



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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

“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

March is here—can you believe it!! February was a very fun month! My visits to Districts 5, 13, 17, 20 and 28 were phenomenal. The work being completed for our veterans is shown through all of the programs in so many different ways. It amazes me how each Auxiliary has interpreted the programs, but all getting the same results—many hours, miles and funds spent on our veterans. I have received many comments on how great our Program Book is this year in aiding all members—new and seasoned.

Thank you to Mona Benotti and our Program Chairmen for supplying such great information needed for all our members.

National Mid-Winter exceeded all expectations, and the cruise was really fun! We had a very informative Council Meeting as well as meetings with all of our National Ambassadors. I am really proud of our Program Chairmen all getting good remarks. Madam National President Jane Reape treated the Department Presidents to an afternoon of shopping and visiting the famous Blowhole at La Bufadora in Ensenada, Baja. It is often considered a marine geyser. Very beautiful! I am very appreciative to the Department of Texas for this experience!

Please put April 21-23 on your calendar. Our National President Jane will be making her official visit to Texas in Austin. Details will be forthcoming to your District Presidents.

Now is the time to begin getting your end of year reports together. April 10 will be here before we know it. Please be on time as any lateness causes the chain to not move smoothly and reports to be late. I have a deadline that I have to report to National. Thank you so much for your assistance in this matter.

Our membership is great!!! As I write this article, we are at 99.07% and only need 208 members to be 100%. I am so very proud of each of you for really working our membership program. Your efforts are keeping Texas strong!

State Convention is June 7 – 11 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, TX. You can get updates on the VFW website (www.texavfw.org) now. Be sure to get your reservations and book your room early!! It is going to be a fun event!!

I want to thank each Auxiliary and District in supporting the Presidents' Special Project. I talk about this program each time I visit a District. Always a surviving spouse comes up to me and thanks me for this program. Some did not even

know they could get help if needed and if they qualify through the VFW Foundation. I want to thank Beth West for assisting us in this endeavor.

Thank you so much for all you do for our veterans and their families. Wishing you a great March!!

Love and Belief,
Jeanenne



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Denise DuBois

Texas is shining bright with great leadership and mentors are being discovered and acknowledged every day. We learn so much from one another. Being team players proves that we can achieve more with this connection. Our year is winding down, so get those report forms out and brag a bit. Tell us what you are doing, have done and will do to support Veterans and their families. This is a time to start that bragging. Tell us who has assisted you in ways that enabled you to be a more active member. Keep up the great work. Texas gets the job done because we are TEAM players.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
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CHIEF OF STAFF EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

Denise DuBois

Brothers and Sisters, I am so very proud of the Department of Texas Auxiliaries. Each of you are doing a great job. Please remember to acknowledge your members with good job certificates. I challenged each of you at Mid-Winter Convention to send a list to me of those recipients. Appreciation goes a long way. The Deputy Chiefs of Staff have done a wonderful job in assisting their District Presidents this year. As we learned more about the new resolutions at Mid-Winter, please continue to study your podium book. I look forward to get your event reports. Thanks again for ALL you do.

Positive anything is better than negative nothing.

Elbert Hubbard

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

Reminders:

Entries for the Get Excited Red/White/Blue Singing Contest and Illustrating America Contest must be to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2023.

Grave Beautification

If planning to do this project before the end of the year, remember to contact the cemetery for permission – follow the VA’s National Cemetery Administration Guidelines – review the online video – gather the Youth together to help – get veterans’ information from the headstone and take a before and after picture.

Patriotism Thru Literacy

This program helps promote and support reading among the Youth with fun and creative initiatives – such initiatives are an introduction of historical figures and events that occurred in our Nation’s history. The main goal is to foster a love of reading with the benefit of continuous learning. If books are donated, please report. Patriotism Thru Literacy has no expiration date.

Make sure all the voted on projects for the Auxiliary have been reported. Year-End Reports are due April 10, 2023.

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MEMBERSHIP

**Donna James – Chairman
Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman**

Adding younger members is essential to the future of the VFW Auxiliary. However, younger people often have hectic schedules, family obligations and financial constraints that make it difficult to commit to local Auxiliaries. We need to make VFW Auxiliary membership more attractive and more feasible for younger members.

Here are several ideas that auxiliaries can consider to attract younger members to the organization:

- Reach out to current or past scholarship winners/applicants to join.
- Create social and networking activities that are interesting and convenient for younger people. Encourage younger members to be involved in the planning of these events.

- Invite groups of younger people to join at the same time to make them feel more comfortable. Help them encourage their peers to get involved as well.
- Foster an auxiliary environment that is accepting of occasional absences. Perfect attendance is typically not attainable for today's younger members.
- Highlight monthly opportunities to get involved in local service projects.
- Assign a current Auxiliary member to serve as a mentor for the first six months to make a new younger member feel welcome.
- Get younger members involved from the start. Younger members are creative and eager to generate new ideas for solving persistent auxiliary problems. Ensure that the fresh ideas and knowledge of younger members have a voice and a space to grow.
- Offer variety. Be open to the various ways that younger members can participate in your Auxiliary. Find out about their abilities and interests, and find ways to put them to good use in your auxiliary's work.
 - Incorporate youth-welcoming messages in all Auxiliary communications that begin with the assumption that younger members are important to the organization because they make valuable contributions, and they are needed at all levels of Auxiliary leadership.

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HOSPITAL
Pamela Fintel – Chairman

Happy St. Patrick's Day

We are almost to the end of our program year. I appreciate all the Mid-Year reports, we were missing only 2 Auxiliaries in the whole state of **TEXAS**. I know you all can be **100%** in reporting. The End of the Year reports are due to your District President by April 10th. District Presidents, your reports are due to Department Chairman on April 20th. These reports are so important for Texas. You all have done a great job - You need to get credit for what you are doing for our Hospitalized Veterans. Remember it is not about the awards, it is sharing ideas, taking care of our Veterans and showing our Veterans that we care. Honor and Serve our Hospitalized Veterans as they should be! **This is our Job!**

We are losing so many of our Veterans. Please reach out to the Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes and Non-

VA Hospitals to make sure they understand the Honor Escort Program.

Auxiliaries can purchase casket flags and donate them to these facilities. This is a wonderful report and also shows how much we love and respect our Veterans.

Don't forget to send those **St Patrick's Day** calls to our Hospitalized Veterans on March 17th!

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Veterans”
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AMERICANISM
Annie Nickerson – Chairman

This year has flown by! It's unbelievable that end of year reports are only 30 days away. Remember that end of year reports are due to your district president by April 10. Every Auxiliary **MUST** fill one out and send it in on time.

Now that the optional Americanism project of Veterans' banners is launched, see if flying banners with Veterans' pictures on light poles in your community is of interest. Some cities in Texas already do this, so feel free to speak with them about their experience or contact me for further details.

We all know that Texas weather is unpredictable at best, but make the best of this up and down time to award businesses, get into schools for awards and instruction, and make plans for the upcoming year. A pat on the back goes a long way.

If you haven't already, upload your amazing activities on #SWAP on our national website. This is a sharing place for auxiliaries to share, adopt and modify successful projects. A good example is to repurpose newspaper sales bins to collect flags for retirement. Check with your local newspapers to obtain retired receptacles, repaint and distribute throughout your community. It's inexpensive and a great way to give our flags the honor that they deserve.

Also, remember to contact “Flags for Vets” on Facebook to obtain free flags and poles for Veterans. Many of our Veterans would love to fly the flag but do not have the means to do so.

Last, but not least, remember to report your activities. I'm only a phone call or email away.

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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.

Finalize all of your programs, write monthly reports and start filling out your end of year reports that are due on April 10. That's only 30 days away.

This month, read Red Skelton's Pledge of Allegiance to raise awareness of the true meaning of our Pledge.

Ask the Chaplain to describe or explain the duties and obligations of being Chaplain.

Discuss the importance of observing National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day on **March 29**.

Your patriotic dates this month: **March 13** - K9 Veterans' Day; **March 24** - Kosovo; **March 29** - National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Day; **March 31** - Somalia. Discuss these dates, possibly plan a program, and always take pictures. Not only is this good for our program, but we can also assist our Posts with their VPR's. Start making plans for the activities for Memorial Day.

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.

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BUDDY® POPPY

Carol Brietzke – Chairman

Merlene Peters – Co-chairman

The Mid-Winter Conference is long gone; however, we want to share with you the top three winners from the District winners of the Buddy Poppy picture contest. We had a total of 22 entries. First place winner was from District 6, Auxiliary 3837 in Corpus Christi; Second place was from District 12, Auxiliary 10373 in Jefferson and the Third place winner was from District 21, Auxiliary 10454 in Grapevine. Congratulations to all. All the pictures were beautiful and meaningful. We want to thank the VFW members who assisted in judging the pictures; Peyton Lumpkin, Phillip Contella and James Carter.

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 monetary donations can be used wherever needed most.

Additionally, the National Home is having a fundraiser where one can purchase a personalized brick to honor a friend or loved one and leave a lasting mark on the campus of the National Home. Bricks are placed in walkways in front of the community center, health & education building, museum and World War II monument. If your auxiliary can or has purchased a brick for a loved one or in memory of an auxiliary member please consider doing so. Individuals can also purchase a brick. You can get more information and the order form at <https://vfwnationalhome.org>. Number of National Home Life memberships and brick donations are part of year end-reporting.

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. Also remember to please check the National Ambassadors website for detailed information about things coming up.

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

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Robin Swain – Chairman

March is finally here and what a year it has been. I hope you were able to get some applications for the Continuing Education Scholarship sent to National. Now, let's have one more big push for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art. Remember at Mid-Winter I asked everyone to do a fundraiser for the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art to help boost the award funds; I can't wait to read what you did for this fund raiser. I know it always seems that I'm asking for money but that is where the funding for these scholarships come from. This is what the National awards are based on. Please remember to wrap the art very carefully so those don't arrive broken. Don't forget to send me reports on what you are doing, it's hard for me to decide on my awards if you don't tell me what you are doing.

Deadlines are:

March 31-to the local Auxiliary

April 15-needs to be in my hands, not postmarked April 15.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Good luck everyone!

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



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Rene Batson – Chairman

Here we are on the downward slope to the end of the year and spring is in the air!!! What a great time of year to get involved in our communities! This time of year opens the door to so many great opportunities with community clean ups, youth activities that you can volunteer to help out with, community events and so much more. Read your local paper or check Facebook to look for events that are coming up and reach out to see how you as an auxiliary can help out. There is always a need for volunteers.

Don't forget that end of year reports are due to your District Presidents by April 10th. Please send those to your presidents and not me so they can keep track of who has and hasn't got their reports in. District Presidents are to have the reports in to me by April 20th. That doesn't mean you stop doing what you do. Keep up the hard work and keep sending those reports and I'll make sure they are forwarded to the right person for credit next year.

Thank you all for all your hard work this year. I appreciate you all more than you realize.

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



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Sally Jarrett – Chairman

We are almost at the end of our journey together. Your End-Year reports due date is April 10th. Please send them PDF, email or mail to me. This is the time to look over your Mid-Year Reports and see what else can be done before that time approaches. This program is broad and

does things that are reportable in numerous ways. Remember to add your pictures, receipts, or copies of checks with your monthly reports being sent to me. I want everyone to get full credit for the hard work being done. I'm going to miss reading your heartfelt reports this coming year. Your hearts are as big as Texas and your generosity for our Veterans and their families is remarkable.

Your reporting gives your Auxiliary bragging rights, it shows the love and support you give to our deserving Veterans and their families. Keep up the hard work and continue to send your reports. Remember everyone likes to be recognized, I can't do it if you don't send your reports in. Embrace spring and its warmer weather, don't forget to spring forward and set your reminders so you can be 100% in reporting at Year-End!

“May your troubles be less; your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door.”
Irish Blessing

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



LEGISLATIVE

Tammie Mosby – Chairman

Please be sure everyone is writing letters to the secretary of the VA. This is most crucial for trying to get our volunteers back into the VA facilities.

S.42 - BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023 is currently before Congress. This is a bill to improve the management and performance of the capital asset programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs so as to better serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors and for other purposes. This is a bill that the VFW supports.

Remember when you receive an Action Alert to respond to it immediately. Our voices have to be heard.

Please keep up all the hard work you are doing and keep sending me your reports.

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



**OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY
Candice Baines – Chairman**

I hope everyone is having a wonderful year so far. The reports that I have received tell me that you are on the right track. You still have plenty of work to do and lots of points are still up for grabs. Please concentrate on getting all of your audits in on time and have lots of fun in the process. Looking forward to seeing how you finish the year and which ones of you Awesome Presidents will receive the title of Outstanding!

Remember...."True Leaders always practice the three R's: Respect for self, Respect for others and Responsibility for all of their actions." - Anonymous

"Effective Leadership is not about making speeches or being liked; leadership is defined by results not attributes." -Peter Drucker

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



**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT
Beth West – Chairman**

It's here! Year-End Reporting!!

This is your Year-End Report checklist:

****Did you hold a fundraiser? If so, find the flyer or other promotional material to attach.**

****How much did you raise at the fundraiser? This is not how much you raised in total, but how much you raised for THIS program. It can also be a donation voted on by the Auxiliary, but no event held. Find a copy of the check to attach.**

****How has your Auxiliary supported surviving spouses in your community? Wow us! Madam President and I want to hear all about the amazing things you are doing.**

Commander Toomer has asked the Foundation to have staff available at District meetings between now and the end of the year. If you have any questions, please be sure to approach one of us. If you do not see us or are unable to visit with us, email us at foundation@texasvfw.org.

Our district visits show how our leadership truly believes "**Together Everyone Achieves More for Our Veterans**" and how we continue to show the

Auxiliary is "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care".

Even though the year end fast approaches, don't stop supporting our surviving spouses. That may be one of us one day. "Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us." -- Hal Borland



**NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Brenda Whited - Chairman**

Mid-Winter is behind us and it's time to get applications out to the nursing students. They must be going into their Senior Year in the fall. Deadline: May 1, 2023. Applications and rules are on page 68 in the Program Development Book. The address to send all applications to is also in the Program Book. The applications must be postmarked by May 1 or I cannot accept. If you have questions, please reach out. Looking forward to reading the essays. Good luck to all applicants.

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

Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

YEAR-END REPORTS

**APRIL 10TH – TO
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**

**APRIL 20TH – DISTRICT
PRESIDENTS SEND TO
DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN**

**ALL AUXILIARIES
MUST SUBMIT**

QUESTIONS ABOUT DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR VFW AUXILIARY E-NEWSLETTER

1. Why did VFW Auxiliary Magazine become a digital publication?

The short answer is: Because the National Council of Administration voted in July of 2022 to save our organization money due to the revenue from our investments declining in this challenging economic climate. To put this in perspective, this is a LOT of money. The magazine costs close to \$1 million per year to produce, design, print and mail to each of our 480,000 members six times per year.

The digital-only format allows us to keep our magazine and all of its news and information, but the costs drops from around \$160,000 per issue to less than \$500 an issue, which means all of these funds get rerouted to sustain our organization so we can continue to support our mission of serving veterans, service members their families and our communities.

2. What about all of our “non-digital” members who don’t have computers or smartphones?

We’ve been admonished for excluding these members. This is our biggest criticism, and rightfully so. The bottom line is members who are not connected to the internet via computers, smartphones or tablets won’t be able to access their magazine directly. Which is why we have encouraged members and Auxiliaries who do have access to the magazine to connect with members who do not. Consider taking your tablet and reading the magazine to a member now in assisted living. Report this under Veterans & Family Support.

If you have a printer and are willing to use some ink, print off in economy- or save-ink-and-toner mode and share photocopies. We’ve changed the dimensions to a more readable and printable size of 8.5” x 11”.

3. What about subscriptions for those who still want to receive their printed copy?

Managing subscriptions is a comprehensive job that requires the work of accounts payable/receivable and maintaining/updating a name and address database. This would require adding more full-time staff members to our modest team of 12 at HQ and incur more expense.

3. What can we do to bring back the paper magazine?

This decision was not made lightly. Our goal was not to alienate or lose members; rather it was a difficult choice we made to sustain our organization and further our mission. We are open to any new ideas that could generate the money required to fund a printed publication.



Teresa Ramon

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 20



IRISH BLESSING FOR ST. PATRICK’S DAY

May you have . . .

enough happiness to keep you sweet,
enough trials to keep you strong,
enough sorrow to keep you human,
enough hope to keep you happy,
enough failure to keep you humble,
enough success to keep you eager,
enough wealth to meet your needs,
enough enthusiasm to look forward,
enough friends to give you comfort,
enough faith to banish depression,
enough determination to make each day better than yesterday.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

