



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

## Our Two Cents

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Editor – Kathy Marrelli

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September, 2021



### “Tipping Our Hats To Vets”



### “Soaring Above & Beyond”

## Department President Karen Kaylor

It is September now with two months finished for our “We Tip Our Hats To Vets!” Team. We have had the State Training in Austin and National Convention in Kansas City. Thank you to all who came to training and the National Convention.

In August your auxiliaries had their School of Instruction and you are now involved in working your programs. Your Program Coordinator and Chairman are working hard for you with the Programs. Be sure and contact them if you have any questions or issues. I have seen first-hand some of the innovative ways you did your training and worked on your programs. It is wonderful to see so many Auxiliary members involved. The Our Two Cents is a great tool when working your programs please utilize it. Remember your line officers and office staff are here for you too, if you need to you may contact them also.

National Convention was abbreviated but it was nice getting together for the first time in two years and networking with our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers while working diligently. Your National Ambassadors worked hard and presented their programs to us. They were great! Thirteen resolutions were voted on by the delegates and revisions were made to the National by-laws. We worked hard supporting our Veterans! Your Treasurers have already sent out your due’s notices. You are starting to receive membership dues. The quotas were sent out by

National and your Department Chairman has been working closely with you. The Auxiliaries that have members that have not paid, beginning 1 October the Department will begin sending out due’s notices

September is a busy month for us. Do not forget to support all 4 patriotic days and report. Our normal Celebrating America’s Freedom Event (CAFÉ) will not be held this month. It is being combined with the 2022 Mid-Year Conference January 20 through February 3 in Melbourne and Cape Canaveral, Florida.

My homecoming will be the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and morning of the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Homecoming Team and District 14 have been working extremely hard to ensure you have a good time. I hope you will come visit me in District 14 at VFW Post 4008. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to District 17 for the wonderful hospitality. We enjoyed ourselves tremendously and appreciate each of you Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers along with all your Veterans! I thank each of you for your hard work “Soaring Above & Beyond”!

### Official Visits

District 20 – September 11

District 18 – September 12

District 14 – September 18

District 2 – September 25

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Patsy Kemp – Chairman**

The VFW Auxiliary was founded on sound principles and beliefs. In other words, we have a solid foundation that has lasted over 100 years. I believe - We Still Exist for Those That Are Not a Part of Us Yet.

Through our Community Outreach Programs we continue to add to our stature for outstanding patriotic and community leadership. Service is the foundation for the Auxiliaries' charter, purpose and membership. Show that "Together We Can" continue to keep our foundation strong.

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"** and our community and First Responders. Has your Auxiliary planned an Honor First Responders' program yet?

This is from my Ambassador, Mary Ryser:

Example – **FOR HONORING 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDERS**  
"Order pizza take it to a Fire Department. Members can serve them and carry homemade desserts. Easy for small auxiliaries to do".

**This is different than what I told you at training. This example is for honoring 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Only.**

REMEMBER: All Community Outreach projects must be approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the minutes prior to doing the project. You need to wear something that shows we are auxiliary members; hat, pin, shirt, etc.

Today, Americans of all ages and abilities are donating their time and talents to schools, hospitals, churches and civic organizations in an effort to improve their communities and serve a purpose greater than themselves. With all the projects your Post & Auxiliary will be doing, I hope you will consider Mentoring in schools. Help students who need extra help in reading, writing or math. Schools are always looking for assistance in these areas.

I am receiving your reports and proud of your outstanding work and look forward to receiving those Entry Forms and your photo collage, of your First Responders Honor projects.

We are into the third month of service for the 2021-2022 year. Do you realize that is ¼ of our year gone? No time to waste. Report – Report

God Bless you all. Patricia "Patsy" Kemp  
409 988-3269 [kemppat@aol.com](mailto:kemppat@aol.com)

**"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**Annie Nickerson - Chairman**

Students are always excited for the first day of school happening all over the state. They have been shopping for new clothes, backpacks, and more importantly scholarships. If you have not connected with your school contacts yet, please do so as soon as possible in order to give the contestants the maximum time. Don't forget the private and parochial schools as well as the home schooled. Remember that the deadline for Voice of Democracy ("America: Where Do We Go From Here?") and Patriot's Pen ("How Can I Be a Good American?") is October 31 and will be here before we know it. Follow up as often as you can.

Remember that Patriotic Art is not just two dimensional! The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest allows 3-D forms of art as long as the piece does not weigh more than five pounds! As before, two-dimensional art can be on canvas or paper and watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, acrylic, oil, pen, ink, markers and crayons or any other media can be used. Canvas entries must be on a stretcher frame or canvas board and CANNOT be framed. Other entries MUST be matted in WHITE. Art pieces can be no smaller than 8" X 10" and no larger than 18" X 24" not including the mat. Three-dimensional art can be made from paper, clay, wood, metal, papier-mâché, pottery, glass, wire, cloth, ceramic, etc. If art can be made from it, then it can be entered with the exception of digital art, photography and jewelry. Pieces can be no smaller than 8" in any direction and no larger than 24" in any direction and can weigh no more than five pounds. If the American Flag is depicted in any form, the Flag must conform to the Federal Flag Code as far as color, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code. That deadline is March 31, 2022, but it is good to get a jump on it now.

Thanks for all of your reports, and I look forward to many more. If you have any questions, I am only a phone call away. Remember that if we **Tip Our Hats To Vets**, we will be **Soaring Above & Beyond** and we can make a difference and honor our veterans.



## MEMBERSHIP

**Mona Benotti - Chairman**

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"** this month as we collect continuous (annual) dues. Most of us will have events at our Post home or another location during September such

as a remembrance of 9/11 or POW/MIA ceremony. Take advantage of this opportunity and let your members know via email or social media that you will be at the event before and after to receive their dues. Of course, you will have membership applications and the eligibility wheel with you as well.

Inviting and including members by being available, keeping them informed and always welcoming them is what brings people back. Challenge each of your attendees at the next meeting to reach out to their family and friends, work buddies and neighbors and invite them to attend an event. Fall fundraisers are a great time for finding new membership prospects. Have promo literature available but, most of all, have members available who can talk with them about your purpose and the things you are doing for veterans and your community.

As we are **“Soaring Above & Beyond”**, remember and let your members know that we, the Department of Texas, have goals set for us by National. **Retention goals** for every department are:

1. Quarter 1 by October 31 – retain 50% of our annual members
2. Quarter 2 by January 31 – retain 75%
3. Quarter 3 by April 30 – retain 90%
4. Quarter 4 by June 30 – retain 98%

Also, we have a **Quarterly Gain Goal** for new members. That goal is that the Department of Texas adds 169 new members each quarter. Look at your own member numbers now for both retention and new and keep these targets in mind. It is up to all of us to make the Department of Texas goals. Thank you for all you do; contact me at [mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net) or 817.805.3729.



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

**Hello** – It is so exciting to see the reports coming in. Each of you are doing a great job. I am so happy to share with you that items are being collected for our homeless vets and the number of items is quite **AMAZING!** Keep collecting. The count is on!!

September is **Suicide Awareness Month** and is observed on **September 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please distribute the **blue teardrop**. Remember your White Star families during this time. **Patriot Day** is **September 11<sup>th</sup>**. The **VFW Auxiliary Birthday** is **September 14<sup>th</sup>**. **POW/MIA Recognition Day** is **September 20<sup>th</sup>**. **Gold Star Families Day** is **September 29<sup>th</sup>**.

Keep clipping those coupons **BUT** they must be sent directly to:

**Support our Troops**  
**PO Box 70**  
**Daytona Beach, Fl. 32115-0070**

It is amazing how many coupons have been sent the past 2 months and so many veterans and their families will be so happy to receive them.

Keep up the great work you are doing and I believe each of you is **AWESOME!**

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



### **MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP** **Jayne McCormick – Chairman**

**“Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand”**  
**Mother Teresa**

**Goal: to Ensure the legacy of our organization continues through strong, healthy Auxiliaries with the members who are prepared to take over leadership roles when needed.**

We are off and running: Our Auxiliary Mentors are being appointed or elected. Our Senior Mentors/Advisors are planning their visits. As stated in our program we will be helping throughout our state. As we are asked, we will be training our programs, By-laws education, being your cheerleader and providing support

This year is starting off with our COVID virus emerging its ugly head again. I believe we will have to again think out of the box. Our Leaders, Our Mentors and most of all Our Members will be ask to go above and beyond to achieve our goals for this Organization. We must work as a team caring about each other. We must help our new Members to understand and be a part of our commitment to our veterans, their families and our communities who depend of us.

**This Is Who We Are:**

Established 1914, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary set out to serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform. The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation’s oldest veterans’ service organizations and our

members are the relatives of those who served in a location of foreign conflict. Nearly 470,000 members in more than 3,600 Auxiliaries nationwide who volunteer millions of hours and fundraise millions of dollars for charitable projects that benefit veterans, military service personnel and their families.

Through our National Programs, we assist the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of scholarships for our nation's youth

**THIS IS WHY WE ALL WILL WORK, MENTOR, LEAD AND CHERISH OUR MEMBERS ALWAYS REMEMBERING OUR VETERAN WE SERVE OR SERVED.**

**“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** by enhancing leadership abilities of the members who will be **“Soaring Above & Beyond.”**

**Goals + Mentoring + Leadership = Healthy Auxiliary**



### **LEGISLATIVE** **Norita Jackson - Chairman**

In our third article for the Legislative program, we will tackle the “Priority Goal” identified topic of concern “Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs”. Under this sub-heading, we will take a look at this priority that focuses on improving the claims process and the timeliness of claims processing and/or appeals for disability ratings. It not only focuses on improving access to VA services for those veterans deemed eligible for VA care but also reducing the backlog of cases, the paperwork and “red tape” burden and the cost of the VA for those eligible for treatment. As quoted by a VFW spokesperson, “When we say timely access to benefits, we mean that VA should have the capability to deliver the benefits that veterans deserve in a favorable or useful timeframe. While there is an element of speed to ensuring the timely delivery of benefits, we must not conflate speed with timeliness. Timeliness implies accuracy, otherwise the decision or notification is not useful to the veteran. We must also not conflate delivery of benefits with receipt of a rating decision or notification. If the decision or notification does not accurately confer the benefits to which the veteran is entitled, it is not useful to the veteran.”

Other matters of Priority concerns:

- properly implementing the modernized appeals process.

- Considering the treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Extending the Persian Gulf War disability compensation eligibility beyond 2021 and to Afghanistan-theater veterans and reform the relevant Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Establishing a presumptive disability compensation benefit for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, blast survivors, and for health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Requiring VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Increasing burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- Authorizing more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.
- Updating regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Transferring control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the National Cemetery Administration.

Please take the time to visit the website at [VFW.org/advocacy](http://VFW.org/advocacy) to see a list of those issues that are pending legislation and to read the VFW Congressional Testimony. As VFW Auxiliary members and advocates for veterans and active-duty military, we have chosen to step up to the plate and let our voices be heard and presence be known. Those matters of concern to the veterans are matters of concern to you and the only way you can know what the issues are is to remain an active participant in the process. Continue to contact your State Representatives and Congressmen and women, respond to those Real Time “Action Alerts” and by way of in-person or virtual settings, attend Town Hall meetings and forums. Report your activities and promotions. In this way **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** and **“Soar Above & Beyond”**



### **CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION** **Juanita Workman**

Schools of Instructions/Organizational Meetings – check -- Presidents/Treasurers bonded - check

Welcome to all the new members that decided to join this organization. Now it becomes our mission to help new members understand the traditions of the Auxiliary, By-laws that we follow and what we do for our veterans and their families and to further the growth of the organization.

The main components of this program:



**Continuous members** – contact those who have not paid their dues. Department will be sending out notices the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

**Assisting weak auxiliaries** – recognize struggles an auxiliary may be having and assist.

**Instituting new auxiliaries.** Contact Bachelor Posts and explain the importance and benefits of an Auxiliary.

**District Presidents:** Official visits should be set up and being completed. Do not hold the Official Visit Form – send copy to me when completed. Be aware that these visits will bring to the forefront any auxiliaries that are struggling or weak.

Not only do I work closely with the Department President, I work closely with the District Presidents and the District Deputy Chiefs of Staff. The main goal for all is to increase membership, retain the active members and contact the Bachelor Posts and share the importance of having an Auxiliary.

Reminders:

President/Treasurers Bonded

Audits submitted to Department

990's – a little early, but it is never too early to start on the things that will be necessary down the line. Copy of 990 should be sent to the Department.

We have begun **“Soaring Above & Beyond”** for the membership as **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”**.



### **BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME**

**Shawn Terry – Chairman**

Greetings to all the awesome auxiliary members in the great state of Texas. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to visit with those of you that attended the State Training in Austin in July. There were over 100 first time attendees at the training and that is incredible!! I hope that everyone is doing what they need to do to stay safe as it appears that COVID and its nasty variant are making a presence once again.

I have received a number of calls and emails about the Uncle Sam Hat for this year's statewide project. The only real requirement is that it looks like an Uncle Sam Hat, be big enough to fit a human head and be some variation of red, white and blue. (Google Uncle Sam Hat). Remember to keep a count of how many poppies being used so it can be included in your report. I have already received quite a few great reports. Thank you and keep up the great work.

The VFW National Home continues to provide for families that need their services. When you are sending a check for the National Home, please make the check out and send it to Department and not directly to the National Home. The Department Treasurer will send it on to the National Home. If you are sending money for Lifetime Memberships to the National Home, you will do the exact opposite. You will want to send the money directly to the Home.

Just a gentle reminder: please attach pictures and copies of checks or receipts to the reports you send. When you are reporting, remember to include the “Who, What, Where and When”. I want to thank each and every one of you for the love and dedication you all show for our precious veterans.

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



**HOSPITAL/VAVS  
Karen Jeffrey – Chairman**

I would like to thank everyone who brought a puzzle to State Training. They will be donated to VA Living Center or State Nursing Home puzzle tables. Our Veterans will appreciate having a new puzzle to work.

I would like to say Thank You for the Reports received. Wow! Amazing work serving our Veterans! Thank You for embracing the Honors Escort Program with such enthusiasm and promoting this program to your local Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Funeral Homes & rural Hospitals.

VAVS Representatives, it's that time of year when we need to Contact Voluntary Services to schedule the Annual Joint Review (AJR).

With the COVID cases fluctuating in many areas of Texas, the VA Hospital or Clinic may have limited access. Access is determined on a location-to-location basis. Please contact your VA Hospital or facility for their current access protocol.

All VAVS Representatives, remember to turn in your Monthly Hospital Fund Report, with receipts attached, to the Department Treasurer, Jo Ella Menn. This is due monthly by the 5<sup>th</sup>.

A BIG Thank You to Auxiliaries who participated in the “Littlest Heroes Baby Shower”. District 9 assisted with donations to the Thomas E. Creek VA Facility in Amarillo on June 24, 2021. This program supported more than 30 Women Veterans in the Maternity Program.

Making a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families is what we are here to do!

September 11, 2021 is the 20-year Anniversary of 9/11. This is a perfect opportunity to honor our fallen First Responders from every community Statewide. Remind their families that their sacrifice means something...that We Will Never Forget!

We are pieces of a puzzle. Each piece is special. Each piece is important. Each piece is needed to create a beautiful picture.

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



### **DIRECTORY/ROSTER CHANGES**

#### **District 1**

##### **Auxiliary 2195 President**

Sally Thompson - new email address  
[sally@eagle21.net](mailto:sally@eagle21.net)

##### **Auxiliary 8273 President correct address**

Debra Miller – 7560 Rockyford Dr.

### **Program Participation – September**

<b>Sept. 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Worldwide Suicide Awareness Day
<b>Sept. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Patriot Day
<b>Sept. 14<sup>th</sup></b>	VFW Auxiliary Birthday
<b>Sept. 20<sup>th</sup></b>	POW/MIA Recognition Day
<b>Sept. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Gold Star Mothers/Families

*OUR TWO CENT* available for downloading from website around 1<sup>st</sup> of every month.

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VFW and VFW Auxiliary

You are invited

Department President

Karen Kaylor's

Homecoming

October 8—9—10th 2021

Henry T. Waskow

VFW Post 4008

2311 South I-35 Access Road

Belton, Texas 76513

Please RSVP by contacting

Jojo Kilgore

254-421-3996

mattiemae1031@gmail.com

Jessica Rozas

254-654-2634

jmkilgore123@gmail.com

**Call, text, or email**

**By 20 September 2021**

Please specify:

How many will be attending

Dinner choice: Grilled chicken breast or grilled pork chop

**No charge for meals served at VFW Post 4008**



**VFW Auxiliary  
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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED**

**Non-Profit  
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**ARE YOU THE MISSING PUZZLE PIECE?  
COME JOIN US**

