



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

Published Monthly by the VFW Auxiliary
Editor – Kathy Marrelli
Located at 8503 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753



Volume 33 Issue 10

April, 2023



**“Together Everyone Achieves More
For Our Veterans”**

“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

We had a great March! The Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. was memorable. To see 53 young men and women reach their goals of being National finalists in the VFW VOD and Patriot's Pen contests was so exciting! It was an honor to escort, along with Commander Lynn Toomer, our Texas VOD winner. It is our responsibility as Auxiliary members to help our Posts get next year's information out to our schools as soon as possible.

I had a wonderful visit to District 4. We toured the Richard A. Anderson Texas State Veterans Home in Houston. The home is named for Richard A. Anderson, a Houston resident.

He was a U.S. Marine who when a militant threw a grenade at the American forces, he threw himself on it and saved the life of another Marine. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty in August 1969 during the Vietnam War. I attended high school with Richard. A true hero! Thank you to Lisa Bulot for organizing this tour.

Thank you District 4 President Brenda Whited and the Auxiliary members for their hospitality during my visit. The dinner was great and it was good to see everyone! An awesome meeting!

April is here! Year-End reports are due to your District Presidents by April 10. Department Chairmen, I need your reports as soon as possible as I have to get my report to National by May 1. Please make sure every blank is filled. I really appreciate your cooperation!!

Audits are due this month! The 1-year Trustee calls a convenient time for the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees to conduct the audit. Your audit can be conducted at any location.

We are still working hard on Membership! A new Auxiliary in Oak Hill (District 28) will be instituted this month!!! Congratulations!! Our goal is to reach 100% plus in membership not including deaths. I know we can do it!! We are a TEAM and can reach any goal we put before us!

I look forward to my visits to District 14, Belton and District 8 Abilene this month! As we have visited all of the districts this year, we have been treated like family. We have so many wonderful friends that we have made over the years. It was great seeing you and to have met all of our new members. It has been a pleasure to have been with each of you!

Wishing each of you and your families a Most Blessed Easter!!

Love and Belief,
Jeanenne



LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby – Chairman

Leading veterans service organizations (VSOs) — Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) — have released The Independent Budget (IB) Veterans Agenda for the 118th Congress. This report serves as a roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future.

“For over 30 years, the IBVSOs have co-authored the IB, offering substantive solutions and policy recommendations to ensure the timely delivery of specialized health care, as well as appropriate earned benefits for the men and women who served,” said VFW Legislative Director Pat Murray. “With this year’s report now complete, it is imperative that Congress and VA work together, along with VSOs and other stakeholders, to put veterans’ needs on the top of their list.”

S. 132: J. Harvey Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act. This bill requires the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to jointly carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing certain services and a module comprised of specified elements as part of the pre-separation transition process for members of the Armed Forces for the purpose of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans. The VFW supports this bill.

I am here to help you in any way I can. If you succeed, I succeed.

You can email me at tjpurplerose@yahoo.com or by cell phone at 936-414-5293.

I just want to remind everyone that
**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our
Veterans with Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care.**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Karen Jeffrey – Chairman
Kathy Marrelli – Co-Chairman

What a spectacular year for Youth Activities. Every aspect of this program has been promoted and provided to the Auxiliaries to work and that has been done.

The reports that have been submitted all year long indicate that the promotional efforts have been successful and Auxiliaries have gone over and above for the Youth program.

Contests: Judging for the Get Excited Red/White/Blue Singing Contest and the Illustrating America Contest will be done by 2 separate & independent panels that have no affiliation with the Auxiliary, District or Department. As Chairman I will not be involved with judging of these contests, nor will the Co-Chairman.

Remember to complete the Year-End Report and send to the District President by April 10th. District Presidents, do not hold Year-End Reports until all are received. I will accept Year-End Reports early. Make my job of selecting the Department awards difficult.

Thank you auxiliaries and members for the outstanding job accomplished for the Youth Activities Program. Good Luck at the Department Convention.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our
Veterans with Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATION
Bernie Adams

Here we are at the end of another year. They sure do go by fast. We now have end of the year reports. Ugh, but it must be done. Make sure you get them in by April 10.

If you have any pictures of President Jeanenne when she came for her official or even unofficial visit, please send them my way for her book.

Let us not forget about the Statewide Project for this year. Please help me finish the project; for those who have not given me information on your first Commander, please do so.

I want to thank all the ones that have given me information already; you are awesome. If you are a new Auxiliary, please send me your information on your first Commander. What better time to do it than now since you are just starting out.

Madam President Jeanenne, thank you for allowing me to be your Historian/Media Relations Chairperson. It

was a pleasure and I know **“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”** and **“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**.



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois

April has arrived. It is time for the end of year reports. This is the chance for us to see and hear all the accomplishments that the membership in your auxiliaries have completed. Do not delay in sending your reports. They are due to your District Presidents by April 10th and to the Department Chairpersons by April 20th. We are anxious to see how you have shined this year.

We have great mentors in Texas who have encourage many new leaders to step forward.

Thanks to all who believe in our organization and the willingness to always go the extra mile. Mentoring is never ending. Every member is a mentor as we learn from one another.

“There is nothing more beautiful than a person who goes out of his/her way to make life beautiful for others”.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION
Denise DuBois

April showers bring May flowers. I just love to see the new crops and flowers blooming. That is what we want each of our auxiliaries to be doing as well. As our National Chief of Staff, Sharon Connolly, states, “It is time to clean up our garden (auxiliary) and get it ready for planting in April (Election of Officers).”

We must identify our challenges and use MALTA to assist in the solutions. Do not let the challenges take over or you will have no auxiliary at all. We understand this is a lot of work. Reward your members as they will appreciate a small token of “thanks”. I challenge you once again to present your members with the “Good Job Certificates” which are printable through MALTA.

“Imagine the impact of being kind. Smiling more. Seeing the good first. Life is too short to be dragging

others down. You get a choice every single day. Choose kindness. The world (auxiliary) needs you.”

Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans - Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care



BUDDY® POPPY
Carol Brietzke – Chairman
Merlene Peters – Co-Chairman

As we move closer to the close of this program year, we are so grateful to all of you – auxiliaries and districts – who have worked so hard on the Buddy Poppy/National Home program. As we said at the beginning of this year, Buddy Poppy ® goes hand in hand with National Home. Your distribution of the poppies has been wonderful. Please don’t stop. Everywhere you have a booth, walk in a parade, participate in a membership drive or anything else, have those poppies with you and proudly share their story. Donations for the poppies always goes into your Relief Fund.

Continue to support the National Home. It is never too late to donate to their Unrestricted Funds; this allows the Home to use the money where the greatest need is. You can also buy National Home memberships or donate one to a worthy auxiliary member.

Again, thank you and keep up the great work you do every day for our veterans and their families.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Sally Jarrett – Chairman

Its Springtime.....The weather is changing, the warm energy feels good, getting ready for outdoor activities. May happy thoughts and seasonal flowers brighten up your hearts. By now, you all are getting ready your YEAR-END REPORTS to send to your respective District Presidents due APRIL 10, 2023.

Please review all your documents before you send them in, check all your blanks (YES or NO). Make sure your Post #, District #, Auxiliary Chairman, email and phone number are completed. Please mail or email in PDF format, with copies of your checks and pictures. These YEAR-END REPORTS are very important, I

received only 75% of MID-YEAR REPORT in December. These serve as checklists of your auxiliary's recognition and accomplishments.

Thank you to all District Presidents and their Auxiliaries for your dedication and taking care of our precious Veterans and their families. A Special Thank-You to Madam President Jeanenne Lumpkin for giving me the opportunity to Chair "Veterans and Family Support" Program. It was a substantial learning experience. I deeply appreciated Program Coordinator Mona Benotti's guidance and outstanding leadership throughout this year.

"Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans" - "Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"



MEMBERSHIP

Donna James – Chairman

Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman

Texas is doing great in membership but the membership does not end until June 30 at midnight. We need to continue to build our membership. Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!

Our organization is getting smaller every year and will continue to do so if membership doesn't grow. We have to take care of our older members even if they can no longer attend meetings. We have to recruit younger members. They are the future of our organization. If the older members are always in control, the younger will never stay. Younger members need to be trained and let them take over leadership positions. When members attend meetings and listen to the same people every meeting, they will be lost, because there is no advancement.

Please keep recruiting and grow this organization. Thank you to the Auxiliaries and Districts that have achieved 100% and 100% plus. You have achieved an important goal for this organization. The ones that have not still have plenty of time to make this happen. I hope to see everyone 100% at the year end and make President Jeanenne Lumpkin and Texas Auxiliary proud.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



SCHOLARSHIP **Robin Swain - Chairman**

We are at the end of the reporting period for 2022-2023. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Scholarship Program. I have had a great time being the chairman for this program. I hope we all learned something we didn't know. I certainly have. I look forward to receiving the Patriotic Art and I want to wish all the auxiliaries that send me an art project good luck.

I will have the art projects available to pick up by the District Presidents at the Department Convention in Dallas. Remember, the person picking up the art will be signing a form showing it was picked up and by whom.

We certainly lived up to Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin and National President Jane Reape's program, **"Together, Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans" with Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**". Thank you and look forward to seeing you at the Department Convention in June.



HOSPITAL

Pamela Fintel - Chairman

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!!!
HAPPY EASTER

Hospital/VAVS Year End reports are due to your District Presidents by the 10th of April. The District Presidents have to get these to me by April 20th. Please do not be late. You have worked so hard this year and deserve to be recognized.

It has been a challenge this year for our volunteers trying to get back into the VA Hospitals and Clinics. You have done an outstanding job working around these restrictions and thinking outside the box. We have opened some new avenues with our non-VA hospitals, nursing homes and retirement homes.

I am proud of TEXAS for all you have done to take care of our Hospitalized Veterans.

Our year is coming to a close...but please do not stop serving our Hospitalized Veterans. Remember to honor your auxiliary members for working our Hospital Programs with a certificate of Appreciation. If you have any reports after the 10th of April, please hold them along with May and June. They should be sent to the new 2023-2024 Hospital/VAVS Chairman in July.

Don't forget to send those Honor Cards to our Hospitalized Veterans for Easter before April 9th.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your 2022-2023 Hospital/VAVS Chairman. I have enjoyed meeting you and reading your reports. I have bragged to our National Ambassador so many times on all the projects Texas has done.

Thank you again for all you do for our Hospitalized Veterans in Texas – You are the best and you have the BIGGEST HEARTS.

It's spring, a time everything starts anew. Let's open our eyes to a new beginning this season. Let's welcome new opportunities and beginnings.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



AMERICANISM
Annie Nickerson - Chairman

It's unbelievable that end of year reports are already due to your District President by April 10. Every Auxiliary MUST fill one out and send it in on time. Remember to keep working your programs from April 1 to July 1 and send those reports to the new chairmen.

Even though the school year is coming to a close, you still have many summer programs to influence children and young adults. Check into school-sanctioned summer school, various summer camps and organizations such as Scouting and the YMCAs.

All of these organizations offer great opportunities to interact with the next generation since they are all looking for activities for these youngsters.

Continue to work your flag programs. U.S. Post Offices are the primary Issue Point for all VA supplied Burial Flags free of charge to the next of kin of honorably discharged Veterans. VA Regional Offices and Medical Centers are also issue points for Burial Flags as needed. Your patriotic dates this month are listed in Patriotic Instructor.

Last but not least, remember to report your activities. Upload those successes to #AmericanPatriotism and share. Toot your own horn!! You have certainly earned it.

In the meantime, I'm only a phone call or email away. I'm proud to have been your chairman this year!! Thanks for all your hard work.

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
Annie Nickerson

As Patriotic Instructor, you should take approximately 5 minutes each meeting (usually during Good of the Order) to inform, enlighten and revitalize your auxiliary members.

Finalize all of your programs, write monthly reports, and send your end of year reports to your district president by April 10. Remember to keep working your programs from April 1 to July 1 and send those reports to the new chairmen.

Your patriotic dates this month: April 5 - Gold Star Spouses' Day. Discuss these dates, possibly plan a program and always take pictures. Not only is this good for our program, but we can also assist our Posts with their VPRs.

Assist in making plans for Memorial Day. Explain its significance and encourage participation in Post and local events such as graveside ceremonies and placing flags on Veterans' graves.

Your patriotic dates for May: May 1 - Loyalty Day; May 8 - Victory Over Europe; May 21 - Armed Forces Day; May 30 - Memorial Day.

Finalize Memorial Day plans. Explain Flag Day in June and how to properly fly the flag. Discuss how July 4th may be properly observed.

Your patriotic dates for June: June 6 - D-Day; June 14 - Flag Day; June 14 - U.S. Army Birthday (1775); June 27 - National PTSD Awareness Day.

Get recommendations from members on which community members or businesses fly flags regularly and ways to recognize them (Ex: certificates, gift cards, tv or radio spots [usually free], RAP cards, etc.). Seek ways to increase the amount of community participation.

Last but not least, I'm only a phone call or email away. Remember to report. I have truly enjoyed hearing from all of you! Thank you for what you do for our Veterans!!

**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans
Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care**



AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Rene Batson - Chairman

Can you believe year end reports are due this month? This year has passed so fast. I want to start off

by thanking all of you for your hard work and your amazing reports I've received throughout the year. Ya'll are awesome!!

Remember to send your end of year reports to your District Presidents by April 10th so they can have them to me by April 20th. Just because you've turned in your end of year reports, it doesn't mean you stop your Auxiliary Outreach work. With spring and summer here there's so many groups out there that need our help, so reach out to them and see where you can be of service to them. Any reports you send after April 10th I will forward to the new Auxiliary Outreach chairman so you will get credit next year.

Hope to see you all at the State Convention in Dallas. Safe travels and once again thank you all from Madam President, Mrs. Mona, all the District and Auxiliary Presidents and all the members of the Texas VFW Auxiliary!!!!

Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans - Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care

Teresa Ramon

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 20

**NOTICE FROM THE
DEPARTMENT TREASURER**

**CHECKS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN
CASHED OR DEPOSITED, NEED
TO BE DONE BY MAY 31, 2023.**

**ANY OUTSTANDING CHECKS
WILL BE VOIDED JUNE 30, 2023**

YEAR-END REPORTS

**APRIL 10TH – TO
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**

**APRIL 20TH – DISTRICT
PRESIDENTS SEND TO
DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN**

**ALL AUXILIARIES
MUST SUBMIT**

FROM DEPARTMENT TREASURER

2023 DUES

**IF 2023 DUES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID,
PLEASE PAY TO YOUR AUXILIARY
BY MAY 1, 2023.**

Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

Jo Ella Menn

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Treasurer
2023-2024

Endorsed by Auxiliary 8621 - District 6



HAPPY EASTER