

those dues in. Hooray for Texas!!! We want to keep working the Membership Program, getting in all those last-minute dues, recruiting new ones and keeping Texas on top!!!

Thank you for everything you do for our Veterans as we are the **“Wind Beneath Our Veteran’s Wings”** and we keep **“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**.

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**REVITALIZATION/EXTENSION  
CHIEF OF STAFF  
Debbie Daniel**

Here we are into the month of March. WOW!! We are getting down to the nitty and gritty of finalizing our year.

District Presidents, now is the time to finish up with any follow-up visits that you feel might be needed. If a visit is not needed, then make those follow-up phone calls. If you have any new issues that have cropped up and you need assistance, please let me know as soon as possible so we can address and hopefully resolve immediately. Maybe you just need to call that Auxiliary President and say hello, let them know you’re still available and encourage them.

Please send out your newsletters, emails, etc. and remind your Auxiliaries that they certainly CAN get started on the Year-End Report deadlines and getting them to you before the deadline date of April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Also, time is running out to follow-up on any possibilities for the formation of new Auxiliaries. The process is not an overnight, quick thing. Each step takes time and effort. The District President is a key element in this process.

Districts are having meetings and this is a great time to have a quick meeting, set up an individual meeting or even do a presentation at the District Joint Meeting on why an Auxiliary is needed at a Bachelor Post.

Keep up the great work of taking care of your Districts. Not only are you important to your District, you are appreciated for your dedication and all you do in your Districts.

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”  
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
Dorthy Bennett – Chairman**

Here we are in March and programs are heating up and winding up. It is my greatest hope that information has gone out to all high school artists and that they are creating up a storm. Remember that art pieces must meet certain perimeters and not be over 5 pounds for 3D art. These pieces of art should come to the local Auxiliary and judging is optional on the District level. Artwork is due to the Auxiliary by March 31. Artwork must be in my hands on later than April 15.

Note the zip code is incorrect on my address it should be 79761-5120.

Please report all your activities with this part of the program. To be 100% in reporting I need monthly reports to judge which Auxiliaries will receive awards. Remember we are asking that Auxiliaries donate monies to create a **Department Award for 2- and 3-Dimensional Art**.

The goal is to have awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places that total an amount of \$1,000.00. Thank you in advance for this. We know that we have asked a lot this year. Please earmark checks for Department Art Contest 2- and 3- Dimensional. Please send me a report with the donated amount.

Citations for outstanding activity or event educating the community about scholarship opportunities will be presented to Auxiliaries.

Review under MALTA the National Program for Scholarship to find the entry form. The information and forms must come to me by March 31. The form can be found under Scholarship Auxiliary Award #1. Citations are mailed directly to the Auxiliary. Any money tied to awards will be paid after National Convention.

You may contact me for any help or explanations that you might need.

More information can be found in your Department Program Book and on MALTA under Scholarship Resources. **Happy Spring!**

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”  
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**

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**LEGISLATIVE
Cheyenne Harper - Chairman**

Greeting from your Department Legislative Chairman. I hope everybody arrived home from Mid-

Winter safe and sound. The training was very educational. I had a great time seeing each one of you.

At Mid-Winter I mentioned that my award would be the best way you take your poster out into your community and promote voting. What I mean by that is - I don't want to hear you say you did; I want to see proof. I want to see pictures of you taking your posters out there and sharing them with your community.

If you search "After Action", you will see we have two Prisoners of War /Missing In Action (POW/MIA) coming home to Texas. One is Leroy C. Cloud. He was only 24 when he was classified missing. His rank was Army Staff Sgt. He will be coming home to Taylor, Texas. The second one is Thomas Crayton age 28. His rank was Army Master Sgt. He is from Austin, Texas.

When you get a chance, I highly encourage you to go to your after action and read the articles because you never know a POW/MIA could be coming to your town.

**"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"**

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**SUNSHINE/CHAPLAIN  
Sharon Macy**

"We can't help everyone but everyone can help someone."  
Ronald Reagan

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**HOSPITAL/VAVS
Pamela Fintel – Chairman**

Happy St .Patrick's Day

This year has really flown by! It seems we never have enough time to do all we need to get done. Do you know how many people in the United States are of the Irish Descent? According to the U.S. Census Bureau...31.5 million Americans claim Irish Descent. That's a lot of Irish-Americans. I love St Patrick's Day, I love the shamrocks, gold pots and wearing green. So, get those St. Patrick Day cards ready to take to the VA facilities and non-VA Facilities.

Our Hospitalized Veterans love to get cards from you. Have you checked out all the cute St Patrick's Day

cards. You can also make them and get your youth involved in helping make these very special cards.

Easter is early this year and this would be a good time to make Easter Baskets for our Hospitalized Veterans. They love stuffed animals, candy, cookies and even fruit.

Our Veterans are getting older and we, as an Auxiliary, need to make sure that we honor them all the way to the end of their life. Put a team together and talk to the Directors of Nursing Homes, VA Facilities and families on how we can participate in the Honors Escort Program in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death.

**March 17th St. Patrick's Day
March 29th Vietnam Veterans Day
March 31st Easter**

Just a reminder...Your Nomination Forms for "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer" & "Outstanding Hospital Youth Volunteer" must be received by March 31st to me either by email or mail.

I have enjoyed getting all your reports and seeing what you are doing for our Hospitalized Veterans. I am so proud of TEXAS. Keep up the good work.

**"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"**

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**PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
Denise DuBois**

Here it is March already! Spring is just around the corner. This begins the busiest time of the year for us. Your end of year reports are due April 10<sup>th</sup> to your District President and April 20<sup>th</sup> the Department Chairman must have the reports in their possession. Not a day late.

I want to give a "shout out" to all the Chairpersons as they have worked extremely hard this year as they promoted the programs. Job well done!

Just always know you can reach me at any time (unless I am cruising-lol). I am thankful to the membership of Texas for supporting our organization by assisting Veterans and their families through our Programs.

*"No duty is more urgent than giving thanks"*

*James Allen*

**"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"  
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"**

## **BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME**

**Denise DuBois – Chairman**  
**Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman**

### **“Buddy” Poppy**

Here we are in March! Oh my, our year is winding down. Do not stop! Keep those reports coming. It is amazing what you are doing throughout the state with the “Buddy” Poppy.

By wearing a poppy, you are honoring the fallen, helping the living and showing your patriotism. It is never too late to have a “Buddy” Poppy drive.

We are anxious to see where you have taken your pinatas and introduced them through another program.

What did you think about the ‘Pop’ tabs for Poppies? Pull those tabs off of your sodas or even can goods have pull tabs now. Take a container to your canteen.

Share containers at your community locations. All can participate and by doing this - not only are you sharing the story, but this will allow you some funding for poppy purchases. (Many of your recycle businesses will increase the payout if you tell them you are a Veterans’ organization).

Don’t forget to start working your end of year reports. We must have them no later than April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **VFW National Home**

Wasn’t it great to have Mike Wilson from the VFW National Home speak to us at Mid-Winter. He has done great things and you can tell he challenges himself every day to do something better for the families there.

Since 1922, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America’s military and Veterans’ families.

Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home’s commitment to honor our nation’s Veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

Please continue promoting the VFW National Home in your communities as this will able us to reach out to many more families in need.

Have you purchased a Tribute Brick? Have you surprised a member with a Lifetime Membership?

Continue to keep yourself updated on the VFW National Home events. The Pollet house is being demolished and rebuilt and soon will become a home for another family.

Keep those reports coming and don’t forget your end of year reports are due to us no later than April 20<sup>th</sup>.

*“I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more luck I have.”*

-Thomas Jefferson

### **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings” “Banding Together For Our Veterans”**

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AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Irma Solis – Chairman

Let us all have a great day every day. Remember that everyday has a new beginning and brings new hope for us all!!!

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings” “Banding Together For Our Veterans”

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### **HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATION Bernie Adams**

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

Let us not forget about the Statewide Project for this year. Please help me finish the project of your first Ladies Auxiliary President.

Every now and again we need a reminder for Auxiliary to submits a 3–5-minute video interview with a legacy VFW Auxiliary member. The form that must be submitted with the video is in MALTA and called the Historian & Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries No. 1. **Auxiliaries are to send this completed form and video to me by March 31, 2024.**

For the video you will ask your legacy member:

- Why they joined.
- Ask about their favorite memorable moment (s).
- Place emphasis on bringing the past to life.
- If your Auxiliary has no Legacy members, look to your District or Department.

Looking forward to the videos. **Happy St. Patrick Day**

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AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Gerald Spradlin – Chairman
Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman

It was wonderful to see old friends and make new ones at Mid-Winter 2024. It is always so great to get to see the ones we only see a few times a year and get to catch up with what is going on with everyone's Auxiliaries! We were excited to report that you all had worked over 15,576 hours on Auxiliary Outreach projects!! Congratulations to you all for all you are doing for our communities!!

We are here to help guide you with making your Auxiliary Outreach projects successful. Your questions are always welcome and we love getting to talk to you about what you are doing for your communities. Each and every one of our Auxiliaries are in different areas and that means there are unique needs in each of your communities.

The five basic steps to follow for successful Auxiliary Outreach projects are:

1. Find local groups and organizations that need assistance (check newspapers, websites, Facebook pages, ask your members...)
2. Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help their organization or group make their event successful (help set up, tear down, clean up, man stations, assist participants, answer phones, serve...)
3. Vote at your Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity (have it in the meeting minutes that one or more of your members will be participating in a one-time or a recurring event)
4. Form a partnership with the other organization/group (show up on time ready to work, and wear Auxiliary hat, shirt, or pin)
5. Report the details (at your next Auxiliary meeting, report the number of hours each member participated and how many miles it took to get to and from the event).

Remember that you cannot plan the event, give money to the event or participate in the event. You are there to volunteer your time only. If you can report the event under another Program, it has to go under the

other Program. Keep in mind that when Auxiliary Outreach was created it was intended to cover what was not already included in another Program. Here are a few suggestions: serving food at a fireman's breakfast, helping a church with a dinner for the public, organizing books for a library tent sale, handling registration for a charity run or event or volunteering at a senior center.

Keep up the excellent work, be proud to let them know you are an Auxiliary member by wearing your Auxiliary attire (name badge, hat, shirt, jacket) and help to better both the community and the VFW Auxiliary. Remember to have fun with this program, meet new people and enjoy being out in your communities.

Keep your reports and pictures coming and see what you can do to make the Auxiliary Outreach Program a success!!

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**AMERICANISM**  
**Ronnie and Laurie Wiley**  
**Chairman & Co-Chairman**

I would just like to say we had an awesome time at Mid-Winter in Corpus Christi. It was great seeing everyone. You all are doing a great job reporting all the things you and your Auxiliary do for Americanism. If you sign into MALTA, our National Organization has a Citation Award available to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are “more than letters.” Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

**"The American's Creed"**

It's the title of a resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on April 3, 1918. It is a statement written in 1917 by William Tyler Page as an entry into a patriotic contest that he won.

**I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American**

**patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.**  
—William Tyler Page, *The American's Creed*,

**Please remember to have Year-End Reports mailed by March 31st, 2024.**

|          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| March    | Women's History Month         |
| March 2  | Texas Independence Day 1836   |
| March 3  | Navy Reserve Birthday         |
| March 4  | Hug a GI Day                  |
| March 5  | Seebee Birthday               |
| March 13 | K-9 Veterans Day              |
| March 17 | St. Patrick's Day             |
| March 21 | Rosie The Riveter Day         |
| March 24 | Kosovo Campaign               |
| March 25 | Medal of Honor Day            |
| March 29 | National Vietnam Memorial Day |
| March 31 | Somalia 1995                  |

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MEMBERSHIP
Beth West –Chairman
Shawn Terry – Co-Chairman

This is it!! This is the climax of our story, the cliffhanger, the apex of excitement. This is March and it is time to write the final scenes of our Membership Movie.

We are talking about reporting. Have you looked ahead? Have you read what questions you'll need answers for?

Here's a simple checklist that will assist with both National and State awards:

Have you turned in all new, renewed, rejoined and deceased members?

Have you used any materials/resources available in MALTA Member Resources?

Have you promoted, participated, hosted or co-hosted with your Post activities regarding the VFW/AUX education and membership recruitment?

Have you regularly educated your members on the benefits of their membership, showing them things like the Benefits Hub, cancer grants, etc.?

Have you educated your members on the National Membership Program Awards?

Have you participated in any recruiting events?

Have you recruited at least one member?

Don't forget these important dates:

--31 March 2024 is the deadline to be 98%+ in membership for National Membership Award No. 1 (\$25)

--31 March 2024 is the deadline for the State Award No. 1: Auxiliary in each Membership Division who has recruited the most new members (\$75) and to the District (\$50). Will that be your Auxiliary or District?

--10 April 2024 is the deadline for your reports to your District President.

--30 June 2024 is the deadline to be 100%+ for the National Membership Award No. 2 (\$25).

Take some time to write your last scene before the rush of production (report writing) takes away your creativity and ability to recall what you have done all year. “There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you,” said Maya Angelou. Tell your story. Tell your story through your reporting and attach the promotions and other items to create the movie we are all writing together on different sets.

We are so very proud of you!!! Keep writing (recruiting) as we are not to the Final Act yet!

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**VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT**  
**Tammie Mosby – Chairman**  
**Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**

Wow! We can't believe this year is almost gone. Just want to remind everyone about having your end-year reports to your District President by April 10.

We have put out a challenge. Please be sure that you read the Action Corps Weekly. At the bottom of each one is a list of the Prisoner of War/Missing In Action servicemen and women that through DNA testing have been found and returned home to their families for full military honor burial. Please be sure that these servicemen and women are acknowledged in some way and that their families know that their loved ones sacrifice is not forgotten. We want to see our email and mailbox full of the reports on this challenge.

If you need us for anything, please email us at [tjpurplerose@yahoo.com](mailto:tjpurplerose@yahoo.com) or [karlene440@gmail.com](mailto:karlene440@gmail.com) and call 936-414-5293 or 713-502-1436.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at State Convention.

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”  
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**YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Teresa Ramon – Chairman
Michelle Booker – Co-Chairman**

Greetings to all. As stated at our Mid-Winter Conference, we have approached the halfway mark for our 2023/2024 year. With that being said, we have some very important deadline dates to be mindful of. Get excited for our Red, White and Blue contest by singing our National Anthem. If you are submitting an entry, please send me a copy of your data stick, CD or link for your contestants' entry.

We also have our Illustrating America Art contest, encouraging our youth to draw or paint a picture of how they are inspired by America.

Deadline Dates for Auxiliaries:

March 31st. Be sure to get your entries in before the deadline. March 15 is a date to strive for to ensure your entries are received on time.

Department: April 14 and Nationals Headquarters: May 5.

****All contest rules can be found within your program books****

Let's keep promoting our Patriotism Through Literacy program by volunteering in schools, reading historical books teaching our youth about the United States of America.

Don't forget to give out those RAP cards when you see our youth participate within our community. We are looking forward to reviewing all your entries. Thank you for sharing all that you do with our youth.

“Let's continue to plant seeds of Knowledge, Patriotism, Loyalty, and Honor to help our youth to become strong leaders of tomorrow “

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**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT  
Jennifer Richardson – Chairman**

Pass over the iced tea, Phil didn't see his shadow, looking like an early spring is upon us. It was wonderful seeing everyone at Mid-Winter. I've received calls and

emails with questions in reference to the information given during my program, keep them coming. Don't hesitate to reach out for more information or ideas.

Keep up the great work and all you do for our Veterans and their families. Working together, utilizing our resources is how we can most effectively *Pass the tea!*

Please contact the Foundation at:  
foundation@texasvfw.org - for logos and/or information for you to better fundraise.

Websites: <https://www.texasvfw.org/veterans>  
<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/>

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**WAYS AND MEANS
Traci Frink & Lydia Leal**

Ways and Means would like to thank each of you for your awesome support at Mid-Winter. The Quarter Auction was a great success!

Thank you for your participation with the Grab Bags and Quarter Auction items. A very special thank you to the Auxiliaries that went above and beyond to bring both grab bags, Quarter Auction items or extra items. If you have any raffle tickets, pin money or Lucky Calendars, please get these to Department as soon as possible.

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**NURSING SCHOLARSHIP  
Kat Carter – Chairman**

CODE SCHOLARSHIP!!!! Isn't it awesome that our organization CAN distribute up to \$10,000 for senior nursing students PER YEAR!

We are now in the phase to find deserving and qualified applicants and to collect their completed paperwork prior to May 1, 2024.

As I mentioned at Mid-Winter, the process for those students will take time and they should begin working on their apps immediately! Only those who know about the scholarship can apply, so we must all do our best to get the word out immediately. If you have contacted the colleges, now is the time to give a follow up call and

to remind them to contact you with those apps. Please allow snail mail timing in sending those to me. The postmark to me, MUST READ prior to this deadline.

Also, while waiting for the applications to come in, please remember the STATEWIDE PROJECT of the Survival Kit and activities honoring and recognizing the local nurses in your area.

It's also never too late to send me the report with a copy of your Auxiliary's check for the Nursing MEMSTAT (#1 on the Year-End Report!) I need pictures of all activities and will be reviewing them in April for awards.

Note April 10, 2024 YEAR-END Report is due to your DISTRICT PRESIDENT, so that he/she can get them to me no later than April 20, 2024. This comes before our Scholarship App deadline of May 1, 2024, so keep records so you can report your final steps in the coming year of 2024-2025!! (Did you send me a report of last year's submissions to the program? It's not too late!)

**Start now finishing up!!!** What an honor it has been for me to work the Nursing Scholarship Program for such an honorable organization during Sister Susie's year! If you have any questions, please text me. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and their nurses!

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

**Candi Baines – Chairman
Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman
Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman**

I hope everyone is doing great and your Auxiliaries are flourishing. I'm sure you read your February OTC and can get some blanks filled in on your reports so we can be 100% in reporting.

It was nice seeing those that attended the Mid-Winter conference. I would like to remind everyone of some things that went on and how we can all do a little better by making members feel welcome. If we see someone wandering around alone, looking for a place to sit or maybe sitting alone please ask them to join you and include them in whatever activities you are doing. Please do not let people feel lost or unwelcome. These are the main reasons new members never return.

Let's also discuss internal Auxiliary issues. Your meetings should be your safe space. If there are issues, or questions that need to be addressed the meeting is the

ONLY place where they should be discussed. You should not sit quietly and then leave the meeting, head to the canteen or your bestie's house and speak of the things you did not like. Most things get blown out of proportion this way. By asking a simple question of clarity, you can eliminate 99.99% of drama. If you are having an issue with a specific person, have a conversation, go to lunch, work on your personal issue with them directly. Please do not talk to others and plant seeds of negativity about that person or problem, this causes division and unneeded drama. Drama will also drive new members right out of the door they entered in. Please try to be mindful of your words and actions and how they reflect to others. On that note I leave you with these words:

***Coming Together is a Beginning.
Keeping Together is Progress.
Working Together is Success.***

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**

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#### **DIRECTORY CHANGES**

District 9 President - Amanda Humphrey  
email address: [vfwaux4818@gmail.com](mailto:vfwaux4818@gmail.com)

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*****Delegates/Alternates Form
and Election Form will be going
out from the Department April 1
to the Auxiliary Presidents.*****

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

June 6 – 9, 2024

Please check the VFW Website for
upcoming information concerning
the Department Convention.



JO ELLA MENN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER
2024-2025**

**ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6**

GERALD SPRADLIN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY GUARD
2024-2025**

**Endorsed by District 19 & Auxiliaries
Endorsed by Post/Auxiliary 1836**



ALETHA JETER

**CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H
2024-2026**

**ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 17
ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 4709**

KAREN KAYLOR

**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H**

2024 – 2026

**ENDORSED BY VFW AUXILIARY 4008
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 14**