



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM 2026-2027

Lisa Raplee, Chairman

4259 State Route 226, Dundee, NY 14837

(607) 368-1435 E-Mail: lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com

It is such an honor to be serving President Belinda Cole and the members of the Department of NY VFW Auxiliary as your Department Historian/Media Relations Chairman this year. This year, as your Department of NY Historian & Media Relations Chairman, I look forward to helping you all preserve your auxiliary history as well as create a photo journey of President Belinda's travels as she buzzes around our great state!

The Historian/Media Relations Program is not only about keeping the history of your Auxiliary or District, but also about letting the public know what our organization is about. Why do we exist? Who is eligible to join? What do we have to offer those that join, such as member benefits and all our great National Programs. It is our responsibility to inform the public what we do for our Veterans, our communities and youth in our area.

If you are appointed by the President as Historian for your Auxiliary or District, it is your responsibility to maintain comprehensive records for the level of the organization to which you were appointed. You can do this in diverse ways, such as creating it digitally or by creating scrapbooks. The choice is yours, be creative but keep the history for your members and future generations to look back on. Ask your seasoned members if you can interview them, and ask them about when they joined, who was your first auxiliary president, or when your auxiliary obtained their charter. You can then incorporate this into your auxiliary history, so it is not lost.

MEDIA RELATIONS: When you are having an event, use your local media to inform the public about what you are doing and how it is benefiting our Veterans and community. You can even invite your local newspaper to come, take pictures and give them a press release to put an article in the paper. Please send me a copy of any articles that are printed in your local papers. If it appears online, please share it with the Department Facebook page.

As we all know things have changed over time, now you can post this information on your social media outlets such as Facebook or Instagram. When using your social media accounts please use the **#deptofnyvfwaux** not only for these press releases but any of your events so that you can share the work you are doing to all of those in the great Department of NY!

When President Belinda makes her official visit to your District, or any event that is held in your area that she attends, please take pictures and send them to me with a brief description of who is in the photo and what the event is. This should be sent to the Department Historian within ten days of the event or visit. The more pictures the better so we can create memories that will last a lifetime for President Belinda and her year as Department of New York President.

For your auxiliary to receive credit under Historian/Media Relations program, your report must show copies of what was published in your local paper or tag myself or the Department Facebook page on your social media post. You can send me pictures of your events with a description of who, what and where the activity took place. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Awards for Auxiliaries:

National Awards: Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most unique digital record of their VFW Auxiliary history since being established and publishes it to a digital platform for future members of their Auxiliary. Entry forms can be found on MALTA, and I will also have them available on my table at Fall and Spring Conference.

Department Awards: Please see page 4 of this guidebook.

I look forward to receiving your photos and news articles. Together we can secure your auxiliary history and create a lifetime of memories for President Belinda. As we continue “Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay “Busy as a Bee Working Together for our Veterans.”

Loyally,

Lisa Raplee, PDP

Department Historian/Media Relations 2026-2027

