



# AUXILIARY NEWS ~ February/March 2025

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

As the holidays are behind us, I wish you all of the best for a healthy and prosperous 2025! Since the November newsletter, I have made visits to Districts 2 and 4 in October, and District 1 in December. As part of the District 1 visit, I participated in Trees for Troops with coordinators Big Ben and Margie Ginn and the Department Commander. I am planning on having all visits for the remaining districts (3, 10, 11) completed by the end of May. Also Official visits are almost completed. Thank you to everyone for your assistance.

I had the privilege and honor to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinners for Phoenix Auxiliary 5540 and North Syracuse Auxiliary 7290. Further, I had the privilege and honor to attend the District 4 Commander's dinner in October and Carthage 7227's Military Gala in November. In December, I attended the Wreaths Across America at St. John's the Baptist Cemetery in Rome with my family and laid wreaths on veterans graves. I have been going for the last four years now and it is a truly inspirational ceremony.

One item of importance is the change in the by-laws that are in the 2025 Podium book regarding Treasurer's Duties, which were approved at the July convention. Please be sure to adhere to these changes, in **Sec 813 Treasurer, Duties (all levels)**.

State Commander Daniel Kell takes great pleasure in announcing the winners of the Department of New York's 2024-2025 Stop-22 Walk-a-Thon initiative and both he and I would like to send congratulations to all of the Posts and Auxiliaries for all of their work and dedication to this resounding issue. This year's recipients are:

- 1st Place and \$500.00 - VFW Post & Auxiliary 7227, Carthage, New York
- 2nd Place and \$250.00 - VFW Post 4658, Greece, New York
- 3rd Place and \$100.00 - VFW Post & Auxiliary 1384, Long Beach, New York

I would like to share some important reminders as we start the new year:

- The Auxiliary Secretary should be reading all official communications from National and Department and all Orders.
- Trustee #1 should call the audit. It is the Trustees' responsibility (**NOT the Auxiliary Treasurer**) to fill out the Audit Form before presenting it to the Auxiliary membership for approval and sending to the Department Treasurer.
- Membership is the key to the success of the organization. Let's all work together by both retaining the old and making new friends as one is Silver and the other is Gold!
- I would ask that you review your roster to confirm that it is accurate and if you have any deceased members, please record the death by February 28, 2025. We want our records to be as complete and accurate as possible.
- 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. We are doing great work and everyone should be very proud of their accomplishments.

LASTLY - Remember that 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

**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, kwhitewvlt@aol.com

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

## PDP/OFFICER

### BIRTHDATES

#### MARCH

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Feb 1-6...** VFW Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference  
 ~ Cancun, Mexico

**Mar 1-5...** Spring Legislative Conference and VOD  
 Awards, Washington, D.C.

**Mar...** VFW Auxiliary Spring Conference, DNY  
**21-22...** ~ Holiday Inn Downtown, Binghamton

**Apr 1...** DEADLINE: Program Year-End Reports-  
*must be received* by Apr 1 (USPS/Email).

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

**Apr...** VFW Spring Conference, DNY  
**10-13...** ~ Radisson Hotel, Corning, NY

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS**

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

- 📖 Department Flag Bearer Carol Kraus-*New Phone Number*: 845-225-1290
- 📖 District 2 Secretary/Deputy Chief of Staff Linda LaRosa-*New Address*: 24 Laura Jean Lane, Wurtsboro, NY 12790
- 📖 PDP/Americanism Chairman Rosalie Cooper-*New Address*: 2025 E Carlson St Apt H107, Cheyenne, WY 82009
- 📖 PDP Darlene Stanton-*Corrected Address*: Schuyler Ridge, 1 Abele Blvd, Room 14, Clifton Park, NY 12065
- 📖 PDP Kathy Zylko-*Return to Regular Address and New Phone Number*: 85 Durr Rd, Jeffersonville, NY 12748, 845-866-5363.
- 📖 Aux 478-*New Meeting Location*: 177 Robinson St, Binghamton, NY 13904
- 📖 Aux 973-*New President*: Christine Toombs, 9 Buttonwood Dr, New Windsor, NY 12553, 845-674-7218, [chrissyg130@aol.com](mailto:chrissyg130@aol.com)
- 📖 Aux 973-*New Secretary*: Mia Serrano, 105 Denniston Dr, New Windsor, NY 12553, 845-614-0892, [serper82@gmail.com](mailto:serper82@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 1143-*New President*: Betty Rufa, 1 King St, Massena, NY 13662, 315-250-2130, [bhebert2021@yahoo.com](mailto:bhebert2021@yahoo.com)
- 📖 Aux 1323-*New President*: Flora Becker, 86 Garden St, Seneca Falls, NY 13148, 315-521-2675, [loveourveterans17@yahoo.com](mailto:loveourveterans17@yahoo.com)
- 📖 Aux 1374 Treasurer-*New Phone Number*: 845-225-1290
- 📖 Aux 1653-*New Meeting Time*: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 11:30 am
- 📖 Aux 1895 Secretary-*New E-Mail*: [maryspencer2000@yahoo.com](mailto:maryspencer2000@yahoo.com)
- 📖 Aux 2064 President-*New Address*: 24 Laura Jean Lane, Wurtsboro, NY 12790
- 📖 Aux 2354 *New Meeting Location*: Cortland American Legion Post 489, 112 Tompkins St, Cortland, NY 13045
- 📖 Aux 2535-*New Treasurer*: Bonnie Evert, 238 Grimsby Rd, Tonawanda, NY 14223, 716-984-5732, [billbonnie2002@msn.com](mailto:billbonnie2002@msn.com)
- 📖 Aux 2721 Treasurer-*Corrected E-Mail*: [rkoz926@yahoo.com](mailto:rkoz926@yahoo.com)
- 📖 Aux 5092 Secretary-*Corrected E-Mail*: [kabailey0717@gmail.com](mailto:kabailey0717@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 5344-*New President*: Lisa Hedger, 23 High St, Adams, NY 13605, 315-771-0897, [lhedger24@gmail.com](mailto:lhedger24@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 6200-*New President*: Beverly Gister, 2487 W Wycoff Rd, Ovid, NY 14521, 607-869-5699, No Email
- 📖 Aux 6200-*New Treasurer*: Beth Ann O'Hara, 7010 State Rte 96, Ovid, NY 14521, 607-239-2276, [bethohara327@gmail.com](mailto:bethohara327@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 6433-*New Secretary*: Charlene Carnright, 2 Fayette St, Waterloo, NY 13165, 315-719-1820, [chooper70@hotmail.com](mailto:chooper70@hotmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 6703-*New Secretary*: Lisa Potter, 721 Bass Run Ln, Hamlin, NY 14464, 585-259-8279, [lpotter49@live.com](mailto:lpotter49@live.com)
- 📖 Aux 6778-*New Secretary*: Nancy Roets, 3510 Vienna St #204, Palmyra, NY 14522, 315-502-4103, [nancyroets96@gmail.com](mailto:nancyroets96@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 6778-*New Treasurer*: Jackie Ray, 1055 Whitney Rd E, Fairport, NY 14450, 585-503-9476, [jray2@frontiernet.net](mailto:jray2@frontiernet.net)
- 📖 Aux 6912-*New President*: Stacy Bourgeois, 6754 State Rte 26, Lowville, NY 13367, 315-221-0460, [stacyhoffi@yahoo.com](mailto:stacyhoffi@yahoo.com)
- 📖 Aux 7223-*New Secretary/Treasurer*: Maria Ferris (was already Secretary)
- 📖 Aux 8649-*New President/Secretary*: Tina Roberts (was already President)
- 📖 Aux 9592-*New President/Secretary*: Frances Inslee (was already President)
- 📖 Aux 9592 Treasurer-*Corrected Address*: 5 Welcome Ln, Wantagh, NY 11793
- 📖 Aux 9593-*New Meeting Time*: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 6:00 pm
- 📖 Aux 9596 President-*New E-Mail*: [jonbesemer24@gmail.com](mailto:jonbesemer24@gmail.com)

**NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 096 ~ NOVEMBER 22, 2024**

**Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 7223 ~ New York**

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Sgt. John Kreyer & Pvt. Edward Asip Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 7223, Amityville, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to have a quorum at meetings.

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

By Order Of: Brenda Bryant, National President  
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

**NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 124 ~ JANUARY 6, 2025**

**Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 5933 ~ New York**

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President and in accordance with the National Bylaws, Article II, Section 209, the Charter of VFW to Ghent Post No. 5933, Ghent, NY, is hereby suspended for the period not to exceed three (3) meetings due to:

1. Need to elect, install, and train new Treasurer.
2. Need to mentor Auxiliary members.

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

By Order Of: Brenda Bryant, National President  
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

**DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER #2 ~ NOVEMBER 2024**

*(To be read at first Auxiliary meeting upon receipt.)*

This Order is to clarify an error in General Orders #1.

**Sec. 813A- Auxiliary Treasurer**

**5. Auxiliaries may not possess credit cards.**

**6. An Auxiliary may vote, by majority vote, to possess a debit card to make payments for Auxiliary business purposes only.**

**a. The Treasurer shall be in possession of the debit card.**

**b. Debit cards shall not be used for cash advances.**

**c. Trustees shall review, date and initial statements containing reports of the debit card transactions every month to ensure that all debit card purchases were made in accordance with votes of the Auxiliary and/or standing rules.**

**7. An Auxiliary may vote, by majority vote, to accept payment by credit and/or debit card, using a third-party processor through point of sale in person or online. A record of transactions must be provided to the Trustees at each audit.**

Auxiliaries that have voted to do so may possess a DEBIT card, following the procedures in Sec. 813A. Auxiliaries may NOT possess a credit card, however as stated in #7 an Auxiliary may vote to accept payments by credit card. Note there are fees associated with a third-party processor. In all cases Trustees must monitor bank statements monthly.

By Order of:  
***Darlene Baker***  
Department President

Attest:  
***Chris Leavor***  
Department Secretary

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

*“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”*

**Attention:** Any member who has not paid their dues by December 31, 2024 is no longer a member in good standing and is not eligible for a cancer grant.

Why should members renew their membership? Why should all eligible prospective members join the premier Veterans Auxiliary? There are many benefits to joining or maintaining their membership. Many are not aware of these benefits because we as Auxiliary members do not share.

**Financial:**

- Cancer Grants (\$550.00) 2 in a lifetime
- Access to Veterans Travel Service
- Discounted policies for life, health, accident, long-term care and dental insurance.
- Access to discounts on products and services – including local offers
- Credit cards and financial services through USAA

**Personal Growth:**

- Opportunities to Support Veterans, Service Members & their families
- Self-satisfaction in knowing you’ve made a difference
- Develop new skills
- Gain self-confidence
- Cultivate friendships
- Acquire Leadership skills
- Compassionate support system
- Have fun
- Enjoy many travel experiences

These are just a few of the benefits of VFW Auxiliary membership. Share these benefits with your members or during membership drives. Department of New York, let’s prove that we can:

*“Soar into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans & Their Families”*

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*



**FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor**



Happy New Year to my Auxiliary Family!

We will soon be entering the busy time of the year- Spring Conference, elections, installations, year-end reports, and Department Convention will all be upon us before you know it.

I hope you all had time to attend the January ZOOM where we discussed the “Change Form.” It can be a confusing form, and I hope it cleared up some of the confusion for you. Please remember to send me any contact changes, such as emails or phone numbers. The Change Form is not just for officers, but for any member, because MALTA needs to be kept up to date. Frequently someone will tell me they didn’t receive the current membership card, and it is almost always because they moved and did not update the new address in MALTA.

There will be two (2) upcoming ZOOMS dealing with election forms and installations – Tue, Feb 25, and Tue, Mar 11. Please put it on your calendars to attend at least one of them. Getting those forms completed and on time is one of the most challenging duties I have. I will email those forms in March to Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers. If at least one of you does not have them BEFORE your April elections, please contact me. They need to be filled out immediately after your election has been held.

The Memorial Book will be based on information in MALTA from June 1, 2024- May 31, 2025. Please be sure your members who have gone to their Heavenly homes are entered in MALTA or send them to me so that I can enter them. I don’t have a lot of time after May 31 to get the Memorial Books done, so that IS a firm deadline.

Lastly, if your Auxiliary is nominating someone for a Department Office, the endorsement letter should be sent to me in time to be read at the Spring Conference Council of Administration meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference in Binghamton!

Respectfully, *Christine*

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

Dear members:

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! ~ Now it's time to get back to work!

- ★ As of today, Districts 5 and 10 are 100% in reporting for this program. Congratulations!
- ★ Overall, we are at 90% in reporting. Thanks for all you do for this program and our veterans.
- ★ At the Spring Conference, I will have cups and travel mugs for sale. This is a great way to get your checkmark on the program coordinator's monthly report.

*."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*

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

Dear Members,

As we begin the 2025 year, we have been given opportunities to share the "magic" of what the VFW Auxiliary has to offer to all of its members. The magic can be found in three keywords: ***Sharing, Growing, and Learning!***

**A Sharing Experience** – All Auxiliary members in good standing are invited to attend Spring Conference scheduled for March 21 – 23, 2025 at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Binghamton, NY. Auxiliary Leadership Teams are encouraged to share conference information with their members. ***Share the excitement*** of networking with Auxiliary sisters and brothers regarding our programs from the Department Chairmen. Then share the information with your Auxiliary members at your next meeting.

**A Growing Experience** – *Be a Conference Buddy!* Ask a new member or one who has never attended to be your Spring Conference Buddy. ***Share the experience!*** Members always learn something new at conferences to share with their Auxiliary which enhances programs and projects.

**A Learning Experience** – Our Department continues to share monthly ***Learning Experiences*** with our members through the Zoom Training Sessions and the feedback has proven to be positive. However, a part of the Learning Experience for our mentors is to **CARE** for our members by using the **3 C's**.

- **C** ... Catch the member when they first join; invite them to sit next to you to help explain the order of business, a program, etc.; or just a familiar face to feel comfortable in a new environment.
- **A** ... Ask all Auxiliary members to participate in a project, even if it is a simple task based on their time availability. Many hands make lighter work.
- **R** ... Remember what it felt like to be new; Smile, be friendly, make the new members feel comfortable to attend the meeting.
- **E** ... Engage them in a program that fits them. Ask about hobbies, interests, and suggest an area that may fit their talents, availability and skills.

As a mentor, you will also be asked to practice the **3 C's** of Mentoring:

- **Consultant** – respond to the Auxiliary members questions. If you don't know the answer, say you will follow up to get the answer and get back with them.
- **Counselor** – listen to members' suggestions, new ideas, and provide a positive response and try it. The new activity maybe something that has never been suggested before and provides great results.
- **Cheerleader** – give constructive feedback, be supportive of new ideas, and provide support and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all who have been attending the Zoom Training Sessions. The next scheduled sessions are:

- Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – 7:30 PM – Relief Fund by Karen Dotson, PDP
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 7:30 PM – Completing the Installation Report by Chris Leavor, Department. Secretary
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – 7:30 PM – Completing the Installation Report by Chris Leavor, Department. Secretary

*"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*

AMERICANISM ~ PDP Rose Cooper, Chairman  
2025 E Carlson St Apt H107 ~ Cheyenne, WY 82009  
(585) 403-1390 ~ navyvet8194@gmail.com

“Americanism consists in utterly believing in the principles of America.” ~ Woodrow Wilson

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a GREAT Holiday while continuing to promote Americanism and Patriotism to the old and young alike. It won't be long and Spring conference will be here. I hope to see many of you there. Please bring your final reports to the conference, or either email or mail them to me by April 1<sup>st</sup>. A big thank you to all who purchased Wreaths this year. It was a great success. Don't forget to send in your Honor Flight donations. Since school is back in session it may be a good time to visit the schools and hand out Pledge of Allegiance certificates.

Please observe these Special Days; remember to fly your flags on these days if you don't already fly it every day:

Jan 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Feb 22 – Washington's Birthday
Feb 12 – Lincoln's Birthday	Mar 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day
Feb 17 – President's Day	

Thank you for all the reports I have received, and 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*



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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Hello! Can you believe we are already in February and the Spring Conference is just a month away? That means warmer weather is upon us, and so much more can be done with our youth during the warmer months.

*In the month of February, we celebrate Valentine's Day:* Auxiliaries can host a Valentine's Day dance for our youth. We can also have card decorating parties to send to the men and women that fight for our freedom. Let us not forget about our local neighborhood Veterans that we can give special Valentine's too.

*In the month of March, we “get our green on” to celebrate St. Patrick's Day:* Auxiliaries can host a corn beef and cabbage dinner and have our youth help. We can also have a “green” bake sale with all green baked goods.

#### Illustrating America Art Contest – Important Information:

##### Contest Eligibility:

- ✓ Students in grades K-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- ✓ Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- ✓ Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not eligible**.
- ✓ Previous winners of the Illustrating America Art Contests are **not eligible** for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

##### Contest Rules:

- ✓ Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- ✓ Entry must be two dimensional.
- ✓ Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- ✓ Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- ✓ Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- ✓ **Do not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic, or glass.

##### Deadlines and Judging:

- ✓ March 31: Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- ✓ April 15: First place winner from each grade division of each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state) for judging.

I cannot wait to see everyone at the Spring Conference. Please continue all your hard work and send in your reports. Just do not forget they are due on the first of every month.

Loyally, *Phyllis*



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

Happy New Year everyone!

Please send your program reports to the Department Chairmen by the 1st of the month. Every report is important as this helps us keep our tax-exempt status.

There are only a few months left to this reporting year. We need to show Madam Department President Darlene that New York State can be 100% in reporting. If you are finding it hard to do the reports, or if you don't know what you can report, please contact the program chairmen for help.

We have one program that is 100% in reporting and several only lack a few reports. Check the department website to see what programs you need to report on.

I hope we have a banner year for reporting!!

***“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, *Jackie*

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



**“Be the ray of sunshine!”**



Here we are at the beginning of a new year, it's no surprise that time flies. Even though we are covered in snow and the temperature keeps dropping, Auxiliary members across the state continue to bring joy and sunshine to our veterans. The reports (with pictures!) that I have received are just so heartwarming to read, making the snow and cold not so bad after all.

Valentine's day is on the horizon, and I suspect you are working on Valentines for Veterans. This is a great opportunity to work with youth groups, either through schools, local libraries, or churches, and enlisting them to make the Valentines. The Veterans will really enjoy receiving them and the children will have fun making them. And you can report this under the Youth Program! A win-win situation for all. Spring Conference is another event on the horizon. I will have a box for reports so feel free to bring them with you. Don't forget to fill out an award form. They are on the National and Dept of NY websites! I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

I am also looking forward to the upcoming year and hearing about all the great things you do to bring a smile and sense of wellbeing to our veterans, and for showing that **you** are the “Ray of Sunshine” they need.

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*

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

**Deadline Missed!**

Well, brothers and sisters, the January 15 date that President Darlene set for inspections to be done has come and gone and we are still missing some inspections. If your District President, or representative, has not contacted you yet for your Official Visit, please reach out to them. District 6 is 100% inspected and all their 990N's have been received. A couple districts only need one or two more to be 100%.

I still receive only the “electronic notice to file” with many of the inspections instead of an acceptance letter from the IRS that you have filed. Each Auxiliary has been contacted and I have received a few of the acceptance letters back, but as of the time that I am writing this article, there are twenty auxiliaries who have not sent a copy of their 990N's. I feel like I am starting to sound like a broken record, but the inspection with the 990N attached is how it was set up back in June in Darlene's Program Guidebook on Page 7.

Loyally, *Sandra, PDP*



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



***It is never too late to coordinate and approve to volunteer hours to help your community. For example:***

- ☑ Contact a **homeless shelter or community service organization**. “New York ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> on list of states with the largest homeless population!” Homeless people may use shelters, or may sleep in cars, tents, on couches or in other public places. More than 771,800 people in the United State were experiencing homelessness.
- ☑ Contact an **animal shelter**. February is one of the coldest and driest months in New York, with rain, snow and as few as seven (7) sunny days. March temperatures are a little warmer with rain, wind, and snow.
- ☑ Contact a **food bank**. According to a NYS Health Department report, “approximately one in four adults in New York State experience food insecurity.” Feeding America reports that “1 in 5 children face hunger in New York.” A food bank that acquires, sorts, stores, and distributes food to community groups that include food pantries, soup kitchens, after school nutrition programs and emergency relief charities.
- ☑ A **motion must be approved and recorded in your Auxiliary Minutes** for members to volunteer their time and work under the direction of the partnered organization while wearing apparel or insignia that makes them easily recognizable as VFW Auxiliary making community organizations’ events/projects successful.
- ☑ **Report “Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?”** If you have questions about partnerships, motions, and/or reporting, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to help New York Auxiliaries receive credit for the work they do to improve their communities, residents, animals, and environmental surroundings. You do the work – you just need to make the motions and send in the reports.

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.

Loyally, *Judy*

**“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 that was on the January 7th Zoom Celebrating the National Home’s 100th Birthday. We also held the Health and Happiness \$20 drawing and the winning District will be announced at the Spring Conference for anyone not on the Zoom. Thanks to all the Auxiliaries that sent in their Health and Happiness.

**Life Membership Drawing:** A reminder of the \$50 drawing at Spring Conference for those who purchased a National Home Life Membership. **(NOTE: Be sure to send the Life Membership applications directly to the National Home and make the checks payable to the National Home. DO NOT send that to me.)**

**Cash Bash Drawings:** Also, the Cash Bash drawings will be held at the Spring Conference. Tickets are \$20 each and only 300 tickets will be sold. If you need any more tickets, please let me know. Also, if you have tickets that will not be sold, please send them back to me.



**Buddy” Poppy Display Contest:** Judging for the contest will take place at the Spring Conference, in 3 categories: Public Promotion; Memorial or Inspirational; Artistic or Decorative. The display **MUST** have one “Buddy” Poppy in its original form, color with the label attached. A 3 x 5 index card should be affixed to the bottom of the display identifying the category of entry, Auxiliary Number, District Number and the amount of “Buddy” Poppies used in the display. Include a written/typed report explaining the inspiration for the display. All first-place winners from each category will then be entered into the National Judging in Columbus, Ohio. I am looking forward to seeing all of your lovely displays. Each Auxiliary is allowed one entry at the Spring Conference.

Happy Valentine’s Day & St. Patrick’s Day! 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.”**

Loyally, *Flora*



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



**FEBRUARY – Support VFW’s VMS, MAP, Unmet Needs, & ‘Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship’**



We are “*Soaring Into the Next Century of Service With Our Veterans and Their Their Families*” in February by supporting our veterans and families through the VFW’s programs of Veterans and Military Support (VMS). VMS includes Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and “Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship. During your Spring

District meetings, collect donations for these programs. You donated on the Donation Form 1 in the Fall. Inform your auxiliary members about the programs. Thank you to all who adopted units from Fort Drum for the holidays! All of us need to hold events in February and March to



support VMS, MAP, Unmet Needs, Sports Clips Scholarships. DONATIONS may be sent to this chairman and/or donated at the Spring Conference! OUR support is still needed! Honor our Veterans on Valentine’s Day, Presidents’ Day and EVERYDAY!



**MARCH – The winds are blowing in your EOY Reports – by MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>!**



This year, we have really simplified the End-of-Year Report for Veterans and Family Support! The Department of NEW YORK is terrific! So this year, remember to add up the total number of veterans helped, the total number of all your donations from your reports on Americanism, BP/NH, Hospital, Legislative, Scholarships and Youth Activities AND Veterans and Family Support and put those totals on the Veterans and Family Support End-of-Year Report! Goals are to EXCEED 1800 Veterans served and \$200,000 donated in 2023-2024! SUBMIT your total report to me by March 31<sup>st</sup>!

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! Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Conference in

March. Thank you and 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.”*

Loyally, *Dee*



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



As 2025 begins, we should look to the remainder of our 2024-25 Auxiliary Year. Remain aware of the Research to Erase Cancer. Whether a Cancer patient now or a Survivor, Thank you everyone as we advance to be Victorious.

Our 11 Districts may be holding meetings or be in communications soon. I want to remind all Auxiliaries that they can begin to think about their request to help their District President again this year.

**At the SPRING CONFERENCE scheduled for March 21 – 23, 2025 :**



Each **DISTRICT PRESIDENT** is asked to bring a replica of Department President Darlene’s Logo “Hot Air Balloon” [as shown to the left] to be part of the raffle prizes during the Conference. A barrel shaped ‘Jug,’ (ie, Party Mix Chip/Snack Jug, 43 oz. size), could be used and is available from most big-box stores. It could be emptied and decorated to resemble the ‘red, white & blue’ stripes and our VFW Family figures on the balloon. The snacks could be eaten to empty the Jug and then filled with items of your choice showing our 100<sup>th</sup> NY VFW Auxiliary anniversary celebration, or dedication to our hero Veterans & their families... just let your appreciation show! At Spring Conference, the cost of raffle tickets will be 3 tickets for \$2 or 10 tickets for \$5.00.

Contributions through your District will help the Raffle and continue our mission to **ERASE this CANCER** disease, and support current research to find a CURE for **Cancer patients**. Thanx in advance VFW Auxiliary members.

*“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, *Phyl*





## CONGRATULATIONS!!



to the Winners of the Department of NY  
2024-2025 Stop-22 Walk-a-Thon Initiative!

1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$500 – VFW Post & Auxiliary 7227, Carthage

2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$250 – VFW Post 4685, Greece

3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$100 – VFW Post & Auxiliary 1384, Long Beach

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



Boy Scout Troop helping out at the Carthage VFW Post 7227 Stop-22 Event.

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

It is hard to believe we are heading into February already with just 5 month left to the current year. I am glad to be past the holiday bustle and looking forward to the next 5 months. As you are aware we have the 9-month raffle, and the December winner was Shirley Ludwikowski from Aux 6811 District 4 and our January 2025 winner was Jill Kenney from Aux 2522 District 6. Kim White will have the checks in the mail to you. It is not too late to send those 9-month calendar tickets in as I am still receiving them.

The think BIG purple ticket is for the 55-inch flat screen TV. I am also receiving those but if you got your ticket from your Auxiliary and you want them to get credit please put the Auxiliary number on it. I have received tickets purchased by several and have no idea what auxiliary needs the credit. If you did not receive your tickets, PLEASE reach out to myself or Belinda Cole and we will get them to you. I will be doing a push on them at Spring Conference in March and another push in the newsletters before convention. Remember we have other prizes to give if you do not win the TV.

I hope you all had a joyous holiday season and let us continue to get those X's under your auxiliary number. I would like to be 100% by then for participation when I talk about the program. Be sure to make all checks out to Dept of NY Aux and mail stubs and check to myself at the above address.

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

Loyally, *Marcia*

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

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday! But now it is time to get to work on the rest of this program....

**Continuing Education Scholarship:** Applications should be into National by February 15, 2025.

**Young American Creative Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Creative Patriotic Art:** Our 2 art contests should be sent out to our students in grades 9-12. Entries need to be submitted to the Auxiliaries by March 31. Local judging needs to be completed by April 10 and sent to me by April 15 at the above address for Department judging. I will have information at Spring Conference or you can let me know and I can get it to you.

**Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen:** The VFW Department Chairman has completed their VOD/Patriot Pen judging and will be sending them on to National for judging. But, as of this writing, I have no further information.

I would like to thank Districts 6, 8 and 11 for being 100% in this program. Several other Districts only lack 1 or 2 Auxiliaries to report, so let's see if we can get this done. Please contact me if you would like to know what you lack.

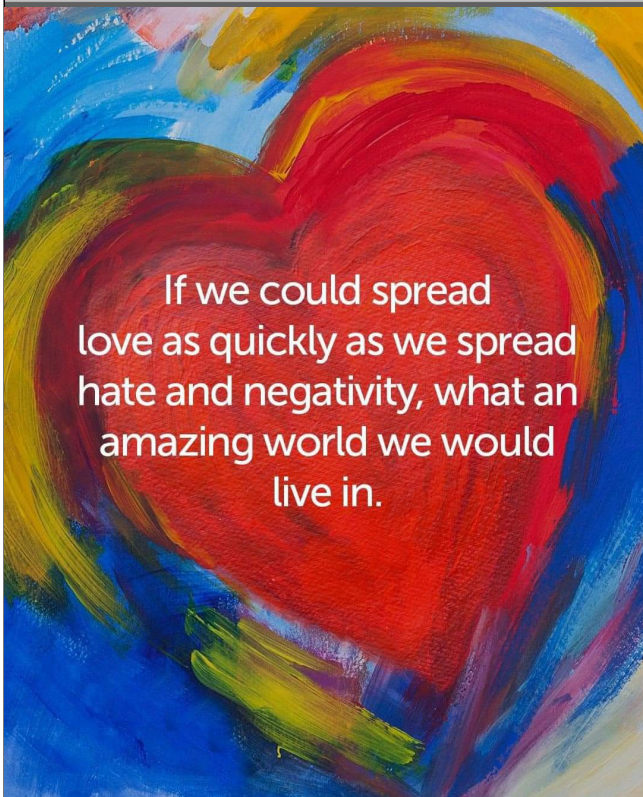
*"Soaring Into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families"*

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

Loyally, *Joan*



*Inspirational Message*  
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN  
Charlene Carnright



If we could spread  
love as quickly as we spread  
hate and negativity, what an  
amazing world we would  
live in.

*Many Words of Thanks*

✎ The Ingoglio family wants to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, prayers and condolences with the passing of Melinda's brother. It's never easy losing a loved one, but your love and support helped them through and continue to help as they try to adjust to their new reality.

~ *The Ingoglio Family*

✎ The Walker family would like to thank all members of the VFW and Auxiliary for their condolences, cards, and prayers when we lost our son. We appreciated all the prayers and thoughtfulness.

~ *The Walker Family*

✎ Thank you to all Department Officers and members for the heartfelt condolences, cards and emails, upon the passing of my Sister and best friend, Annamarie Winchell. Anna was a member, a loving and forever smiling lady. She will forever be with me. Your outpouring of friendship will never be forgotten.

~ *Kathleen Hayward, Dist 3 President*

✎ I just want to thank everyone for the love and support of the passing of my Mom. I received so many emails, phone calls, text messages, and cards.

~ *Tina Roberts, Dist 8 President*

LEGISLATIVE ~ Tina Roberts, Chairman  
1215 Crawford Road ~ Dundee, NY 14837

H: (607) 243-8011 ~ C: (315) 694-0326 ~ [tinaroberts@frontiernet.net](mailto:tinaroberts@frontiernet.net)

Happy New Years Fellow Auxiliary Members!!!

I can't believe we are moving into the New Year of 2025 already. I hope everyone had a great holiday season. As we move into the New Year, Inaugurations Day is January 20, 2025, this is when President-Elect Donald Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.

**Our voices have been heard!** The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act was passed; it will soon be signed into law. This bipartisan bill allows for more flexibility in the care of elderly and disabled veterans by "providing non-institutional alternatives to nursing home care (which) generally may not exceed 100% of the cost that would have been incurred if a veteran had been furnished VA nursing home care... however, for specified veterans, the VA may exceed 100% of the cost if it determines the higher cost is in the best interest of such veterans (i.e., veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a spinal cord injury, or a condition the Secretary determines to be similar to such conditions)."

**Keep an eye out for the VFW Action Alerts.** We need to keep our voices heard for our Veterans. We need to stay **informed** and **educated**, so we can go out and **participate** and get **involved**. 20 Auxiliaries reported that their members voted in the Presidential elections; a total of 365 members voted.

Congratulations to District 6 and District 8 for being 100% in reporting. Let's keep up the great work and keep those reports coming in.

*"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*



**AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT**  
**1371 ~ Glen A Warner ~ Owego, NY**

Members of Auxiliary 1371 were out this past Holiday Season to help bring a little happiness to veterans and others in a nearby homeless shelter in Binghamton. Karen Messersmith gave each VOA shelter resident a blanket. The Auxiliary distributed gift bags, gift cards, and Christmas cards. Auxiliary members also spent time visiting and talking with the veterans.



L-R: Karen Messersmith, Aux Pres  
 Jean Marie Sabol, VFS Chairman  
 Dorolyn Perry, Steve Sabol.



L-R: VFS Chairman Dorolyn Perry,  
 Karen Messersmith, Aux Pres Jean  
 Marie Sabol.

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

Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers!

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

It is an honor to serve as Department Historian /Media Relations Chairman this year and will do so with much excitement! *"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*



***Trees for Troops***  
*Thank you to everyone who helped make  
 the holidays a little brighter for our  
 troops overseas!*



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 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous month.  
***April/May articles are due March 1<sup>st</sup>***



Happy Valentine's Day Veterans

## **Don't Miss the 2025 Spring Conference!**

**What:** VFW Auxiliary DNY Spring Conference  
**When:** Friday, March 21 – Saturday, March 22, 2025  
**Where:** Holiday Inn Downtown, Binghamton  
2-8 Hawley Street, Binghamton, NY  
**Rooms:** \$139 per night with Group Code **VFA**  
Call hotel directly: 607-722-1212  
**Deadline** for reservations: **February 21**  
Upon arrival, present Tax-Exempt Form

### **Registration/Meals:**

- Advance Registration is \$8, On-Site Registration is \$10
- **Deadline** for advance registration/meals: **March 10**
- Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary Dept NY
- Mail to: Karen Dotson, PDP, Spring Conf Chairman,  
19 Calgary Lane, Binghamton, NY 13901

### **Saturday Special Presentations/Guests:**

- 8:30 am: "Modernization of Charitable Gaming"  
- Retired Col Joe Morris and Allen Lund
- 9:30 am: "Women's VA Healthcare/Maternal Care"  
- Hillary Cashier (Syracuse Women's VA Clinic)

### **Special Project "Baby Shower":**

- Auxiliaries are welcome to bring baby diapers and wipes.

Department President Darlene looks forward to seeing all members at the Spring Conference as we are "*Soaring into the Next Century of Service with our Veterans and their Families.*"

### **National Representative Sandra Uzell National Conductor**



Sandra Uzell, of Moreland Hills, Ohio, was elected to the office of National Conductor of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 111th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. She is now in the second of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2028-2029.

She is a Life Member of Al Santos Lyndhurst Auxiliary 7536 in Lyndhurst, Ohio, which is named after her father. She joined on the eligibility of her husband, Clayton, a Vietnam Veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1965. She has served the organization in many capacities including, Auxiliary, County, District and Department President, National District Council Member Area D, National Color Bearer, Past National President Page and National District Council Member Page.

Sandra holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and was a registered nurse. In addition, she holds a hot air balloon pilot license, is a professionally trained clown, balloon decorator and floral designer. She is a life member of the VFW National Home and Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA) #92.

Her family includes three daughters, three sons, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys Broadway musicals, Candy Crush, Sudoku and spending time with her family.