



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ September/October 2025

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

Department convention is over, and it is off to the races. New challenges and experiences pop up every day. Our Department OMTI, held July 25-26, was a great success. I was very impressed by the roomful of members in attendance, and I hope this event broadened your understanding of ALL that we do. I was happy to see our experienced chairmen return as well as our first time chairmen doing their skits to introduce their programs. We also had visitors from Maryland to get ideas on how to refresh their states OMTI by getting involved and participating in our New York shenanigans.

Just a reminder of some upcoming dates. 1) All Bonds must be processed by Aug 31 or risk Auxiliary/District suspension. 2) Donation Report Form must be in to Dept Treasurer Kim White by Sep 30. I am still missing a few requests for official visits, so please get them in asap as weather might be any issue with some locations.

I celebrated our country's Independence at Haspel-Stabb Post 551 on July 4. It was my first Official Visit ever as Department President. I was so proud to be invited by the first Auxiliary I helped organize, institute, and install.

My duties continued on a busy track throughout the months of August, September, and October:

- The 126th National Convention, August 9-13, was an eye opener as Department President. So many meetings and soooo much walking. But it was a truly great experience, as well as seeing old friends and making new ones.
- I attended a street renaming ceremony honoring a WWII Marine, Sgt. Charles Sciarra, in Brooklyn, on August 18.
- It was great to see you all at our joint Homecoming for Commander MacArthur and myself, on August 23. A big Thank You to Stuyvesant Falls Post 9593 for hosting our event. It was amazing!
- On August 26, I had the honor to attend the Abby Gate Memorial Ceremony, which honored the last 13 men and women killed in Kabul Afghanistan.
- In early September, I am excited to return to my home District 1's meeting on September 7.
- For the September 11 Remembrance, I am scheduled to attend multiple ceremonies throughout the day and night; as always, we must never forget.
- We must also remember those that never made it home. - September 19 is National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. And I am excited to be at my home Post 5806 for our ceremony.
- On September 28, I was blessed to be invited to a Gold Star Families Brunch. This event is very close to my heart. And a special note to President Fran from Post 9592 – 'You will finally have the Department President there.'
- I am headed to Post 1666 (Yonkers), District 2, for my Official Visit on October 4-5.
- October 10-11 is Fall Conference and we will be back at the Albany Marriott Hotel. I hope to see you all there!
- October 24-25 is the Eastern Conference and will be held at the Doubletree in Wilmington, DE. All are encouraged to attend.

In closing, be assured – we are here for you. Department and National are here to help you with any problems or issues that may come up, but PLEASE, use the proper Chain of Command: Auxiliary, District, Department, National. And remember to:

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

Loyally, *Justine*

Justine Robles, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Department President Justine Robles

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Franklinville, NY 14737
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Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette

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315-493-7520, dgullquist@verizon.net

PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

SEPTEMBER

9 – Marianne McLane, PDP
11 – Rose Cooper, PDP

OCTOBER

4 – Jackie Herbert, PDP
8 – Sally Gagnon, PDP
9 – Sandra Flynn, PDP
13 – Darlene Stanton, PDP
29 – Debbie Casella, PDP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sep 1... Labor Day

Sep 1... **DEADLINE** for Membership Red Award

Sep 11... Patriot Day

Sep 19... National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sep 28... Gold Star Mother's Day

Sep 30... **DEADLINE** to submit Donation Report Form to Department Treasurer

Oct 9-12... VFW & Auxiliary DNY Fall Conference
~Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY

Oct 24... Eastern Conference – Dept of Delaware
- 25... ~Wilmington, DE

Oct 31... Happy Halloween



The VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Takes Home Honors at National!!

The following awards were announced during the August 2025 National Convention in Columbus, OH

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE: - Jr Past Department President **Darlene Baker**

- ✪ \$500 Award to the Department for achieving all criteria for the Circle of Excellence

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT - Department Award #1: - Department Chairman **Dee Ippolito**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate to the Chairman for best promotion of “awareness of suicide and mental health.”

AMERICANISM - Auxiliary Award #1: - **Auxiliary 8734** Little Valley, Little Valley, NY

- ✪ Citation and \$25 to the Auxiliary that hosts the most outstanding activity about lesser-known patriotic holidays.

AMERICANISM - Department Award #2, Second Place: - Department Chairman **Rose Cooper**

- ✪ Citation to the Chairman and \$100 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH - Department Award #1: - Department Chairman **Judy Lefebvre**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate to the Chairman for best promotion of “how to build partnerships outside the Aux.”

AUXILIARY OUTREACH - Department Award #2, First Place: - Department Chairman **Judy Lefebvre**

- ✪ Keepsake to the Chairman and \$200 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION – Department Award #1: - Department Chairman **Karen Dotson**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate to the Chairman for best promotion of “mentoring to educate members on duties.”

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION - Department Award #2, First Place: - Department Chairman **Karen Dotson**

- ✪ Keepsake to the Chairman and \$200 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

HOSPITAL - Auxiliary Award #1: - **Auxiliary 260** Prince Wynn, Broad Channel, NY

- ✪ Citation and \$25 to the Auxiliary for most creative ways to interact with and provide happiness to veteran patients.

MEMBERSHIP - Member Award #2: - **Deb Cenni 8647** Lake Chautauqua Memorial, Lake Chautauqua

- ✪ National Membership Achievement Award to the Member who recruits (20) new members to the VFW Auxiliary.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Department Award #1: - Department Chairman **Phyllis Walker**

- ✪ \$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate to the Chairman for best promotion of ‘implementing youth reading to veterans.’

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Department Award #2, First Place: - Department Chairman **Phyllis Walker**

- ✪ Keepsake to the Chairman and \$200 to the Department for Outstanding Performance.

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER # 024 ~ JULY 18, 2025

Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 1417 ~ 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 Auxiliary to Morris Memorial VFW Post 1417, Morris, New York, is hereby suspended for the period not to exceed three (3) meetings due to:

1. Failure to elect and install officers.
2. Failure to submit audits.
3. Failure to obtain bond.

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 #054 ~ AUGUST 4, 2025

Extend Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 5796 ~ 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 of the VFW Auxiliary to Nissequogue VFW Post 5796, Kings Park, NY, is hereby extended for a period not to exceed an additional three (3) meetings, due to the:

1. Need to elect and install Auxiliary Officers.
2. Need to purchase bond.
3. Need to ensure audit is completed, submitted, and accepted.

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

By Order Of: Brenda Bryant, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of New York

SPECIAL ORDERS # 1 ~ JULY 17 2025

To be read at next Auxiliary meeting before being filed.

Effective immediately and until further notice, all official visits will be conducted in pairs. This includes those doing official visits (inspections), District Presidents visiting their component Auxiliaries, and Deputy Chiefs of Staff that are requested to go to an Auxiliary having issues.

No one will attend an official visit of any kind without a companion.

By order of: Department President Justine Robles

Attest: Chris Leavor Department Secretary



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

Greetings All,

It was so great to see everyone at OMTI and receive some of your reports. All the reports I have received so far show how much work we are doing for the Americanism program and I cannot thank everyone enough.

Well, it's September, that time of year when schools start up again. We can promote the Americanism Program by teaching our younger generations flag etiquette, The Pledge of Allegiance, or even having students color cards for our Veterans and Active Military Personnel.

The months of September and October have a few Patriotic Days to remember so mark your Calendars:

- **September** is ***"Military Suicide Awareness"*** month. To date we still lose over 20 Veterans a day to Suicide.
- **Sept. 11th- *Patriot Day*** Remembering those who gave all when America was attacked.
- **September 19th- *POW/MIA Recognition Day*** Honors the sacrifice and commitment made by our country's prisoners of war and those missing in action.
- **September 28th- *Honoring Gold Star Mothers and Families*** Honors the ultimate sacrifice a family has made by losing a loved one while deployed in action.

NOTE: We honor these families by ***NOT Applauding Them; instead simply asking them their Stars name.***

- **October 13th- *The U.S. Navy Birthday*** The Navy will be celebrating its 250th birthday this year.
- **October 13th- *Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day***.
- **October 26th- *Day of the Deployed*** Honoring the service and sacrifices of U.S. military personnel who are currently deployed around the world.
- **October 27th- *Navy Day*** Salutes all of the military personnel who have served, both past and present, in the United States Navy.

Wreaths Across America: Please DO NOT forget your forms are due October 31st.

Honor Flight: Also I have a correction on the form - one of the hubs is the TWIN TIERS not TWIN TIGERS. Many have asked and I must have not seen it when I was working on the sheets. So my apologies for that.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference. Be sure to stop by my table, say "HI", drop off a report, and grab one of my handouts.

Keep up the good work and 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*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



Can you believe it is September already?

The time just flies by! We will soon be meeting together in Albany for the Auxiliary's Fall Conference in October. It just doesn't seem possible.

As I write this, plans are being made to provide you, the members, with an outstanding and informational Fall Conference. Presidents need to be watching their emails. Fall Conference packs will be emailed to the Presidents, and it is their responsibility to see that the Secretary reads it at the first meeting after receipt. The Auxiliary should vote at that meeting on any expenses they will provide for members who plan to attend in order to meet the deadlines.

The Department Chairmen will have tables of information for you to take back to your members, and don't forget to bring a dozen cookies for the National Home's bake sale!

I also want to remind all Auxiliaries that they should be sure to have their bond processed before their Official Visit. The Official Visitor must initial it, and it's unfair to make her/him make a return trip to do so. Also 990 epostcards can be filed now (July 1-Nov 15). Your Official Visitor will also be looking for the acceptance copy. Please just do it as soon as possible out of respect for the Official Visitor's time and travel.

Wishing you all a wonderful year of service!

Respectfully, *Christine*



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

Hello Fellow Auxiliary Members!!!

It's hard to believe we are heading into September and it was great seeing new faces at the Department's Officer/Member Training in Binghamton. I also hope to see you at the Fall Conference.

I would like to thank everyone who has reported so far this year. As of July 31st, 34 Auxiliaries and 4 District Presidents have sent in reports. One District is only 1 report away from being 100% in reporting. That's Awesome!!

This year the Legislative Program is promoting "*Gratitude Days*". Think about key dates such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, or the birthdays of the US Military Branches. Every time we say "*Thank you for your service*" we are acknowledging the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

We can go beyond words and translate gratitude into action. *Thank you notes with a purpose!* Host a note-writing campaign where handwritten thank you notes to veterans are paired with the QR codes or links that direct recipients to the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-up page or the VFW Priority goals to keep people **informed**. This can add a layer of engagement turning gratitude into action. You can ask youth groups and community members to **participate** with the cards and **educate** them on Veteran affairs.

One of the National Awards is: "The Auxiliary who has the most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals." Think outside the box and let the card making begin!! Don't forget to add the QR codes. This information can be found at vfwauxiliary.org \Member Resources under the Legislative Program information -- Legislative Auxiliary Award No 1.

A quick reminder - Check the VFW Action Corps Weekly and take action when needed. Our voices must be heard to support our Veterans.

I am looking forward to reading your reports on how your Auxiliaries are supporting our Veterans and making those thank you cards.

"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*



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

MENTORING -- What is a mentor?

- ▶ Teacher
- ▶ Advisor
- ▶ Cheerleader



- ▶ Trainer
- ▶ Role Model
- ▶ Counselor

Are you a mentor a "buddy?"

A mentor is a member with experience, and a willingness to guide and support a new member, officer or new chairman. They act as a sounding board, offer advice, and provide constructive feedback to help the member grow within the Auxiliary. Valuable qualities of a mentor include honesty, a positive outlook and a genuine desire to help the member succeed.

Are mentors really necessary?

As seasoned experienced members, we will not be around forever. If our VFW Auxiliary is to remain a vital, healthy, thriving, and effective organization we need new talent and fresh ideas. With the guidance of a good mentor our new Officers/Chairmen can ensure the VFW Auxiliary will be able to adapt to change, foster a positive and productive environment, and ensure its continued success and relevance. **Basically** we are training our replacements!

"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*



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

We are now one month into our 2026 Membership year. The Department is at 73.71% largely thanks to the Life Members. Please do not wait for the Department to send its first set of membership notices in October. Contact your members NOW. They lose nothing by paying their dues early. Better yet, explain to them that converting to a Life Membership will save them from having to pay dues in the future. Explain to them that at \$25/year (or whatever your Auxiliary's annual dues are) the Life membership will pay for itself in X# of years.

Remember anyone whose dues are not paid by December 31st is no longer a member in good standing. They cannot attend meetings, hold an office, apply for a cancer grant, or receive other discounts/insurances available to Auxiliary members. Members do NOT have until June 30th to pay their dues. They have a grace period from Jan 1 - June 30 to reinstate their continuous membership and regain the benefits of being a member in good standing. I strongly urge all Auxiliaries to make sure all their officers have their dues paid as soon as possible.

Let's start this year by **asking every Auxiliary officer on each level** if their family members are all members if eligible. Wouldn't it feel GREAT to be 100% by December 31st? Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can help you in any way!

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

Loyally, *Christine*

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

Dear members:

September is the first post on the website for the Program Coordinator's monthly program report. If you didn't send a report to the Department Program Chairman, please take a moment to send him/her one now. It only takes a couple of minutes to type up a report. A word of advice – always keep a copy for yourself. As a reminder, anything your auxiliary did since April 1st may be reported. The reporting deadlines are:

- 1st of the month -- **Auxiliary Chairmen** submit reports to the Department Chairmen.
- 5th to the 7th of the month -- **Department Chairmen** submit their reports to me.
- 10th of the month -- **Program Coordinator's Report** posted on the department website, www.vfwauxny.org

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

Loyally, *Jackie*



Inspirational Message
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Deanna 'DeeDee' Guyette



For those of you not able to attend the 112th VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, OH, last month, I would like to inform you of a change to the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws. Per a majority vote, it was approved to remove the sentence "Profess a belief in God" from Section 101 Eligibility. While this change may sound alarming to some, it is not an indication that the VFW Auxiliary is abandoning its spiritual inclusion in its rituals. It simply means that an individual does not need to believe in God in order to support veterans. By removing this requirement from member eligibility, it ensures our most basic right of Freedom of Religion remains intact. Our love for our veterans and one another is still as strong as ever and will continue to define us as an organization. We are truly a family, and as a family, we show our unconditional love on a daily basis. I feel blessed to be a part of the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary, and to call each and every one of you, my family. And I love you all, whether you "Profess a belief in God" or not.

Much Love, ~ DeeDee



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



"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller

Greetings from Kentucky! I sincerely hope everyone is having a good time promoting, working, and learning more about the Buddy Poppy/ National Home Program! I am receiving great reports. Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW?

- ☺ Bit-O-Honey candy was produced in 1924; just 1 year before the National Home went from a dream to a reality.
- ☺ 11 veterans work on the National Home campus.
- ☺ You still have time to become a Centennial Member.
- ☺ Every day is Veterans Day at the National Home.
- ☺ Rhonda has been the piano teacher at the National Home for 46 years.
- ☺ There have been 43 homes built for our families at the National Home.
- ☺ The campus that entails the homes, playgrounds, etc, is 80 acres.
- ☺ 4-H is a strong program for the National Home families to participate in.

Fall Conference is right around the corner. We are having a super exciting raffle, selling cookies to raise money for President Justines special project, learning more and having fun doing it. On Fri afternoon, Oct 10, I will be at our table from 4-5 pm to receive any cookies or reports. After, you can meet me at our table at 7 am Sat morning. ...For anyone out there who does not know how to read a QR code - I can help! I am not good with technology so I went to Google search! Very simple to do:

Go to Google search, ask this question: "How to use QR codes?" It will answer specifically for Android, iPhone, or tablet devices. Just follow the instructions and YOU can see what the QR codes say in the guide book!

My goal is to bring as much awareness, participation, love and heart to this Buddy Poppy/National Home Program as possible. With this amazing group of auxiliary members we can succeed in reaching President Justine's goal. Let's work together and...

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

Loyally, *Debby*

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

- 📖 Aux 374-New Meeting Time: 2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
- 📖 Aux 2246-New Treasurer: Deborah Dunn, 124 Dwight Drive, Rome, NY 13440, 315-269-1602, ddunn1602@twcnv.rr.com
- 📖 Aux 2246-New President/Secretary: Patricia Carter (was already President)
- 📖 Aux 5092-New President: Doyle Denosky, 5832 S Geneva Rd, Sodus Point, NY 14551, 585-721-2858, djdenosky@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 5092-New Secretary: Denise Kozak, 4545 Smith Rd, Marion, NY 14505, 863-307-1041, cozygirl68@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 6703-New President/Secretary: Barb Jones (was already President)
- 📖 Aux 7128 Secretary-New Phone Number: 607-760-8969
- 📖 Aux 7291-New Treasurer: Jennie Mueller, 11 Kempton Place Apt 9, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, 518-879-7023, jenmueller21@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 8823-New Secretary: Jennifer Crandall, 21 Pine Ridge Terrace, Central Square, NY 13036, 315-256-4436, jcrandall@cssdapps.org
- 📖 Aux 8823-New Treasurer: Maureen Jones, 6285 Muskrat Bay Rd, Brewerton, NY 13129, 315-345-4156, mstetson100@yahoo.com

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the Department, Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, and members for their cards and donations. We are very appreciative. Ray is making great progress on his rehabilitation and he hopes to see everyone at Fall Conference.

**In Love,
 Raymond & Margaret Sheldon**



I would like to thank the entire Department of NY Auxiliary and members for the sympathy cards, phone calls, thoughts, and prayers, following the sudden loss of my husband Tim in early August. It means so much to me to know that I am not alone and my Auxiliary family is there for me.

**In Sincerest Gratitude,
 Linda Flanagan**

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

Is it August already? Where did the summer go?

I know that most of you have had your first meeting of the new Auxiliary year. How, you ask? Because every afternoon I go to my mailbox and am over the moon with the number of envelopes I have waiting for me from your auxiliaries in support of the Cancer Grant Fund Raffle. It is a real testament to your support of our brothers and sister that suffer from this terrible diagnosis. For those Auxiliaries that haven't sent in their \$2 per member in support of the CGF Raffle, there is still time. Our first drawings will take place at the FALL CONFERENCE in October. First Place: \$75, Second Place: \$50, Third Place: \$25.

Also, at our Fall Conference each **AUXILIARY** is asked to bring a basket aligning with President Justine's theme, "Always Stay True to our Red, White and Blue." Let your creativity, and your patriotic spirit shine, as we fill the table with the vibrant colors of freedom! Each basket is more than a collection of items; they are symbols of unity and patriotism. Tickets to win these baskets will be available to purchase: 3 tickets for \$2 or 10 for \$5.

Don't forget that for \$5 you can sponsor a paper ribbon that will be prominently displayed at our Department Convention in June! Choose your color, write a (short) message and let's help to create a visual tribute to all those affected by Cancer. The month of September is Awareness Month for 8 Cancers: Childhood (Gold), Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Purple), Leukemia (Orange), Lymphoma (Lime), Ovarian (Teal), Prostate (Light Blue), Thyroid (Teal/Pink/Blue) and Uterine (Peach). October is the Awareness month for Breast (Pink) and Liver (Emerald) cancers. We will have forms available at all conferences. Not able to attend conference and want to sponsor a ribbon? The form and instructions can be found on the Department Website under the Cancer Program.

If you need help with the Cancer Grant Form, donations, or have any other 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*



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

Can you believe the new school year is just around the corner????

So are the deadlines for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. There has been some confusion with these Scholarships. They both have the same theme this year:

"How are you showing your Patriotism and support for our country?"

All entries for both contests must be submitted to the local Post by midnight on October 31, 2025. Post judging to be done by November 15, 2025, and district judging by December 15, 2025.

Please remember that this year's National Presidents special project is the Continuing Education Scholarship. Spread the word among your members and consider making a monetary donation through Malta.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have submitted reports already and keep them coming!!!!

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

Loyally, *Lori*

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

Keep up the great work Auxiliaries!

I love seeing all the tickets coming in for the 9-month.

Hope to see everyone at Fall Conference for the big reveal for the fun Finger Lakes Getaway.

Loyally, *Charlene*



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

Here we are already in the month of August, what has your Auxiliary done since April 1, 2025?

Did your auxiliary hold events for Memorial Day or Flag Day? Whatever the event, please share pictures on your Auxiliary Facebook page, and tag me or the Department page so we can get people excited and informed of what we are doing for our Veterans and our communities.

Thank you to all who attended Officer/Member Training and completed reels! I have shared several of these on our Department Facebook page, so please take the time and check them out. If you go into your Malta account, click on member resources, then click on Historian/Media Relations and scroll down until you see how to create a Facebook reel. You will find all the directions to create your own reel, along with sample news releases and speeches for different events. Please make sure you use the hashtags that were in last month's newsletter.

If your auxiliary has any article published in your area newspaper, please send me a copy. I want to be able to share with others all the magnificent work your auxiliary is doing. Make your articles exciting so that those reading them will be interested in what we are doing as an organization. These articles are a fantastic way for others to learn about our great organization and all that we do!

To all District Presidents, I would like to remind you that if President Justine Robles is making a visit to your area, please send me pictures so we can share with everyone. When she makes her official visit to your District, you have 10 days to submit a report with no less than 6 photos to me. Do not forget to include the 5 w's: Who, What, Where, When, and Why! I am looking forward to seeing all these reports come in.

If we as members continue to work together to share all that our organization does and work to get it publicized, we will help to increase our membership. Good publicity will get nonmembers interested and ask questions and become your auxiliary's newest member. 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***



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

It has been so amazing to receive and read all your amazing reports and the fabulous things that you are doing to support our Veterans and their families! Please keep those reports coming!

September is Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month



"STOP 22": This initiative was started to raise awareness about the high rate of veteran suicides with the goal of reducing the number of suicides to zero. You can hold local Stop 22 events to raise awareness in the community and hold events to distribute information regarding the multiple programs available to Veterans. Any Veteran in crisis can **call 988, press 1** to chat with someone 24/7. Also, don't forget about the Joint Special Project for Commander Jim and President Justine, the Headstrong Project



"Trees for Troops / Holiday Cheer / In Lieu of Cards": Those of you that attended OTI were able to meet "Twiggy the Tree". If we are lucky, maybe he will make an appearance at the Fall Conference! All Presidents received the order form for Trees for Troops and In Lieu of Cards. I've already started to receive forms and donations which is so exciting! More information will follow about the sendoff ceremony which is amazing to be a part of and all are welcome to attend. Send those forms in as soon as possible to be included in this great program! The giant card for In Lieu of Cards will also be at the Fall Conference. Let's fill it up with well wishes and signatures!

For those auxiliaries that haven't reported yet – I know you are doing amazing things so please make sure to **REPORT REPORT REPORT** and get credit for what you are already doing. For those that have been reporting, please keep them coming!

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



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

Your reports continue to arrive by email, postal mail and in person at events. Already, auxiliaries in eight of our eleven Department of New York districts have reported for Auxiliary Outreach. ***Thank you!***

I will let you know if required information is missing from your report and then you can provide the missing information to receive credit. Please be sure that your reports include:

- ✓ When your auxiliary passed a **motion or standing rule** to qualify member's volunteer hours at each organization for Auxiliary Outreach.
- ✓ The VFW Auxiliary **clothing or accessories** that members wore while volunteering.
- ✓ The **name of the organization** where members volunteered.
- ✓ What **activities** members performed.

A few reports have not been eligible for Auxiliary Outreach. Volunteering with a veteran-focused organization is not eligible, nor any veteran-focused event or activity with other organizations. Activities must not benefit only members of a certain religion. Also, any donation of monies or goods, by the auxiliary or by your members, makes the activity ineligible for Auxiliary Outreach.

Let's ***SWATT*** – Share Wonderful Auxiliary Tips and Tricks!

- ★ List the organizations in your auxiliary's motion or standing rule, and the month approved, in one report. You will not need to repeat that information for the rest of the program year (thru March 2026).
- ★ If you learn of a volunteer opportunity too late for this year, make note of it so that you can become involved earlier next year. Many organizations hold the same or similar events each year.
- ★ Ask your members about other organizations they are involved with. There may be opportunities for additional members to volunteer.
- ★ Wear VFW Auxiliary accessories when you attend community events. Mention the VFW Auxiliary to others, anywhere.

Please reach out to me if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

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

"From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free"

Loyally, ***Maryellen***



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here are some things you can do with our youth for a few special days that are coming up fast, and more:

- * **Gold Star Mother/Family Day:** You can explain all the different stars and the meaning for them.
- * **Halloween:** You can have a 'Trunk or Trick' event.
- * **Reading Buddies:** A big part of the Youth program that pairs well with Patriotism Through Literacy.
 - 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 abilities.
 - Reach out to schools, scouts, Family Readiness Groups, local libraries, or after-school programs to see if they need volunteers to read to kids.
 - Host a Reading Buddy Day at your Post.
 - Get proper permission from schools/parents to attend the Reading Buddy Day Post event.
 - You can have a 'Trunk or Trick' event.
 - Use #auxreadingbuddy to promote your Auxiliary Reading Buddy Program.

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

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

Loyally, ***Tracy***



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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Thank you Districts 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9 and 10 for sharing all the wondrous ways you are serving our veterans, along with your donations. I hope to hear from more auxiliary members in the future. Be sure to mention the names of those volunteering. Many of you have been very busy. I love to read and hear about all of the activities.

At OTI, we collected many items, and a few cash donations, for our veterans, for a total value of 212 dollars. These have been sent to our VA representatives. FANTASTIC!!! Keep up the good work. Thank you Ruth Huber for all of your encouragement and wonderful ideas.

Our brothers and sisters have been helping in a variety of ways... I have read about donations of books and magazines, playing Bingo and card games, and cards that have been signed and given to our veterans, reminding them that we are thankful for their service. I read about one member who assisted the spouse of a vet, taking her to appointments and the hospital to visit her veteran. I was also happy to hear that sister Dallin has returned to volunteer duties at the Garnet Health Center.

As of today, 85 of our sisters and brothers have served 532 veterans, spent 744 hours volunteering, traveled a total of 2,238 miles and donated the equivalent of \$4244. This is phenomenal!! It is one of our ways to honor those who are true to the Red, White, and Blue.

As a reminder, do not forget to list your Auxiliary post and district number on the reporting form. Also don't forget to keep a list of volunteer names because members can be named as an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in their Program Division. Applications are available from the Department Chairman. Non-members can also earn a one-time volunteer pin for 100 hours. I hope to see a few applications at the end of my term.

Volunteers provide many crucial functions throughout medical centers and help make the patients' stay more enjoyable. Volunteers can perform several services:

- **Volunteer van drivers:** Help pick up outpatients. Volunteers must have a current driver's license and automobile insurance and pass a physical.
- **Information desk volunteer:** Help patients and visitors with information, directions and clinic locations.
- **Parking lot car drivers:** Help outpatients in large parking areas with access to the medical center. You must have a current driver's license.
- **Volunteer office assistant:** Help different medical or administrative offices with filing, answering phones and greeting and directing.
- **Patient escort volunteers:** Provide assistance with pushing patients in wheelchairs to scheduled appointments.
- **Hospitality beverage cart:** Deliver beverages to outpatient clinics and waiting areas.
- **Magazine/book cart:** Sort donated magazines and books and take carts to designated waiting areas.

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*

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

Headstrong Project is off to a good start!

OTI Collections: First, we had a dice roll game- whatever you rolled was your donation. Well, Commander Jim and Jane Reape had a challenge and let me say one thing - they were good sports to ante up their donations! You also got fined if you took a smoke break - and yes some paid in advance because they knew they needed it. I am proud to say we raised \$500 just at OTI, which was split between the Headstrong project and National Home.

Fall Conference and Donation Report Form: I have some interesting ways at Fall Conference to raise those numbers up so be ready! And remember it is also on the Donation form. All members who donate will get their credit for both programs. Also Districts and Auxiliaries can put out a collection jug to get credit.

Loyally, *Marcia*



Dear Members,

As we move into Fall, there are some things to remember:

- ✍ **Applications:** Please understand that the integrity of our organization depends on your thorough and honest inspection of the eligibility qualifications listed on these new member applications. It is the responsibility of each investigation 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 \$20.00 per 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 unless you want to give me a personal gift, which is always welcome!
- ✍ **Form 990-N:** Remember that your 990-N is due by November 15th. You can begin to file as soon as July 1st of each year. It is required of **ALL** Auxiliaries. Our National Organization has two very good instructional videos on their website. Please go to vfwauxiliary.org, login with your username, choose Online Auxiliary Academy.
- ✍ **Donation Report Form:** 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 middle 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.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference in Albany!

Loyally, *Kim*



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Deanna Guyette, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*

43 High Street ~ Carthage, NY 13619

The *Auxiliary News* is published six times a year:
August, September/October, November/December,
February/March, April/May, June.

Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the previous month.

November/December articles are due October 1st



Auxiliary 5861 celebrates their veterans
by hanging posters of their veterans!

You Won't Want to Miss Fall Conference! ~ Make Plans Now! ~ October 10-11, 2025

On behalf of Department President Justine Robles, the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York cordially invites you to attend its annual Fall Conference on Friday, October 10, and Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the:

Albany Marriott ~ 189 Wolf Road ~ Albany, New York 12205

- ★ The VFW room rate is \$134 per night. Call the Albany Marriott directly at (518) 458-8444 to make hotel reservations. The deadline to receive the VFW group rate for hotel rooms is **Monday, September 15, 2025.**
- ★ The Council of Administration Meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10, at 7:30 PM. *All members in good standing are invited and encouraged to attend.* The Fall Conference Business Session will begin at 8 AM on Saturday, October 11.
- ★ Registration begins on Friday, October 10, 2 – 6 PM and reopens again on Saturday, October 11, 7 – 9 AM. The cost for Advance Registration is \$8 per person, with an **October 1** deadline. Cost at the door is \$10 per person.
- ★ Department President Justine will host a luncheon at the 2025 Fall Conference at 12 Noon on Saturday, October 11. The cost of the luncheon is **\$48.50** per person. VFW members, Auxiliary members, and guests are invited to attend. Tickets may be picked up at the Registration table. Luncheon Reservation deadline is **October 1.**
- ★ Registration/luncheon reservation forms are included in conference packet or can be found on the Department website.
- ★ On Saturday afternoon, October 11, VFW and VFW Auxiliary members will have the opportunity to participate in a 22-minute walk/run to increase public awareness on Veteran suicide. Information and donation form are included in the conference packet and on the Department website.
- ★ We hope that you will join us for the Fall Conference to gather important information from our Department Chairmen.

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

Loyally,
Nina LeFrois, PDP
Fall Conference Chairman

***Don't miss this great opportunity to
learn, share, collaborate, celebrate,
and have fun with fellow members!!***

***NOTE: There is no VFW or VFW
Auxiliary Dinner scheduled for
Saturday evening.***