



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary  
**Our Two Cents**  
 Published Monthly by the VFW Auxiliary  
 Located at 8503 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753



Volume 32 Issue 7

January, 2022



**“Tipping Our Hats To Vets”**



**“Soaring Above & Beyond”**

**Department President  
 Karen Kaylor**

I hope to see you in Corpus Christ for Mid-Winter! Come say hello to Past National President Sissy Borel! Our office staff, line officers and chairmen are working hard to ensure we have a great conference. We are definitely **“Soaring Above & Beyond”** as **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”**.

There are National Circle of Excellence goals that our department must meet at the end of our 2021-2022 year. We have met these goals for the last 3 years. We need you to be proactive. Read the goals in the National Program Book or on our Texas Facebook page. Help us to attain this goal. You are vital to the accomplishment. Each of us can make a difference in our Auxiliary, District and our Department. It is a team effort.

Mark your calendars for February 15-17 when our beautiful National President Jean Hamil will be visiting in San Antonio. More information will follow. Mark your calendar and come on down to District 20. All Historians, please send pictures to our Department Historian Bernie! She is counting on you!

Remember that we are the VFW Auxiliary. We need to stay out of VFW and Canteen Business. We are guests in the VFW and should act appropriately and respectfully.

Give respect equally to our VFW and Auxiliary members. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and families!

Happy 2022!! I hope you had a blessed Holiday season and a happy safe New Year!

**Official Visit Schedule**

January 7-8	District 29
January 14-15	District 19
January 19-22	Mid-Winter Round Up, Corpus Christi

January 29 - February 3- 2022  
 Mid-Year Conference and Celebrating  
 America’s Freedom, Melbourne Fl.

## Armithea "Sissy" Borel

National District Council Member Area 19  
2021-2023



Past National President Armithea "Sissy" Borel of Starks, Louisiana, represents Mississippi and Louisiana on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary between National Conventions.

A Life Member of Starks Memorial Auxiliary 4759, she joined on the eligibility of her brother, a Purple Heart recipient who served in the U.S. Army and she has three sons who give her eligibility as well.

She served the organization at the Auxiliary, District, Department and National level. In 2004-2005 she was elected Department President, earning Outstanding President of the Year in her membership group. She has also been National Assistant Conductress and National Chairman for the Southern Conference on the Membership and "Buddy"® Poppy Programs and is currently serving as VFW National Home Trustee for District 6 representing the Departments of Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. Additionally, she is a member of the VFW Auxiliary Appeals & Grievances Committee.

She has also served as the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA) 2006-2007 Grand President of Louisiana and is a member of the Starks Lions Club, where she has served as President and LEO Chairman for the state.

Sissy's family includes spouse, Terry, five children, 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

*Happy New Year*

## MEMBERSHIP Mona Benotti - Chairman

As we turn to a new calendar year, "We Tip Our Hats To Vets" by constantly striving to increase our membership numbers. We've done very well during the first half of the program year with both gaining new members and retaining continuous membership. Each of us as membership chairs and treasurers need to take a close look now at our numbers. Contact those members who did not pay their annual dues prior to the end of 2021 and see if you can help them to retain their membership. Please don't let someone be lost because they have gotten out of touch, have financial concerns or simply overlooked renewing.

This month we have the excitement of Mid-Winter Round Up in Corpus Christi. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Invitations are going out for those auxiliary presidents and membership chairs who made 100% by December 15. The same is true for district presidents and membership chairs who attained 95% by the same date. We will have a good time on Thursday, January 20 at our membership celebration.

This new year of 2022 will bring us many opportunities and of course, some obstacles – like all years do. But if we get the word out about the work we do for our veterans and what our auxiliaries accomplish, we can gain more new members with new ideas and energy as we push forward.

"Soaring Above & Beyond" retaining, gaining and sharing with fellow members is what we do.

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

*Happy New Year*

## VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT Denise DuBois – Chairman

Happy New Year! I am so proud of each auxiliary. Great things are happening for our Veterans and their families here in Texas.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at Mid-Winter in Corpus. I will share exciting news with each of you. Just remember, we will be having a Hero's Walk during our time together. Also, bring 5 grab bags to convention to help support our program as well. I will also have framed Diamond Art to raffle off.

Keep up the great work and keep on collecting those socks, hats and gloves so our veterans will be warm. See you soon!

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

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Patricia “Patsy” Kemp

I love Christmas and don't mind everything staying up till March. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year.

New Year – usually means a new beginning or start. For us it means we only have three (3) months left to get everything accomplished before final reports are due.

I received a Year-End Report on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> that had 0 on all and a notation that said, all we sent in were disqualified. I sincerely hope they now know what qualifies as Auxiliary Community Outreach and I get reports that qualify from them. READ – READ – READ is what has always been taught. This program requires that more than ever. New doesn't mean hard. It is easy if you just:

Make a motion at your meeting to help, assist, join with ANOTHER organization, to do a project that benefits others; volunteer your hours (that is what counts only); wear something that denotes VFWA; then report.

This year the BIG PUSH is Honoring 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. This is second nature to the VFW Auxiliary. What makes it different from other years? If you are going to claim it under Auxiliary Community Outreach you must follow the instructions above and NOT have it at your VFW Post. On your report I need to know who you are working with, because this is not just your program remember. You are working with another group. A Membership Drive or Buddy Poppy Drive are our programs and Not Community Outreach.

You have all of January, February & March to “Soar Above & Beyond as We Tip Our Hats To Our Vets”. Hope to see you at the Mid-Year Training.

God Bless you all and thank you for all you do and are planning to do. Patricia “Patsy” Kemp - 409 988-3269 [kemppat@aol.com](mailto:kemppat@aol.com)

*Happy New Year*

### BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Shawn Terry – Chairman

With horns blowing, shakers shaking and whirligigs making whirling noises, I say HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope everyone had a fabulous Christmas. Let me say first, thank you for getting your Mid-Year Reports turned in on time. Now is the time to look at your Mid-Year and Year End Reports and continue working on whatever else still needs to be done from now until Year-End Reports are due in April. Don't forget to continue to refer to the Program Development Book to stay on track with projects. Our

Mid-Winter Convention will be held in Corpus Christi (my hometown) again this year. The dates for that are January 19-22, 2022.

“The Uncle Sam Hat” Statewide Project will be judged at this convention. Please bring your winning hat from each district to the Mid-Winter Convention. The judging will be held on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a few tables set up that day for the hats to be displayed. They will be judged the same day with the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners being announced that afternoon before the close of the meeting. Bring your hats down to the meeting room on Saturday no later than 9:00 am. Please do not bring your hats to the meeting room any earlier than the day of judging (Saturday) because there isn't any way to secure them.

Auxiliaries are doing a phenomenal job working projects for the National Home. Bricks are being purchased, Lifetime Memberships to the Home are being purchased and monetary donations continue to be made to the Home's UNRESTRICTED FUNDS. Thank you all for the continued love and dedication to this amazing place. Keep up the great work! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Winter Convention.

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

*Happy New Year*

### CHIEF OF STAFF

Juanita Workman

I hope you and yours had a very Merry Christmas and the start of a Happy New Year! We have been “Soaring Above & Beyond” for the beginning of our year as “We Tip Our Hats To Vets”. I say again THANK YOU for all that is and has been done so far!! BUT we are not done! Let us finish this year STRONG!!

**District Presidents:** Please follow up with Auxiliaries and make sure that audits are up to date and protocol is being followed per the Auxiliary Bylaws: treasurers and secretaries bring all books and information for Trustees to be able to do the audit. By now official visits within the district should be almost done and reports sent into department.

With membership changes in place, it has opened another group of potential new members, make sure your Auxiliaries are up to date with the ability to bring in non-citizens that are connected to an eligible Veteran. As for our continuous members, January 1<sup>st</sup> puts them in unpaid status and to be reactivated they will be required to pay both 2021 and 2022 dues.

Let's recap some things so we know we are on task;  
The (5) Essentials of an Auxiliary:

1. Hold a least (10) business meeting.
2. Dues paid by at least 10 members on or before February 1.
3. Quarterly audits submitted.
4. Officers, elected, installed and reported to National.
5. President/Treasurer bonded by August 31.

The main goal for all of us is to increase membership, retain the active members and contact Bachelor Posts and share the importance of having an Auxiliary. Reminders: President/Treasurers bonded, audits, copy of 990 and installation reports should be sent to Department.

I'm sure by now most of these 5 essentials are already checked off, sent in and programs and other obligations are being done.☺

As always, we are here to help any way we can. Please reach out... silence is never assisted! Being a Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary member *opens the door for you to a larger family, let's get the work done and keep growing!*

*Happy New Year*

**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**Annie Nickerson – Chairman**

Happy New Year and it's almost time for Mid-Winter Roundup! I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Our next bridge to cross is Continuing Education Scholarship and those applications are due to National by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please discuss this in your meetings and explain how beneficial this could be. Encourage all interested members to apply.

Even though Student Patriotic Art isn't due to you until March 31<sup>st</sup>, it's closer than you think and your needs to be in my hands by April 15. Continue to make those student contacts now. 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 to increase the award money to \$2,500 and the number of awards to twenty.

I look forward to hearing from you (keep reporting), and I am only a phone call away.

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

**AMERICANISM**  
**Janet Brown – Chairman**

I'm a big Trans-Siberian Orchestra fan. “Where is she going with this?” you might ask. There is a verse in a song that talks about making “this Christmas thing last, by helping a neighbor or even a stranger. To know who needs help, you need only just ask”. We all need to be thinking how we can help Americans get back any missing feelings of patriotism.

America and Americans have gone through challenging times in the past and have come back even stronger and more determined to help preserve our loyalty to God and Country. I could see that many of you are determined by your reports which show your loyalty. Thank you!!

If you found some gaps in participation, don't worry, you have a few months to take care of that.

Remember, if you are going to Mid-Winter, Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. is the POW/MIA.

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

*Happy New Year*

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

Greetings to all Auxiliary members!

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I do want to send out a huge Thank You to all the Auxiliaries that have already reported some amazing activities working with our Youth!

Today there are more opportunities in which we will be able to work with our youth by involving them in more projects and helping to build a stronger bond with them. Taking the time to mentor our youth today will create quality leadership skills for them tomorrow. Use the Random Acts of Patriotism cards and certificates to award our youth when you see them doing something patriotic and/or right. Everyone likes to be recognized and you might just be the one that encouraged that particular youth to continue doing positive actions in the future. They may even join the military or become Auxiliary members!

There's no time like the present to get the information out in our communities. The entry deadline to local Auxiliaries is March 31, only three months away.

**Getting Excited for the Red, White and Blue Contest.**  
**Youth K-12 singing the Star-Spangled Banner**

- Video of contestant’s solo vocal performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” must be recorded between July 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.
- Contestant shall state name and age prior to vocal performance.
- Contestant may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- Contestant may sing in the arrangement and genre of their choice.
- Contestant may NOT change the words.
- Complete and sign contest entry form.
- Parent/Guardian signature required on entry form.

**Illustrating America**

Open to students in grades K-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

**Contest Rules**

- Art must be two-dimensional.
- Art must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, glitter or other media may be used.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy paper.
- The art should be no smaller than 8” x 10” but no larger than 18” x 24”, not including mat.

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

*Happy New Year*

**LEGISLATIVE**  
**Norita Jackson – Chairman**

Now that the holiday season has come and gone. I hope we have had the chance to spend some much-needed time with family and friends and in service to those people who depend on us in our communities. Every time we write a letter or attend a town hall meeting or even talk to our local legislators about veterans’ issues and concerns, we have made an investment in a better future for those who have given so much.

As we are preparing to meet again for our Mid-Winter Roundup, now is the time to come with open eyes and ears and all the enthusiasm we can muster to learn as much as we can or refresh as much as we can recall, preparing to share and be shared with. Those tried-and-true techniques and avenues of communication, ways of getting the

information out into the public and have as much fun in the process as possible.

I have received some outstanding reports and can attest to the tremendous efforts being exerted in our auxiliaries to ensure that “No one does more” for our nation’s heroes. Thank you!

Please continue to respond to the “Action Alerts” and report your actions. Please refresh yourselves on the identified “Priority Goals” so as to be as knowledgeable about the issues identified by VFW leadership. If there is ever any doubt or question about which of the activities participated in within your communities qualify as “legislative” activities, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me for clarity.

I’m here to assist or help track down an answer. Every question helps me to learn more about the things we may not have faced before. We are halfway to our end goal for the VFW year and I want to applaud your efforts.

Let’s continue reporting so that I may know how deep into the communities we are reaching! KUDOS!

Happy New Year! **Let’s Tip Our Hats To Vets**  
**Soaring Above & Beyond**

*Happy New Year*

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

**Tell me and I forget.**  
**Teach me and I remember.**  
**Involve me and I will learn.**  
**Ben Franklin**

Sisters and Brothers,

**Lead** with courage and commitment. **Be passionate** about teaching and learning. **Build** good solid relationships and **Execute** on your committed goals.

Each month a promotion and reporting form is being sent out to District Presidents to send to Auxiliary Presidents. Auxiliary Presidents are to give to their mentor or designated person to read to the membership of their Auxiliary. After reading and discussing, please send the report to me in the month it was done if at all possible.

What I have found is the Auxiliary is doing the promotion but not reporting. Please report the promotion was done. If an Auxiliary does not receive the monthly promotion, contact your District President. **What I have found is the Auxiliary is doing the promotion and not reporting or it is being completely ignored. If an Auxiliary does not receive the monthly promotion, please contact your District President**



**VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT of TEXAS**

**AUXILIARY HEADQUARTERS**

**PO BOX 15285, AUSTIN, TX 78761**

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**NUMBER 1**

**JANUARY 2022**

**To be read at the first meeting following receipt, acted upon & filed.**

**ATTENTION ALL VFW AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS**

1. The President shall preside and maintain order at all meetings and enforce a strict observance of the Bylaws and Ritual of the Organization and all orders from proper authority. They shall appoint all Officers and committees not otherwise provided for. They shall see that there is no disruption during the meeting and if so, has the right to have the member causing the disruption removed. SEC. 810 President, Duties of all levels, page 73
2. VFW Auxiliaries may establish Standing Rules to provide for specified operation, activities, events, expenses and disbursement between meetings provided such rules do not conflict with the National or Department Bylaws. SEC 211-Standing Rules, page 31
3. It is the practice of National Headquarters that a Department President have the first opportunity to assist Auxiliaries and members of his/her Department. Therefore, any correspondence received from an individual, Auxiliary, County Council, or District will be referred to the Department President so that he/she has the first opportunity to assist or fulfill a request. Booklet of Instructions, Page 15, H
4. Congratulations to District 19, Welcome Auxiliary 8924 in Palestine.
5. VFW Auxiliary Headquarters for Mid-Winter will be the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi, TX. All events will be there unless otherwise noted on the schedule. District Presidents you will participate in the VFW Memorial Service and in Uniform.
6. Year End Reports must be completed by each VFW Auxiliary and forwarded to your District President. Review the reports form and start compiling your numbers. The Department Chairmen are depending on you so their reports to the National Ambassadors will show the awesome work you have accomplished for the VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas.

BY ORDER OF:

*Karen Kaylor*

Karen Kaylor  
Department President



Attest:

*Glenna Alexander*

Glenna Alexander  
Department Secretary

**VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Texas  
PO Box 15285  
Austin, Texas 78761**

**Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. #1006  
Austin, TX**

**ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED**

