



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ April/May 2026

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

As we move into the heart of spring, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible experiences, meaningful connections, and unwavering dedication I've witnessed throughout our great Department. The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity, education, and heartfelt patriotism, and I'm honored to share these moments with all of you.

February brought a welcome break from New York's winter as I joined fellow Auxiliary members on the National Midwinter Cruise to the Bahamas and Bimini. The sunshine was a gift, but the true warmth came from the camaraderie we shared. The educational sessions were informative and inspiring, and the fellowship reminded me once again why our mission matters so deeply. It was an experience I will always treasure.

After a short time back home, we headed to Washington, D.C. for the VFW Legislative Conference and National CAFE. Walking among the monuments, advocating for our veterans, and standing shoulder-to-shoulder with those who fight tirelessly for their rights was profoundly moving. Being part of that effort is something I will never forget.

One of the greatest honors of this season was welcoming our National President, Lois Callahan, to my hometown of Brooklyn. We enjoyed a wonderful visit, taking in iconic sights like the Statue of Liberty and paying our respects at the 9/11 Memorial. Sharing the spirit and history of New York with her was truly special.

As my year as Department President begins to wind down, my travels across the state continue. I look forward to completing my visits to all districts and seeing firsthand the incredible work each of you is doing to support our veterans, their families, and our communities. Our Spring Conference at the end of March was a huge success and I was so excited to gather once again to learn, collaborate, and celebrate the accomplishments of our Department.

I remain committed to visiting every district and recognizing the dedication and creativity that make New York shine. Your efforts inspire me every day. I will conclude the month of May by participating in Memorial Day ceremonies across multiple locations. It is one of the most solemn and meaningful times of our year—a moment to honor the heroes who gave everything for our freedom.

Thank you for your continued support, your tireless service, and your unwavering commitment to our mission. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of veterans across New York and beyond. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks as we finish this year strong.

"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

APRIL

MAY

8 – Mary Makosky, PDP

27 – Margaret Bergeron, PDP



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

Apr 5... Happy Easter

Apr 15... DEADLINE: Program Year-End Reports
must be received by Apr 15, USPS/Email.
* *Fillable* forms are available on the Dept
Website on each Program page.

May 10... Happy Mother's Day

May 25... Memorial Day

Jun... VFW and Auxiliary Dept NY Convention
9-13... ~ Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #177 ~ JANUARY 9, 2026

Termination of Membership Annual Member Shawn Mills of VFW Auxiliary No. 2530 ~ New York

A Disciplinary Action was initiated by VFW Auxiliary Department of New York President, Justine Robles, against Mr. Shawn Mills, Annual Membership No. 2000272680, on August 27, 2025. You did not request a Hearing nor a Summary Disposition. A Disciplinary Action is not subject to appeal when no Hearing is requested. On November 12, 2025, you were sent a Notification of Penalty (No Hearing Requested) which imposed the penalty of Termination of Membership in the Veterans of Foreign War of the United States Auxiliary.

In accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, it is hereby ordered by the VFW Auxiliary National President that effective as of the date of this Special Order, Mr. Shawn Mills, Annual Membership No. 2000272680, be removed from the membership rolls of VFW Auxiliary 2530 and from membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary.

By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #204 ~ FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Lift 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 is now lifted from the Charter of the Auxiliary to Nissequogue VFW Post No. 5796, in Kings Park, New York, as the Auxiliary has corrected their deficiencies and complied with their obligations.

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

By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

Letter of Endorsement for Belinda Cole ~ March 2026

VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 3

Dear Madam President Justine, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, Sisters and Brothers, and Honored Guests,

At the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary to District 3 meeting on March 8, 2026, the members proudly voted unanimously to endorse Belinda Cole for the high office of Department of New York VFW Auxiliary President for 2026-2027.

Belinda joined the VFW Auxiliary in September 2009 under the eligibility of her grandfather, Raymond Dube Sr, a World War II Veteran. Within her first year of membership, she knew this was her passion, so she became a Life Member.

Belinda has held many elected and appointed positions and chairmanships on Auxiliary, County Council, District and Department levels. She is currently the Department of New York Senior Vice President.

During her years in leadership, Belinda has earned multiple awards, including County Council President of the Year in 2015-2016; Runner-Up District President of the Year in 2019-2020 and again in 2021-2022; and two National Legislative Program Awards at the 123rd VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Kansas City Missouri: #2 for best promotion of legislative education and member involvement, and #3 for outstanding performance.

Belinda is a VFW National Home Centennial Life Member and a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, Wild Bunch #2.

On a personal level, Belinda played a vital role in the creation of the Global War on Terrorism Monument Organization in 2012. GWOT is a 501c3 organization whose primary goal was to raise money to build a monument that would honor our heroes from the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars. With the love and passion Belinda showed for the cause, she was promoted to Co-Director in 2013. Under Belinda's leadership, the group raised over \$50,000 and the monument was built. Depicting all branches of service, it was unveiled in Crandall Park, Glens Falls, as part of the Veterans Day weekend ceremonies in 2018. The Glens Falls Beautification Committee issued a proclamation for her dedication.

Belinda has been employed at the Stewart's Distribution Center in Saratoga Springs as a Staff Accountant since 2006. She recently retired from the Board of Directors for the Stewart's Federal Credit Union after 16 years of service. Belinda married her husband Dan (whom she recruited as a VFW Auxiliary life member) in September 2019.

We, the members of District 3, feel Belinda will fulfill the duties of the office with honor, integrity and leadership, to mentor any auxiliary or member who may be in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen C. DesForge

Maryellen DesForge, District Secretary

By Order of Patricia McSwain, District President

Letter of Endorsement for Charlene Carnright ~ December 2025
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 8

Dear Madam Department President Justine Robles and Members of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York:

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, the members of District 8 endorsed Charlene Carnright as our candidate for the High Office of Sr. Vice President for the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.

Charlene is a life member of VFW Auxiliary to Arthur G. Depew Memorial Post #6200 located in Ovid, NY. She joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of her father, David Fournier, who served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam Conflict.

Charlene was appointed to the office of Auxiliary Secretary from October 2024 – October 2025 for Waterloo Memorial to Post 6433. She held the office of Auxiliary President from July 2023 to September 2024 and served as the Auxiliary Treasurer from July 2014 until June 2023 for Lt. Cyrus Garnsey to Post 1323. Charlene is a life member of the VFW National Home.

Charlene served two terms as District 8 President, 2021-2022 and 2017-2018. In June 2018 she was awarded District President of the Year at the Department Convention in Albany. During 2023-2024, Charlene held the position of District 8 Guard. For 2024-2025, she held the position of District 8 Scholarship Chairman.

Charlene has held several Department Chairmanships. Currently she is the Department Ways and Means Chairman for 2025-2026. During 2022-2023, she was the Department President's Special Project Chairman and was appointed as the Department Hospital Chairman for 2020-2021.

Charlene's sons, Joshua and Anthony and granddaughters, Ciera, Brooke, Jasmine, and Ivy are very proud of her and pledge their full support as Charlene goes through the Department Chairs.

The members of District 8 ask for your support of our candidate, Charlene Carnright, as she seeks the high office of Sr. Vice President for the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York.

Loyally,

Karen A. Dotson

Karen A. Dotson, PDP, District 8 Secretary

By Order of Lisa Raplee, District 8 President

Letter of Endorsement for Deanna Guyette ~ January 2026
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 4

Dear Madam Department President Justine Robles and Members of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York:

It is the distinct pleasure of District 4 VFW Auxiliaries to endorse our candidate, Deanna Guyette for the position of Department Jr Vice President. Deanna joined the VFW Auxiliary Post 7227 in 2000 under the eligibility of her Father, Lawrence W Biskey, a WWII Veteran.

As a member of VFW Auxiliary 7227, Deanna has held several offices including the President for seven years. She has also served as secretary and held many chairmanships in this Auxiliary.

At this time she is currently also serving as District 4 Treasurer. She has also served as the Department Newsletter Editor and Department Webmaster. She continues to be actively involved in her community and currently serves on the North Country Veteran and Service Member Suicide Prevention Coalition. For several years she has served as coordinator of the VFW & Auxiliary 7227 Stop 22 Walk as well as the Chairman of Wreaths Across America for our Post & Auxiliary.

We the members of District 4 Auxiliaries proudly present Deanna Guyette for the office of Department Jr Vice President. We are confident she will serve the Department of NY with dignity, compassion and dedication.

Loyally,

Jane Reape

Jane Reape, PNP, District 4 Secretary

Letter of Endorsement for Kim White ~ March 2026
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 3

Dear Madam President Justine, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, Sisters and Brothers, and Honored Guests,

At the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York District 3 meeting on March 8, 2026, the members proudly voted unanimously to endorse Kimberly White for the office of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Treasurer for 2026-2027.

Kim was a life member of the Auxiliary to Louis W. Oppenheim VFW Post #1019 before transferring to the Auxiliary to Schenectady VFW Post #357, and then to the Auxiliary to Hilderbrand Davis VFW Post #1895. Kim joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of her grandfather, Clement W. McMahon. Mr. McMahon was a World War II veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart. Kim grew up at the Post, working bingo and dinner dances, and assisting with many Post functions with her grandparents, mother, sister and brothers.

Kim is the mother of two young men. She is also the sole proprietor of Accurate Bookkeeping Services. With forty years' experience as a bookkeeper, Kim prides herself on providing big business quality to the small business.

Kim has held many offices and chairmanships on all levels and has proven to be a dedicated, helpful and responsible sister. Kim is currently the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Treasurer, a position she has held for ten years. She attends all her Auxiliary and District meetings, Department Conferences and Conventions, and the National Convention. Kim has twice been a National Aide-de-Camp.

We, the members of District 3, feel that Kim White has proven to be a wonderful asset to the VFW Auxiliary. She has served our Department with honor, pride and honesty. Kim has the background, experience and dedication to be an outstanding Department Treasurer. We ask for your support of our candidate.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen C. DesForge

Maryellen DesForge, District Secretary

By Order of Patricia McSwain, District President

Letter of Endorsement for Darlene Baker ~ November 2025
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 5

To the Officers, Delegates and Members of the VFW Auxiliary, Department of New York:

District 5 members voted unanimously to endorse sister Darlene Baker for the high office of Department of New York VFW Auxiliary Treasurer at our regular scheduled meeting on November 15, 2025.

Sister Darlene is a life member of Auxiliary 7325, Constantia. She joined in 2000 under the eligibility of her father, Dominick Volpe.

Darlene is currently our Junior Department President and District 5 President. She is a Past President of her Auxiliary, Council and District 5, positions she held for several years. She has also held several Department offices and Chairmanships (Youth Activities, Scholarship and Legislative). Sister Darlene's dedication and commitment to our Veterans and Active-Duty Military members is shown through her positions she has held as an Auxiliary Member.

Darlene has a wealth of professional experience working with General Council at Barclay Daman, Client Relationship Management/Customer Service, and CEOs of large corporations. The members of District 5 believe that with her legal/business compliance, billing knowledge and her attention to detail, she would be an asset as Department Treasurer.

Sister Darlene has the support of her family and Auxiliary. Her daughter, Nicole, is a life member of Auxiliary 7325. Darlene's son Dominick is deceased. She has two grandchildren.

The members of District 5 feel Darlene would be a great asset to the Department and are asking for your support in electing our candidate, Sister Darlene Baker, to the high office of Department Treasurer for the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary. We know she will represent our organization to the best of her ability with honor, grace, dedication, and the commitment she has always shown.

Loyally,

Jackie Herbert

Jackie Herbert, PDP, Secretary, District 5 VFW Auxiliary

Letter of Endorsement for Christine Leavor ~ March 2026
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 6

Dear Officers, Delegates and Members of the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York,

At the regular Spring Meeting of VFW Auxiliary to District 6 Department of New York, held on March 7, 2026 in Springville, New York, Officers, members and delegates in attendance voted unanimously to endorse our sister, Christine Leavor, for the high Office of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Conductor.

Chris has been an active member of Little Valley Auxiliary 8734 for more than 40 years. She is a familiar face in the Department of New York. The wife of Past Department Commander Mick, Chris currently serves as Department Guard, Department Secretary and Department Membership Chairman. She has held various elected and appointed positions on the Department, District and local Auxiliary level.

In her spare time, Chris serves as District 6 Treasurer and her own Auxiliary 8734 Treasurer.

Staunch and dependable, fine and commendable, Christine Leavor is District 6's endorsed candidate for Department Conductor. We hope you will join District 6 as we support Chris.

Loyally submitted,

Deborah L. Cenni

Deborah L. Cenni

By Order of District 6 President Aurelia Taylor

Letter of Endorsement for Craig Keitel ~ March 2026
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 2

President Justine and member of the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary

District 2 has the honor of endorsing District 2 President Craig Keitel for the position of Chaplain for the Department of New York Auxiliary.

Craig joined the Auxiliary in 2016 under the eligibility of his father, Edward Keitel who served in the United States Marine Corps in Viet Nam.

While in the Auxiliary, Craig worked in the following positions: Department Conductor 2025-2026, Department Guard 2024-2025, Department Color Bearer #2 2023-2024, District 2 President 2024-2025, District 2 Senior Vice President 2024, District 2 Jr. Vice President 2023-2024, District 2 Conductor 2022-2023, District 2 Legislative Chairman 2023-2024, Putnam County Council President 2022-2023, Mahopac Auxiliary President 2021-2023, Mahopac Auxiliary Sr. Vice President 2023-2024, 2020-2021, Mahopac Auxiliary Jr. Vice President 2019-2020, Mahopac Auxiliary Secretary 2023-2024.

Prior to joining the Auxiliary, he was a member of the Mahopac VFW Men's Auxiliary and served as the Men's Auxiliary Treasurer and Secretary.

Craig served in the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves from 1989 to 1997 serving as a Dragon Missile Gunner, Assistant to the Company First Sergeant and Company Career Planner. In 1991 his reserve unit was activated and deployed to Camp Pendleton, CA where he trained to be part of a combat replacement troop in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Craig was employed by the Village of Scarsdale Police Department from 1990 to 2011 where he retired as a Police Sergeant. While employed with the police department, in addition to performing patrol duties, he performed the following assignments and details: Field Training Officer, General Topics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Radar Instructor, Traffic Enforcement Squad, Department Reaccreditation Team, and Desk Sergeant.

Craig is also a member of the following professional organizations: Mahopac American Legion, where he is currently the Judge Advocate, Putnam County Marine Corps League, DAV, AMVETS, Life Member of the VFW National Home, Fraternal Order of Police, Police Emerald Society of Westchester County, NY Shields, Orange County Shields, NY Police and Fire Retiree Association, NY Police Retiree Association, International Police Association

District 2 endorses Craig Keitel for the High Office of the Department of New York VFW Chaplain for the 2026-2027 year.

Respectfully,

Linda LaRosa

VFWNY District 2 Secretary

Letter of Endorsement for Kimberly Cavallo ~ January 2026
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 1

Greeting Council of Administration members and Guests:

It is my distinct pleasure to endorse Kimberly Cavallo from the Auxiliary to Haspel-Staab VFW Post 551 in Middle Village, NY, District 1, for the high office of Department Guard.

Kim is the Secretary/Treasurer of her Auxiliary which was chartered in 2024. Although the Auxiliary is new to the organization, Kim herself is not. Kim grew up in a family of veterans. Her Grandfather Anthony "Duke" Gucwa was a WW2 Veteran- a recipient of a Purple Heart. It was through his service that she shaped her earliest understanding of patriotism, sacrifice, and the importance of supporting those who serve. She joined the Junior Girls Unit at VFW Post 2307 in Lynbrook because of his inspiration. She ultimately served that unit as its President. It is her memories of attending Conventions and serving as a Department Color Bearer that helped form the foundation of her commitment to the VFW Auxiliary. Kim's father retired from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Colonel. This deepened her appreciation for military families and the sacrifices they make.

It is little wonder that when the former Commander to Post 551 reached out to her about reestablishing an Auxiliary to his post, she did not hesitate. She jumped in with both feet. In addition to serving as the Secretary/Treasurer to her Auxiliary, Kim is also the District 1 Secretary and the Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman. These roles have strengthened her desire to serve and her commitment to support our veterans and active-duty service members and their families.

Current Post Commander, Sean Baltrusitis, says he has worked closely with Kim and she "consistently sets the standard that others strive to emulate when it comes to dedication, compassion, and commitment to the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary." He says she is the first to step forward, never seeking recognition, but is instead focused on the needs of veterans, especially those hospitalized or homebound, meeting their needs with dignity, respect, and care.

Commander Baltrusitis goes on to say her presence reflects positively on their Post, District, and the VFW Auxiliary as a whole. He feels she has all the qualities to be a great Department officer- patriotism, leadership, discipline, and compassion- and that she will represent the Auxiliary and the VFW with distinction.

Her Auxiliary 551, echoes many of these same sentiments, stating she steps in whenever help is needed and brings with her a "genuine spirit of service."

In my own experiences with Kim, I have seen her always willing to step in as well. She accepted the appointment as Veterans & Family Support Chairman and shortly after, District 1 Secretary, without hesitation and a total willingness to serve the Organization. She has also become the "go to" person when I have needed to call ZOOM meetings on some pretty short notice. In one instance, she was letting members into a ZOOM meeting while shopping in the grocery store.

Kim and her "wonderful" husband, Alex, have been married for 23 years and are parents to three sons: Damien a 20-year-old Junior at Emory University, Thomas, 16, a Junior in High School, and Christopher a 15-year-old High School Sophomore.

She has been with her current employer for 31 years, now serving as Managing Director. Kim believes her experiences, at work and in her sons' schools, have enabled her to develop strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills, all necessary for a Department Officer.

On behalf of her Auxiliary, the Commander of VFW Post 551, and District 1, I proudly endorse Sister Kimmberly Cavallo to be the next Guard for the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary and ask your support for her candidacy.

Loyally,

John Horsky, District 1 President

Letter of Endorsement for Debra McCarthy ~ December 2025
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 4

To Members of the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary:

District 4 Auxiliaries proudly and enthusiastically endorse Debra (Debby) McCarthy for the high office of National District Council Member #4.

Debby joined under the eligibility of her husband, Asa, a Vietnam Veteran, and remained a life member of Dionne-Rumble VFW Auxiliary 7227 for over 25 years. She maintained her membership as she and her husband Asa moved throughout the country.

She served as Auxiliary President in 2000-2001 receiving President of the Year. Debby has served as District 4 Special Project Chairman and is currently serving as Department Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman.

Debby has demonstrated leadership, dedication and loyalty throughout her years of service to veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She will serve the Departments of New York and Delaware with dignity always putting the best interests of our members first.

The Auxiliaries of District 4 ask for your support for our candidate, Debra McCarthy for National District Council Member #4.

Loyally,

Jane Reape

Jane Reape, PNP, District 4 Secretary

Letter of Endorsement for Kimberly White ~ October 2025
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 3

Dear Madam President Justine, Department Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, Sisters and Brothers, and Honored Guests,

At the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York District 3 meeting on October 5, 2025, the members proudly voted to endorse Kimberly White for the office of VFW Auxiliary National Regional District Council Member Number Four for 2026-2028.

Kim was a life member of the Auxiliary to Louis W. Oppenheim VFW Post # 1019 before transferring to the Auxiliary to Schenectady VFW Post #357, and then to the Auxiliary to Hilderbrand Davis VFW Post #1895. Kim joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of her grandfather, Clement W. McMahon. Mr. McMahon was a World War II veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart. Kim grew up at the Post, working bingo and dinner dances, and assisting with many Post functions with her grandparents, mother, sister and brothers.

Kim is the mother of two young men. She is also the sole proprietor of Accurate Bookkeeping Services. With forty years' experience as a bookkeeper, Kim prides herself on providing big business quality to the small business.

Kim has held many offices and chairmanships on all levels and has proven to be a dedicated, helpful and responsible sister. Kim is currently the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York Treasurer, a position she has held for ten years. She attends all her Auxiliary and District meetings, Department Conferences and Conventions, and the National Convention. Kim has twice been a National Aide-de-Camp.

We, the members of District 3, feel that Kim White has proven to be a wonderful asset to the VFW Auxiliary. She has served our Department with honor, pride and honesty. Kim has the background, experience and dedication to be an outstanding National Regional District Council Member. We ask for your support of our candidate.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryellen C. DesForge

Maryellen DesForge, District Secretary

By order of:

Kathleen Hayward, District President

Letter of Endorsement for Karen Dotson ~ September 2025
VFW Auxiliary Department of NY District 8

Dear Members of the Great State of New York:

At the September Fall District Meeting scheduled on September 14, 2025, the members of District 8 proudly endorsed Karen A Dotson, PDP for the high Office of National District Council Member #4 representing the VFW Auxiliary Departments of New York and Delaware. The election for the 2026 – 2028 term will take place at the Department of New York Convention in June.

Joining under the eligibility of her father, Edmund Fredette, a retired Navy Officer who served during WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam Conflict, Karen is a life member of VFW Auxiliary to Chili Memorial Post 412 in Rochester. She holds the Office of Auxiliary President, District 8 Secretary, is a VFW National Home Centennial Life Member, member of MOCA Great Swampers 9.75 and is Grand President of the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary.

Karen held elected and appointed Offices on the local, District and Department levels. She served as Department of New York President in 2016 – 2017 and had the honor to be inducted into the first Circle of Excellence class at the National Convention.

Karen served as Department Chief of Staff for PDP Debbie Casella, PDP Mary Makosky, PDP Ruth Huber, and Chief of Staff, Extension/Revitalization and Mentoring for JPDP Darlene Baker. She received National awards at each National convention. The Mentoring program modeled by Karen is currently being used by the Department of Missouri. Karen also served as Department President's advisor for PDP Mary Makosky and JPDP Darlene Baker.

During 2022 – 2023, Karen was elected Eastern Conference President. Each Department within the Eastern Conference attained 100% Plus in membership and Eastern Conference was the first place conference that year.

Karen is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, volunteers at Catherine's Cupboard Food Pantry, and is a member of St. Catherine's Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary where she has held various leadership positions. Prior to her retirement from IBM Corporation, she was the Global Project Test Manager with teams located in India, China, Argentina, Mexico, and Australia. Her key skills are patience, detail orientation, teamwork, and clear/concise communication.

Karen has the support of her husband Michael, children Kimberly and Christopher, nine grandchildren, and mother Marita Fredette.

Your support of electing Karen Dotson as the 2026 – 2028 National District Council Member Area #4 at the June 2026 Department Convention would be appreciated.

Loyally,

Lisa Raplee

Lisa K. Raplee, PDP, District 8 President

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

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

- 📖 District 3-*New President*: Patricia McSwain, 18 Riverview St Apt A206, S Glens Falls, NY 12803, 518-646-2986, p2252701@gmail.com
- 📖 Dept Scholarship Chairman Lori Juskiewicz-*New Phone*: 917-780-8229
- 📖 PDP Darlene Stanton-*New Room Number*: Schuyler Ridge, 1 Abele Rd Room 204, Clifton Park, NY 12065, 518-833-5556
- 📖 Aux 125-*Correct Secretary*: Sally Torner, 136 Haynes Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901, 518-310-0612, sally.torner@hotmail.com
- 📖 Aux 600-*New Meeting Day*: Last Thursday, 6 pm
- 📖 Aux 1323 President-*New Address*: 4 W Elizabeth St Apt 2R, Waterloo, NY 13165
- 📖 Aux 1400-*New Treasurer*: Elizabeth Iverson, 20892 Hadcock Rd, Watertown, NY 13601, 740-803-2961, eiversonvfwaux1400@gmail.com
- 📖 Aux 1470-*New Meeting Time*: 6:00 pm
- 📖 Aux 2782-*New Secretary*: Merianne Morse, 89E Main St Apt 2R, Norwich, NY 13815, 607-373-2252, No Email
- 📖 Aux 5885-*New President/Secretary*: Carol Sue Hedman (was already President)
- 📖 Aux 7127-*New Meeting Day*: 2nd Thursday
- 📖 Aux 7765 President-*New Phone*: 917-780-8229



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

Greetings and salutations to my Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters...

I have heard so many wonderful stories and reports from the Auxiliaries regarding how everyone is helping those who have served this country proudly, staying true to the red, white, and blue. Thank you for sending veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living valentine day cards and gifts. These help to remind our veterans that they are not forgotten, that we honor and respect their sacrifice protecting our beautiful country.

Year-end reports are due by April 15. I have heard from most of the districts. Remember to use the form on the website. I am looking forward to having my mailbox filled up with reports. I will have a place at my table at the convention is you want to drop them off directly to me. Remember there will be 2 baskets – one for Veterans women's health and one for pregnant and new moms' baby-shower hosted by the Albany Stratton VA. Women's health is looking for small travel sized items like fingernail polish, fingernail files, lotions polish remover, etc.

Keep up the great work. May God bless each one of you for your dedication and care of our veterans.

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

Loyally, *Marie-Aymee*



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

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I am sorry I could not attend the Spring Conference. But, I would like to thank the people that ran my table for me - I heard they once again did an amazing job! I would also like to thank all the Auxiliaries that handed in year-end reports. I hope to see you all at the Convention if I can get the time off as I recently started a new job.

Some important Patriotic Days to remember in April and May are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| * Month of April - <i>Military Child Month</i> | * Month of May - <i>Military Caregiver</i> |
| * April 5th - <i>Gold Star Spouses Day</i> | * May 1st - <i>Silver Star Banner Day & Loyalty Day</i> |
| * April 6th - <i>Army Day</i> | * May 8th - <i>Military Spouse Appreciation Day & V-E Day</i> |
| * April 14th - <i>Air Force Reserve Birthday</i> | * May 13th - <i>Children of Fallen Patriots Day</i> |
| * April 23rd - <i>Army Reserve Birthday</i> | * May 16th - <i>Armed Forces Day</i> |
| * April 30th - <i>National Military Brats Day</i> | * May 23rd - <i>National Poppy Day</i> |
| | * May 25th - <i>Memorial Day</i> |

Thank you to everyone who has sent reports throughout the year. Keep up the excellent work. 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*



WASHINGTON, D.C.

President Justine and members attended the VFW Auxiliary CAFÉ event and the VFW National Legislative Conference in Feb, 26.
(More pictures on the Department website.)



Many Words of Thanks

✂ I would like to thank my Auxiliary family for all the love and support I received. I no longer correspond thru email, but the cards, phone calls, and prayers, have been such a special blessing. I can still text, but the hands don't quite work like they used to. Thank you again for keeping me in your hearts.

~ Darlene Stanton, PDP

✂ I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the outpouring of condolences, cards, emails, and calls from my Auxiliary FAMILY concerning the passing of my brother Brent Crow. It has been difficult losing my brother who has lived right next door to me for the last 14 years. I certainly appreciate the love and support of my Auxiliary family.

~ Chris Leavor, Dept Guard/Secretary

✂ I just want to thank everyone for the love and support following my recent fall. The cards, phone calls, and text messages were such a 'pick-me-up' to get me thru my recovery. I am so grateful to my Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters.

~ Marianne McLane, PDP



Inspirational Message
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
Deanna 'DeeDee' Guyette



Spring has officially arrived, and it's time to refresh and renew. Many of us will be cleaning up our yards from the harsh winter weather, or maybe doing some traditional Spring house cleaning. But, whether its inside or outside, we know it's time to prepare for the summer months ahead. Springtime has a way of lifting our spirits and bringing new hope. It's also a time for us to renew our commitment to supporting our Veterans and their families.

Much Love, ~ DeeDee

A Time of Hope

By: Catherine Pulsifer

*As winter's chill departs
The warmth of spring arrives
Seeing daffodils and crocus blooms
Allows hope and rebirth to thrive.*

*Birds soar in the sky so blue
Nature flings open its door
Our hearts are filled with joy and delight
At this time of hope evermore!*



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

If you are reading this then likely the 2025-2026 activity year – April thru March for most programs – has completed. Email any final regular reports immediately to hopefully be processed in time to count. And send your annual report in time to reach me or other appropriate Department Program Chairmen BEFORE April 15, 2026.

2025-2026 has been a busy year for Auxiliary Outreach. More than one-third of New York auxiliaries reported a total of more than five hundred activities as of this writing. Members are volunteering with libraries, food pantries, clothing closets, fire departments, equestrian therapy, theater groups, senior centers, homeless shelters, blood drives ... and more.

Auxiliary Outreach is a win-win-win-win. Other organizations gain volunteers. The people benefited by those organizations gain increased benefits or assistance. Your members gain exposure to their communities. And your VFW Auxiliary gains visibility in the community. What's not to like?

My hope is that auxiliaries and members will continue being involved in your communities. Seek out additional opportunities to better others' lives. Thank you for all that you do.

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*

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

What a **WONDERFUL** show of support and awareness for the National Cancer Grant Fund at the Spring Conference in Corning. The districts did not disappoint with their Cancer themed baskets. **THANK YOU** to everyone that participated and helped by purchasing tickets. An extra special thanks to those that volunteered to help man the Cancer Grant Fund table during the conference. You all are amazing. I will need some assistance at the Department Convention in June. If you are interested, please feel free to send me an email, a text message or give me a call! Many hands do make light work!

I am beyond excited to report that we had a 97% participation rate among Auxiliaries for the Cancer Raffle this year, raising more than \$24,000 for the National Cancer Grant Fund! Speaking of the Cancer Grand Raffle: the final three winners were drawn at the Spring Conference, but the winner's names were not available at the time of the newsletter deadline for this article. ☺ **CONGRATULATIONS** to all the winners!



While we are winding down the Auxiliary year, there is still time to help raise critical funds for the Cancer Grant Program while showing your support for a loved one by sponsoring a paper ribbon (just \$5 each) 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. You can find the form and information on the Dept site, in the Program Book or scan the QR Code.

April is Testicular (Purple), Esophageal and Head/Neck (Burgandy/White) Cancer Awareness Month. May is Brain (Gray), Melanoma/Skin (Black), Bladder (Marigold/Blue/Purple) Cancer Month as well as **NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH**.

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.”

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

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

Loyally, *Amber*



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



"A GOAL IS A DREAM WITH A PLAN"

We are gearing up for the closing of this year.

It has been a true learning experience for me and I have enjoyed most of it!!

Spring Conference was such a success! The Buddy Poppy displays were just wonderful and the Puppy Parade was a huge hit! We saw our National Home Generator fund getting attention and growing. The winners of both of these events were not available at the time of this writing, so they will appear in the June edition.

So many of you have helped me thru this and done an excellent job with your reports. My year end is coming due and I need all of you to send your year-end reports to me. Please make sure you let me know how many Centennial Memberships were purchased and also the number of bricks purchased for the National Home. Some of you have already sent me your information so I thank you so much.

For those that mail your reports to me please allow a couple days for the mail. It isn't what it used to be!!

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

Loyally, *Debby*

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

Dear Members - Happy Spring!! Happy Easter!

The end of the year is closing in fast.

Please get your reports sent to the Department Chairmen and don't forget your year-end reports.

Check the Department website www.vfwauxny.org to see what programs you need to report on.

Any questions regarding reports, please contact the program chairmen directly.

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

Loyally, *Jackie*



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

"Buddy" & "Mentor of the Year"

We have two awards being presented at the Department Convention: "Buddy of the Year" and "Mentor of the Year." Both are intended to be recognized by the Auxiliary or member they have assisted...

Buddy – An Auxiliary may need a little TLC so they may request help from another Auxiliary member. This member can be someone who lives near them, can attend their meetings and provide them with advice and suggestions to help their Auxiliary. This is a **BUDDY**. A keepsake will be present to the winner.

Mentor of the Year – The most important and often forgotten part is training, teaching, and adopting a member who may be interested in getting more involved. Many lack the confidence and don't know where to begin. A mentor is someone who takes them under their wing and encourages them. This is a **MENTOR**. This is a very special award and comes with a keepsake and \$100 to the "Mentor of the Year." Time is running out to get those nominations in. I am extending the deadline from April 1st to May 1st.

NEW DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2026



Forward them to me via email or USPS mail. I look forward to hearing all the wonderful ways our Auxiliary members have helped or are continuing to help other Auxiliary members.

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*





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 ideas for working the Youth Program:

- With Memorial Day coming up, we can explain the meaning behind Memorial Day.
- We can use the R.A.P cards and the Youth Acts of kindness certificates.
- When we encourage today's youth by letting them know that they have been seen, it is priceless in their eyes.

"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

Good Day my beautiful Auxiliary members!

★ Ways and Means is doing great!

★ I want to thank District 8 for being 100% in the 9-month raffle.

★ We have many Auxiliaries in for the June drawing for the weekend getaway in the beautiful Finger Lakes.

Loyally, *Charlene*



SCHOLARSHIPS ~ Lori Juskiewicz, Chairman
30 White Drive ~ Milan, NY 12571
New Phone: (917) 780-8229 ~ lorijus@yahoo.com

As we move into the final stretch of our program year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to every Auxiliary member who continues to promote, support, and uplift our scholarship programs!

📄 Patriotic Art Scholarships – Department Deadline Approaching: Our two signature youth art programs are now entering their final phase. All entries to the Department level are due by April 15. Please ensure your Post-level judging is completed in time so that your winning entries can move forward without delay.

- Young American Creative Patriotic Art (2-D Art)
- 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarship (3-D Art)

📄 Continuing Education Scholarship: Although the application deadline has passed, support for this important program continues. Donations to the National President's Special Project – Continuing Education Scholarship Fund may still be made through MALTA. Every contribution strengthens opportunities for our Auxiliary family members pursuing education later in life.

📄 Reporting Reminders: As we near year's end, please remember:

- All program reports should be submitted promptly. Donations can be reported to the scholarship program.
- End-of-year reports must be completed on time so our Department can accurately reflect the outstanding work being done across New York.
- Your reporting ensures that every hour of service, every act of kindness, and every scholarship promotion effort is recognized.

📄 Celebrating Our Department Winners: We are proud to congratulate:

- Emily Spatto, District 4 Post 982. Department of New York Voice of Democracy Winner.
- Alexa Cruz, District 10 Post 4987. Department of New York Patriot's Pen Winner.

Their hard work, talent, and heartfelt patriotism shine brightly. Congratulations to all the participants and winners! You continue to inspire us with your dedication to honoring veterans and celebrating American values.

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*



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

The time is just flying by, and we are quickly approaching the end of this membership year. As of this writing, the Department is at 97% current membership and 98.53% paid membership. All Department awards except the Brooklyn Bridge crossing are based on PAID membership. That is because as we enter our deceased members who have already paid their dues for the 2026 membership year, your Auxiliary isn't penalized for doing so in a timely manner. Today we are 264 members short of the 100% PAID goal. That's 1-2 members from each Auxiliary. Many of us have that many annual members still unpaid.

However, as the Extension and Revitalization Chairman has previously pointed out, this doesn't show growth for our organization. For that we need to focus on CURRENT membership, which our Department Treasurer shares monthly in her reports. Your next goal is to cross the Brooklyn Bridge by May 31, 2026, with the GREATEST NUMERICAL INCREASE in CURRENT Membership for \$150. There will be a drawing in the event there is a tie. The Department needs 540 members to reach the 100% CURRENT goal. That's 3-4 members for each of us. Already you have recruited 308 new and rejoined members. We can reach 540 with our lapsed and new recruits that I know you're still "catching." WE CAN DO IT!!

Drawings for the George Washington Bridge crossing- 100% paid membership AND 90% retention of annual members by December 31st and the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge crossing – 100%+ and 98% retention will both be at the Spring Conference. The WHITE AWARD for having the President, Sr Vice, Jr Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees dues all paid by December 31, 2025, will also be drawn then. Good luck to all who qualified.

Don't forget your Auxiliary can still qualify for the Blue Award! The Auxiliary in EACH of the six membership groups with the HIGHEST percentage in PAID membership will receive \$50.

Madam Department President is required to call every Auxiliary that is not 100%. She will be assigning her officers to make these calls, and she has to report to National. Please be kind to the caller- he or she is just doing their job. In the meantime, it would help with their report if your Auxiliary would call the unpaid members and determine why they have chosen not to remain members in good standing. Understanding their WHY can help the organization understand how we are not meeting their expectations. Every membership honors a veteran's service. If a member no longer wants to be part of us in spite of their veteran's service, we should find out why. And, during those calls, your Auxiliary might find out that a member is experiencing a temporary hardship that your Auxiliary could help them with this year by paying the \$20 per capita for ONE year from your Relief funds.

*"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

As we move into the spring months, I want to thank every Auxiliary member for your continued dedication to our Veterans & Military Support (VMS) programs. Your efforts ensure that New York's veterans, service members, and their families receive the support they deserve.

Please continue promoting key VMS initiatives such as the Unmet Needs Program, which provides financial assistance to military families in crisis, and the Military Assistance Program (MAP), which helps Posts and Auxiliaries host troop-support events. Don't forget to share information about the VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship, a valuable resource for veterans pursuing their education.

With Memorial Day approaching, let us honor our fallen heroes while also remembering the families who carry their legacy. Even small gestures of support can make a meaningful impact.

A friendly reminder to continue sending in your reports – as they help us document and recognize the incredible work happening across our Department. Year-end reports are due by April 1, so please submit them on time.

Thank you for all you do to ensure no veteran or military family stands alone.

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

In Service, *Kim*



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

Spring is here!

It has been a long winter for some, and I would like to thank all those Auxiliaries for all your reports, photos, and articles! You have been busy, and I appreciate you sharing your history with me.

I would like to share a few reminders with you when submitting articles to your area newspaper. Be sure to follow WHO is included in your article, WHERE did the event take place, WHAT was the purpose of your event, and WHY the event took place. This will ensure that those who read the article can understand the purpose of your event and who benefited from it.

I have sent a reminder to all District presidents of the National award to those who participated in creating reels this year! I hope you all continue to use this as a fun way to share with others all that your auxiliary does.

With elections right around the corner, be sure to take those pictures and document the history of your auxiliary. You can submit an article to your area news thanking your outgoing officers and congratulating the newly elected ones. Remember if you submit photos, to have a photo release ensuring that you have permission to use the member's photo.

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*

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

We are coming into the homestretch of this year's program season!

- ❖ As you all know, your end of year reports were due April 1, 2026. I hope you all took advantage of sending those reports to the prospective chairman.
- ❖ My Special Project Headstrong will accept donations until the end of the program year. There are still a handful who have not donated, and this program is to help our Veterans receive FREE treatment for their PTSD.
- ❖ Thank you all for your continued support during Spring Conference at Corning NY. I thank all those sincerely who donated during the challenge. The Veterans you will be helping with our generous donation at the end of President Justine's year thank you too. We will now wait to see the final amount we will be giving the Headstrong Project at the June convention.

Loyally, *Marcia*



TREASURER'S Checks & Balances ~ DEPARTMENT TREASURER, Kimberly White



Dear Members,

As of the end of February, we are at 96.94% in membership. Department has sent a second dues notice mid-January. One was mailed to each unpaid annual member. While it is wonderful to have so many new members, we need to work harder on retaining our annual members. These are the people who built this organization. We cannot afford to lose their support, knowledge, and experience!

Auxiliary Treasurers-Please take a few minutes to verify that all paid members have been recorded in Malta. We do not want anyone to lose their continuous membership due to an oversight.

Important reminder-Any newly elected Treasurer must submit Form 8822-B to the IRS within 60 days of election. This updates the responsible person and address with the IRS so that they know who to contact regarding auxiliary business.

Stay warm and safe! Please remember that the best time to reach me is in the evenings or over the weekend. I hope to see you all at Spring Conference.

Loyally, *Kim*



Greetings to all my Auxiliary FAMILY! Can you believe it is time for elections already?

You should have already received all the forms you need for your Auxiliary elections that must be held according to the Bylaws, at your regular April Auxiliary meeting. I sent these to every Auxiliary President, Secretary, and Treasurer who has an email on record. One of you needs to print the forms and take them to your April meeting.

After the elections, while still at that meeting complete the forms. The officers are all there and can even print in their own information and save the Secretary a little extra work. PLEASE use the Department form instead of the one on MALTA which I find confusing and difficult to read. IMMEDIATELY after the meeting, which means no more than three days, mail the forms to me, except the District Delegates which get sent to the appropriate District Secretary listed at the bottom of that form. These forms are fillable and the Secretary can choose to send the fillable versions as they are easier to read than some of the handwriting/printing. Be sure all information is correct - emails, addresses, phone numbers - this is used to create the Department Directory.

Even if the Auxiliary Secretary enters the election information in MALTA (thank you very much), the forms must still be sent to me.

If your Auxiliary meets after April 12th you may choose to install at the same meeting. Whether your installation is in April or May the Installation form is only fillable up to the signature of the installing officer. The installing officer must physically sign the form. The form can then either be scanned and emailed or USPS mailed to me immediately after the installation. Remember, the installation is null and void if: 1- you install more than 60 days before the Department Convention; 2- the installing officer is not authorized according to the bylaws; 3- your audits are not up to date See Sec.806A5.

Elected officers will assume their new offices in June with the installation of the Department President-EXCEPT the Secretary and Treasurer, whom assume theirs in July after MALTA resets and they have access to their duties.

In other news, I received a phone call today from PDP Darlene Stanton. She wants you all to know how much she appreciates your calls, cards, prayers. Her address remains the same (Schuyler Ridge, 1 Abele Rd, **Room 204**, Clifton Park NY 12065) except for the room number, which is different. Her phone number is: 518-883-5556. She does not receive email but does receive calls and texts. She did say that her hands aren't what they used to be and writing is difficult for her. I know she would love to hear from you.

Respectfully at your Service, *Christine*



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

April Showers Bring May Flowers!

I hope everyone is getting ready to enjoy warmer weather and longer days. It was nice seeing everyone at the Spring Conference in Corning. I want to thank everyone for their reports and for their end of the year reports. I look forward to seeing everyone at the June Convention and handing out the Legislative awards.

The 2026 VFW Priority Goals are available online. You can print and disburse them to your fellow Auxiliary members and community members. Remember we need to **participate** in community activities. We need to **inform** and **educate** our communities and members on the Legislative issues we are helping our Veterans with.

Get **involved** by signing up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly newsletter. The Action Alerts are sent to all VFW Action Corps weekly subscribers. Remember to **"take action."** Just because you are signed up for the Action Corps Weekly does not mean you are **"taking action."** We need to get New York's numbers up in **"taking action"**, because only 205 people out of 13,697 subscribers are **"taking action"**, and this is not acceptable.

VFW Voice of Service—Stories in Action is now live, which will get Veterans stories to congress:

- ★ Stories are what makes the lawmakers listen.
- ★ The Veteran and or family members may submit their stories to <https://forms.gle/3K4toepnSPDFLpvUG>
- ★ 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*

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.
June articles are due May 1st

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is the next to last edition of the Aux News for the 25-26 year. After the June edition, you will need to renew your subscription for the upcoming 26-27 year.

Be on the lookout in the June edition for new subscription forms. They will also be available on the Department website. You can also contact the Aux News editor or your Auxiliary President.

**National President Lois Callahan Visits the
Department of New York**
(More pictures on the Department website.)

