



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ August 2024

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

It is an honor and privilege to be serving as your duly elected Department of New York VFW Auxiliary President for this year. I am so grateful to those who carried our great organization through such a challenging time over the last few years. It is through their challenging work and dedication that has gotten us all to the point of now being able to have in person meetings and conferences.

To PDP Karen Dotson, there are not enough hours in the day to say "THANK YOU" for all you have done to help the TEAM prepare for the 2024-2025 year. To PDP Jackie Herbert, thank you for your wonderful words on the nomination speech. To all of the members of District 5, especially Aux 7325, 3146 and 1371, there are not enough words to express my sincere appreciation for all you have done. In memory of Florence Banks, Past Dept President and my friend, we hope to make you proud with the Team we have assembled.

I also want to give a big SHOUT OUT to Chris Leavor, to once again agreeing to the position of Secretary. Her wisdom and knowledge were a great start to kicking off the year. A special SHOUT OUT also to Ruth Huber, PDP, Karen Dotson, Advisor/Chief of Staff/PDP, and Kim White for her knowledge of the budget process and preparing the budget.

My Special Projects are the VA Hospital Maternal Care and the VA Hospital Whole Health Program for the Women's Clinics supporting our female veterans, as well as, donations for the baby showers that are held in those VA Women's Clinics that provide that event. All money raised through the travel mug, coffee cup and special shirt pre-orders will go to the VA Women's Clinics, as well as, what is collected through the donation report forms to the 13 VA facilities across New York State. We also have the Homeless Project which is joint with the VFW Department of New York and Commander Kell. We will be supporting Homeless Veterans shelters in Buffalo and Syracuse.

Auxiliary Presidents, I encourage you to review all the materials you received in your President's packet. The guidebook will give you all the information you need for this year's programs. The Donation Report form can be found on page 5 in the guidebook. Send the completed Donation Report form, along with your Auxiliary check, to Dept. Treasurer, Kim White by September 30, 2024.

I am looking forward to Officer and Member Training School at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Binghamton, NY August 9 – 10th. The training session will be informative and interactive for everyone who attends.

The incoming National President, Brenda Bryant, will make her official visit to New York during September 16 – 19, 2024. More details to follow as we await on her travel plans. Her Special Project is "Operation Bottom Cover" which is a non-profit organization that provides diapers and wipes to those service members on overseas bases because of the cost of obtaining those goods. Flyer will be posted on the Department website.

All District Presidents are reminded to send me a list of your meeting dates so that I can complete my schedule for my visits. If you have any other events you would like to be put on the Department Calendar so that, if I cannot attend, I can have another Department Representative placed on the schedule for your event. I will do my best to accommodate all requests.

As I look forward to my year meeting and working with our members, we will be

"Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!"

Loyally, *Darlene*

Darlene Baker, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Department President Darlene Baker
42 Willard Dr, Bernhards Bay, NY 13028
315-657-6909, dbaker1017@aol.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, kwitewvlt@aol.com

Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette
43 High Street, Carthage, NY 13619
315-493-7520, dgullquist@verizon.net

PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

AUGUST

15 – Mary Kreuzer, PDP
21 – Denise McHugh, PDP
27 – Nina LeFrois, PDP



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Aug 9-10... OTI (Officer Training Institute)
~ Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY

Aug 31... Joint Homecoming for Dept Cmdr Dan and Pres Darlene, **RSVP: Aug 17**, to Pres Darlene, dbaker1017@aol.com.

Aug 31... **DEADLINE** to submit Q2 (Apr-Jun) Audit to Department Treasurer Kim White.

Aug 31... **DEADLINE** to process Bond – or risk suspension. ~ **If before JULY 31**, higher points given for the Circle of Excellence.

Sep 2... Labor Day

Sep 6-8... CAFÉ Event. Details will be forthcoming.

GENERAL ORDERS # 1 ~ AUGUST 2024 – (Must be read at the FIRST meeting following receipt before being filed.)

1. Having been duly elected by acclamation and installed as Department President at the 99th annual convention held June 7-9, 2024 at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY, and working in accordance with the Bylaws and Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I, Darlene Baker, hereby assume command of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York. All previous having appointments are declared null and void and the new officers and chairmen assignments are now in effect.

2. Official communications intended for the Department President shall be addressed to: Darlene Baker at:
42 Willard Drive, Bernhards Bay, NY 13028

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. The VFW Auxiliary President shall countersign all checks drawn by the Treasurer. VFW Auxiliaries may not possess ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) cards, and/or debit or credit cards. The disbursement of money shall be upon motion made and passed at a meeting with the exception of the transmittal of membership dues, which does not require a motion. Refer to Sec. 801A- Auxiliary President of the current Bylaws.

7. VFW Auxiliaries are reminded to donate to the Cancer Grant Fund based on Auxiliary membership quota as of June 30, 2024 and are asked for donations to be made through MALTA by the Auxiliary Treasurer.

8. VFW Auxiliaries are encouraged to donate a minimum of \$0.10 (10 cents) per member for the VFW National Home for Children "Health and Happiness" based on the June 30, 2024 membership quota. Treasurers may process this donation directly through MALTA or mail a check made payable to "VFW Auxiliary" earmarked Health & Happiness" directly to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 West 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

9. Inspectors are required to attend a School of Instruction held in their respective District. Official visits (on all levels) are to be completed by **January 15, 2025**.

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

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

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

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

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

15. It shall be the duty of the Auxiliary Trustees to properly audit the books and records of the Treasurer and Secretary no later than thirty (30) days following the expiration of each quarterly period. Refer to Sec. 814-Trustees, Duties (All Levels) of the current Bylaws. Quarterly Audit report forms must be received by the Department Treasurer no later than sixty (60) days following the end of each quarter as follows: August 31st (April 1-Jun 30); November 30th (July 1- Sept. 30); February 28th (Oct 1- Dec. 31); May 31st (Jan. 1- Mar. 31, 2025). The quarterly Audit report form should be submitted to the Department Treasurer, Kim White, by USPS mail or scanned and emailed only. The Audit report form may not be sent via text message.

16. Auxiliaries should submit the 2024-2025 Donation Report Form by September 30, 2024 to the Department Treasurer.

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

BY ORDER OF: *Darlene Baker*, Darlene Baker, Department President
ATTEST: *Christine Leavor*, Christine Leavor, Department Secretary

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 235 ~ JUNE 21, 2024

Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 4927 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Tordik-Diederich-Duffield Auxiliary to VFW Post No.4927, Port Jefferson, New York is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to fill Officer positions for 2024-2025.
2. Auxiliary voted to surrender their Charter.

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

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

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 240 ~ JUNE 24, 2024

Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 8137 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Thurston-Schramm-Reynolds Auxiliary to VFW Post No.8137, Montezuma, New York is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install Officers for the ensuing year.
2. Auxiliary voted to disband and surrender their Charter.

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

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

Congratulations To All The Department Award Winners!!

The following awards were unavailable for the June Newsletter and were announced during the June 2024 Convention.

PRESIDENTS AND RUNNER-UP PRESIDENTS OF THE YEAR

Auxiliary President of the Year

GROUP 1: Julie Sherman, Aux 3529, D5
GROUP 2: Amber Sullivan, Aux 7276, D2
GROUP 3: Karen Dotson, Aux 412, D8
GROUP 4: Lori Juskiewicz, Aux 7765, D2
GROUP 5: Rachel Delduco, Aux 5491, D2
GROUP 6: Deanna Guyette, Aux 7227, D4

Auxiliary President Runner-Up

Ann Ferguson, Aux 5861, D6 (posthumously)
Gina Rabideau Norton, Aux 3357, D9
Joan Russell, Aux 1374, D2
Frances Inslee, Aux 9592, D10
Jackie Ervolina, Aux 1384, D10
Ruth Huber, Aux 8734, D6

District President of the Year: Judy Lefebvre, District 9
District President Runner-Up: Gene Shaw, District 2

DEPARTMENT MEMBER OF THE YEAR ~ Ruth Huber, PDP, Chairman

***** Margaret Sheldon, Auxiliary 2522 (D6) *****

MEMBERSHIP ~ LISA RAPLEE, PDP, Chairman

- * **Award 7:** \$100 Drawing for attaining 100% plus 1: Auxiliary 7545 (D6)
- * **Award 8:** \$50 Drawing for converting the most annual members: Auxiliary 524 (D5)
- * **Award 9:** \$100 Drawing for a membership drive with 5 new members/1 life: Auxiliary 6533 (D6)
- * **Award 10:** \$150 Drawing for a membership drive with 10 new members/5 life: Auxiliary 524 (D5)

WAYS AND MEANS ~ GENE SHAW, Chairman

- * **9-Month Calendar Raffle Winner – June \$200:** Auxiliary 7127 (D5)

LEGISLATIVE ~ GEORGIAN DAVIS, Chairman

- * **\$50 - Most Outstanding Aux Excelling in Legislative Education:** Auxiliary 8649, D8
- * **\$50 - Most Outstanding Aux Excelling in Legislative Participation:** Auxiliary 1419, D6

Inspirational Message from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Charlene Carrright

*Lord bless all those who wear the uniform,
who serve our cities, our nation, our people.
Bless their families. Bless those they love.
Give them your great favor, this day, and every day.
Thank you that in our nation today,
we are free to worship. We are free to pray.
We are free to read your Word.
We are free to speak. We are free to share.
For this, we are incredibly grateful.
Yet, we understand how quickly
these freedoms can be taken away.
Give us an increased awareness
of the spiritual battle we're in.
Help us to stand strong in you and for your purposes.
Thank you that as believers, we can be assured,
you never leave us, and you are with us always,
in this life, and the next. Amen.*



Mary Kreuzer sends her heartfelt thanks to everyone for all the cheerful cards she received while recovering from her broken ankle. She would like to share her wall of love that was built from all her Auxiliary family!

LEGISLATIVE ~ Tina Roberts, Chairman
1215 Crawford Road ~ Dundee, NY 14837
H: (607) 243-8011 ~ C: (315) 694-0326 ~ tinaroberts@frontiernet.net

Hello fellow Auxiliary members!!!

It's the start of a new year and we need to get our seasoned and new members educated by reviewing the **VFW Priority Goals** which are updated every January and can be found on the **vfw.org website**. Click on Advocacy and select Legislative Priorities. You can also visit **vwfwauxny.org**, click on Legislative and go to **2024 Priority Goals**. These goals will keep us informed of the key issues the VFW will be advocating on our Veterans' behalf: Budget, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Health Care, Military Quality of Life and National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA.

Sign up for the FREE "VFW Action Corps Weekly." This is a weekly email newsletter that will keep you informed about Legislation that is being introduced and/or passed. Links are provided for us to participate by taking action in contacting our local senators and representatives.

We have a call to action at this time. We are asking our Congressional Representative to Pass H.R. 8371, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, and send this VFW supported BILL to the Senate.

Let's get others involved: We, as citizens, have an obligation to make our country safer and improve the quality of life for all of us. You can take action now:

- 1) Get out and **Vote**
- 2) Get others involved
- 3) Call, write, and email your elected New York and US Representatives and Senators
- 4) Make your voices heard.

Report on a monthly basis on what your Auxiliary and its members are doing to support our Veterans

***"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans" while
"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and their Families"***

Loyally, *Tina*

AMERICANISM ~ PDP Rose Cooper, Chairman
3 Elm Street ~ Cuba, NY 14727
(585) 403-1390 ~ navyvet8194@gmail.com

What exactly is Americanism? Theodore Roosevelt stated "But I wish to be distinctly understood on one point."
"Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."

Hello! Wow, it is hard to believe that we're already in July. Where has the time gone? The Americanism program has all the same entities it has had in past years. This year we would like to focus on the "lesser" known patriotic Holidays, such as **Armed Forces Day**, which is the third Saturday in May and Honors All members serving in the military - unlike **Memorial Day** which is to Honor those who sacrificed their lives during service, and **Veterans Day** which is dedicated to Americas Veterans. **Flag Day**, which is June 14th is another one. I know these dates have passed but just a reminder that there are days that go unobserved. **Loyalty Day** is yet another day that is not observed. It was proclaimed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a day for declaring loyalty to the United States of America and to acknowledge American history.

Your Presidents packets included **Honor Flight** information and **Wreaths across America** information. I am pleased to say that I have already been in receipt of some of your checks and forms, and will forward them on to Department Treasurer, Kim White. The price of the wreaths are 1 for \$17 and 3 for \$34; the only thing is that all 3 wreaths must go to the same cemetery.

The guidebook references the "**STAR**" families; **Gold Star**, **Blue Star**, **Silver Star** and the ever forgotten **White Star**, which is for families who have lost a loved one to suicide; whether military or first responders, there are still way too many suicides to mention. To learn more about the white star you can go to **onetribefoundation.org**.

PATRIOTIC DATES TO REMEMBER: **August 1:** U.S. Air Force Day ~ **August 4:** U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

Thank you for all the reports I have received so far, Please continue to **REPORT!!!** *Let us continue*

***"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and their Families"
"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans."***

Loyally, *Rose, PDP*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Welcome, Auxiliary Family, to a new year of service!

Department President Baker has been installed and her Officers and Chairmen have already been working hard. Please be sure to read the General Orders #1 and President’s Message from the Auxiliary News at your meeting. The Auxiliary News is an OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION and meant to be shared at your meetings under official communications, especially the President’s letter and any special or general orders. In addition, communications from Department Chairmen and officers are official communications. Sometimes my messages are sent to the Auxiliaries by way of the District President and/or the District Secretary. That does not make them any less OFFICIAL. Sometimes a President does not have an email address on the election form, and then I send to the Secretary or Treasurer. And sometimes I send messages to all three to be sure at least one will receive it and take it to a meeting.

Communication is very important. I wish I had a nickel for every Auxiliary that told me they did not know about dues increasing - it was sent as a memo from National, and from me to every Auxiliary to prepare and consider adjusting dues before July 1st. Your Auxiliary Treasurer is now the only one who can change your dues if you are not charging at least \$20. If you do not change them, starting July 1, \$20 will be deducted every time you transmit an annual member’s dues. If you are not charging at least \$20, your Auxiliary will be paying the difference. If you need help, I can walk you through it. My contact information is on page 2 of the Guidebook.

I mailed Guidebooks and Chairmen’s promotional materials to ALL Auxiliary Presidents who did not pick them up at the Convention. Some were picked up by the District President and if you have not received them you need to ask the District President. Some of the material is time sensitive.

To prepare for your official visits, be sure to have your bond, your ACCEPTED 990E Postcard, and your last four (4) audits ready for inspection.

As you receive this, you are hopefully making your preparations to head to Binghamton for OTI. Remember, despite its name, it is NOT just for Officers. It is for MEMBERS - new and “less new” - to learn about the organization, changes in bylaws, and hopefully to encourage them to take a step up the leadership ladder.

Lastly, some of your Auxiliaries are already changing officers. Please remember, to always notify the Department Secretary when your Auxiliary has any officer change, and keep MALTA updated with name changes, addresses, phone numbers, email changes and deceased members. Have a great year

Loyally, *Christine*



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

Congratulations to Department of New York President Darlene Baker, line officers, staff and all the members of the Great Department of NY! Best wishes as under President Darlene’s leadership we build on the foundation of veterans and family service and ***“Soar Into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and Their Families!”***

This year, the Veterans and Family Support Program is again focused on supporting the VFW’s goals of serving veterans through National Service Officers (NVS) Support and Veterans and Military Support Programs(VMS). Donate generously on the Donation Form 1 in your 2024-2025 Program Guide. We also are continuing to focus on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

STOP 22: Plan NOW to hold a Stop 22 Walk in your community. Provide information to the participants as you collect \$1(or more) as a donation for their “walk”. Ask all to walk at least 22 minutes in support of our veterans and military in crisis. Of course you may choose to do another activity, i.e., run, shop, sew, knit, bake, etc. for 22 minutes. Remember to use social media at your local level, and department level as well as print media to advertise your efforts! AND, REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!

“HOMELESS VETERANS”: We will continue to support our National President and Commander’s Joint Project, HOMELESS VETERANS. 1 in 5 Homeless People are our VETERANS! Help the VFW Auxiliary and VFW to provide food, clothing and shelter to our Homeless Veterans through your donations. Contact your VA Homeless Program, local Veterans’ Homeless coalitions for other ways you can assist in this effort to stem homelessness.

Very best wishes for a successful year as we are ***“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families”*** and as we move ***“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.”***

Loyally, *Dee*

AUXILIARY OUTREACH ~ Judy Lefebvre, Chairman
316 Pellerin Road ~ Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 593-5628 ~ biljud@aol.com

REACH OUT & PARTNER to VOLUNTEER TIME!

Who? Auxiliary members and their non-profit organizations.

What? Volunteer hours under the supervision of their partners.

When? After the motion has been approved and recorded.

Where? Anywhere Aux members volunteer **TIME** that benefits the community, animals and/or environment.

Why? Auxiliary visibility improves our image and could increase membership. Area communities have been helping veterans and their families for years – now is the **TIME** to “pay it back.”

How to get credit? Report to the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman, by email or USPS, the Auxiliary approved and recorded motions for the **TIME** members volunteered to make their partners events/missions successful while wearing Auxiliary attire or items that make you easily recognizable as: “VFW Auxiliary.”

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- 2023-2024 motions became invalid April 1, 2024. New motions are required for 2024-2025.
- Auxiliary Outreach is for donated **TIME** only. Projects/events must be organized/controlled by groups to benefit or improve the community, its residents, animals, and/or environment.
- Auxiliary fund-raising events, raffles, etc. for non-profit organizations ARE NOT Outreach.
- Monetary donations and/or purchased items, such as: clothing, toys, etc. ARE NOT Outreach.
- Auxiliary members volunteering **TIME** must be easily recognizable as VFW Auxiliary members.
- Auxiliary members, who are Board members of approved partners, CANNOT report their hours.
- Events may be held at the Post Home but must be organized/managed by the non-profit partner.
- Projects that are reportable to other VFW and/or Auxiliary Programs Chairmen CANNOT be reported as Outreach; for example: Americanism, Hospital, Veterans Family Support or Youth.

Fall Conference: All Auxiliaries who report approved 2024-2025 motions, partners, attire worn, and **TIME** with partners by Sep 30, 2024, will be entered into a \$25 drawing. Reports accepted via email or USPS.

“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”
“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!”

Loyally, *Judy*

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

Stomp! Clang! Bang! My goodness, what’s happening? Those noises are the sounds on my front porch from the mailman delivering lots of envelopes with Hospital reports, and my phone keeps making noises letting me know another report has come via email. This means that another reporting year has started, and I am very excited to be the Hospital Program Chairman for 2024 – 2025.

As always, thank you to the Auxiliary members reporting all they continue to do during April, May and June. The photos you are sending shows the hard work you put into your efforts. You are all like energizer bunnies! You keep going and going and going. You are the bridge that fills the gap between the families of veterans who cannot always visit and being their **ray of sunshine**. If you can’t visit a veteran facility, you can help by making gift bags or treats and sending them to the facility. Your activity director will let you know what is needed for both male and female veterans.

Gift cards to local businesses is another great way to help our veterans with day-to-day needs. There are many ways you can **“be the ray of sunshine!”**

The Hospital Program in the Guidebook provides a lot of information on this very important program. Check out the Program Swap List for ideas on how you can integrate other programs and make an even bigger difference. And remember, we are,

“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families” as we go
“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.”

Loyally, *Agnes*

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION/MENTORING ~ PDP Karen Dotson, Chairman
19 Calgary Lane ~ Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 648-9271 ~ kdvwaux@aol.com

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 program year as we are “Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families.” At the beginning of each new program year, there are commonly asked questions by Auxiliary Officers and members. Below are questions and answers to help kick off a successful 2024-2025.

1. I am a newly elected or re-elected Auxiliary President. What do I need to provide to my Post Commander?

Ans. Refer to Bylaws Sec. 810—President Duties of - The President, within 30 days after induction into office, shall submit to the Commander the last quarterly audit and membership status report. (You may provide a copy of the most current Audit and notate the total number of Auxiliary members.)

2. How should I prepare for my first meeting?

Ans. a. Begin by reviewing the 2024-2025 Program Guidebook that was included in your President’s packet. Highlight due dates and requests for each program. Provide Auxiliary Chairmen with a copy of their program. Additional Program books may be purchased for \$7 each. Contact the Dept. Secretary.

b. Prepare a written agenda prior to your meeting. Ensure that you have the most current edition of the Podium Book, along with a gavel, your agenda, and copy of *Auxiliary News* for each of your meetings.

3. When is the April – June Audit due?

Ans. Refer to Bylaws Sec. 814—Trustees, Duties of - The *trustees* should complete the April 1 to June 30, 2024, audit prior to July 31, 2024. The audit should then be voted on at the August meeting. The Senior Trustee should send the report to our Department Treasurer, Kim White. The audit may be USPS mailed, scanned or emailed. **Do not text** the audit. Quarterly Audit form can be found on pg 52 in the 24-25 Program Guidebook.

4. Program Reporting – How and when do I send a report?

Ans. The Department Program Report form can be found on the back page of the 2024-2025 Program Guidebook. The program report form can be documented and emailed, scanned or USPS mailed to the Department Chairman after each project/event is completed. If you cannot make a copy of the program report, Department Chairman will accept reports using email, post cards, and other paper reports. Ensure that your **Auxiliary** and **District Number** are identified on your report.

Zoom Training Sessions - Communication and training are important to achieve success. The Department Chief of Staff / Mentoring Chairman will host monthly “**Zoom Training Sessions**”. All members are encouraged to attend. Each month, beginning in September, a different VFW Auxiliary topic will be featured. The Zoom will last approximately 30 minutes. Time will be allotted for questions and answers. After each Zoom Training Session, the information will be posted on the Department website: vfwauxny.org → Resources → Zoom Trainings.

I look forward to working with all members of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York team. Feel free to contact me either through email or telephone if you have any questions.

Loyally, *Karen, PDP*

PROGRAM COORDINATOR ~ PDP Jackie Herbert, Chairman
P.O. Box 138 ~ Campbell, NY 14821
(607) 527-1005 ~ jackievwauxny@stny.rr.com

Happy Summer Dear Members!

There have been a few changes in the programs this year. You will notice that the Program Coordinator’s Report is a little different. I am very thankful to Irene, DeeDee and Karen who have been a big help in making the changes. This has been a learning experience for me! Remember the reporting date deadlines:

1st of the month -- **Auxiliary Chairmen** submit reports to the Department Chairmen.

7th of the month -- **Department Chairmen** submit reports to the Department Program Coordinator (me). 10th of the month -- **Program Coordinator’s Report** will be posted on the website: www.vfwauxny.org

** If you notice a discrepancy on the Program Coordinator’s Report, please contact the appropriate Department Chairman – not me. I cannot change the report unless the Department Chairman asks me to.

I wish you all a very exciting and learning year ahead. Always check the Auxiliary News for information and event dates. Let’s make this a successful reporting year for President Darlene and the Department of New York!

Loyally, *Jackie*

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

Share Auxiliary News and Events with Local Media

As Auxiliary members, we are interested in what our Auxiliaries do and who we help. However, members often wonder if their Auxiliary's events and/or programs are interesting to those outside the organization. Before you reach out to local media, ask yourself these four questions:

- 1. Is it timely?**
- 2. Is it local?**
- 3. Is it new or unique?**
- 4. Would it interest you if you weren't a member?**

If you answered yes to at least two of the above questions, contact your local media with Auxiliary news! Not sure how to contact them or what to include? Visit the Program & Publicity Resources page on the National website and review the following documents under the Historian/Media Relations section:

- [How to Share Your Local Auxiliary Story Ideas and Events with Local Media](#): Provides information about: What is and is not newsworthy, how to get your event covered, who to contact, how far in advance to make contact and press release tips.
- [VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide](#): Includes the following samples: fact sheet, news release, radio and television public service announcements (PSAs), and media interview questions and answers.

When sending story ideas, be sure to include the National fact sheet, photos of the event and/or program, and who to contact if they have questions. Do not forget to thank the media when they cover your Auxiliary's event and/or program. A thank you note, certificate of recognition for local media, or other acknowledgement of appreciation is a nice (and often unexpected) gesture. You can invite the media to a Department awards ceremony, or even ask if you can go to their workplace to do a special presentation. That would certainly be a surprise for the person who did the reporting!

If your story doesn't get covered by your local media – but especially if it does get covered! – share the information with your District and Department. Most Departments have a newsletter, e-newsletter and/or Facebook page, all of which are great ways to communicate the wonderful ways Auxiliaries participate in our Programs and how members help veterans and their families.

It is an honor to serve as Department Historian /Media Relations Chairman this year and will do so with much excitement! **"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families"** will provide us with wonderful memories **"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans."**

Loyally, *Kellianne*

WAYS & MEANS ~ Marcia Williams Chairman
P.O. Box 405 ~ Remsen, NY 13438
(315) 725-6582 ~ mmmckinney24@aol.com

Welcome to a New Year for the Department of NY Auxiliary. I am the Ways and Means chairman for Belinda Cole. We have some exciting raffles we want to share with all the auxiliaries.

Now hear this: ... think Big Win Big! Do not wait to buy your tickets!

First, back by popular demand, we have the 9-month calendar which you received in the auxiliary packet. PLEASE be sure to make the check out to Dept of NY Aux and earmark it 9-month raffle. Each ticket is \$5.00, and the seller gets \$20.00 for selling that winning ticket. The first drawing is at October Fall Conference.

At Fall and Spring Conferences we are raffling off an HD8 tablet. Tickets will only be sold at each conference at a cost of three tickets for \$2.00 or ten tickets for \$5.00 There will be no presales. So, if you want to win, you need to be at the conference and try your LUCK!

Thinking creatively, we will be raffling our BIG 55-inch flatscreen TV with surround sound and other Patriotic items Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00. Imagine sitting in your chair and thinking you are in a theatre watching say TOPGUN and those planes are flying over. I can name other movies you will watch with this BIG 55 in TV. The drawing for that will be at the convention in June 2025. But you must be in it to win it!!

Stay tune for reminders throughout the year for the Fall Spring and Dept Convention.

"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!"

Loyally, *Marcia*

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT ~ Linda Flanagan, Chairman
155 Briggs Street ~ Syracuse, NY 13208
(315) 475-7526 ~ auxd53146@hotmail.com

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that more than 53,000 women Veterans enrolled in VA health care between May 2023 and May 2024, marking a 20% increase over the previous year and the largest enrollment year for women Veterans on record.

Health care enrollment of women Veterans increased across all 50 states. Women Veterans are currently VA's fastest growing patient population. Expanding access to benefits and services for women Veterans is a key priority for VA.

In 1948, women were granted a formal place in our country's military. Today, the more than 2 million women Veterans living in the U.S. make up our fastest growing Veteran population," said **VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher**. "It's important to all of us here at VA that every woman Veteran knows she belongs at VA."

"It's our goal for every woman Veteran to receive all the benefits she has earned, and that includes world-class health care," said **VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal, M.D.** "We want women Veterans to know that VA has invested in more services for women Veterans than ever before. VA can now offer women the best and most accessible options for all their care needs, and we want them to apply for the health care they deserve today."

Today, there is a women's health program led by a Women Veterans Program Manager at every VA health care system across the nation. Additional specialized women's health staff include: Women's Health Medical Directors, Women's Health Primary Care Providers, Women's Health Patient Aligned Care Teams, Maternity Care Coordinators, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Coordinators, and Women's Mental Health Champions. Women's health teams are also supported by LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinators, Intimate Partner Violence Coordinators, and Military Sexual Trauma Coordinators

VA is also delivering disability compensation benefits to an all-time number of women Veterans. More than 89% of women Veterans who have applied have received disability benefits from VA for at least one condition, on average receiving \$27,109 in earned disability compensation benefits per year.

VA's dedicated Women Veterans Call Center is here to support woman Veterans in navigating all the services they may need, including health care and benefits. Call or text 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636). For more information specifically on how the PACT Act is helping Veterans and their survivors and to apply for care or benefits today, visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-698-2411.

"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families"

Loyally, *Linda*



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



We all need to stay alert and aware of the Medical community making major strides in Cancer treatments. New technology and/or a revitalized medicine regiments are implemented each day. As Auxiliary members, please continue to support our care for each other and bring relief to our fellow members, and their families.

A wonderful privilege of being a member of the VFW Auxiliary is the gift of a \$550 Cancer Grant (up to two (2) grants in your lifetime) that never need to be repaid, obtainable from the National Organization, based in Kansas City, KS. The Grant Application can be downloaded from the National Website; our Department website; is in our Department NY Program Guidebook; or you can contact me for help and answers to your questions.

By now you may have received and reviewed your Auxiliary President's Packets and located the stapled pages for the 2024-25 Cancer Grant Donation Fund. This year's program has been streamlined to allow your Auxiliary to send your approved donation directly to MALTA under "Make a Gift." Your Auxiliary Treasurer has the proper authority to complete this process. Please read both pages carefully for your Auxiliary's instructions on approving the Cancer Fund donation and then onto the STEPS for your Treasurer to follow. If you need any help in your donating process, please contact me.

Once again, your continued support and belief that we CAN Erase Cancer is so appreciated. You make it possible to be *"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families."*

Be Kind to yourself and even more generous in spreading that Kindness far and wide each day.

Loyally, *Phyl*



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This is the 100th Anniversary for both The VFW National Home and The Department of NY Auxiliary. So let's celebrate by helping and doing our part for the "Buddy" Poppy and National Home to work together with the other programs and help President Darlene to **“Soar Into the Next Century for Our Veterans and their Families.”**

Fall Conference: I am asking each Auxiliary and District to bring in a gift card of \$10 or more to be raffled to raise money for the "Guitars for Heroes" program at the VFW National Home.

Health & Happiness \$20 Drawing: Districts with all component Auxiliaries making a donation to the Health and Happiness Fund by December 31, 2024, will be eligible for a \$20 drawing, which will be held at the Department of NY Virtual Birthday Party via Zoom on January 7, 2025.

Cash Bash Celebration Raffle: This raffle supports the VFW National Home 100th Birthday Celebration. Tickets are \$20 each and were distributed in the President's packets. Only 300 tickets will be sold and the drawings will be held at the Spring Conference.



Other: Purchase a National Home Life Membership, Tribute Brick, or from the Amazon Wish List.

See the Program Guidebook for details and more; as we are **“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families”** and go **“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.”**

Loyally, *Flora*

**OFFICIAL VISITS ~ PDP Sandra Flynn, Coordinator
P.O. Box 418 ~ Callicoon, NY 12723
(570) 224-4894 ~ sandraflynn1947@yahoo.com**

Official visits are done yearly and serve to help the Department recognize auxiliaries who need assistance in remaining a viable part of the Department and National Organization.

Department President Darlene Baker held a wonderful zoom training for the District Presidents on June 26. I had planned on being a part of the training, but Mother Nature had different thoughts. She was providing a wonderful display of “fireworks” and pouring rain at that time. I had difficulty getting on and then when I did and was beginning to explain the new inspection form, my screen froze and then I was “kicked off”. I was finally able to get back on, but not until near the end of the training session. What I did hear was great.

If you have been asked to be a District inspector, take time to review the form. When you do the inspection, please be honest in all your answers and remarks. “Making it pretty” does not help a struggling Auxiliary.

The goal is to have all the inspections done before January 15, 2025.

Loyally, *Sandra, PDP*

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

I am looking forward to being this year's Scholarship Chairman as we start a new year! Let's get the word out about our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen part of this program as soon as possible by contacting your local youth and telling them about this year's themes which are:

Voice of Democracy (students in grades 9-12): “Is America Today Our Forefather's Vison?”

Patriot's Pen (students in grades 6-8): “My Voice in America's Democracy?”

The deadline for these programs are October 31, 2024. For more information check your guidebook page 32 or contact me at the above information and I will help you. I will be attending OTI in August and will have all the entry forms for these contests with me. Don't forget to report to me by the first of the month.

**“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families”
“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”**

Loyally, *Joan*

MEMBERSHIP ~ PNP Jane Reape, Chairman
108 Bridge Street ~ Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 755-8694 ~ janereape@yahoo.com

Soaring into the Next 100 Years!

Membership is the backbone of our organization. We cherish each and every one of our loyal members. But....we all know that we need an influx of new younger members. How do we accomplish this? Let's try a new approach. Let's meet them where they are through technology. Millennials, Gen Z, Baby Boomers and our young at heart all have "smart" phones. Some of us are more accomplished than others but we have the whole world at our fingertips. Some of us have come into the digital world kicking and screaming but it's a fact of life.

How are we going to reach perspective members using technology? I know that you have all seen QR Codes even if you didn't know what they were. They are everywhere: restaurants, organization flyers, concerts, theatrical productions to name a few. You may not realize how prevalent they are until you look around. What do these QR codes do? It's really easy! You simply open your phone's camera and hover over the QR code. It takes you to the restaurant menu, a website, and **now** to the Department of New York's Membership file. The website will appear below the QR code, click on it and voila it takes you to our file and valuable information that tells our story and includes an application. You may have to cancel through the advertisements. It's simple- take a picture of the QR code and use it to recruit members. You can also carry the "pocket QR code" you received in your



Auxiliary packet. I will also have them available at each of our conferences. "Branch" out! I've included the Department of New York QR code in this article. I challenge you to give it a try!

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*



YOUTH ACTIVITIES ~ Phyllis Walker, Chairman
74 Mulcahy Boulevard ~ Rochester, NY 14624
(585) 571-4506 ~ phylliswalker3019@gmail.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hello, I am Phyllis P Walker, your 2024-2025 Youth Activities Chairman. Our youth of today are our leaders of tomorrow. It is our responsibility to ensure we provide them with every opportunity to gain experience and grow. Once again, this program year we continue with the following youth programs:

- **Patriotism through Literacy:** This program helps to promote and support reading among our youth. A few of the benefits reading offers include increased grammar and writing skills, improved focus, and concentration, and it allows the reader to stretch their imagination.
- **Illustrating America:** Open to all students in grades K to 8, including those who attend public, private, parochial schools and those who are home-schooled. The Art entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.
- **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans:** Provides our Auxiliaries with the opportunity to sponsor a youth group that engages in service projects to help our veterans or assist our service members and their families. Youth Groups may be school clubs, sports teams, JROTC, Girl and Boy Scout Troops, faith-based youth groups, and Homeschool Association groups.
- **Patriotic Youth Award:** This award allows an Auxiliary to recognize our youth in your local community.

Fall SWAP Idea: Collect new hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for your local elementary school. Send me a report if your auxiliary participates in this project.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions. I look forward to receiving your reports this year to learn about the variety of ways your auxiliary works with our youth.

"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families"

"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans!"

Loyally, *Phyllis*

The *Auxiliary News* is published six times a year:
August, September/October, November/December,
February/March, April/May, June.
Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the previous month.
September/October articles are due August 1st



to
Sharon West

for being named the Syracuse Veterans
Hospital Volunteer of the Year!
The announcement was made on May 24th.
Sharon is also the Jr. Vice President of
Auxiliary 3146, Mattydale, as well as,
5th District Chaplain.

Nice Job Sharon!



Now that the baby has been delivered –
How are you going to make sure everything is covered?

National President
Brenda Bryant's
2024-2025 Special Project

**OPERATION
BOTTOM COVER**

We have discovered there is a need for diapers for the babies of our military and our veterans. So, we are partnering with Operation Showers of Appreciation. They distribute diapers all over the world to active-duty military and veteran families. They have been in business for more than 15 years.

Did you know that in Japan it costs twice as much for active-duty service members to purchase diapers than it does in the states?

How can your Auxiliary help?

1. Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts – National President's Special Project or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked NP Special Project.
2. Coordinate with and make a gift of diapers directly to a military base. If you don't have a contact at the base, reach out to your VFW VMS Chairman, maybe they can help.
3. Host a diaper giveaway for veteran or military families at your Post.

How can your Auxiliary directly help a military family?

1. Mid-year a link will be shared with members where veteran and military families can apply for this type of assistance. There will be a few questions to answer, ie. branch of service, size of diapers needed, etc.
2. Your Auxiliary can donate directly to a veteran or military family with this need in your area.
3. Don't forget the wipes. Maybe you can challenge the VFW for every box of diapers you deliver, they can throw in the wipes. Let's work together.