

Busy as a Bee

Working Together for Our Veterans

Department of New York

2026-2027

Program Guidebook



Belinda Cole
Department President



Dear Members,

I am extremely honored to serve as your Department President for 2026-2027. It certainly has been an exciting journey, and I thank you for your love and support. My involvement with the VFW Auxiliary started over 15 years ago. My Veteran is my grandfather who served in World War II. When the Post Commander read his DD214, he said, "You must be very proud of your grandfather. He is highly decorated." I had no idea. To me,

he was a soft-spoken man who played his guitar and yodeled. That's where my love for Veterans began.

Over the years, I connected with many Veterans of all different campaigns. I have lent an ear when they wanted to talk and witnessed the turmoil the wars had caused. I knew serving Veterans and their families is what I was destined to do.

My symbol is the poppy with a bumblebee. The poppy represents the sacrifices our service members endured, and the bumblebee symbolizes hard work, dedication, prosperity, and connection. Bees work together to signify the importance of individual contributions to a greater whole. Just like we, as auxiliary members, must stay **"Busy as a Bee working together for our Veterans"**. Our National President, Donna Mills, theme is **"Honoring America's Heroes"**.

My special project is Helmets to Hives. Based in Western New York, this initiative was created to help veterans transition into civilian life by training them in the art and science of beekeeping as a hobby, career, or therapeutic practice. Founded by a Vietnam Veteran and retired horticulturist, the program offers veterans a way to develop new skills, build camaraderie, and engage in a therapeutic, hands-on activity that helps with mental health.

Remember, our Department Chairpersons have worked very hard, along with our Department Secretary, to put this Guidebook together. All the programs are designed to help you better serve our Veterans, their families and to teach our Youth about Patriotism. Please be sure your auxiliary reports monthly all the wonderful things you do to receive program credit.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to the late Past District 3 President Kathleen Hayward for her pivotal role in bringing me to my first County Council meeting and encouraging me to enter the Council chairs (where it all began); to District 3 and my post auxiliary, Adirondack Post 2475, for all their support; to my mentor, Lynne Loga, thank you for your friendship and constant guidance over the years. Finally, my husband, Dan, for standing by me while I fulfill my passion. And to all of you, thank you for your support. I am super excited to be on this journey with you!

Loyally, *Belinda*

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Introducing Your Department Officers!

Department President Belinda Cole

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(518) 260-1694 bcolenyvfwa@gmail.com

Sr. Vice President

Charlene Carnright
2 Fayette St., Waterloo, NY 13165
(315) 719-1820 chooper70@hotmail.com

Jr. Vice President

Deanna Guyette
43 High St., Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 493-7520 dgullquist@verizon.net

Treasurer

Kim White
1799 Fred Rd, Schenectady NY 12303
(518) 275-7283 kwhitewvlt@aol.com

Secretary

Amber Sullivan
2 Donna Ln., Binghamton, NY 13903
(607) 245-6106 amber.vfwa@gmail.com

Chaplain

Craig E. Keitel
35 Lakeside Rd., Mahopac, NY 10541
(914) 552-1781 craigekeitel@gmail.com

Conductor

Chris Leavor
2027 Cemetery Hill, Franklinville, NY 14737
(716) 676-2400 CAL2027@hotmail.com

Chief-of-Staff

Ruth Huber
9511 Bucktooth Run Rd., Little Valley, NY 14837
(315) 755-8694 poofalina@yahoo.com

Patriotic Instructor

Rebecca Sweet
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(518) 879-6735 sweetnana32003@yahoo.com

Historian

Lisa Raplee PDP
4259 State Rte. 226, Dundee, NY 14837
(607) 368-1435 lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com

Guard

(To be elected at the Convention)

*“Serving America’s Heroes”
as we
“Stay Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”*

Important Dates 2026 – 2027
Events and/or Dates Subject to Change



2026

July 17 th & 18 th	Auxiliary Officer Member training (OMTI), Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY
July 24 th - 30 th	VFW / AUX National Convention, Reno, Nevada
August 8 th	Tee it Up for the Dept of NY Ways & Means Golf Tournament Cedars Golf Course, Lowville, NY
August 13 th -16 th	National President Donna Mills visit, Lake George/Glens Falls area
August 31 st	Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers MUST be bonded
September 18 th -19 th	Department VFW & Auxiliary Fall Conference, Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY • First drawing for Cancer tickets – Make sure you have yours in!
September 30 th	Donation Report form due to Department Treasurer District Dues are due to your District Treasurer Submit Health & Happiness Donation (Either through MALTA or mail to VFW Auxiliary Headquarters, 406 W.34 th Str, Kansas City, MO 64111 Mail Ways & Means 9-mo. tickets to Chairman (1 st drawing October)
November 1 st – 9 th	Eastern Conference, Garmisch, Germany
November 15 th	DEADLINE to file your 990N Postcard with the IRS
December 31 st	ALL Presidents, Treasurers and Secretary's dues MUST be paid.

2027

February 2 nd -7 th	Mid-Winter AUX National Conference, Punta Cana
TBD	VFW Legislative Conference, Washington, DC
TBD	Department VFW & Spring Conference
April 1 st	ALL Program Reports MUST be RECEIVED by Department Chairperson
June 8 th -13 th	Department VFW & Auxiliary Convention, Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
July 31 st -Aug 4 th	VFW/AUX National Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Department Awards 2026-2027

Department Awards for 2026-2027 will be presented to SIX (6) Membership Groups

Auxiliary Membership Grouping are based on June 2026 Membership

Awards will be Presented by Program Chairmen at the June 2027 Convention
unless stated otherwise in the Program pages

Awards are for the **BEST** overall Auxiliary Participation in each respective program

Refer to Membership Program for Membership Awards

Awards in the following programs will be based on the **QUALITY** of material reported- NOT
the **QUANTITY** of reports sent by Auxiliaries

**Americanism
Buddy® Poppy
Historian/Media Relations
Hospital
Legislative
National Home
Scholarships
Veterans & Family Support
Youth Activities**

To be eligible for an award, the Auxiliary Chairman must submit reports routinely during
the year **AND** submit **a year-end report to be RECEIVED by the Chairman by April 1,**
2027

Reports may be emailed, or USPS mailed- if using USPS mail- mail it early enough to be
received by the deadline date.

First Place: \$20 and a Presidential Citation to the Auxiliary
Second Place: \$15 and a Presidential Citation to the Auxiliary
Third Place: \$10 and a Presidential Citation to the Auxiliary

A Presidential Citation will be awarded to ONE District who BEST promotes the programs
to its component Auxiliaries.

"Serving America's Heroes"
because we stay
"Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans."
VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
DONATION REPORT FORM 2026-2027



Auxiliary Name _____ Auxiliary Number _____ District Number _____

HOSPITAL FUND (Suggested Donation - \$15.00)

Allows the Dept. President to present donations when visiting VA hospitals to purchase special event supplies, holiday gifts, etc. \$ _____

AMERICANISM FLAG FUND Allows for American and POW/MIA flags to be presented to Conference Hotel representatives, VA Hospitals, and other facilities at the discretion of the Department President. \$ _____

NATIONAL COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT - OPERATION BRING THEM HOME

-Returning all of our Missing in Action and Prisoners of War to their Families and Bringing them home with honor (Reported under Veterans & Family Support) \$ _____

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT – HELMETS TO HIVES

Helmets to Hives was created by veterans who have found the hobby of beekeeping to be therapeutic. The program provides a magnitude of opportunities to lessen the weight many veterans carry with them. \$ _____

DEPT OF NY SCHOLARSHIPS, VOD, PATRIOT'S PEN, PATRIOTIC ART, 3D ART

Provides funding to present cash and prize awards to the Department of New York Scholarship Contest Winners. \$ _____

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

National Veterans and Military Support (VMS): Three programs fall under this main category to assist active duty and recently discharged military service personnel and their families unable to meet monthly expenses (Unmet Needs), financial support to Post, Auxiliary, District, Department to support Military Morale Events (MAP), and Education Support for the "Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" \$ _____

USO: Support America's service members and families keeping them connected to home. \$ _____

Department of NY Service Officer (NVS): Provides a network of VFW Service Officers within the Department of NY who help Veterans, Spouses, Active Duty, and Dependents navigate the VA System. \$ _____

DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY RELIEF FUND:

Offers financial opportunities to assist members and communities who might be in need. \$ _____

AUXILIARY NEWS and DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY: (Suggested Donation \$15.00) To offset the costs of printing and mailing the Department Newsletter and Department Directory to Presidents on all levels. \$ _____

DEPARTMENT POSTAGE FOR MAILING DUES NOTICES: (Suggested Donation \$15.00)

Department Headquarters sends dues notices to annual members in October *only for Auxiliaries that contribute to the postage fund.* The Dues Donation **MUST** be received by the Department Treasurer

NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2026. \$ _____

Please indicate if you want the Department to send dues notices to unpaid annual members: Y _____ N _____

TOTAL DONATIONS: \$ _____

Please Note: Auxiliaries on all levels will receive Participation credit for their donations!

PLEASE submit the Donation Form by September 30, 2026

Make checks payable to: **VFW Auxiliary Department of NY** earmarked "Donation Form"

Mail the completed form and check to:

Kimberly White, Department Treasurer: 1799 Fred Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303

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

PROGRAM COORDINATOR --- JACKIE HERBERT, PDP
PO BOX 138, CAMPBELL, NY 14821-0138
Phone: 607-527-1005 Email: jackievwauxny@stny.rr.com

“SERVING AMERICA’S HEROES”

because we stay

“BUSY AS A BEE WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”

IMPORTANT DATES

On or before the 1st day of the month the auxiliary program chairmen submit their report to each of the Department Program Chairmen.

The Department Chairmen submit their reports to me between the 5 – 7th of the month.

By the 10th of the month the Program Coordinator’s Report will be posted on the Department Website: VFWAUXNY.ORG

For National Home Health and Happiness credit:

You need to send a minimum donation of 10 CENTS, per member, which is based on your June 30, 2026, auxiliary membership total.

You may donate to this through MALTA or mail your checks to:

**VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111**

Please make your checks payable to VFW Auxiliary and earmark it “Health & Happiness”.

THE MEANING OF THE LETTERS

“D” is for donations to a program.

“P” is for participation in a program.

“N” is for the VFW National Home Health and Happiness donations.

“D/P” – Donation and Participation are credited together in some programs.

If your auxiliary donates on the Donation Report Form you will get an “X”, but you need to complete projects and report them to the Department Chairmen to qualify for awards.



OFFICIAL VISIT FOR INSPECTIONS



Official Visits or in the past Auxiliary Inspections will once again be implemented this year. Your District President will appoint inspectors to assist in completing your official visit in a timely manner. Do not get nervous about this visit, we are only there to assist your auxiliary if needed. There is nothing negative about being inspected each year.

Your District President does **NOT** need to do all the Official Visits. The District President needs to appoint members to assist in this duty. It is advisable **NOT** to send the same member to the same auxiliary each year. A School of Instructions for inspectors will be scheduled at the first District meeting of the new year.

The Inspector should become familiar with the official visit form prior to attending the auxiliary meeting. Once the Official Visit is completed, the inspector should send **all** copies back to the District President within three (3) days. The District President will then go over the form to be sure **all** questions and signatures have been completed. Then has three days to send the paperwork to me and I will then send the yellow copy to the Auxiliary Treasurer, the pink copy to the District President and the white copy to the Department President. If additional mentoring is needed, the Department President will assign members to go to the Auxiliary.

The Inspector is to contact the Auxiliary President to set up a time, date and place for the visit. Make sure you have the Auxiliary EIN Number and the seal on the Official Visit form. If you cannot do the inspection on the date set up with the Auxiliary, please contact your District President so another person can be assigned to complete the inspection.

Please note the Official Visit (Inspection Form) changes each year. All inspections are to be completed by February 15, 2027. The sooner completed the better for all concerned.

Let's see what District President will be the first to get their **BEE EYEGLASSES**. Don't get stung this year, antennas up and let's get busy buzzing and making our visits.

I know we can make a difference if we stay....

“Busy as a Bee working together for our Veterans.”

OFFICIAL VISIT COORDINATOR, Irene Rohde, PDP
40 Schuylkill Court, Carmel, NY 10512
845-661-6169 E-Mail imallard4@yahoo.com



HELMETS TO HIVES

Lynne Loga, Special Project Chairman
75A Main Street, So. Glens Falls, NY 12803

Telephone: 518-796-7942 Email: mybuddy2454@gmail.com



Beekeeping has been shown to provide numerous therapeutic benefits.

Beekeeping is a unique way to reconnect with nature and spend time outdoors. When practiced in a safe and supportive learning environment, the hobby has been shown to:

- Aid in PTSD recovery
- Increase self-sufficiency
- Improve social connections among veterans
- Relieve anxiety
- Foster emotional well-being

While anyone can struggle with mental health issues, isolation, or difficulty engaging with others, these issues are often more prevalent in the veteran community. Helmets to Hives was created by veterans who have found the hobby of beekeeping to be therapeutic. Sensitivity to the unique experiences that a veteran brings to the program is at the heart of everything the program offers. From working together to care for a colony, to spending time re-engaging with the natural world, learning the hobby of beekeeping in a therapeutic environment can provide countless opportunities to lessen the weight many veterans carry with them.

Steve Krumm, founder of the Helmets to Hives program, is a Vietnam War veteran and retired horticulturist. He states: "Honeybees are disciplined and regimented, they each have their duties, they support each other as a full unit. The same thing is true of those who served in active service, reserves or National Guard. You learn to act as a group and learn to help each other out."

So, as it turns out, bees have a lot in common with veterans.

When the program launched in 2018, it was originally a "veterans only" initiative. Then the program eventually opened enrollment to non-veterans. Founder Steve Krumm expanded the scope so veterans could reintegrate into society as active community members rather than remaining isolated in veteran-only groups. The program pairs veterans with community members who learn and work side-by-side. While the program remains **free for veterans**, community members pay a fee (approximately \$250 for the full season or \$50 for classroom only) to help support the initiative.

How can we support the initiative to help keep this program free to all Veterans?

There are several ways we can do this:

A “bumblebee” bank will be distributed to each District President to collect donations at their District meetings. Then bring the bank to me at the Spring Conference.



Fall Conference:

Start your morning with a reminder to **always bee kind** by enjoying your favorite hot drink in your very own “Helmets to Hives” bee coffee cup. \$10.00 each. Buy one for home and one for the office to keep the 'bee happy' vibe going!

Spring Conference:

We are asking auxiliaries to bring a “Spring” themed basket to be raffled. Tickets will be sold at 10 for \$5.00.

*****T-SHIRTS*****

In the Presidents packet, you’ll find a “Helmets to Hives” t-shirt order form. Orders placed will be delivered at OMTI, Fall and Spring Conference on a first come, first serve basis.

Prices as follows:

T-Shirts – Small, Medium, Large X-Large = \$25.00. 2XL, 3XL, 4XL = \$30.00

Long Sleeve – Small, Medium, Large X-Large = \$30.00. 2XL, 3XL = \$35.00 (4XL not available)

Unisex Polo - Small, Medium, Large X-Large = \$30.00. 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL = \$40.00





CANCER GRANT DONATION FUND

Tracy Damato – Cancer Chairman
32 Old Oak Lane ~ Levittown, NY 11756
Telephone 516-749-2890 ~ Email: tracy053169@aol.com



Being part of the VFW Auxiliary fosters a supportive community that offers camaraderie during challenging times. One of these benefits is access to the CANCER GRANT program. The program provides financial assistance to help cover medical expenses. Members can apply for up to TWO grants in their lifetime, at least one year apart, each worth \$550.00. These grants do not need to be repaid. The Cancer Grant is a vital resource for members, helping ease the financial burden of cancer treatment. Do not hesitate to seek this support if you find yourself in need. The Cancer Grant Application is a simple one-page form that can be found on the National website, at the back of this program book or by reaching out to me. I am available to assist with the application process and provide information on eligibility.

The VFW Auxiliary depends on **ALL OF US** to sustain funding for the Cancer Grant Fund. One way to help keep it funded is by participating in our Cancer Grant Fund Raffle. We understand that each program within our organization asks for monetary support and sometimes it can get overwhelming. With that in mind, we are offering multiple ways for you and your members to make an even more positive impact to this program. We are asking that all Auxiliaries donate at least \$2.00 per member based upon the Auxiliary's membership as of June 30, 2026. In the President's Packet, you will find 1 ticket (\$2.00 each) for each member of your Auxiliary. The number of tickets is based on membership as of June 30, 2026.

Your auxiliary can purchase them all or you can sell them to anyone. Please send your completed Cancer Grant Fund Raffle tickets and your check to me, Tracy Damato, at the above address. Please make checks payable to "**VFW AUXILIARY DEPT OF NEW YORK**" earmarked, "Cancer Grant Raffle."

DO NOT send Cancer Grant Raffle ticket money via Malta. While sending it to Malta will give credit for participation in the Cancer Program, it will not enter you into the raffle. And what auxiliary doesn't want an opportunity to win back cash!

Please remember that your auxiliary is encouraged to participate and we thank you in advance for all you do in support of the Cancer Grant Donation Fund.



FALL AND SPRING CONFERENCES



CANCER FUND RAFFLE

Three Cancer Grant Fund Raffle winners will be drawn at each Conference
First Place-\$75.00 Second Place-\$50.00 Third Place-\$25.00

FALL CONFERENCE - Each **Auxiliary** is asked to bring a “Holiday themed” basket to be raffled during Fall Conference.

SPRING CONFERENCE – **Auxiliaries** are asked to donate a \$10 (or more) nationally recognized gift card to be raffled off during the Spring Conference.

Auxiliaries are also asked to donate two packages of 6 cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. These will be sold for \$5 each package.

**Please label each with your auxiliary number and list any known allergens.*

LUMINARIAS

**Will be available to purchase via mail and during the Fall and Spring Conferences*

We are happy to offer Luminarias that will be prominently displayed at the June 2027 Convention. Luminarias are designed to honor loved ones touched by Cancer.

\$5 Donation

**Full details have been included in your President’s Package.*

For more information on the Cancer Grant Fund and all the different ways you can help please scan the QR Code



“Serving America’s Heroes”
because we stay
“Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”



Americanism-Patriotic Instructor

Rebecca Sweet—Chairman
540 West Mountain Rd, Queensbury NY 12804
Telephone: 518-879-6735
Email: sweetnana32003@yahoo.com



Celebrating American Heritage and Patriotism

The Essence of Being American

Being an American often brings tears to my eyes as I reflect on our nation's rich history and the countless sacrifices made by those who have fought—and continue to fight—to uphold the ideals enshrined in our Constitution by the founding fathers. The notion that "all are created equal" held a different meaning 250 years ago at our nation's birth. Today, it compels us to respect all those who step foot on our soil to pursue the American Dream. As a melting pot, we believe in freedom of speech, religion, and choice. It is our responsibility to keep these ideals alive, to teach the significance of our flag, our creed, and our pledge, and to resist anyone who seeks to undermine these dreams.

The Colors of Our Flag

Red, White, and Blue: What Do They Mean?

- **Red:** Symbolizes valor and hardiness; it represents courage, bravery, and the readiness to fight to protect our values.
- **White:** Stands for purity and innocence, embodying the aspiration for a just and equal society.
- **Blue:** Represents vigilance and justice, signifying the strength to uphold justice and remain watchful.

Honoring Our Heroes – including veterans, their families, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

POW/MIA Recognition

Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) are honored during ceremonies to acknowledge military personnel who are held captive or have gone missing. This ceremony is performed at every event until they return or are accounted for.

Star Symbols

What Do Stars Mean When Displayed in a Window?

- **Gold Star:** Represents parents who have lost a child in combat. They are shown respect by not applauding them during ceremonies.
- **Blue Star:** Represents a family with an active member serving in the military.
- **Silver Star:** Signifies a family member that is a wounded, ill, or injured veteran from any branch of the Armed Forces.
- **White/Green Star:** Represents a family member lost to suicide from any branch.

Celebrating Our Nation's 250th Birthday

Let us celebrate our nation's 250th birthday with pride and honor. Communities across the country will host parades and celebrations to pay tribute to those who founded our great nation and those who continue to protect it. At the State Convention in June 2027, a special prize will be awarded to the Auxiliary that provides the most creative representation of Americanism through a video, picture, or report. This includes teaching the pledge, honoring veterans, teaching flag etiquette, participating in patriotic events, or creating an engaging point-of-purchase (POP) sign.

American Flag Rocket

Build a flag rocket to distribute at parades, schools, or events at your post. A video tutorial will be posted on the Department website, allowing everyone to learn how to make it. Witnessing the joy on the faces of children and parents as they learn something new about our flag will warm your heart and reignite your pride in it.



“POP” Program

Use “POPs” (Point of Purchase) to promote Americanism. During WWII, posters were used to recruit for the war effort and to sell War Bonds. Examples include “Uncle Sam Needs You” and “Rosie the Riveter.” Print these posters from the internet, display them at your post, and use them during patriotic holidays to capture attention and promote Americanism.

Fall Conference

Wreaths Across America: Remember, Honor, and Teach

If you haven’t yet participated in this tribute to our fallen veterans, mark your calendar! Founded in 2007 by Morrill Worcester, Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit dedicated to honoring veterans by laying homemade wreaths on their graves nationwide. This year, wreaths will be laid on December 19, 2026. To honor past veterans from your post, sponsor wreaths using order forms in the president’s packets. For more information about participating cemeteries, visit the Wreaths Across America website: www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org. In honor of the United States’ 250th anniversary, the 2026 theme is **Remember Me**. This emphasizes the importance of recognizing the individual lives behind America’s military service. Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America, explains, “While we often honor service members collectively, each one has a name, a family, and a story. Their sacrifices are deeply personal, and their stories shape the freedoms we enjoy today.” You can join the initiative to share the story of someone who served and may have been forgotten by time. By sharing their stories, we ensure future generations learn about their contributions. To participate, visit the Remember Me story-sharing page. <https://app.memoryfox.net/story/wreaths-across-america/remember-me> Together, let’s honor their memories and share their stories, ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Spring Conference

Honor Flight

Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring veterans by providing free trips to Washington, D.C. Priority is given to WWII and Korean War veterans. Volunteers are needed to escort these veterans. For those unable to travel, donations are welcome to support this memorable experience. A \$5 “Mail Call” thank you card order form will be included in the President’s Packet. If you have the honor of escorting a veteran during the 2026 flight, please share photos to be displayed at the conferences and on the Department website. Flight schedules are announced approximately six months before departure on the Honor Flight website.

Awards

National Awards for Auxiliaries

A citation and \$25 will be awarded to one VFW Auxiliary that creates the most unique POP sign or meme showcasing the VFW Auxiliary. Entry form (required) is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Submissions must be received before March 31, 2027. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning Auxiliary from VFW Aux National Headquarters, and the prize money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries

The Auxiliary with the most outstanding Americanism program will receive a citation and monetary awards: \$20 for 1st place, \$15 for 2nd place, and \$10 for 3rd place for each membership group.

“Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay “Busy as a Bee Working Together for our Veterans.”



“Buddy”® Poppy Program

Flora Becker Chairman

201 Fall Street Apt. 114, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Il Number: 315-521-2675 Email: loveourveterans17@yahoo.com



The “Buddy”® Poppy has been a part of the VFW since 1922. This is a great tool to educate the Community what it means. It is because of the great sacrifices by our Veterans while promoting our freedom. In Malta under resources, you can find a wealth of helpful items.

To purchase “Buddy”® Poppy request a “Buddy”® Poppy order form from the VFW Department Headquarters at least two to three months in advance of your distribution date. You may order the traditional “Buddy”® Poppy or the tin tab “Buddy”® Poppy. The **Post Quartermaster** must provide their signature on the order form. All orders must be in multiples of 500 and orders will require shipping and handling cost. “Buddy”® Poppies are not for sale. Auxiliaries are encouraged to do at least one drive per quarter. There are special poppies for 25th, 50th, 75th, & 100th Anniversary with the same traditional design.

For the **Fall Conference**, we will be holding our own “Buddy”® “Poppy Drive. We are also asking that each Auxiliary donate a \$10 Nationally recognized Gift Card. These will be raffled and all funds will go to the Department of New York Auxiliary Relief Fund.

For the **Spring Conference** will be our Annual “Buddy”® Poppy display contest. **“Buddy”® Poppy Contest Rules:** There are 3 Categories for the “Buddy”® Poppy Display contest, each with their own qualifications.

Category 1: Public Promotion (Window, booth, parade, or poster displays, etc.). The display must be designed for the public exposure and must bear a message urging donating and the wearing of the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display (Wreaths, memorial, tablets of plaques, patriotic or devotional themes) Displays must be designed to God and Country or to dramatize the activities supported by the “Buddy”® Poppy program.

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies (Novelty pieces, centerpieces, etc.) Displays not meeting the qualifications for category 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered into Category 3. Complete freedom shall be permitted in the use of poppies, poppy parts or poppy labels.

All categories must have at least one (1) original “Buddy”® poppy with its label attached. Department awards in each category: 1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10. All entries must have a 3 x 5 card affixed to the bottom with Auxiliary and District #. How many members assisted, how many poppies were used and how long it took to create.

National Awards: Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and for events to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy entry form in Malta. The VFW Auxiliary must send the required entry to the Department VFW Auxiliary Chairman by March 31, 2027. Department Chairman to send winners from Department to National by April 30, 2027. Citations will be mailed directly to the VFW Auxiliary & money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 National Convention.

Department Awards: Auxiliary award for the “Buddy”® Poppy program can be found on page 4.

“Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay “Busy as a Bee working together for our Veterans”

Buddy Poppy Order Form

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Traditional Poppies

1000 Poppies- \$340.00

500 Poppies- \$170.00

(Must be ordered in multiples of 500)

NEW Tin Tab Poppies

1000 Poppies- \$206.00

500 Poppies- \$103.00

(Must be ordered in multiples of 500)



Shipping & Handling

\$100.00 to \$200.00 \$15.95

\$200.01 to \$300.00 \$29.95

\$300.01 to \$400.00 \$34.95

\$400.01 to \$500.00 \$39.95

\$500.01 & Over \$69.95

Post #/ Quartermaster Name

Quartermaster Member ID

Shipping Address:
(Poppies cannot be shipped to a P.O. Box)

of Traditional
Poppies/ Cost

\$

of Tin Tab
Poppies/ Cost

\$

Shipping & Handling

\$

Total:

\$

X

(Quartermaster Signature)

Payment:

☐ Credit Card

☐ Check

Credit Card

If you purchase Buddy Poppies with a credit card, you can
mail or email the form:

To: adjutantdny@vfwny.com

Cc: acomstock@vfwny.com

Mail Form & Check to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars

69 Sand Creek Rd

Albany, NY 12205

***Name**

***Phone:**

☐ ***Billing Address:**
(Same as Shipping Address)

***Credit Card Number:**

***Exp. Date**

***CRV Code on Back**
(3 Digit Code)

☐ ***Email:**
(Email Receipt Requested)

HQ Use Only

Check #/ Transaction ID:

Invoice #:

Posted:

2/24 Rev. 6



Extension-Revitalization-Mentoring

Ruth Huber, Chief of Staff

9511 Bucktooth Run Road, Little Valley, NY 14755

poofalina@yahoo.com 716-801-2003

The VFW Auxiliary was built on a strong foundation based on the traditions established in 1914. With those traditions comes a sincere promise to safeguard the future of the Auxiliary. Our men and women in uniform made a similar promise to our nation when they took their oath and promised to safeguard the future of our nation. They remain strong, patriotic, and proud, so that we may enjoy freedom. Our foundation is solid – now it is up to us to remain strong.

Healthy Auxiliaries provide better service to our veterans, their families and communities. With the permission of the Department President, the Chief of Staff can assist where needed for the good of the Department.

Healthy Auxiliaries vs Struggling Auxiliaries-What category does your auxiliary fall in?

Green Flag - Healthy Auxiliaries: They “are good to go.” They have utilized or referred to the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit found in MALTA. They have met the five (5) essential requirements for an Auxiliary to be healthy.

Five (5) Essentials of an Auxiliary:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
3. Quarterly audits by Trustees must be completed and submitted to the Department Treasurer.
4. Officers elected, installed, and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30.
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31.

Yellow Flag - Struggling Auxiliaries: These Auxiliaries are struggling and will need mentoring. The District President or Auxiliary Representative must be honest in the assessment when completing the visit form after a visit to an Auxiliary. They have firsthand knowledge of the Auxiliary and must communicate any concerns to the Department President and/or Chief of Staff. This situation could be failure to meet any one or more of the five (5) essentials of an Auxiliary, but there are also more subtle signs: not attracting new members, failure to complete Programs Reports (not assisting veterans and families), no new Officers or change in Officers in years, failure to attend District and Department meetings or trainings events, using an outdated copy of the Bylaws, lack of regular communication with members.

Performance Improvement Plan (PIP): The process of arriving at a resolution would be that a PIP is put in place. A PIP Committee (not a suspension committee) is assigned to meet with the Auxiliary President, Secretary and Treasurer and under certain circumstances an individual member or members with the issues to discuss and develop a Performance Improvement Plan. This is the time to gradually get the Auxiliary involved in correcting the issue; thus, the Auxiliary would not have to be put on suspension. This is **REVITALIZATION** at its peak.

Red Flag – the Auxiliary will be put on suspension as a time to step back and regroup. Suspension simply means there is some work to do to get the Auxiliary where it needs to be. The hope is that the Auxiliary will recover and come back stronger and better than before.

Auxiliary Buddy System: We rely on the Official Visit Form, input from District Presidents and other Auxiliaries within their District to notice and bring to the attention of the Chief of Staff and the Department President of any Auxiliary exhibiting warning signs. Before the Auxiliary becomes a “red” Auxiliary they can request help from a friend from another Auxiliary near them. This volunteer could offer assistance with the permission of the Auxiliary and Department President. Sometimes you just need a **BUDDY!**

MENTORING AND ENCOURAGING MEMBERS

Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members; they work hand in hand. Providing a positive and organized meeting experience will leave members wanting to come back, especially when effective communication and respect for each other is demonstrated. A member may express interest in holding an office or chairmanship. Work with them to help them succeed.

EXTENSION

While we need to make certain that the current Auxiliaries are in good working order, it is also important to make presentations to unaffiliated Posts and when possible, to institute new Auxiliaries. An Auxiliary cannot exist without a Post and there must be a 2/3 vote of the Post to get started. Once the Post has approval to establish an Auxiliary, the Department President will appoint an organizer to work with the Post. A minimum of 15 eligible applicants must be on the Charter application. Transfers are accepted at the closure of the institution and just prior to the installation of the newly formed Auxiliary. Make personal contact with the Post and ask permission to describe the benefits of an Auxiliary. Presenters must be positive and knowledgeable Auxiliary members. Use the tools on the VFW Auxiliary website vfwauxiliary.org or scan the QR Code.

National Awards:

Awards for Members: Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the VFW Auxiliary Department President.

Awards for District Presidents: Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary District President or Official Representative in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Department Chief of Staff with a struggling Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President. Use of MALTA Healthy Auxiliary tools and mentor training is required.

Entry forms are required and available in MALTA Member Resources. The VFW Auxiliary Department Chief of Staff must sign and send a copy of the completed Department nomination form to the VFW Auxiliary National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries and Members:

Organizer Award-Citation and \$25 to a member who organizes a new Auxiliary between July 1, 2026 and February 28, 2027.

Member Award-Citation to the Auxiliary members appointed by the Department President who reactivates an Auxiliary between July 1, 2026 and February 28, 2027.

Buddy Award-Citation to any member who volunteers to help an Auxiliary that requests assistance. Must be nominated by the Auxiliary who received the assistance. Nominations must be received by me by **April 1, 2027**.



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



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





Hospital Program



Marie-Aymee K Fisk, Department Chairman

226 State Route 86, Paul Smiths, NY 12970

PHONE # 518 354 3037/EMAIL: makfisk@gmail.com

" Look up not down, Look out not in. Look forward not backward and lend a helping hand."

History:

The Hospital Program was one of the first programs which was nationally adopted by the VFW Auxiliary since its inception in 1914. Members of this organization have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities for decades. These volunteers have helped to comfort veterans and families as well as put a smile on a veteran's face with visits, cards and small gifts of gratitude. It is our way of thanking veterans for their service to our beautiful country.

It is our way to say, "we appreciate your sacrifice to keep us safe." Don't forget to thank the family who stood behind and beside this soldier helping to give him faith and courage to serve. Let them know we are proud and honored to serve those who have served this country. We will be **Busy as a Bee working together for our veterans!**

Who can serve? Members, Non-members, Youth and Families.

Where can we serve?

Members, non-members, and youth can volunteer in many different types of facilities, domiciliary, both VA and non-VA hospitals and clinics, long-term care and assisted living facilities. Volunteering includes the care of the veteran as well as their family. Volunteering includes giving a family member (or members) a ride to and from where their loved one is cared for.

What can we earn?

Members can earn Hospital Volunteer Service Pins from National for their hours. Chairmen should track total hours (both VA and non-VA) and submit an application for pins. More information along with forms can be obtained from the Department Chairman or in MALTA Member Resources.

Members can also be named an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in their Program Division. Applications are available from the Department Chairman. Non-members can also earn a one-time volunteer pin for 100 hours.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, RECOGNITION and SUPPORT

New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care. A few tips for recruiting and keeping volunteers: Monthly signup sheet for regular events at your meeting, emails and phone calls for special events, and public recognition for current volunteers. Find out how each person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting. If someone says "No" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!

Recruiting both member and non-member community volunteers and engaging them in the work of the Hospital Program is integral to its success. In most medical facilities, an extra hand can help lighten the load for staff and is greatly appreciated. Hospitals and nursing homes are in almost every community and often include veteran residents who do not have spouses or close relatives to assist them.

For more information about being a volunteer, how to handle a Department Hospital Fund and other topics, download the Hospital Program Guide and VAVS Guide in MALTA Member Resources.

CARDS FOR VETERANS

Share the love we have for our veterans and service members during special occasions and holidays. Celebrate Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial and Veterans Days by sending store-bought or handmade cards, hosting a party, recognition event or dinner in their honor. Encourage local schools to participate by making cards and/or posters to show our veterans that they are loved and not forgotten. Fellow members, individuals and youth groups in your community can use their creativity to show compassion for our veterans and service members.

HONORS ESCORT

This program is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner. It provides an opportunity for a veteran's family and friends, other veterans and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death.

WOMEN'S VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

Women have served our nation for generations and are the fastest growing group within the veteran population. Comprehensive health services are available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Learn about the resources and health care services available and help them receive benefits and services they deserve. Inquire at your local VA clinic or hospital for more information regarding what is available.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. The Department Chairman must receive completed entry form by March 31, 2027.

- 1) Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 2026 – March 31, 2027. Winners will be announced and citations presented at the 2027 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2) Hospital Volunteer Recruiter for the Year plaque awarded to one auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2026– March 31, 2027. The winner will be announced, and a plaque will be presented to the winner at the 2027 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 3) Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Winners will be announced and citations presented at the 2027 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

- 1) Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to Veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

The Chairman must receive a completed entry form by March 31, 2027, for judging. The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2027. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 National Convention.

DEPARTMENT AWARD - Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of Year

A Department Award will be presented at the June Convention 2027 for an Outstanding VFW Auxiliary member who serves as a Hospital Volunteer in any medical facility within the Department of New York. The volunteer must serve from July 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027. VAVS Representatives and Deputies are eligible to be considered as an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer. Volunteer hours for VA and non-VA facilities may be combined for award purposes. Applications must be completed and received by the Department Hospital Chairman no later than April 1, 2027. Contact the Department Hospital Chairman to obtain an application.

“Honoring America’s Heroes” because we stay ***“Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”***



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
Tina Roberts, Chairman
1215 Crawford Rd ~ Dundee, NY 14837
315-694-0326 (Cell)
Email: tinaroberts@frontiernet.net



Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day.

Study the issues laid out clearly in the VFW Priority Goals. The VFW focuses on these to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. The priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Every January the Priority Goals for the current year are released by the VFW on the National website: (<https://www.VFW.org/advocacy/national-legislative-services>). This year they are:

1. **Budget:** To fully fund programs for Veterans, service members and their families.
2. **Health Care:** To ensure service members and Veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.
3. **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:** To ensure Veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.
4. **Education, Employment and Transition Assistance:** To ensure that Veterans succeed after leaving military service.
5. **Military Readiness:** To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting American interests.
6. **National security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA:** To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our Nation's citizens and defend American interests around the world.

Here are a few simple ways you can help support our Veterans through the Legislative Program:

1. Become familiar with the VFW Priority goals-then share this information with other VFW and Auxiliary members during meetings or in newsletters.
2. Know where elected officials stand on Veteran issues, then be prepared to draft letters for upcoming Legislation. To identify your congressional representatives, **visit the VFW website at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/address>**
3. Sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly-then invite others to sign up. The Action Corps Weekly is free, and you can find it by visiting www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts. This is where the Call to Actions can be found.
4. Respond to VFW Action Alerts-then spread the word for others to act. Write a letter and have your non-e-mail members sign it and mail it for them.
5. Get involved with town hall meetings-then encourage others to attend.
6. Offer rides to members/community members who don't drive.
7. Be sure to vote in all elections-then assist others with the voting process.

8. Use the MALTA Member Resources>Legislative-then teach others what is available on MALTA Members Resources.
9. DO NOT endorse any candidate on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary-we must remain neutral.
10. DO NOT wear any VFW Auxiliary attire when campaigning for a candidate.

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship- To continue empowering tomorrow's leaders, the VFW and Student Veterans of American (SVA) host the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship, providing exemplary student Veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. During VFW events, they engage with Congress members, educating them on the challenges faced by today's veterans. For rules and eligibility, visit the VFW website at: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veteranssupport/student-fellowship>

The Department Legislative Program information can be found at vfwauxny.org>Programs>Legislative or **scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to visit the National Legislative Program.**

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the largest increase in the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the community and new VFW Auxiliary members.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2027, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50.00 Award for the most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative education: How many different Auxiliary members were educated on Legislation that affected our Veterans? What types of materials were used?
2. \$50.00 Award for the Most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative participation: How many times during the year did your auxiliary organize, speak with, or contact Congressmen and Senators regarding Veterans concerns: What were the issues advocated?
3. The VFW Auxiliary that promotes the Legislation program will receive a citation and \$20.00 for first place, \$15.00 for second place and \$10.00 for third place in each membership group.

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





Membership Program

Karen A. Dotson, PDP, Membership Chairman

19 Calgary Lane

Binghamton, NY 13901

607-648-9271 Email: kdvfwaux@aol.com

In a quote by Steve Jobs, “Great things are never done by one person, they’re done by a team of people”. Membership of our organization requires teams, whether small or large, teams work together to achieve goals and be successful. New members bring a fresh perspective to our organization with new ideas and suggestions. The same is true of our current members as they are just waiting to be “asked” for their thoughts and ideas.

Let us start with the basics! Membership is the backbone of our organization; therefore, we need to keep focus on our overall team goal by utilizing the 3 “R’s”: **Recruit, Retain, and Rejoin.**

This year, as “Busy Bees”, our journey must begin with a single step forward with a plan of action. First identify Auxiliary members who are willing to share their time and talents to help move the Auxiliary forward so our initial goal will be achieved. Secondly, the team needs to identify what is the next achievable goal. Check out local activities or events to schedule a membership drive such as at the local Fall Festival, Fireman’s Parade, annual Spaghetti Dinner, etc. Have your team prepared with items such as current application forms, pens, Auxiliary Membership Brochures, Member Benefits fliers, a copy of the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility wheel, a filled candy bowl, and a follow up list with prospective members.

Once the membership drive is over, the team members should divide and conquer the list by contacting the people for stopping by the Membership table, invite them to a community event sponsored by the Auxiliary such as a Fish Fry, Pasta Night, a Chicken BBQ etc. Ensure your team greets all members to feel welcome at events and meetings.

A separate team of “Busy Bees” may be willing to work on engaging the current members to renew their interest and participation with programs or events. Request the team to prepare a list of key questions to ask the members when they are contacted. It may be as simple as adjusting the day/time of the meeting for more members to attend. Do your members know that our Bylaws allow children to attend Auxiliary meetings? Do members who are homebound know that they may attend with their Caregiver who may not be an Auxiliary member? New ideas/suggestions for events, activities re-invigorate the members to try something different. I encourage everyone to try one new idea!

Ensure you contact your members who are homebound and no longer able to attend meetings. Inquire if they have special talents they can do outside of the meeting to help on a project (crochet/knit, floral arrangements, party favors, etc.). Consider setting up a “buddy check” system so that the Busy Bee Auxiliary Membership team reaches out to members monthly.

Travel Buddies – Have you considered setting up “travel buddies” where a member may be willing to transport a non-driving member to a meeting or an event? Invite another member to travel with you to your District meeting; it is always better to travel in pairs than alone. Ask a new member or seasoned member if they would be interested in attending Officer and Member Training Institute, Fall/Spring Conferences or Dept. Convention. Share expenses, meet other District/Department Members, and Network on ideas for your Auxiliary.

Communication to all members is important; whether you communicate through newsletters, social media, telephone trees, a text, a “thinking of you” card, or a buddy check. Keep the lines of communication flowing so all members are aware of Auxiliary Activities/Events, District meetings, and Department Conferences. Include a blurb on your “Buzzing Bees” Membership teams’ successes – celebrate your success and have fun doing it.

Recognition - It is important that while we “ask” our members to help with membership, our programs, and events, you are encouraged to recognize your members. Spotlight your members on your Auxiliary social media for all the assistance on a project; send a personal “thank you” note to the members, or small gifts of gratitude. Other ways to recognize your members would be to thank them publicly - Members love seeing themselves in the local newspaper and will be glad to know you thought to mention them in a newspaper article. People love food. If a group of

members is helping prepare or organize an event, order them lunch. If a meal is out of your budget, do something simple like bring snacks, cookies or coffee. This gesture will make them feel appreciated, motivated and energized. Regardless of the way you say “thanks,” it must be relevant, personal and sincere.

Member Resources - Everyone is encouraged to use the Member Resources located behind your MALTA Member login on the VFW Auxiliary National website (vfwauxiliary.org). Under the **Membership** link, you will find toolkits to use to assist our “Busy Bee” membership teams to achieve their goals of recruiting, retaining, and rejoining members. You may order Auxiliary Membership Brochures and Auxiliary Fact Sheets in quantities of 50 each. Submit order forms to: VFW Auxiliary, Attn: Brochure Orders, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111 or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org with “Brochure Order” in the subject line.

Would you “Be My Bumblebee”? – As a simple act of kindness, I encourage members to support the “**Be My Bumblebee**” for a member or members who may need assistance. This is a win-win for the Auxiliary, District, and Department. For each Auxiliary and/or member who is a “Bumblebee” for another member, they will receive a small gift from me at each of the conferences.

Lastly three reminders:

- a. When a new member joins the Auxiliary, ask "How would you like to contribute?" instead of "Do you want to volunteer?" Members like to contribute to the organization's work if it lets them act on what they care about.
- b. Keep a membership form with you as you never know who may be interested in joining – we just need to “Ask”.
- c. For more Membership information, please scan the QR code found below the National Awards for Conferences.

As Bill Gates was quoted to say, “Patience is a key element of success” so for our teams to be successful we must be patient and utilize the tools in our toolkit in securing new members and retaining our current members. We need to embrace change to strengthen our Auxiliaries for their future and the future of our organization. Our future is in everyone’s hands. I ask you to join the Busy Bees Membership Team as *Together Everyone Achieves More*.

I look forward to working with the “Buzzing Bees” membership teams this year as we are *"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy As a Bee Working Together For Our Veterans"*.

Auxiliary “Buzzing Bee” Awards

1. **August Buzzing Bee Award** - Auxiliaries that achieve 75% in membership by August 31st will be placed in a drawing for \$50.00.
2. **October Buzzing Bee Award** - Auxiliaries that achieve 85% in membership by October 31st will be placed in a drawing for \$100.00.
3. **December Buzzing Bee Award** - Auxiliaries that achieve 95% in membership by December 31st will be placed in a drawing for \$100.00.
4. **May Buzzing Bee Award** - Auxiliaries that achieve 100 % Plus 1 by May 31st will be placed in a drawing for **\$200.00** which will be drawn at June Convention.
5. **Busy Bee Year End Officers Award** – Each Auxiliary in the 11 Districts where the President, Secretary, and Treasurers dues have been paid by November 30th will be placed in a drawing for \$50.00.

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.

Individual “Buzzing Bee” Award

The busy “Buzzing Bee” member who recruits and/or rejoins the most members from July 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027, will receive a citation and **\$100** award at June Convention.

District “Buzzing Bee” Awards

Spring Conference Bumble Bee Membership Award - Districts that have achieved 100% by Spring Conference will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$50.00 Membership Award.

June Convention Honey Bee Membership Awards - Districts that have achieved 100% Plus 1 by May 31st will be placed in a drawing for a \$50.00 Membership Award

National Membership Awards

Awards for Members

1. 5 Member Recruiter Pin - Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a 5 Member Recruiter Pin. 5 Member Recruiter Pin will be mailed directly to the recruiter from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters approximately every 2 months after the goal is met.

2. 5 Member Recruiter Drawing - Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered into the 5 Member Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card.

3. National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award - Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

4. National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing - Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered in the National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$400 Visa Gift Card. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

New and/or rejoined members must be recruited to the VFW Auxiliary from **July 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027**. The Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2027.

VFW recruiters must complete the VFW Members Only recruiter form and submit it to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by June 10, 2027.

Membership Award winners No.2, No.3 and No.4 will be announced and the awards will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. If the award winner is not in attendance; the award will be mailed directly to winner from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2027. Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Departments

1. 1st Down Department Award #1: \$400 to each Department that reaches 95% Plus in paid membership by November 30, 2026.
2. 2nd Down Department Award #2: \$450 to each Department that reaches 98% Plus in paid membership by February 28, 2027.
3. 3rd Down Department Award #3: \$500 to each Department that reaches 100% Plus in paid membership by April 30, 2027.
4. Touchdown Department Award #4: \$600 to each Department that reaches 102% Plus in paid membership by May 31, 2027.

Awards for Conferences: \$50 to each Department within the Conference with the highest total percentage by June 30, 2027.

For more information

Scan the QR code:





SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

DEBBY MCCARTHY, CHAIRWOMAN

13775 LEITCHFIELD RD. – EASTVIEW – KY – 42732

PHONE – 270-765-9341 EMAIL – debramccarthy35@gmail.com



CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Let's spread the word on this amazing opportunity! This scholarship is open to **ANY** VFW Auxiliary member who has been a member for at least one (1) year, their spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. The

Continuing Education Scholarship is \$1,250 and is awarded to one (1) winner in each of the four (4) Conferences. Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical, or trade school of the awardee's choice. Entrant **MUST** be at least 21 years of age, complete the application, and submit an essay of 300 words or less.

The application **MUST** be received by **FEBRUARY 15, 2027**.

Mail to: VFW Auxiliary Headquarters Program Awards Administrator
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor Kansas City, MO. 64111

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

3-D CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

These contests are open to all students in grades 9-12. Entries will be judged on Patriotic Theme, Creativity and Technique. One (1) Department winner will be forwarded to the VFW Auxiliary Headquarters. **IMPORTANT:** 3-D entries **MUST** include a photo of their art. All entries **MUST** be received at their local VFW Post by **MARCH 31, 2027**, with judging to be completed by **APRIL 10, 2027**. Department judging to be completed by **APRIL 15, 2027**. Entries will be forwarded to National Headquarters by **MAY 5, 2027**.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST NATIONAL AWARDS:

1ST PLACE - \$15,000, 2ND PLACE - \$7,500, 3RD PLACE - \$4,500, 4TH PLACE - \$4,000, 5TH and 6TH PLACE - \$1,500, 7TH -10TH PLACE - \$1,000, 11TH PLACE - \$750, 12TH – 20TH PLACE - \$500

3-D CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

1ST PLACE - \$2,500, 2ND PLACE - \$1,500, 3RD and 4TH PLACE - \$1,000, 5TH PLACE - \$500

2026 – 2027 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY – Audio Essay Contest

Theme is: “What a Veteran Has Taught Me About America”

The Voice of Democracy is a 3–5-minute audio essay contest that is open to all students in grades 9-12. Students **MUST** be a resident of the state where their essay is entered. One (1) Department winner will be forwarded to the VFW National Headquarters. All entries **MUST** be received at their local VFW Post by **Midnight OCTOBER 31, 2026**. Post judging to be completed by **NOVEMBER 15, 2026**. District judging will be completed by **DECEMBER 15, 2026**. Department judging will be completed by **JANUARY 10, 2027**. The Department winner will be forwarded to the VFW National Headquarters by **JANUARY 15, 2027**.

NATIONAL AWARDS

1ST PLACE - \$35,000 Scholarship, 2ND PLACE - \$21,000 Scholarship, 3RD PLACE - \$1,500 Scholarship, 4TH – 36th PLACE - \$7,000 to \$1,500 Scholarship, 37TH – 53RD PLACE - \$1,000 Scholarship. The 1ST PLACE winner will also enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Valley Forge for the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership Program.

2026-2027 PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST
Theme is: "What a Veteran Has Taught Me About America"

The Patriot's Pen is a 300-400 word written essay contest that is open to all students in grades 6-8. Students **MUST** be a resident of the state where their essay is entered. One (1) Department winner will be forwarded to the VFW National Headquarters. All entries **MUST** be received at their local VFW Post by **Midnight, OCTOBER 31, 2026**, with Post judging to be completed by **NOVEMBER 15, 2026**. District judging will be completed by **DECEMBER 15, 2026**. One (1) winner will be forwarded to the Department level with judging to be completed by **JANUARY 10, 2027**. The Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters by **JANUARY 15, 2027**.

NATIONAL AWARDS

1ST PLACE - \$5,000, 2ND PLACE - \$4,000, 3RD PLACE - \$3,500, 4TH – 53RD PLACE - \$2,750 - \$500

Reach out to your local schools, private institutions, churches, parent organizations and other youth groups. The scholarship program offers significant financial support for higher education, covering tuition and related expenses. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote Patriotism while aiding students in achieving their full potential.

Let's focus on celebrating talented students who participated in our contests at every level by "**rolling out the Red Carpet**" for them! They have worked hard and deserve for us to shine a spotlight on their writing and artwork!

Scholarships are available for students in grades 6-12, to include those enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools, or who are home schooled in the United States and its territories.

For application forms and detailed rules for all contests, please contact Department Chairwoman, Debby McCarthy or online at www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

A Citation and \$25 to One (1) Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the Most Outstanding "Red Carpet" event/celebration honoring VFW and VFW Auxiliary Scholarship participants. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Chairman by **MARCH 31, 2027**, for judging. The Department Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the National Ambassador by **APRIL 30, 2027**, for judging.

**DEPARTMENT AWARDS in all 4 contests: YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE
PATRIOTIC ART / 3-D CREATIVE PATRIOT ART / V.O.D. / PATRIOT'S PEN**

1ST PLACE - \$150 and a Plaque, 2ND PLACE - \$100, 3RD PLACE - \$50

DEPARTMENT AWARDS ARE LISTED ON PAGE FOUR (4) OF THIS GUIDEBOOK

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



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Kim Cavallo, Chairman

61-58 71st Street ~ Middle, Village, NY 11379

Telephone: (516) 458-3930 ~ Email: kcavallo1920@gmail.com

I am proud and excited to be returning as your Veterans and Family Support Chairperson for the upcoming year! The heart of our work in the VFW Auxiliary has always been the same: to honor, support, and uplift the Veterans who have given so much to our nation. Many of us joined this organization because we wanted to give back in a meaningful way — to say thank you, to stand beside our Veterans, and to support their families who share in their sacrifices. As we begin the new year, that commitment remains at the center of everything we do. United in purpose and driven by gratitude, we continue to find new and impactful ways to serve those who have served us.

Our focus for this year is **“Busy as a Bee Working Together for our Veterans.”** We will continue many of the successful initiatives already in place, including the ever-popular Holiday Cheer/Trees for Our Troops program, which has made such a meaningful impact over the years. At the same time, we’ll be exploring opportunities to introduce new projects that strengthen our support for veterans and their families. As I begin another year as your chairperson, I welcome your ideas and suggestions — working together is how we make this program stronger and more effective.

Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention

Sadly, many of our veterans continue to return home carrying invisible wounds — heavy hearts, difficult memories, and challenges that are not always easy to see. Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and mental health awareness are the focus of the National Ambassador’s program this year. On the Department level we will continue to promote and remain committed to raising awareness in our communities and helping to break the stigma surrounding mental health. Your local VA Medical Center is an excellent resource for information on programs and services available in your area.

In September (National Suicide Prevention month), we will continue to work alongside the VFW to host **“Stop 22”** events across the state. These events help bring attention to the ongoing crisis of veteran suicide and proceeds directly support the VA’s Suicide Prevention Programs. The **Veterans Crisis Line** remains a vital resource for veterans, their families, and friends. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Please continue to educate your communities about this service: **Call 988, then press 1.**

Holiday Cheer / Trees for Our Troops

We will once again be partnering with the Department VFW this year to send trees, decorations, and menorahs to our troops overseas. Each tree is \$25. Please complete the form included in the President’s Packet and return it to me by the deadline indicated.

“In Lieu of Cards”

We will again be creating a special card to accompany the trees, menorahs, and decorations sent to our troops overseas for the holiday season. This card is a meaningful reminder that our active-duty service members are not forgotten. It will be available for signatures at OMTI and Fall Conference for a donation of \$5 per signature.

National Veterans Service (NVS)

This program provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who assist veterans and their families in navigating the VA system and obtaining the benefits they are eligible to receive. Support NVS by contributing through the Department of New York Donation Report Form found in our guidebook or on our website.

VFW Veterans and Military Support Program (VMS)

Started by the VFW, this program serves active-duty and recently discharged military members. It consists of three key components:

- **Military Assistance Program (MAP):** Provides financial assistance to Posts, Districts, and Departments to sponsor events for active-duty military, including help with postage and care packages. For guidelines, contact the office at (816) 756-3390.
- **Unmet Needs:** Offers grants of up to \$1,500 to eligible veterans, service members, and military families.
- **Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship:** Awards up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to support their educational goals. Visit vfw.org/student-veterans-support for details.

Support this program by contributing through the Department of New York Donation Report Form found in our guidebook or on our website.

Fall Department Conference

- **“In Lieu of Cards”:** Sign our giant card. A \$5 donation allows you to sign and write a brief message that will accompany the Trees for Troops.
- **Participate in Stop 22:** Help raise awareness of suicide prevention and mental health. We will be holding an event at this conference — plan to join us.
- **Holiday Cheer / Trees for Our Troops:** Donate \$25 for a tree, menorah, or decorations.

Spring Department Conference

- Promote VFW programs: Unmet Needs, Service Officers, MAP, Scholarships.

Awards

- **National Awards:** Visit the National VFW Auxiliary website for criteria and entry forms.
- **Department Awards:** Year-End Report due April 1st to Chairman Kim Cavallo.



**“Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay
“Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”!**





VFW National Home Program



Karen Scheuneman, Department Chairman

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

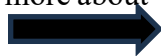
On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans and look forward to the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond. Join us in celebrating American's Semi quincennial by sharing the mission of the VFW National Home:

“The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.”

The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to American's Veterans by helping our Nation's struggling military and Veterans families. Today, these families face different challenge. Just to name a few: reintegration, post-traumatic stress, and high unemployment. Over the decades, the VFW National Home has adapted their programs and services to provide the essential assistance that these families need to grow and thrive. The VFW National Home is a place of support, growth, and community for Veteran and military families and continues to evolve to meet these needs.

The foundational program of the VFW National Home is its *Red, White and Blue Program* where families may accomplish significant life goals. This program helps families succeed with case management services, educational, recreational and enrichment opportunities and free housing and childcare. A Home where children may learn and grow and for families to heal. For additional information, visit: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/get-help/>

The “premiere program” of the VFW National Home is its Military and Veteran *HELPLINE*. A free service that offers information, creates connections, provides counsel and support, and gives hope to those in need. Access the *Gateway* to the various programs provided by the VFW National Home by calling 1 (800) 313 – 4200.

The VFW National Home remains dedicated to ensuring that military and Veteran families have the support, resources, and community they deserve. To learn more about the National Home, visit <https://vfwnationalhome.org> or scan the QR code. 



Additional history and informational materials of the VFW National Home will be shared through the various media of the Department of New York Facebook page, the *Auxiliary News* and email promotions. Having the VFW National Home Program education will **Prepare** you to **Promote** publicity for **Participation** from your Auxiliary members and community.

Thanks to your participation and generosity, Veterans and their families will continue to have a welcoming place to live—along with the support and stability they need to grow and move forward together. Your contributions create opportunities, fuel goal achievements, and make a lasting difference in the lives of the Veterans and families we serve. Please continue to support and promote the VFW National Home Program through:

1. Sign-up to receive the VFW National Home *The Home Front* and blog.

- To receive the latest communications and events notifications.
- Share the News with Auxiliary members and your community!
- Visit: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/news/blog/>



2. Become a Life Member.

- Create a lasting bond between yourself and the mission of the VFW National Home.
- Visit: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Membership-Application-2026.pdf> or scan the QR code for more information.



Join Now!

3. Contribute to the Health & Happiness Fund.

- To benefit children residing on VFW National Home campus with the purchase of Christmas and Graduation gifts, maintenance of VFW Auxiliary-sponsored buildings, emergency repairs and renovations.
- Requested donation of \$0.10 or more per member based on June 30, 2026, membership statistics.
- Remit this gift by utilizing the MALTA system under Treasurer's Duties or mail a check earmarked "Health & Happiness" to:

VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
ATTN: HEALTH & HAPPINESS DONATIONS
406 W 34TH STREET 10TH FLOOR
KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

- Must be processed by National Headquarters to receive program participation credit.

4. Department of New York VFW Auxiliary National Home Honey Bee Challenge:

- Seeking monetary donations to create a VFW National Home Early Education Center "Bee" Teaching Unit.
- To provide "Bee" theme books, educational toys, classroom décor and children's beekeeping accessories.
- Please remit your donation check, earmarked "NHHB Challenge", to Kim White, Department of New York Treasurer.

5. Focusing on educating members and community about the *Red, White and Blue Program*.

- Encourage those who may need assistance to call 1 (800) 424-8360.
- The goal is to fill all 43 homes with families.

Fall Conference:

"Flight of the Bumble Bee" ~ After the VFW National Home Presentation, District Presidents will quietly fly to Auxiliary members to exchange **"Honey for your Money"** to benefit the VFW National Home.

National Awards:

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home. Detailed criteria and entry form (required) is available at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources> Auxiliaries must submit the entry form to Department VFW National Home Program Chairman prior to deadline of March 31, 2027, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Awards: For the criteria of Auxiliary and District awards, please refer to page 4.

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



Youth Activities Program

Lori Juskiewicz, Department Chairman

30 White Dr. Milan, NY 12571

Phone: 917-780-8229 Email: lori@vfw7765.org

The VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Program empowers young people to explore patriotism, leadership, and community service through creative, hands-on experiences. We work to inspire the next generation to honor veterans, support their communities, and discover the pride that comes from giving back.

Lending Library

Start a lending library to bring books to children in your community, especially where no local libraries exist. Auxiliaries can create small libraries where kids can borrow books, placing them in **approved** locations such as outside the Post, community centers, and ballfields. You can purchase or build your library. Stock it using the Patriotism Through Literacy reading list.

Make sure you have a range of reading levels.

Tips for success:

- Take a book, share a book
- Host a youth reading event at your Post
- Ask Scouts, youth groups, or school clubs to help build and maintain the library
- Use #auxlendinglibrary to promote your project



Patriotism through Literacy

Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning.

- Volunteer to read a historical or creative nonfiction picture book to kids at your local library
- Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries
- Host a Read-A-Thon

R.A.P.

Recognizing youth for their **R**andom **A**cts of **P**atriotism is simple and meaningful. Keep R.A.P. cards on hand to give out immediately when you witness a patriotic act.

Patriotic Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members, and their families. A fillable, printable version of the awards is available in MALTA>member resources>youth activities.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations

These citations are one way to recognize youth groups for their projects honoring veterans, service members, and/or their families. The citation is available in MALTA>Member Resources>Youth Activities

Involve Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs

Encourage involvement from an early age in all VFW auxiliary programs. Teach youth about VFW auxiliary efforts to respect and take pride in our country.

Project Examples:

- Marching in patriotic holiday parades.
- Help veterans, service members and their families with yard work or household repairs.
- Send cards or small gifts to the VFW National Home to support families.
- Plan a card/letter writing event to send mail to our troops overseas or veterans and VA facilities.

Illustrating America

Illustrating America is an art contest for K–8 students enrolled in public, private, parochial, or home schools who are U.S. citizens or nationals (foreign exchange students and those 16+ are not eligible). The contest has three grade groups: K–2, 3–5, and 6–8. Entries are judged on patriotic theme and technique.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Due dates have changed for the 2026-2027 program year. The new schedule is:

***December 15, 2026:** Entries due to sponsoring Auxiliary/Post

***January 1, 2027: (Optional)** 1st place winners in each grade division from participating Auxiliary/Post due to District for judging.

***January 15, 2027:** 1st place winners from each participating Auxiliary/Post due to the Department.

***January 31, 2027:** Department 1st place winners in each grade division must be received by National Headquarters.

For all contest rules please visit the National Website or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

National Awards for Auxiliaries: A citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

Department Awards: Auxiliary awards for the Youth Activities Program can be found on page 4.

DON'T FORGET THAT REPORTS ARE DUE BY THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH!!!

“Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay **“Busy as a Bee working together for our Veterans”**





Ways and Means Program

Cathy Howard, Chairman

9781 Welsh District Rd, Remsen, NY 13438

Telephone: 315-796-2428 ~ Email: cthoward1994@gmail.com

Many members ask "What is Ways and Means?" The answer is simple: The **Ways and Means** Program is all about raising funds, which are used to help offset the operating costs of the Department of New York VFW Auxiliary. This program is one way to ensure that we have a successful year.

9-Month Calendar Raffle

- Monthly **\$100** drawings, beginning at the Fall Conference, and each month thereafter, November thru May. A final **\$200** drawing will be held at the June 2027 Department Convention.
- Each ticket is **\$5**. The seller of each winning ticket will receive **\$20**.
- Each President's package will include (10) 9-month raffle tickets and a self-addressed envelope.
- Please make sure the tickets are legible and be sure to include the name of the seller.
- Winners need not be present to win.
- Make checks payable to: **VFW Auxiliary Dept of NY** and earmark "**Ways and Means 9-Month Raffle**"
- Return stubs and check(s) to **Cathy Howard**, Chairman.

Shoot for the Green \$\$ Raffle

- A total of \$5000 will be given away with 15 chances to win: (1) \$1500, (1) \$1000, (3) \$500, (10) \$100
- All drawings and winners will be announced at the June 2027 Department Convention.
- Tickets are **\$20** each or **\$40 for 3 (in other words, buy 2 get 1 free)**.
- Tickets will be available at the Fall Conference through the June 2027 Department Convention. Every Auxiliary and District will receive tickets that can be purchased by members, family, and friends.
- Winners need not be present to win.
- Make checks payable to: **VFW Auxiliary Dept of NY** and earmark "**Shoot for the Green Raffle**"
- Return stubs and check(s) to **Cathy Howard**, Chairman.

Fall Conference ~ Spring Conference

- **Scratch-Off Lottery Ticket Raffle:** Each Auxiliary and District is requested to donate **\$10** in scratch-off lottery tickets for **each** of the conferences, Fall and Spring. Raffle tickets will be available at the conferences to win the Scratch-Offs.
- **Mystery Prize Raffles:** At both Fall and Spring Conferences there will be a mystery item(s) to be raffled off. Be sure to check out the Ways and Means table for the '**mystery**' raffle.

Golf Tournament

- ***Tee-It-Up*** for the Ways and Means Golf Tournament, August 8th, Cedars Golf Course, Lowville, NY.
- Even if you don't golf, you can sponsor a hole or donate a raffle item.
- Details were sent to each Auxiliary and District separately.

REMEMBER: All proceeds from the Ways and Means Program benefits our Department. Auxiliaries will receive participation/donation credit on the program report form. Also, there is no Year-End Report to complete. But if you notice your Auxiliary didn't receive credit, please contact Chairman Cathy Howard by phone or email.

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



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
AMERICANISM PROGRAM

YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Rebecca Sweet, Department Chairman
540 West Mountain Rd., Queensbury, NY 12804
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
sweetnana32003@yahoo.com
518.879.6735

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. Describe how you promoted, participated in and/or recognized any patriotic holiday and/or branch of service birthdays.

2. How many American Flags (including "Flag Rockets" did your Auxiliary distribute? _____

3. How many POW/MIA Flags did your Auxiliary distribute? _____

4. How may patriotic citations, Certificates of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag citations did you present to citizens or businesses proudly displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA flag and/or any other display of American pride? _____

5. Did your Auxiliary donate to or participate in the following?

- Wreaths Across America Y/N \$ _____
- Honor Flight Y/N \$ _____

6. Did your Auxiliary create any "POP" (Point of Purchase) signs/memes? Y/N

How many? _____

Where did you display them? _____

* Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most Unique POP sign and/or meme showcasing the VFW Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
“BUDDY” ® POPPY PROGRAM

YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Flora Becker, Department Chairman
201 Fall St. Apt. 114, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
Loveourveterans17@yahoo.com
315.521.2675

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. Did your Auxiliary host a VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy drive? **Y / N**
 1. **WITH/WITHOUT POST** (circle one)
2. Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most outstanding activity for an event to educate your community about the VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy Program.
3. How many “Buddy” ® Poppies did your Auxiliary distribute? _____
4. Did your Auxiliary participate in the VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy display contest? **Y / N**
 - If yes, what category did you enter? _____

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM

YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Lisa Raplee, Department Chairman
4259 State Route 226, Dundee, NY 14837
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
lisavfwaux2425@outlook.com
607.368.1435

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. Did your Auxiliary communicate at least quarterly to each of your members via email, mail, text or phone call? **Y / N**
2. Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page or website with your post? **Y / N**
3. Did your Auxiliary hold a Media Relations, "How To" training to educate your members on the following:
 - MALTA **Y / N**
 - E-Mail **Y / N**
 - Social Media **Y / N**
4. Did your Auxiliary create a digital record of your VFW Auxiliary history and publish it on a digital platform (such as You-Tube, Facebook, etc.) **Y / N**

If so which platform (include a link if possible)? _____

* Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most unique digital record of your Auxiliary history since being established.

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
HOSPITAL PROGRAM
YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Marie-Aymee K. Fisk, Department Chairman
226 State Route 86, Paul Smiths, NY 12970
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
makfisk@gmail.com
518.354.3037

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. How many Auxiliary members volunteer at any VA or non-VA medical facility? (Auxiliary members may only be counted ONE time only per year)? _____
2. What are the total number of hours that Auxiliary members volunteered at any VA or non-VA medical facility? _____
3. Total number of hours SPONSORED non-member and/or students who volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and/supervision at any VA or non-VA medical facility: _____
4. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host any activity with your Post at any VA or non-VA medical facility? **Y/N**
*Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).
5. Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects: \$ _____

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Tina Roberts, Department Chairman
1215 Crawford Rd, Dundee, NY 14837
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
tinaroberts@frontiernet.net

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate in, and/or co-host activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals with or without your Post? **Y / N**
WITH/WITHOUT POST (circle one)

2. How did your Auxiliary promote the Action Corps Weekly and increase the sign-ups within your Auxiliary and Community? _____

3. How did your Auxiliary Promote the VFW Priority Goals?

4. How many VFW Auxiliary members contacted Legislators on Veterans issues by any means? (example: emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.) _____

5. How many VFW Auxiliary members attended events where they could interact with Legislators? (example: legislative conferences, town halls, meet-and-greets, etc.) _____

6. How many different Auxiliary members were educated on Legislation that affects Veterans? _____
What types of materials were used? _____

7. How many times during the year did your Auxiliary organize, speak with, or contact Congressmen and/Senators regarding Veteran concerns? _____

What were the issues advocated? _____

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Debby McCarthy, Department Chairman
13775 Leitchfield Rd, Eastview, KY. 42732
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
debramccarthy35@gmail.com

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Continuing Education Scholarship Contest? Examples include:
Distributed applications, publicized, contacted schools, etc. **Y / N**

YOUNG AMERICAN AND 3-D CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTESTS

7. Did your Auxiliary promote the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest? **Y / N**
8. Did your Auxiliary promote the 3-D Creative Patriotic Art Contest? **Y / N**
9. Number of Entries submitted to the Auxiliary for judging: **Young American** _____ **3-D** _____

VFW SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Did your Auxiliary assist the Post in promoting and/or conducting the VFW National Patriot's
Pen Essay Contest? **Y / N**
2. Did your Auxiliary assist the Post in promoting and/or conducting the VFW National Voice of
Democracy Audio Essay Contest? **Y / N**

RECOGNITION

1. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host an awards ceremony with the VFW to recognize Awardees and
Participants in any/all contests? **Y / N** Did you roll out the "Red Carpet" **Y / N**
* Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most
outstanding "Red Carpet" event/celebration honoring the VFW and VFW Scholarship participants.
2. Total Dollar Amount and/or Value of awards presented by your Auxiliary in all contests:
\$ _____

DONATIONS

1. Did your Auxiliary donate to the National Continuing Education Scholarship Fund? **Y / N**
Total Amount Donated \$ _____
2. Did your Auxiliary donate to the National Young American and/or 3-D Creative Patriotic Art
Contests? **Y / N**
Total Amount Donated: **Young American** \$ _____ **3-D** \$ _____ **GRAND TOTAL:** \$ _____

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Kim Cavallo, Department Chairman
61-58 71st St., Middle Village, NY 11379
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
kcavallo920@gmail.com
516.458.3930

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, host, or co-host with your Post activities for **ANY** VFW Program? Examples include Disaster Relief, Military Assistance Program (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Awareness. **Y/N**
 - a. Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most
 - b. outstanding promotions of VFW resources for veterans, service members and their families.
2. Did your Auxiliary provide direct aid to veterans, service members, and/or their families? Examples include meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc. **Y/N**
3. What is the approximate number of veterans, service members, and/or their families that your Auxiliary assisted? _____ (this should be the totals from your monthly reports)
4. What is the total amount of monetary donations and/or value of donations provided by your Auxiliary? \$ _____ (this should be the totals from your monthly reports)
5. Did your Auxiliary participate in the following?
6. Trees for our Troops **Y/N**
7. In Lieu of Cards **Y/N**
8. Stop 22 Event **Y/N**

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY
VFW NATIONAL HOME
YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Karen Scheuneman, Department Chairman
126 Vista Dr., Arcade, NY 14009
****Please allow extra time if mailing****
wstock90@yahoo.com
585.492.1994

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. Did your Auxiliary create an activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the National Home is?

Y / N

WITH/WITHOUT POST

* Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most Creative activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home.

2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home *Red, White and Blue Program* and/or the *Three Avenues of Eligibility* through education and/or publicity?

Y / N

WITH/WITHOUT POST

3. Did your Auxiliary promote the National Home Military & Veteran Helpline?

Y / N

WITH/WITHOUT POST (circle one)

4. Did your Auxiliary or auxiliary member purchase a VFW National Home Life Membership in the current year?

Y / N

If yes, how many? _____

5. Did your Auxiliary or auxiliary member purchase a Commemorative or Centennial Garden Brick?

Y / N

If yes, how many? _____

6. Did your Auxiliary donate to the VFW Auxiliary Department of New York VFW National Home Honey Bee Challenge? **Y / N**

If yes, amount donated \$ _____

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



DEPARTMENT OF NY VFW AUXILIARY

YOUTH PROGRAM

YEAR END REPORT 2026-2027

****MUST REACH DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN BY APRIL 1, 2027****

Lori Juskiewicz, Department Chairman

30 White Dr., Milan, NY 12571

****Please allow extra time if mailing****

lori@vfw7765.org

917.780.8229

Auxiliary Name: _____ Post# _____ District # _____

1. How may youth groups did your Auxiliary work with during the program year? _____

2. How many youths did your Auxiliary work with during the program year? _____

3. Did your Auxiliary award any Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans citations? **Y / N**
How many? _____

PATRIOTISM THOUGH LITERACY

1. Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism Through Literacy? **Y / N**

2. How many books did your Auxiliary donate though the program? _____

LENDING LIBRARY

1. Did your Auxiliary build or purchase a Lending Library in your community? **Y / N**
How many Auxiliary members participated? _____

*Remember to complete the award application found on MALTA to be considered for a National Award for most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Illustrating Art Contest? **Y / N**

2. How many students participated? _____

3. Did your Auxiliary host an Awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants? **Y / N**

4. What is the total Dollar Amount Awarded? \$ _____

Auxiliary Chairman: _____

Chairman Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

“Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”

Auxiliary President's Year End Report ~Must be Postmarked or emailed by April 15, 2027

Send Report to: Belinda Cole, Department President

6 Beech Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839 (518) 260-1694 bcolenyvfwa@gmail.com

Auxiliary Name: _____ Auxiliary # _____ District # _____

How many Auxiliary Meetings were held since Installation? Regular _____ Special _____ # You Presided over _____
Membership total as of June 30, 2026? _____ Membership total as of April 1, 2027? _____

During the **2026-2027** year, which **"Department"** functions did you attend?

Department Convention Y / N **OTI** Y / N **Fall Conference** Y / N **Spring Conference** Y / N

District Meetings _____ (# attended) (By President and/or Representative)

Did you promote MALTA and encourage your auxiliary members to create a MALTA account? Y / N

Did your Auxiliary Participate in the Department President's Special Project "Helmets to Hives"? Y / N (If you held a special function, please provide a description of your function)

Did your Auxiliary promote the National President's and National Commander in Chief's Special Project "Operation Bring Them Home"? Y / N

Are the Four Quarterly Audits completed, approved, and sent to the Department Treasurer for the dates below? (Y/N for each of the below)

Qtr2 ~ 4/1-6/30/2026 _____ Qtr3 ~ 7/1-9/2026 _____ Qtr4 ~ 10/1-12/31/2026 _____ Qtr1 ~ 1/1-3/31/2027 _____

Communications ~

A) Did you communicate with your District President when needed? Y / N

B) Did your secretary read ALL communications received from the Department /District Secretary? Y / N

C) Circle the ways you communicated with members of your auxiliary - newsletters, email, telephone, USPS mail

Training ~ Did your Auxiliary attend a Membership Training session? Y/N

Indicate the number of members who attended each session: Dept OMTI _____ District _____ Other _____

Was **"Recognizing an Unhealthy Auxiliary"** Presentation part of the training? Y / N

Did your Auxiliary or Members attend the Zoom Trainings? Y / N

Least Informative? _____ Most Informative? _____

Did your Auxiliary participate in a joint VFW / VFW Auxiliary Department level project in addition to the National Scholarships programs? Example: Stop 22 Walk Y/N

Auxiliaries are encouraged to focus on at least **three** of their favorite programs. Indicate the three your Auxiliary MOST focused on: _____

Describe your most impactful project: _____

****Required by National~** Auxiliaries **MUST** complete at least one project, activity, or donation that directly benefits Veterans. Briefly describe your auxiliary's project, activity, or donation. _____

Leadership ~ Explain how you enjoyed your year as Auxiliary President. What was your personal favorite program? Describe your greatest accomplishment this year? _____

You may use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space for any of your responses.

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

President _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Phone _____ Email _____

“Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans”

District _____ President's Year End Report ~Must be Postmarked or emailed by April 15, 2027
send Report to: Belinda Cole, Department President
6 Beech Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12839
(518) 260-1694 bcolenyvfw@gmail.com

How many District Meetings held since Installation? Regular _____ Special _____ # you presided over _____
How many Auxiliaries in your District did **you** visit? _____ out of _____
Membership total as of June 30, 2026? _____ Membership total as of April 1, 2027? _____
Did your District reach 100% in Membership? Y / N Did your District reach 100 plus in Membership? Y / N
Did you encourage your auxiliaries to become 100%? Y / N and how did you accomplish this? _____

During 2026-2027 which "Department" functions did you attend? (Circle Y or N)

2027 Department Convention Y / N ~ 2026 OMTI Y / N ~ 2026 Fall Conference Y / N ~ 2027 Spring Conference Y / N
Did you hold a District Mentoring Session? Y / N. How many members attended? _____ representing how many auxiliaries? _____ What topics did you cover? _____

Audits ~ How many Auxiliaries in your District are current with quarterly audits? _____ Did you provide assistance to those behind? Y / N

Communications ~

- A) Did you communicate with the Advisor to the District President's when needed? Y/N
- B) Circle the ways you communicate on a monthly basis with all of your Auxiliaries - email, newsletter, telephone, USPS mail
- C) Are all communications from Department, National, and District shared with your Auxiliaries? Y / N
- D) Do you communicate with the Auxiliaries after reviewing the Program Coordinators Report for your District and provide guidance to auxiliaries if necessary? Y / N

Official Visits ~

Did your District conduct a School of Instruction for Official Visits/ Inspectors? Y / N
Were ALL Auxiliary Official Visits/Inspections completed for your District by January 15, 2027? Y / N

Membership ~ Unhealthy Auxiliary and MALTA:

Did your District hold a "Recognizing an Unhealthy Auxiliary" presentation during your Mentoring Session or at a meeting? Y / N

How did your District promote the use of MALTA? _____

Programs ~

Describe how you and your chairmen promoted the National and Department Programs to Auxiliaries within your District.

Leadership ~ Describe your greatest accomplishment as District President. _____

“Serving America’s Heroes” because we stay “Busy as a Bee working Together for our Veterans.”

You may use a separate sheet of paper if you need more space for any of your responses.

President _____ Date ____/____/____

Phone _____ Email _____

Cancer Grant Application

Instructions:

- * Member must meet eligibility requirements below.
- * Member and Physician sections must be completed legibly and in their entirety. If member is unable to sign, a Power of Attorney (POA) may sign. If POA signs, then POA documentation must be submitted.
- * If the member is deceased, next of kin may submit application with documentation of proof of death such as obituary, doctor's letter, death certificate, etc. Application and proof of death must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters within 30 days of member's passing.
- * Grants will ONLY be made payable to the VFW Auxiliary member.
- * Do NOT send any other supporting documents, as it will not be considered.
- * **Mail** original, completed application to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Cancer Grants
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111



Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Applicant must be a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) full year and current dues must be paid.
- 2) After twelve (12) months have passed from date of diagnosis or last treatment, application will be rejected.
- 3) A member is allowed two grants during lifetime.

*Twelve (12) months must elapse between new diagnosis and/or treatment from date of first grant.
 Continuous treatment which lasts beyond the twelve (12) month period may qualify for a second grant.*

THIS SECTION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY MEMBER	THIS SECTION IS TO BE FILLED OUT BY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN
Membership ID #	Type of cancer diagnosed
Auxiliary Post #	Date diagnosed with this cancer (MM/DD/YYYY)
Member's Name (as shown on membership card)	Last date of treatment for this cancer (MM/DD/YYYY)
Date of Birth (MM/DD/ YYYY)	Physician's Office / Hospital Name
Email Address	Phone Number
Phone Number	Physician's Name
Street Address	Street Address
City, State and ZIP Code	City, State and ZIP Code
Date Member Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)	Date Physician Signed (MM/DD/YYYY)
Member's Signature	Physician's Signature

***By submission of this application, you grant authority for the VFW Auxiliary to contact the attending physician.
 If grant is approved, funds must be deposited within six months or the grant is forfeited. REV. 6-18***

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Please print legibly. An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, D or E and H,I. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section B,F,G.

A	APPLICATION INFORMATION		
Name ☐ Female ☐ Male			
Address Date of Birth / /			
City State ZIP Phone () - Email			
B	Auxiliary Post No. City State		
☐ New Member ☐ Transferring Member ☐ Rejoining Member (Prior Member ID Number)			
☐ Member at Large in Department of ☐ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters			
C	(Transfer only information) ☐ ANNUAL TRANSFER ☐ LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER		
Member ID Previous Auxiliary ☐ Paying ☐ Nonpaying			
D	☐ POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)		
I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)			
VFW Membership ID VFW Post (Must be same as B)			
E	☐ NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)		
I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)			
Name of campaign ribbons or medals:			
Dates of Service: to Foreign Location:			
F	Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID		
Check one: Aux ☐ VFW ☐			
G	Investigating Committee Signatures		
1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒			
Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. ☐ Rejected ☐ Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date			
H	☐ Annual Membership ☐ Life Membership ☐ Check here if this is a gift (Membership card will be sent to Treasurer and not member.)		
Payment Method and Amount: Cash Check Credit Card ***			
***If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided above for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days or otherwise the application will be voided. If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please list your phone number and email address below to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed.			
Phone Email			
I	OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.		
Signature ☒ Date			
(Must be signed by all members.)			
By filling out this application and providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from the VFW Auxiliary. The communications may include updates, promotions, and other information related to our services. Communications may be in the form of e-mails, SMS text messages, and/or automated calls. You understand that these communications may be sent using an automated telephone dialer system. Standard message and data rates may apply. You can opt-out at any time by following the instructions provided in the communications. No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes.			

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

Revised January 2026



AUXILIARY / OFFICER / MEMBER CHANGE / MEMBER DEATH REPORT

CURRENT DATE: _____

AUXILIARY No. _____ DISTRICT No. _____ MEMBERSHIP ID No. _____

MEMBER'S NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

CURRENT ADDRESS _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE No. HOME: _____ CELL: _____

INDICATE INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE UPDATED (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ CHANGE OF MEMBER
☐ CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS
☐ CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NO.
☐ CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS
☐ DEATH OF Date _____

☐ CHANGE OF OFFICER HELD
 CHANGE FROM: _____ NAME OF PREVIOUS OFFICER _____ INDICATE OFFICE
 CHANGE TO: _____ NAME OF NEW OFFICER _____ INDICATE OFFICE HELD

NOTE: NEW TREASURER MUST FILE IRS FORM 8822 B WITHIN 60 DAYS
CONTACT DEPT. SECRETARY CHRIS LEAVOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

☐ CHANGE OF MEETING DAY AND/OR TIME
 PREVIOUS MEETING DAY/TIME _____ NEW MEETING DAY/TIME _____

☐ CHANGE OF ANNUAL DUES: PREVIOUS DUES \$ _____ NEW DUES AMOUNT \$ _____

☐ CHANGE OF NAME
 FORMER NAME: FIRST _____ LAST _____
 NEW NAME: FIRST _____ LAST _____

FEE FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD: \$5.00 FOR ANNUAL MEMBER – \$10.00 FOR LIFE MEMBER
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NY EARMARKED "REPLACE CARD."

☐ REPLACE LOST MEMBERSHIP CARD/ THE EASIEST AND FASTEST WAY TO GET A NEW CARD IS TO DO SO THROUGH YOUR OWN MALTA ACCOUNT
FEE FOR REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARD: \$5.00 FOR ANNUAL MEMBER – \$10.00 FOR LIFE MEMBER
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NY EARMARKED "REPLACE CARD."

SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:
DEPARTMENT SECRETARY Amber Sullivan
2 Donna Lane ~ Binghamton, NY 13903
EMAIL: AMBER.VFWA@GMAIL.COM – TELEPHONE: (607) 245-6106

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK – QUARTERLY AUDIT REPORT

Auxiliary Name: _____ Aux No.: _____

District No.: _____ Audit Period: From: _____ To: _____

FUND	BALANCE LAST AUDIT	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	FINAL BALANCE THIS AUDIT
GENERAL				
RELIEF				
RESTRICTED				
TOTALS				**

1. Bank Balance Shown on Current Statement \$ _____
2. **PLUS** Deposits Not Shown on Statements + \$ _____
3. Sub Total = \$ _____
4. **LESS** Outstanding Checks (# of outstanding checks _____)– \$ _____
5. TOTAL BANK BALANCE = ** \$ _____
6. Other Funds: Savings, CD's, etc. \$ _____ \$ _____ = + \$ _____
7. **TOTAL ALL FUNDS** = \$ _____

(** Note: This figure must match Final Balance This Audit)

Date of Last Membership Transmittal or Entry in MALTA _____

This is to certify that the books of the Secretary and Treasurer have been audited and found to be Correct and all monies are properly accounted for. AUDITED THIS DATE: _____	Trustee # 1 _____ Trustee # 2 _____ Trustee # 3 _____
---	---

Section 814—Trustees, Duties of (All Levels)

- All Audits are to be completed by the elected Trustees •with a minimum of two (2) in attendance. At least one (1) must be an elected Trustee.
- Any negligence on the part of the Trustees in carrying out the mandates of this section, or in attending audits, shall make them individually and collectively responsible, with any others, for any discrepancy.
- A signed copy of the accepted audit shall be forwarded to:
Kimberly White, Department Treasurer – 1799 Fred Road – Schenectady, NY 12303
- A copy of the accepted audit shall be included in the minutes record book.

<u>1st Quarter Audit</u>	<u>2nd Quarter Audit</u>	<u>3rd Quarter Audit</u>	<u>4th Quarter Audit</u>
January / February / March Sent to Dept. Treasurer No later than May 31	April / May / June Sent to Dept. Treasurer No later than August 31	July / August / September Sent to Dept. Treasurer No later than November 30	October/November/December Sent to Dept. Treasurer No later than February 28

•Note: Second Quarter Audit – Both outgoing and incoming Treasurers and Trustees should be present.

Revised August 14, 2019

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



2026-2027 AUXILIARY NEWS Order Form

PLEASE PRINT

[Presidents on all levels receive one (1) complimentary subscription.]

(NAME) AUX No. _____

(ADDRESS) (CITY) (ST) (ZIP)

(E-MAIL) (AREA CODE/PHONE)

\$15 Per Subscription (Includes 6 printed editions). Check #: _____

**Make Check Payable to: VFW Aux Dept of NY
Earmark "Auxiliary News"**

**Mail *Auxiliary News* Subscription Order Form AND Check to
Deborah A. Fucina~ 980 Beach Rd ~ Cheektowaga, NY 14225
Questions? Contact Editor Debb Fucina, debbs95ss@verizon.net, 716.472.4784**

2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDEBOOK Order Form

PLEASE PRINT

[Presidents on all levels receive one (1) complimentary guidebook.]



(NAME) AUX No. _____

(ADDRESS) (CITY) (ST)
(ZIP)

(E-MAIL) (AREA CODE/PHONE)

No. of Guidebooks _____ @ \$7 each = \$____ Check #: _____

**Make Check Payable to: VFW Aux Dept of NY
Earmark "Guidebook"**

**Mail Guidebook Order Form AND Check to:
Amber Sullivan ~ 2 Donna Ln. ~ Binghamton, NY 13903
Questions? Contact Dept Secretary Amber Sullivan, amber.vfwa@gmail.com, 607.245.6106**



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

PROGRAM REPORT FORM ~ 2026-2027

"Busy as a Bee working together for our Veterans".



PROGRAM NAME _____

AUXILIARY No. _____ DISTRICT No. _____

PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW YOUR AUXILIARY/ MEMBERS
PERFORMED/ATTENDED/PROMOTED/DONATED TO THIS PROGRAM. INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL PAGE, IF
NECESSARY, FOR YOUR REPORT.

NO. OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING	NO. OF VETERANS ATTENDING/ AFFECTED/ BENEFITTED	NO. OF HOURS	NO. OF MILES TRAVELED (PORTAL TO PORTAL)	DOLLAR VALUE OF GOODS DONATED BY AUX MEMBERS (BASKET ITEMS, DISH TO PASS, ETC.)	AMOUNT OF AUXILIARY FUNDS SPENT	TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT THIS EVENT

AUXILIARY CHAIRMAN _____ EMAIL _____

DATE OF SUBMISSION _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT _____ EMAIL _____

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING YOUR REPORT AND KEEPING OUR MISSION TO OUR VETERANS STRONG!

REPORTS MAY BE SENT USPS OR EMAIL TO RESPECTIVE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN.

PLEASE REPORT BY THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®