



# AUXILIARY NEWS ~ June 2026

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

As I sat down to write what is my final article as your Department President, I can't help but reflect on the events of the past year. Since our last newsletter, my travels across the Department have continued and I've been fortunate to visit so many of you and see firsthand the hard work and dedication that each of you do to keep our great DEPARTMENT going strong!

In the past few months, I attended Belinda's Chairman Meeting, participated in the MOCA Convention – where I proudly joined the Cooties – and completed my official District visits with Districts 5, 6, 7, and 8. Each stop along the way reminded me how much you all care and continue to work to support our veterans, their families and your communities.

I was also able to visit a wide range of VA facilities across the state. I visited Montrose VA, Castle Point VA, Canandaigua VA, and Batavia VA. Unfortunately, my plans to visit Albany VA, Buffalo VA, and Bath VA were derailed by my unexpected illness. A great big thank you to Chris Leavor, Ruth Huber and Craig Kietel for visiting them in my place. I was able to finish my tour of these facilities by visiting the VA's located at St. Albans, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Northport and Stony Brook. I also spent some time at Oxford Nursing Home where I had the pleasure of playing games with the veterans there. No matter the facility, the compassion, professionalism and commitment shown by the staff and volunteers is second to none.

Memorial Day brought solemn ceremonies across multiple locations. Each one was a powerful reminder of the true cost of freedom and the importance of honoring those that served our great country, not just on Memorial Day but every day.

As we prepare to meet again at Convention, the moment is bittersweet. This year has been hectic, fulfilling, crazy, busy and filled with love for our veterans. Serving as your Department President has been one of my greatest honors. The number of miles traveled, the stories shared with me, and the friends I've made along the way have made this year unforgettable.

After I hand the gavel over to Belinda I plan to take the summer to slow down and take time to reflect on the amazing year that I've had. I wish Belinda and her team best wishes for a successful year.

Thank you all for your support, kindness, and dedication to our Auxiliary. As old Blue Eyes said, 'I Did it My Way' and I wouldn't change a thing. It has been my privilege to serve as your Department President. And may we...:

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

Loyally, *Justine*

Justine Robles, President, VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

## DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

### **Department President Justine Robles**

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

### **Department Secretary Christine Leavor**

2027 Cemetery Hill Road  
Franklinville, NY 14737  
716-676-2400, cal2027@hotmail.com

### **Department Treasurer Kimberly White**

1799 Fred Road, Schenectady, NY 12303  
518-275-7283, kwhitewvlt@aol.com

### **Auxiliary News Editor DeeDee Guyette**

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

## PDP/OFFICER

### BIRTHDATES

#### JUNE

- 3 – Sharon Connolly, PDP
- 21 – Charlene Carnright, Dept JV
- 22 – DeeDee Guyette, Dept Chap
- 27 – Barbara Hodges, PDP

#### JULY

- 4 – Lisa Raplee, PDP
- 4 – Kim White, Dept Treasurer



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Jun...** VFW & Auxiliary Dept NY Convention
- 9-13...** ~ Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
- Jun 14...** Flag Day
- Jun 15...** Happy Father's Day!
- Jun 15...** DEADLINE for OMTI Registration
- Jul 4...** Independence Day
- Jul 17...** OMTI-Officer/Member Trng Institute
- 18...** ~ Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY
- Jul 25...** VFW & Auxiliary National Convention
- 29...** ~ Reno, NV
- Aug 8...** DNY VFW Aux Ways/Means Golf Trny
- ...** ~ Cedars Golf Course, Lowville, NY



**NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #218 ~ MARCH 11, 2026**  
**Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 5806 ~ New York**

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President and in accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article II, Section 209, the Charter of the Auxiliary to P F C John P Czachor VFW Post 5806, Brooklyn, New York, is hereby suspended for the period not to exceed three (3) meetings due to:

1. Failure to maintain a FDIC approved bank account.
2. Failure to elect a Treasurer.
3. Failure of the Treasurer to pay dues.
4. Failure to complete audits in a timely manner.

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

By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

**NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #224 ~ MARCH 23, 2026**  
**Cancellation VFW Auxiliary No. 3350 ~ New York**

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to Robert F. Garrison VFW Post No. 3350, East Rockaway, New York, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Less than ten (10) paid members.
2. Failure to retain Auxiliary Officers.

Notice of the cancellation of the Charter was provided to the Auxiliary and VFW thirty days prior to this Special Order.

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

By Order Of: Lois Callahan, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of NY**  
**SPECIAL ORDER # 2 ~ MARCH 27, 2026**

**To be read at next Auxiliary meeting before being filed.**

With deep sadness, I must report to you the passing of Past Department President, Mary Kreuzer, who served as Department President from 1999-2000. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Cards may be sent to:

Laura Kreuzer-Dolan  
6 Hunters Lane  
Williamsville, NY 14221-4542

**Auxiliaries are instructed to drape their charters for a period of 30 days in her memory.**

By order of: Department President Justine Robles

Attest: Chris Leavor Department Secretary

♥ *Notes of Thanks* ♥

*To My Wonderful Auxiliary Family: My heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every one of you for all the cards, prayers, messages, plants, dragonfly items, candy and love that was sent to our family for the sudden passing of my wonderful husband, your "Big Daddy", Doug, on March 5, 2026. Thank you for not forgetting Doug. He loved his auxiliary members! With love to all,*

*Jackie Herbert, PDP, and Family*

*I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all my fellow Auxiliary members for their thoughts and prayers during my recovery from a fractured hip. All the cards and well wishes I received meant a great deal to me and made my hospital stay so much easier. Thank you for being there and lifting me up when I needed it most! With Love,*

*Suzanne Ackley*

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS**

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

- 📖 District 3-New President: Patricia McSwain, 18 Riverview St Apt A206, S Glens Falls, NY 12803, 518-646-2986, [p2252701@gmail.com](mailto:p2252701@gmail.com)
- 📖 Aux 1323 President-New Address: 201 Fall St Apt 114, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
- 📖 Aux 3275-New Treasurer: Jill Mosher, 1270 Bolster Hill Rd, St Johnsville, NY 13452, 518-568-5724, [ma\\_bean69@yahoo.com](mailto:ma_bean69@yahoo.com)
- 📖 Aux 6433-President/Secretary-New Address: 139 Fall St Apt 4, Seneca Falls, NY 13148



**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 can't believe this year has come to an end. I want to first say a **HUGE CONGRATULATIONS** to the award winners. As a first time chairman I never fully realized how much work our Auxiliaries do throughout the year. It was truly eye opening to read all the reports first-hand what everyone has done to promote the Americanism program. Thank you to everyone for supporting Wreaths Across America and the Honor Flight program!

**June Days to remember:**

\* June 6th- D-Day

\* June 14th- Flag Day/Army's Birthday

\* June 19th- Juneteenth

Thank you to everyone who has sent reports throughout the year. I would like to also thank President Robles for making me her Americanism Chairman. I know I had very big shoes to fill. A **VERY HUGE THANK YOU** to my mom Melinda Ingoglio for helping me (I made her my secretary lol) and keeping me on track with my reports, articles and many emails. I don't think I would have been on point if she didn't help me.

I wish incoming President Belinda Cole, line officers and chairmen a very successful year! 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*

# ***Congratulations To All The Department Award Winners!!***

## **PRESIDENTS & RUNNER-UP's OF THE YEAR: To be announced at the June 2025 Convention**

### **MEMBERSHIP ~ CHRIS LEAVOR, Chairman**

- \* **Peace Bridge Award:** \$50 Drawing for at least 50% annual dues paid by **Aug 31, 2025:** Auxiliary 170 (D2)
- \* **Mario Cuomo Memorial Bridge Award:** \$50 Drawing for 85% PAID by **Oct 31, 2025:** Auxiliary 2159 (D1)
- \* **George Washington Bridge Award:** \$100 Drawing for 100% PAID by **Dec 31, 2025:** Auxiliary 7276 (D2)
- \* **Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge Award:** \$150 Drawing for 100%+1 PAID by **Feb 28, 2026:** Auxiliary 7325 (D5)
- \* **Brooklyn Bridge Award:** *To be announced at the June 2026 Convention.*
- \* **Red Award:** Auxiliary with the BEST MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM by **Sep 1, 2025:** Auxiliary 5491 (D2)
- \* **White Award:** \$50 Drawing for having Officers dues paid by **Dec 31, 2025:** Auxiliary 8734 (D6)
- \* **Blue Award:** *To be announced at the June 2025 Convention.*

### **WAYS AND MEANS ~ CHARLENE CARNRIGHT, Chairman**

- \* **9-Month Calendar Raffle Winners:**

\$100 – Oct: Auxiliary 2246, District 4	\$100 – Feb: Marion Balon, Aux 5798 (D6)
\$100 – Nov: Auxiliary 369, District 5	\$100 – Mar: Marion Balon, Aux 5798 (D6)
\$100 – Dec: Sharon Combs, Aux 7227 (D4)	\$100 – Apr: Auxiliary 107, District 1
\$100 – Jan: Auxiliary 745, District 8	\$100 – May: Auxiliary 6200, District 8
- \* **Jun \$200 Calendar Raffle:** *Drawing at the June 2026 Convention.*
- \* **Finger Lakes Weekend Getaway:** *Drawing at the June 2026 Convention.*

### **EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION ~ PNP JANE REAPE, Chairman**

- \* **Organizer Award:** *None Qualified*
- \* **Buddy Award:** Phyllis Walker, Aux 6703, D8
- \* **Member Award:** *None Qualified*
- \* **Mentor of the Year Award:** James Bach, Aux 369, D5

### **VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT ~ KIM CAVALLO, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	551 (D1)	416 (D6)	1017 (D6)	7127 (D5)	3146 (D5)	1975 (D5)
Second Place:	7276 (D2)	6776 (D3)	412 (D8)	358 (D3)	125 (D9)	6912 (D4)
Third Place:	5798 (D6)	516 (D10)	8444 (D3)	8259 (D4)	7765 (D2)	8734 (D6)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Aurelia Taylor, President District 6

### **AMERICANISM ~ ASHLEIGH HORSKY, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	5861 (D6)	416 (D6)	8444 (D3)	8649 (D8)	5913 (D2)	8734 (D6)
Second Place:	7276 (D2)	600 (D4)	6703 (D8)	2064 (D2)	5007 (D6)	2522 (D6)
Third Place:	5798 (D6)	2913 (D11)	1017 (D6)	309 (D9)	2535 (D7)	8647 (D6)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Aurelia Taylor, President District 6

### **AUXILIARY OUTREACH ~ MARYELLEN DESFORGE, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	5798 (D6)	3357 (D9)	5444 (D2)	7545 (D6)	2883 (D8)	9249 (D6)
Second Place:	7276 (D2)	416 (D6)	6703 (D8)	8649 (D8)	1483 (D7)	7227 (D4)
Third Place:	5861 (D6)	9251 (D8)	5199 (D10)	309 (D9)	7765 (D2)	2522 (D6)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Aurelia Taylor, President District 6

### **LEGISLATIVE ~ TINA ROBERTS, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	3275 (D3)	416 (D6)	412 (D8)	8649 (D8)	8495 (D8)	8734 (D6)
Second Place:	7276 (D2)	516 (D10)	6703 (D8)	358 (D3)	2535 (D7)	1419 (D6)
Third Place:	2718 (D10)	3357 (D9)	6778 (D8)	2064 (D2)	1384 (D10)	9487 (D6)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Lisa Raplee, PDP, President District 8

- \* **\$50 - Most Outstanding Aux Excelling in Legislative Education:** Auxiliary 8649 (D8)
- \* **\$50 - Most Outstanding Aux Excelling in Legislative Participation:** Auxiliary 8649 (D8)

**“BUDDY” @ POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME ~ DEBBY MCCARTHY, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	5861 (D6)	416 (D6)	412 (D8)	358 (D3)	125 (D9)	8734 (D6)
Second Place:	7276 (D2)	516 (D10)	1374 (D2)	8649 (D8)	5007 (D6)	524 (D5)
Third Place:	9593 (D3)	9251 (D8)	6778 (D8)	9592 (D10)	2535 (D7)	2522 (D6)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Lisa Raplee, PDP, President District 6

\* **Buddy Poppy Display Contest:** 3 Categories:

	<u>1) Public Promotion</u>	<u>2) Memorial/Inspirational</u>	<u>3) Artistic/Decorative</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Place:	Auxiliary 358, D3	Auxiliary 551, D1	Auxiliary 524, D5
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place:	Auxiliary 125, D9	Auxiliary 6703, D8	Auxiliary 7290, D5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place:	Auxiliary 3357, D9	Auxiliary 6338, D9	Auxiliary 2530, D6

\* **Puppy Parade Winners:**

<u>Most Patriotic</u> – Jim MacArthur, VFW Dept Cmdr	<u>Most Unique</u> – Donna Bowers, Aux 524, D5
<u>Biggest</u> – Carolyn Mitchell, Aux 358, D3	<u>Smallest</u> – Marcia Andreadakis, Aux 358, D3
<u>Softest</u> – Maddie Fletcher, VFW Dept NY	

**HOSPITAL ~ MARIE-AYMEE FISK, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	9593 (D3)	416 (D6)	8692 (D3)	4915 (D4)	8495 (D8)	2721 (D6)
Second Place:	7276 (D2)	7338 (D3)	1017 (D6)	9592 (D10)	3146 (D5)	1975 (D5)
Third Place:	672 (D2)	885 (D1)	6778 (D8)	901 (D5)	1384 (D10)	2246 (D4)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Lisa Raplee, PDP, President District 8

\* **Hospital Volunteer of the Year:** Sharon West, Auxiliary 3146, District 5

**SCHOLARSHIPS ~ LORI JUSZKIEWICZ, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	6472 (D6)	416 (D6)	412 (D8)	8649 (D8)	5491 (D2)	8734 (D6)
Second Place:	2718 (D10)	2913 (D11)	898 (D6)	309 (D9)	7765 (D2)	9249 (D6)
Third Place:	7276 (D2)	3357 (D9)	6703 (D8)	9592 (D10)	2535 (D7)	6338 (D9)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Marie-Aymee Fisk, President District 6

\* **Voice of Democracy:**

- \* 1st – Emily Spatto, Post 982 (D4)
- \* 2nd – Sara Zinkin, Post 412 (D8)
- \* 3rd – Isabella Lozovsky, Post 1895 (D3)

\* **Young American Creative Patriotic Art**

- \* 1st – Karli Bigness, Aux 1143 (D9)
- \* 2nd – Angel Mahajan, Aux 5491 (D2)
- \* 3rd – Cleopatra Basiliko, Aux 9249 (D6)

\* **Patriot’s Pen:**

- \* 1st – Alexa Cruz, Post 4987 (D10)
- \* 2nd – Piper Ercoline, Post 1938 (D3)
- \* 3rd – Jonathan He, Post 7227 (D4)

\* **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art**

- \* 1st – Rose Fiorbello, Aux 2770 (D10)
- \* 2nd – Magdalena Marley, Aux 309 (D9)
- \* 3rd – Emma Sommers, Aux 2535 (D7)

**YOUTH ~ TRACY DAMATO, Chairman**

	<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>	<u>GROUP 3</u>	<u>GROUP 4</u>	<u>GROUP 5</u>	<u>GROUP 6</u>
First Place:	672 (D2)	3357 (D9)	412 (D8)	5933 (D3)	8495 (D8)	8734 (D6)
Second Place:	5261 (D6)	2913 (D11)	6703 (D8)	309 (D9)	5007 (D6)	2522 (D6)
Third Place:	5808 (D2)	7338 (D3)	5092 (D8)	7336 (D1)	2535 (D7)	2721 (D6)

\* **District Presidential Citation:** Lisa Raplee, PDP, President District 8

\* **Illustrating America Art Contest:** \* Gr K-2: Valentina Troia \* Gr 3-5: Riley Knott \* Gr 6-8: James Haley

**REMINDER: Don’t Miss Out – Make Your Reservations Now for OMTI ~ Friday-Saturday, July 17-18 !!**

All members are invited to the Officer/Member Training being held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Binghamton. Reservations MUST be received by Karen Dotson, OMTI Chairman, by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Reservation includes Registration, Hotel nights, meals for Friday Dinner, Saturday Breakfast and Lunch. Members may attend the ‘Saturday Only’ session, which includes Registration and Lunch. Flier with prices can be found on the Department Website, [vfwauxny.org](http://vfwauxny.org).

A few reminders: please bring your podium book, Belinda’s Guidebook, a sweater/sweatshirt, and a non-perishable food item (to be donated to a local veterans outreach center.) Guidebooks will be available for purchase at OMTI.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 607-648-9271 or via email at [kdvfwaux@aol.com](mailto:kdvfwaux@aol.com). President Belinda and I look forward to a fun-filled learning weekend, meeting new friends, and creating new memories!

Loyally, *Karen Dotson, PDP*



**This is my last Auxiliary Newsletter as your Department Secretary, and it is sad for me to write.  
The last four years have been an amazing ride!**

This year in addition to instructing at OMTI, writing correspondence as required, compiling Program Guidebooks and Directories, creating official forms, preparing scripts and folders for two Conferences and a Convention annually, taking minutes at Council of Administration meetings and the annual Convention, distributing correspondence, warning members about email hacks, and answering phone calls and emails, I also had the privilege of going on some visits.

I attended three National Conventions as your Secretary, three Mid-Winter Conferences, and three Eastern Conferences. Over the years I had the opportunity to visit some Auxiliaries. I also visited four upstate VA hospitals, Albany, Buffalo, Batavia, and Bath. I was invited to the District 3 Gold Star Tea this year (who could say, “no” to that!), and graduation at West Point.

I have been working since April to get all Auxiliaries to submit ACCURATE and timely election, delegate and installation forms. Since the number of delegates is predicated on the number of members one has, you might be surprised to know that “ALL” isn’t a number.

I am also busy preparing for my last Convention as Department Secretary, which I know is going to be an emotional week for me.

As I say good-by, I send my thanks for all that each and every one of you and your Auxiliaries do for our veterans, their families, this organization, and your communities. You are more valuable than you even know! Thank you for being part of my Auxiliary FAMILY!

Most Sincerely, *Christine*

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

**End of Year Reflections and Gratitude:** As the 2025-2026 VFW Auxiliary year ends, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been a part of this journey. First and foremost, thank you to Madam President Justine for entrusting me with this Chairmanship. It has been an honor to serve alongside such dedicated individuals. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to our faithful members for their overwhelming support throughout the year. Your commitment and enthusiasm have been inspiring. I am incredibly proud of what each of you has accomplished for this program.

- **Active Support for Cancer Patients:** You have shown unwavering support for all cancer patients, embodying the spirit of compassion and community.
- **Generous Donations and Fundraisers:** Through your generous donations and tireless efforts in organizing fundraisers, you've made a significant impact.
- **Meal Trains and Personal Support:** By setting up Meal Trains and offering personal support, you've been there for your family, friends, and Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters during their treatment and recovery.

**Celebrating Survivors:** June is observed as National Cancer Survivor Month, a time to honor those who have fought and won their battles against cancer. If you are a survivor, remember to wear a purple ribbon as a symbol of your strength and victory.

**The Ongoing Importance of the Cancer Grant Program:** Though the Cancer Grant Program is no longer a National Program, it remains vital to our members. I'm proud to report that 85% of our Auxiliaries participated this year! Thanks to your efforts, the great state of New York is ranked second nationally for funds raised to support this essential fund. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of each one of YOU.

**Upcoming Department Convention:** For those attending the Department Convention in June, I encourage you to visit the Cancer table. There, you'll find a visual display of messages of hope and encouragement. I'll also have a select number of ribbons available for sponsorship. Your contributions continue to allow us to educate and advocate “From Sea to Shining Sea” to keep our veterans and their families cancer-free.

In the wise words of Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”  
Thank you for making this year a remarkable success and for your unwavering commitment to our cause.

Loyally, *Amber*



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

It was great seeing everyone at the June Convention and congratulations to all the Auxiliaries who received awards. Your hard work did not go unnoticed. I want to thank all the Auxiliaries that submitted monthly reports and year end reports. Unfortunately, only 2 Auxiliaries submitted the National Program Awards form.

Our work is never done supporting our Veterans. **Sign up** and **read** the Action Corps Weekly, then **take action** on the action alerts when they hit your email. If you have Auxiliary members who do not have email; you can type up a letter for them to sign and mail. Every email, phone call and letter shows our support and helps our Veterans. Don't forget you can also use the QR code to help educate the community to support our Veterans.

Also, with the new year remember to:

- ★ Toss out any old VFW Priority Goals and replace them with the new 2026 VFW Priority Goals.
- ★ Update your contact list with any new officials from the recent elections.
- ★ Update your VFW Action Corps Weekly subscription with any new email addresses or phone numbers.
- ★ Draft new letters, communications and verbal scripts that reflect current legislation.

The new reporting year has started as of April 1, 2026. If your Auxiliary or any Auxiliary members have promoted the Legislative Program, make sure you report it. Remember when writing a report, the chairman like to know the whole story - Who, what, where, when, why and how you promoted the program.

Loyally, *Tina*

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

Dear Members:

Who can believe it's the end of our reporting year!!

Thank you for your program reporting! This is one way the VFW is able to keep the tax-exempt status, and I know we all like that benefit!

Congratulations to those who are 100% or 100+ in membership. To everyone else, you have until June 30, 2026, to meet this goal.

Good luck to all for awards at the Department Convention; and best wishes to all the Department Chairmen at the National Convention. I'm rooting for all of you!

Thank you for all your hard work in program reporting this year!!

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

Loyally, *Jackie*



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

📖 Thank you to all our members who took part in Youth Activities this year. Your hard work helped us reach and support many young people across New York. Every project and every moment you spent encouraging our youth made a difference.

📖 Please take a look at all the winners in the Awards section of this newsletter and celebrate their achievements!

📖 Even though the year is ending, please keep working with our youth. Keep supporting them, keep recognizing them, and keep showing them that the VFW Auxiliary cares. Our young people need us all year long.

**Thank you again for everything you do!**  
***"Always Stay True to Our Red, White, and Blue"***

Loyally, *Tracy*



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



**"WHAT A YEAR!"**

Thank you can't begin to say what it has meant to myself and "Honor" !

- \* OUR Puppy Parade was a huge success and hopefully enjoyed by all.
- \* OUR Spring Conference held a huge mixture of emotions and memories. Congratulations to everyone who submitted an entry to the Buddy Poppy display. They were incredible!
- \* Our State Convention has come to a close and ended my year! It's been a true learning process, one I will always remember. Thank you, Department of New York!!

The hardest process was selecting outstanding Auxiliaries and a District for the awards. Each and every one of you are a part of this organization to honor, respect, serve our men, women, and dogs who have given their commitment for all of us. To those who did not receive an award, you are still winners - and I congratulate you all!

Loyally, *Debby*



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

*Many thanks* to the many auxiliaries who reported your activities for the Auxiliary Outreach program in the 2025-2026 program year. As for any program, the reporting itself is an additional effort beyond the activities being reported. And the reporting has additional value in that documenting the time volunteered in your communities helps to support the VFW Auxiliary's continued tax-exempt status.

*During the April 2025 thru March 2026 program reporting year*, more than one hundred New York State auxiliaries reported almost seven hundred members' time volunteered with almost three hundred organizations in your communities, totaling more than eighteen thousand hours. Wow!

*My hope* is that your volunteer activities have been personally rewarding and have led to fresh experiences and new friendships. My wish is that you will continue to be involved with your community and to involve the community with your auxiliary's activities.

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*



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

I have been honored to serve as the Dept of NY Chief of Staff this year. I believe this is the most challenging position I have ever had in the VFW Auxiliary. As with any challenge there are rewards. We currently have 2 Auxiliaries under a "Performance Improvement Plan" (PIP). I am pleased to announce that 2 of them are well on their way to becoming a "Healthy Auxiliary." They are gladly accepting help from the mentoring team. All the requirements for one have been successfully completed but the team has agreed to stay on for the remainder of the year and the Auxiliary President has welcomed the assistance.

We have unfortunately had to cancel the charter of 3 Auxiliaries this year but we only have one Auxiliary under suspension. We have two posts interested in starting an Auxiliary. That is great news!

Thank you to everyone who nominated members for "Buddy of the Year" and "Mentor of the Year." I was pleased to receive so many nominations. I will not be at the Department Convention this year but am pleased to announce the Mentor of the Year - **James Bach**, Auxiliary 369, District 5 and "Buddy of the Year - **Phyllis Walker**, Auxiliary 6703, District 8. Congratulations to Jim and Phyllis! Both awards come with \$100.00, a keepsake, and a citation. Thank you to all of the "buddies" and "mentors" who willingly offer to assist other Auxiliaries and their members. Thank you, President, Justine with entrusting me with this position!

Loyally, *Jane, PNP*



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

To our Dept of NY President Justine, Line Officers, PDP's and all of our Amazing Auxiliaries and Members:

As we close out this Auxiliary year, I want to extend my deepest thanks to every member who supported the Veterans & Family Support Program. Your generosity, your compassion, and your dedication to our veterans and their families have been inspiring. Every donation, every project, every act of kindness—big or small—made a difference. I'd also like to thank President Justine for trusting me with this program – it is at the heart of everything we do as the VFW Auxiliary.

The reports you submitted throughout the year were a joy to read. They showed, time and time again, that New York is second to none when it comes to standing behind our veterans. Your creativity, your commitment, and your willingness to go the extra mile reminded me why our Department is so strong. You proved NY “always stays true to our red, white, and blue”.

Choosing award winners was the hardest part of my job this year. Not because there weren't enough strong entries, but because every single one of you showed heart, dedication, and love for our veterans. In my eyes, you are all winners. The impact you made in your communities cannot be measured by certificates—it is measured in the lives you touched.

Even though the year is ending, our work does not stop. Please continue to report everything you do in April, May, and June. Our veterans need us all year long, and your efforts matter every single day. And since I will be your chairman again next year, keep those reports coming—I look forward to reading them and celebrating all the wonderful things you continue to do.

Thank you for an incredible year. It has been an honor to serve with you, and I cannot wait to see what we accomplish together next.

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

In Service, *Kim*



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

As we close out the 2025-2026 scholarship program year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to President Justine and every Auxiliary across the Department of NY. Your dedication to promoting our scholarships, submitting reports, and ensuring students and families were informed made this another successful year of supporting youth, creativity, and patriotism. Your efforts, whether through school outreach, social media posts, community events, or one-on-one conversations, helped shine a light on the opportunities our organization provides. Every report you submitted reflected real work, real impact, and real commitment to our mission of honoring veterans by investing in the next generation. I am proud to announce that our 1<sup>st</sup> Place winners for our art contests are Rose Fiorbello (3D) and Karli Bigness(YACPA). Congratulations to them both!

**Looking ahead to 26-27:** Although this year's program is over, our work doesn't stop. Now is the perfect time to continue spreading the word to prepare students, teachers, and parents for next year's programs. Early awareness leads to stronger participation, more entries, and greater visibility for our auxiliaries and our veterans.

**New Theme:** The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen theme for the 2026-2027 program year will be:

**“What have you learned from a Veteran”**

It offers students a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the wisdom, experience, and value shared by the veterans in their lives and communities. It's a powerful prompt that encourages connection, gratitude, and understanding.

Thank you again for your enthusiasm, your reporting, and your unwavering support of our scholarship programs. Your work ensures the stories of our veterans continue to inspire students across New York State. Let's keep the momentum going as we prepare for another year of creativity, patriotism, and opportunity

**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*



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

This has been a great year! Thank you to all those who participated in helping those who have stayed true to the Red, White, and Blue. Women's Health and Maternity thank everyone for all the donations that continue to help our female veterans. Thank you to all those wonderful gifts and donations for our veterans who are in hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living establishments. These actions have reminded our veterans that they are respected and not forgotten. There were many members that gave rides to veterans and family members to and from appointments and also to visit veterans who are patients. Our members have donated thousands of hours, driven hundreds of miles, participated in fundraising, and brought gifts and cards to hundreds of veterans. Let us continue to serve those who have served faithfully to our beautiful country. It is so very important that our veterans understand that they are not forgotten and are respected by many. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping our veterans.

Congratulations to the '*Outstanding Volunteer of the Year*', **Sharon West**, of Auxiliary 3146, Mattydale. She has volunteered for over 1400 hours at the Syracuse VA Hospital and Cunningham Nursing Home. Thank you Sharon and all who have volunteered throughout the year at health care facilities!

It has been an honor to serve as your Hospital Chair for the Department of New York. Let us continue to serve those who have served this country honorably from sea to shining sea. May God bless all our brothers and sisters in the VFW Auxiliary who continue to serve those who have served.

Loyally, *Marie-Aymee*



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

**New York, you make me proud! You have risen to the challenge, and you are nailing it!**

We have a way to go, but you make me more confident in reaching our goals every day!

As I write this (mid-May to make the *Auxiliary News* deadline, which has already been waiting for me) the Department of New York is 101.07% with PAID membership and 98.88% CURRENT, needing only 201 members for that elusive 100% CURRENT membership- the Stanley Cup of Membership. And we can do it! There's almost a month left.

You, my Auxiliary Family have recruited 369 new annual members so far and rejoined 50 more. Regrettably, 345 of our Auxiliary Family went to their Heavenly Homes. Since we recruited more than we lost it means our deficit comes from members we have not retained. We need 201 members to win that Stanley Cup. We can recruit them or we can find out why we have so many members choosing to leave the Auxiliary and see if we can adjust to keep them with us. When we lose those members, we lose their knowledge of the organization and programs. We lose their mentorship of new members and officers; we lose their participation (remember the adage "many hands make light work?") and we lose their camaraderie.

In our Program Division we are in second place, behind Texas by just over half a percent. I'm proud of that! In the Eastern Conference, we are in 9<sup>th</sup> place, but we can pick that up if we continue to work together.

Seven of our eleven districts are 100% or more PAID and six of them are also over 100% CURRENT. Others are just a few members from both goals. WE CAN DO IT!

At the Spring Conference we drew the "Bridge Winners"- The George Washington Bridge goal- \$100- was won by Alan Milk Memorial Auxiliary 7276 in District 2. The Verrazano Narrows Bridge goal was won- \$150- by Trach-Auringer Auxiliary 7325 in District 5. And the White Award was won by Little Valley Auxiliary 8734 in District 6.

The Blue Awards (\$50 to an Auxiliary in each of the six membership groups) will be announced at the Convention, as well as, the drawing for the final bridge crossing – the Brooklyn Bridge – to the Auxiliary with the greatest numerical increase in current membership. There is still time to get those applications and transmittals in!

Regardless of how we finish, thank you! Thanks to every one of you who have worked, accepted the challenges, and made a difference in the lives of our veterans.

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

Loyally, *Christine*



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

**Thank You!**

Thank you does not seem like nearly enough for all of those that sent reports, joined the fun in creating reels, and contributed to making memories to last a lifetime for Department President Justine. It has truly been an honor to serve as Historian/Media Relations Chairman this year. I wish I could have chosen more than one reel to send to National, but unfortunately, I could not. Congratulations to the winning Auxiliary.

I would like to remind you all that creating and keeping your auxiliary history is so very important. There is no better time than now as you all just held elections and installation. Did you take pictures? Was it in your local newspaper? If so, write that report and be ready to send it to next year's chairman.

To President Justine – Congratulations!.. And I hope you enjoy looking back on the moments that created a lifetime of memories of your year as Department of NY VFW Auxiliary President.

*“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**

***Thank You – Thank You – Thank You !!***



...for the generous donations to the Department Commander and President's Special Projects this year. At Fall Conference we 'filled the boots' and the Auxiliary won the challenge. At Spring Conference we paid our tolls to 'cross the bridge' and the VFW won the challenge. As you can see, we let Cmdr Jim and Pres Justine keep their vehicles from the bridge!

But we saved the best for last at Convention - the opportunity to *'dunk'* our leaders. I hope you enjoyed this last challenge and saw lots of splashes! – and thank you one last time for all your support to the Special Projects!!

Loyally, *Marcia*



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



Dear Members,

Important reminders-Please ask your Auxiliary Treasurer to review any unpaid members on Malta prior to June 30, 2026. We want to make sure that all who have paid their dues for the 2026 year have been recorded. Once the year closes on June 30, there is no going back to correct an oversight. We don't want to cost any member their many years of continuous membership or the ability to receive a cancer grant. It happens every year to someone.

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.

IRS Form 990 (Postcard for most Auxiliaries) can be filed any time between July 1 - November 15th. Don't wait until the very end to file. Get the task completed ASAP. Don't forget to log back in after 15 minutes and print the copy that says "Accepted" or "Rejected"... "Pending" does not give the information you need for your Official Visit.

A financial report is due to your VFW annually. You need to provide them a copy of your April-June audit, along with a notation of your Membership count as of June 30th. I hope to see you all at the Department Convention!

Loyally, *Kim*



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Questions? Contact Editor Debb Fucina, [debbs95ss@verizon.net](mailto:debbs95ss@verizon.net) 716.472.4784

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Questions? Contact Dept Secretary Amber Sullivan, [amber.vfwa@gmail.com](mailto:amber.vfwa@gmail.com) 607.245.6106

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
Deanna Guyette, Editor ~ *Auxiliary News*  
43 High Street ~ Carthage, NY 13619

The *Auxiliary News* is published six times a year:  
August, September/October, November/December,  
February/March, April/May, June.  
Deadline for submissions is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous month.  
***August articles are due July 1<sup>st</sup>***

**A note from Jr VP Charlene Carnright  
~ Ways and Means Chairman**

**I would just like to give a Huge Thank You  
to the Auxiliaries and individuals  
that participated in the Way and Means  
program this year!**

*~Charlene*

## ON HER WAY TO 100!



Margaret Worsley (Frank P. Curry Aux 2718), Franklin Square, NY, recently celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and is still going strong!

Margaret joined the Auxiliary 53 years ago. To honor her 50<sup>th</sup> year, she served as the Grand Marshall in her local Memorial Day Parade in 2023 (see top picture).

Margaret has held many offices, to include President, Vice Pres, Secretary, Chaplain.

Pictured below, Margaret is proudly showing her Birthday Countdown sign, a gift from her son. Margaret updates her sign every morning because she is already counting down the days until she celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday next year on April 6, 2027!



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



*As we come to the end of this Auxiliary year, I just want to express my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for the outpouring of love and compassion that I witnessed from the members of this Department. Serving as your Department Chaplain has been a humbling experience, and one that has taught me a very important lesson – no matter what the situation, or how bad things can get – we do not go it alone in this Department! We are truly stronger together and that shows in every card, message, phone call, email, text, and more when we support each other during our times of need. I ask that you continue being there for each other and keeping us strong!*

***In Love and Friendship,***  
***~ DeeDee***