



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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**“Tipping Our
Hats To Vets”**



**“Soaring Above
& Beyond”**

**Department President
Karen Kaylor**

Wow! We have already finished our first quarter! It is the month of giving Thanks! Remember there are Veterans that need some uplifting. Make their Thanksgiving memorable! Include them in your festivities and let them know you care.

I visited several Districts in Oct. beginning with District 8. Now a larger district doubling in size as they have 5 auxiliaries that have been redistricted to them from District 15. They have two wonderful strong leaders assisting to meld them into a strong cohesive team. Thank you, District 8 President Debbie Daniel (Past Department President) and Past District 15 President Annie Nickerson, for working together as a team.

I next visited District 3, 13 and District 21. I visited the Adaptive Center in Dallas. I was honored to have visited the Joint Reserve Base in Ft. Worth along with other exciting Halloween activities. District Presidents Crystal Slown, Judy Suggs and Lorry Beltram were wonderful hostesses. Each District is so different and there is so much to see and do. Thank you to each of the Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers of Team **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets!”** as you made me feel so welcome.

I have been able to attend two VA clinics in my travels due to the closure of the VA Hospitals. They were

outstanding to see both the Katy and Beaumont clinic. It was impressive to see how well our Vets are being treated by such caring volunteers. I appointed a first VAVS for Katy, Pat Byrne and the VAVS in Beaumont Dolly Dack is doing outstanding work. With the support of their auxiliaries our Veterans are being helped. My first visit to a VA hospital was in Kerrville District 13. VAVS Audrey Martin has worked many years in support of the VA hospital. I so appreciated being able to meet with their staff. It was an outstanding visit.

I thank each one of you that came to celebrate with me at my homecoming in Belton at VFW Post 4008. Thank you to District 14 for all their support along with a special thank you to my homecoming committee consisting of Chairman, Juanita Workman, JoJo Kilgore and Jessica Rozas. They did an outstanding job. My VFW Post Commander was an excellent MC, cook and worked alongside the homecoming committee. His support was critical to making this a wonderful homecoming. Teamwork is what it all about and he and his VFW members have always worked with us as a team. THANK YOU ALL.

I appreciate each of you Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers along with all your Comrades and other Veterans for all the work that you do! We are **“Soaring Above & Beyond”!** Keep up the good work!

Official Visits

Nov. 5-6 District 10
Nov. 12-13 District 24
Nov. 16-23 Southern Conference (includes
 travel time)
Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving-Office closed

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### HOSPITAL/VAVS

**Karen Jeffrey – Chairman**  
**Glenda Hunt – Co-Chairman**

Let's give thanks for the many blessings we receive during this Holiday Season! Let's give thanks for the service and sacrifice of our Veterans, our Heroes! Let's give thanks for the Volunteers who give hours of their time to make a difference in the lives of America's Veterans, their families & caregivers. Present them with a Hospital/VAVS Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation to recognize their dedication, compassion and commitment to our Veterans.

It's a wonderful time of the year for a Card Extravaganza! Get those Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards ready to pass out at the VA Living Centers, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and our VA clinics. Let's spread the appreciation and love to our Veterans with a simple act of saying, "Thank you we appreciate you" with a handmade card from a child or bought from a store with love.

As restrictions are being put in place to limit our physical presence at VA Facilities, we need to think "outside the box that is outside the circle that is outside the triangle in the middle of a hexagon!" A great idea is "Virtual Visitation" and donations of much needed supplies. Contact the Volunteer Services Coordinator for a 'Wish List' of needed items for your facility and let our VFW Auxiliary members know what to donate. Our Veterans are feeling isolated from the outside world with no in person visitors/volunteers and are unable to go shopping so let's help them out and continue to thank them for their service in every way we possibly can.

MID-YEAR REPORTS are due by December 10, 2021. Texas VFW Auxiliary members have participated in great promotions to serve and honor our Veterans. Now is the time to report your activities to your Program Chairman so they can report the Department of Texas activities to our National Program Ambassadors and show them the love Texas has in our hearts for our Heroes! Thank You For Reporting!! Let's "Tip Our Hat To Vets" while "Soaring Above & Beyond" for our Veterans, their families and their caregivers!

### MEMBERSHIP

**Mona Benotti - Chairman**

Happy Thanksgiving to one and all. Among the many things for which I am grateful are my brothers and sisters in the auxiliary. "We Tip Our Hats To Vets" is succeeding with retention of members and the gain of new ones.

Don't forget to reach out to your former members and see if they would like to rejoin. Their reasons for not renewing may have been due to family or work commitments, health or financial reasons. Auxiliary Treasurers can find a list in Malta of 'Former Members'. Look under the 'View Members' section and select that category.

Remind your members now that those who are annual must have their dues paid and recorded at National by December 31 to remain in good standing. What happens if someone doesn't make that date? Their membership ceases on January 1 and they are no longer eligible to hold an office or participate in meetings. Good news – it can be fixed by paying the dues by June 30!

One more thing as we enter the holiday season – it's time to think of gifts. A Life Membership may be purchased as a gift. If it is marked as a gift, the membership card is mailed to the Auxiliary Treasurer, ready for you to wrap and deliver to the lucky recipient.

Learn more about membership in our Bylaws Article I as we continue "Soaring Above & Beyond" retaining, gaining and being Membership Promoters. It takes us all.

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Jayne McCormick – Chairman

What you GET by achieving your goals is not as important as what you BECOME by achieving your goals. Zig Zigler

Thank you to District Presidents who have been supporting this program and working very hard to get Mentors in every Auxiliary. Thank you, Auxiliary Mentors for promoting the programs we ask you to speak about in your auxiliaries. Auxiliaries Mentors, if you did not receive promotional materials. Please call me and it will be emailed immediately.

We are asking each District and Auxiliary to reach out to our new members.

I believe this is where a mentor should be assigned to our new members.

****Make them feel welcome

****Make sure they have information (training book, program book & Podium Book, etc.) to become educated about our Organization.

****Include them in event planning

****Give them a job to do so they may learn & get to know members

Our Senior Advisors/Mentors are working closely with District and Auxiliary Presidents to make sure problems are solved and become Healthy Auxiliaries. **This is our goal...Healthy Auxiliaries and Happy Members. “We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** by enhancing leadership abilities of the members who will be **“Soaring Above & Beyond.”**

Goals + Mentoring + Leadership = Healthy Auxiliary

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### AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Patsy Kemp - Chairman**

I know that I am repeating myself. Our Auxiliary Community Outreach IS NOT the same as the VFW Community Service. If a Post member tells you how to file a report, thank them, then read the Auxiliary rules and report accordingly. SORRY, NO PROGRAM CAN BE DONE AT THE POST HOME.

At Department President Karen’s homecoming I gave each District President a copy of my Ambassador Mary Ryser’s October Blog. It lists Community Holiday Projects, about distributing Blue Lights and Auxiliary Community Outreach Program Guidelines.

The other handout: A three (3) page Guide to Auxiliary Community Outreach. **Page 1** – What Does & Doesn’t qualify **Page – 2** Frequently Asked Questions and **Page 3** – Difference between VFW Community Service & Auxiliary Community Outreach. Please make sure you get a copy ASAP. This is from National Headquarters.

I know that projects are being done for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders but I have not received an Award Entry with Collage as of yet. Let’s get those in as you complete your 1<sup>st</sup> Responder’s recognition project.

Thank each one that held programs, participated with other organizations or just stopped to pray on 9/11. Some programs may not have counted under Community Outreach, but your love, remembering and action taken, during these times are commendable.

The leaves are taking their time this year to change color. Imagine if each leaf was a bit of love and you were that leaf. If every day, day after day and year after year, we simply gave a part of our love to assist others, what would our world look like? Maybe if we let our leaves

grow strong, then drop where needed, we will make our communities better in which to live.

The VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach is just like that. We share our time, talents, caring and desire for our community to be the best it can be.

Thanksgiving is a time for family and remembering. It is also a time for us to thank God, that we still live in a free country. People are already hurrying around to get ready for Christmas gift giving. You & I have a gift to offer our communities, a calling only we can fulfill, a mission only we can achieve. That is: volunteering with another organization or group with a project for the betterment of our communities.

I haven’t received a report from each Auxiliary in Texas yet. Please add your email and/or phone number to the report. If there are questions, makes it easier getting in touch.

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

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DISTRICT PRESIDENT AWARD

Glenna Alexander - Chairman

Visiting Auxiliary

Just a reminder that most District Presidents should have your visits to your Auxiliary well on the way. Please make sure you have sent out your visitation list to each Auxiliary. They need to get all the information and make sure all are present when you come to visit them. Many Treasurers and Secretaries do not take their books to the meeting and sometime the Trustees may not be at the meeting. These members need to know to bring all the information for your visit.

Membership

Membership for the Auxiliary is as important to them as it is to you as a District President. Ask the Auxiliary if they need help with membership.

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**CHIEF OF STAFF  
JUANITA WORKMAN**

**“We Tip Our Hats To Veterans”** by remembering why we are united. Thank you all for your prayers, cards and calls. I have felt the love!

When you go to the VFW Auxiliary Facebook page or the VFW Auxiliary website--The first thing you see is the VFW Auxiliary logo and the words: **UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES.** When you go to the TEXAS website: This is what you see---The Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is here 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. We also strive to promote the memory of Veterans of the past by *helping the living*.

We are a non-profit organization with *goals to assist* hospitals and nursing homes, Veterans and their families and more. Being a Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary member *opens the door for you to a larger family. Here we embrace each new member with love and caring.*

I point this out to show why Membership is so important and to the words; Service, Assist, helping and love for one another is why we are here! These sometimes get lost in our goals and deadlines of getting things done! Over the last couple of months our fires/problems/challenges whatever you want to call them in our organization are personality conflicts and the lack of grace in our auxiliary members.

So, a little perspective: with knowing this is a Volunteer Army-as we say, these people working beside you give up things to join together to help, serve and be a part of the bigger family! So, I would like to share a couple of reminders to consider or look at:

- ❖ The Golden Rule... Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you
- ❖ Your commitment... to your goals and the organization as a member
- ❖ How is your Auxiliary handling issues...with Auxiliary By-Laws and Chain of Command
- ❖ Without your Post you will not exist...and without their Auxiliary the Post would contribute less to the Veterans and your community

**Reminder to all:** VFW business is VFW business and VFW Auxiliary business is VFW Auxiliary business/our By-Laws are your friend and will help in most situations that arise. If issues arise, Chain of Command and we all know a paper trail is wonderful to have©! On all levels if you are not the President or the Commander, please address issues with them and if a Post member addresses you then have them address their Post Commander to bring it to your Auxiliary President. This is what is meant by Chain of Command and may help stop some of that talking going on away from meetings.

- Local Level: Post Commander and President
- District Level: District Commander and President
- State Level: State Commander and President

If on any of these levels the Auxiliary President feels a solution is not coming, then please bring the issue preferably in writing to me or to the Department President. Then she alone will reach out to the National Level once all levels have been addressed. This action will be the best way to keep our Auxiliaries Healthy and will help with respect on all levels.

District Presidents to do list for Auxiliary Presidents: continue to contact unpaid members and work on new membership, invite to meetings or upcoming events so they can see what you are doing to serve the Veterans locally. **“Soaring Above & Beyond”** In Unity to get the work done serving our Veterans and our communities!!

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LEGISLATIVE
Norita Jackson – Chairman

Happy Fall Y’all!! As we continue our look at the Priority Goals the VFW has identified as important steps to improve the Military Quality of Life.

The purpose is to maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD must:

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Eliminate sexual assaults in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve Component service members.
- Improve stability and support for military families.

Please do continue to respond to “Action Alerts” and sign up those in the community to receive the e-newsletter that comes directly to your inbox to stay informed about the House Bills and Legislation that will make better the quality of life for our nation’s heroes and their families. We are tasked with teaching others about the legislative process and it’s meaning to our veteran community.

I look forward to seeing your reports of activities attended and conducted in the community.

By doing so we are showing that **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” and “Soaring Above & Beyond”**.

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

Hello Ladies and Gentleman! Our youth are in school, leaves are beginning to fall, temperatures are changing and turkeys are running scared.

Again, I would like to say everyone is doing a great job sending reports to us! The pictures are awesome keep them coming. Let's continue to let our youth know about "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue", also "Illustrating America". We are looking forward to hearing our youth's voices and seeing all the artwork.

**Include youth in all Auxiliary Programs**

- Hospital: Visiting and volunteering in VA and non-VA facilities
- Veteran & Family Support: Planning a card/letter writing campaign to send mail to our troops overseas or veterans in VA Facilities.
- Americanism: Marching in patriotic holiday parades.
- "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children: Helping to distribute "Buddy"® Poppies

**Patriotism through Literacy**

- Promote and support reading among youth by introducing them to historical figures in our nation's history
- Ways to participate
- Volunteer to read in classrooms or libraries.
- Start a book club where members participate with students.
- Host a read-a-thon or a contest with small incentives.
- Collect books and donate to libraries, book-mobiles or classrooms.
- All of these activities can be done remotely.
- Get creative to make history come alive.

Thank you for everything you do for our Veterans and including our youth in all you do. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"  
"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

**BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME  
Shawn Terry – Chairman**

Just like that, it is already November. Time flies this time of year with everyone getting ready for Thanksgiving. I want to give a big "shout out" to all the auxiliaries that are sending in reports. There are some spectacular things going on and auxiliaries are not only participating but also reporting.

I would like to encourage everyone to educate the newer members in your auxiliaries on what the Buddy Poppy is, how it came about and why they are an important part of what we do. This could be as simple as taking a couple of minutes during the time your auxiliaries

discuss committee reports. With Veterans Day this month, having a Buddy Poppy drive would be a fantastic way to have those newer members lend a hand.

The VFW National Home continues to help military and veteran families get back on their feet, but they always need funds to help make this happen. The Home is needing financial flexibility to use funds wherever needed which is why they asked that donations have "Unrestricted Funds" on the memo section of the check.

Please continue to send reports and remember to attach pictures of events and copies of checks when turning in your reports. If you need any help or have questions, I will be happy to help.

My cell number is 817-776-1830. My email address is [shawne1965@gmail.com](mailto:shawne1965@gmail.com). **"We Tip Our Hats To Vets" - "Soaring Above & Beyond"**

**AMERICANISM  
Janet Brown – Chairman**

You can't force someone to be or feel patriotic. It is our job to try to inspire them to feel that way. There are those that the thought of how wonderful and unique America is feel a lump of pride swelling in their throat. Those that can imagine the excitement the pilgrims felt and the determination of the revolutionary soldiers understand.

Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday is coming up. Let's try to inspire others to appreciate the holiday for something other than mattress sales and early Christmas shopping. Let's be diligent to inspire all citizens to honor Veterans Day and what it means. Also, let's help others distinguish the difference between what Veterans Day is for and what Memorial Day is for.

If you need a boost to help you help inspire others, re-read the Americanism Ambassador, Francesca Bill's pages in the National Program Book. Patriotic Instructors be sure to check out her blog on the National website.

Whether or not you liked his acting or politics, there's something from John Wayne that I hope you agree with. "I believe this, tomorrow all of us, every single one of us gets out of bed and says, 'This is my country and I'm going to do good for it.'"

We'll make the greatest step forward since the pilgrims stepped on Plymouth Rock. It just might work. We never know unless we give it a fair try."

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"  
"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**Annie Nickerson - Chairman**

Congratulations! Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries should be in your hands and moving through the judging process. Please coordinate with your Post for judging and get your winners to your district judges before November 15. Remember that you can submit one winner for every 15 entries that you receive.

Don't forget that Continuing Education Scholarship applications are due to National by February 15<sup>th</sup>. National receives very few entries each year, so take a chance and submit an entry if you or an immediate family member could use a bit of money for higher education. Please discuss this in your meetings and explain how beneficial this could be.

Even though Student Patriotic Art is due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, continue to make those student contacts now. Covid 19 appears to be slowing a bit, so students should be more accessible. Patriotic Art is sponsored solely by the VFW Auxiliary, so please endorse it as often as possible. Consider fund raisers to promote the program or contributing to our National President's Special Project.

National President Hamil's Special Project this year, "Fund the Future," is to increase the Continuing Education Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and to increase the number of Patriotic Art Scholarships from twelve to twenty at the National level. Contributions to her Special Project can be made through Malta by selecting the "Make Gift" and then "Make a Gift" buttons or by check sent to National and labeled Patriotic Art or Continuing Education.

Mid-Year Reports are due to your District President by December 10 and I need at least one regular report from each Auxiliary by December 10 as well.

I look forward to hearing from you and I am only a phone call away.

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"**  
**"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

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

Can you believe it is November ! A very important day is VETERANS DAY on November 11<sup>th</sup>. I am confident that each auxiliary has an event planned for that day. You can take a homebound veteran a homecooked meal, prepare a meal at your post for the community, take treat bags to nursing homes or assisted living facilities, etc. I am certain that I will receive reports with so many ways

to serve our veterans and their families during this month. We must be thankful and remember to **always** Thank a Veteran!

Great reports are coming in. Thank you for all that you are doing and will be doing.

Department of Texas is proud of your hard work. Keep those socks, gloves and hats coming in.

From Sock Hops to Roaring 20's gifts (hats and gloves), we will keep our veterans warm.

I thank each of you for the hard work you are doing for this program. I wish each of you a **Happy Thanksgiving** and many **blessings** to you and your families.

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"**  
**"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

**National President's Special Project: Fund the Future**

National President Jean Hamil's Special Project [Fund the Future](#) will increase both the VFW Auxiliary's Patriotic Art and Continuing Education Scholarship Funds. **The goals are to:**

1. Increase the number of Patriotic Art Scholarships awarded at the National level from 12 to 20.
  - Ultimately, we'd like every eligible entry judged at the National level to receive a minimum \$500 scholarship.
2. Increase the award amount of the Continuing Education Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$2,500

**There are three ways to support this year's special project:**

- Donate online in MALTA.
- Mail a check earmarked either Patriotic Art or Continuing Education to National Headquarters.
- Establish a named Patriotic Art scholarship. If you, your Auxiliary, District or Department is interested, read the "[Establishing a VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Scholarship](#)" flyer on the Resources page of the website for more information / funding amounts.

Help us award more scholarships to more students! Donate to the Patriotic Art and/or Continuing Education Funds today!



# Department of Texas

## November 2021 Calendar

**"We Tip our Hats to Vets"**

**Veterans & their Families**

| Sun                                                                                 | Mon | Tue                    | Wed                                                                                          | Thu                                                                                                            | Fri                                                                        | Sat                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|    | 1   | 2<br>LO – Karen Kaylor | 3<br>LO – Karen Jeffery                                                                      | 4                                                                                                              | 5<br>Department Office Closed<br><br>District 10 El Paso                   | 6                                          |
| 7                                                                                   | 8   | 9                      | 10                                                                                           | 11<br>Veterans Day<br><br> | 12<br>Department Office Closed                                             | 13                                         |
| 14                                                                                  | 15  | 16                     | 17<br>Southern Conference – South Carolina                                                   | 18<br>Southern Conference – South Carolina                                                                     | 19<br>Department Office Closed<br><br>Southern Conference – South Carolina | 20<br>Southern Conference – South Carolina |
| 21<br>Southern Conference – South Carolina                                          | 22  | 23                     | 24<br>District 24                                                                            | 25<br>Happy Thanksgiving!<br><br>Department Office Closed                                                      | 26<br>Department Office Closed                                             | 27                                         |
| 28                                                                                  | 29  | 30                     | Program Participation Requirements                                                           |                                                                                                                |                                                                            |                                            |
|  |     |                        | VOD / Patriot Pen - Send \$15 per [rpgra, fpr Department Scholarships<br>11th = Veterans Day |                                                                                                                |                                                                            |                                            |

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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**