



AUXILIARY NEWS ~ September / October 2026

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

Happy Birthday PDPs!!



KEY DATES & OBSERVANCES

- Sep 7** Labor Day
Sep 11 Patriot Day
Sep 18 National POW/MIA Recognition Day
Sep 18 & 19 VFW & Auxiliary DNY Fall Conference – Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
Sep 27 Gold Star Mother's Day
Sep 30 DEADLINE to submit Donation Report Form to Department Treasurer; District Dues are due; Submit Health & Happiness Donation; Mail Ways & Means 9-month tickets.
Oct 13 Columbus/Indigenous People Day
Oct 31 Happy Halloween 🎃👻🦇

President's Message



Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

This year has started off a little like a hornet's nest. With the unfortunate closing of three Auxiliaries reminds us that we must work hard at Membership. We must practice daily the three R's...Recruit, Retain and Rejoin. Another thing I see is newer members taking Officer roles. This is great! Let's provide some extra support to help them succeed. Take them under your wings and mentor them to be the best they can be. I am sure someone along the way mentored you to be the member you are today. Thank you to my mentor, Lynne Loga.

Another way to expand your knowledge is by attending the Department and District training sessions. Although the Department's has already taken place, your District should be scheduling one soon. Grab a member or two and go! Learn all you can so we can make our organization stronger than ever. Did you know that Districts are a School of Instruction? They are there to help you learn, grow and bring back important information from the Department. In the Bylaws & Rituals Podium Book, under Sec 810A-(F) it states, "Assure that the President or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings". Chances are, if you are not attending District meetings, you could be setting your Auxiliary up for failure. They only hold a couple meetings a year and a convention. A little bit of your time can make a big difference for your Auxiliary.

My Special Project, *Helmets to Hives*, is off to a great start. Check out Colonel Stinger's report in this issue. Let's keep the momentum going! The Colonel and I plan to make a visit to the two hives, & we are excited to see the therapeutic benefits for our Veterans.

Speaking of traveling, I have started my Official and Hospital visits. In August, I put Madam National President Donna on a plane, and it is off to District 7, Batavia VA and the NYS Veterans Home in Batavia. Then in September, I'm off to District 6, Buffalo VA, District 8, Canandaigua VA and the two stops at the Helmets to Heroes hives. I am sure Colonel Stinger will give you her report after our visit. I look forward to seeing each of you and meeting all the new members that make our organization great.

In closing, I want to say a special thank you to Sr. Vice Charlene Carnright and Jr. Vice DeeDee Guyette for escorting me with the colors into the Presentation of 2026-2027 Department Presidents at the 113th National Convention in Reno, Nevada. It's a memory I will cherish forever. I was also pleased that three members from New York were first time attendees. Kathleen Haas, Aux 8692 D3; Maurine Baker-Stein Aux 7545 D6; and Faye Gillette, Aux 6703 D8. I hope you all enjoyed yourself and look forward to seeing you at future National Conventions.

Now, remember, September 30, 2026, your Donation Report Forms must be submitted to Kim White. Please donate generously if you can. These programs support many beneficial programs for our Veterans and this organization.

Thank you for your dedication, your service, and your continued mentoring. Let's make this a great year by

**"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay
"Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"**

Loyally,

Belinda J. Cole

Department President

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

The following awards were announced during the 113th National Convention in Reno, NV – July 2026



★ **CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE**: - Congratulations Jr Past Department President **Justine Robles!!**

Monetary Award of \$500 to the Department

★ **VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT - Award #3**: - Department Chairman **Kim Cavallo**

Second Place Outstanding Performance Award; \$100 Department & Citation to Dept. Chairman.

★ **HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS – Division #9: Auxiliary 7227 Carthage.**

Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding Social Media reel highlighting the VFW in action.

★ **HOSPITAL – Award #2** – Department Chairman **Marie-Aymee Fisk**

Second Place Outstanding Performance Award; \$100 Department & Citation to Dept. Chairman.

★ **LEGISLATIVE – Award #2** – Department Chairman **Tina Roberts**

Second Place Outstanding Performance Award; \$100 Department & Citation to Dept. Chairman.

★ **MEMBERSHIP – Award #3** – Eastern Conference **Monica Ordway**

National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award. Each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026.

★ **SCHOLARSHIP – Department Award #1** – Department Chairman **Lori Juskiewicz**

First Place Outstanding Performance Award; \$200 Department & Keepsake to Dept. Chairman.

UNDERSTANDING VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (VSOs)

One of the most valuable resources available to Veterans and their families is a Veteran Service Officer (VSO). VSOs are trained advocates who help veterans, service members, and eligible family members navigate the often-complex process of applying for VA benefits and services. VSOs provide assistance with filing disability compensation claims, pension applications, survivor benefits, education benefits, health care enrollment, and appeals. Their services are provided at no cost to the Veteran or family member. The VFW has a network of accredited VSOs that are available to our Veterans and their families. You can find the VFW VSO's contact information under the Resources tab at www.vfwny.org.

As Auxiliary members, we often encounter Veterans or family members who may not know where to turn for help. Encouraging them to contact a qualified VSO can make a significant difference in their lives. If you know a Veteran, Active-Duty Service Member, or family member who may need assistance, help connect them with a local accredited Veteran Service Officer.

Together, we can ensure that no Veteran or family member misses out on the benefits and support they have earned through service to our nation.

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

Loyally, **Kim C.**

CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND ♦ Tracy Damato, Chairman

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I love going to my mailbox and seeing all the raffle tickets and Luminaires that I get.

Fall Conference -each Auxiliary is asked to bring a "Holiday themed" basket to be raffled during Fall Conference.

➤ **Raffle tickets and Luminarias** are going to be available at the conference.

➤ **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** is October 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026.

➤ Auxiliaries can make pillows for chemotherapy patients and bring them to a local hospital or the VA hospitals.

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee working Together for Our Veterans"

Loyally, **Tracy**





AMERICANISM ♦ Rebecca Sweet, Chairman

518-879-6735 ▪ sweetnana32003@yahoo.com ▪ 540 West Mountain Road ▪ Queensbury, NY 12804

Thank you for the wonderful Memorial Day and 4th of July reports — they were a joy to read. A special thank you to all Auxiliaries who have submitted **Wreaths Across America** and **Honor Flight** forms and donations. We encourage every Auxiliary to participate so each fallen hero receives a wreath this year. A drop box and extra forms will be available at **Fall Conference, September 18–19**.

With school back in session, September is a great time to promote **Americanism** through Flag Etiquette lessons, the Pledge of Allegiance, or student-made cards for Veterans and Active-Duty Military.

Patriotic Dates in September and October are:

Sep 2	V-J Day	Oct 7	Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day
Sep 7	Labor Day	Oct 12	Columbus/Indigenous People Day
Sep 11	Patriot Day/National Day of Service & Remembrance	Oct 13	US Navy Birthday
Sep 13	Uncle Sam Day	Oct 26	Day of the Deployed
Sep 14	VFW Auxiliary Birthday	Oct 27	Navy Day
Sep 17	US Constitution/Citizenship Day	Oct 28	Statue of Liberty's Birthday
Sep 19	POW/MIA Recognition Day	Oct 31	Halloween
Sep 21	Johnny Appleseed Day		
Sep 28	Gold Star Mother's & Family Day		
Sep 29	VFW Day		



Labor Day History: First celebrated on **September 5, 1882**, when 10,000 workers marched for fair labor rights. Congress recognized it as a federal holiday in **1894** after the Pullman strike.

September 11, 2001 — 25th Anniversary: Moments of silence: **8:46** (North Tower), **9:03** (South Tower), **9:37** (Pentagon), **10:03** (Flight 93). We remember all who were lost and all who served.

See you at Fall Conference — bring a flag and learn how to make a **Rocket Flag**. Let's **Bee all we can Bee as Americans**.

"Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

Loyally, **Rebecca**

BUDDY™ POPPY ♦ Flora Becker, Chairman

315-521-2675 ▪ loveourveterans17@yahoo.com ▪ 201 Fall Street – Apt 114 ▪ Seneca Falls, NY 13148



I hope everyone is buzzing around with their poppies! Here is a quick guide to the meaning behind the

"Buddy"® Poppy Colors:

- **Red** – Remembrance of bloodshed in battle.
- **White** – Honors all victims of war, including civilians; symbolizes peace.
- **Purple** – Remembers the animals who served and sacrificed.
- **Black** – Honors African, Black, Caribbean, and Indigenous communities' contributions.



Purple Poppy Spotlight: Animals such as dogs, horses, dolphins, monkeys, canaries, pigeons, and even glow worms saved lives during wartime. Add a purple poppy this year to honor their service and help share its meaning with others.

REMEMBRANCE stands for: Respect • Echoes of the past • Moments of sadness • Each soldier gave all • Monumental glory • Bravery • Reflection • Actions to protect • Never forget them • Courageous hearts • Everyone remembered.

Never forget: The "Buddy"® Poppy is a symbol of remembrance and respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Let's pass its meaning on to the next generation. *Lest we forget.* Wear your "Buddy"® Poppy proudly.

Reminders:

- **Fall Conference:** Each Auxiliary is asked to bring a **\$10 gift card** for the raffle. Stop at my table for information.
- **"Buddy"® Poppy ZOOM Meeting: October 6** – please save the date.

Let's stay **Busy as a Bee**: Visit schools, share coloring pages or crafts, add a Buddy Poppy to backpacks or school supplies, and even attach one to Halloween candy bags. Small actions create big awareness.

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans."

Loyally, **Flora**

EXTENSION-REVITALIZATION-MENTORING ♦ PDP Ruth Huber, Chief of Staff

716-801-2003 • poofalina@yahoo.com • 9511 Bucktooth Run • Little Valley, NY 14755



What is the mission as the Extension, Revitalization, and Mentoring Chairman? We want to grow our Auxiliaries, expand our membership, and broaden the reach of our programs. Achieving that growth depends on welcoming new members, keeping current members engaged, and encouraging everyone to take an active role in our shared mission. Many Auxiliaries now have first-time Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries. Experienced members are encouraged to guide these officers as they learn their responsibilities and become more confident in their roles.

To build strong, active Auxiliaries, members should focus on the following: keep communication open and consistent, make new members feel welcome and valued, mentor new members and help them understand how they can contribute, encourage participation in programs, special events, and service to our Veterans. When members feel informed, supported, and included, they are more likely to stay engaged and contribute meaningfully to our programs and events.

Let's concentrate on both growing our own Auxiliaries and reaching out to 'Unaffiliated Posts.' This is the correct verbiage we now use. We no longer use the Bachelor Post term of many years ago because there are many women in the VFW, thus bachelor is no longer a good description of a Post without an Auxiliary. Continue to contact those Unaffiliated Posts and request time to share the benefits of having an Auxiliary. If you need assistance, you can access many tools in MALTA.

According to Merriam Webster, Revitalization means to give new life or vigor to. What can we do to give new life? Utilize the resources available in MALTA that have been created to build healthy Auxiliaries and maintain them. Try using the ideas at your next meeting. The Department utilizes a Performance Improvement Plan "PIP" - this is a valuable tool for adding new life to a struggling Auxiliary. This plan allows the Department President to select a member or team to work with the Auxiliary or an individual member when there are issues or difficulties. This is an effective tool and can eliminate the need for a suspension. The Auxiliary or member sets goals and creates a timeline for making corrections. The Auxiliary can still conduct their business while actively working the PIP.

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

*Loyally, Ruth Huber, PDP
Department Chief of Staff*



HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS ♦ PDP Lisa Raplee, Chairman

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- ❖ It's hard to believe that this year is well underway! I would like to remind all Auxiliaries that we will be giving out awards for this program at our June convention, therefore if your Auxiliary is doing things and it is publicized, please send me copies or tag me if it is on social media. This year will "BEE" amazing! If you create a reel for your Auxiliary and post, please tag me and use the *hashtag* #deptofnyaux and #Auxiliariesinaction! You can also tag me **Lisa Kae Raplee** or **Department of New York VFW Auxiliary** on Facebook. If you or your Auxiliary has not done so, please follow the Department of NY Auxiliary's Facebook page. I share a wealth of information on there from National and our Department Chairman.
- ❖ I will be doing a presentation at Fall Conference showing those in attendance how to preserve the history of your Auxiliary and Districts. I will be using history from our great Department of New York VFW Auxiliary to teach you how simple it can be! I hope you have received the first promotion from our National Historian/ Media Relations Ambassador for this program. It is highly informative, so be sure to read it!
- ❖ I am looking forward to receiving your reports and seeing how you are publicizing all the work your Auxiliary does. It is vital that we make the public aware of all the wonderful things our organization does for Veterans, Active-Duty Military, the Community, and the Youth in your area.
- ❖ Remember to obtain photo releases for those in your photographs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime!

Please keep **"Busy as a Bee Working for Our Veterans,"** as we continue to **"Serve America's Heroes".**

Loyally, Lisa Raplee, PDP



Greetings Brothers and Sisters!!

- I have been in communication with Albany VA Women's Health and Maternity, and they are currently in need of several items: **newborn diapers and sizes 1–2**, as well as **women's t-shirts, sweatpants, and leggings in sizes Small through XXL**. Please bring these donations with you to Fall Conference. I will also have a box available for anyone who wishes to drop off their reports. I look forward to seeing everyone in September.
- Our female Veteran population continues to grow, and I am already receiving wonderful reports of service—donations of money, books, clothing, and other essential items. Even something as simple as giving a Veteran a ride to a medical appointment makes a meaningful difference. It is important that our Veterans know they are not forgotten, and these acts of kindness show our appreciation for their service.
- The holiday season will be here before we know it, so now is the time to begin planning events, donations, cards, photos, and letters. Reach out to your local facility to ask what they need. Small gifts such as hats, scarves, and mittens are always appreciated. If you know someone who enjoys knitting, crocheting, or sewing, ask whether they would be willing to make items if the materials are provided. Don't be afraid to think outside the box.
- Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. If your Auxiliary has an idea you would like me to share, I will gladly include it in my next article. I am available by email, text, and phone.
- Don't forget to send photos for the display board at Fall Conference. Please include your Post and District numbers and use the form found in the Program Guidebook.

So, let's get ***Busy as a Bee, Working Together for Our Veterans.***

Loyally, ***Marie-Aymee***



LEGISLATIVE ♦ Tina Roberts, Chairman

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Hello NY's busy bees!! It was great seeing everyone at OMTI. I am excited to say, we have been buzzing right along with the Legislative Program. 72 out of 168 Auxiliaries have sent in reports already. I am so buzzing excited with the efforts NY has taken telling our Legislators to take action on "Tell Congress to Oppose Veterans Benefit Cuts."

We will **educate** on how to speak to our Legislators, know the VFW Priorities, not just the name of the bills. Show the Legislators you are **invested** in our Veterans/family member's needs.

When we support the VFW, remember they take the lead, we are just there to support them. If you can **participate** in an event, please do so. Attendance at events is significant, as it reflects our commitment and solidarity to our Veterans.

Always remember to: Bee Clear when speaking, Bee Precise, Bee Courteous, Know the talking points, Tell your story, make the "ask" by formally requesting your Legislators support, take notes on their responses and be sure to THANK THEM.

Make sure your community members are informed, educated and participate in supporting our Veterans too. Keep sending those reports.

Loyally, ***Tina***

PROGRAM COORDINATOR ♦ PDP Jackie Herbert, Chairman

607-527-1005 • jackievwauxny@stny.rr.com • PO Box 138 • Campbell, NY 14821



To Our Dear Members: September is the first posting on the website for the Program Coordinator's monthly Program Report. If you didn't send a report to the Department Program Chairman, please take a moment to send one now. It only takes a couple of minutes to type up a report. A word of advice - always keep a copy for yourself. Just a reminder, anything your Auxiliary did since April 1st may be reported. The reporting deadlines are:

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

So, get buzzing and ***"bee"*** 100% in Program Reporting this year – together we can do it! ***"Busy as a Bee, Working Together for Our Veterans" "Serving America's Heroes"***

Loyally, ***Jackie, PDP***



Autumn is knocking at our door, and our “beehive” is buzzing. Many Auxiliaries have already reported Membership Drives and they have recruited new member “bees” to join our “beehive”. I encourage all Auxiliary officers to “bee” friendly and offer to guide the new member “bees” as a **meeting buddy**. New and rejoined members may have questions on “why” we do this, or “what” does this mean, or “how” do we ask a question during a meeting. The **meeting buddy** would “bee” the right person to provide assistance by orienting the members.

- **New Member Orientation Toolkit:** Found on MALTA → *Member Resources* → *Membership* is new member orientation toolkit documents to assist with navigating the “why”, “when”, “how”, “where” questions. As a helpful suggestion, the Auxiliary may choose to create an “**Auxiliary New Member Orientation**” folder with the listed information below. The New Member Orientation folder may be presented to the Auxiliary member upon their acceptance into the Auxiliary or at a different meeting. This folder would be theirs to become familiar with the Auxiliary and the organization so they can “bee” ready to buzz with the other members in the beehive.
 - a. A “**Welcome**” letter to the new Auxiliary member.
 - b. Items to include in the folder are:
 - “**Connect with Us**” form detailing President, Secretary, and Treasurer’s contact information; date/time/location of meeting, and Auxiliary website and/or Facebook address.
 - **Create a MALTA Profile** – provides details for the new member to create their profile.
 - **Auxiliary Member’s Benefits** - fact sheet.
 - **Know your Bylaws**
 - **Understanding Auxiliary Traditions** – Discusses dues card, Raps of Gavel, Attention/Parade Rest, Respect to Flag, Altar & Bible, as well as addressing the President during a meeting and making a motion.
 - **Auxiliary Acronyms and Common Terminology** – Helpful for the new member to understand the Auxiliary lingo such as VOD, PDP, H&H etc.

Not only would this be helpful to a new member, but it may also be just as helpful to a rejoined member who may appreciate a copy of the information as a refresher. If you need any assistance with the toolkit, please contact me directly.

- Just a quick reminder – **October Buzzing Bee Award:** Auxiliaries that achieve **85%** in membership by **October 31st** will be placed in a drawing for **\$100.00**. President Belinda and I are hoping to have lots of “beehive” tickets for this drawing.
- **Hot off the Press** – **Queen Bee Membership Award:** Let’s celebrate President Belinda’s birthday in November. Each Auxiliary that attains **100% by November 30th** will be placed in a drawing for **\$150.00**. Will your “beehive” be the winning Auxiliary?
- Our “buzzing bees” have been working very hard to attain our membership goals. Thank you to all members for their support in paying their dues or “bee-ing” a “BumbleBee” by paying the dues of a member who needs support through “**Serving America’s Heroes**” because we stay “**Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans**”. **Happy Halloween to all “busy bee” members.**

Loyally, Karen Dotson, PDP

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #033 – August 7, 2026

Extends Suspension VFW Auxiliary PFC John P Czachor Post 5806

Upon recommendation of the Department President & by order of the National President, in accordance with the Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article II, Section 209, the suspension of Auxiliary to PFC John P Czachor VFW Post 5806, Brooklyn, NY, is hereby extended for a period not to exceed an additional three (3) meetings due to:

1. Need to establish an FDIC bank account.
2. Failure to complete & submit correct audits.
3. Failure to purchase a President and Treasurer bond.

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

By Order of: Donna Mills, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #034 -August 7, 2026

Suspension VFW Auxiliary District 11 – New York

Upon recommendation of the Department President & by order of the National President, in accordance with the Auxiliary National Bylaws, Section 209 & 509, the Charter of VFW Auxiliary District 11, New York is hereby suspended for the period not to exceed three (3) meetings due to:

1. Failure to elect & install Officers.
2. Failure to purchase a bond for District President and District Treasurer.

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

By Order of: Donna Mills, National President

Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT ♦ Lynne Loga, Chairman

518-796-7942 • mybuddy2454@gmail.com • 75A Main Street • So. Glens Falls, NY 12803



Colonel Stinger here, reporting from the Department of NY Beehive! We are buzzing with excitement after a sweet start raising funds for *"Helmets to Hives"* at our OMTI through shirt sales, games, 50/50, and my "bee" bank. A huge honey-sweet thank you to Past National President Jane Reape for donating back her 50/50 winnings.

We are still taking orders for our Special Project shirts. Lock yours in before the August 31st cutoff so we can fly them directly to you at Fall Conference. While you are there, stop by to grab our new coffee mugs for just \$10.00. Who can't use another mug to hold their morning nectar?

A few hive reports have already landed on my desk, but the competition is just heating up. Remember my challenge: I want to see which colony can come up with the most creative way to gather pollen (funds) for our project. Keep pushing the boundaries, and a special prize will be waiting for the most innovative bees in the swarm! Buzzing off for now. Over and out!

Loyally, **Lynne Loga**

SCHOLARSHIP ♦ Debby McCarthy, Chairman

270-765-9341 • debramccarthy35@gmail.com • 13775 Leitchfield Road • Eastview, KY 42732



Greetings from Kentucky!! I have been *buzzing* around trying to get the word out about this wonderful program, Scholarships!! I just returned from Reno, and it is time to go to work.

School has started or is very close to starting. Now is the time to reach out to the school counselors to get them ready to get the word out. If your area is having an end of summer bash, a Farmer Market, a vendor fair, these are places you can set up. Bee informed, have all your applications, know this year's theme, ***"What a Veteran Has Taught Me About America"***. As you prepare for any event, keep in mind our Continuing Education Scholarship, explained in the Program Guidebook.

You can also make an appointment with your School Principal to inquire about setting up a table during a PTA or PTO meeting, in a hallway during sports games, or a school assembly meeting. Anytime you can get the parents to stop and ask questions, make sure you get a phone number to communicate with.

There are many ways to let parents know what is available to their children; we may have to think outside the box. Don't you want to have a ride on the "Red Carpet"? Bee creative, work with your Post, and report back to me.

"Busy as a BEE, Working Together for Our Veterans, Serving America's Heroes"

Loyally, **Debby**

OFFICIAL VISITS ♦ PDP Irene Rohde, Coordinator

845-661-6169 • Imallard4@yahoo.com • 40 Schuylkill Court • Carmel, NY 10512



NOW IS THE TIME FOR US "BEES" TO START ON OUR JOURNEY!

- ☑ The Official Visit (Inspection) forms will start to arrive soon. Inspectors, please be sure to send all three copies of the inspection to the District President to sign and send to me. After I receive the inspection form back from the District President, I will return the yellow copy to the Auxiliary Treasurer, the pink copy to the District President and the white copy to the Department President.
- ☑ Make sure that a copy of the accepted 990N filing is enclosed with the inspection form. I am looking for an "accepted" 990N form from the IRS. This is important for our tax-exempt status. It costs nothing to file, and I do not think there are too many (if any) Auxiliaries that gross more than \$50,000 a year. The filing period for the 990N is from July 1st to November 15th.
- ☑ Audits for the period of April, May and June should be completed by now and the date noted on the inspection form. If you have any questions, please call or email me.
- ☑ Has your Auxiliary applied for your Bond? All Bonds from National Headquarters expire on August 31st of the current year. Any Auxiliary not bonded by August 31st will be put on suspension by President Belinda. This is part of the Circle of Excellence Criteria.
- ☑ Any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Loyally, **Irene Rohde PDP**

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT ♦ Kim Cavallo, Chairman

516-458-3930 • kcavallo1920@gmail.com • 61-58 71st Street • Middle Village, NY 11379



I continue to be amazed by the outstanding work being done throughout our Department to support Veterans, Service Members, and their families. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to submit reports and share your activities. Please keep those reports coming—they ensure your Auxiliary receives credit for the wonderful work you are already doing.

- ❖ **STOP 22** - As we move into the fall season, please continue to promote awareness of Veteran Suicide Prevention through the **STOP 22** initiative. While the goal remains to bring awareness to the tragic number of Veterans lost to suicide each day, our ultimate mission is to see that number reduced to zero. Consider hosting a community awareness event, sharing resources at local gatherings, or partnering with your Post to distribute information about programs available to Veterans and their families. Remember, Veterans in crisis can call or text **988 and press 1** to reach the Veterans Crisis Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A simple conversation and awareness of available resources can make a life-changing difference.
- ❖ **Trees for Our Troops / Holiday Cheer / In Lieu of Cards** - The holiday season will be here before we know it! I encourage all Auxiliaries to participate in our Trees for Our Troops, Holiday Cheer, and In Lieu of Cards programs. These projects provide us with meaningful opportunities to support our troops stationed overseas during the holidays while demonstrating the spirit of service that defines our organization. If you haven't already submitted your forms and donations, please do so as soon as possible. The order forms were in your President's packets and can also be found on the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary website. Watch for additional information regarding the Trees for Our Troops send-off ceremony, it is always a memorable and heartwarming event, and all members are welcome to attend. Be sure to stop by and sign the giant In Lieu of Cards card at the Fall Conference. Let's fill it with messages of gratitude, encouragement, and holiday cheer!
- ❖ **Report, Report, Report!** I know our Auxiliaries are accomplishing incredible things every day. Whether you are supporting a Veteran in need, assisting military families, conducting outreach programs, or participating in community events, please remember to report your activities. Your reports tell the story of the important work being done across our Department and help to showcase the difference we are making together.

Thank you for all that you do in support of our Veterans, service members, and their families. Your commitment and compassion continue to make our organization stronger and our communities better.

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

Loyally, **Kim C**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES ♦ Lori Juskiewicz, Chairman

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I would like to start by thanking all Auxiliaries that have already submitted your monthly Youth Activities report. I truly enjoy seeing all the wonderful things you are doing. Please continue sending reports by the 1st of each month.

A reminder that the **Illustrating America** deadline has changed: **All entries are due** to the Auxiliary by **December 15th**. Please reach out to your schools, youth groups, churches, and community partners to help spread the word.

Please continue distributing **R.A.P. cards** throughout the year. It's a great idea to laminate them and always keep a few with you, so you're always ready to recognize positive actions in our youth. You can download a full sheet of R.A.P. cards in MALTA under Youth activities.

I'm also looking forward to seeing your creative lending libraries. This is a perfect place to incorporate **Patriotism Through Literacy** by including patriotic themed books or Veteran authored works. You can also download "Donated by" book stickers in MALTA. They can be printed on a full sticker sheet and then cut into individual labels to add special touch to each book.

If anyone needs help with any part of the Youth Activities Program, please feel free to reach out to me. I'm always here to help and support you!

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

Loyally, **Lori J.**



SAVE THE DATE - DON'T BEE LATE! Fall Conference | September 18-19, 2026

Oh honey, I am BUZZING! I can barely contain my excitement, and I am officially counting down the days like a bee waiting for spring flowers!

Come find me! Stop and see me at the **VFW National Home Program Informational Table**. I'll be the busy bee, ready to share all the sweet, sweet buzz news on our latest program promotions.

A Sneak Peek Inside the Hive:

1. Report = Reward! ~ For every VFW National Home Report you submit, you'll get a FREE raffle ticket. One lucky worker bee will be drawn and announced during the Program Presentation. You can't win if you don't turn in a report!

2. The Health & Happiness Fund ~ Get the latest buzz on the status of our Health & Happiness Fund - how your honey is helping!

3. Red, White & BLUE-tiful Program ~ We are focusing on educating members and our community about the amazing Red, White and Blue Program. See the new literature!

SPECIAL FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT: "Flight of the Bumble Bee"

Right after the VFW National Home Presentation, our fabulous District Presidents will quietly BUZZ around the room to Auxiliary members to exchange "Honey for your Money"! Every dollar collected will benefit the **VFW National Home "Building New Campus Homes Fund."** This is a one-time fundraiser, and ALL proceeds will be forwarded to National Headquarters. Let's fill that honey pot!

Time for this busy bee to fly! I need to go Prepare to Promote for your Participation in the VFW National Home Program. **This program is going to be BUZZZZING this year - you don't want to miss it!** See you in September!

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans."

Loyally, *Karen S.*



MEMBERSHIP CARDS – IMPORTANT UPDATE!! Did you know ... *The National VFW Auxiliary has discontinued mailing ANNUAL dues cards to members?! LIFE member cards will still be mailed by National.* Members can download and/or print their dues card from MALTA or install the MALTA app on their Android or iPhones. The phone app makes it easier to keep the content needed right in your pocket, including your Membership card, which you can also add to your phone wallet, so you don't need to worry about Internet access. You can find the

MALTA app on Android phones by searching it for in the app store, but if you have an iPhone or Apple device, you must take an extra step to find it, by clicking the URL below and downloading from there. This is due to the restrictions Apple puts on apps that are intended for members-only.

➤ **Apple URL** - <https://apps.apple.com/app/vfw-auxiliary-malta/id6482576653>

➤ **Android URL** - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...>



Inspirational Message
from DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Craig E. Keitel



Please keep our Veterans, First Responders and the victims who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001, as well as those of us who are still dealing with exposure in your hearts and prayers.

*Lord, We come before You with gratitude for this nation and for all who have defended its promise of liberty. On **Patriots Day (September 11)**, we remember the courage shown in the face of tragedy and the unity that rose from the ashes. Strengthen our resolve to protect freedom and to stand together as one people.*

*On **POW/MIA Recognition Day (September 18)**, we lift up the heroes who never returned home. Guard their memories, comfort their families, and guide us as we continue the sacred work of accounting for every missing warrior. May their sacrifice never fade from our national conscience.*

*On **Gold Star Mother's Day (September 27)**, we honor the mothers who have given the greatest offering a parent can give — a child in service to our Country. Wrap them in Your peace, uphold them with Your love, and remind us to carry their children's legacy with dignity and devotion.*

Bless our Nation, bless our defenders, and bless all who carry the weight of sacrifice. Amen.

Loyally Submitted, **Craig Elliott Keitel**



FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ♦ Amber Sullivan



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Wow!! Is it September already?! It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Officer and Member Training Institute (OMTI) in Binghamton. I hope you all learned a thing or two—I know I did! As a reminder for future OMTI sessions, this training is for all members, not just officers. It's a great opportunity for everyone to grow and learn together.

Official Visits and Preparations

Official visits are currently underway, and I'd like to remind everyone to have your Bond accepted, your 990 E-Postcard filing completed, and your last four audits ready for review. Additionally, please ensure that your Auxiliary has its Bond processed before the Official Visit. It's crucial that the Official Visitor can initial your Bond during their visit; it's unfair to expect them to make a return trip just for a signature.

Upcoming Fall Conference in Albany

The Auxiliary's Fall Conference in Albany is quickly approaching — we'll be gathering before you know it! Conference details and deadlines were sent to District Presidents in August; with the expectation they'd be shared with Auxiliary Presidents and then passed along to the membership. Although the dates are earlier than usual this year, we truly hope to see many of you there.

Department Chairmen and Program Guidebooks

At the Fall Conference, the Department Chairmen will once again have tables of information for you to take back to your members. Please check your Program Guidebooks for all the ways the Chairmen are asking for your help in promoting their respective programs. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage in the broader mission and ensure everyone is informed and involved.

I am truly looking forward to working with each one of you as we continue "*Serving America's Heroes.*" Let's remain "*Busy as a Bee, Working Together for our Veterans.*" Thank you for your dedication and hard work!

Loyally, ~Amber



TREASURER'S Checks & Balances ♦ DEPARTMENT TREASURER ♦ Kimberly White
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Dear Members,

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

- Checks:** All checks should be made payable to *VFW Auxiliary Department of New York* unless you want to give me a personal gift, which is always welcome!
- Form 990-N:** Remember that your 990-N is due by November 15th. You can begin to file as soon as July 1st of each year. It is required of **ALL** Auxiliaries. Our National Organization has two very good instructional videos on their website. Please go to vfwauxiliary.org, login with your username, choose Online Auxiliary Academy.
- Donation Report Form:** Donation Report Forms are due September 30th, so please get them in ASAP so we can proceed with dues notices. The first dues notice will be mailed in the middle of October. The Department is continuing to mail them only for Auxiliaries that contributed to the dues mailing fund on the Donation Report Form. We are assuming that if your Auxiliary did not contribute, you have mailed your own notices.
- District Dues** are due to your District Treasurer by September 30th.

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

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

Loyally, *Kim W.*



113th National Convention – Reno, NV Department of New York



WAYS & MEANS ♦ Cathy Howard, Chairman

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Our Summer fun is over – but we can now look forward to some Fall excitement!

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who supported the Ways and Means **Golf Tournament**, held on August 8th. There were 15+ teams competing for prizes and bragging rights; and our wonderful volunteers were busy with raffles and more. Proceeds from the tournament have put the Ways and Means program off to fantastic start – and it's all because of you!

Shoot for the Green \$\$ Raffle: Here is another opportunity to support Ways and Means and a chance to win some cash at the same time! Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$40. Each Auxiliary is asked to pick up their tickets at the Fall Conference Ways and Means table. Individual ticket sales are also available. A total of \$5,000 will be awarded at the 2027 June Convention. REMEMBER! You must be in it to win it!

Fall Conference will also have **Scratch-Off Lottery Tickets and a Mystery Prize Raffle:** Each Auxiliary is requested to donate \$10 in scratch-off lottery tickets to be raffled off at Fall Conference. And be sure to check out what the Mystery Prize raffle is! *Will you be one of the lucky winners?!*

Lastly, don't forget about the **9-Month Calendar Raffle!** The first \$100 drawing will be held at the Fall Conference. Send your tickets in now or turn them in to Chairman Cathy Howard at the Conference.

Let's keep ***"Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans!"***

Loyally, Cathy

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Deborah A. Fucina, Editor ♦ *Auxiliary News*
980 Beach Road ▪ Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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

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

November/December articles are due October 1st



Thank you to the Auxiliary Members who attended the annual Officers/Members Training scheduled on July 17 – 18, 2026 in Binghamton.

The weekend was a big success and hopefully each person left the training with at least one new informational item to share with their auxiliaries.

On behalf of the Veteran's community, thank you for the non-perishable food items that were brought to OMTI totaling \$200.00. Auxiliaries that donated to the project will receive Veterans and Family Support credit for their food donation.

Members will be able to review the OMTI Program presentations on the Department website: vfwauxny.org → Resources → OMTI Training.

As OMTI Chairman, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to President Belinda, Dept. Secretary Amber, and Dept. Treasurer Kim for their support as well as to all the Department Chairman for promoting their programs. Great Job done by everyone!

Loyally, Karen Dotson, OMTI Chairman

