



# AUXILIARY NEWS ~ August 2025

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

It is a great honor to be serving as your Department of New York VFW Auxiliary President this year. It has been a long journey, and I am looking forward to working with all of you to make this year a great one. I follow in the footsteps of many amazing Presidents, and I can only hope to do them proud.

I thank my daughter Katie Rodriguez for the nomination to this great office and a very special thank you to my family, for their backing and encouragement while working the chairs. And I cannot forget my auxiliary family for their support. To my budget team of Kim White and Judy Lefebvre, thank you for the patience in getting it done and approved. To Chris Leavor, you should get a medal for Best Secretary Ever - thank you for staying on once again, and congratulations for being elected as Department Guard - Good luck on starting the chairs! To my "go-to's"; Advisor PDP Nina LeFrois, Chief of Staff PNP/PDP Jane Reape, and Aide to

Department President Melinda Ingoglio, thank you does not seem enough.

Words are not enough in thanking PSC Ben Thompson and PDP Lisa Raplee for installing the Auxiliary this year. For the first time ever, we held a joint Installation with the comrades. Thank you PSC Dan Kell, Department Adjutant Robert Mitchell, as well as, the staff of both department organizations for getting it all together and making it a truly memorable experience. My escort team of District 4 Commander Matthew VanEtten and District 6 Commander Marcello Rotunda, who looked amazing in their Marine and Navy dress uniforms, many thanks. To my Department Commander James MacArthur for allowing it all to happen, thank you. The Auxiliary looks forward to working together with the comrades to make our organizations even stronger.

To my committee chairs, I look forward to seeing how your programs are implemented and embraced by the Auxiliaries. We have many new chairs this year that have stepped up to give it a go. While I am on this subject, please read the program requirements carefully, pay attention to deadlines, and get your reports in on time.

OTI was earlier than normal this year, due primarily to the timing of the National Convention. I hope all those in attendance learned something new and were able to take this information back to their Auxiliaries. I applaud Dean Ruth Huber and her cast of instructors for an informative and productive training.

My special projects are The New York houses at the National Home and the Headstrong Project. You will hear more about these projects from both my Special Project Chairman Marcia Williams and Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman Debby McCarthy.

All Election and Installation reports have been accounted for this year. The requested date for all Treasurers and Presidents to be bonded is by July 31, 2025. If it is not done by August 31, 2025, the Auxiliary will be put on suspension. The bonds can be processed through MALTA. All Presidents should review and familiarize themselves with the information received in the Presidents' package. Please submit the Donation Form to Kim White by September 30, 2025.

All District Presidents are advised to send me a list of your meeting dates to plan official visits for the year. National and Department set all deadlines; it is the responsibility of the Auxiliary Presidents to adhere to them.

**"Be The Lighthouse in Someone's Storm," as we "Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue"**

Loyally, *Justine*

Justine Robles, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

## DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

### **Department President Justine Robles**

111 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Apt 1C  
Brooklyn, NY 11249  
347-760-0879, juddie1210@gmail

### **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

### AUGUST

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Aug 7...** National Purple Heart Day

**Aug 9...** National VFW Auxiliary Convention  
**-14...** ~ Columbus, OH

**Aug 23...** Joint Homecoming for Dept Cmdr Jim and Pres Justine, **RSVP: Aug 8**, to President Justine, 347-760-0879

**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 1...** Labor Day

**GENERAL ORDERS # 1 ~ AUGUST 2025 – (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 100<sup>th</sup> annual convention held June 12-14 2025 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, Justine Robles, hereby assume command of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York. All previous 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: Justine Robles at:

111 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St Apt 1C, Brooklyn, NY 11249

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 at:

2027 Cemetery Hill Road, 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 possess debit cards but may NOT possess a credit card. The debit card shall be in possession of the Treasurer. 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. 810A- Auxiliary President and Sec 813A Auxiliary Treasurer of the current bylaws.

7. VFW Auxiliaries are reminded of the suggested donation of \$2.00 per member to the Cancer Grant Fund based on Auxiliary membership quota as of June 30, 2025.

8. VFW Auxiliaries are encouraged to donate a minimum of \$0.10 (10 cents) per member for the VFW National Home “Health and Happiness” based on the June 30, 2025, 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 34<sup>th</sup> St., 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **February 15, 2026**. The earlier the better with our weather.

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 31<sup>st</sup> (Apr 1 - Jun 30); November 30<sup>th</sup> (Jul 1 - Sep 30); February 28<sup>th</sup> (Oct 1 - Dec 31); May 31<sup>st</sup> (Jan 1 - Mar 31). 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 2025-2026 Donation Report Form by September 30, 2025, 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:** *Justine Robles*, Justine Robles, Department President

**ATTEST:** *Christine Leavor*, Christine Leavor, Department Secretary

**NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 233 ~ MAY 27, 2025**

**Life Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 7393 ~ 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 suspension is now lifted from the Charter of VFW Auxiliary to Malsan-Jones VFW Post No. 7393, Tn of Whitestown, New York, as the Auxiliary has corrected their deficiencies and complied with their obligations:

The Dept 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 # 271 ~ JUNE 27, 2025**

**Redistricting ~ New York**

On June 24, 2025, the VFW National HQs notified the VFW Auxiliary National HQs of a redistricting within the Dept of NY.

1. The following Auxiliaries will be redistricted due to a vote and approval by the VFW Dept of New York, effective June 13, 2025:

**Aux 2159, 7172, 9587 are moving from District 2 to District 1.**

The Department President will see that this order is executed immediately and the Department records are changed accordingly.

By Order Of: Brenda Bryant, 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 2025 Convention.*

### **MEMBERSHIP ~ PNP JANE REAPE, Chairman**

- \* **Recruiting Award:** \$50 drawing for recruiting 20+ members by **May 31, 2025:** Lisa Hickok, Aux 524, (D5)
- \* **Century Award:** \$200 drawing for Auxiliaries over 103% by **May 31, 2025:** Auxiliary 5009 (D7)

### **WAYS AND MEANS ~ MARCIA WILLIAMS, Chairman**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| * <b>9-Month Calendar Raffle Winner:</b><br>\$200 – Jun: Craig Keitel, Aux 5491, (D2)    | * <b>Cornhole Boards:</b> Linda White, Staton Island |
| * <b>Think BIG 55" Flatscreen TV with Surround Sound:</b><br>- Francis Hibbard, Aux 4658 | * <b>Wooden Flag:</b> Linda James                    |
|  | * <b>Patriotic Wreath:</b> Aux 8259, Upton Memorial  |

### **DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS**

The following are corrections/changes that were reported after the Mini-Directory was distributed at the 2025 Convention.

- 📖 PDP Lisa Raplee/District 8 President/Historian Media Relations Chairman-*New Phone Number:* 607-368-1435
- 📖 PDP Bonnie Burgy-*New Address:* 113 Vanderkemp Ave, PO Box 22, Barneveld, NY 13304
- 📖 Department Sr Vice Belinda Cole-*New Email Address:* [bcolenyvfwa@gmail.com](mailto:bcolenyvfwa@gmail.com)
- 📖 Department Scholarship Chairman Lori Juskiewicz-*New Address:* 30 White Dr, Milan, NY 12571
- 📖 Department Cancer Grant Fund Chairman Amber Sullivan-*New Email Address:* [ambraux7276@use.startmail.com](mailto:ambraux7276@use.startmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 1400-*New Meeting Time:* 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 6:00 pm
- 📖 Aux 5009-*New Secretary:* Kaylee Bernard, 5797 State Rte 39, Castile, NY 11427, 585-991-2391, [kayrae3467@gmail.com](mailto:kayrae3467@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 5491-*New Secretary:* Teresa Kane, 25 Longwood Rd, Mahopac, NY 10541, 845-628-7268, [terrykane107@gmail.com](mailto:terrykane107@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 6196-*New Secretary:* Patricia McSwain, 18 Riverview St Apt A206, S Glens Falls, NY 12803, 518-646-2986, [p2252701@gmail.com](mailto:p2252701@gmail.com)

### **PROGRAM COORDINATOR ~ PDP Jackie Herbert, Chairman**

**P.O. Box 138 ~ Campbell, NY 14821**

**(607) 527-1005 ~ [jackievwauxny@stny.rr.com](mailto:jackievwauxny@stny.rr.com)**

Dear members:

Program Reporting is very important to our organization. This is one way we get to keep our Tax-Exempt status. Remember, anything your auxiliary did since April 1<sup>st</sup> may be reported. The reporting deadlines are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> of the month -- **Auxiliary Chairmen** submit reports to the Department Chairmen.
- 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month -- **Department Chairmen** submit their reports to me.
- 10<sup>th</sup> of the month -- **Program Coordinator's Report** posted on the department website, [www.vfwauxny.org](http://www.vfwauxny.org)

I will not change the Program Coordinator's Report without the Department Chairmen's permission. Please do not call me and tell me that you reported. Instead, you will need to contact the Department Chairmen and ask them why you didn't receive credit.

Let's strive to get 100% in reporting this year. As we **"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue"**, we will report **"From Sea To Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free."**

Loyally, *Jackie*



***Inspirational Message***  
**from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN**  
**Deanna 'DeeDee' Guyette**



*As we begin the 2025-2026 Auxiliary year, let us reflect on who we are as an organization and our role as members. We all took the obligation to serve our veterans, members, and country.... But, have we taken this seriously? These are not just words on a piece of paper. No one is perfect and we all make mistakes. However, it is vital that we get along with one another and that our actions be for the betterment of our organization. Do not let our egos get in the way of serving our veterans and their families. At the end of the day, can we say we made a positive impact? With the help of our Higher Powers, I'm sure this answer can be 'Yes'! Remember to give thanks to our Higher Powers and don't be afraid to ask for their guidance, in whatever manner you are comfortable.* **Much Love, ~ DeeDee**



**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. These goals will keep us informed of the key issues the VFW will be advocating on our Veterans' behalf: Budget, Health Care, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, Military Readiness and National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA.

**\* VFW Action Corps Weekly:** This is a free weekly email newsletter that will keep you informed about Legislation that is being introduced and/or passed. You can sign up at [www.vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://www.vfw.org/ActionCorps). We participate by taking action in contacting our local senators and representatives.

**There is a current VFW Action Alert CALL TO ACTION now:** HR 1815 VA Home Loan Program Reform Act.

**\*\*\* Vote Yes to keep Veterans in their homes. \*\*\***

**\* Let's get others involved by advocacy work:** 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) Call, write, and speak to your legislators.
- 2) Study and share the VFW Priority Goals.
- 3) Respond to the VFW Action Alerts.
- 4) Keep current on pending legislation (federal and state).
- 5) Visit the VFW Legislative Resources web page: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>
- 6) Attend town hall meetings.

**\* QR Codes:** We now have QR Codes that will take you straight to the [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) Legislative page where you'll find all the information I will be talking about throughout the year. (See the QR code above in the heading).

**\* Reports:** Remember reports are due to me the 1st of each month. I cannot wait to see how the Auxiliaries are going to support our Veterans this year with the Legislative Program.

***"From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free" while we  
 "Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue"***

Loyally, *Tina*



**AMERICANISM ~ Ashleigh Horsky, Chairman**  
**585 Park Avenue Apt 3C, Brooklyn, NY 11206**  
**(646) 712-4738 ~ she0722she@gmail.com**

Greetings Everyone,

My name is Ashleigh Horsky. I will be your Department of NY 25-26 Americanism Chairman/Patriotic Instructor. This is my very first time being a chairman and I know I have very big shoes to fill but I guarantee I will do my absolute best to fulfill my obligations.

This year's Americanism Program is very similar to the Americanism Programs of previous years. However I would like to focus on "The Stars." - the Gold, Blue, Silver, and White/Green. Not many people know the significance of these Stars and the banners they lay upon. We as a Veterans organization are the ones tasked with educating our peers and younger generations the true meanings of each Star and how they are honored.

This year in the Americanism Program, we will once again be participating in Wreaths Across America (deadline: October 31, 2025) and Honor Flight (deadline: March 1, 2026) programs. The forms for these events can be found in your Presidents packets and also on the Department website.

I look forward to reading about how the Americanism Program is promoted throughout the great state of NY and seeing everyone's hard work.

Don't forget to **REPORT!!! REPORT!!! REPORT!!!** - Reports are due to me by the 1st of each month.

And Remember to:

***"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, And Blue"  
 "From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"***

Loyally, *Ashleigh*



**CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND ~ Amber Sullivan, Chairman**  
**2 Donna Lane ~ Binghamton, NY 13903**  
**(718) 715-8784 ~ amberaux7276@use.startmail.com (New E-Mail)**

The medical community is advancing cancer treatments with new technologies and revitalized medicine regimens every day. As VFW Auxiliary members, it's crucial to stay informed and support these advancements, offering hope to our community. If you discover any new methods to combat cancer, please share them with me so I can research and share them with our brothers and sisters.

As a reminder, members of the auxiliary can access a \$550 Cancer Grant TWICE in their lifetime if diagnosed with cancer, without the worry of having to repay. The Grant Application can be downloaded from the National Website, our department website, the Department of NY Program Guidebook, or by contacting me for help.

Hopefully you've had a chance to review your Auxiliary President's Packets, which include details on the Cancer Grant Donation Fund. We know supporting various programs can be financially demanding, so we've introduced several ways to help.

**The Cancer Grant Raffle is back!**

A ticket for each Auxiliary member has been included in the President's Package. Three winners will be chosen at both the Fall and Spring Conferences. Donations through MALTA will earn participation credits in the Cancer Grant Donation Fund but will not provide raffle entries. We will also raise funds through themed raffle baskets and "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" paper ribbons, available at conferences or via order form throughout the year. The order form can be found on the Cancer page on the Department website: [www.vfwauxny.org](http://www.vfwauxny.org). These ribbons will be displayed at the 2026 Department Convention as a visual tribute to those impacted by cancer.

If you need help with donations or have questions, please contact me. Remember, in the fight against cancer, no one is alone. Thank you for making it possible for us to educate and advocate "From Sea to Shining Sea" to keep our veterans and their families Cancer Free.

As Helen Keller wisely said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Loyally, *Amber*



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



Welcome to a New Auxiliary Year!

For the past month I have had a disturbing number of requests from members for information that was sent to every Auxiliary President. This includes OTI information, Convention information, even election forms and more. I feel it is time, as we begin a new year to remind all Presidents that you are the elected officer responsible for letting your members know what is going on. **It is part of your duty as President.**

All COMMUNICATIONS from NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT, and/or DISTRICT are OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS and are to be shared with your members. The cost of USPS mailing information is prohibitive so most communications will come via email. If the President does not have email I send to the Secretary, or Treasurer depending on who DOES have an email. Many times, they can be summarized and filed- communications are supposed to be kept on file for one year.

In the case of election materials, which always come in March to be on hand for your April elections, I have sent to the President, Secretary, and Treasurer all at once, and Auxiliaries still call me to say they didn't receive them. In any event, whoever receives it, is responsible for seeing that the Secretary has the communications to read at the meetings and to note them in the minutes of the meeting.

The *Auxiliary News* is the official Department newsletter. Every Auxiliary President receives a free copy. The President's letter on the cover is an OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION from the Department President directly and is to be read in its entirety at the first meeting after receipt. If there are any General Orders or Special Orders they also are required to be read.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me: 716-676-2400 or [CAL2927@hotmail.com](mailto:CAL2927@hotmail.com).

Your Secretary also might receive a random email from me this year asking for the last two months' minutes. National has assured me that this is a proper request, so this is just a "heads-up."

If we have been lax in sharing communications, let this be our New Year resolution: to be sure we share all information with our members. Be transparent in all things; encourage members to be interested; and find things that they might take a special interest in.

Respectfully Yours, *Christine*



**YOUTH ACTIVITIES ~ Tracy Damato, Chairman**  
**32 Old Oak Lane ~ Levittown, NY 11756**  
**(516) 749-2890 ~ tracy053169@aol.com**

Dear Brothers and Sisters - Hello, I am Tracy Damato, your 2025-2026 Youth Program Chairman!

Today's Youth is our future of tomorrow! Today's Youth will be our future leaders. Today's Youth will be our future government officials - doctors, lawyers, teachers, laborers and much more! Today's Youth are our future military and military spouses and VFW and VFW Auxiliary members!

**Illustrating America:** Illustrating America is an Art contest for students in grades K-8 that are enrolled in public, private, or parochial school, or home study programs. Students must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Foreign exchange students and students ages 16 or older are ineligible. The contest is divided into three grade divisions; K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Entries will be judged on Patriotic theme and technique.

The Department's first place winner in each division will receive \$25.00 and a citation;  
 and the entry will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

**Deadline to the Local Auxiliary is: March 31, 2026**

**Reading Buddies:** This pairs well with Patriotism Through Literacy. Be a "Reading Buddy." Read one-on-one, in person, or via ZOOM or telephone with a child who might be struggling with reading, or simply lacking confidence in his/her own abilities. Reach out to schools, scouts, Family Readiness Groups, local libraries, or after-school programs to see if they need volunteers to read with kids. A few key points are:

- Host a "Reading Buddy Day" at your Post.
- Get proper permission from schools/parents and require parents to attend Reading Buddy Post events.
- Use **#auxreadingbuddy** to promote your Auxiliary Reading Buddy Program.

Be sure to **REPORT!! REPORT!! REPORT!!** And don't forget **REPORTS** are **DUE** by the **1<sup>st</sup> of Each Month!!!**

***"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue"***

Loyally, *Tracy*



**MEMBERSHIP ~ Christine Leavor, Chairman**  
**2027 Cemetery Hill Road ~ Franklinville, NY 14737**  
**(716) 676-2400 ~ CAL2027@hotmail.com**

***Welcome to another Membership year in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary!***

I hope by now you have had a chance to look through the new Program Guidebook and review the Department's Membership Program.

This year we will "bridge the gap" between recruiting and retaining; the difference between signing up NEW members and keeping those we already have. You have all heard the phrase "Make new friends, but keep the old ones..." We made over 800 "new" friends last year but let over 200 of our "old" friends walk away. Why? Did we reach out and ask them "why?"

Those "old" friends are not the ones who passed away, they are ones who for one reason or another CHOSE not to pay their dues. Was it because of a financial issue that we COULD have used our Relief Fund for? Was it because of personality conflicts or bickering at our meetings? Was it because we meet, but "never really do anything for veterans?" Do we meet at times convenient for our most active members? Or was it because the member came once, was not welcomed or even spoken to, and who when he/she volunteered to help was told "Oh, we do this all the time. We have this one covered. Maybe next time."

We need to take a long hard look at ourselves and be honest about how we treat our members. This year we are asking EVERY Auxiliary to create a **Membership Plan or Program**. and earn the "Red Award" which is mentioned in the Guidebook. The "Red Award" entry form is in the President's pack to complete **before September 1<sup>st</sup>** to explain how your Auxiliary will recruit AND retain your members this year. The BEST submission will receive a Life Membership to bestow on one of your members. This form is also available in fillable form on the Department website (vfwauxny.org) under Membership.

Membership awards this year will be earned by "crossing" bridges (goals) and enhanced if your Auxiliary has also retained current members. Check **deadlines and requirements** in the Program Guidebook so your Auxiliary doesn't miss out on opportunities to earn money for your treasury. I am excited to see how we retain and grow this year!

Loyally, *Christine*



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

### **Districts RU Healthy?**

We have a healthy checklist for Auxiliaries. Why not for Districts? How do we know Districts are in the “red?” Red means an Auxiliary is functioning well; White indicates that they could use a little nurturing; and Blue means they could be in trouble and need support. Districts are **Schools of Instruction**, a liaison between Auxiliaries and Department and **in** the chain of command. The duties and responsibilities of Districts are to assist Auxiliaries, spot issues, and attempt to resolve problems before they become more serious. They provide encouragement, guidance, and support to their respective Auxiliaries. *“Leadership is not a spectator sport.” ~ Jackie Robinson*

- Offering Schools of Instruction at District meetings
- Selection of good Chairmen
- Officers and Chairman are enthusiastic and prepared
- Officers/Chairman demonstrate leadership
- Communicate & engage with Auxiliaries regularly
- Promote Traditions/Rituals
- Attendance at Fall & Spring Conferences
- Attendance at Officer’s Training
- Attendance at Department Convention
- Attendance and participation by Auxiliaries



### **Healthy Districts make Healthy Auxiliaries!!**

*“From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free”*  
as we *“Always Stay True to Our **Red**, **White**, and **Blue**”*

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*



**HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS ~ PDP Lisa Raplee, Chairman**  
**4259 State Route 226 ~ Dundee, NY 14837**  
**(607) 368-1435 ~ lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com**

***This year is off and running, and I am so excited to be your Historian/Media Relations Chairman this year!***

This year, I plan to use past strategies and make the most of current technology. I will be creating press releases for each event that takes place on the Department level, that you will be able to take back and submit to the local media in your area. It is important that we inform those in our area what is happening within our organization, as this will help in recruiting new members.

For those members who will attend the Officer’s and Member Training, you will see my presentation on how to create a reel that can be shared on your Facebook page. I will have awards at the end of the year for the best ones! I will also go over it again at our Fall Conference.

If your auxiliary or district has a Facebook page, please add me or tag me in your post. I would like to share all that is happening in our great state for all to see. If President Justine makes a visit to your area, please share any photos that you take so that we can follow her from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Peace Bridge and all the wonderful places in between!

Please remember to use the following hashtags when posting on your Auxiliary social media accounts:

- [#vfwaux](#) & [#vfwauxiliary](#) – general posts about the VFW Auxiliary
- [#auxiliariesinaction](#) & [#auxinaction](#) – Auxiliaries in Action, recent activities
- [#vfwauxtbtt](#) – VFW Auxiliary Throwback Thursday, photos from our past
- [#VFWrepost](#) – VFW Repost, sharing information directly from the VFW

I am looking forward to seeing all that you do this year to preserve the history of your auxiliary, while promoting all the things we do as an organization. Together we will

*“Always Stay True to Our **Red**, **White**, and **Blue**”*  
*“From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free”*

Loyally, *Lisa, PDP*

**WAYS & MEANS ~ Charlene Carnright, Chairman**  
2 Fayette Street ~ Waterloo, NY 13165  
(315) 719-1820 ~ chooper70@gmail.com

Welcome to a New Year for the Department of NY Auxiliary!

**9-Month Raffle:** I would like to remind Auxiliaries to send their 9-month raffle tickets in time for the first drawing to be held in October at Fall Conference.

**'Get-Away':** At Fall Conference I will have information regarding my big relaxing 'Get Away' in The Finelakes Region of NY - a weekend getaway in wine country; including hotel, dinner for 2, and 2 surprise gift certificates.

**Fall Conference Raffles:** Take a chance on the following items being raffled off at the Fall Conference:

- Kindle Fire HD 10
- Hand Forged Butcher Knife Set
- Wooden Cooking Utensil Set

I look forward to a great Ways and Means year. Let's make it united!

Loyally, *Charlene*



**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT ~ Kim Cavallo, Chairman**  
61-58 71<sup>st</sup> Street ~ Middle Village, NY 11379  
(516) 458-3930 ~ kcavallo1920@gmail.com

**Congratulations** to Department of New York President Justine Robles, Line Officers, and all of the members of our Great Department of NY!

I am honored to be your 2025/2026 Veterans & Family Support Chairperson and look forward to assisting President Justine and her team to ***"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue."***

This year, the Veterans & Family Support Program will again focus on supporting the VFW's goals of serving our veterans through a variety of programs. Please donate generously on Donation Report Form in your Guidebook.

**"Trees for Troops":** You should have all received an order form for Trees for Troops. This amazing program helps make the holidays a little brighter for our troops who are far from home this upcoming holiday season. Please consider donating on both an Auxiliary and individual level.

**Stop 22:** You can begin planning now to hold a Stop 22 Event in your community. These events are meant to promote awareness of Veterans suicide. They can be a walk, knit, bake - anything for a continuous 22 minutes. Participants can collect donations, for example \$1 per minute, to support Veterans and Military Support Programs. I look forward to working with all of the Auxiliaries throughout the state and reading all of your amazing reports detailing the great work that you all do...

***"From Sea To Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free "and  
"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, And Blue"***

Loyally, *Kim*

**OFFICIAL VISITS ~ PDP Marianne McLane, Coordinator**  
3550 Deer River Road ~ Carthage, NY 13619  
(315) 286-2683 ~ mari.mclane1@gmail.com

***Here we are again, a new year with some of the same requirements.***

- ☑ Official Visits will be scheduled again this year by your District president. It is the District Presidents responsibility to either do the visit themselves or assign a qualified person to complete the Official Visit.
- ☑ As you know the filing of the 990N seems to be the biggest issue on the Official Visit form. The accepted date is required. This form will have accepted 990N right on the paperwork from the IRS.
- ☑ The deadline for all Auxiliaries to be inspected for the 25-26 Auxiliary year is February 25, 2026. Let's all work together to accomplish the task of all Auxiliaries being inspected by the deadline.
- ☑ If you have any questions, please call or email me at: 315-286-2683 or [mari.mclane1@gmail.com](mailto:mari.mclane1@gmail.com).

Respectfully, *Marianne, PDP*





**"BUDDY"® POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME ~ Debra McCarthy, Chairman**  
13775 Leitchfield Road ~ Eastview, KY 42732  
(270) 765-9341 ~ debmc@netscape.com



**Greetings from Kentucky!**

I'm so excited to be your Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman for 2025-2026! I hope everyone enjoys the program this year and goes outside the box for ideas, events, promotions, and REPORTS. The envelope I presented each District President had a list of many potential days to distribute Buddy Poppies. Please refer to that within the Auxiliary so we can make this a banner year for New York!!

**"HONOR":** At the State Convention, you were introduced to "Honor". She will be attending as many events as possible. My mission is to include our Military Dogs who proudly wore the uniform and served our country.

Please take note of the following regarding Fall Conference activities:

**COOKIES:** To help clarify the Cookies request found in the guidebook, *please* be aware of allergies. I am asking for labels on your cookies stating if there are nuts, raisins, or anything that may cause harm to someone; and be sure to note anything 'Gluten Free'. We must look out for each other! Make sure you have your Auxiliary and District noted to receive credit for participation. Be on the lookout for drop off instructions at the Fall Conference. The proceeds of the cookie sales will go to President Justine and Commander Jim McArthur's joint special project.

**RAFFLE:** You'll find an exciting raffle at my program table, so be sure and get your raffle tickets!

Be sure to promote the National Home Helpline (800-313-4200) and visit the website [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org).

I'm looking forward to making this a year of great ideas, fabulous promotions, and phenomenal REPORTS!

*"From Sea To Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free  
"Always Stay True to Our **Red**, **White**, And **Blue**"*

Loyally, *Debby*



**AUXILIARY OUTREACH ~ Maryellen DesForge, Chairman**  
7 Ravenwood Drive ~ Albany, NY 12205  
(518) 210-5774 ~ maryelcd.aux@gmail.com

My midsummer's dream come true. Your program reports arrive almost daily. Auxiliary members have been volunteering with a broad variety of partner organizations such as fire departments, therapeutic horseback riding, animal shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens, nursing homes and more. Do these activities give you some ideas to pursue?

**SPECIAL THANKS** to the auxiliaries that reported volunteer activities from April-May-June. These count for the 2025-2026 program year, as they took place after the April 1st year-end reporting cut-off. It is not too late to catch up with reporting these.

**INCLUDE** in your Auxiliary Outreach reports:

- Date or month when your auxiliary passed a motion or standing rule to authorize members' volunteer hours with the specific organization as Auxiliary Outreach. You can report this once, to remain in effect for the same organization through the 2025-2026 program year (April thru March). My log will match it up.
- Describe the work your member volunteers performed - and the VFW Auxiliary clothing or accessories they wore. *Perhaps a photo?*
- Number of Members, Hours, and Miles.

REMEMBER - NO goods or funds, from your members or your auxiliary, can be involved in Outreach. NO focus on Veterans, active duty military, or their families. Activities that can be reported for any other VFW Auxiliary program CANNOT be accepted as Auxiliary Outreach. Consider other programs before reporting. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Our member volunteers are a bridge that carries the VFW Auxiliary into the community. Auxiliary Outreach activities must be under the direction of the partner organization. We are there to help them, as they need. Let's reach across that bridge into our communities.

*"Always Stay True to Our **Red**, **White**, and **Blue**"  
"From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free"*

Loyally, *Maryellen*

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

**Headstrong Project:** is a mental Health Service to Veterans. It is a non-profit organization which provides confidential, barrier free, and stigma-free PTSD treatments. The goal is triumph Over Trauma. It aligns with their passions and values, with confidence.


- I am asking for your help by making donations at OTI, Fall Conference, and Spring Conference.
- I am also asking Districts to collect donations at their meeting so we can be 100%. Be sure to list which Auxiliaries made donations so they can receive credit. No donation is too small - just remember to report.


Loyally, *Marcia*




**SCHOLARSHIPS ~ Lori Juskiewicz, Chairman**  
**30 White Drive ~ Milan, NY 12571**  
**(203) 490-7512 ~ lorijus@yahoo.com**

**I have moved!!! Please see above address if you will be mailing your reports.**

 I am so excited to be your Scholarship Chairman this year. This is my first chairmanship, so bear with me. I promise I will always respond to any questions and reply to any reports that are sent. I am always just a phone call or email away, and happy to help.

 Deadlines for VOD and Patriots Pen will be here before we know it. You don't have to wait for school to begin to start promoting these. Please check the guidebook for all deadlines.

 We also have the Young American Creative Art Contest and 3D Art Contests again this year.

 Our National President Lois Callahan's special project is the Continuing Education Scholarship for Auxiliary members and their families. I am asking all Auxiliaries to please spread the word about this scholarship. Consider holding a fundraiser to help increase the amount available for Continuing Education awards. Gifts can be made through Malta.

*Let's make this a great year for our Veterans, our students, and for President Justine!!!!*

*"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue"*

Loyally, *Lori*



**HOSPITAL ~ Marie-Aymee Fisk, Chairman**  
**226 State Route 86 ~ Paul Smiths, NY 12790**  
**(513) 354-3037 ~ makfisk@gmail.com**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers

I am the new Hospital Chair for the Department of New York. I live in the upper region of the Adirondack Mountains, a little town called Paul Smiths. I joined the VFW Auxiliary ten years ago under my father who was a Vietnam veteran. I also serve our veterans through my work at a Community based outpatient clinic which is part of the Veterans Health Administration. Currently we serve 25 female veterans in Saranac Lake and 22 in Westport (where our sister clinic is located). Between the 2 clinics, we serve about 1100 veterans.

I look forward to helping serve our veterans. Our focus in the Hospital program is on our female veterans. Too often they have been overlooked in the past, but not today. Last year I was given the glass mugs to hand out to our female veterans. To date I have handed out 12. They've been received with smiles and "thank you for seeing me."

I want to thank the auxiliaries that have sent in April and May reports, some via regular mail, others via email. Please be patient if I do not respond right away. I am still on the learning curve. I am very proud of all our auxiliaries for supporting our veterans. There are so many ways to say thank you. Sending a card or letter, giving a vet a ride to an appointment, giving a family member of a vet a ride so they may visit the loved one in the hospital, assisted living or nursing home. These little acts of kindness help them to know that they are not forgotten.

Thank you to everyone. I look forward to seeing more reports of sharing and caring.

Remember to look up, not down, look forward, not backward, look out not in, and  
lend a helping hand as we serve and assist those who *"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue."*

Loyally, *Marie-Aymee*



Dear Members,

If you are a newly elected Treasurer, remember to file Form 8822-B with the IRS. This is how they know who to contact regarding any issues with your Auxiliary. Receiving and responding to any notices from the IRS promptly is crucial to maintaining your tax exempt status.

As we move into Fall, there are some things to remember-Please understand that the integrity of our organization depends on your thorough and honest inspection of the eligibility qualifications listed on new member applications. It is the responsibility of each investigating committee to know who is eligible for membership and who is not. Review the information provided in your podium edition for these qualifications. If you need help, please let me know. Make sure that all applications submitted are accurate, complete, and legible. This will avoid errors that need to be corrected later. Also, you need to send payment of the per capita of \$20 per annual member with each application. I do not have access to deduct payments for anything from your bank account. All checks should be made payable to VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.

Donation Report Forms are due September 30th, so please get them in ASAP so we can proceed to dues notices. The first dues notice will be mailed the beginning of October. Department is continuing to mail them only for Auxiliaries that contributed to the dues mailing fund on the donation report form. We are assuming that if your Auxiliary did not contribute, you have mailed your own notices.

Remember that your 990 is due by November 15th. It is required of **ALL** Auxiliaries. Our National Organization has two very good instructional videos on their website. Please go to [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org), login with your username, choose Online Auxiliary Academy. The 2 videos are: 990N ePostcard Instructions and IRS Form 990N ePostcard Guide.

Loyally, *Kim*



## **AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT**

### **9487 ~ Franklinville Aux ~ Franklinville, NY**



Wanita Mikulski, 2024-2025 President of Franklinville Auxiliary 9487, participated in Memorial Day activities with area posts while visiting cemeteries and services at Franklinville Town Square Veterans Memorial.



***How did you honor our Veterans this past Memorial Day 2025? Be sure to report your Auxiliary's activities to Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman, Kim Cavallo.***



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.

**September/October articles are due August 1<sup>st</sup>**



I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the 2024-2025 Floor Team! You were amazing to work with and I am so proud to have shared the 'floor' with you! You Guys Rock!  
~ DeeDee Guyette, 24-25 Conductor

**Hi Everyone ~ Meet "JUNIE"**

As most of you know, when I was Department President 2019-2020, my Special Project was Americas Vet Dogs. We all raised enough money to be given the privilege of naming 2 dogs. I made the decision to honor our two Gold Star Mothers, Anne Davis and Wanda Whitney, by passing this privilege on to them.

"Junie" was named for Anne's son Nathaniel C. Jones Jr. (aka as Junie). Thanks to everyone's hard work, dedication, and devotion to our veterans, Geoff an Army Veteran from Wisconsin has a new best friend "Junie".

God Bless you all!

~ Debbie Casella, PDP

