



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ November/December 2025

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

Can you believe that we are already a third of the way thru our Auxiliary year? They say time goes by when you are having fun, and I am sure having fun; and I hope you are too! Speaking of fun, we just finished our Fall Conference a few weeks ago and I saw a lot of smiles and laughter during the skits of our Department Program Chairmen. What an awesome job they did! Not only did they provide some great entertainment, but they taught us a thing or two about their programs as well. And let's not forget about their incredible table setups. You can tell how hard they are working and I am so proud of them! But, the best shenanigans of all, was all due to my Special Project Chairman Marcia Williams. She challenged both the Department Commander and myself to fill the army boots on her table with donations, and the one with the most donations gets to 'PIE' the other one in the face! Now, I won't spoil it for you, so just read Marcia's article

on page 9 of this newsletter to find out who won and got to enjoy their 'pie'! I would also like to thank everyone who attended.

Just a few short weeks after Fall Conference, I was headed out to Eastern Conference in Wilmington, DE, October 24-25. It was wonderful to connect with my fellow Department Presidents here in the East. I love every opportunity I get to tell other departments just how great the Department of New York is! Our meeting was wonderful and we all enjoyed a skit or two as well.

And back in early October, I made my first official visit to District 2. Several more visits are on the calendar for the next 3 months.

Prior to all the October travels, I was on the road in September for several engagements. First were the ceremonies for the September 11 Remembrance. It has now been 24 years since that dreadful day but it still feels like yesterday. I also attended the National POW/MIA Remembrance Day service at my home Post 5806. This felt very special to be there in my official capacity as Department President. Lastly on September 28, I attended the Gold Star Families Brunch at Post 9592. I was honored and humbled to attend all these events, as I stand by my commitment to never forget our military, their families, and all who are no longer with us.

I am also looking forward to more District visits, Auxiliary celebrations, and a few special events in November-December:

Nov 6 – Veteran Project Gallery; Nov 8 – Military Ball Post 7227; Dec 7 – District 1; Dec 8 – Trees for Troops

At this time, I have a few reminders to all Auxiliaries:

- ★ The deadline of November 15, 2025, to file your IRS Form 990N is fast approaching. This form covers the previous Auxiliary year from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025. If you need assistance, please reach out to your District Treasurer first, or then Department Treasurer Kim White.
- ★ Please ensure that the dues for all Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers have been paid by December 31st; otherwise your officer(s) risks removal. This is also a significant criteria for the Circle of Excellence. Please don't let the Department down and leave any unpaid officers. So, as a special request, I encourage Auxiliaries to have them paid by the end of November so that the Department can reach this milestone sooner.

In closing, I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving, blessed and Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

"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

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43 High Street, Carthage, NY 13619
315-493-7520, dgullquist@verizon.net

PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

10 – Justine Robles, President
16 – Jane Reape, PDP/PPN
28 – Kathy Zylko, PDP

JANUARY

4 – Edith Horst, PDP
9 – Chris Leavor, Guard/Sec

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Nov 2... DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour at 2 am

Nov 4... ELECTION DAY

Nov 11... VETERANS DAY ~ *Honor Our Veterans!*

Nov 15... DEADLINE for Auxiliaries to file 990-N

Nov 27... HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Dec 7... PEARL HARBOR DAY

Dec 13... WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY
~ Ceremonies at 12 Noon.

Dec 25... MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dec 31... DEADLINE for Auxiliary Dues
~ (Officers risk removal if not paid.)

Jan 1... HAPPY NEW YEAR!



NATIONAL GENERAL ORDER # 1 ~ SEPTEMBER 2025 ~ 2025-2026 SERIES

1. Having been elected National President and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been elected and installed by the 112th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:
- | | |
|--|--|
| National Senior Vice President Donna K. Mills; | National Junior Vice President Kim Harney; |
| National Treasurer Ann Panteleakos; | National Chaplain Sandra L. Uzell; |
| National Conductor Margaret Jane Feher; | National Guard Cynthia P. Davis. |
- | | |
|---|--|
| NDCM No. 1 Maine/New Hampshire Celeste Leigh Nicholas | NDCM No. 16 Hawaii/Alaska Amy L Vukasin |
| NDCM No. 2 Vermont/Massachusetts Lisa Jackson | NDCM No. 17 Utah/Nevada Renee June West |
| NDCM No. 3 Maryland/New Jersey Elizabeth DallaTezza | NDCM No. 18 Rhode Island/Connecticut GinaMarie Rodriguez Doherty |
| NDCM No. 4 Delaware/New York Millie Hayes | NDCM No. 19 Mississippi/Louisiana Mary F Johnson |
| NDCM No. 5 Missouri/Illinois Danetta G Wakefield | NDCM No. 20 Oregon/Washington Erin Mezek |
| NDCM No. 6 West Virginia/Virginia Tina Lynn Hicks | NDCM No. 21 Nebraska/South Dakota Nancy Worth |
| NDCM No. 7 Tennessee/Kentucky Cindy Kohrs | NDCM Area A Pennsylvania Bonnie S Drake |
| NDCM No. 8 Georgia/Alabama Paulette Murray | NDCM Area B Michigan Carrie S Turner |
| NDCM No. 9 South Carolina/North Carolina Sandra Johnson Leu | NDCM Area C Indiana Linda S Misuraca |
| NDCM No. 10 Oklahoma/Arkansas Amanda Pipkin | NDCM Area D Ohio Teresa L Singh |
| NDCM No. 11 Wisconsin/Iowa Renee M Quinn | NDCM Area E Minnesota Sonia Marie Tatge |
| NDCM No. 12 Wyoming/North Dakota Vivian Bernota | NDCM Area F Florida Tela Gay Harbold |
| NDCM No. 13 Kansas/Colorado Tessa K Butcher | NDCM Area G California Kathleen M Smith |
| NDCM No. 14 Montana/Idaho Gale L Bestland | NDCM Area H Texas Karen L Kaylor |
| NDCM No. 15 New Mexico/Arizona Betty L Decker | |
3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.
4. The following appointments are hereby announced:
- National Secretary Ann Panteleakos; National Chief of Staff Karlene Beams; National Patriotic Instructor Diana Russell Milton; National Historian Kristin M DiGiacomo; National Color Bearer No. 1 Michael S. Yates; National Color Bearer No. 2 Katlyn M. Burke; National Color Bearer No. 3 Danetta G. Wakefield; National Color Bearer No. 4 Karen Keech Lavoie; National Banner Bearer Sandra S. Johnson Leu; National Flag Bearer Lisa Delaney; National POW-MIA Flag Bearer Deborah Crowder; National Musician Patsy Cole; National Soloist Willa Watts; National Assistant Guard Vicki McGahhey; National Assistant Soloist Julia Price; National Assistant Musician Rhonda White Marcum; National Assistant Conductor Shirlee Frias.
5. As a reminder, some of the objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible. We therefore support the VFW in their focus to identify, address, and eradicate racial bias and discrimination. And the VFW Auxiliary leadership unites with the VFW leadership in the pursuit to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization.
6. Attention all members, in accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article XI- Discipline, any member who commits offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary may be subject to disciplinary action and may be assessed the penalties provided in this Article. The VFW Auxiliary joins with the VFW in stating that acts of sexual harassment, racial or sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination include any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW Auxiliary activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy always.
- By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President
- Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #078 ~ SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Cancellation of VFW Auxiliary No. 7414 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Auxiliary to Canandaigua Memorial VFW Post No. 7414, Canandaigua, New York, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install new Officers.
2. The Auxiliary voted to disband and surrender their Charter.

Notice of the cancellation of the Charter was provided to the Auxiliary and VFW thirty days prior to this Special Order. The Department President will see that this order is executed immediately.

By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The following corrections/changes since the new 2025-2026 Directory was distributed at Fall Conference.

-  Department Americanism Chairman, Ashleigh Horsky-*New Phone Number:* 347-600-3808
 District 1-*New Secretary:* Kimberly Cavallo, 6158 71st St, Middle Village, NY 11379, 516-458-3930, kcavallosecd1@gmail.com
 Aux 107-*New Treasurer:* Catherine Blundell, 54 Abley Crt, Brooklyn, NY 11229, 347-525-4325, tomcat54@gmail.com
 Aux 4927-*New President:* Brian Stoma, 56 Westcliff Dr, Mt Sinai, NY 11766, 631-504-8345, brianstoma@gmail.com
 Aux 5195-*New Treasurer:* Elizabeth Browne, 533 Riga St, Staten Island, NY 10306, 718-749-7788, No Email
 Aux 7393-*New President:* Joann Goff, 64 Emerson Ave, Utica, NY 13501, 315-727-8937, No Email



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

Hello, my Auxiliary Family! This year, Department President Justine and her officers have committed to working closely, like a family. Let's start thinking of our Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters in the same way. We call them Brothers and Sisters – family.

We love our families, help them when they need it, support them when they feel vulnerable. Should we do less for our Auxiliary family? Let's reach out (again if necessary) to those members who have not yet paid their dues. We should be asking them "why." There might be some who don't want to be part of the family anymore, but if my sibling told me they didn't want to be related to me anymore, I'd want to know why.

We cannot retain our Auxiliary family if we don't meet their needs. Maybe they think we spend too much time in a meeting- an agenda can speed up meetings. Maybe they don't think we do enough for our veterans- ask them to plan or help plan a project for your Auxiliary.

Sadly, maybe the Auxiliary dues are financially impossible right now. No member is going to say, "I can't afford \$25 right now" but if you reach out you might hear "I got laid off at my job last month" or "I had back surgery and haven't been able to work." THAT, my Brothers and Sisters is an acceptable use of your Relief Fund. Offer help.

Remember, while recruiting new members can help us grow and find potential for future leadership, retaining the ones we have shows we value those members. We care about them.

I close with a reminder that members do NOT have until June 30 to pay their dues. Dues are due by December 31st. Their annual card says 2025, not 2026 until they pay their dues. They cannot attend meetings, receive a cancer grant, hold an office, or enjoy any other benefits as Auxiliary members because they are not members in good standing. The June 30th date is just a grace period to reinstate their continuous status and not have to start over.

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

Loyally, *Christine*



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

November is National Veterans and Family Members Month

"Veterans Day": As we continue to honor and assist our veterans and their families, many of you will be holding events this month for Veterans Day. Use these events to promote Veterans and Military Support (VMS). VMS programs include Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarships". Veterans Day and Thanksgiving as well, provide us with the opportunity to reach out to our communities in many ways. You can host an open house to watch the Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade and provide snacks; you can bring a homecooked Thanksgiving meal to a veteran and many more things. You have already been doing so much for our veterans and their families!



"Trees for Troops / Holiday Cheer / In Lieu of Cards": Final reminder that the deadline for donations for Trees for Troops and In Lieu of Cards is November 8th. Again, this year, thanks to the efforts of Ben Thompson and the Proctor Hopson Post, we are looking forward to sending trees and menorahs to our troops overseas for the holiday. The amazing event to send off these items will take place on Monday, December 8th on Long Island. All are welcome to attend! We send these items off to our overseas troops to remind them that home is always thinking of them. December offers an abundance of things that you can do to continue to support our veterans, troops and families. Donate toys to those in need, hold a cookie baking party, help decorate a veteran's home for the holidays and so much more!

Keep up your amazing work – it has been a privilege to read all the amazing things that you have been doing for our veterans and their families. Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season!

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

Loyally, *Kim*



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



"How a beautiful day can be when kindness touches it." ~ George Ellison

Hell-o Auxiliaries in the great state of New York! I do have to apologize for missing a deadline on the Monthly Program Report, but it has since been rectified. On a happier note, I was so excited at Fall Conference with the phenomenal 'Cookie' participation, gift cards, and all the smiles I saw!

This Auxiliary News article arrives just before our wonderful season of thanking and giving, so it's a prime time to review the National Home's Amazon Wish List for ideas of giving. Here's how:

1. Visit the VFW National Home website: <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org>
2. Scroll down to "You can help"
3. Scroll down and click on "Donate" (it's a RED box).
4. Scroll down and click on "Other ways"
5. Scroll down and click on "Amazon Wish List"

* Please keep in mind you can also use Malta to make a donation.

Mark your calendars for some upcoming Patriotic Holidays and Recognition Days for Buddy Poppy: Veterans Day (November 11) and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7).

How many of you watched the documentaries for our Veteran Dogs from the recommended movie list distributed at OMTI and to all District Presidents? I hope you enjoyed them.

Lastly, but still very important – be sure to get your National Home Centennial Life Membership before the December 31 deadline. This is such an honorary distinction to show your support of the last 100 years!

In closing, I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

*"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*



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is much we can do with our youth as we celebrate Veteran's Day and the upcoming holidays....

★ **Thank Veterans for their service on Veterans Day!** Auxiliaries are encouraged to reach out and connect with youth groups. Request that they create a card and/or write a letter to thank a Veteran for their service. Then these letters and/or cards can be presented to your Post members on Veterans Day, distributed to Veterans in VA Hospitals, nursing homes, or delivered to homebound Veterans. Remember to report this project when completed!

★ **Don't forget the Trees For Troops!**

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*

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

Hello Awesome Auxiliaries!

The final "BIG" raffle has come out for Ways and Means...A weekend getaway in the Finger Lakes; which includes hotel accommodations, dinner for 2 at Parkers, and 2 winery gift certificates. "How Perfect is That?"

Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Drawing will be at June 2026 convention.

Loyally, *Charlene*



AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT

2475 ~ Adirondack Aux ~ Glens Falls, NY



On September 11, the Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce's Veteran's Business Network hosted its 5th Annual Walk for Veterans & 1st Responders Suicide Awareness & Prevention. Each year, Adirondack VFW 2475 Auxiliary, has supported the event. Besides providing membership information at their table, Auxiliary members educated people on the support and good work that the auxiliary does to assist their veterans and community.

Pictured L-R: Andrea Delsignore, Diana Ross, Senior Vice President Vicky Sesselman, Trustee Mary Paetsch, and Secretary Suzanne Appleyard.



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

Happy FALL Everyone!!!

By the time you are reading this, the deadline for Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pens submissions to the Post will have passed (October 31). Judging deadlines are: November 15 for the Post, December 15 for the District, and January 10, 2026 for the Department. The Department winners will be forwarded to National for judging by January 15, 2026. I want to thank you for getting the word out about these VFW Scholarships!

Now it is time to start spreading the word about our 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarship and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2026, to the Post level. Please check the Program Guidebook for prizes and more deadlines.

This year our National President Lois Callahan's Special Project is our Continuing Education Scholarship. Have your Auxiliary hold a fundraiser to help raise money so that the amount of this scholarship can be increased in the future. This scholarship is available to any Auxiliary member or their immediate family. Donations can be made through Malta.

By supporting this program, we invest in the next generation and continue our Auxiliary's proud tradition of service. Thank you for all you do to promote and strengthen our scholarship efforts.

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

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

Loyally, *Lori*

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to my Auxiliary Family for all the text messages, phone calls, cards, and words of encouragement during my recent surgery. Your thoughts and prayers were very much appreciated and helped me get thru those really rough days.

Much Love, *Marcia Williams*

I can't thank all my Brothers and Sisters enough for your love and thoughtfulness while I dealt with my bypass surgery. Your cards, notes, and get well wishes kept me in great spirits and were such a comfort during my recuperation.

With Love, *Kim White*





Inspirational Message
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Deanna 'DeeDee' Guyette



For most of us, the onset of the Holiday Season brings excitement and happiness. We start in November with Thanksgiving - family gatherings, turkey dinner, and holiday shopping. We then turn to December with the anticipation of Christmas - festive decorating, gift giving, and secret Santas. But, this isn't the case for our veteran families who are separated from each other and struggle to find joy in their loneliness. Let us reach out in our own special ways to make the holidays a little brighter for them. Wouldn't that be the greatest gift to give them? And when you are alone, remember this little prayer and be thankful for the greatest gift they give us.

Much Love, ~ DeeDee

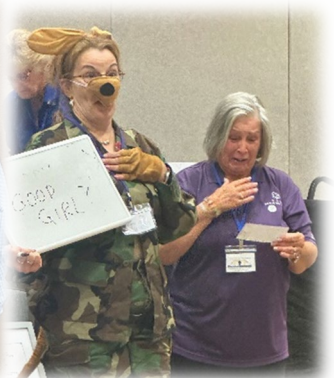
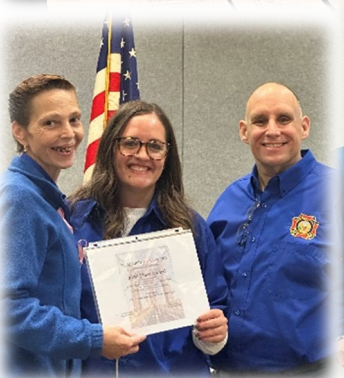
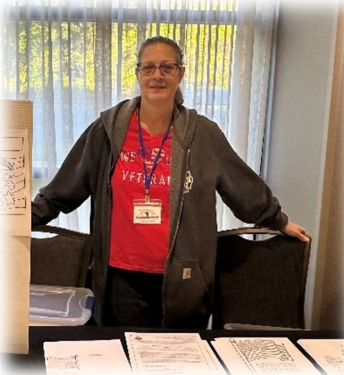
"Christmas Away from Home"

~ Author Unknown

Miles away from home this Christmas night,
Our soldiers stand, bold and bright.
In the spirit of the season, let's send our cheer,
To those who protect us, year after year.

Their sacrifice, a gift so rare,
Shows in every heartfelt prayer.
This Christmas, let's remember their plight,
For they ensure our stars shine bright.

FALL CONFERENCE 2025





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

Thank you to all who stopped by and used our special background at Fall Conference to have your pictures taken to create a reel with! I hope you all take the time to look at the pictures and reels on our Department Facebook page. If Department President Justine has been to your area, please send me pictures so we can help document her journey across our great department.

If your Auxiliary picked up one of the Press Releases for Fall Conference, please share with me if it was used with a picture showing how you were able to get the word out, such as social media, local newspaper, or your auxiliary newsletter.

With the Holiday season fast approaching, please remember to send pictures so that they can be shared with all on our Facebook page. Include the following hashtags: We love seeing what you have shared!

[#vfwaux](#) & [#vfwauxiliary](#) – general posts about the VFW Auxiliary

[#auxiliariesinaction](#) & [#auxinaction](#) – Auxiliaries in Action, recent activities

[#vfwauxtbt](#) – VFW Auxiliary Throwback Thursday, photos from our past

[#VFWrepost](#) – VFW Repost, sharing information directly from the VFW

I would like to remind all auxiliaries that if one of your members creates a reel, please share it with me! There will be an award at the Department Convention for the best reel! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, and I will help in any way that I can. I would also like to take this time to wish you all an incredibly Happy and Healthy Holiday season!

*“Always Stay True to Our **Red**, **White**, and **Blue**”*

“From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free”

Loyally, *Lisa, PDP*



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

Happy Holidays Everyone!!

It was great seeing everyone at the Fall Conference. I want to thank all the Auxiliaries and members who have sent in reports already this year. Keep up the great work and I look forward to reading all your reports – keep the reporting coming! And Congratulations to District 8 for attaining 100% in reporting.

With the Holiday Season approaching, we can support our Veterans with gratitude at our holiday parties and in our holiday cards. Some suggestions are:

- Post a sign stating “Join the VFW Action Corps Weekly QR code” someplace in the Post where members and guests will see it and are able to scan it.
- Slip one of the business cards with the QR code on it into your holiday cards with a little note stating “help support our Veterans.”
- Have a Youth Group help with the holiday cards and educate them on the VFW Action Corps Weekly.

Remember if you are not into the QR codes, you can always make phone calls and send letters to your local government officials. It doesn't matter how we make contact, we just need to make contact. Most importantly, we need to be informed in order to participate and keep everyone educated.

The Legislative National Ambassador has sent out some statistics regarding the usage of the Action Corps Weekly. The State of New York has 13,197 subscribers; sadly we have 109 members participating, which is .82 %. This means there are 13,088 members who are not taking action just in NY. We need to do better! Nationwide, we are 1.4 million members strong; our organization's membership makes an impact lawmakers cannot ignore.

I have emailed the Legislative Priorities and all the Legislative Program QR codes to the District Presidents. I hope you find information helpful when promoting the program and Thank you for sharing all the information. Also, keep an eye out for the VFW Action Alerts. We need to keep our voices heard for our Veterans.

May everyone have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a great Holiday Season!

“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*

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

- ⌘ Did you know that many cancers can be caused by a hereditary mutation? **Genetic testing can detect inherited mutations that may increase your cancer risk!** The test itself is easier than giving blood and the results can help relieve anxiety of the fear of unknown or provide information you can use to decrease your cancer risk, allowing you the ability to provide information to your blood relatives that can impact their health and to your health care provider that can be used to help catch cancer early. *Having a cancer-related mutation does not mean you **WILL** get cancer. It indicates you're at an increased risk. Genetic counselors can help you navigate the process of deciding if a genetic test is right for you and help you understand any positive mutation discovery.
- ⌘ I am proud to report almost all Auxiliaries have sent in a donation in support of the Cancer Grant Donation Fund either by way of Raffle Tickets, Cancer Ribbons (to be displayed at the June Convention) or via MALTA. In addition, many auxiliaries reported participation in local fundraisers/events, reminded their members to schedule their annual mammography/exam and have earned participation credit for supporting members of their local community. Keep up the good work! Remember Awareness is the first step in fighting cancer!
- ⌘ What a **WONDERFUL** show of support at Fall Conference, not only for the National Cancer Grant Fund, but for our President Justine and her theme for 2025-2026. You truly let your Red, White and Blue shine through your donated baskets. **THANK YOU** to all the auxiliaries that participated! And here are the winners of the October raffle ticket drawing:
- 1st \$75 - Karen Stubbs, Auxiliary #1143 (District 9)
2nd \$50 - Auxiliary #8104 (District 5)
3rd \$25 - Mandy Perrin-Jones Auxiliary #6338 (District 9)
- ⌘ Don't forget that for \$5 you can sponsor a paper ribbon that will be prominently displayed at our June Convention! Choose your color, write a (short) message and let's help to create a visual tribute to all those affected by Cancer. November is Neuroendocrine Tumors (Zebra Striped), Stomach (Periwinkle), Lung (white) and Pancreatic (Purple) Cancer Month. The form and information can be found on the Department website, in the Program Guidebook or scan the QR Code.
- ⌘ If you need help with the Cancer Grant Form, donations, or have any other questions (including more information about Genetic testing), 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**



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

Official Visit Reports

Have you had your Official Visit yet? Did the visitor notice that perhaps your Auxiliary could use some tender loving care (TLC)? Why do we do these visits? It is simply to help your Auxiliary be the best they can be. As Officers, District Presidents and Department Representatives we are here to help you succeed. If the Official Visitor identifies an area where we can help - know we only have the best intentions. In the past it might have been suggested that your Auxiliary be suspended so that a team could be sent in to assist.



National Chief of Staff, Karleen has created a Performance Improvement Plan or PIP. This plan identifies areas that could use some improvement and gives Departments the tools to help Auxiliaries. Most areas do not require or justify suspension. Once the areas are identified a PIP is created and gives the Auxiliary suggestions for improvement. Goals are established, mentors are assigned to help and a timeline is set. This is good and should be welcomed by your Auxiliary. The goal is to help your Auxiliary be the **best** Auxiliary in the Department of New York.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Loyally, **Jane, PNP**

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!...and I have all of you to thank for your donations!

The Headstrong Project is actually 1 of 3 joint Special Projects chosen by the Department Commander and President. The other 2 are being supported by the respective programs they fall under: 'Generators for the NY Homes' under the National Home Program and 'Homeless Vets' under the Veterans & Family Support Program.

The Headstrong Project is available to help those Veterans who seek it for PTSD. This being the November-December edition, some families do holiday gifting instead of gifts. I would like to ask those of you who do that to consider gifting to this project. At Fall Conference I setup a challenge and all funds raised went right to the Headstrong Project. No donation was too small. If you were not at Fall Conference, I had requested my table to be at the far end to catch all those donations. Yep, right by the door for those breaks to go out and get fresh air. The challenge included two sets of boots – 1 set for the VFW and the other set for the Auxiliary. And YES, it was to see who fills the boot or boots with the most \$\$\$. The winner of the challenge got to enjoy putting a pie in the face of the loser! So, for the pleasure of anyone who missed seeing the outcome, here are a few pictures:



The Auxiliary WON the challenge for the most donations, but in the spirit of camaraderie, President Justine took one for the Team and also let Commander Jim put a pie in her face! I'm not sure which one enjoyed it more! President Justine said her Banana Crème pie was delicious and Commander Jim was getting ready for the holidays with a Pumpkin Pie!



I am already thinking of something for Spring conference and again it will be something fun!

Remember all our Veterans during the holiday season. If you have an extra place at your table, invite them. You may be the only family they have during the holidays. If not, take them a care package of a home cooked meal. Those suffering from PTSD sometimes will tend to not partake in festivities during the holidays. Make them feel wanted. And with that I hope you all have a nice holiday season. Stay safe and remember why you joined the auxiliary for your Veteran, and this is for our Veterans.

Loyally, *Marcia*



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ~ Christine Leavor



I cannot believe we are entering November already! Where does the time go? We are one-third of the way through our year!

We are entering that holiday season when things get hectic and sometimes we begin to feel overwhelmed. While our priorities focus on our biological families at this time, we cannot forget the VETERANS who depend on us to be part of their family. We also have Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters for whom we are their only family. Let's not forget them either.

The deadline for having ALL your officers' dues paid is December 31st. Department President Justine does not want to have to remove your officers because their dues haven't been paid. I do not want to have to make those phone calls or send those emails. They make me feel like the Grinch and spoil the holiday vibe! I sincerely hope all Auxiliaries will qualify for the membership "White Award."

I close by reminding all Secretaries that all communications from your District, Department (including Chairmen), or National levels are official and MUST be shared with your members. The Auxiliary News is the official newsletter of the Department. The President's letter and all General or Special Orders must be read.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a bountiful New Year!

Respectfully, *Christine*



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

Your auxiliaries have been active with a variety of organizations benefiting your communities. Bravo! Some recent examples have involved Auxiliary members volunteering with senior centers, domestic violence shelters, homeless programs, Special Olympics, and clothing drives.

Cold weather months are approaching. Homeless shelters, food pantries, and clothing drives will need extra volunteers to handle increased needs. Consider contacting them soon to find out how your members might assist, vote at your next meeting to include them in your Auxiliary Outreach, and let them know of your members' availability to help as needed.

Another way to identify areas for volunteering is to look ahead for observances in the calendar. These may be opportunities for a group of members to volunteer together. Some upcoming examples are:

- Thursday, November 13 World Kindness Day
- Saturday, November 22 Family Volunteer Day
- Thursday, November 27 Thanksgiving Day
- Tuesday, December 2 Giving Day
- Friday, December 5 International Volunteer Day

November is Family Caregivers Month. Perhaps you will consider voting for members to volunteer with senior centers or hospice organizations.

Please keep in mind that Auxiliary Outreach activities must be approved in advance by a motion or standing rule. Must be volunteering with other organizations; that is, not organized by your auxiliary or by your members. Must not be suitable to report for any other VFW Auxiliary program.

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*



AMERICANISM ~ Ashleigh Horsky, Chairman
585 Park Avenue Apt 3C, Brooklyn, NY 11206
New Phone: (347) 600-3808 ~ she0722she@gmail.com

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

First, please note that I have a new phone number as listed above. Next, I cannot believe the Holiday Season is upon us already. This year is just flying by.

In November and December we celebrate several Patriotic Days:

- **November 10th-** US Marine Corps 250th Birthday.
- **November 11th-** Veterans Day.
- **November 27th-** Thanksgiving.
- **December 7th-** National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- **December 25th-** Christmas.
- **December 31st-** New Years Eve.

I hope everyone enjoys the holidays with friends and families. But let us not forget all the men and women that are not able to be home with their families during this time of year.

Thank you to everyone that has been sending me reports. Keep up the excellent work and don't forget reports are due the first of every month. So, **REPORT!!! REPORT!!! REPORT!!!** -. 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*

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

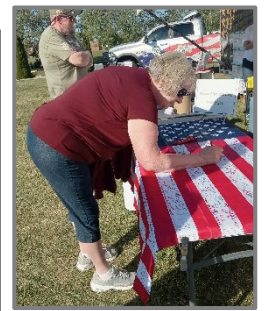
Fall is here and you know what is coming next!

- ☑ Please get your Auxiliary Official Visits completed NOW. Do NOT wait until the bad weather comes and then have to drive many miles to the Auxiliary you have been assigned to inspect.
- ☑ I haven't been getting many official visit forms back as of today. District 6 is way ahead of all the other Districts. Congratulations and keep up the good work.
- ☑ The main item I see that the inspectors are picking up is the numbering of the pages of either the Secretary Minutes and the Treasurers Books. If the books are not in a bound book then they do need to be numbered.
- ☑ Hopefully you were able to attend Fall Conference to receive the promotions from all the program chairmen.
- ☑ If you have any questions, please call or email me at: 315-286-2683 or mari.mclane1@gmail.com.

Respectfully, *Marianne, PDP*

District 6 at the Moving Wall in Cheektowaga

On October 4, District 6 Commander Tom Rabb (Post 6472), District 6 Auxiliary President Aurelia Taylor (Aux 8647), President Pat Rabb (Aux 1017) and David Rabb (Aux 1017) visited the Moving Wall and Gold Star Tribute Wall, which were at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Cheektowaga. Commander Tom Rabb and his brother David visited Ralph T. Glim at Panel 6W, Line 122. Commander Tom Rabb, President Aurelia Taylor, and President Pat Rabb visited Aurelia's cousin, Marvin H. Terry at Panel 40E, Line 14.



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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

I have only heard from a few districts with hospital reports. I will not list them, as you know who you are. ***But, I hope that next month, my mailboxes will be filled with reports from all of the auxiliaries!***

I am happy to say that those who did report provided their donations and participation. Here are examples:

- ♥ **Sending Cards:** Sending cards to hospitalized vets remind them that we see them, and respect their service for staying true to the red, white and blue. We respect and honor their service from sea to shining sea.
- ♥ **Bingo Cards and More:** I have read about purchasing bingo cards, sympathy, and get-well cards. We must not forget the thinking of you cards to help remind our veterans that they are not forgotten.
- ♥ **Volunteering:** I have read about taking veterans to their appointments, visiting hospitals and nursing homes, and bringing books, magazines, and personal items to them. These actions mean more to them than words can say. It tells them we see them, we care and we respect their service to our wonderful country.

REMEMBER, there are many ways to report and serve. Reporting can be done via email or regular mail. Send in your reports so that your auxiliary can receive credit for your hard work. Remember to include your auxiliary number and district number. It only takes a few minutes to fill out the form which may be found on the website, vfwauxny.org and in the program guidebook.

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

Loyally, *Marie-Aymee*

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

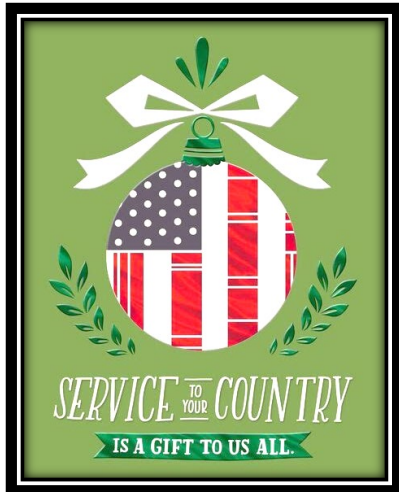
Deanna Guyette, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*

43 High Street ~ Carthage, NY 13619

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

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

February/March articles are due January 1st



PROGRAM COORDINATOR ~ PDP Jackie Herbert, Chairman

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First of all, from my family to yours, Happy Holidays!!!

Dear members:

I can't believe we are halfway through the year. Has your auxiliary reported to all the Department Program Chairmen? If you are having a problem with reporting, call someone for help. The program chairmen will always talk with you about reporting – you can always call me too. Maybe your Past Auxiliary Presidents can help, or you can call your District President. Never be afraid to ask for help. We are all working together to make this a great reporting year.

Our first monthly report lacked a few reports due to a few misunderstandings. Remember, we all need to learn and sometimes instructions get mixed up. I hope the second monthly report corrected the problem.

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

Any questions regarding reports, please contact the program chairmen.

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"From Sea To Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free."

Loyally, *Jackie*