UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

AUXILIARY NEWS ~ November / December 2026

The Official Communication of VFW Auxiliary Department of New York

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PDP/OFFICER BIRTHDATES

NOVEMBER

03 – Craig Keitel, Chaplain
05 – Kim Cavallo, Guard
06 – Karen Dotson, PDP
09 – Bonnie Burgy, PDP
10 – Ruth Huber, PDP
24 – Cindy Campbell, PDP
27 – Belinda Cole, President

DECEMBER

10 – Justine Robles, Jr. PDP
16 – Jane Reape, PNP
28 – Kathy Zylko, PDP

Happy Birthday Officers & PDPs!!



KEY DATES & OBSERVANCES

Nov 1-9 Eastern Conference, Garmisch, Germany
Nov 10 US Marine Corp - 1775
Nov 11 Veterans Day
Nov 15 **DEADLINE** to file 990N Postcard w/IRS
Nov 27 Thanksgiving
Dec 01 US Civil Air Patrol - 1941
Dec 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Dec 07 Bill of Rights Day
Dec 13 US Army National Guard – 1636
Dec 20 US Space Force – 2019
Dec 25 Christmas
Dec 31 New Year's Eve
Dec 31 ALL Presidents, Treasurers & Secretary's dues must be paid.

President's Message



Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

As the weather begins to cool down, let's take a page out of the honeybee's playbook. When winter hits, bees don't stop working—they gather close, combine their energy, and keep the hive warm through pure teamwork. Let's stay connected, keep our momentum buzzing, and keep each other inspired this season! Don't forget to reach out to that member who is homebound. Let them know we are thinking of them and be sure they have everything they need.

I certainly have been busy as a bee traveling across our great state of New York!

First stop, the "Helmets to Hives" locations. Colonel Stinger and I put on bee suits and had an incredible, hands-on experience learning about this fantastic program for our Veterans! Moving across the state, it was my honor to attend the 9/11 ceremonies at the Buffalo and Batavia VA Medical Centers. Following my visits to District 6 & 8 and the Canandaigua VA, I returned for my first Fall Conference. Thank you to everyone who bee-lined to make the trip; it was fantastic to see our chairmen so passionately promoting their programs and setting us up for a successful year ahead.

After a 10-day reprieve visiting my husband in Texas, I returned refreshed, energized and ready to bring that "busy bee" dedication to our mission. My first stops back on the trail included visits to Syracuse and Bath VA Medical Centers, then the NYS Veterans' Home at Oxford. After my official visit with District 4, I picked up Jr. Vice DeeDee to keep me buzzing along.

Our travels led to visiting the brothers and sisters at Auxiliary 4927 (Centereach) and Auxiliary 5796 (Kings Park), both formerly of District 11. The next stop was Montrose and Castle Point VA Medical Centers and my official visit to District 2. Then we had to buzz back to the Commander's/President's dinner hosted at Clinton VFW Post 9591 in District 4. I had a wonderful time!

We were now off to Long Island to visit the Northport VA Medical Center and the Long Island State Veterans Home. On our return trip to the hive, we visited the Brooklyn VA, James J. Peters VA Medical Center (Bronx), and Manhattan VA. Because we were in the neighborhood, we concluded the trip with my first visit to the Statue of Liberty! It was a patriotic way to wrap up a rewarding tour of our department.

Thank you to every auxiliary member for your incredible hospitality during my travels. Keep up the hard work for our veterans!

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

Belinda J. Cole
Department President

NATIONAL GENERAL ORDERS # 1 ◈ AUGUST 2026 ◈ 2026-2027 SERIES

1. Having been elected National President and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command.

2. The following officers have been elected and installed by the 113th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

National Senior Vice President Kim Harney; National Junior Vice President Sandra L. Uzell; National Treasurer Ann Panteleakos; National Chaplain Margaret Jane Feher; National Conductor Cynthia P. Davis; National Guard Jeanette D. Garcia.

NDCM No. 1 Maine/New Hampshire - Celeste Leigh Nicholas
NDCM No. 2 Vermont/Massachusetts - Sheila Spaulding
NDCM No. 3 Maryland/New Jersey - Elizabeth DallaTezza
NDCM No. 4 Delaware/New York - Karen Dotson
NDCM No. 5 Missouri/Illinois - Danetta G. Wakefield
NDCM No. 6 West Virginia/Virginia - Carol Vangi
NDCM No. 7 Tennessee/Kentucky - Cindy Kohrs
NDCM No. 8 Georgia/Alabama – Dianne Tiller
NDCM No. 9 South Carolina/North Carolina - Sandra Johnson Leu
NDCM No. 10 Oklahoma/Arkansas – Teresa Price
NDCM No. 11 Wisconsin/Iowa - Renee M. Quinn
NDCM No. 12 Wyoming/North Dakota – Arlene Birkle
NDCM No. 13 Kansas/Colorado - Tessa K. Butcher
NDCM No. 14 Montana/Idaho – Denise Sampo
NDCM No. 15 New Mexico/Arizona - Betty L Decker
NDCM No. 16 Hawaii/Alaska – Patricia Sauer
NDCM No. 17 Utah/Nevada - Renee June West
NDCM No. 18 Rhode Island/Connecticut – Katherine Fleischauer
NDCM No. 19 Mississippi/Louisiana - Mary F. Johnson
NDCM No. 20 Oregon/Washington – Debbie Little
NDCM No. 21 Nebraska/South Dakota - Nancy Worth
NDCM Area A Pennsylvania - Bonnie S. Drake
NDCM Area B Michigan – Deborah Scheetz
NDCM Area C Indiana - Linda S Misuraca
NDCM Area D Ohio – Jessica Gardner
NDCM Area E Minnesota - Sonia Marie Tatge
NDCM Area F Florida – Teresa Bachand
NDCM Area G California - Kathleen M. Smith
NDCM Area H Texas – Melanie McConaghy

3. The following appointments are hereby announced:

National Secretary Ann Panteleakos; National Chief of Staff Bette Jean Biedrzycki; National Patriotic Instructor Jessica Gardner; National Historian Teresa Price; National Assistant Conductor Evan Smiley; National Assistant Guard Edna Kiviniemi; National Color Bearer No. 1 Michael S. Yates; National Color Bearer No. 2 Stephen E. Doherty, Sr.; National Color Bearer No. 3 Jason Manke; National Color Bearer No. 4 Philip C. Reinpold; National Banner Bearer Ella Barks Wilson; National Flag Bearer Margaret Russo; National POW-MIA Flag Bearer Benjamin McDonald; National Musician Patsy Cole; National Soloist Willa Watts; National Assistant Musician Bethany Knoll; National Assistant Soloist Karen Camera.

4. As a reminder, some of the objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible. We therefore support the VFW in their focus to identify, address, and eradicate racial bias and discrimination. And the VFW Auxiliary leadership unites with the VFW leadership in the pursuit to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization.

5. In accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article XI- Discipline, any member who commits offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary may be subject to disciplinary action and may be assessed the penalties provided in this Article. Further, issues governed by Article XI should be addressed at the appropriate lowest level before they are elevated to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. The VFW Auxiliary joins with the VFW in stating that acts of sexual harassment, racial or sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination include any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW Auxiliary activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy always.

6. For the purpose of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.

7. Every Auxiliary chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary will be expected to participate in at least one program that benefits veterans. Additionally, it is necessary that all Auxiliary, District, and Department Presidents comply with all provisions of the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, the Booklet of Instructions, and the Ritual.

8. Presidents and Treasurers, all levels, attention is directed to the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, which requires the offices to be bonded with an indemnity company in a sum at least 1.25 the amount of funds and value of property for which they may be accountable. However, I recommend bonding in a sum for twice the amount of the funds and value of property for which they may be accountable to ensure appropriate coverage.

9. Attention is directed to VFW National Bylaws, Section 814 – Trustees, Duties of (All Levels). All audits are to be completed by the Trustees. Audits are conducted and submitted timely.

10. Attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990. Contact the Department Treasurer for assistance.

11. Attention Presidents, an annual official visit of all Auxiliaries and Districts is necessary to ensure compliance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws.

12. Attention is directed to the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws, Article X, Sec. 1003-Auxiliary Emblem and Logo. The Emblem and Logo of the Auxiliary belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Organization. Departments, Districts, Auxiliaries or individual members shall not manufacture or have manufactured or reproduce any article or emblematic jewelry, pins, or badges containing this emblem or logo without prior written consent of the VFW Quartermaster General.

13. Caution is urged in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Fact check all information before posting to ensure that it is accurate and aligns with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws.

14. As we begin a new VFW Auxiliary year, we also begin a new opportunity to serve. Elections have concluded, officers have been installed, and our members have entrusted them with the responsibility of leading their Auxiliaries, Districts, and/or Departments. While not every member may have supported those who were elected, once the election is over, we must come together with a shared commitment to respect the offices they hold and support them as they carry out their duties.

The true measure of our organization is not whether we always agree, but whether we can work together with dignity, respect, and common purpose. Personal differences, disappointments, or past grievances should never be allowed to overshadow the mission that unites us all. We owe our veterans, service members, their families, and our communities our very best – not our divisions.

Let this be a year marked by unity rather than discord, encouragement rather than criticism, and collaboration rather than conflict. When we choose to lift one another up, we strengthen our Auxiliaries, inspire future leaders, and ensure that the VFW Auxiliary continues to be an organization worthy of the veterans we proudly serve. Together, let us lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission.

By Order Of: Donna Mills, National President **Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer**

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #039 – August 20, 2026
Cancellation – Vote to Disband VFW Auxiliary No. 973 NY

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to John T. Kenney Memorial VFW Post No. 973, Newburgh, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install Auxiliary Officers.
2. Vote of the Auxiliary to disband and surrender the Charter.

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

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

By Order of: Donna Mills, National President
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #049 – September 10, 2026
Cancellation – Vote to Disband VFW Auxiliary No. 361 NY

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to Wyandanch Memorial VFW Post No. 361, Wyandanch, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install Auxiliary Officers.
2. Vote of the Auxiliary to disband and surrender the Charter.

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

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

By Order of: Donna Mills, National President
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #050 – September 10, 2026
Cancellation – Vote to Disband VFW Auxiliary No. 5195 NY

Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to Red Hook Memorial VFW Post No. 5195, Brooklyn, NY, is cancelled and declared defunct due to:

1. Failure to elect and install Auxiliary Officers.
2. Vote of the Auxiliary to disband and surrender the Charter.

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

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

By Order of: Donna Mills, National President
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

NATIONAL SPECIAL ORDER #071 – September 25, 2026
Lift Suspension VFW Auxiliary No. 5806 NY

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 VFW Auxiliary to PFC John P. Czachor Auxiliary Post No. 5806, in Brooklyn, New York, Missouri, 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: Donna Mills, National President
Attest: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The following corrections/changes since the new 2026-2027 Directory was distributed at Fall Conference.

- Aux 5199 was mistakenly listed as an At Large District. They should be reflected under District 10
- Aux 358 New Secretary – Mikayla Mahar (518) 495-6878, mikaylamahar@yahoo.com
- Aux 5260 New Secretary – Judith Heary (716) 982-1477, judyheary60@gmail.com

CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND ◈ Tracy Damato, Chairman

516-749-2890 ▪ tracy053169@aol.com ▪ 32 Old Oak Lane ▪ Levittown, NY 11756

Did you know that many cancers can be caused by hereditary mutation? Genetic testing can detect inherited mutations that may increase your risk of cancer! The test itself is easier than giving blood and the results can help relieve anxiety of the fear of unknown or provide information you can use to decrease your cancer risk.

Don't forget that the $5 Luminarias will be prominently displayed at our June Convention! November is Neuroendocrine Tumors, Stomach, Pancreatic Awareness Month



If you need help with the Cancer Grant Form, donations, or have any other questions please contact me.

"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

I apologize for any mistakes in my reporting. As a first-time chair I have received help and will make all the corrections with this next reporting period. Thank you for your understanding.

I had a wonderful time at Fall Conference talking with each of you about the POW/MIA collection jar and promoting Americanism. I hope those I showed the Rocket Flag have fun presenting them at upcoming events. Send me pictures of how you used them. See instructions on the web site to make a jar.

The deadline for Wreaths Across America has passed, I am still receiving donations. They will be in next month's report. Keep those "HONOR FLIGHT" donations coming in. Mark your calendars for November 11th, Veterans Day and December 19th for the Laying of the Wreaths. I look forward to pictures of the ceremonies as we honor those serving, our loved ones and our fallen heroes.

Remember these historical dates in November and December. November is also Military Family Month.

Nov 10, 1775	US Marine Corp Birthday	**Dec 7**	Bill of Rights Day
Nov 11	Veterans Day	**Dec 13, 1636**	US Army National Guard Birthday
Nov 26	*Happy Thanksgiving*	**Dec 20, 2019**	US Space Force Birthday
Dec 01, 1941	US Civil Air Patrol Birthday	**Dec 25**	*Merry Christmas*
Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	**Dec 31**	*Happy New Year's Eve*

Mark your calendars for November 11th, Veterans Day and December 19th for the Laying of the Wreaths. I look forward to pictures of the ceremonies as we honor those serving, our loved ones and our fallen heroes.

"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 heard a lot of buzzing going on at Fall Conference. Auxiliaries holding poppy drives to promote the program. With the upcoming Holidays and Veterans Day, here are some craft ideas that you can add the Buddy Poppy into:

●Patriotic tabletop pots ●Foam Remembrance wreaths ●Holiday ornaments with "Buddy" Poppies inside a clear plastic or glass ornament ball and ribbon on outside to hand on a tree. ● Place poppies on gift baskets ● For Thanksgiving Centerpieces ● In a Harvest Cornucopia ● Napkins with poppies on them ● Poppies on Christmas trees or Christmas gifts and on wreaths.

Here are 6 Catchy slogans about "Buddy" Poppies and Bees.

● "Help our Hive Help our Heroes" ● "Create a Buzz for a Veteran's Cause" ● "Honey, have you donated to a Veteran today?" ● "Bees love Poppies and we love our VFW Buddies" ● "A Hive that honors the post sweetens a vet's life"

When doing poppy drives an idea is to transform your space in a vibrant "Support Hive". Decorate with yellow tulle, honeycomb cardboard cutout and Red "Buddy" Poppies.

To get ready for your Veteran's Day or other Holiday "Buddy" Poppy Event. 1. Select location and request permission for the space. 2. Put a "Buddy" Poppy team together and schedule rotation if possible. 3. Order "Buddy" Poppies now -usually 200 per volunteer. 4. If working with the VFW Post negotiate all details before event of where the donations are going to. 5. Volunteers wear antenna or bee pins along with traditional VFW Auxiliary cap, pins, or Auxiliary clothes. Last idea. To hand out poppy seed packets with "Buddy" Poppy on them.

We are all worker Bees! Use a hash tag to have people scan the Hive to find out how your donation sweetens a Veteran's future. Have them plant seeds to feed the bees; and donate here to support our VFW family. Also, there you could have a honeycomb wall of remembrance. It is a wooden or cardboard honeycomb display. They can pin a red poppy inside the comb. Fill the comb! Watch our swarm of community gratitude grow row by row. Make sure you take pictures. Use #BuddyPoppy #BeeTheChange #SupportOurVets Make sure you report of all your awesome event drives. Let's get out and buzz, buzz, buzz

"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

This Veterans Day, as we honor those who have served our nation, I ask you to consider the housing challenges many Veterans face. On any given night, approximately 32,000 Veterans experience homelessness. Many more Veterans face housing insecurity. They have low incomes, spend more than 30% of their annual income on housing, and remain at risk of losing their homes because of rising rents, natural disasters, job loss, or limited outside support. No one who served our country should have to fight for a place to call home.

Our National Ambassador encourages us to continue engaging members in your Auxiliary's activities and to look for ways to put their talents to work. Everyone has a "hidden" talent that can help an Auxiliary thrive. Work with your members to find their hidden talent. This can lead to some unexpected successes for all our members. When we uncover those hidden talents in our members, we enhance our Auxiliary's potential to provide better service to our Veterans, their families, and communities.

Mentoring is a cornerstone of healthy Auxiliaries where everyone's potential can be reached, and everyone contributes to the greater good. Mentors guide by offering insights, feedback, and encouragement based on their own experiences. Mutual respect is the foundation of good mentoring. Mentors and mentees need to value each other's time, ideas, and boundaries. Good communication builds trust in mentoring. Regular check-ins, clear expectations, and honest conversations help the relationship stay strong and productive. Consistency also builds trust. Sticking to meeting schedules and following through on commitments shows both parties value the relationship and helps create a strong foundation for growth.

Our Zoom training sessions are off to a great start. Our trainers are doing a wonderful job of sharing vital information to those of you who want to learn more about how our organization works. It amazes me that I always relearn or learn something new. Please consider joining us in our upcoming sessions. Watch your email for information on how to join in.

"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

607-368-1435 ▪ lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com ▪ 4259 State Route 226 ▪ Dundee, NY 14837

The VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Program plays a vital role in preserving our past while sharing the work our members are doing today. Every photograph, event, project, and act of service becomes part of the story of who we are and why our mission matters.

When sharing photographs or sending information for publicity, remember the **Five W's: Who, What, When, Where, and Why.** Identify **who** is pictured, **what** activity is taking place, **when** and **where** it happened, and **why** the activity was important. A photograph may capture a wonderful moment, but without these details, future members may have no way of knowing the story behind it.

Our auxiliary history is much more than a collection of dates, meeting minutes, and lists of officers. It is the story of the **countless hours our members spend serving veterans, their families, and our communities.** It is found in hospital visits, Buddy Poppy distributions, patriotic programs, youth activities, scholarship events, fundraisers, community service projects, and many other ways Auxiliary members make a difference for our veterans.

Today's activities become tomorrow's history. By documenting our work carefully and sharing our stories through newspapers, newsletters, websites, and social media, we ensure that future generations will understand not only **what we did, but why we did it.**

When reporting to me, please send pictures, newspaper articles, copy of an ad for your auxiliary's event, and make sure if it is done on your auxiliary social media page you tag the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary, so that I can also share your great ideas with the department and give you credit.

Preserve the memories. Share the story. Keep the history of the VFW Auxiliary alive.

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

Loyally, ***Lisa Raplee, PDP***

HOSPITAL ◈ Marie-Aymee Fisk, Chairman

513-354-3037 ▪ makfisk@gmail.com ▪ 226 State Route 86 ▪ Paul Smiths, NY 12790

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As many of you may already know, Hospital received 2nd prize at National for Outstanding Performance. This could not have been achieved without everyone's participation. Thank you everyone! You all deserve a standing ovation. Job well done!! You continue to support our veterans through your actions of volunteering, donations and gifts. Thank you to everyone who stopped by my table and picked up items to share with your auxiliaries and veterans. At this Fall Conference, we collected many donations that were worth $1,060.14, with 29 auxiliaries participating. Well Done everyone!! Women's Health and Maternity send a huge thank you to you all. They now have enough to do another baby shower for our mothers and mothers to be. The clothing was welcomed by Women's health and greatly appreciated by our female veterans.

Remember we have days of remembrance coming up - Veterans Day November 11 , Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Remember our men and women who are in hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Send cards, small tokens of thanks and/or volunteer your time. Let us get busy as bees showing our veterans that we remember, we see them and thank them for protecting us and our country free.

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

Loyally, ***Marie-Aymee***

LEGISLATIVE ◈ Tina Roberts, Chairman

315-694-0326 ▪ tinaroberts@frontiernet.net ▪1215 Crawford Road ▪ Dundee, NY 14837

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Years my fellow worker Bee's.

ATTENTION!! We have some breaking news!! The Major Richard Star Act Petition reached 218 signatures on September 18th!! This discharge petition No. 22 for HR 2102 will now move forward. Reaching 218 signatures gives Legislation a path to the House of Representatives floor through the discharge process as the VFW continues working to secure consideration of the clean version of the Major Richard Star Act. **KEEP TAKING ACTION, YOUR VOICES HAVE BEEN HEARD**

Each District is being asked to host a District Legislative Day. This was discussed at the Fall Conference. The outline was put in everyone's folder; it is also on the Department's website. We are being asked to invite our Local Legislators, Veterans, Aux members, community members and youth to discuss veterans issues. Remember to have your questions ready, know what you are talking about and to thank them for coming. Also don't forget to have them sign up for the Action Corps Weekly. This way they know what the VFW is asking for and why. Let your Veterans/family members tell their stories to the Legislators.

Midterm elections are coming up. Midterm elections are the general elections that are held near the midpoint of a president's four-year term of office, it's always the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 33 seats in the US Senate are up for elections during the midterm elections. 34 of the US States elect their governors for a four-year term during midterm elections. What does this mean? It means get out and VOTE!! Don't forget your Veterans, Aux members and community members who cannot drive and need a ride. Every vote counts.

I've provided an outline for the Veterans Property Tax Exemption You can find all the information you need for everything I discussed in my article on the Department's web site, www.vfwauxny.org> programs> Legislative tab. Please share this information and don't forget to send me those reports!!

Loyally, ***Tina***

PROGRAM COORDINATOR ◈ PDP Jackie Herbert, Chairman

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

Happy Fall everyone! I hope you like the new format for the website. We tried to make it easier for you to be able to read and print. To those who sent their reports to the Department Chairmen on time – thank you! If you reported and didn't receive credit, please, contact the program chairmen to explain. I can't help you since I don't see your reports.

Remember the reporting date deadlines:

- 1st of the month -- **Auxiliary chairmen** submit reports to the Dept. Chairmen.
- 5th - 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**

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season! Remember our goal this year – to be 100% in reporting by December 31, 2026!! What a great way to start the new year!!

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

Loyally, ***Jackie, PDP***

MEMBERSHIP ◈ Karen A. Dotson, PDP, Chairman

607-648-9271 ▪ kdvfwaux@aol.com ▪ 19 Calgary Lane ▪ Binghamton, NY 13901

Dear Auxiliary Members:

The holiday season is soon upon us and the New York Bees are buzzing with recruitment activities in an effort to grow our Auxiliary and Department membership team. Our New York Bees team needs each member to "ask" a potential member to join the New York Bee's team in an effort to honor the veteran whose eligibility allowed us to join.

At the Fall Conference, I introduced a New York Bees Playbook with suggestions on recruitment, retaining, rejoining, and recognizing our Auxiliary members. All coaches have a playbook which they utilize to assist their players to become informed and knowledgeable; therefore, if you would like a copy of the New York Bees Playbook, please contact me either by telephone 607-648-9271 or via email. I will be happy to share.

At the time of this writing I would like to welcome the 154 New Members and 15 Rejoined Members to our New York Bees team. Thank you for your support of our Membership Program and most importantly supporting our veterans. Congratulations to Harland J. Hennessey Auxiliary 5538, District 4 who won the August Buzzing Bee Membership Drawing Award of $50.00 at Fall Conference for attaining 75% in Membership by August 31st.

Recognition of our team members is important. It keeps them engaged, interested, and wanting to continue to participate in our programs. Found on *MALTA → Member Resources → Membership → Citations, Certificates and Recognition → Member Appreciation Certificate. Also found under Membership Moments Retention → Five Ways to Thank Members and Recognizing your Auxiliary Members.*

Our Offense is currently on the 50 Yard Line and Coach Belinda is calling the PST Play. What is the PST Play? Coach Belinda is requesting all *Presidents, Secretaries*, and *Treasurers* have their 2027 dues paid by November 30th for our next Touchdown Goal on the Circle of Excellence. Yes team, we can do this!

Celebrate Good Times and what better way to celebrate Good Times is with the Queen Bee Membership Award.
Let's celebrate Coach Belinda's birthday in November. Each auxiliary that attains 100% by November 30th will be placed in a drawing for $150.00. Will your New York Bees team make that winning touchdown of 100%?



First and Goal - December Buzzing Bee Award - Auxiliaries that achieve 95% in membership by December 31st will be placed in a drawing for $100.00. Coach Belinda and I are hoping to have lots of "beehive" tickets for this drawing – we are so close to the Goal Post to attain that New York Bees touchdown!

The New York Bee's Membership Chant – We got Spirit, Yes we do. We wear Red, White and Blue! Let's Go New York Bees.

With the holidays quickly approaching, consider "bee-ing" a holiday bumblebee and pay the dues for a team member as a way to say "thank you" for helping on a project or to say "Happy Holidays" for all you do for our veterans and their family.

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". From my family to yours Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to all "busy bee" members!*

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

Loyally, ***Karen Dotson, PDP***

❤ Note of Thanks ❤

Thank you to all the members who sent 90th birthday cards to me. Your thoughtfulness was truly overwhelming and made my day extra special; and thank you to everyone who sang "Happy Birthday" at the President's Luncheon at Fall Conference.
God Bless you! Loyally, Marita Fredette

$ FOR SALE $

National President Donna Mill's Shirt

Sandy Flynn has a 2XL shirt for National President Donna Mill's year for sale for $26. If interested, please contact Sandy directly at sandraflynn1947@yahoo.com. Thank you

❤ Note of Thanks ❤

Thank you for all of the cards and kind notes and good wishes sent to me. I am on the mend and can't wait to see you all soon!
Loyally, Jackie Herbert, PDP

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT ◈ Lynne Loga, Chairman

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



Colonel Stinger here,

I was so happy to join Queen Bee President Belinda on her flight to the two "Helmets to Hives" apiaries. We toured both locations (Amherst and East Aurora), learned about the life stages of the honeybee, and even suited up to get a hands-on experience of this wonderful program for our Veterans. I was buzzing with excitement when one of our bee instructors, David Nachreiner, was able to join us via zoom at our Fall Conference. An Iraqi US Army vet, David provided our members with valuable information about the program "Helmets to Hives".

I am bee-yond sorry that some of the Fall Conference shirt orders were not available for pickup. We are working like a busy bee to get your shirts delivered. If you are in a District that the Queen has yet to visit, she can bring them on her flight to you. Speaking of shirts, our hive is buzzing together for one last order. Since our auxiliary hive will be hibernating until Spring Conference, we kindly ask for a small shipping fee to help our delivery bees fly them straight to your door. A huge thank you to everyone who bought a mug…aren't they bee-utiful? Enjoy them filled with your favorite nectar.

Just to clear up any buzz and eliminate confusion: ours is not a national program, so any honey you gathered from April to June cannot bee reported under this year's special project. BUT, this year, we are on the hunt for the absolute best buzz-ness ideas! What is the most creative way your Auxiliary raised money for this wonderful program? Show us how your hive got buzzing! A special prize from Colonel Stinger will be given out at Dept. Convention in June 2027. I look forward to seeing how all your creative ideas take flight.

Signing off from the hive, over and out!

Loyally, **Lynne Loga**

SCHOLARSHIP ◈ Debby McCarthy, Chairman



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

Greetings Auxiliaries!! It was so good to see you at the Fall Conference. Our Madame Presidents hive is buzzing with news, Our Scholarship Program is getting ready to ride the "Red Carpet" and get to work. I had prepared packets for all the District Presidents to provide this information to the auxiliaries at your meetings. Every District President signed saying they received the packet, and it is up to them to share the information with the auxiliaries. In the packet, I had copies of blank applications, a flyer listing all the scholarships and contests for the year and some ideas to suggest ways to promote this program. I am very aware of the difficulty some may experience getting the schools to get the information to the student, that is where you "grab the ball and run with it". Take that leather "down the field" and put forth more effort to get all the information out to the community. Consider approaching the principal of your schools, and show what different scholarships are available. Ask to set up a table at school functions, i.e. Senior Night, PTO/PTA meetings, assemblies. Use the game plan to venture out to Farmer Markets, Parades, Libraries, Vendor Fairs, and even set up a table at your post. By working together ,trying something new, being excited and being prepared, we could become National Champs. My contact information, email, phone, is in the guide book. Let me know if you need anything. Let's huddle together to work together.

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

Loyally, ***Debby***

OFFICIAL VISITS ◈ PDP Irene Rohde, Coordinator

845-661-6169 ▪ lmallard4@yahoo.com ▪ 40 Schuylkill Court ▪ Carmel, NY 10512

CALLING ALL BEES TO GET BUZZING!!!

Official visits have started and we need to get these visits completed as soon as we can before the winter weather is here. Do not wait since sometimes inspections are cancelled due to bad weather. Try and get them done as soon as you can.

I did get many official visit forms at the Fall Conference. Thank you to all that gave inspections. District #6 is in the lead and ahead of all the other Districts. Congratulations and it looks like you, Monica, will be getting your Bee Glasses soon.

I have to correct something that I said previously. When doing your official visit, one of things you need to do is check to make sure that the date of the last filing for the Auxiliary's 990n is filled in and you need to see a copy of the accepted filing. You do not need to attach a copy to the inspection form. You just need to initial the 990N acceptance form. Also please remember to stay for the whole meeting to see how the Auxiliary conducts their meeting.

If you have any questions, please call or email me at: 845-661-6169 or imallard4@yahoo.com

Loyally, ***Irene Rohde PDP***

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT ◈ Kim Cavallo, Chairman

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



As the days grow shorter and we move into the holiday season, the New York hive is still buzzing with activity! This time of year brings so many opportunities for us to serve our veterans and their families.

November is especially meaningful as we observe **National Veterans and Family Members Month**, a time to recognize not only those who served our nation, but also the families whose love, support, and sacrifice help carry them through their military journey. Thank you for continuing to share your activities and accomplishments through your reports. They show the outstanding work being done throughout New York. As we observe **Veterans Day**, I ask every Auxiliary to take advantage of opportunities to honor and recognize your local Veterans and military families. Whether participating in a ceremony, visiting a VA facility, supporting a community event, or simply taking a moment to thank a Veteran, every gesture matters. Veterans Day is also a great opportunity to highlight our Veterans and Military Support (VMS) programs and share information about the resources and assistance available through the VFW such as the Military Assistance Program (MAP), unmet Needs and "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship". By increasing awareness and connecting Veterans and their families to support, we continue to strengthen our mission of serving those who have served.

As we head into December, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the Trees for Our Troops and In Lieu of Cards programs. These programs help remind our active-duty military that they are appreciated and missed during the holiday season. The Trees for Our Troops Send-Off Event will take place in Oceanside on December 7, and I encourage anyone who is able to attend to experience this special event. December also provides many opportunities to show support for Veterans and their families. Consider sending holiday cards, donating toys or gift cards, helping decorate a VA facility or veterans' home, assisting with holiday meals, or spending time with Veterans who may be feeling isolated. Simple acts of kindness can make a lasting impact and help ensure that our Veterans and their families feel the warmth and appreciation they deserve throughout the season.

Important Note – Join us for our Zoom training session on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 pm to learn even more about this great program!

Thank you for all you do each day. Together, our busy bees continue to make a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families across New York

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

Loyally, ***Kim C***



YOUTH ACTIVITIES ◈ Lori Juszkiewicz, Chairman

917-780-8229 ▪ lori@vfw7765.org ▪ 30 White Drive ▪ Milan, NY 12571

The Youth Activities Program continues to thrive across our department, and two major initiatives need focused attention this fall.

Illustrating America **- Deadline December 15th.** Please continue promoting the Illustrating America Art contest for grades K - 8. **All artwork** must be submitted to the auxiliary level by December 15th. Early collection ensures smooth judging and advancement at every level.

Lending Libraries **-** Auxiliaries should continue working toward getting their lending libraries built, stocked, and ready for community use**. Auxiliaries must obtain permission from any location before placing their lending library, whether it's a Post, school, park, lodge, or Community Center**. Once your library is up and running, you can combine the lending library initiative with Patriotism through Literacy by hosting community focused activities. Consider holding a book donation event or starting a reading circle to bring families together, encourage youth participation and strengthen community engagement. Book stickers honoring **National President, Donna Milles** are available in. **Malta** under **Youth Activities**. Place these stickers inside books donated by your auxiliary to show recognition and support.

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.***

FALL CONFERENCE – ALBANY, NY











VFW NATIONAL HOME ◈ Karen Scheuneman, Chairman

585-492-1994 ▪ wdstock90@yahoo.com ▪ 126 Vista Drive ▪ Arcade, NY 14009

Our VFW National Home Bumble Bee Fundraiser at Fall Conference was a sweet, sweet success! Oh, What a BUZZ!



A heartfelt, honey sweet thank-you to our amazing District Presidents who really *committed to the hive*. They looked absolutely bee-tiful in their bee antennas and yellow aprons for our "Flight of the Bumble Bees" event. They buzzed and buzzed around the entire conference hall and visited every bee in the room. Our Presidents had so much fun exchanging a little Honey for some Money — and you all were so generous, you made our wings flutter!
On each little bag of honey candy was a raffle ticket for one lucky bee to win the Bumble Bee Honey Basket. What a BUZZ-WORTHY moment when Queen Bee Belinda called the winning number — **Amber Sullivan** was so surprised! She was bee-yond thrilled!

Thanks to all of you, our hive collected $729.00! That's a whole lot of honey! So from the bottom of our hive hearts — **Thank You, Thank You BEE-ry much for every donation!** And just so you know, and this is no jive, every dollar helps the **VFW National Home Building House Fund** thrive — a fund to build more homes on campus for our veterans, service members, and their families. You are helping to build hives of hope.

You made this one sweeter than honey. With much gratitude and many buzzing hugs, Karen

P.S. I have more sweet news to share! The winner of our *Bring Your VFW National Home Program Report to Fall Conference* drawing was **Ruth Huber, PDP**! Thank you, Ruth, for bringing your report and for all you do to keep our hive informed — you are the bee's knees!

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

Loyally, ***Karen S.***

Inspirational Message
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN Craig E. Keitel

Heavenly Father,

We gather today with grateful hearts to honor our great nation, the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, and especially our United States Marines as we celebrate the proud birthday of the Marine Corps.

We thank You for the courage, dedication, sacrifice, and brotherhood that have defined the Marine Corps throughout its proud history. We remember those Marines who have gone before us, those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who continue to stand ready to defend the freedoms we cherish. Watch over our Marines, our veterans, our service members, and their families, and bring comfort to all who carry the weight of service and sacrifice.

As we enter the December holiday season, may we remember that the freedoms we enjoy allow us to celebrate with our families, gather with our friends, and worship according to our traditions. May this season remind us of the importance of faith, hope, love, peace, and service to others.

For those celebrating Christmas, may the message of peace and goodwill shine brightly in their hearts. For those observing Hanukkah, may its lights remind us of faith, perseverance, and hope. And for everyone gathered here, may the spirit of the holiday season bring unity, kindness, and fellowship to our communities.

We especially ask You to watch over those who cannot be home with their loved ones this holiday season—our deployed service members, first responders, veterans in hospitals and care facilities, and all those separated from family because of their duty or circumstances.

Bless the United States of America. Protect our Constitution, our communities, and all who defend our freedoms. Give wisdom to our leaders, strength to our military, comfort to our Gold Star families, and peace to those who have lost loved ones in service to our country.

May we never forget the price of freedom, may we always honor those who served, and may we continue to live our lives in a manner worthy of their sacrifice.

God bless our Marines.
God bless our veterans.
God bless our Armed Forces.
And God bless the United States of America.

Semper Fidelis. Amen.

Loyally Submitted, ***Craig Elliott Keitel***

FROM the DESK of the DEPARTMENT SECRETARY ◈ Amber Sullivan

607-245-6106 ▪ amber.vfwa@gmail.com ▪ 2 Donna Lane ▪ Binghamton, NY 13903

Reflecting, Reconnecting, and Staying on Track

It is hard to believe we are already about a third of the way through our Auxiliary year. Time moves quickly when we are dedicated to our mission, and I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to attend the Fall Conference. Your presence, dedication, and energy made the event a true success. I also want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued patience and grace as I navigate the learning curve of this new role—your support and encouragement mean more than words can say.

As we move into November and December, we enter that bustling holiday season when life gets hectic and schedules feel overwhelming. While our natural focus shifts to gathering with close friends and family, we must remember the veterans who depend on us to be part of their circle. For many of them—as well as our own Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters—we are the only family they have. A phone call, a card, or a simple check-in can make a world of difference during what can be a lonely time of year. Let's make sure none of our members or veterans feel forgotten.

As the year winds down, please keep these critical administrative responsibilities and opportunities top of mind:

Officer Dues Deadline: The deadline to have all officer dues paid is December 31st. Department President Belinda does not want to have to remove officers from their positions due to unpaid dues, and I certainly do not want to make those uncomfortable calls or send those follow-up emails. Please verify your officer rosters and submit payments promptly.

Official Communications: All communications coming from District, Department (including Chairmen), or National levels are official business and must be shared directly with your members.

Required Reading: The Auxiliary News serves as the official newsletter of the Department. The Department President's letter, along with all General and Special Orders, must be read on the floor at your meetings. Keeping our members informed is essential to maintaining strong, effective Auxiliaries.

Upcoming Zoom Trainings: We have an exciting slate of virtual Zoom trainings coming up that are open to ALL members! Reminders with specific details will be sent to all District and Auxiliary Presidents and Secretaries to forward to their members so everyone can plan and make arrangements to attend. The tentative schedule is currently available on the Department website. If you have any questions regarding the schedule, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for everything you do to support our organization, our communities, and one another. Wishing each of you a safe, warm, and meaningful holiday season as we stay Busy as a Bee Working Together for our Veterans!

Loyally, ***~Amber***

TREASURER'S *Checks & Balances* ◈ DEPARTMENT TREASURER ◈ Kimberly White

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

Dear Members,

Dues notices were mailed on October 12th to all Auxiliaries that submitted their Donation Report Form by September 30th and requested Department to do so. I hope that our Auxiliaries have begun to see the results of that mailing by now. Please make it a point to process all dues received as soon as possible. In mid January we will process the second mailing. It leads to a lot of extra work for both me and the Auxiliary Treasurer when paid members receive a notice because their payment has not been recorded in a timely manner.

Please remember that all annual members who have not paid their dues as of December 31st will no longer be members in good standing. This is especially important for an officer. Your dues MUST be paid prior to December 31st to remain an officer. Please give these special priority to collect and record their dues immediately.

I am enjoying working with all of you. Remember, I can be reached at 518-275-7283 after 5:00 on weekdays and most weekends. I am here to assist you in any way that I can. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May yours be filled with friends, family and just the right gift!

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

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

Loyally, ***Kim W.***

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Kim Cavallo, Pro-Tem Editor ◈ *Auxiliary News*
6158 71st Street ▪ Middle Village, NY 11379

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

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

February/March articles are due January 1 st





WAYS & MEANS ◈ Cathy Howard, Chairman

315-796-2428 ▪ cthoward1994@gmail.com ▪ 9781 Welsh District Road ▪ Remsen, NY 13438

THANK YOU! To all our ***Busy Bees*** at Fall Conference!

The Ways and Means Hive was just 'buzzing' with activity at Fall Conference! Auxiliary member bees buzzed in and out all day long and we thank you so very much for your generosity and support!

We also have some ***winners*** to announce:

9-Month Calendar Raffle: The first $100 drawing was held at Fall Conference and the winner is: Sharon Combs, Aux 7227 - Congratulations!. There are still 8 more drawings, so if you haven't already done so, be sure to send your tickets in before the next drawing in November.

Fall Conference Prize Raffles: Congratulations to Debby McCarthy, Aux 7227, winner of the Patriotic Diamond Art picture; and to Esther Reape, Aux 7227, winner of the Movie Projector basket. Also, a big Kudos to all the Lottery Scratch-Off winners and donations from all the Auxiliaries!

Shoot for the Green $$ Raffle: If your Auxiliary was not in attendance at Fall Conference to pick up your tickets, please check with your District Presidents, or give me a call and we will get them to you. We have $5000 to give away at the June 2027 Convention – so don't miss out on this great chance to win some cash! Tickets are $20 each or 3 for $40. REMEMBER! You must be in it to win it!

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving and upcoming Holiday Season as we keep

"***Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"!***

Loyally, ***Cathy***