



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

Published Monthly by the VFW Auxiliary
Editor – Kathy Marrelli
Located at 8503 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753



Volume 33 Issue 7

January, 2023



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

“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

A New Year has begun—2023! I trust each of you and your families had a most blessed Christmas! Where did the first half of our Auxiliary year go!?! I have so enjoyed meeting and getting to know our members and am looking forward to visiting with the rest of our Auxiliaries. I want to thank Districts 3, 18 and 24 for your wonderful hospitality during my visits!

As some of you know I am a huge sports fan especially of college football and basketball. Auburn University is one of our favorite teams. I was reading an article about the “new” Auburn Associate Head Coach Carnell “Cadillac” Williams. He stated that, “It is time to “serve” and “believe”. I think this is a great quote. As we move forward into the last half of the 2022-2023 year, we will continue to “**serve**” our veterans, their families and our surviving spouses and “**believe**” we are doing everything possible to make each of our Auxiliaries healthy by working together as a TEAM at every level - Department, District and Auxiliary.

I want to recognize our Department, District, Auxiliary Treasurers and Secretaries and thank you for your ability to provide financial and record keeping information in a professional manner. It is

when our officers are on the same page that we are successful.

We are really looking forward to Mid-Winter Conference in Corpus Christi. It will be a fun and informative event. We will be welcoming our National Representative Council Member Andrea King. I encourage each of you to attend the Council meeting on Thursday afternoon. This meeting is open to all members. Congratulations to all who will be attending our “Celebration with the Stars” evening! I can’t wait to celebrate with you!!

Our membership percentage puts us in the top 10 Departments in the nation. I am so very proud of each of you for working your membership and making this happen! We are very close to being at 100%! WE CAN DO IT!!

Wishing each of you and your families a great and most prosperous New Year!

Love and Belief,
Jeanenne

January Official Visits and Conferences

January 7 – District 29 – Hewitt

January 8 – District 21 – Alvarado

January 14 – District 19 – Lufkin

January 19-22 – Mid Winter – Corpus Christi

National Mid-Winter – January 22-27

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Andrea King

*National District Council Member Area H
2022-2024*

Andrea King of Houston, Texas represents Texas on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary between National Conventions.



A Life Member of Spring Branch Auxiliary 8790, in Houston, Texas, Andrea joined on the eligibility of her husband, Richard K. King, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1950-1953.

Andrea has served the organization in many Officer positions at the Auxiliary, District and Department levels and currently the Department Secretary.

Her family includes a son and daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Andrea studied elementary education at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and Leukemia Society Board.

BUDDY® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Carol Brietzke – Chairman

Merlene Peters – Co-Chairman

This year's goal of the National Ambassador for "Buddy" ® Poppy and National Home is to unite the "Buddy" ® Poppy and National Home.

When we promote one, we can promote the other. "Buddy" ® Poppy + National Home = Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes.

Please send reports and pictures of your involvement with the distribution of "Buddy" ® Poppies and remember to send a copy of your check.

We don't have much to share about the State Project with the "Buddy" ® Poppy pictures until after Midwinter. We will send out info with the winner being announced after the judging and wish everyone good luck. We have received some nice pictures of your displays.

Be sure and go to the VFW Auxiliary Website and check out the Ambassador's info on her project. Ambassador Cathy Farley has a lot of good suggestions sent in from different Chairmen.

Last, we want to say it does not matter the size of your Auxiliary; each one of you are important to this organization. Without you and your support with the programs the VFW Auxiliary would not survive. Great job to you all. **"Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans" - "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Karen Jeffrey – Chairman

Kathy Marrelli – Co-Chairman

We are half way through the year and what a wonderful response the auxiliaries have shown for this program. The reports have been outstanding. Thank you all. I need to address some things:

- (1) Pictures are being sent with no accompanying reports. There is no way of knowing who is sending the pictures or what Auxiliary. Report has to be sent.
- (2) When emailing the scanned reports, please double check to make sure that it is clear to read and all the information is legible.
- (3) There have been inquiries about the Youth Scholarship on the status sheet. This is not Youth Scholarship but Youth Contests – which are the Get Excited about Red/White/Blue Singing Contest and

Illustrating America. At Mid-Winter I will follow up on any concerns or questions that an Auxiliary may have about this.

Please remember the March 31 deadline to have the District winners in the Get Excited for the Red White & Blue Singing Contest and the Illustrating America Art Contest to the Department Youth Chairman for judging.

Over Veterans Days, if Auxiliaries and students did any grave beautification, please fill out the beautification log and include pictures. The District Presidents were sent the log and should have it available if needed.

Mid-Year Reports have indicated that a lot of work is being done by the Auxiliaries. Report-Report-Report.

Thanks for the continued support of the Youth Program and supporting the Youth of our Veterans. To those auxiliaries that have donated to the Youth Scholarship (Contests) many thanks.

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HOSPITAL/VAVS

Pamela Fintel – Chairman

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2023, we still have a lot of work to do before the end of our year. First, we need to start on the Valentine's Cards for our hospitalized Veterans. Let's not forget our non-VA Facilities. Talk with the Volunteer Services to see if you can have a Valentine Party. I know we are still not fully open at the VA but, if we can't see if you can make some Valentine Gift Bags. Get your youth involved, they can really be creative.

It is also **"SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERAN WEEK"**. Let's really show them how much we care and don't forget the hospital staff as some of them are Veterans too! This is really a great time to get those volunteers together and work on these projects. Be creative and have fun! Remember Hospitalized Veterans in VA and non-VA facilities.

The holidays are behind us now and this is a very important time to watch for the 5 warning signs. Have your crisis cards handy as family members have all gone home and sometimes the Veterans start to feel lonely. Let's do our job and check on them, send cards, sit and visit. Let them know **WE CARE**.

Hope to see you all at Mid-Winter in Corpus Christi at the Omni January 18th – January 21st. Thank you for all the great reports. And THANK YOU for everything you do for our Veterans!



MEMBERSHIP

Donna James -Chairman
Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman

We made it through the holidays; I hope everyone had a wonderful time.

Now it is time to get back to work. Please keep Inviting, Recruiting, Investing! Congratulations to everyone receiving an invitation to the “Celebrating with the Stars.” Thank you for all your hard work. Let’s relax and enjoy the night.

If your dues were not paid by December 31, your membership is lapsed. You have no voting rights which means you are not in good standing. As soon as dues are paid, you will be in good standing again. If dues are not paid by June 30, you will no longer be a member. You will have to resubmit an application and be accepted as a new member. You will lose your past years of service and eligibility for a cancer grant for a year. Please get your dues paid.

It is best to buy a life membership, if possible and never have to deal with it again. You have to be in good standing to become a life member or a new member.

Let’s make Texas proud and achieve 100% for Madam President Lumpkin. Thanks for all you do for our Veterans!

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



SCHOLARSHIP

Robin Swain – Chairman

I cannot believe it is 2023 already. The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen are behind us; just waiting to see who the winners will be. It will be like opening a belated Christmas gift. We now need to concentrate on the Continuing Education and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art 2D and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest.

The Continuing Education Scholarship is open to VFW Auxiliary members, their spouses, and children. Must be a member for 1 year and the applicant must be 18 years of age and there must be a financial need. There are (4) \$1000.00 winners, one for each of the (4) Auxiliary Conferences. The application is due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2023. Please do not send it to me.

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest must be on a stretcher frame or canvas board or must be matted on white. Submission of watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen-and-ink, or oil. Please do not frame. Art should be no smaller than 8” x 10” but no larger than 18” x 24”, not including the mat.

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is paper, paper mâché, pottery sculpture, fabric, wood, metal work, etc. No jewelry is accepted. Pieces should be no larger than 18” in any direction and cannot weigh more than 5 lbs.

Both scholarships are open to students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or homeschool program. Maximum student age of 18 at time of local entry.

Submission date to the sponsoring, participating VFW Auxiliary is March 31, 2023. The first-place winner from each VFW Auxiliary must be sent to the Department Scholarship Chairman for judging by April 15, 2023.

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LEGISLATIVE

Tammie Mosby - Chairman

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and that your New Year is starting off well. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter.

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must: Pass comprehensive toxic exposure reform, including improvements to the claims process, to provide health care and benefits to all toxic exposed veterans. Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation. Properly implement the modernized appeals process. Reinstate a pre-decisional review period for claims representatives prior to final ratings decisions. Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations. Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing. Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma. Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors. Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses’ information on all headstones.

It is imperative that we fight for these goals by writing to our state and national representatives and encourage

them to support all legislation that will help achieve these goals.

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**



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

Good Job Members. We are starting the new year with a strong membership and new auxiliaries are being established. It takes TEAM work to do this. I am super proud of TEXAS. Please continue to work on training your membership which allows all members to understand and maintain our mission to support veterans and their families. Reporting is a must. Help one another. We must continue to accept and understand that not all members use MALTA. Assist them.

I wish each of you a very Happy New year and I truly appreciate all you do!

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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.

By now you should have a copy of the newest Podium Book. Look through the yellow pages in the center of the book and see what might have changed or would be beneficial for your Auxiliary to know. These pages are updated by National called “housekeeping,” and the changes are not necessarily communicated to the Auxiliaries.

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

Ask the Hospital/VAVS and President’s Special Project chairmen to explain their programs.

Your patriotic date this month: January 27 - Vietnam Peace Accord. Discuss this date, 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 VPRs.

Take suggestions from your membership on how to honor local merchants, youth groups, JROTC units, sponsored sports teams, etc. Reinforce patriotic actions in the community and they act like a snowball, continuing and growing!

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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**AMERICANISM
Annie Nickerson - Chairman**

Now that the holidays are behind us, please continue to remember our veterans and active-duty personnel. While it’s easy during the holidays, keep in mind that we need to show that same respect in January and the rest of the year.

Keep that momentum going by handing out certificates for businesses’ flying flags and youth groups for their participation in patriotic events. Seek out a local printer to possibly donate the certificates or ask an auxiliary member to calligraphy them. Those calligraphers tend to be your quieter members and would love to be included.

Keep working with your local newspapers and radio stations. Remind them that your information might constitute a public service message which they run for free. Since the holidays are over, see if you can get into classrooms to teach the Pledge of Allegiance or hand out some patriotic pencils, coloring books or word searches. Everyone will be looking for something fresh after the vacation and kids always love to have visitors. See if you can take some Veterans with you. That will put a smile on everyone’s face.

If you have quilters in your group or a local quilt guild, check into awarding Quilts of Valor to deserving Veterans. Also honor those Veterans in nursing homes with a Quilt of Valor or lap robe. Those smiles will go a long way and might even open an opportunity for students to learn first-hand about patriotism and love of country.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Mid Winter Roundup in Corpus Christi. Mid-Winter is always an informative time with lots of things to learn and share.

Your patriotic date this month: January 27 - Vietnam Peace Accord. If you haven't already, take a moment to thank our Vietnam Veterans or show them our appreciation in a unique way. Last but not least, remember to report your activities. I'm only a phone call or email away.

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois

Happy New Year!

Here it is 2023. Can you believe that? Should we say we are on the downhill stretch? Mentoring never stops! Every member is a leader and learning must continue. Each and every member has a talent that they can share. Together leaders and mentors work together to achieve the auxiliary goals.

I have enjoyed hearing from the auxiliaries and all of their accomplishments thus far.

**Great Leaders are not the best at everything.
They find people who are the best at different things
and get them all on the same team.**

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AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Rene Batson – Chairman

Here we are once again amazed that the year is already halfway over. It's funny how it always sneaks up on us like this. The holidays and Mid-Year Reports are all behind us now, but that does not mean we stop volunteering to help within our communities. In order to help our communities thrive and improve it is so important that we continue our mission to help where needed and do our parts. Giving back and doing our part continues throughout the year. Every little bit helps.

People are still struggling and the organizations out there that rely on volunteers to keep them going are still in need of our help, so continue to reach out to these organizations and ask where you can be of help. It's hard to find people willing to volunteer.

Presidents and District Presidents, please remind your auxiliaries that Auxiliary Outreach is volunteered hours and not donations.

Also remind them that helping their post with an event is not Auxiliary Outreach either. I know this can be confusing. If they are not clear on this ask them to read their program books or the national program book. Hope to see you all at Mid-Winter. Safe travels to everyone.

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VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
Sally Jarrett – Chairman

HAPPY NEW YEAR AUXILIARY MEMBERS. I hope the New Year finds you all happy, healthy and ready to tackle this great year. Even though it's half over, we are still a little behind on some of our reports.

Now is the time to look at your Mid-Year Reports and see what needs to be done to have that End of the Year Report completely checked off by April.

Continue to send reports and pictures of all your awesome events. I want to take the time to thank those Auxiliaries that are constantly doing amazing things for our Veterans and their families. Keep them coming. Remember, please send your reports PDF or just mail them to me. If you are lacking some reports, let's double-down and start planning events for our great Veterans and their families.

Some of your reports are so awesome, I want to run outside and tell the whole state of Texas what our great Auxiliaries are doing for our Veterans and their families. Yep, you are rocking it. Let's make **2023** the best year ever. Continue the great work and supporting our Veterans and their families. Looking forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter.

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2022-2023 Mid-Winter Round Up Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas

Wednesday - January 18, 2023

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Registration – Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas -	Laguna Madre
6:00 p.m.	Dinner with the National Rep, C of A, Line Officers & Past Department Presidents (Dutch Treat)	TBA

Thursday – January 19, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Booths	Laguna Madre
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Floor Practice	TBA
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Council of Administration Meeting (Jeanenne’s DP Blue Shirt)	
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Celebrating With The Stars Celebration (Invitation Only)	TBA

Friday – January 20, 2023

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Booths	Laguna Madre
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Joint Memorial	CC Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Joint Opening Session	CC Ballroom
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	President’s Luncheon (pre purchase tickets)	Nueces Ballroom
	Presentation of Past Department Presidents	Nueces Ballroom
	Presentation of District Presidents	Nueces Ballroom
	Programs: Program Coordinator and Drawings	Nueces Ballroom
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Quarter Auction – Ways and Means	Nueces Ballroom

Saturday – January 21, 2023

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration & Booths	Laguna Madre
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	POW/MIA Ceremony	Nueces Ballroom
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Programs and National Representative	
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Free Time
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Programs Completion	
6:00 p.m.	VOD/Patriots Pen Banquet (pre purchase)	CC Ballroom

Sunday – January 22, 2023 – Safe Travels

Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

**FROM DESK OF DEPT
SECRETARY**

Betty Royston's new address is:
4781 FM 13 W
Henderson TX 75654

Millie Holland's new email address:
mawholland58@yahoo.com

