



Department President

Ramona Henson

Soaring Thru Texas



We are in our Thanksgiving month. I know it has been a tough time for many and you feel as if there's nothing to give thanks for, but look around, there is always someone that needs help more than you. For some, you are essential employees and continued right along with your daily routine, with a few changes. For others you may feel like the pause button has been pushed on life.

I can tell you there are some days that I feel totally overwhelmed – what should I do? How should I lead this Department or should we just stay home? What if I lead wrong? What about our Officers? We need them and they so need us. How do I keep the organization together and moving forward? As volunteers we are back up and going! Let me share with you that things are picking back up. There is traffic on the roadways once again. You can go out to eat again and you can visit your doctor in person. Our meetings are starting back up, some holding both in-person and Zoom meetings. Please remember that we are back to requiring 5 members in-person at the same location to make a quorum.

If you haven't visited our Facebook page lately do so now! The Department Chairmen have made videos of what they planned to present at training. It

can be located on Facebook in the groups section at Texas VFW Auxiliary.

We can now make plans for Mid-Winter Round-Up. It will be in Corpus in January and the VOD Banquet will be aboard the USS LEXINGTON. We haven't been to Corpus in a while, so it certainly gives all of us something to look forward to. The Tentative Agenda can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

In October we visited Districts 4 and 17. Thank you so much for your kind hospitality, it was so enjoyable.

The Department office will close at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 25 and re-open on Monday, November 30 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

From all of us at Department to all of you, have a Blessed Thanksgiving. In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

**Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our
Veterans**

Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans

CHIEF OF STAFF
Donna James

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Susie Carter – Chairman

When conducting a round table meeting, the following must be included:

- Check dues cards
- Roll Call of Officers
- Opening Prayer
- Pledge
- Minutes
- Treasurer’s Report
- Old Business
- New Business
- Closing Prayer

If a joint meeting is conducted before Auxiliary meeting and Pledge and Prayer is said, you still say the Pledge and Prayer in the Auxiliary meeting. This is an Auxiliary agenda. I have received many calls on this matter. We, as an Auxiliary, Honor our Flag and Our God.

The prayers are different in the Traditional and Contemporary meetings. The Traditional prayer includes God, the Contemporary prayer leaves out God.

If you are having Zoom meetings, you must have 5 in-person members present at meeting to meet the quorum before conducting the Zoom meeting. In areas where members, due to age, health, etc., are reluctant/refuse to participate in in-person meetings to establish a quorum for the transaction of business, the Auxiliary President may appeal, in writing, to the Department President for written permission (to be attached to the meeting’s minutes) that the members needed to establish a quorum may attend virtually.

Should audits or official visits be completed virtually, the audit/books may be signed at a later date with a copy of the written permission from the Department President attached. This is an Executive Order from National which supersedes Executive Order No. 2 issued March 26, 2020. All Auxiliaries should be holding regular meetings. Auxiliaries must conduct 10 meetings a year.

Times are still vastly different with all the problems in the world today. We must continue our goals to help our Veterans without hesitation. They need us more now than ever. Even through the hard times, I have seen great activities by our Auxiliaries. Keep up the Great work!

Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans

Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans

While emphasis is placed on core programs this year the Auxiliary is revitalizing a program formerly known as Community Service. We, as Auxiliary members, often serve other organizations outside the Auxiliary and that volunteer work needs to be counted. Everything that cannot be reported to one of our core programs can be reported to the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program. Just one thing REMEMBER prior to the project participation, it MUST be approved by your Auxiliary floor and recorded in the minutes.

Pages 12 and 14 of the 2020-2021 National Program book “**Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**” includes the following list of suggested areas that you and your Auxiliary can participate in and report to our Auxiliary Community Outreach Program.

- * Kids/Education
- * Hunger/Homelessness (non-Veterans)
- * Career Skills
- * Elderly
- * Health/Research
- * Nature
- * Animals

Whether you spearhead a project or work jointly with one or more civic groups or clubs it is all about service. You need to work with your local newspapers and/or other media outlets including social media to publicize the project to ensure a community turnout and in turn introduce others to the VFW and it’s Auxiliary. So make sure that you wear your Auxiliary branded attire when you participate in any project. This program allows us to not only support our community but to also recruit new members, get students involved in our scholarship contests as well as advocate for our Veterans.

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**REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!**  
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“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”

“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”



LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby – Chairman

In keeping with the VFW's commitment to student veterans' success, every year the VFW teams up with Student Veterans of America (SVA) to host the **VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship** program, providing 10 exemplary VFW members who are student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community.

Student veterans interested in applying must complete an application package that includes an essay proposal on one of four specific legislative issues. The proposal should include a discussion of why the issue is important to the veteran community and how the fellowship candidate plans to address the issue through federal policy solutions and community-based advocacy. Selected fellows will then be flown to Washington to ensure the veterans' voice is delivered to Capitol Hill alongside 500 fellow veteran advocates as part of the annual VFW Legislative Conference held in March.

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship opportunities are open to VFW members in good standing who are currently enrolled as students at accredited colleges and universities approved for GI Bill benefits.

Visit vfw.org/Eligibility for more information on membership. Student veterans enrolled at colleges and universities with active SVA chapters are also encouraged to apply. Visit studentveterans.org/chapter to find a chapter near you.

If you have questions on the 2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship program, please contact the VFW at www.vfwac@vfw.org.

I want to remind everybody to be sure each auxiliary member is receiving the Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter. You can sign up online to receive this resource at www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-effort. You can also go to the resource page in MALTA under Legislative to find more tools and resources.

Remember the deadline on the Word Search is January 1, 2021. I have been getting a lot of response. Will it be your District that wins?

Please be sure you read your program books and follow the guidelines set out for our National and State priority goals. This is one of the ways we, as auxiliary members, have **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans** as we are **Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**.

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.



SCHOLARSHIPS
Norita Jackson – Chairman

As we are starting to be able to get back into our Posts and back to some of the activities at the Post that we have been shut out of for the past 6-8 months, we're rounding the corner to the upcoming deadline for the VFW sponsored youth scholarship contests, the **Patriot's Pen** and **Voice of Democracy** Essay/Voice contest. I wanted to make use of this opportunity to reiterate some resource information and dates to be aware of. In order to facilitate the selection processes and ensure that uniform steps are taken to make those selections, please review and download the following forms:

[Patriot's Pen Score Sheet](#)

[Voice of Democracy Score Sheet](#)

[Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility](#)

As per Texas VFW extended deadlines are as follows: Entries to Post deadline of November 15, 2020 - Post Judging and to District complete December 1, 2020. District to Department deadline extended to December 15, 2020

To ensure a successful competition as taken directly from the **VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL**, "Posts and Auxiliaries must commit knowledgeable chairmen, enthusiastic volunteers and resources to both competitions. Don't hesitate to involve school administrators, PTA/PTO/PSO parents, teachers, counselors, radio and TV stations, newspapers, churches and other service, civic and community groups and organizations to encourage and facilitate student participation, help with the judging and generally promote the programs."

Please take note of Submissions Criteria

School/Youth Group to Post (both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen) 1-15 essays – One (1) entry to Post; 16-30 essays – Two (2) entries; 31-45 essays – Three (3) entries (NOTE: no limit)

Post to District (for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen) 1-15 essays – One (1) entry to District; 16-30 essays – Two (2) entries; 31-45 essays – Three (3) entries.

District to Department One (1) entry per District (with student's head & shoulders photo added at this time for first place District winner.) This applies to both Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.

As a reminder, please keep **promoting** the Continuing Education Scholarship and the Statewide Project.

With regards to **reports**, while I have heard from a good number of you, I have not heard from all of you. I suspect that will change as soon as our deadline dates have passed. Remember to coordinate with your Youth Activities Chairman and Patriotic Instructors for collaborations. However, we should not wait to turn in reports, since activities, dates and details can escape us. You are working hard and deserve to be recognized for that.

Let's continue what we have started by persevering (continuing in a course of action despite difficulty or delay in achieving success) with **HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT FOR OUR VETERANS** while **Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans!**



STATE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM **Nelda Hackett – Chairman**

Auxiliary members, I have been receiving some reports, however, I need a report from EACH auxiliary. Don't forget to send your donation of \$15.00 or more to the State Nursing Scholarship Program. Send the check to Department Treasurer JoElla Menn and a copy of the check to me with your report form.

Our Nurses appreciate any effort you make to honor them, provide a cake, cookies, hand-written cards, gift cards or a simple thank you card. Please don't forget about the night shift nurses!

Please get those Scholarship applications out there! Don't hesitate to contact me for any questions at 830-660-9606 or neldal52@swbell.net

HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT FOR OUR VETERANS

HONORING OUR MISSION TO SERVE VETERANS



YOUTH ACTIVITIES **Mona Benotti – Chairman**

Showing **Honor, Courage, Commitment for Our Veterans** is certainly what you are doing with your Youth Activities. I am seeing many examples of communication regarding our competitions. This includes using social media, local grocery store bulletin boards, email to members and friends and hand-carrying to school workers so they can share. Our competitive areas are:

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue. This vocal contest is for ages 6 – 16 and the entrant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National. This will teach all participants the words to *The Star-Spangled Banner* exactly as it is written. Please set up your own local competition with the deadline for you to receive entries March 31, 2021. You have until April 15 to send your first-place winner to me for state-level judging.

Illustrating America is open to students in grades 1 – 8 and is divided into three divisions: grades 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Two-dimensional art on canvas or paper unframed is what we are seeking. The brochure/entry form has all the specifications.

The entrant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National. Once again you establish your own local competition with entries to you by March 31 and to me for statewide judging by April 15, 2021.

Our other areas include **Patriotism Through Literacy** with the suggested book list divided by age groupings at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Suggested-Book-List.pdf>. One suggestion from our National Ambassador, Jodie Hollinger, is to donate a book to a school or library in your area in honor of our National President, Sandi Onstwedder. I've provided information on this and a label to place in the book(s) you are donating to our District Presidents or you can email me to request it.

Include the American Flag is what you are doing big time. Handing out flags and other patriotic material, having youth at your events to learn more about patriotism and engaging them in our work for our veterans is all important.

We are **Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans**. Remember we are the 'carriers' of patriotism and our zest for all things veteran.

More information is on the National website. I'm also here to help you find what you need to get the job done: mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729.

MEMBERSHIP
Barbara Koehn – Team Leader

Being part of this great organization, the VFW Auxiliary, should make us all proud of the accomplishments we have made over the years. Started out as a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans, we have grown nearly every year since our inception

With the inclusion of our brothers, we have grown stronger and mightier, but we must continue to grow, recruit, and retain our membership.

Texas now stands at 88%. Auxiliary and Districts Presidents, please evaluate why your numbers are on the low side below 70%, reach out to them and see if you can help in anyway.

I am in the process of calling District and Auxiliary Presidents of the Department of Texas and see if we can help in any way.

The Department of Texas, along with a special fundraiser and the assistance of Department Treasurer Jo Ella Menn, has mailed out two reminder notices this year to Auxiliary members who have not paid their dues. Hopefully, this has helped your Auxiliary.

These are a few ways for a successful recruiting campaign to occur:

1) Personal contact, go door-to-door, have membership recruiting booths at special events, and always stress membership in your meetings

2) Mail Dues notices, Auxiliary newsletter, entitlement information

3) Use “silent” recruiters- referrals from friends and family (always use the eligibility wheel), Auxiliary members, social media

4) Telephone - use it often and frequently. Is there a reason? Do they need help?

5) Work with your local VFW Quartermaster and Commander for a list of VFW members that might have family members who might be eligible.

Again, establish a Membership goal of 100% plus, Initiate action... be aggressive not pushy... use originality... publicize your program...exercise all your abilities to activate workers within your Auxiliary...personal contact...telephone drives...dues reminders...incentives...awards...contests.

This IS the time for us to band together as Brothers and Sisters to see that our Veterans and their families have the best support and respect they deserve and to live the best life they are entitled to.

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise L. DuBois – Team Leader

Is Fall really around the corner? Let's hope so. All of you have been busy with your trainings and setting things into play for this new year. We continue to request the mentoring forms be filled out and returned. We have great mentors in the State of Texas, but We would like to know who they are.

Mentoring and Leadership build strong relationships. The better we all understand our organization, the stronger our department will be. The mentoring for leadership team is committed to listen, watch, and be there for you.

We will continue to develop member confidence and ensure there is a positive member experience. Please tell us “Who is your R.O.C.K.”

“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”
“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Shawn Terry – Team Leader

Wow, it is hard to believe another month has come and gone. November is here, and it will be another busy month! Before I move on to other topics, I want to sing everyone's praises for the wonderful reports I am receiving. Even with the current situation (which hopefully is going to see brighter days very soon), auxiliary members are getting out and doing projects and reporting! CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU!!! You all are not letting anything keep you from taking care of the veterans and active military in this great state.

Veterans Day is November 11th. Here are just a few of the many examples of things that can be done to show your appreciation for a veteran: Take a homebound veteran a home cooked meal, yard clean for a disabled veteran, invite a veteran to a function, treat bags with thank you notes to nursing homes or assisted living facilities where veterans reside, celebrate any veterans that may be in your work place. I will be looking forward to getting the great reports on the activities that everyone

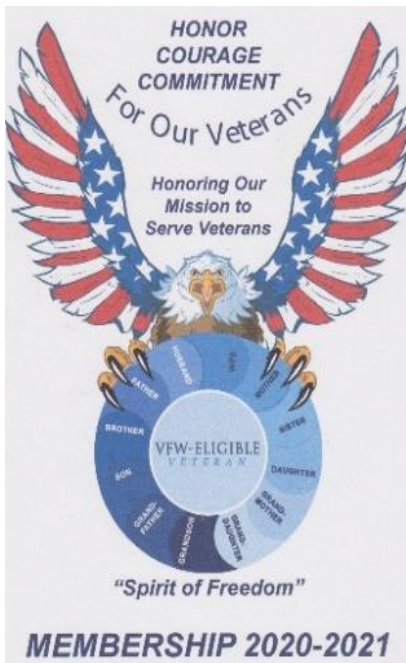
will be doing to honor the veterans in their community on Veterans Day.

The Toys for Tots project is in full swing. Christmas is just around the corner. Please remember the kiddos that have not only been affected by the pandemic, but the ones that may live in areas with homes that have suffered damage from the barrage of hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit the Texas coast. Their parents are having to use whatever resources they have on things besides toys and goodies for the children. Thank you to the auxiliaries that have already held their Toy Drive.

Once again, I want to thank each of you, from the bottom of my heart, for all the hard work being done for our veterans and active service men and women.

I wish a wonderful Thanksgiving to each of you and your families.

**“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”
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From Department Treasurer

****Audits are due for quarter ending 30 September 2020**

****990s are due 15 November 2020....if you have trouble filing, contact the Department**

****Dues notices for all Auxiliaries who are less than 90% will go out in November**

THANKSGIVING OFFICE HOURS

Office will close Wednesday
November 25 at Noon

Re-opens on Monday November 30

Directory Changes

District 5 President – small roster - change zip code to 78634

PDP Peggy McGowen New Address:
250 W. Arbrook #134
Arlington, TX 76014

Auxiliary Presidents

Please be aware, if you have any changes in your officers, National Headquarters and our Department office need the replacement's Membership Number and contact information to change anything in MALTA.



2020-2021 Mid-Winter Round-Up

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday – January 20, 2021

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Registration – Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas
VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means

6:00 PM Dinner for National Council Member Donna James – Past Dept Presidents, Line Officers (***DUTCH TREAT***)

Thursday – January 21, 2021

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration and Booths

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Council of Administration Meeting – Nueces Ballroom
Representative Donna James Council Member (Ramona's Black Shirt)

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Past Department Presidents' Luncheon

1:00 PM – 4:30 PM Training begins - Program Coordinator Andrea King - Nueces Ballroom

6:00 PM Invitation Only Event

Friday – January 22, 2021

TBD Arrival of National President – Sandra Onstwedder

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration and Booths

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Joint Memorial Service – **Uniform With Jacket**
Dept. President, Dept. Chaplain, District Presidents

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Joint Opening Session

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Presidents Luncheon – Nueces Ballroom - **Purchased Tickets Required**

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Presentation of Past Dept Presidents
Presentation of District Presidents
Programs: Program Coordinator Andrea King - Drawings

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Spirit of Freedom Membership Celebration – **INVITATION ONLY** – Nueces Room

Saturday – January 23, 2021

8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Registration and Booths

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM POW/MIA Ceremony – Nueces Ballroom

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM Completion of Programs

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Completion of Programs/Raffles

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Remarks National President

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM Shuttle Service to USS Lexington

6:00 PM – Close Voice of Democracy Banquet **Purchased Tickets Required**

Sunday – January 24, 2021 – Safe Travels

TEAMWORK

