



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ February/March 2026

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

I want to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the thoughts, prayers, and kind messages so many of you shared following the passing of my children's father. Every note, call, and gesture of support meant more than I can ever fully express. Thank you for lifting my family up during a difficult time. I also hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and that the new year has brought renewed energy, purpose, and optimism.

As we move into February and March, our Auxiliary continues to shine through its dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our veterans and their families.

I'm looking forward to some key events in the next few months. In February is the National Midwinter Cruise - the warmer weather will certainly be a welcome change. Even more meaningful is the opportunity to connect with Presidents from across the country, both past and present. When we share ideas, challenges, and successes, it reminds me how strong we are when we learn from one another and work together.

At the end of February, beginning of March, I'll be heading to Washington, D.C. for the CAFÉ event and our annual VFW Legislative Conference. I look forward to working closely with the VFW as we advocate for pending legislation that directly affects our veterans, service members, and their families. Together, we can help shape meaningful change.

A few days following the trip to D.C., we have the honor of welcoming our National President, Lois Callahan, to New York. Her visit is something we've been eagerly preparing for, and we have some wonderful things planned to showcase the pride, strength, and unity of our state.

In between all of these national events, I have continued traveling across our great state, visiting districts and many of our VA hospitals. Every visit reinforces just how dedicated our members are and how deeply our mission is felt in every corner of New York. Your work is seen, appreciated, and truly impactful.

And before we know it, Spring Conference will be here. Time is moving quickly, but I am excited for all that lies ahead and grateful to be on this journey with each of you.

Thank you for all you do — every day — to support our mission and uplift our veterans. Let's continue to lead with heart, purpose, and unwavering dedication.

"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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PDP/OFFICER

BIRTHDATES

FEBRUARY

MARCH

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb... VFW Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference
9-13... ~ Cruise to FL Keys/Bimini, Bahama

Feb 28... National President's CAFÉ
~ Vietnam Memorial, Washington D.C.

Mar... VFW Legislative Conference
1-5... ~ Washington D.C.

Mar... National President's Visit to Dept NY
8-10... ~ New York City, NY

Mar... VFW and Aux Spring Conference
27-28... ~ Radisson Hotel, Corning, NY

Apr 15... DEADLINE: Program Year-End Reports
must be received by Apr 15 (USPS/Email)

NATIONAL OFFICIAL RULING ~ Costs Incurred by Disciplinary Actions ~ NOVEMBER 5, 2025

At the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, the **VFW Auxiliary National Bylaw, Article XI, Sec. 1101 – Discipline of Members** was amended to add item D. and it passed. To resolve any confusion concerning this addition, I have made this official ruling on the interpretation of this Bylaw.

As stated in **Sec. 1101. D., All costs incurred by Disciplinary Action will be paid by the initiating entity (Auxiliary, Department, or National).**

Therefore, be it known that:

- The intent of “all costs” means all reasonable costs that may be incurred by the Disciplinary Action Hearing Panel.
- The composition of the Disciplinary Action Hearing Panel, as stated in the new Guide to Disciplinary Action, page 23, are the Disciplinary Action Hearing Panel President and the Hearing Panel Members.
- The Disciplinary Action Hearing Panel does not include the Prosecutor, the Recording Officer, the Accused and the Defense Counsel, nor the Witnesses (whether for the Prosecution or the Defense).

By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #142 ~ NOVEMBER 17, 2025

Cancellation of VFW Auxiliary No. 1417 ~ New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of Auxiliary to Morris Memorial VFW Post No. 1417, Morris, New York, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install Officers for 2025-2026.
2. Failure to purchase a bond.
3. Failure to complete and submit an audit.

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



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT ~ Kim Cavallo, Chairman

61-58 71st Street ~ Middle Village, NY 11379

(516) 458-3930 ~ kcavallo1920@gmail.com

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends!

As we move into the early months of the year, I want to spotlight the importance of our Veterans and Family Support program. This program is at the heart of what we do as an Auxiliary—ensuring that our veterans, service members, and their families know they are never alone.



VFW Veterans & Military Support (VMS) programs are a cornerstone of the VFW, providing direct assistance to service members, veterans, and their families. These programs include:

- ***Unmet Needs:*** Offering financial grants to military families facing unexpected hardships.
- ***Military Assistance (MAP):*** Supporting unit events/activities for troops and their families.
- ***Adopt-a-Unit:*** Connecting Posts/Auxiliaries with deployed units to provide ongoing support.
- ***Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship:*** Helping veterans further their education/career goals.

These initiatives are funded through donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries, and they make a tangible difference in the lives of those who serve. I encourage each Auxiliary to consider how they can contribute—whether through fundraising, awareness campaigns, or direct participation.



Significant Dates: The winter months bring several important observances that remind us of the sacrifices and service of our military community:

- Feb 4: USO Birthday
- Mar 25: Medal of Honor Day
- Mar 13: K-9 Veterans Day
- Mar 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day

These dates are opportunities for Auxiliaries across NY State to engage with veterans in their communities—whether thru ceremonies, care packages, or simply reaching out with gratitude.

There are still a few auxiliaries that I haven't heard from and I know you are doing great things – please don't forget to share with me! Keep up your incredible work – it continues to be a privilege to hear about all the ways you are supporting our veterans and their families. Your dedication makes a real difference every day. Wishing you and your families a joyful start to the new year filled with health, happiness, and gratitude!

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

Loyally, *Kim*

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

- 📖 District 1 President-*New Address*: 65 Meserole Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11222-3484
- 📖 District 3-*New President*: Kenneth Hayward, 150 Aldous Rd, Granville, NY 12832, 518-858-6018, keishayward@aol.com
- 📖 PDP Bonnie Burgy-*Corrected Address*: 113 Vanderkemp Ave, BX 22, Barneveld, NY 13304, 315-225-9564, No Home Phone
- 📖 PDP Rosalie Cooper-*Corrected Address*: 2025 E Carlson St Apt H107, Cheyenne, WY 82009
- 📖 PDP Mary Kreuzer-*Corrected Address*: 5949 Broadway C-113-1, Lancaster, NY 14086
- 📖 Aux 170 President-*New Address*: 107 E Market St #6H, Hyde Park, NY 12538
- 📖 Aux 420-*New President*: Roberta Boone, 9 Davidson Dr, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-5616, 518-727-2082, bbertieboo@aol.com
- 📖 Aux 547-*New Meeting Time*: 2nd Thursday, 5:30 pm
- 📖 Aux 1400-*Temp Treasurer*: Elizabeth Iverson, 20892 Hadcock Rd, Watertown, NY 13601, 740-803-2961, eiversonvfwaux1400@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 1483 President-*New E-Mail*: pres1483aux@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 2476 President-*Corrected Address*: 36 Baiting Dr, Calverton, NY 11933
- 📖 Aux 5260 Treasurer-*Corrected Address*: 43 Chestnut Dr, Springville, NY 14141
- 📖 Aux 5796-*Corrected Treasurer*: Kim Revere, 14 Drake Ln, Kings Park, NY 11754, 631-327-9245, kimrevere@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 5806-*New President*: John Horsky, 65 Meserole Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11222-3484, 347-356-3829, j_horsky@yahoo.com
- 📖 Aux 5806-*New Secretary*: Justine Robles, 111 South 3rd St Apt 1C, Brooklyn, NY 11249, 347-760-0879, juddie1210@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 7217-*New Meeting Day*: 2nd Thursday
- 📖 Aux 7289 Treasurer-*Corrected Address*: 6054 S Main PO BX 387, Sandy Creek, NY 13145
- 📖 Aux 7393-*New President*: Joann Goff, 64 Emerson Ave, Utica, NY 13501, 315-727-8937, No Email
- 📖 Aux 7393-*New Secretary*: Mary Lou Sprague, 2351 Douglas Ave, Yorkville, NY 13495, 315-768-6044, No Email
- 📖 Aux 7545-*New Secretary*: Susan Darveaux, 6 Dean Dr, N Tonawanda, NY 14120, 716-579-0880, susand1653@aol.com



HOSPITAL ~ Marie-Aymee Fisk, Chairman
226 State Route 86 ~ Paul Smiths, NY 12790
(518) 354-3037 ~ makfisk@gmail.com

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

I have received reports of so many activities by our auxiliaries in support of our veterans who are ill, in hospitals, rehab centers, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. In particular, I attended a Christmas luncheon for our veterans hosted by Plattsburgh Post 125. It was beautifully done and attended by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause.

I have read about gift bags, fundraisers, and many other activities to honor our veterans. There were a number of items dropped off at local VA clinics which were sent to the Albany VA for distribution. So many do not have family members to be with them. I thank all of you for your support.

You should all be very proud of how you supported our veterans holiday season. You are valuable tools of inspiration and hope for our veterans, reminding them that they are not forgotten and that we honor their service.

There are still auxiliaries that I have not heard from. I do ask that you use the form in the guide book for your reports. Remember to include the auxiliary, post, and district numbers, as well as the date of the report. I have received a few reports without this information. Continue your blessed work to honor our veterans who

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

Loyally, *Marie-Aymee*

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

Good Afternoon Auxiliaries!

I hope you all had a nice holiday season! I know Ways and Means isn't an official reportable program to National but it is still vital to NY. Here is the bottom line, out of all our 168 auxiliaries only 36 are left to make it 100%. Don't forget the year end raffle for the Finger Lakes getaway. You can reach out to me if you have questions.

Loyally, *Charlene*



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

Scholarships – Deadlines Approaching!!

Encourage students in your communities to apply for our Auxiliary scholarships, including:

- **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**
- **3-D Patriotic Art Contest**

Reminder: Each of these programs has firm spring deadlines. Please check the dates on the Department and National websites or Department Program Guidebook, and share them widely with schools and youth groups.

National President's Special Project DEADLINE is FEBRUARY 15!!: Continue to promote and support this project because every donation and activity strengthens our collective impact on veterans and their families.

Reporting: Please remember to submit reports for all work completed and all donations made. Reporting ensures your Auxiliary's efforts are counted and helps the Department reflect the full scope of service across New York.

Thank you: for your continued dedication and commitment.

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

Loyally, *Lori*



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



Hell-o from Kentucky,

I sincerely hope everyone had a blessed holiday season! And now, hang on to your seats, we have a lot going on and it's time to get to work!!

Our Spring Conference will be here before you know it and its time for Buddy Poppy displays. The guidebook has a few guidelines and requirements that the Buddy Poppy display must have, to include the categories to choose from. You may also find the rules and guidelines in Malta under Member Resources. This is a VFW contest and the rules cannot change. If you have further questions after reading the rules and guidelines, you may contact Lynn W. Rolf at lrolf@vfw.org. I know after seeing many entries at the National Convention, they are a sight to see. Good luck and I look forward to seeing what our great Auxiliaries can do.

I also need the help of every Auxiliary. The report form most of you use does not have a designated notation to record how many poppies you use for whatever you use them for. My final year end report requires the number of poppies. PLEASE, REPORT THE NUMBER OF POPPIES USED. Also, if anyone in your Auxiliary became a life member of the National Home or purchased a memory brick, please include this in your net report to me.

It is also time to remind everyone to promote the National Home Helpline. There may be someone out there that needs help. The National Home Helpline is 1-800-313-4200. Also a web site can be accessed and that is <http://www.vfwnationalhome.org>. If you know any service member, active duty, retired, that may need this, please reach out to them and let them know they have an avenue to pursue. They are not alone.

For those of you who were not at the Fall Conference, I asked and received permission to hold a fund raiser for the Special Project pertaining to generators for our New York homes. We are going to have a "Puppy Parade" using stuffed dogs and I need you to prepare yourself for a good time. A pre-registration form is available in this newsletter and on the Department website, on the National Home/Buddy Poppy program page. Find and complete the pre-registration form, and send it to "Honor". My information is in the guide book to contact me.

We are also holding a raffle using national brand gift cards, so be sure to bring them to me at the conference. Thank you is not enough to convey how much this group means to me. Every one of you gives for a great cause. I look forward to seeing you in Corning, New York. Safe travels!

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

Loyally, *Debby*

Spring Conference 2026 Puppy Parade



Pre-Registration Form



Please **Circle** Your Chosen Categories from the List Below

*Enter **AS MANY DOGS** in **AS MANY CATEGORIES** As You Would Like*

Most Patriotic

Most Unique

Biggest

Smallest

Softest



Dog Owner Name: _____

of Dogs: _____ # of Categories @ \$5/each: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____ Check # _____

*A Check or Money Order is Preferred, Made out to “**Dept. of NY VFW Auxiliary**”

MEMO LINE – **Special Project NY Houses***

Please Mail This Form with Payment to:

“Honor” Combs

98 Beech Court

Elizabethtown, KY 42701



DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS **MARCH 1, 2026**

Each registered dog will receive a one-of-a-kind Buddy Poppy Bandana, signed by “Honor” and a tin tab poppy. Dogs may be registered in as many categories as the owner wishes.

Tickets will be sold to vote for the winner of each category.



Welcome to 2026! We are halfway through the Membership year already. Where does time go?

Auxiliaries will soon be receiving your Spring Conference information. I send this to every President, Secretary, and Treasurer to be sure SOMEONE has the information. Even if one of those officers is not planning to attend, the information must be shared at your meetings. Every member (and Delegate) deserves the opportunity to attend and learn more about the organization, network with other Auxiliary members, and have some fun- such as the Pet Parade. Do not keep any information from your members. Remember ALL emails from the Department or the Chairmen are OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS to be read at your meetings and noted in the minutes. This includes the Department President's message found on the front page of every issue of the Auxiliary News.

Spring Conference is also the time when endorsements are read for those members who wish to run for a Department office. If you are planning to run for Department office- such as Guard, ask your Auxiliary to endorse you and then your District and send those to me as soon as possible. They will be read at the March meeting and published in the Auxiliary News prior to the Department Convention. We have some great leaders in our Auxiliaries and your Department needs you.

In March, election materials will be sent out. So, be on the lookout and print them for your April elections.

Finally, there is one more thing this month. I am human and make mistakes. I also use the information from those election forms to make sure the MALTA information is updated. When I cannot read your writing, or you are careless with emails or phone numbers, that's what goes in MALTA and the Department Directory. Today, again, I learned of yet another incorrect entry in the Directory- it is January, folks! The Directories went out in October. It is painfully obvious that Auxiliaries haven't looked at their own entries to be sure they are accurate.

I also would prefer Auxiliaries use the online (Department web site: vfwauxny.org) fillable forms to make them easier to read, but I understand if all Secretaries don't do that. And of course, I still transpose numbers and letters, but as I said I am human. It's your duty to keep me straight. A few of you still use the election form from MALTA, and while that is not wrong, we prefer you use the Department forms- frankly they are much easier for me to read.

Sending wishes for a HAPPY, HEALTHY, SAFE 2026 and another GREAT year of service for our VETERANS.

Respectfully at your Service, *Christine*



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

Greetings Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters! Can you believe we are now past the half-way mark in our membership year? Tonight, as I write this the Department is over 92% paid membership. I appreciate everything you have done up to this point, but now I have to ask you to do more.

The December 31st goal was to cross the George Washington Bridge with 100% paid membership and 90% of your annual members retained. I am writing this before that, so I'm not sure yet if your Auxiliary has met its goal.

The drawing for the Mario Cuomo Memorial Bridge Crossing (85% paid membership and an extra \$50 if 75% of your annual members were retained) by October 31st was held at my Auxiliary meeting on December 15th. The Auxiliary to Michael J Labetti VFW Post 2159 in District 1 won. Unfortunately, at that time they did not meet the retention goal. Nevertheless, they won \$50.

The White Award deadline is December 31st. All Auxiliaries with all officers paid by then will be in the drawing. As of this writing there are 28 Auxiliaries that have not met the goal. But there is still 3 days as I write this.

Although you DO NOT have to send me a report every month I have enjoyed reading some of the incentives being offered to retain the annual members. Since you only get "credit" for being 100% or 100% +, I see no reason for you to use your very valuable time filling out a report to me. I can "see" that you have met the respective goals, by looking at the "Reports" on my duties page. Use the time you save, to write great reports to the other Chairmen.

In closing, I hope all Auxiliaries Presidents, Treasurers and any other interested members attended the 'New Application' ZOOM trainings. Be sure to toss away any "older" ones and ONLY use the NEW APPLICATION forms.

Please make me the happiest chairman of all and let's aim for 100%+ by the end of Feb. I know we can do it!

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

Loyally, *Christine*



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

Official Visit Reports & PIP

Official visit reports are coming in very slowly. We are way behind where we should be. The sooner we make those Official Visits the sooner we can recognize excellent Auxiliaries and/or get Auxiliaries the help they need. There is always room for improvement. District Presidents if you know of an Auxiliary that could use a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) contact me.

Here are some suggestions of what could be included in your "plan":

1. Establish a recruitment plan – it's important to replace members. Strive for **"current"** membership totals rather than "paid."
2. Ensure that your Trustees are performing proper audits-Treasurer should NOT be doing them.
3. Appoint chairmen for all of the programs? Appoint and encourage new chairmen but make sure you assign a former chairmen to mentor them. Reporting is necessary to maintain non-profit status.
4. Keeping in contact with your members is very important in maintaining a healthy Auxiliary.
5. Use an agenda so your meetings will run smoothly. Traditional, contemporary and round table are all acceptable meeting formats.



I encourage each Auxiliary to consider adopting some of these suggestions.

I wish each and every one of you a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Auxiliary New Year.

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*



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

Welcome to 2026 – the second half of VFW Auxiliary year 2025-2026 (July 2025 thru June 2026), and the final quarter of VFW Auxiliary program year 2025-2026 (April 2025 thru March 2026). As of February 1st, we have only two months left to report activities for program credit this year.

Let's consider some SWATTs: Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Tips & Tricks ...

- ❖ Have your members participated in activities since April 1, 2025, that are appropriate for a VFW Auxiliary program, but you haven't yet reported to the Department program chairman?
- ❖ Ask your members – at a meeting, via email or individually – what they have been doing this year. You may learn that they have been busy with activities that can be reported.

Specifically for the Auxiliary Outreach program ...

- ❖ Local organizations your members already belong to or volunteer with may be opportunities for additional members to participate. (Make your motion or standing rule to include any members, rather than only one or two certain members.)
- ❖ Proactively ask suitable (non-political, non-religious, non-veteran) local organizations about their needs and volunteer opportunities.
- ❖ When your mail includes fund-raisers from national organizations, consider whether they have local chapters or events. And whether there are similar local organizations.

To stand out from other auxiliaries, when you send a program report ...

- ❖ Include photos or newspaper articles.
- ❖ Provide a full description of the activity or event.
- ❖ Let us know how the members or the community were affected by your involvement.

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

Brothers and Sisters - I hope everyone had a great holiday season!

We are now just about half way through the Auxiliary year and everyone is working so hard. I receive sooo many emails and mail from Auxiliary members daily. Keep up the good work everyone.

Let's not forget your Honor Flight forms are due March 1st. **PLEASE have them to me by the DEADLINE.** Some Wreaths Across America donations came in after the deadline and I had to return them. The Spring Conference is just around the corner. Don't forget to stop by my table and drop off your year-end reports.

Some important Patriotic Days to remember in February and March are:

- **February 1st- National Freedom Day**, commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment.
- **February 3rd- Four Chaplains Day**, honors the chaplains who sacrificed themselves on the USS Dorchester.
- **February 11th- National Inventors' Day**, celebrating American innovators.
- **February 16th- Washington's Birthday/President's Day**, honoring George Washington and other presidents.
- **March 13th- K-9 Veterans Day**, honors military working dogs.
- **March 21st- Rosie the Riveter Day**, celebrates women who worked in factories during WWII.
- **March 25th- Medal of Honor Day**, recognizes recipients of the Medal of Honor.
- **March 29th- National Vietnam War Veterans Day**, honors those who served during Vietnam.

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

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

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

Loyally, *Ashleigh*



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters - Let's talk about **R.A.P. Cards** and **Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates!**

Encouraging today's youth by letting them know that they have been seen is priceless in their eyes. Encourage your members and auxiliary to use the Random Acts of Patriotism cards for children that you see showing respect to the Flag. In addition, the Youth Act of Kindness Certificate is available in Malta and can be given to youth who are caught in the act of kindness. This is another way to celebrate our youth and let them know that we see them.

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

Loyally, *Tracy*

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

Happy New Year to all Auxiliary members!

I would like to thank you all for your support during the first 6 months of collecting donations. We have had some fun raising the funds and I would like very much for that to continue happening.

There are only a small handful who haven't made any donations to the program. This is important as our Veterans receive free treatment for their PTSD. They have other programs too that help the Veterans.

I have something in mind for Spring Conference, so with that being said, be sure to stop by the table as YES, it is going to be another **Challenge between our President Justine and Commander Jim!!**

You can drop off your donation that day if you have not made one yet. My goal is to have 100% participation in this program. See you all at Spring Conference for more fun and games!

Loyally, *Marcia*



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

Happy New Year Fellow Auxiliary Members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season! Previously I reported that NY had 13197 Action Corps Weekly subscribers. That has now increased by 500 for a total of 13697 subscribers. Congratulations! But, we still have a huge problem!!! Only 205 people took action on recent bills; 58 people took action on HR 1815 and 147 people took action on the NDAA. We need to do better New York!! The action alerts come right to your email, and you just fill in your information and click send. It's that easy. You will receive a confirmation email from the legislators, which you can then forward to me. Include your Auxiliary and District number and I will give your Auxiliary credit. I would love to receive 13697 emails!! There are 2 calls to action at this time.

1. HR 4837 Written Informed Consent Act, which would require clear, written information before the VA prescribes certain psychiatric medications.
2. HR 2623 Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025, which would create five VA centers to expand access to cutting-edge PTSD treatments.

Veterans deserve transparency, safety and real choices – NOT a maze of prescriptions and side effects. You can take action today on these bills and help boost people taking action by doing the following:

1. Post Action Alerts on your Social Media today.
2. Share the Action Alert Link via social media or email.
3. Print and post flyers at your VFW Post, Community Boards, Bowling Alleys, Libraries, etc.
4. Write up a letter, then print it or email the letter to your members to sign and mail to their legislators.

(Remembers to add the hashtags #auxiliarylegislative, #honorthecontract when posting to your Social Media.)

HOT OFF THE PRESS: VFW Voice of Service–Stories in Action is now live, which will get Veterans stories to congress. Stories are what makes the lawmakers listen. Veterans and or family members, may submit their stories to <https://forms.gle/3K4toepnSPDFLpyU6>. Flyers with QR codes with more information are posted on the Department Auxiliary Facebook page. When sharing flyers, please remember to add #VFWStoriesInAction and #TellYourStory.

If anyone would like more information, please reach out to me. I look forward to reading your reports on how you are promoting these bills and the VFW Voice of Service for our Veterans.

Loyally, *Tina*

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

Dear members:

There are only a few months left to report! Where did this year go?!!! Please make an effort to send your program reports to the Department Chairmen. Some of you have not sent any reports. I don't understand this. I know you do the work, why not send the report? You can find a report form in the Guidebook that you can make copies of.

If you need help with reporting, there are several ways to get help. Contact your District President, Department Chairmen, or even the PDPs. We are all here to help each other. There is nothing wrong in asking for help.

Please check reports page on the Department Website to see what reports you are lacking and get them sent in: www.vfwauxny.org, then click the Resources Tab dropdown and choose Reports.

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.

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

Loyally, *Jackie*



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

This auxiliary year is flying by, and we will soon be at our Spring Conference. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the auxiliaries who have created reels and shared them with the Department. You have all done amazing projects this year for our Veterans, their families and our communities and it shows with your reels.

You still have time to create a reel if you have not already done so. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me. You can also find the information in Malta under the member resource tab behind the Historian tab.

If Department President Justine has made her official visit to your area or District, please share those photos with me so I can use them for her Historian Book. I would also like you to share any photos from VA Hospital visits in your area so be sure to snap those pictures!

I would like to remind auxiliaries that when you are posting your auxiliary projects and events on your Facebook page to be sure that those who are in the photos are aware that they will be posted on social media. Make sure that you have their permission and a release form. If you did not see the article in our National Magazine November issue about protecting your auxiliary when sharing your events that they do not include photos of any checks that were presented as they can get your auxiliary information from that photo. Please take the time to go back and read the article as it is highly informative.

Continue to document your auxiliary history showing future generations that 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***

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR Brothers and Sisters! I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season!

What's your New Years Resolution? Did you know that only 9% of those who set resolutions keep them? A resolution does not have to be a big grandiose intention. It can be something as simple as making that appointment with your provider you've been putting off. Remember if something feels off, ask!

During the Fall Conference I had information available regarding how to make a Port Pillow and how to put together a Chemo Care Package. If you would like more information on how you can help, please reach out to me.

I am proud to report almost all our 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 the Dept. Convention in June) or via MALTA. In addition, many auxiliaries reported participation in local fundraisers/events, reminded their members to get their annual mammograms or other cancer screenings.

What a **WONDERFUL** show of support not only for the National Cancer Grant Fund, but for our President Justine and her theme for 2025-2026 at Fall Conference. You truly let your Red, White and Blue shine through your donated baskets. **THANK YOU** to all the auxiliaries that participated!



Don't forget that for \$5 you can sponsor a paper ribbon that will be prominently displayed at our Dept 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. January is Cervical Cancer (Teal) Awareness Month. February is Gallbladder/Bile Duct Cancer Month (Kelly Green), as well as **NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH**. March is Correctol (Dark Blue), Kidney (Orange) and Multiple Myeloma (Burgundy) Awareness Month. Find the form and information on the Dept site, in the Program Book or scan the QR Code.

If you need help with the Cancer Grant Form, donations or have any other questions (including how to find 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***

CONGRATULATIONS!!

State Commander MacArthur takes great pleasure in announcing the winners of the Department of New York 2025-2026 Stop-22 Initiative to bring suicide awareness to the members of our local communities. This years' recipients are:



- 1st Place, \$500 – Cpl. Joseph J. Mooney VFW Post 2250, Hornell, NY
2nd Place, \$250 – Dionne-Rumble VFW Post & Auxiliary 7227, Carthage, NY
3rd Place, \$100 – Verona VFW Post & Auxiliary 6811, Verona, NY



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

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

First of all HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Now we know time is running out to complete your District's Inspections for this year. Many Districts have worked very hard at accomplishing this goal, and others have had health reasons for a slow response. But remember that is what your line officers and past district presidents are there for is to help you when needed. There are a several Districts that just haven't sent completed inspections to me.

Why is beyond me. You know who you are. You've been called and emailed; so let's get on the band wagon and mail them to me.

If you are having a problem then call me and I will help you get your situation solved.

Thanks for all you do!

Respectfully, *Marianne, PDP*



Inspirational Message
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Deanna 'DeeDee' Guyette



*We have just turned the page on the 2025 year and now we turn our sights to the new 2026 year!
The New Year brings new hope, new goals, and new 'resolutions':*

✚ **New Hope:** *No matter how bad things can get, hope is the one thing we have in our power to keep us going. All too often it is said, "I'm so glad 2025 is over, this has been a terrible year." And I have no doubt that it has. So, let's use the New Year as a time to find New Hope for better things to come.*

✚ **New Goals:** *All of us have goals in some way or another. But, sometimes life gets busy and we lose track of those goals. What we thought was an important goal, may have changed in the last year. So, let's use the New Year as a time for review and toss out any obsolete goals and add New Goals for the future.*

✚ **New Resolutions:** *It's that time when we press that reset button and make those traditional New Years Resolutions; such as exercising, financial, and careers. These all affect our outer selves. But, what about improving our inner selves? So, let's use the New Year to make some untraditional New Years Resolutions; such as practicing kindness, compassion, and gratitude.*

Keeping in mind the New Hope, Goals, and Resolutions that we just established; I leave you with one last thought:

'It's not so much where we are, but in what direction we are headed.'

Much Love, ~ DeeDee

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.

April/May articles are due March 1st



Mark Your Calendars for the VFW Auxiliary

Spring Conference!

March 27-28

**RADISSON HOTEL
CORNING, NY**

- Be on the lookout as complete packets will be sent to Auxiliary and District Presidents as soon as all details have been finalized.
- **NOTE:** Deadline windows may be shorter than usual, so be sure to act as quickly as possible for room reservations, registration, and luncheon tickets.
- As a Special Treat—the President's Luncheon will have something new this year →

Department President Justine looks forward to seeing all members at the Spring Conference for some fun and great conversation!

