Department President.

Sister Darlene is a life member of Auxiliary 7325, Constantia. She joined in 2000 under the eligibility of her father, Dominick Volpe.

She is currently District 5's First Year Trustee and Deputy Chief of Staff; Past President of her Auxiliary, Council and District, positions she held for several years. She has also held the following positions: Dept. Youth Activities Chairman where she earned the 1st place award at the National Convention, Dept. Legislative Chairman; Dept. Scholarships Chairman where she earned 1st place at the National Convention; Dept. Veterans and Family Support Program Chairman. She also has been a Department Flag Bearer. Darlene is currently the Dept. Sr. Vice President.

Her daughter, Nicole, is a life member of Auxiliary 7325, and her husband, Ezra, served in the Army. Darlene's son Dominick is deceased. Darlene has two grandchildren, Taylor and Abigail. She has the full support of her family.

Sister Darlene's dedication and commitment to our Veterans and Active-Duty Military members is shown through her positions she has held as an Auxiliary Member.

We feel Darlene would be a great asset to the Department and are asking for your support in electing our candidate, Sister Darlene Baker, to the high office of Department President for the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary. We know she will represent our organization to the best of her ability with honor, grace, dedication, and the commitment she has always shown.

By order of District 5 President David Bennett.

Loyally,

Jackie Herbert, PDP
Secretary, District 5 VFW Auxiliary

Letter of Endorsement for Justine Robles ~ February 2024

VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 1

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Department of NY VFW Auxiliary,

Good Afternoon Madame President Rose, Madame National Conductress Kim Harney, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, Sisters and Brothers. We the members of District #1 and the PFC John P Czachor VFW and Auxiliary 5806 proudly endorse Sister Justine Robles for the high office of Department Senior Vice President.

Justine has worn many hats in her journey with this great organization. She started at the age of 6 with the Junior Unit, working her way up to Senior Advisor for Post 5806. In our Auxiliary she started as Guard and worked her way up to President multiple times. She also has experience chairing various programs, committees & fundraisers on different levels. She is a Past Brooklyn County Council President as well as a Past District #1 President. Justine is a life member of the PFC John P Czachor VFW Auxiliary 5806 since 2014, a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the St. Stanislaus American Legion Auxiliary 1771 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. She was also a member of the Greenpoint Memorial Day Parade Committee.

Justine is always there to help any Veteran or family member of, needing assistance. As well as sending care packages to our service members overseas. Justine believes there is no "I" in teamwork and when we all work together we will have a very successful year. She believes in God and Country and always sticks to her motto..."STAY TRUE TO OUR RED, WHITE AND BLUE."

In conclusion we the Members of District #1 and the PFC John P Czachor VFW and Auxiliary 5806 proudly endorse Sister Justine Robles for the high office of Department Senior Vice President.

Loyally Submitted,
Melinda Ingoglio
Secretary to the VFW Auxiliary 5806
District 1 Trustee

And
District #1 Members
along with

Members of the PFC John P Czachor Post & Auxiliary 5806

Letter of Endorsement for Belinda Cole ~ February 2024
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 3

Dear Madam President and Members,

At the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary to District 3 meeting on February 4, 2024, the members proudly voted to endorse Belinda Cole for the office of Junior Vice-President in the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for 2024-2025.

Belinda joined the VFW Auxiliary in September 2009 under the eligibility of her grandfather, Raymond Dube Sr, who served in World War II. Within her first year of membership, she knew this was her passion, so she became a Life Member.

Belinda has held many positions and chairmanships on auxiliary, County Council, District and Department levels. She is currently the Department of New York Chaplain.

Beginning In 2011, Belinda moved through the chairs of the Hudson Mohawk Counties Council before becoming President in 2015-2016 when she received County Council President of the Year for her outstanding leadership.

In 2014, Belinda entered her first District 3 office as Guard. With the confidence of the membership, she moved through all the chairs learning the responsibilities of each before assuming the role of District 3 President for 2019-2020, when she was awarded Runner-up District President of the Year.

In 2016-2017, Belinda was Color Bearer #4 for PDP Denise McHugh; in 2017-2018, Color Bearer #1 for PDP Karen Dotson; and in 2020-2021, Chairman of the Cancer Grant Program for PDP Mary Makosky.

In 2021-2022, Belinda held three positions: Dept Guard and Dept Legislative Chairman – at which she won National Legislative Program Awards #2 (best promotion of legislative education and member involvement) and #3 (outstanding performance) - for PDP Ruth Huber, and District 3 President, again winning Runner-up District President of the Year.

In 2022-2023, Belinda held the positions of Department Conductress for Jr Past Department President Lisa Raplee and, again, District 3 President.

On a personal level, Belinda played a vital role in the creation of the Global War on Terrorism Monument Organization in 2012. GWOT is a 501c3 organization whose primary goal was to raise money to build a monument that would honor our heroes from the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. With the love and passion Belinda showed for the cause, she was promoted to Co-Director in 2013. Under Belinda's leadership, the group raised over \$50,000 and the monument was built. Depicting all branches of service, it was unveiled in Crandall Park, Glens Falls, as part of the Veterans Day weekend ceremonies in 2018.

Belinda has been employed at the Stewart's Distribution Center in Saratoga Springs as a Staff Accountant since 2006. She has also been involved with the Stewart's Federal Credit Union Board of Directors since 2009.

Belinda married her husband Dan (whom she recruited as a VFW Auxiliary member in 2018) in September 2019. They currently reside in Hudson Falls with their six fur babies.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen DesForge, Secretary

By Order of Rebecca Sweet, President

*** **Belinda Cole is also endorsed by VFW Auxiliary 6196.** ***

Letter of Endorsement for Kimberly White ~ February 2024
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 3

Dear Madam President and Members,

At the VFW Auxiliary to District 3 meeting on February 4, 2024, the members proudly voted to endorse Kimberly White for the high office of Treasurer in the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York for 2023-2024.

Kim White was a life member of the Auxiliary to Louis W. Oppenheim VFW Post # 1019 before transferring to the Auxiliary to Schenectady VFW Post # 357. Kim joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of her grandfather, Clement W. McMahan. Mr. McMahan was a World War II veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart. Kim grew up at the Post, working bingo and dinner dances, and assisting with many Post functions with her grandparents, mother, sister and brothers.

Kim is the mother of two young men, 29-year-old Jared and 27-year-old Lucas. She is also the sole proprietor of Accurate Bookkeeping Services. With over 35 years' experience as a bookkeeper, Kim prides herself on providing big business quality to the small business. She uses the QuickBooks program for all her clients and is familiar with the budgeting process.

Kim has held many offices and chairmanships on all levels and has proven to be a dedicated, helpful and responsible sister. She attends all her Auxiliary and District meetings, Department Conferences and Conventions, and the National Convention. Kim has also been a National Aide-de-Camp twice.

We, the members of District 3, feel that Kim White has proven to be a wonderful asset to our organization. She has the dedication, background and experience and has proven herself to be an outstanding Department Treasurer. Kim has served our Department with honor, pride and honesty. We ask for your support of our candidate.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen DesForge, Secretary

By Order of Rebecca Sweet, President

Letter of Endorsement for Charlene Hooper ~ 10 December 2023
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 8

Dear Madam Department President Rose Cooper and Members of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York:

On Sunday, December 10, 2023, the members of District 8 endorsed Charlene Carnright as our candidate for the High Office of Chaplain for the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.

Charlene is a life member of VFW Auxiliary to Lt. Cyrus Guernsey Post #1323 located in Seneca Falls. She joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of her father, David Fournier, who served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam Conflict. She currently serves as Auxiliary President and served as the Auxiliary Treasurer from July 2014 until June 2023. Charlene is a life member of the VFW National Home.

Charlene served two terms as District 8 President, 2021-2022 and 2017-2018. In June 2018 she was awarded District President of the Year at the Department Convention in Albany. She currently holds the position of District 8 Guard.

Charlene was appointed Department Hospital Chairman for 2020-2021 and Department President's Special Project Chairman for 2022-2023.

Charlene's sons, Joshua and Anthony and granddaughters, Ciera, Brooke, Jasmine, and Ivy are very proud of her and pledge their full support as Charlene goes through the Department Chairs.

The members of District 8 ask for your support of our candidate, Charlene Carnright, as she seeks the high office of Chaplain for the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.

Loyally,

Karen A. Dotson, PDP
District 8 Secretary

By Order of Tina Roberts, District 8 President

Letter of Endorsement for Deanna Guyette ~ February 2024
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 4

Dear Madam President and Members,

It is the pleasure of District 4 VFW Auxiliary to endorse our candidate, Deanna Guyette for the position of Department Conductor. Deanna joined the VFW Auxiliary 7227 in 2000 under the eligibility of her father, Lawrence W Briskey, a WWII Veteran.

As a member of VFW Auxiliary 7227 Deanna has held several offices including President for seven years and is currently President. She has also held many chairmanships in her Auxiliary.

At this time she is currently serving as Department Guard and District 4 as the Treasurer and has also held many chairmanships on this level. She is also involved with her community and has served her community in many ways. In 2020, Deanna and her husband were the recipient of the inaugural "Make Every Day Matter Award."

Deanna has also received many VFW Auxiliary awards. Deanna and her husband Randy have been married for 29 years and are the proud parents of 3 children, Christopher, Brandon and Christina. They have 7 grandchildren.

It with great pleasure the members of District 4 VFW Auxiliary present the name of Deanna Guyette for the office of Department Conductor and we know she will fulfill her duties in an official manner.

Loyally,

Bonnie Burgy, Secretary
District 4 VFW Auxiliary

By Order of Peggy Schweitzer, District 4 President

*** Deanna Guyette is also endorsed by VFW Auxiliary 7227. ***

Dear Auxiliary Members:

Please complete and return the form recognizing your 45+ members by the May 1, 2024 deadline. It might seem a long way off, but with about 400+ recognitions anticipated, it would help me immensely if you could send your form asap. You can either email the form below or mail it via USPS. In addition, a fill-in version of the form can be found on the Department website, on the 'Secretary Notes' page. Be sure your Auxiliary Name, Auxiliary number, and District number are included on the form. Thank you to all the auxiliaries who have sent their forms in.

~ *Debb*, Deborah A. Fucina, Chairman, DNY Auxiliary 45+ Member Recognition

TO: Department of NY Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries, & Treasurers
FROM: Deborah A. Fucina, 45+ Year Member Chairman
DATE: December 29, 2023
SUBJECT: 45+ YEAR AUXILIARY MEMBER CERTIFICATES

It is my honor to be this year's 45+ Member Recognition Chairman for Department President Rose Cooper. Department of NY Auxiliary's **45+ Year Members** will receive a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing their years of Auxiliary membership.

In keeping with Department President Rose's theme, "***Banding Together for Our Veterans***" as we "***Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans***", I extend her appreciation to all 45+ Auxiliary members for their continued support of our great organization. Their dedication to our organization and our Veterans is truly deserving of recognition.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There is **NO** report in MALTA that indicates this information. Auxiliaries must review copies of Membership applications or Secretary's minutes to obtain the date a member is accepted.

Complete the form below and return it no later than **May 1, 2024**. Forms may be mailed via USPS or emailed to me. **Please allow at least 5 days for postal delivery.**

Deborah A. Fucina – 980 Beach Road – Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1202
Email: debbs95ss@verizon.net | Phone: 716-472-4784

Please use the back of this form, or submit a separate sheet, if you require more room to list members. Include **all the information** requested and print neatly in the list below. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in returning this information in a timely manner. Contact me if you have any questions.

Name of VFW Auxiliary: _____ **Auxiliary #:** _____

45+ Member's Name (Please Print)	Member Number	District #	Number of Years	Attending Convention YES or NO

Name of Contact Person (if there are questions): _____
Phone #: _____ Email: _____

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

- 📖 PDP Darlene Stanton-New Address/Phone: c/o Renee Davin, 11 Coble Court, Clifton Park, NY 12065, 518-203-4159
- 📖 Aux 478-New Meeting Date/Time: 1ST Wednesday, 4:00 pm
- 📖 Aux 1400-New Treasurer: Ruby Jordan, 314 Vanduzee St, Watertown, NY 13601, 315-782-5312, No E-Mail
- 📖 Aux 1417 President-Correct Phone Number: 607-267-3318
- 📖 Aux 1653- New Secretary/Treasurer: Christine Donaldson, (already current secretary)
- 📖 Aux 2721 Secretary-Correct E-Mail: bonitaterwilliger@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 4927-Correct Secretary: Andrea Mazzola, 51 Ruland Rd, Selden, NY 11784-1740, 631-388-9819, mistysonny@aol.com
- 📖 Aux 4927-New Meeting Date/Time: 4th Wednesday, 7:00 pm
- 📖 Aux 4947-New President: Pamela DelDuco, 36 Canal St, PO Box 239, Wurtsboro, NY 12790, 845-519-5028, pameladelduco@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 4947-New Secretary/Treasurer: Emily Kegler, (already current secretary)
- 📖 Aux 5861-New Treasurer: Patricia Spahn, 12776 Big Tree Rd, East Aurora, NY 14052, 716-860-4240, flowerladyea@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 6811 President-New Address: 4928 Spring Rd, Verona, NY 13478, 315-723-5313
- 📖 Aux 6811-New Meeting Date/Time: 3rd Monday, 6 pm
- 📖 Aux 7127 President-Correct E-Mail: theresaslabs@verizon.net
- 📖 Aux 7223 President-Correct E-Mail: countryfan_2000@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 7393 Treasurer-New Phone Number: 315-975-9053
- 📖 Aux 7414-New President: Kent Miller, 40 Sunnyside Estates, Middlesex, NY 14507, 585-472-6421, kentmiller65@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 7414-New Secretary: Susan Lincoln, PO Box 616, Canandaigua, NY 14424, 585-905-1252, tamara_evankovich@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 9594-New Secretary: Charlotte Davis, 273 Elm Ave East, Selkirk, NY 12158, 518-937-3334, cbreyear@gmail.com



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

Dear Members,

As of the end of February, we are at 97.70% in membership. 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!

Chief of Staff Marianne McLane will be offering a Zoom training regarding delegates and election reports on April 3, 2024 at 7:30 pm. Emails will be sent to each President, Secretary and Treasurer a few days prior. Please make sure that your email is correct in Malta. You can also get the information on the Department website.

Important reminder:- Any newly elected Treasurer must submit Form 8822-B to the IRS within 60 days of election. This updates the responsible person and address with the IRS so that they know who to contact regarding auxiliary business.

Stay warm and safe! Please remember that the best time to reach me is in the evenings or over the weekend. I hope to see you all at Spring Conference.

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

Loyally, *Kim*

President Rose and members of the Department of NY were gathered at the Mid-Winter Conference Cruise, Feb 12-16, Mexico & Bahamas





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



The year is coming to an end, but our work still must go on! Make sure that your Auxiliary is taking advantage of the VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide:

- What Auxiliary activities and events are newsworthy?
- What is the format for a news/press/media release?
- TV & Radio Public Service Announcement samples.
- Sample media interview with questions and answers.
- Sample News Release.
- A template for creating your own local fact sheet.
- Proven methods of generating publicity.

Press/media releases are a great way to get the word out about Auxiliary functions and what we are all about. Less is more! A few helpful hints include:

- ✓ Your release should not exceed one page; and never be more than one and half pages! The reason for this is reporters scan most press releases.
- ✓ Make sure you include all the important who's, what's, where's, when's and why's. Carefully proofread; use spell check; and then ask a friend to look!
- ✓ Always provide relevant links to your website or Facebook page, a copy of the National Fact Sheet and the National Elevator Speech where writers can learn more about your mission and what you have accomplished.
- ✓ Is this a story and a photo opportunity? If so, include a line at the top: Photo opportunity: then explain it!

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*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



I cannot believe how fast this year is going. I hope many of you were able to be in Binghamton for Spring Conference and that you found it informative and enjoyable.

Welcome to all the new officers who will be elected or re-elected this month. All Auxiliary Presidents or Secretaries should have received the election packet in their emails. Please look the forms over. There will be a Department ZOOM the first Wednesday of April at 7:30 PM where you will be able to ask any questions you have. Every District President receives the invitation. If your Auxiliary doesn't get it - ask your District President for the link. In addition, the link will be posted on the Department website, www.vfwauxny.org, under the Resources tab, click on the 'Did You Know' page. Some Auxiliaries make a small "party" out of the ZOOMs by getting together and attending together.

It is important to send election forms and delegates IMMEDIATELY after your elections, and then the properly signed installation form IMMEDIATELY after installation of officers. It seems like every year we are still trying to get the information in JUNE or JULY. April for elections- send- May for installations- send- All Done-Thanks.

When electing delegates, remember most Districts have 4 meetings a year and it is mandatory that someone from each Auxiliary be there. It does not always have to be the President and it does not always have to be the same person. Try to choose three or four people who at the very least can give up one meeting day a year. I always encourage as many members as possible attend as many meetings as possible because Districts are schools of instruction, and you get a direct line to what National and Department are asking the Auxiliaries to do. But, in all honesty to give ONE day a year to attend a meeting seems like so little to ask, given the sacrifices the veteran whose service one joined to honor made for us.

I remind any Auxiliary that has members who have been members for 45 or more years to send the recognition forms that were distributed in the Spring Conference packs to the Chairman, Deborah Fucina. The deadline might be in May, and it's easy to set it aside and forget, but there are literally hundreds of members deserving of recognition, and she cannot do all of them in a day or two. It is very helpful if you do them as soon as possible to give her time to do her job along the way.

I thank you all for "Lighting the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans." Hope to see you in June!

Loyally, *Christine*



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

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

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

District Participation: I've got to say thank you for all the reports received; the involvement is too numerous to mention. I can say this, District 6 is 100% (24 Auxiliaries) and District 2 is 99% (22 Auxiliaries). District 2 only needs 1 more Auxiliary to achieve 100% - **YOU CAN DO IT!**

Priority Goals: Let me stress the Priority Goals that Congress must act on:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Improve education benefits for our student housing, child care stipends, parity for Guards and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Crack down on unaccredited claims consultants known as **CLAIM SHARKS**.
- Eliminate service member and veterans suicide by addressing both clinical and non-clinical needs.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.

Voting Population: The voting population is young, 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.

REMINDER - The Legislative Year-End Reports Must Be Received by April 1, 2024.
"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" as we "Band Together for Our Veterans."
 Loyally, *Ann*

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

What a great Spring Conference we had in March!

Thank you to all that stopped by my table to get info on the "Buddy" Poppy and National Home.

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

- Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that brought in a "Buddy" Poppy display. The winners of the "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest were not available at the time of this printing, but will be announced in the next edition.
- Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets for the baskets, as well as, the framed Diamond Art Poster. Congratulations to all the winners, which will also be announced in the next edition.
- Mother's Day and Memorial Day are just around the bend. These special days are great opportunities to decorate something with "Buddy" Poppies. Parades will be coming up in May and you could pass them out. Let us remind those why we have the "Buddy" Poppy – for all the Men and Women who died to fight for our freedom. Freedom is not Free.



National Home: Drawings and more at the Spring Conference:

- There was a \$50 drawing for those who purchased a National Home Life Membership and a \$20 drawing for the District that had all component Auxiliaries make Health and Happiness contributions. Congratulations to all the winners, which will be announced in the next edition.
- With the Spring Holidays coming up, let us remember those that are at the National Home. You can send a donation to help purchase items for the Cottages or necessary upgrades at the National Home.
- Also they would love to get cards for Mother's Day, or birthdays, or a different holiday.

Thanks for supporting the "Buddy" Poppy & National Home. Hope you all have a Happy Mother's Day and a nice Memorial Weekend as we remember those that lost their lives for us. Thanks to everyone who sent in monthly reports and end-of-year reports. I loved reading all of the reports. Let our light be bright as we

"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" while "Banding Together For Our Veterans."
 Loyally, *Flora*



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”

Sec.806A – Auxiliary Installation

A. Auxiliary Officers shall be installed in their respective offices not more than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. (April 7th – June 6th).

C – Create **A** – Ask & Answer **R** – Remember & Relate **E** – Encourage

Mentors: Outgoing officers, and advisors, who are willing to share their knowledge and experiences.

Mentees: In-coming officers and chairmen.

“Mentoring Aides for In-Coming Officers and Chairmen:”

1. The **National By-laws – as amended July 26, 2023:**

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Auxiliary President – Sec. 810 & 810A | Auxiliary Vice Presidents – Sec. 811 |
| Auxiliary Secretary – Sec. 812 & 812A | Auxiliary Treasurer – Sec 813 & 813A |
| Auxiliary Trustees – Sec. 814 | Auxiliary Chaplain – Sec. 816 |
| Auxiliary Conductor – Sec. 817 | Auxiliary Guard – Sec. 818 |
| Patriotic Instructor – Sec. 819 | Various Flag Bearers – Sec. 820 |
| Historian, Musician, Soloist and Various Assistants – Sec. 821 – 823. | |

2. The **Booklet of Instruction – as amended July 26, 2023:**

Auxiliary Tradition & Procedures.
 Examples of the Secretary’s Minutes, Treasurer’s Reports, and Trustees’ Quarterly Audits.
 Record Retention Guidelines.

3. The **Ritual – as amended July 24, 2020; effective August 23, 2023.**

4. The **Building of the VFW Auxiliary Foundation, Version 2** Guidebook 1 –Officers’ Duties.

5. The **Building of the VFW Auxiliary Foundation, Version 2** Guidebook 2 – Chairmen’s Duties.

Always remember to **“Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans”** while **“Banding Together for Our Veterans”** and being a new member and/or officer, please **Smile, Share & Support** .

Loyally, *Judy*

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

Happy Almost Spring! -- the days are getting longer little by little, which probably makes most of us happy!

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is. What are you doing for others?” *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

This is the true meaning of our Auxiliary Outreach Program - forming a partnership with another organization to help make **their** event successful. You still have time to reach out to other organizations in your community; maybe the Lions Club, Rotary Club, local Garden Club, Senior Citizens, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Girls on the Run, Race for the Cure, Alzheimer’s Walk, local church soups, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Red Cross blood drives, Salvation Army thrift stores, local libraries, food banks and National Park Service.

Here are five (5) steps to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program a success:

1. Find local groups and organizations that need assistance.
2. Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help them.
3. Vote at your Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity.
4. Form the partnership with the other organization.
5. REPORT the details.

By the time you receive this, Spring Conference will be over and the Year End Reports will be due. Remember I cannot consider your Auxiliary for an award IF you do not send me a Year End Report. Unfortunately, I have not received a report from every Auxiliary this year. The District Presidents have been advised and each Auxiliary should have been contacted.

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

Loyally, *Peggy*



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



Cancer Prevention Action Week 2024, February 19th to 25th was just a short time ago. Its significant initiative aimed to raise awareness and empower individuals. Many considered making small changes in their daily routine to promote cancer prevention. Some practical steps you can take:

1. **Move More:** Incorporate physical activity into your day, even in small bursts. Whether it's stretching while waiting for your coffee or dancing in the kitchen while cooking, every movement counts. Emphasize the importance of staying active throughout the day.
2. **Prioritize Health Checkups:** Don't delay routine health checkups. Instead, prioritize your healthy lifestyle into your daily TO DO'S.
3. **Healthy Eating:** Make conscious choices about your diet. Even making a tiny change in your food selection can dramatically reduce cancer risk!

🌟🔗 Remember, these small steps can add up to significant improvements in your overall health. Let's join others who took those steps to create healthier habits and reduce the risk of cancer!

🌟🔗 Start your life-style changes with Kindness to yourself first; then pass that on to others.

Cancer Grant Fund Raffle: *The final three Drawings [\$75 – 1st; \$50 – 2nd & \$25 – 3rd prizes] were drawn at the Spring Conference, but the winners were not available at the time of the newsletter.*

Shoe Box Raffle: I would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the Shoe Box fundraiser. And a special Thank You to the 11 District Presidents who filled and submitted the shoe boxes, following the theme of CANCER & LIGHT.

I look forward to seeing you at the June Convention. But most of all, I hope you continue to **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans"** and remain **"Banding Together for Our Veterans"** as we FIND a Cancer Cure SOON.

Loyally, *Phyl*



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



Dear Members,

The Ways and Means Program is used as a means to raise money to help offset the operating cost of the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary. It is one way to help ensure that we have a successful year. The more you participate, the more we have to operate our Department and in turn help our Veterans.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERY VFW AUXILIARY DOES THEIR PART AND PARTICIPATES IN EVERY ASPECT OF THE WAYS AND MEANS PROGRAM.

If your Auxiliary has not yet participated, you still have time to get credit on the Department Program Report.

- ▶ To those Auxiliaries who have not yet participated, there is still time to enter and win.
- ▶ To those Auxiliaries who have participated, I thank you, and our Veterans thank you.
- ▶ Congratulations to the following auxiliaries in Districts #2, #7, #8 and #10 for reaching 100% participation in the Ways and Means Program so far this year.
- ▶ Don't forget to donate to the Marketing Program when you get those address labels, VFW Coasters, etc. They have been very supportive of our Ways and Means Program this year.
- ▶ Winners from the 9-month raffle have come from Districts #1, #3, #8, #9 and #10. Congratulations to the Auxiliary winners at our Fall and Spring Conferences. You could be the next big winner. There are still prizes to be awarded. Participate Now.
- ▶ There is no end-of-year report for the Ways and Means Program.
- ▶ Credit is required and is given for participation in the Department Program Report.

Together, we are **"Banding 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 Spring conference. A great big thank you to all of you that stopped by my table. Some upcoming days to honor/recognize in the months of April and May are listed below.

- ★ **April 5, 2024 – Gold Star Spouses Day** – A day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or as a result of service-connected injuries or illness.
- ★ **April 14, 2024 – Air Force Reserve Birthday**
- ★ **April 23, 2024 – Army Reserve Birthday**
- ★ **May 1, 2024 – Silver Star Banner Day** – Per Congressional resolution, it is an “Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans.”
- ★ **May 10, 2024 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day** – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.
- ★ **May 13, 2024 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day** – A day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.
- ★ **May 18, 2024 – Armed Forces Day** – Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- ★ **May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day** – A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military. Learn more about Memorial Day here.

Thank you everyone that has sent me their reports throughout the year. All year-end reports should have been sent to me already. Keep up the excellent work.

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

Loyally, *John*

OFFICIAL VISITS ~ PDP Bonnie Burgy, Coordinator
330 E. Bloomfield Street, Apt 2 ~ Rome, NY 13440
H: (315) 533-6426, C: (315) 225-9564 ~ bburgy@twcny.rr.com



CONGRATULATIONS!

to all the District Presidents and appointed inspectors for completing their Official Visits. For the first time in many recent years, the Department of New York is 100% in Official Visit reporting.

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

Loyally, *Bonnie, PDP*

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

Can you believe it?...Another Auxiliary year almost over; but there are still many items to finalize for our Department President Rose and our great organization. Extension and Revitalization Program as you have found out go hand and hand with Membership and Mentoring.

Have you logged onto Malta and gone to Members Resources and clicked on Extension and Revitalization to check the information available to be sure you have tried their ideas to help your auxiliary? It is very informative and ready to educate you as we all learn new ideas every day.

Don't forget that all of your program Year End reports are due to our Department chairman BY April 1st. Please do not report 'no activity'; that is NOT a qualifying Report.

A **BIG** Thank You for all you do for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

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

Loyally, *Marianne, PDP*



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 sequel for President Rose's film is continuing production, however we are running short on having enough extras to fill the role of members in good standing. Can you please help make sure our Department President gets to shine bright on the Red Carpet during the Circle of Excellence at our National Convention in Louisville!

I would like to thank all those auxiliaries that have been working so hard to help the Department of New York reach that magical goal of 100% paid membership. As I am drafting this article, we only need to have 421 members pay their dues to reach that goal. Several districts are remarkably close to being 100%. Please continue to reach out to those auxiliary members to see how you can help. Reach out to your auxiliary treasurer or president to see if you can be an angel and gift this year's membership to a member who may be going through a tough time. Your auxiliary can hold a 50/50 and the money raised could be used to help pay some of your unpaid members. These are just a couple more ideas to help get your auxiliary to 100%.

Please check your Department Guidebook for deadlines and requirements for awards at our Department Convention. Get your reports to me so you do not miss your chance at being recognized for all your hard work!

Let us all continue working as a team, and together we will be
"Banding Together for Our Veterans" as we **"Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."**
 Loyally, *Lisa*



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



APRIL – April showers bring... As you "Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans" and shower your love for our veterans and their families, remember that **1 in 5** homeless persons is a **VETERAN!** This year, the Dept of NY's VFW Auxiliary President Rose Cooper and Dept Commander Dan Kell's joint project is **HOMELESS VETERANS**. Donate to the Homeless Project on the form emailed to your auxiliary. Be generous! Make your checks out to "VFW Auxiliary-Dept of NY", earmarked "*Homeless*". Send to D. Ippolito, Chairman, 24 Blue Jay Circle, Lancaster, NY, 14086. **THANK YOU!**

With Spring comes spring cleaning. It's a wonderful time to donate those pieces of clothing that you "will never wear again." As the warm weather approaches, the need for food for our veterans' families continues. Plan now for "Stop 22" and your Memorial Day commemorations. Remember to include collections of food and monies for our veterans and their families in your events.

"Happy New Year-Reporting!" April brings the new reporting year! Start now to report your individual and group work for Veterans and Family Support. Each and all reports are welcome. The current chairman will forward each and all reports to the new Veterans and Family Support chairman for 2024-2025!

MAYflowers! May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Many of our veterans have experienced things that we at home can never imagine. Those experiences never dissipate and have resulted in a number of mental health issues including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and its associated symptoms of feelings or dreams, disturbing thoughts, sleeplessness, an increase in fight-or-flight response, and puts a person at a higher risk of suicide and intentional self-harm.



Each of us has a role in promoting mental health awareness. We need to take care of ourselves first to be able to take care of others. Practice mindfulness. Mindfulness is a type of meditation in which you focus on being intensely aware of what you are sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. It involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress. Your VA Hospital and their Suicide Awareness Coalition can help you plan your own program of mental health awareness activities. After you take care of yourself you will be able to take care of others and then recognize the need to help care for our veterans and their families. If you suspect anyone to be in crisis, call the **crisis line at 988, press 1!**

Very best wishes for a wonderful Spring and Memorial Day! Be Mindful! Hope to see you in June at the Department of New York Convention!

Loyally, *Dee*

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

Greetings fellow Brothers and Sisters as we are winding down the year!

I just want to say thank you for making President Rose Cooper's special project Higher Ground successful. I want to thank all the auxiliaries who sent reports, texts, and took my phone calls graveling for those last minute donations.

I know the program will not be 100% in donations, but I am hoping those auxiliaries will send in the year-end report. We did very well on the shirts and sweatshirts and the donations on the donation form.

I would like to thank the ones who went the extra and did a large donation. Every little amount helps. We still have until June to collect those last minute donations. Please, if you can help, please do so.

Thank you to everyone who stopped at the spring conference table - whether it was to chat or drop off a donation. I can't wait until the Department June convention to present the check to president Rose.

"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 that you all were able to attend our Spring Conference in Binghamton to hear our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners' speech. It was an honor for me to meet them. And the winners are:

Voice of Democracy

1st – Abigail Jung, D11, Post 10870, Smithtown

2nd – Avery Mack, D5, Post 369, Mexico

3rd – Kseniia Zueva, D2, Post 7172, Staten Island

Patriots Pen

1st – Gianna Zhang, D3, Post 8692, Albany

2nd – Lauren Marie Fay, D7, Post 26, Lima

3rd – Gianna Lazzaro, D6, Post 6251, Lancaster

Congratulation to all of the winners! Remember that your art entries are due to me for Department judging by April 15,2024. I would like to Congratulation Districts 4,6,7,8,9 and 10 for being 100 % in reporting, while the others only need 1 -4 more for 100%. Don't forget to send me your end of the year reports so you can qualify for the awards that your Auxiliary has worked hard for.

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

Loyally, *Joan*

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

Wow! I can't believe how quickly the reporting year has flown by. It has truly been a great learning experience for a first time Department Program Chairman. I am and always will be grateful for the opportunity to serve as a Department Chairman for the State of New York.

Congratulations to all the Districts that have achieved 100% reporting. And as always, thanks so much for all the reports I have received either through e-mail or the good old US Postal Service. It has been a pleasure to read each and every one!

The Spring Conference is behind us and it was a pleasure seeing everyone. I want to thank all the auxiliaries that submitted a year-end report.

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, they truly appreciate all you do.

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*



**SPECIAL REMINDER:
VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez
is visiting the Department of New York!!
April 13-15, 2024**

As host to National President Carla Martinez's official visit to New York, Department President Rosalie Cooper has the following activities lined up:

- Visiting the Western New York Freedom Lounge at the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport
- Touring Buffalo by car; to include Frank Lloyd Wright House, AKG Art Museum and Buffalo Naval Park
- Dinner at Amherst Township VFW Post #416, Williamsville
- Visiting the Lucy-Desi National Comedy Center and Museum
- Lunch at the Tropicana Restaurant

More information will be forthcoming from Co-Chairmen:
Karen Scheuneman, 585-492-1994, wdstock90@yahoo.com
Dee Ippolito, 716-440-3411, dee.ippolito.017@gmail.com



**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,

Winter will soon be behind us. I hope everyone is looking forward to warmer weather. Are you taking advantage of what might be a little down-time that is left before Spring planting gets underway to engage our youth in our programs, volunteered to read to a classroom of young children, visited a hospital or nursing facility with a youth group your Auxiliary is sponsoring? With that also nears the end of the school year. Has your Auxiliary partnered with your Post to support a summer camp and/or program for children with special needs? Summer camps and programs can provide special needs children with opportunities to build their independence, make new friendships, and engage in new or different activities. Some programs charge significant fees while others offer financial assistance to offset the costs. Be sure to report details about your event, how much money was spent, the number of hours involved, the amount raised, and the camp and/or program you donated to.

Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans: Is your Auxiliary working with a youth group or encouraging youth to get involved in activities or projects that will benefit a Veteran or his/her family? Many stores will have fleece fabric on sale as warmer months approach. No-sew tied fleece blankets or lap robes are easy projects and sure to be a hit and provide hours of comfort! You just need fabric and a pair of scissors. Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations and the Patriotic Youth Award are FREE to download from National Headquarters. These citations are a great way to recognize and honor the hard-working youth of the community and of the Auxiliary. There are so many opportunities for your Auxiliary to submit a citation request for a project that a youth group has done in your community. It can be a group from scouts, a school group like ROTC, or your own group you have created within your Auxiliary. Make it special when you present the youth group with the citation; have an ice cream social and invite youth, their parents and all members. Send me your completed applications so you can recognize and honor these youth groups in your community. Oh, the wonderful things we are doing!

To those of you who are communicating our cause and events to the world on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube channels, sending reports, pictures, and/or new ideas thank you. You have made my heart so very happy and I am so proud of all of you who are giving of yourselves to **BE** the **DIFFERENCE!** Please don't forget that I need to receive your year-end report by March 31st to be eligible for a Department Award.

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

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.
June articles are due May 5th.

Words of Thanks

The family of Firth Turner would like to thank all members of the VFW, Auxiliary, and Cooties, for their condolences. We appreciated all the thoughtfulness at this time.

~ *Loving Wife,*
Benita

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Calling All Students !

OFFICERS TRAINING INSTITUTE (OTI)
August 9-10, 2024
SAVE THE DATE!



The Department is once again having an Oti weekend.

This is not just for Officers- it is for all, especially new members.

This year OTI will be held August 9-10, 2024 at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton.

More details will follow- BUT be sure to save the date and plan to join us for a weekend of Fun, Making new friends, and learning about the VFW Auxiliary programs, traditions, and more!

