



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

## Our Two Cents

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Volume 33 Issue 8

February, 2023



### “Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”

### “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



### Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

Thank you to all who attended and all who participated in our Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi! It was such an informative and exciting event! As always, when we work together as a “TEAM”, everything turns out amazing! It was great to see at the half way point in our year how serious everyone is in helping our veterans and having fun along the way!

It was a pleasure to have Area H Council Member Andrea King (our very own) as our National Representative. Andrea, you are always full of grace, and we thank you for sharing your time and wisdom. The program presenters did a wonderful job and gave us great information to help us in finishing our programs for this year. Our President’s luncheon was very nice! The tables were so beautiful!! Thank you to those who put in so much effort to make it the best!

The “Celebration with the Stars” dinner was amazing! We had 218 who qualified to attend! Congratulations to all of you! Thank you to Donna James and Ramona Henson for making this such a great event! As I am writing this article, we only need 396 members to reach 100% in membership. Our goal is to be well over 100% by April when our National President Jane Reape will be in Austin for her official visit. The dates for her visit are April 21

– 23. I invite all to attend. A schedule for her visit along with hotel information will be forthcoming shortly.

January was a very busy month! In addition to our Mid-Winter, I attended the National Mid-Winter Conference which was a cruise out of Los Angeles. An absolutely wonderful event! Thank you for supporting me to attend! I also visited Districts 19, 21 and 29 in January! The hospitality and fun times we had were priceless! I absolutely love getting to see old friends as well as meet new members! It is so awesome to see how differently we work within our Districts and Auxiliaries while achieving the same goals in helping our veterans.

As I have visited the district meetings, I share how important it is to put personalities aside. We must assist our Posts whenever we are asked. Our Posts are the reason we exist. When we keep our “VETERANS” at the forefront of all we do, our Auxiliaries will always be run professionally and be successful.

This month I would like to recognize all our District and Auxiliary Trustees. Trustees have the responsibility to properly audit the books and records of the Secretary and Treasurer. There should be a minimum of two Trustees present at each audit Please read the “Duties of Trustees”, Section 814

of the Podium Book. Jo Ella and Marjorie are always available to answer any question that a Trustee may have. Thank you for all you do!

**February** is “heart” month and what a better time to instill kindness in all we do. Remembering our National Presidents’ motto, “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”, we can do so much this month for our veterans, their families and surviving spouses. Wishing you each a Happy Valentine’s Day!

Love and Belief,  
Jeanenne

### **February Official Visits**

**February** 4 – District 20, Kirby

**February** 5 – District 28, Smithville

**February** 18 – District 5, Lockhart

**February** 19 – District 13, Devine



### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Donna James -Chairman**

**Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman**

Congratulations to all the Districts that have achieved 100% in membership.

Several Districts are close to achieving the goal. Members that have not paid 2023 dues are not in good standing. They will not have an updated membership card to attend meetings.

Remember: Membership is checked at beginning of meetings. They can pay their dues and will again be in good standing.

We have many Members-at-Large. We need to start working on getting them back in Auxiliaries. They can visit Auxiliaries, Districts, Department and National meetings but are unable to enter into discussions during business in these meetings.

They cannot participate or volunteer in National Programs. receive a Cancer Grant, if eligible. Purchase self-pay insurances and burial benefits. Participate in member benefits received through mail, email or listed on the National website. Receive the VFW Auxiliary Magazine and e-newsletter. Hold any office, be a Delegate and

cannot vote. Also do not qualify for certain group insurance plans.

They are not helping the Auxiliaries by being Members-at-Large. Please continue working membership, we are really close to our 100% goal.

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**



### **LEGISLATIVE**

**Tammie Mosby - Chairman**

It was good to see everyone at Mid-Winter. I know I always come away with a new spirit and I’m energized after getting to see all my brothers and sisters. I hope everyone was able to come away with something new that they didn’t know before.

I know we all concentrate on what is going on at our nation’s capital; but don’t forget our great state of Texas. If you want to keep up on what our state is doing for our veterans, please visit: [house.texas.gov](http://house.texas.gov) website. It is full of all sorts of information.

On the national front we have had some very exciting legislative victories like the passage of the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022*, known as the PACT Act.

This historic, comprehensive legislation expands health care for generations of veterans who previously had to prove their conditions or illnesses were the result of service-connected exposure to toxic substances or environments.

It includes VA provisions for 23 presumptive conditions for rare respiratory diseases and cancers, and creates a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure. We have also had the passage of the *PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act* which will establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance.

I am here to help you in any way I can. If you succeed, I succeed. You can email me at

[tjpurplerose@yahoo.com](mailto:tjpurplerose@yahoo.com) or by cell phone at 936-414-5293.

I just want to remind everyone that **Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans with Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care.**



**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**Robin Swain – Chairman**

Well, we are one month into 2023 and I hope the year so far is treating you well. We are getting close to the end so you need to buckle down and try to work the programs for the awards that will be given out at the State Convention.

Don't forget the Continuing Education Scholarship. These need to be mailed to National Headquarters before **February** 15, 2023.

Also, remember the 2-Dimensional and the 3-Dimensional Art Contest. These are separate contests, and a student can enter both contests, but they must fill out the corresponding entry form. Also, the art must have a patriotic theme.

If you would like to contribute personally to the Statewide Project "Fund the Future" to help increase the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests 2-D and 3D, you can send a donation to National Headquarters and earmark it "Patriotic Art Fund". The goal is to increase the number and dollar amount of the awards.

I want to remind you of what the awards are that you could win starting with the Department awards. -- Plaque to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the "Best Statewide Project". Citation to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

-- Plaque to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the "Best Reporting." Citation to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

So far it is going to be easy because I'm not getting reports on what you are doing. I do want to thank the Auxiliaries that have sent me a report. They are great.

**Now, for the National awards.**

Most Outstanding and/or Participation of the "Patriotic 3-Dimensional Art Contest".

Citation to every Auxiliary that promotes and/or participates in the Patriotic 3-Dimensional Art Contest.

Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four conferences with the Most Outstanding Promotion and/or Participation in the Patriotic 3-D Art Contest.

**Deadlines**

Local participating VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2023. VFW Auxiliary Department by April 15, 2023. Please send them to my address.

Remember, I need reports to tell me how you are raising the funds, not that you voted at your local meeting to send in a donation. Thank you for all you are doing for the VFW Auxiliary. Your hard work is appreciated.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans" - "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"**



**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**  
**Karen Jeffrey – Chairman**  
**Kathy Marrelli – Co-Chairman**

Happy Valentines' Day. Time is certainly progressing and before you know it, it will be convention time and awards.

As the task of winding down the Youth Activities Program approaches, please review both the National Program Book for Youth Activities on the Resources Page of the VFW National Auxiliary website and the Department of Texas Youth Activities Program.

Please be mindful of deadline dates:

1. Get Excited for the Red/White/Blue Singing Contest. Entries to Auxiliary – March 31, 2023 – to Department Chairman by April 15, 2023 and then submitted to National Youth Ambassador.

2. Illustrating America – Entries to Auxiliary – March 31, 2023 – to Department Chairman by April 15 and then submitted to National Youth Ambassador.

3. Patriotism Thru Literacy – if books have been donated and have not been reported, please do so.

The VFW Auxiliary National Website has downloadable citations available for distribution to

“Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans” and “Patriotic Youth Award”. Recognize and show appreciation to those spirited youth groups and individuals that have been an active part of the year.

Thank you again for the wonderful support and encouragement that is continually being shown to the Youth and involving them throughout the year.

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**



### **AMERICANISM**

**Annie Nickerson – Chairman**

It was so good to see so many of you at Midwinter Roundup in Corpus Christi! We covered so much information on so many topics. And it’s unbelievable that end of year reports are only 60 days away. Where has the time gone? Doing things for our Veterans and educating our youth, that’s where!

Having launched an optional Americanism project of Veterans’ banners at Midwinter, see if flying banners with Veterans’ pictures on light poles in your community is of interest. Some cities in Texas already do this, and it is a great testament to our Veterans as well as a teaching tool for our communities. What better way to communicate our patriotic spirit?

Since our weather is theoretically cooler, it is a great opportunity to examine and replace flags all over the community. Our climate is not very kind to our flags, so there are lots of opportunities to interact positively with our communities.

Consider a certificate for the business with the tattered flag for demonstrating their patriotism when you deliver and raise the new flag; and then properly retire the old one. Invite student organizations to the flag retirement ceremonies. This, in turn, reinforces the relationship with our neighbors and is a great teaching tool for patriotism and its meanings.

Even though we have a specific month to recognize and honor our Star Families, we need to keep contact with them year around. Investigate programs and opportunities that might be of interest to them and maybe host a luncheon to share the information. There are lots of things specifically

designed for them that they might not know about. Even if you don’t have information to share, do a “buddy check” on these families periodically to see how they are doing and show that they are still on our radar. It is definitely a win–win situation.

Your patriotic dates this month: **February** 15 - USS Maine, **February** 28 - Desert Storm. Last but not least, remember to report your activities. I’m only a phone call or email away.

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**



### **PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

**Annie Nickerson**

As Patriotic Instructor, you should take approximately 5 minutes each meeting (usually during Good of the Order) to inform, enlighten and revitalize your auxiliary members.

Look through your copy of “Things You’ll Want to Know, But We’ll Probably Forget to Tell You,” and see what hasn’t been covered yet this year. Pick out such terms as “quorum,” “draping the charter,” “love gift,” “ritual,” “VPR” and the corresponding Post officer names compared to ours. This may be a little late in the year for some of these, but a review is always good.

Discuss the importance of observing National Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Day next month on March 29.

Ask Trustee 1 to describe or explain the duties and obligations of being a trustee and being Trustee 1.

Last but not least, I’m only a phone call or email away. Remember to report. I love hearing all about the amazing things you are doing! Feel free to contact me with questions or for more material.

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**





**HOSPITAL**  
**Pamela Fintel - Chairman**

Happy Valentine's Day

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? We are already in **February** 2023. It just seems like yesterday we were at Mid-Winter Convention. It was great to see those that could attend and to hear what you all are doing for our Hospitalized Veterans.

**February** is going to be a busy month. I hope you have those Valentine cards ready for our Veterans. Don't forget to take care of the Veterans in Nursing Homes and Retirement Homes.

**February** is National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Let's pay tribute and express our appreciation and say "THANK YOU" to our Veterans. Hold a bingo or game day at the hospital, nursing home or retirement center. Have fun with it and let them know how much you care.

At Mid-Winter, I gave your District President copies of the Nomination Forms and asked they pass them on to their Auxiliaries. You can also go on [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org), go to Malta, go to Members Resources scroll down to Hospital. The Outstanding Volunteer Forms are also in your program book page 40 and page 41. These are due to me on March 31, 2023.

- Outstanding Hospital Volunteer
- Outstanding Hospital Youth Volunteer
- Hospital Recruiter of the Year
- Certificates for your Volunteers

It is time to THANK your Hospital Volunteers for all the hard work they have done this year for our hospitalized Veterans! I love this Quote by Mother Theresa...

"I CAN DO THINGS YOU CANNOT, YOU CAN DO THINGS I CANNOT, TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS"

**"Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans" - "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"**



**AUXILIARY OUTREACH**  
**Rene Batson – Chairman**

Hope everyone had safe travels home from the Mid-Winter Convention and are doing well. It's hard to believe that this year is half way over.

I am still getting lots of reports from many of you which is great. The opportunity to help others never goes away and ya'll are very busy doing just that and it's wonderful to see.

Just a few quick reminders. Donations of money or items do not count as Auxiliary Outreach. You must volunteer your time and services to an organization for it to count. Raising money for a group and donating it is not Auxiliary Outreach. Your auxiliary collecting items then donating them is not Auxiliary Outreach. Helping your post with a project is not Auxiliary Outreach.

Volunteering with a food pantry and helping organize the pantry delivering food or serving food is Auxiliary Outreach. Helping a group pass out backpacks that have been donated to them by other groups or that they have collected is Auxiliary Outreach.

I have gotten several reports when you have donated money or items to groups or helped your post host an event. As wonderful as all that is, it can't be used as Auxiliary Outreach.

Keep sending your reports and keep doing what you're doing to help your communities. Thank you for all you do all around. I appreciate you all.

**"Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans" - "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"**



**BUDDY® POPPY**  
**Carol Brietzke – Chairman**  
**Merlene Peters – Co-Chairman**

Happy **February** to everyone. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to see those who were able to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to everyone who put their talents together to work on the Buddy® Poppy Statewide Project. We continue to be amazed

at the artistic and creative talent of many of our auxiliary members. Results from the judging at the Mid-Winter Conference was sent out to all the District Presidents. We encourage Auxiliaries to donate the Buddy Poppy pictures to a Veterans hospital or clinic, a veteran, etc.

We want to thank all the District Presidents and Auxiliary Presidents who worked hard to send in the missing Mid-Year Reports. We encourage members to check the National Ambassador's Blog page to see new ideas.

Auxiliaries are continuing to support the VFW National Home and their reports are proof. Keep up the great work! Remember, this year's Statewide Project is to donate to the National Home's Unrestricted Funds so that monetary donations can be used wherever needed most. Thank you, auxiliaries, for reporting!

Looking ahead, April 10th will be here before we know it. Now is the time to go back and look at your Mid-Year Reports and try to get those projects finished that weren't completed by Mid-Year. The Program Development Book is a terrific resource tool used to accomplish this task. Please remember to attach copies of checks, receipts and pictures, if it applies to the report you are sending.

We appreciate each and every one of you and your dedication to this organization.

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**



**CHIEF OF STAFF  
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION  
Denise DuBois**

We came together at Mid-Winter and had a wonderful time. We begin 2023 celebrating a new auxiliary in Bulverde. This auxiliary is under good leadership and membership grows by the day. I would like to thank Beth West for the fun times we had working together in getting this auxiliary instituted.

We have several more auxiliaries that are working on becoming instituted soon. We are very proud of the district presidents promoting auxiliaries

for their bachelor posts. This is what we are about, working together and taking care of our veterans and their families.

Communication is the key word. Keep your members informed. Get to know your members and encourage each one to share their ideas. Allow them to be heard. Every member is IMPORTANT. As members work together, your auxiliary will become stronger.

**“When you have a dream, you've got to grab it and never let go”.**

*Carol Barnett*

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**



**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP  
Denise DuBois - Chairman**

It was great seeing each of you at Mid-Winter in Corpus. The strength of our leaders in Texas is amazing. Membership is growing. When members work together, your auxiliary will become strong. Please encourage all your members to know one another and to be able to communicate and engage all to participate and share ideas. Mentors/Leaders are ones that are willing to go above and beyond for the members as they encourage the members to better understand our organization and offer them a helping hand and a caring heart. We should be there for the members, allow them to grow as you sprinkle them with guidance and knowledge along their journey. Thanks for all you do!

We are not a **TEAM** just because we work together.

We are a **TEAM** because we respect, trust and care for each other.

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## VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Sally Jarrett – Chairman


After our Mid–Winter Conference in Corpus Christi, we are ready to continue our programs and upcoming events. Let’s give all our support to our Veterans and their families.

Thank you so much for all your Mid-Year Reports. Your support is needed, especially if it was not covered from July thru December. There was a lot of Mid-Year Reports that we were lacking some activities and events. Let's make these next four months count.

With the holidays behind us, we all can understand the caregivers need our support along with our Veterans and their families. Please reach out to them with a phone call, visit, or a meal.

Don’t forget Valentine’s Day is around the corner; lets send some Valentines to nursing homes, our Post and home bound Veterans. Again, I appreciate your hard work.

Soldiers Angels are always looking for Valentines for their troops overseas.

Soldiers Angels Valentines for Veterans   
2895 NE Loop 410, Suite 107  
San Antonio, Texas 78218

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” - “Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**

### PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

#### JANUARY

PATRIOTIC ART ESCROW  
FUND

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#### FEBRUARY

SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED  
VETERANS

## YEAR-END REPORTS

APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> – TO  
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> – DISTRICT  
PRESIDENTS SEND TO  
DEPARTMENT  
CHAIRMAN

ALL AUXILIARIES  
MUST SUBMIT

Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas  
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

From the Desk of Department  
Secretary

Reminder:

In January 2023, *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* became a digital-only publication.



*HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY*

