



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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Editor – Kathy Marrelli
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Volume 32 Issue 10

April, 2022



**“Tipping Our
Hats To Vets”**



**“Soaring Above
& Beyond”**

Department President Karen Kaylor

The month of March was busy visiting Districts 16, 5 and 4. I thank all members for their wonderful hospitality. You are busy working our programs and helping our Veterans, Community and Youth. It was a joy to meet with you. I ended the month attending our Comrade Commander Norman Macey's Homecoming 26 March and Don and I celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary on the 29th.

Reports are due please get them in on time. Department Chairman I need by 1 May. The USPS is taking longer, email please. I report to National after I receive them. Please fill in every blank!

We have instituted one new Auxiliary in Palestine District 19 this year and have 2 more in the works. One in District 4 and one in District 20. We can turn them in to National any time now where we used to have an earlier deadline, so keep on working on them.

Mark your Calendar for the State Convention Thursday, June 16-19, 2022, / Choctaw Conference Center, Durant, OK

It has been my honor to serve as your President. The Line Officers, Office Staff, District Presidents, Program Coordinator, Chairman and you the Sisters and Brothers of our Department have been dedicated

to our Veterans and it shows. The Past Department Presidents (PDP's) have stepped up many times and answered my call. **I thank you all.** We could not have done it without you. It has not been easy, and we have had to think out of the box, but Texas has met its challenges. **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** as we are “Soaring Above & Beyond”!

Important Talking Points!

- *Understanding of each member's rights:
 - Bullying is not to be tolerated
 - Blaming another for problem is not the way to change a negative into a positive
- *Bylaws are in place for every member's protection so be sure to follow.
 - If you have a question about what something means, then look to a mentor for direction
 - Deadlines are important
 - Understand your duties and responsibilities as an officer and as a member
- *Keep the lines of communications open
 - Between members and officers
 - Between Post and Auxiliary
 - Between Auxiliary, District and Department

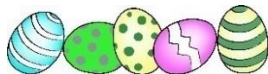
--TEAM=Together Everyone Achieves More.

Working together for our Veterans; for our community. Youth and or our Auxiliary/Post

*Auxiliary does need training so that it can make a difference for Veterans, for the community, for youth, etc.

Dates

April 8-9 District 12
April 16 Easter
April 22-23 District 25
April 30 District 30



BUDDY POPPY **Shawn Terry – Chairman**

As the year wind downs, thank you for supporting the Buddy Poppy Program and working with the Posts to promote throughout the year. The drives have been most successful.

In February 1924 the VFW registered the name of “Buddy” Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924 granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name “Buddy” Poppy. The Auxiliary is privileged to be able to work with and take part in any type of promotion and distribution for the icon of the VFW.

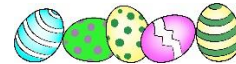
Thank you for the many reports received this year. The success of each Auxiliary is wonderful. Please remember that the Year-End Reports need to be to the District President by April 10 and then to me by April 20. Thank you again for all the hard work.

NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

For more than 95 years the VFW National Home for Children located in Eaton Rapid, Michigan, has helped military and veteran families who need a fresh start. Founded in 1925 as a place where the families left behind by war-mothers and children, brothers and sisters-could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn’t come home. The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America’s veterans by

helping our nation’s military and veteran families during difficult times.

Through it all, one thing has remained a constant, the National Home’s commitment to honor our nation’s veterans and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families. Thank you for the reports sent, promotion of life memberships, promotion of the VFW National Home Helpline. Year-End Reports are due to District President by April 10, then to me by April 20.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES **Ronnie Wiley – Chairman** **Laurie Hayes Wiley – Co-Chairman**

Hello Auxiliary Sisters & Brothers! Wow! What a year!

I do need to send out a HUGE Thank You to all those Auxiliaries that have already reported some amazing activities working with our Youth!

I would also like to Thank all the Auxiliaries whom participated in the **Getting Excited for the Red, White and Blue Contest and Illustrating America Contest**. We have some awesome entries.

Today there are more opportunities in which we will be able to work with our youth by involving them in more projects and helping to build a stronger bond with them. Taking the time to mentor our youth today will create quality leadership skills for them tomorrow.

Please remember to report everything that you do, even if you are not sure if it qualifies. Keep the momentum going and keep having fun! You can keep sending reports through the end of June and we will forward to the new Youth Chairman for 2022-2023.

Keep up the good work and remember to **REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!!** Be safe, stay healthy. God Bless You and God Bless America.

“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”
“Soaring Above & Beyond”



PROGRAM COORDINATOR

I have enjoyed working with each and every Department of Texas Chairman. Good Luck at the upcoming National Convention.



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP Jayne McCormick – Chairman

The Mentoring Program is coming to an end, but that does not mean that the education, help and information stops. Our auxiliary members are starved for the right information and right ways of doing things. Let's keep that interest and commitment going.

I would like to extend a deep appreciation and thanks to all the mentors that were selected and have worked within the auxiliaries and the districts. Even as the year end, mentors, please continue on to help, serve and educate on our organization.

I would like to extend special thanks to my Senior Mentors/Advisors that have logged hours in travel, many calls and emails to assist and many hours of educating and sharing information about the Organization. Without the Senior Advisors/Mentors I would not have been able to keep up with everything. You truly have been an asset for the Department of Texas.

Remember April 10th – Year-End Reports are due to the District Presidents. Please make sure that these reports are submitted on time and reports will be accepted early. Thank you to all that were involved in the Mentoring Program this year.

**“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”
“Soaring Above & Beyond”**



CHIEF OF STAFF JUANITA WORKMAN

As we come hopping into April and spring time Happy Easter to all!

2021-2022 The race of a good year verses a Great year!! So much hard work has been done already! We are now at our home stretch and then we will have new faces, new missions and new goals and it all starts over again!

So, with our home stretch, do we slow down? No way!!! We cross all our “T’s” and dot all our “I’s” and we run as fast as we can in our race AND we get all our work done and reports in before the April deadlines ☺!! BUT... we are not just running to a finish line we are getting ready to either pass the baton or carry it for another year!!

So, this is my challenge to all of you that feel underappreciated, over worked in a volunteer position, remember the bigger picture, our Veterans!

End strong, not because it makes you look good or because it makes your President or State get an award. End strong to pass a Strong Baton, so we all can continue a race that helps the people we love the most!!! Our Veterans! No race ever slows at the end when the finish line is in site that is when you hit the booster and give it all you have! I know you all can do it! Let us not just finish strong but let us pass on our strength to the next year!

“Tip Our Hats To Vets” while “Soaring Above & Beyond”!

Thank you ALL from the bottom of my heart!! If you need help ending strong, please remember I am only a phone call away 254.652.9080



MEMBERSHIP Mona Benotti - Chairman

April – the perfect month! Year-End Reports are due by April 10 to your District President. That person then organizes and forwards all reports for the district to the chairmen. I am excited to review your reports.

Now how can **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** by working on membership this month?

- If your auxiliary is still below 100% in membership, this is the month to gain more new members and reach out to those who have not renewed and get it done.

- If your auxiliary has few or even no male members, this is the month to ask brothers, fathers,

grandfathers, sons, grandsons of your Post members to join. We have been THE AUXILIARY for almost seven (7) years now. It is time for every auxiliary to open their doors to our full membership potential.

- Make membership a gift. **“Soaring Above & Beyond”** retaining and gaining by giving an annual or lifetime membership is a blessing to the receiver and heartwarming for the giver. Keep in mind that membership eligibility starts at the age of sixteen (16).

It feels like we are winding down our year and, in some ways, we are. However, membership never stops. Do not hesitate to sign up new members in April, May or June. Ask your auxiliary if it will allow – must be approved – charging those members, joining at this time of year, only the Department and National dues of \$10, OR charge them a full year’s dues and then the auxiliary pays the \$10 when you begin your 2023 dues drive. Get the new members; keep the new members. Thanks for doing so much! I appreciate each and every one of you. Contact me at mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729.



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS **Bernadette Adams**

Here we are at the end of another year. They sure do go fast. We now have end of the year reports. Ugg, but it must be done. Make sure you get them to your District President by April 10. If you have any pictures of President Karen when she came for her official or even unofficial visit, please send them my way for her book.

Let us not forget about my Statewide Project this year. Please help me finish my project; for those who have not given me information on your post, please do so. I want to thank all the ones that have given me updated information already. You are awesome. If you are a new Auxiliary, please send me your information on your Post.

I will need when the Post was built, when was the Post chartered, who the Post was named after (town or person), some history behind the person, when the Auxiliary was chartered, some history and then a picture of your Post.

As Chairperson for the Historian/Media Relations, Madam President Karen, thank you for

allowing me to be your Historian/Media Relations Chairperson.

It was a pleasure and I know you had to keep me updated on a few pictures and when to post them, but we made it through when, **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** and that made us **“Soaring Above & Beyond.”**



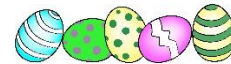
VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT **Denise DuBois – Chairman**

Well, here it is the end of the reporting year for 2021-2022. I am so proud of each of the auxiliaries for ALL that you have done this year in supporting our Veterans and their families.

Please don’t stop NOW, keep on doing all you can and always continue to report. The work that you do and the new ideas that you chose and always pushing forward has made the Department of Texas proud!

I cannot say “Thank you” enough. It has been a fun year and I have enjoyed being the chairman and reading and seeing all that you do. Your efforts have **NOT** gone unnoticed.

“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”
“Soaring Above & Beyond”



OUTSTANDING DISTRICT PRESIDENT **Glenna Alexander – Chairman**

I want to congratulate all the District Presidents. Some of you have gone above and beyond, working with your Auxiliaries in your Districts. You have met the challenges and done a great job.

Your Division Awards are given with many factors. Membership is a big part of your award, but Ways and Means and Programs are important in making the district strong. Having your audits, inspection and all reporting turned in on time is part of this Award. Thank you for the monthly reports that I received. They gave me an insight into what was happening in your Districts and how you have been working with your Auxiliaries.

We have three new Auxiliaries this year, thanks to District 19- Palestine, District 4- Crosby and District 20- San Antonio

I want to congratulate the New Auxiliaries. Look forward to seeing you at Convention in June.



LEGISLATIVE

Norita Jackson - Chairman

You all have worked hard year-round for our Veteran and Active-Duty Military communities. The time of year has again arrived for the “pot of gold” at the end of the rainbow “Awards” for all of the efforts, hard work and creativity that has been expended on behalf of our nation’s heroes. No matter how trivial the task may have seemed during it’s happening, it was impactful and should have been or needed to be included in a report.

Several major house and senate bills have passed and are counted among VFW victories. They have succeeded because of your phone calls, emails, attendance on Zoom meetings and in-person at gatherings, town halls and meet and greets with your legislators and lawmakers. Your efforts to get more out to vote and get those not registered, registered to vote.

Although the deadline for the National Legislative contest application to be received by me is March 31, 2022. Please take a minute to go ahead and send in those applications to me before April 10th. That application can be found at: [Legislative Award-No.-1 2021-2022-FILLABLE.pdf](https://www.vfwauxiliary.org/legislative-award-no.-1-2021-2022-fillable.pdf) ([vfwauxiliary.org](https://www.vfwauxiliary.org)) This contest only asks that you do what you always do and that is to train others about the legislative process. Not only is that teaching of lifelong benefit but that is literally what we spent the entire VFW season working toward. And now, here is an award for your outstanding training.

Year-End Reports are due to your District Presidents by April 10th. Conveniently the report forms have been made fillable and emailable. This is just one of the ways to ensure a timely submission of the report is received. Auxiliary President to District President and forward to Department Chairman, please don’t hold onto reports in hopes of sending

them all at once. Submit them to the Department as soon as received. There is absolutely no value in making the entire district miss a deadline because of a few.

No matter what role you play in the organization, it’s a valuable role and needed to complete the job we are trying to accomplish. Advocating on behalf of our Veterans, active-duty military and their families. You and I! Good job, bravo, take a bow, pat yourselves on the back!!

Just know that the Year-End Report is a great help in determining which auxiliaries not only did the job, but exceeded at meeting the goals and objectives focused on this VFW year.

So, to reiterate, please make sure your Year-End Reports are submitted in a timely manner. Not only timely, but filled in with as much detail as possible to try to paint the picture clearly as can be done without my being there.

All of you, advocates for our veterans, are appreciated and “thanked” for your heartfelt efforts and victories. I know there have been many successes! Let me hear about them!

We Tip Our Hats To Vets as we Soar Above & Beyond



SCHOLARSHIPS

Annie Nickerson – Chairman

Brothers/Sisters, our Patriotic Art deadline is close: April 15. Remember your entry must have been done during the current school year and have your teacher’s signature. Each entry will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed; the content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas; the design technique; total impact of work; and uniqueness. Be sure to complete the entry form and attach it to back of entry.

Please package art so that it can be mailed without being damaged and send it requiring a signature for delivery. I will be returning all art except first place at Department Convention in June in Durant, OK. I am looking forward to seeing everyone!

Art Deadlines: March 31: Student Entry Deadline to VFW Auxiliary; April 10: VFW Auxiliary and

District Judging complete. April 15: VFW Auxiliary and District Winners received by chairman for Judging. May 5: VFW Auxiliary Department Winners to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Remember to get those reports in and to work on the statewide project to help fund Patriotic Art as well as our National President's Special Project: Fund the Future. Both of these projects benefit our students and our members by increasing funds for awards which will help us reach more students.

If your Auxiliary has not sent me a regular report, you still have a bit of time. I look forward to seeing those and your end of year reports which are due to District Presidents by April 10 and then to program chairmen by April 20.

Remember that EVERY Auxiliary MUST fill out and send an end of year report to the district president by April 10.

Thanks for all your hard work with our scholarships throughout the year and the benefits for our students and communities!

**“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”
“Soaring Above & Beyond”**



**AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Patricia “Patsy” Kemp - Chairman**

Here Comes Peter Cotton Tail, hopping down the Community Outreach trail. Yes, it is a short hop before the 2021 – 2022 year ends. It is a most important part of the trip we have been on, because of the Year-End Reporting.

I want to send a BIG Thank you to the members that read my February issue and entered my little contest. The winner will receive their gift at Convention. Speaking of Convention, unless there are really some big changes there will be some None Qualified when I give out awards. The District may be 100% in reporting BUT not all auxiliaries had even one report that qualified under Auxiliary Community Outreach. I asked this last month and seems it hasn't been done. So here it is again.

Auxiliary Presidents, has your auxiliary done at least one qualifying Auxiliary Community Outreach project? If not, time is running out. Remember that

your May & June reports will be saved to send to the 2022-23 chairman. So, keep working.

I have received reports that just blew my mind, and qualified and reports that didn't qualify. The improvement made from instructions taken and reports received now all qualify make me so proud of you.

Thank you for all of the time, work and contributions made to your community as you **“Soared Above & Beyond”** even your expectations.

I hope that you now understand this program and will continue to help next year. PLEASE pay close attention to the rules and maybe even changes that will be coming next year.

I Tip my hat to you that reported and met the challenge of Community Outreach. We all have people who have pointed us in the right direction. And just as important, we have returned the favor. Each of us provides an example for others to follow. For better or worse, we all influence someone.

Madam President, Karen, thank you for this appointment, I think. I have been blessed to have a wonderful Ambassador, Mary Ryser, that has been there for us all.

God Bless you all and thank you for all you do and are planning to do.



**AMERICANISM
Janet Brown - Chairman**

As we are entering the home stretch of our auxiliary year, let's remember all those who came before us.

If you look on the National website under Blog, and then AmeriCANism, there are some interesting facts about many of our Presidents. If you're a trivia junkie like me, you'll find some facts you weren't aware of that seem to make our former Presidents more real.

As AmeriCANs, it's important that we keep remembering and honoring the fact that sometimes it only takes determination and hard work to make the difference between being ordinary and extraordinary.

Please keep this in mind while working on your reports. I'm not saying to fabricate or exaggerate but be aware that many of the projects your Auxiliary has

done that seem ordinary to you, may seem extraordinary to others!

With everything going on in today's world, we should remember all the things that ordinary AmeriCANS did that gave us this extraordinary thing we call freedom!

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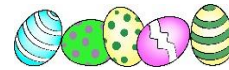
**HOSPITAL/VAVS – Karen Jeffrey Chairman
Glenda Hunt – VAVS Co-Chairman**

April is the Month of the Military Child. Let's Celebrate our Youngest Heroes!

On Friday, April 15, 2022 you are invited to take part in **Purple Up! For Military Kids**. A day to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices as they serve our country as part of a military family. Purple indicates all branches of the military are supported. Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red and Coast Guard blue combined together as a single color, purple. Place purple ribbons around your VFW Post, School or Library and use story time for military kids to talk about their experience, the military lifestyle, being a new kid in school or appreciating the differences in one another. Show & Tell will allow military children to bring special items to share with their class. [www.militarychild.org/MOMC Toolkit](http://www.militarychild.org/MOMC_Toolkit) has several printable posters, stickers, certificates, yard signs and other toolkit resources available.

Send in your report. National Hospital Ambassador Robyn Kuznik Hospital Promotion highlights “She Wears the Boots” podcast which discusses how the official VA is your partner in health and no other health service understands women veterans and their unique health care needs. It includes topics that recognize women veteran's specialized healthcare services.

I would like to say THANK YOU to every District, Auxiliary and member who has honored our veterans through the Honors Escort Program with a casket flag or by sharing the information to secure an Honors Escort for our Veterans at their final moments. After reading the heartfelt reports submitted from the Auxiliaries, rest assured the Texas VFW Auxiliary is the most amazing group of people with a heart for serving our Heroes! Again, I say THANK YOU for ending our year TEXAS STRONG!



BETH WEST

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard
2022-2023

Auxiliary 3413

District 5

ANDREA KING

Candidate for National Council Area H
Endorsed by VFW Post 8790 & Auxiliary

Endorsed by District 4

JO ELLA MENN

Candidate for Department Treasurer
2022-2023

Endorsed by Auxiliary 8621/District 6

**DEPARTMENT TREASURER
NOTICE**

If an Auxiliary has not paid their full delegate fees, they will be considered delinquent and in arrears.

They will not be allowed to vote at the State Convention until the fees have been paid.

If the last quarter audit is not in – the Auxiliary is considered not in good standing and cannot vote at State Convention.

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