



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ November/December 2024

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

As fall has begun and winter approaches, I hope that everyone stays safe for the winter months. And as we prepare for the holiday season, let us not forget our hospitalized veterans by sending them cards where ever they reside. I also hope that everyone has a joyous holiday season with their comrades, family and friends and enjoys a prosperous 2025!

O&MT in Binghamton, NY brought many first-time attendees, and I look forward to seeing this group at many more events! Many questions were asked – a sure sign of great things to come for our organization's growth. Also, many positive comments were received regarding our special presenters; Colin Anderson, NY State Veterans Service Director, and guest speakers from the State Troopers on Active Shooter training.

In early September, I attended the National President's Café (Celebration of Freedom Event) at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The National Home is an amazing place; and if you get the chance, it is worth the trip!

Next, September 16-19, National President Brenda Bryant made her official visit to NY, just in time for her birthday. Many thanks to our Chauffeur Nina LeFrois; Navigator Ruth Huber, Cheerleader Jane Reape, Jack of all Trades Karen Dotson, Line Officer Morale Deanna Guyette; and Travel Guide Doris "Dee" Ippolito. A special thanks to VFW Post 416 Commander, Auxiliary President, and members, for a wonderful dinner event. Seeing Niagara Falls, combined with the lighting of the Falls and Maid of the Mist, were checked off President Brenda's Bucket List. We also had the pleasure of meeting Tony Baldinelli, Canadian Cabinet Member, Assistant Beth and husband, Mike. Brenda thoroughly enjoyed their talk regarding U.S. and Canadian veteran services.

Since taking office, I have had the privilege of attending meetings in Districts 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, along with visits to the Batavia, Buffalo, and Canandaigua VA Hospitals. Thank you to Craig Keitel, Department Guard, who attended the 50th Anniversary Dinner of the Peru Memorial Auxiliary #309 as the Department Representative.

Fall Conference, as well as the Stop 22 Walk, were successful! We were visited by National District Council Member #4, Millie Hayes from Delaware. We were both nervous about this being "first timers" running the large meetings, but we made it through!

All Auxiliaries should have completed their IRS Form 990-N by the November 15, 2024 deadline for the previous calendar year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. In addition, all Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers should have their dues paid by December 31st. But, I am requesting that all Auxiliaries have them paid prior to Thanksgiving so the Department of NY can reach this milestone sooner.

Official visits are underway. It is vital that you reach out to the contact person if your Auxiliary has to cancel for any reason.

Let's all work together to try for 100% membership by January 1, 2025 for each Auxiliary! What a great New Year's Day present that would be for all Auxiliaries and to celebrate the veterans that we support!

Lastly, please remember to "report" every month. This is a vital piece that is missed which assists the VFW by maintaining its tax-exempt status. And, most of all, remember to submit your audits and memberships on a timely basis.

Remember as a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) we will continue "*Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!*" so that "*From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans*" we continue to GROW!

Loyally, *Darlene*

Darlene Baker, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette
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PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

NOVEMBER

3 – Craig Kietel, Guard
6 – Karen Dotson, PDP
9 – Bonnie Burgy, PDP
10 – Ruth Huber, PDP
24 – Cindy Campbell, PDP
27 – Belinda Cole, Jr VP

DECEMBER

3 – Donna Emo, PDP
10 – Justine Robles, Sr VP
16 – Jane Reape, PDP/PNP
28 – Kathy Zylko, PDP

JANUARY

4 – Edith Horst, PDP
9 – Chris Leavor, Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Nov 1-3... Eastern Conference – Dept of Vermont
~Doubletree Hotel, Burlington, VT
- Nov 3... Daylight Savings Time Ends
Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour at 2 am
- Nov 5... Election Day
- Nov 11... VETERANS DAY ~ *Honor Our Veterans!*
- Nov 15... DEADLINE for Auxiliaries to file 990-N
- Nov 28... HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- Dec 7... Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 14... Wreaths Across America Day
~ Ceremonies at 12 Noon.
- Dec 25... MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Dec 31... DEADLINE for Auxiliary Dues
~ (Officers risk removal if not paid.)
- Jan 1... HAPPY NEW YEAR!



NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 036 ~ SEPTEMBER 16, 2024
Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 961 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Finger Lakes Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 961, Ithaca, New York, is hereby cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install Officers for 2024-2025.
2. Auxiliary voted to disband.

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 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.
6. A final tax return(s) is/are to be filed by the Treasurer of the cancelled entity. A copy of such return(s) should be forwarded immediately to the Department Treasurer.

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

By Order Of: Brenda Bryant, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT
260 ~ Prince-Wynn ~ Broad Channel, NY



On Saturday, August 17, Broad Channel's Veterans of Foreign Wars Prince-Wynn Post #260 and Auxiliary hosted a special outing for 25 disabled vets from the veterans facility at St. Albans. As one veteran said, "The VFW, they do a heck of job. The food was as good as the view. Everybody there was great!" "This is the first time they've been out since before Covid," a VFW member explained. There were smiles and laughter everywhere – a sign of a great day! One of the nurses stated, "They're not like this at the hospital. They don't talk, they don't smile. But when they got off the bus today, they were smiling and clapping!" The special guests were serenaded with 'God Bless America' and 'America the Beautiful.' And when the day was over, the St. Albans vets did not leave empty handed. The Post provided 'canteen books' of coupons that can be used at the St. Albans commissary to buy snacks and other items. Over 20 Auxiliary members were on hand for the event; to include Lisa Scotti, Aux Hospital Chairman, and Kevin Bautz, Aux President, What a wonderful way to spend the day!



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

Welcome to Fall Dear Members!

Well, our first report went out with just a few "bumps" in the road! Thank you to all auxiliary chairmen who sent their reports in on time. Let's get the report filled in so you can concentrate on getting 100% plus membership!! Remember the reporting date deadlines:

- 1st of the month: **Auxiliary chairmen** submit reports to the Department Chairmen.
- 7th of the month: **Department chairmen** submit their reports to me, Program Coordinator.
- 10th of the month: **Program Coordinator's Report** is posted on the Department Website, www.vfwaux.org.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season! Wouldn't it be a wonderful to have all auxiliaries 100% in reporting by the first of the year – let's make that your auxiliary's goal for the coming new year.

Loyally, *Jackie*



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



NOVEMBER – National Veterans and Family Members Month



As you are "*Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families*" use your Veterans Day and Thanksgiving events to support Veterans and Military Support (VMS). VMS includes Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and "Sports



Clips Help a Hero Scholarships." Veterans Day and Thanksgiving provide all of us with the opportunities to celebrate our love and support for our veterans, military and their families. Hold an open house after a Thanksgiving Day parade in your community, invite veterans and families to watch the Macy's Day Parade, provide coffee and donuts, deliver dinner to a veteran or military member's family, or any gathering to show your support will be welcomed. We can share YOUR ideas on the Department website (www.vfwauxny.org) too!

Final reminder: Send your checks for "In Lieu of Cards" (\$5/signature) and for "Trees for Troops" (\$25/tree), made out to "VFW Auxiliary-Dept. of New York". They must be received by November 4th!



DECEMBER – Holiday Season - "Trees For Troops" / "Holiday Cheer"



This year, with the efforts of Ben Thompson and Proctor Hopson Post, we are once again looking forward to sending trees and menorahs to our troops overseas for the holidays. The sendoff is set for the first Tuesday in December in New York. Special thanks to President Baker for taking THE Card with her to your district meetings this fall for signatures and to all of you for your generous donations! Our military is serving for us. Send them your holiday wishes ! Here at home, you can do many things: donate your toys to veterans' families, hold a tree-decorating party with everyone taking a home-made tree for their own home, have a wishing tree in your community, hold a cookie-making party whereby everyone brings extra copies of their cookie recipes, hold a caroling extravaganza in your community with other groups, help veterans and their families decorate for the holidays, take pictures and share them on social media. You are all amazing! Share your ideas!

Remember to use social media at your local, district and department levels, as well as, print media to advertise your efforts! AND, REPORT, REPORT, REPORT! Keep up your fantastic service to our veterans and their families 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.*"

With best wishes for a fantastic New Year

Loyally, *Dee*

"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,

I want to thank everyone for stopping by my table at the Fall Conference, including all the gift cards donated to the "Guitar for Heroes", and those who bought raffle tickets and signed the birthday cards for the National Home's 100th Birthday. Also thanks for sending in the cash bash tickets for the National Home. But if you have tickets that you are not going to purchase, please mail them back so they can be sold elsewhere.

Health and Happiness: Reminder to make your donations (10 cents per member based on June 30 membership). Each District that has 100% for all component Auxiliaries will be placed in a \$20 drawing, to be held during our January 7th Zoom. Everyone is encouraged to have a cupcake to celebrate the National Home's 100th Birthday during the Zoom. The more the merrier, so how about connecting as a group from your Auxiliary or District?

"Buddy" Poppies: Use "Buddy" Poppies to decorate Christmas trees, gift wrapping, or centerpieces.

National Home Centennial Life Membership: What a great time to get your Centennial Life Membership as a Christmas gift. Also you could buy a cash bash ticket for a Christmas gift.



Please keep sending in your reports and cash bash tickets 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.*" Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Loyally, *Flora*

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 hard to believe we are reading the November/December newsletter already. The Presidential Elections are right around the corner: November 5, 2024. As a citizen and VFW advocate, you should be registered to **vote!** Contact your local board of elections by visiting www.eac.gov for information and voter assistance. Uniformed Service members and their families can find more information about absentee voter registration at the Federal Voting Assistance Program website www.fvap.gov.

Registration deadlines: In-person at local election office Oct 26, Online Oct 26, By mail (received by) Oct 26.

Absentee ballot deadlines, Request ballot (received by) Oct 26, Return ballot by mail (postmarked by) Nov 5, Return ballot in person Nov 5 by 9:00 p.m. EST.

Voting deadlines: Early voting, Oct 26 - Nov 3, Election Day Nov 5. Consult your local county registrar's office for times in your community.

The Department of NY Auxiliary website, vfwauxny.org, has a lot of information. Go to programs, the Legislative tab, and scroll down to the links and check out the Veterans Vote Brochure, The VFW Auxiliary Involvement in Elections and Political Activities. These are the Do's and Don't guides for VFW Auxiliary members. There are also "I Vote in Honor of a Veteran" sticker template. You can print any of these and distribute them to your Auxiliary, Post and Community members. We need to keep our members and community **informed and educated**, so they can go out and **participate** and feel **involved**.

Keep an eye out for the VFW Action Alerts. We need to keep our voices heard for our Veterans.

I want to thank all the Auxiliaries and members who have sent in reports already this year, keep up the great work and keep them coming!! May everyone have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a great Holiday Season!!

*"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*



YOUTH ACTIVITIES ~ Phyllis Walker, Chairman
74 Mulcahy Boulevard ~ Rochester, NY 14624
(585) 571-4506 ~ phyllispwalker3019@gmail.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is your Youth Activities Chairman Phyllis. Can you believe it is already November, and Thanksgiving is right around the corner? November is the beginning of the holiday season. There are so many things we can do this time of year with our youth. Auxiliary members can continue to volunteer by reading books to our youth. They may also get the youth to decorate placemats for nursing homes and senior centers for Thanksgiving or Christmas.



Promoting Patriotism through Literacy, Youth Reading to Veterans.

Illustrating America Art Contest - Entry forms and contest rules can be found on the national website <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources/>.

In November, we have the United States Marine Corps (USMC) birthday, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. For Veterans Day we can have our youth decorate "Thank You for Your Service" cards to give to deployed service members and our neighborhood Veterans. During Thanksgiving we can have our youth work at a food patty, a local church or community organization.

In December, Auxiliaries can host toys drive in your district and donate the toys to Church Youth Groups, Daycare Centers, and Boys & Girl Club.

There are so many ways we can work with our youth during these next few holidays, just be creative. I would like to thank everyone that has sent me their reports. Keep them coming! I love to read how our auxiliaries work with the youth. Do not forget reports are due on the 1st of every month.

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

Loyally, *Phyllis*

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

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in the raffles at President Darlene's Homecoming.

A total of \$380 in proceeds was raised to benefit her Special Projects, with the raffle winners as follows:

\$100 – Woman's Clinic Whole Health

\$100 Gift Card – Karen Dotson, PDP

\$148 – Homeless Veterans

\$100 Gift Card – Dan McMahon, VFW DNY QM

\$132 – Women's Clinic Maternity Care
(Baby Showers)

\$500 Trail Water Lodge – Margie Ginn, Past D1 Pres

REMINDER: Be sure to earmark your checks for the specific project you want to donate the money to. The holidays are fast approaching and it may be a good time to hold a fundraiser, especially for the homeless.

Thanks for all you do for this program and our veterans. Happy Holidays!

"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, *Linda*

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



"Be the ray of sunshine!"



*Leaves falling gently,
Bright cheerful colors delight,
God's wonderful creation,
Let us enjoy the sight.*

Fall is just about at its end, and winter is fast approaching. The holidays are almost upon us, and I know you and your Auxiliaries have many ways in mind to help our Veterans celebrate, to bring them joy by being their little ray of sunshine. You can do this by bringing them treats or snacks and activities such as puzzle books, arts and crafts materials, adult coloring books and colored pencils. They might enjoy making sun catchers or paint by numbers. Work with a youth group to make holiday cards to let them know you are thinking of them. Contact your local VA and find out what is needed most by our veterans both male and female. It was wonderful to see everyone at the Fall Conference, thank you so much for all the reports, and for showing that we are indeed 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*

Fall Conference Wrap-Up Oct 11-12

Thank you to all Auxiliary members, especially our first time members (pictured below), who attended the VFW Auxiliary Fall Conference at the Albany Marriott. Thank you to all the Department Program Chairmen and Fall Conference volunteers – you all did a great job making the weekend a success. Congratulations to all the winners of the various program raffles! Happy Holidays to everyone!



WORDS OF THANKS

I want to send my sincerest thank you to my Auxiliary family for the cards, notes, or letters you have sent me during my convalescence. I have saved each and every one as they mean so much to me. A special thank you to Kim White for your visits and lunch. I am doing well in my rehabilitation and hope to be back with you in a few months. I currently do not have a computer, email, or a phone, but I thank you all for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. My complete address is:

Schuyler Ridge
1 Abele Blvd, Rm #14
Clifton Park NY 12065.

~ Darlene Stanton, PDP



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



Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

“It is the season” for Auxiliary members to partner with other organizations and donate TIME to benefit those in need in their communities.

The holiday season can be depressing for families in need or shut ins. Coordinate with your local Senior Center and Hospice Centers to help deliver and decorate trees; provide transportation for a shopping trip or a holiday service or volunteer to make “welfare” calls. Studies show that holiday stress increases domestic violence in the home. Partner with the Crisis-Line Network, Women’s Center, or Child Welfare Centers to listen, support or hold a child and let them know they are no longer in danger.

According to the Feeding America website, “One (1) in eight (8) Americans struggle with hunger and food insecurity. It has only risen since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.” Auxiliary Outreach gives its members the perfect opportunity to help organizations in their communities lower that number. If you have not already partnered with these organizations, REACH OUT now to volunteer HOURS to Food Banks, School-Based Pantries, Salvation Army, and/or Meals on Wheels. Winter months increase the residents in both Homeless and Animal Shelters, volunteering extra HOURS will benefit them and you.

The goal of the Auxiliary Outreach Program is for our communities to recognize that as Auxiliary members, we are **“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families,”** because **“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans,”** and we are, also, dedicated to the welfare and improvement of our communities and its residents.

Remember to report – partnership, motion, attire, project, and hours to me via email, USPS, or telephone. Did you know, that donating TIME will decrease your stress level and improve your outlook on life? My best wishes to each of you and your families for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Loyally, *Judy*

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

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.” ~ Abraham Lincoln

Brothers and Sisters,

It is so hard to believe that it is already November, and the Holidays will soon be upon us. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Fall Conference. I hope those of you that stopped at my table received a lot of information to take back to your auxiliaries.

I recently saw on Facebook and shared it, a post about the Pledge of Allegiance being an “option” for students. Meaning that parents can request that their child be excused from saying the pledge or placing their hand over their heart. We need to get into the schools and reiterate the meaning of saying the pledge and how important and special it is to be an American. Did you know that when our forefathers were trying to come up with a National symbol that Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey? Many other countries were using the Golden Eagle as their symbol so our forefathers decided on the Bald Eagle as it is unique to North America and has nobility. How does Americanism fit Thanksgiving and Christmas? Lincoln redefined Thanksgiving and Christmas during the Civil War as “days celebrated not on the basis of sectional identities, but rather in the inclusive spirit of American democracy, which he called “the last best hope of earth.” I wish each and every one reading this a **Happy Thanksgiving** and a **Merry Christmas!**

PATRIOTIC DATES TO REMEMBER: Nov 11th - Veterans Day Dec 7th - Pearl Harbor Day

Many of you may have heard I am relocating to Wyoming, which is taking place in December. I will continue to be Americanism chairman, so be aware of a change of address to follow. 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*

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

- ❁ **“Welcome and thank you for attending the Auxiliary meeting.”** Those are very thoughtful words to hear when you are greeted at a meeting. Especially if you are a new member as well as if you have been away or missed a few meetings! Hopefully, these words will make an Auxiliary member feel glad to be at the meeting and willing to support our veterans in Auxiliary programs/projects. As the holidays are just around the corner, I encourage all members to extend holiday cheer to our homebound members or those members who you have not heard from with a greeting card to let them know they are in our thoughts.
- ❁ I'd like to share the following **“Mentoring Moment”** regarding Bylaw 908B and Ritual Order of Business #8(c):
 - * Section 908B of the Bylaw states: Caregiver of a member may attend an Auxiliary meeting when accompanied by the Auxiliary member.
 - * The Ritual Order of Business #8(c) has a notation that any non-Auxiliary member guest shall not be allowed to enter the room until the Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Bills has concluded.
- Clarification:** The National Secretary/Treasurer, Ann Panteleakos, has provided the following clarification: A caregiver is **not** a guest, **nor** a visitor. They are a caregiver and they would not be there unless necessary. Therefore, they can be in the room for the entire meeting.
- ❁ **Commonly Asked Questions** to share:
 - Q1. How long is General correspondence retained by the Secretary?
 - A1. General Correspondence Retention is 1 Year per the Records Retention Guide found in the Booklet of Instruction, Page 16 of the Bylaw& Ritual.
 - Q2. As a Trustee, should Trustees correct any errors they find in the Treasurer's Ledger book?
 - A2. In accordance with the Booklet of Instructions - Trustee, #5 - pg 23 - It is **not** the duty of the Trustees to correct the Treasurer's or the Secretary's records, but the duty of the Treasurer and Secretary. If any mistakes are reported, the Treasurer or the Secretary, himself/herself shall be directed by the President to make the necessary correction(s) in their book. The Trustees shall sign the audit after all mistakes, if any, have been.
- ❁ **Training Sessions for November** – See Schedule and Documentation on the Department Website:
 - Tuesday, 11/12 at 7:30 PM – Programs: 1) Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home (Flora Becker), 2) Youth Activities (Phyllis Walker), 3) Hospital Program (Agnes Stampf).
 - Thursday, 11/21 at 7:30 PM – 1) Importance and Duties of Investigating Committee (Karen Dotson), 2) Legislative Program (Tina Roberts).
 - There are no Zoom Training Sessions scheduled for December.

I would like to thank all the members who have participated in the Zoom Training Sessions for September and October. For those who attended, I sincerely hope you found the information presented helpful to your Auxiliary.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very Happy Holiday Season as we are
“Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and their Families” because
“From our Roots to our Branches Extending Service to our Veterans.”

Loyally, *Karen, PDP*

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

Thank you to all the inspectors and District Presidents for forwarding the Official Visit forms to me in a timely manner. I have received almost fifty to date, but that is a far cry from what is needed to be 100%. All inspections with an “accepted” 990N have been returned to the Auxiliary Treasurer and appropriate District President. Treasurer’s, please print your name also, if you have a handwriting that is not easily deciphered.

The biggest problem I am finding when reviewing the forms is that only the request to file the 990N is being attached to the inspection form. A copy of the actual acceptance from the IRS is required. Once you have filed your 990N, you have to wait about 15 minutes to see if they accepted your filing. A “Pending” on the form you print from the IRS is only saying you filed, not “accepted”.

Remember the deadline set by President Darlene is January 15, 2025, but 100% by the holiday season would be a welcome gift.

Loyally, *Sandra, PDP*

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

Historians, you are the one in your Auxiliary to reach out to all the media sources in your area. To help spread the word, National has given us a ton of resources to help us along the way. These can be found in MALTA Member Resources, Historian & Media Relations.

Press Releases: Start by providing information about what the Auxiliary is and how to contact your Auxiliary for more information. For example: The VFW Auxiliary is one of our nation's oldest veterans service organizations. Our members are the relatives of those who served in a foreign conflict, consisting of approximately 470,000 members representing all 50 states, Panama, Guam and the Philippines. Auxiliary members volunteer millions of hours and give millions of dollars to support veterans, military service personnel, their families and communities.

WHO DO YOU CONTACT?

- Contact your local newspaper, ask for the Editor.
- Contact your local radio stations and ask for the News Director.
- Contact your local TV stations and ask for the News Director to cover an upcoming Auxiliary event.

A FEW PREPARATIONS BEFORE MAKING A CONTACT TO COVER AN EVENT:

- Is your event occurring within the next month?
- Will your community be interested in the event?
- Will your event assist your local community?

WHAT IS NEWSWORTHY:

- Assisting families of deployed troops (Hosting holiday events, i.e. Christmas parties, Easter Egg hunts, Trick-or-Treat events, offering financial assistance).
- Decorating graves for Veterans Day and Memorial Day.
- Participating in Wreaths Across America.
- Meeting our heroes at the airport as they return from deployment or veterans returning on an Honor Flight.
- Ceremonies for scholarship winners - invite the media to attend.
- Events hosted by an Auxiliary at a VA facility.
- Adopting a Unit through the VFW Veteran & Military Support Program; collection points for supplies your community may want to donate for deployed troops.
- Members and/or youth groups who are participating in a "Buddy"® Poppy Drive, POW/MIA remembrance ceremony, or flag presentations to community groups.
- Our National President's visit.

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"* *"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans"* will provide us with wonderful memories.

Loyally, *Kellianne*

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

The holidays are quickly coming up for us. I wish each one of you a wonderful holiday season!

As you are aware, the Ways and Means program has our 9-month calendar raffle and our BIG raffle is the 55-inch TV with surround sound. If your President were at Fall Conference she would have signed for them. If not, they are in the mail. They are \$5.00 each or five tickets for \$20.00.

Please make the check out to VFW Auxiliary Dept of NY, earmark TV raffle, and mail to Marcia Williams, PO Box 405, Remsen, NY 13438. The TV will be drawn at our Department Convention in June 2025 in Albany. If you would like additional tickets to sell, please reach out to me. The more we sell the better we are for the Department. You may sell them at your post or to family and friends or even at work. We also have a few other prizes.

Our next Tablet drawing will be at Spring Conference. There are no presale tickets on that, so you must attend the conference when the drawing will be held in order to win.

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

Loyally, *Marcia*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Hello, My Auxiliary Family!

As I write this, I hope you enjoyed the Fall Conference in Albany and are looking forward to another great conference in Corning in April when you join us for Spring Conference. Attending a Conference is about getting first-hand information about the organization and its programs, but it is also about so much more. It's about networking, meeting your counterparts in other Auxiliaries, sharing ideas, sharing problems and solutions. It's about building new friendships and making this organization stronger because of them. If you have never attended, I urge you to do so. After my first one, I was hooked.

I try to use this column to address common issues I encounter when dealing with our Auxiliaries and our members. This issue, I want to just say a few words about the Officer Change Form. It's probably the most confusing form we must complete. When there is any change in an officer, this should be completed and sent to me. Please use the most recent form, which can be found on pg. 51 in the Guidebook.

- ☑ When completing, the top of the form is for the NEW officer information. Whether just changing contact information of an existing officer (or member) or for a totally new officer, this is THEIR information. Most important is the membership number. If you don't provide it, I have to search for it. A name search does not always yield results, and then I must go through your entire membership roster. I can do it, I do "do it," but it is time-consuming. I appreciate your help.
- ☑ Further down the page, check what kind of change I am making for this person- or your Auxiliary. Then you can email or USPS the form. Also, be aware that while I am more than happy to help you, you can do this yourselves in MALTA and then just send me the form for the Department records. Just jot a note at the top of the form that it has already been changed in MALTA. For assistance working with MALTA, feel free to contact me and I will walk you through it. I am here to serve YOU!

Finally, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas or Hannukka. I encourage your Auxiliary to make those wishes come true for our Veterans as well.

Loyally, *Christine*



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



As we each realize, we all are concerned about our fellow members and families.
Thank for all you do for them and yourselves in our quest to **Erase Cancer** this year!

Our privilege as an VFW Auxiliary member is that in our lifetime, there are Two Cancer Grants of \$550 each from our National VFW Auxiliary Organization. The details and application for the Grant is described in the Program Guidebook. If you have questions, you can contact me.

I was so proud to report at the Fall Conference in Albany, NY that our Auxiliaries have been sending in their Donations for the Cancer Grant Donation Fund campaign. The form of donating was changed this year to use our National MALTA system to make your donation directly. Thus far 103 Auxiliaries have made their Cancer donation, allowing the Department New York to be at 58.52% for 2024-25. I reported a total of \$18,099.25 in donations for the reported months of July, August and September. That is a great result of your dedication to the Cancer Grant Donation and hope you continue that effort every day. We are able to provide relief to our Brothers and Sisters, and their families during their fight against Cancer.

The "Grocery Bag/Tote" Cancer table last month was so exciting and of course, I was delighted to see your bags come down the hallway. Your contents were so celebratory of President Darlene's theme for the 100th Anniversary of our VFW Auxiliary. Thank so much for your efforts and of course, congrats to those who purchased the ticket that got them their own BAG!

As **October** was Breast Cancer Awareness month, I hope you and other members had your Mammograms and/or Exams. Remember that if you feel as though something is just NOT RIGHT with your body, get it checked out, sooner than later. Members [male or female], please, if you feel a lump in your breast/chest, or perhaps a skin problem appears; please go see your Doctor. Be safe and remain healthy.

Please enjoy our Fall days and continue your festivities for the November and December holidays. Perhaps as we are "**Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Families,**" our efforts will make CANCER disappear. Take care of yourselves and those you care for!

Loyally, *Phyl*

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

What is 406? That is the number of our valued members who walked out the back door last year. What is 437? Sadly, that is the number of members we lost to deaths last year. Despite losing all those members last year NY finished 100.88% a gain of 161 members. That represents an overall gain of 1004. Imagine if we could stem the tide of unpaid members. We cannot control those we lose to death but we do have the ability to reduce the number we lose for non-payment of dues.

- Ensure all members feel welcome and valued.
- Present the “Good Job” award to members.
- Institute programs like Member of the Month/Member of the Year.
- Host a member appreciation luncheon, tea and/or dinner.
- Send articles to local papers of Auxiliary members in action.
- Create a Facebook page and post pictures of Auxiliary members serving our veterans and our communities.
- Communicate regularly with your members.
- Create an event card with upcoming events for the entire year.
- Treat each other how you would like to be treated-respectfully, considerately, and compassionately.

Thank you for visiting my table at the Fall Conference. I hope you found the material helpful in your Membership Program. Each Auxiliary is entitled to one QR code sticker for the back of your phone. Hopefully you picked up some business cards and posters with the QR code for you to use in recruiting.

Contact your unpaid members. Consider paying and/or reimbursing the annual dues for your President, Secretary and Treasurer. What a wonderful Christmas gift to thank them for their dedication and service to your Auxiliary! Dues for all members must be paid by December 31, 2024 to remain in good standing. Members must be in good standing to receive a cancer grant.

Where are the QR codes? ***They're everywhere they're everywhere!!***

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year!

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*

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

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

By the next newsletter, hopefully I will be able to give you the winners of the Department Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Contest. Please make sure if you had a local winner or contestant that you recognize them, their families and teachers. This will help to get the word out about this program and maybe we will have more involvement in your area. Then report to me.

Now we need to work on the second part of this program, Continuing Education, which has a deadline of **February 15, 2025**. Applications are on the National website. Deadlines for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3D Art Contests are **March 31, 2025** for submission at the Auxiliary level. Then, winners are due to me for Department judging by **April 10, 2025**.

I have had some reports sent to me saying that they have giving out money to students for scholarships. These should be sent to the Youth Activities or Veterans and Family Support Chairman. This program is for money you give to promote the 4 parts of this program, such as, buying the entry forms or student award money for winning the contest. If you have any questions about reporting, please let me know and remember to report to me by the 1st of the month so I can give you credit.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

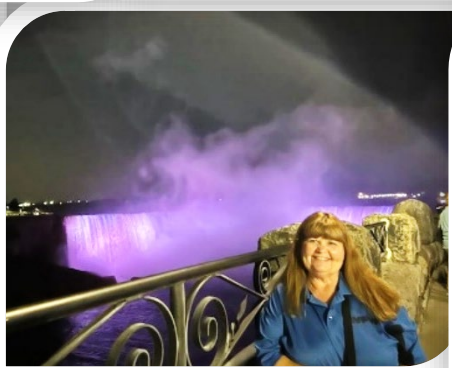
“Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families”
“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”

Loyally, *Joan*

National President Brenda Bryant

Sep 16-19, 2024

During her visit to the Department of NY, VFW Auxiliary National President Brenda turned the Niagara Falls into a Red, White, and Blue, patriotic extravaganza!! She also rode the Maid of the Mist, toured the Buffalo Naval Park and VA Hospital, was treated to dinner by VFW Post 416 and Auxiliary, and best of all – spent time with our members!



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 1st of the previous month.
February/March articles are due January 1st



*From My Home to Yours,
Wishing you a very blessed Holiday Season and
Safe and Joyous New Year!
Keep our veterans, especially those who may be
separated from their families and away from
home, in your hearts and prayers.
Remember their service and sacrifices are the
reasons we enjoy our freedoms today! Do
something nice for a veteran this holiday season!
God Bless! ~DeeDee*

Inspirational Message
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Charlene Carnright

The best things in life are
the people we love, the places
we've been, and the memories
we've made along the way.

UNKNOWN

helping hands



From Department Treasurer, Kim White: "I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who helped put together the mailing for the October 'Dues Notices'! Pictured L-R above are: Department Soloist Esther Reape, PDP Lisa Raplee, PNP Jane Reape, Karen Barnhart, PDP Marianne McLane, Debby McCarthy, Bonnie Talbott, Department Chaplain Charlene Carnright. Not Pictured were: PDP Nina Lefrois, National District Council Member #4 Millie Hayes, Department President Darlene Baker, Department Conductor DeeDee Guyette, and Department Guard Craig Keitel. *Many Thanks!* ~ Kim