



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

## Our Two Cents

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Editor – Kathy Marrelli

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Volume 32 Issue 2

August, 2021



### “Tipping Our Hats To Vets”



### “Soaring Above & Beyond”

## Department President Karen Kaylor

Good morning, this is August and I am still in Kansas City for the National VFW Auxiliary Convention. Texas is doing well and had a great year. COVID did not stop us from excelling.

The month of July has been a month of training. It started with State Training where we did a few things different and hope that it was to your liking. Your Department Officers and Chairmen passed along valuable information received from our National Ambassadors, National Officers and other Auxiliary Leaders. This info is now being passed down.

District/Organizational Training should be in process this month by both the Districts and then Auxiliaries! This helps us keep knowledgeable members working as **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** Any questions on programs please call the applicable Department Chairman. They are only a phone call away. The current Program Book, the Monthly *“Our Two Cents”*, the Ritual and By-Laws, Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation, Malta and Roberts Rules are your tools to use to help you achieve a good year. We have a great

Texas team and I am looking forward to visiting and meeting my sisters and brothers.

Brothers of the Auxiliary I want to wish you a Happy Anniversary. As of August 21, 2015 was the first day for taking your applications. Six years ago, this month under the tutelage of Madam President Jayne McCormick the new applications began coming into Department. Our Two Cents August of 2015 was the last Our Two Cents with Ladies Auxiliaries VFW in its Logo. All items should have already been removed, all that had the word Ladies in it; the Auxiliary Seal, paperwork, Flag, Banner, etc. Double check and make sure you have completed the task. We want our auxiliary brothers to feel welcome and included.

Reminder: All Presidents and Treasurers must be bonded **before** August 31. We have started working all programs. Be sure and turn in April, May and June reports to your new applicable Chairmen. I thank each of you for your hard work **“Soaring Above & Beyond”!**

**Official Visit: August 13 - 14 - District 17**

## CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION

Juanita Workman

### “We Tip Our Hats to Veterans” By “Soaring Above & Beyond

I am happy to report to all of you that our first Department Training was held on July 15-17. The information shared on the programs along with your new Program Book should have been passed on to you from your Chief of Staff, District President or Auxiliary President by now. My hope is if you were not at the training that your District or Auxiliary Presidents are sharing all they learned with you. So, if you are reading this and want to learn more these are the leaders to reach out to!

One of my goals this year is to help you with maintaining or getting to being a Healthy Auxiliary. What does this mean for you and how do you know if you have a Healthy Auxiliary? Included in my package are copies (for non-computer members) of the 7 resources taken from Malta - vfwauxiliary.org (click resources, then scroll down) until you see: Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit.

Using these tools could help your group feel connected and unified in the Mission of serving our Veterans in a healthy way! Hopefully moving others in your auxiliary to want to take on leadership and help share what and why this organization is here. Other tools that are very important are: our By-Laws then Roberts Rules of Order will come in handy if you are not finding what you need in our By-Laws.

I have included my own Monthly Health Checkup Form to be filled out and sent to me by regular mail or email by the 3rd of each month. My hope is for this form to give you an avenue to share any concerns, good, bad or indifferent, to allow us to work together or brainstorm ways so you are not alone in the process.

The next focus is maintaining our current Auxiliary Memberships along with establishing New Auxiliaries and New Members.

All current members in unpaid status will need reminders sent before October 1<sup>st</sup>. (Prefer ASAP)

Along with this maybe an invitation to your auxiliary meeting or any other upcoming events would be a nice gesture to a member to “join in” or “come back”! and/or the “Health Checkup for your Auxiliary Member Questionnaire” from the resource tools.

I am a phone call or email away ☺ Thank you for your commitment!

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Jayne McCormick – Chairman

### “We Rise by Lifting Others”

**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.**

As stated in the program we will have 7 Senior Advisors/Mentors located throughout the state. This will allow a shorter time to reach every District and Auxiliary.

Our Senior Advisors/Mentors are:

Debbie Daniel	Dist. 8, 13, 18
Karen Jeffrey	Dist. 9, 30
Dorothy Bennett	Dist. 10, 25
Kathy Marrelli	Dist. 1, 3, 21
Margie Menzel	Dist. 5, 14, 28
Patsy Kemp	Dist. 2, 4, 16
Natalie Copeland	Dist. 12, 17, 19
Andrea King	Dist. 6, 20, 24
Jayne McCormick	Dist. 29

Senior Advisors/Mentors were selected to help and assist all members in all areas needed. Designated Senior Advisors/Mentors can be contacted by any member but should go to appointed Auxiliary Mentor/ or Auxiliary President first before contacting your designated advisor.

The foremost role of a mentor is that of a **Consultant** – we offer our service to provide guidance based on our knowledge and experience - we help the mentee develop the skills to be successful; help them with problem solving skills needed to be good leaders.

Mentors are also **Counselors** – we guide the mentee without telling them what to do or giving them the solution. Mentees should be allowed to learn to and adapt; this what is most beneficial – if a mistake is made along the way, that’s okay because we learn from mistakes.

Most importantly, we are a **Cheerleader** – it’s fine to provide constructive criticism and feedback but the primary role is to provide support and instill mentees with enthusiasm for what they are doing. Sometimes the outcome isn’t exactly what was expected, we should comment their actions and encourage them to learn from their mistakes.

We need to take the time and listen to our new members – it’s amazing what a new member’s perspective can bring - give them a chance to be heard.

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

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



**HOSPITAL/VAVS**  
**Karen Jeffrey - Chairman**

What a blessed day it is to be a member of the Texas VFW Auxiliary!

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support are vital to the success of our many different types of facilities under the Hospital/VAVS Program. Volunteers create a friendly, caring atmosphere and offset millions of dollars in expenses every year. Increasing our members who volunteer is crucial to the success of the Hospital and VAVS Programs to provide unwavering support during uncertain times.

Now that our VFW Auxiliary Local, District, Department & National Hospital/VAVS Awards Presentations/Banquets have taken place, please REPORT your Volunteer Appreciation Certificates presented, REPORT your Hospital Volunteer Service Pins presented, REPORT hosting a volunteer recognition event or banquet to your Hospital/VAVS Chairman for Statewide Project #3. I would love to read all about how volunteers were recognized and enjoy the pictures.

The Women Veterans Health Care Program is dedicated to meeting the needs of the fastest growing group of veteran population, women veterans. Women Veterans Health Care addresses the issues of women veterans and tries to ensure timely, high-quality and comprehensive health care services provided in a sensitive and safe environment. Some underutilized services such as maternity, can be assisted by planning a “Littlest Heroes Baby Shower” at a VA Facility. Report Statewide Project #1 [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov) and [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet) for more services available.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is the largest integrated health care system in the U.S. providing health care to more than 9 million veterans at more than 1,255 facilities, including 170 VA Medical Centers and 1,074 outpatient clinics.

**THERE ARE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER!** Community volunteer recruitment of adults and youth is a prime time to bring in new volunteers by illustrating the benefits of volunteering

and making a positive difference in the lives of veterans.

What a privilege it is to introduce the Honors Escort Program protocol to non-VA facilities and present that facility with a 5x9 flag to be used for the next Veteran Honors Escort.

Thank You for working as a team to make it happen! It’s always the small pieces that make the big picture!

We **“Tip Our Hats To Our Vets”** to honor their service and sacrifice!



**AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH**  
**Patsy Kemp – Chairman**

**NOW OPEN – Hiring !!!!!**

These are the signs we now see all over our communities. Our Post Homes are opening and activities, programs and projects are getting started again.

By choosing projects that will provide the most assistance to the most people, outside of our own organization is the first step to building an outstanding **“Hats Off To Our Vets”** Community Outreach Program.

This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11 (September 11, 2001). What better time to Remember First Responders, by volunteering with a group or for an organization that supports First Responders. At the Twin Towers 343 Firefighters & Paramedics, 23 New York City Police & 37 Port Authority Police were killed. By honoring OUR police, sheriff, firefighters and paramedics, we are remembering the sacrifices of those that have gone before and honoring the commitment of those serving now.

Don’t forget to take photos, to make a photo collage featuring Auxiliary members volunteering or honoring First Responders at your Community Outreach project.

Auxiliary Community Outreach is our way of showing we care about a better Way of Life, a better America and a better Texas.

Remember: Days are flying by and the Holidays will be here before we know it. **NOW** is the time to start planning projects. Who will you assist? What difference will you make? Don’t forget that schools are open and have programs your Auxiliary can assist with.

Auxiliary Community Outreach - What better way to “Soar Above & Beyond” as we support other organizations or individuals for a better tomorrow.

I look forward to receiving your reports and feeling the pride that will come from your outstanding work.

Suggestion - at each meeting ask if anyone has read or heard of a worthy area to assist. This will get everyone to make an effort to reach out, letting the community know we care and may be able to assist. Working Together as a Team is always our goal.

God Bless you all



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

It was so good to see all of you at department training! I hope that you found the materials and the experience to be educational and motivating.

Now that we have a plan in place to move ahead with our scholarships, it's time to implement that plan. Speak with your auxiliary and get volunteers to meet with the schools or clubs that haven't seen your magic touch yet. Don't forget private and parochial schools as well as home schooled students. Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are very lucrative programs and Texas has the potential to take home the honors. As you present these programs, don't forget about the Patriotic Art Contest. Even though the art is not due until March, now is the time to motivate our students. Let your enthusiasm show!

Probably the least utilized scholarship program we have is Continuing Scholarship. Our National Organization presents a scholarship to assist members of an auxiliary family in continuing his/her education. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and a family member of an auxiliary member who has been a member for a minimum of one year. There are only four Continuing Education awards available, one for each of the four conferences. This Scholarship entry must be received by National by February 15, 2022 and applications are sent directly to National. Take some time in your auxiliary meetings to discuss this grant because February will be here before we know it.

Last but not least, remember to report your activities. You do such great work; you need to get credit for all of it. And as always, I'm only a phone call or email away. Feel free to contact me with questions or for more material. **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” – Soaring Above & Beyond**

### **MEMBERSHIP** **Mona Benotti - Chairman**

One month is behind us in our membership promotion and I trust that all of us as local treasurers/membership chairpersons have contacted our annual members about renewal. Please don't hold the renewals you have received. Using MALTA, it takes literally seconds to mark members as paid and then National will ACH the dues for Department and National from your bank account. If you don't use MALTA, you can still mail your renewal list to Department with a check covering those dues.

As you collect annual dues, please be sure you remind every annual member of the ability to convert their membership to life. Life Membership amounts are based on age and are on the application form. The member converting uses the age he or she will be as of December 31.

Recruiting is your next step and for every event at your Post home or monthly meeting, you have the chance to recruit. Bring applications to your meetings and ask your members to think of someone who is eligible to join and to share the application.

Use your social media resources to share information about your Auxiliary and the great work that is done for our veterans as **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”**. Consider having a leaflet or brochure that tells your story. Worried about making a brochure or the costs involved? You can develop your own and with a little printing and folding, you have something to utilize as you recruit. As treasurer/membership chair of my own auxiliary, I have made a brochure. Want to see a copy? Just ask me to share.

As we are **“Soaring Above & Beyond”**, reach out to your members, make them feel an important part of the organization and remind them that we are all **membership promoters**.

Thank you for all you do; contact me at [mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net) or 817.805.3729.

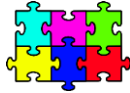


### **AmeriCANism** **Janet Brown – Chairman**

Hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. If you enjoyed fireworks, how do you feel your thoughts compared to those of Francis Scott Key as he watched the red glare of the Congreve rockets over Fort McHenry? In fact, how do you feel your thoughts about AmeriCANism compare to any past patriots?

Ask yourself what you CAN do to help make a difference or impact the future. Some of these things are to help see that everyone learns the Pledge of Allegiance, that they respect the Flag and understand Flag Etiquette, that there is community awareness about POW/MIAs and the Missing Man Table of Honor Ceremony, that our Gold, Blue, Silver and White Star families are honored.

To borrow part of JFK's quote, when you "ask what you can do for your country", it's to work the AmeriCANism program...and report!!



### **BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME** **Shawn Terry-Chairman**

Hello to all the wonderful auxiliary members in the great state of Texas. I hope that everyone that attended the State Training in Austin a couple of weeks ago had a nice time. I also hope that the training provided good information for members to take back and share with those that were not able to attend. Sharing knowledge with each other makes us much more informed and stronger as an organization.

**Here is a quiz question:** Can you only distribute Buddy Poppies certain times of the year? The answer is **NO!** Buddy Poppy drives can be done any time of the year. Set your dates (if possible) early in the year, decide on locations to stage your drive, get permission from local businesses to use their property to hold your drive, promote the drive with social media, newspapers, radio ads, flyers, etc., involve youth from the community and have other promotional materials such as membership applications to join the VFWA. Please remember that we take donations for the poppies. We never sell them and we don't refuse anyone wanting a poppy whether they make a donation or not.

**The next quiz question:** The VFW National Home is funded by the Government and really doesn't need any other donations? The answer is **NO!**

The Home is solely funded by private donations from individuals, some businesses, and nonprofit organizations just like ours. Buying Life Memberships to the National Home, Tribute Bricks, creating an AmazonSmile account and helping to raise money for the National Home are all ways that auxiliaries can help support this incredibly important place. If there is anything I can help you with or you have questions

feel free to email me shawne1965@gmail.com or give me a call or text 817-776-1830. Let's have some fun and enjoy the year.

I appreciate each and every one of you as you and your dedication to this organization.

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



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

Happy Summer and Welcome to the 2021-22 VFW Legislative Season. It will be our goal this coming year to become as familiar as possible with and focus on the "Priority Goals" outlined as critical concern to our veterans, active-duty military and their families.

As previously stated in last month's "Our Two Cents" article, we will take a sub-heading or topic and highlight "it's purpose and list the issues of concern in the lives of veterans.

Let's take a look at the topic of "Health Care". While healthcare is of major concern in every American's life, we will attempt to point the spotlight on some of the key points or areas focused on by the VFW and make note of where we can be of the most service to veterans and their families.

The description or goal of the VFW is to ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high quality healthcare without increasing costs. Congress, the VA and Department of Defense must:

- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE
- Address the number of service members and vets who die by suicide.
- Strengthen care and research efforts in support of mental health and wellness and those suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
- Research the effectiveness of medical cannabis and its power or capacity to produce a desired effect.
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans
- Eliminate co-payment requirements.
- Expand telehealth and nursing home eligibility and long-term care options.



As you can see, there are many areas of concern in the lives of veterans and active-duty men and women. By vetting our Legislators and Congress members to ensure that their stance is in line with the “Priority Goals” of concern to our veterans, we will have taken a major step in advocating for those who acted to ensure our freedoms remain intact.

I have received some reports of activities and am most appreciative of and optimistic about the work I see being done going forward. Please continue to contact your lawmakers about matters of concern, answer all Action Alerts in real time as this re-enforces the showing of support on behalf of our veterans.

Please run a campaign designed to sign up and review all weekly e-newsletters sent out. Familiarize yourselves with the “Priority Goals for 2021-22 and wherever possible attend town hall meetings and report your activities. Recruit others to do the same along with you.

Let’s all remember that **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” and “Soar Above & Beyond”**



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

It was great seeing each of you at Statewide Training and I am super excited about this new year and all the things we will be doing to support our Veterans and their families.

I have received numerous reports already and that proves “ No Matter What – Texas takes care of our Veterans!

I know I always challenge you but I am super excited to see how many socks, gloves and hats we can collect this year. Remember to challenge your auxiliary and post to collect the number of your membership totals. Won’t this be fun? **Don’t forget to let me know of “standdowns” in your area!**

Don’t forget the caregivers. Caregiving is a hard job. Please let them know we care! Send me your pictures and stories.

Just a reminder, September is a busy month with lots of special dates for us to remember.

Please make sure you include Suicide Awareness. The VFW store has the **Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin** that you can purchase and of course Malta has the template for cutouts. Don’t forget our Blue/Gold Star Families. So much to do!

Keep up the great work. Your time and efforts will be seen and heard!

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



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

Thank you for all the reports so far. We are sure there will be many, many more. Hope everyone enjoyed Independence Day and included our youth in all the pictures.

Our youth of today is the future of the VFW and Auxiliary. We need to take time and take an interest in our youth. Here it is August, schools should be opening. Our youth will be getting back to some normalcy. Now is the time to get these contests into the schools, church groups, home schools and parent teacher organizations. Use email, social media or ask to speak at scout meeting and talk about the different contests we have for the youth.

**Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue and Illustrating America.** Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue is a program for children 6 - 16 years old. It is an individual singing contest featuring our National Anthem. Rules are simple – the child must sing the words of the anthem as they are written. However, the style of delivery is the youth’s choice. Youth entries are due to you by March 31. You may host a local contest and submit your auxiliary winner to the Department Chairman by April 15 for statewide judging. Applications can be found in MALTA <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-2022-Red-White-and-Blue-Entry-Form-FILLABLE.pdf>

**Illustrating America** - This contest rewards the artistic abilities of the elementary and middle/junior high school students. It is fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings. Reach out to local homeschool families or organizations through print and online media. The contest consists of three grade divisions: grades 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Entries to your local auxiliary are due March 31 with your winners to the department chairman by April 15.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/illustrating-america-2021-2022-fillable.pdf>  
**Patriotism Through Literacy** - Promote and support reading among youth. This initiative will introduce and expand the knowledge of our youth to historical figures and teaches them about events in our nation's history and background. This will foster a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. Donate books to the local libraries, doctor's offices and schools. Recommended book list can be found in Malta.  
<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/suggested-book-list.pdf>  
**Suggested-Book-List.pdf**

**Involve Youth in ALL Auxiliary Programs** - Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans. Teach our youth about Auxiliary efforts to respect and take pride in our country, serve hospitalized Veterans, elect leaders, pass legislation that secures benefits for our Veterans, and many other worthy efforts. Project examples: Marching in patriotic holiday parades, volunteering to help veterans and service members and their families with yard work or household repairs. Organizing assembly, collection and delivery of care packages for troops.

**Make Your Auxiliary Accessible to Today's Youth**  
It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social Media as teaching, and information tools allow our youth to view and comment on each other's activities.

They are tweeting on Twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram and subscribing to You Tube channels. We are here to assist you: Ronnie (rwiley4800@yahoo.com or (713) 417-6900), Laurie (law4378@outlook.com or (713) 247-9591)

**"Tipping Our Hats To Vets"  
Soaring Above & Beyond"**

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Small Directory Changes

**Outstanding Auxiliary President**  
Tanya Jackson  
Email: tanyajackson@ymail.com

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**OTC Information**

Anyone wanting the Our Two Cents emailed contact the Department Office Secretary with a good email address.

Issues can be downloaded from the website around the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

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**PROGRAM PARTICIPATION - AUGUST**

Schools of Instructions  
Hospital Pledge  
Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen Information  
in schools

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**Fitting the Pieces Together = Teamwork**