



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SUSIE CARTER



“WIND BENEATH OUR VETERANS WINGS”

“BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”

Only two more months to go of this wonderful year. What an amazing experience it has been. I have thoroughly enjoyed every District visit, every bite of food, the raffles, the conversations with VFW and Auxiliary members and touring the sites, VA hospitals and clinics across Texas.

The love and friendship I have received has been so appreciated and I want to thank everyone of you for a fantastic year.

Year-End Reports are done by the Auxiliaries, and the Department Chairs have received those reports, totaled and tallied, reviewed and have chosen the winners of their awards.

Plaques and certificates are being completed and the Department Convention plans are well underway.

In March I made my official visit to District 29. The District meeting was informative and well conducted. The hospitality and food were excellent and we enjoyed the visit very much. Thank you to a great group of Auxiliary members.

A very special thank you to everyone who took the time to come to my homecoming in April.

A very special thanks to my own District 8 for all of your support and assistance and my own Martin D. Denson Auxiliary 6873 for putting it on. I think you did an excellent job and I appreciate all the work, money, time and effort that went into planning and having the event.

This month I will be finishing up my last official visits to Districts 4 and 16. We are looking forward to seeing all of you and attending your meetings. After these are completed, my focus will be entirely on our Department Convention in June.

I hope to see many of you there to close out our year, have elections and move forward to another great year working for our Veterans and active military.

Don't stop **“Banding Together For Our Veterans”** during May and June. Keep doing the great job that you do as Auxiliary members always being the **“Wind Beneath Our Veteran's Wings”**.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Teresa Ramon – Chairman
Michelle Booker – Co-Chairman

Greetings Everyone. Well, our entries for our Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue singing of our National Anthem Contest are in and on April 15th the judging had taken place at the Department of Texas level for the Illustrating Arts contest. How exciting to see who will advance to Nationals.

Remember to recognize all your entries. The school year is ending. Let us take every opportunity to engage in activities with our youth. Inquire about summer school programs. The Boy and Girls Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and sports teams are great ways to stay active with our youth. Interact with your youth within your VFW. Why not create a youth summer program at your VFW? Our youth can learn firsthand about our history when they engage in conversations with our Veterans.

Encourage them to ask our Veterans questions about their experiences while serving. Hearing our Veterans stories could motivate and inspire our youth, giving them a greater appreciation for our country.

Continue promoting our Patriotism Through Literacy program by donating your time to read at local childcare centers or to your young family members.

Remember, to protect our legacy of freedom that so many gave their all for, we must continue to motivate, encourage and inspire our youth, giving them all the knowledge and wisdom they will need to continue the path that our Veterans made before them. We are looking forward to reading your reports about all your events and thanking you in advance for sharing them.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
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NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Kat Carter

Drum Roll please! And the winners are....to be announced in June! Many thanks to Madam President Susie Carter for having given me the opportunity to serve the Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary on this level. Education is my livelihood and to work with a scholarship award has been extremely rewarding! Thank you to all Auxiliaries that participated and

reported! Best regards and see you at the Convention!!!!

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SCHOLARSHIP
Dorthy L. Bennett

Now as always, we have come to the end of the VFW Auxiliary Year. I hope the reporting has not strained anyone past the breaking point. As always, I hope that you as Auxiliary members have grown in the knowledge that we are here to help our Veterans and our communities. The Scholarship Program is the way to reach out our hands to the youth.

Remember anything that happen after April 10th should be reported to the next Scholarship Chairman the first thing in July. Hope everyone is planning on attending the Department Convention in Dallas where I hope to see you.

District Presidents remember if art needs to be returned either you or the Auxiliary President, will need to see me and sign for that art work.

It has been great working with all of you again. It is my greatest wish that all continue in good health, work hard and have fun with our Veterans and the communities that you live in. Till convention.

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BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME
Denise DuBois – Chairman
Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman

This year has come to an end. It has been an exciting one and we want to thank each of you for all the hard work you have done for these two programs.

We appreciate each of the Auxiliaries that participated in the Buddy Poppy Pinata challenge. The designs were amazing and should all be brought to State for the VFW judging.

Many Auxiliaries bought the “Tribute Bricks”, became “Life Members” of the National Home and like always contributed to the VFW National Home by sending monies for Unrestricted Home. The Buddy Poppy drives were amazing. We are very proud of the Texas VFW Auxiliaries. Keep up the great work and keep reporting.

“Be proud of the work you do, the brilliant person you are and the difference you make!”

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
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**SUNSHINE/CHAPLAIN
Sharon Macy**

"It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult."

Queen Elizabeth II



**HOSPITAL/VAVS
Pamela Fintel - Chairman**

Thank you to everyone for working so hard on our program this year. I cannot THANK YOU enough for taking care of our Hospitalized Veterans. It is a lot of work and I am so proud of TEXAS. You have done an amazing job.

Hospital/VAVS Year-End Reports were due to your District Presidents by the 10th of April. The District Presidents were 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.

Hold all your reports from April, May & June and turn them in to the 2024-2025 Hospital/VAVS Chairman.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your 2023-2024 Hospital/VAVS Chairman. Keep up the good work!

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**AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Gerald Spradlin – Chairman
Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman**

As we come to the end of our year, we sincerely want to thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to your communities. It has truly been an honor to see you all involved and to see the reports on all of the wonderful things you are doing. We truly believe this program to be a gateway to new membership and added volunteers who will be committed to our mission of helping our Veterans and their families into the future.

We thank Madam President for the appointment. Being a chairman is not an easy job, but it is truly rewarding and we are grateful for the experience.

We hope working on this program has opened doors for more community support and given you great satisfaction that your community knows more about you and what our organization does.

We hope the rest of your year is productive and truly appreciate all of your hard work this year in supporting the Auxiliary Outreach Program. It has been our pleasure to be your Auxiliary Outreach Chairman and Co-Chairman. Remember:

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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**CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION
Debbie Daniel**

As we wrap up our amazing “Wind Beneath Our Veteran’s Wings” year, we have a few things we have to do to make sure we have everything completed and ready for the Department Convention. Of course, all

audits should be done and in to the Department office. All delegates should be elected and those names along with the appropriate monies should have been sent to the office as well.

Elections should have been held in April and plans for installation should be underway for each Auxiliary and District. AND of course, this information should be entered into the computer by the Auxiliary and District Secretaries with the hard copy mailed to the Department Office.

District Presidents, please check and recheck with your Auxiliaries if you have any idea that someone may be lagging. Printing deadlines are pretty strict and getting all this info in and on time is very important.

Don't forget to follow up with your Bachelor Posts, discussing their need for an Auxiliary. Remember that its all fine and dandy to get them interested, but, it is very important for you and your team to help them get the number of new members to follow through. That has been a common problem with getting past the first steps of talking to the posts. The membership IS out there. It just takes some time and effort to gather them in, sign them up and move forward.

I hope to see all of you at our **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”** Convention in June. Keep **“Banding Together for Our Veterans”** doing the amazing work for our Auxiliaries and communities.



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Candi Baines – Chairman

Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman

Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman

What a wonderful year we have had! I want to thank Madam President Susie for trusting me with the Mentoring for Leadership chairmanship role this year. Thank you, Patsy Kemp and Jayne McCormick, for being my trusted sidekicks and my forever mentors.

Madam National Mentoring for Leadership Ambassador Francine Cornish set the stage and provided a path of resources to help us all build a solid foundation. You all have worked so hard this year, I hope you have been able to build and grow your new and current members with fresh ideas, strong officers, and confident chairmen. I am always here for you if you need advice or to lend an ear.

Remember to always C.A.R.E. and with the year not quite finished, keep pushing to reach all of your goals.

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WAYS AND MEANS

Tracie Frink – Lydia Leal

We want to thank everyone for the great year we have had for Madam President Susie.

Please remember to mail to Department or bring to State Convention any Ways and Means raffle tickets that you might still have. We will be drawing for the rest of the raffle tickets at the State Convention. We cannot wait to see everyone there.



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Bernie Adams

Here we are at the end of another year. If you have any pictures of President Susie 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 President, please do so.

As Chairperson for the Historian/Media Relations, Madam President Susie, thank you for allowing me to be your Historian/Media Relations Chairperson. It was a pleasure to be the **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”** and **“Banding Together For Our Veterans.”**



AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Ronnie and Laurie Wiley

Chairman & Co-Chairman

I would just like to say thank you it has been an honor serving as your Americanism/Patriotic Instructor under our Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of

Texas Auxiliary President Susie Carter. We have received a landslide of reports from all over Texas and I would like to thank each and every one of those Auxiliaries for an awesome job.

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**MEMBERSHIP
Best West – Shawn Terry**

And the award goes to.....

Is it you? It may be!! We cannot believe how many of you have put your time, talent, and treasure into making this movie we call “Membership”! You all are truly stars and each deserve an award.

Thanks to you, the Department of Texas reached 100% in paid percentage in March. Let’s do something we haven’t done in a while. Let’s roll that red carpet out to potential members and reach 100% in current percentage as well. We are so close.

Because Department has reached 100% in paid percentage, that means YOU have starred in at least one movie. How will your movie end? If you reach 100% in current percentage by 30 June 2024, you will earn the National Award of \$25 for your Auxiliary. If you reach 101% by 30 June 2024, your Auxiliary will be put in a drawing to receive \$500.

If you haven’t held your recommended four (4) recruiting events this year, do not forget to have one in conjunction with the distribution of Buddy Poppies for Memorial Day.

One of the frequently asked questions we receive is whether or not great-grandchildren can join. The answer is “No!”. When Congress chartered the VFW and its Auxiliary, it set the requirements that members must be within two (2) bloodlines, meaning that grandparents and grandchildren of a Veteran are eligible, but not great-grandparents/grandchildren. For each Veteran, their parent(s), grandparent(s), children, grandchildren, siblings and spouse are eligible.

Another question we have recently received is what suggestions we have on recruiting. Some ideas, since we never stop recruiting, are to reach out to lapsed members and send them a “thinking of you” card, telling them that they are missed and ask them to your

next event or challenge each Auxiliary member to make contact with one person between your May and June meetings. You just never know where your next member will come from and just how far that member will go in this organization.

Keep the cameras rolling, as this movie never ends. See you at the Awards Presentation in June at State Convention!

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**LEGISLATIVE
Chyenne Harper - Chairman**

Greeting from your Legislative Chairman. As we get towards the end of the year, I want to make sure everybody is still following the (VFW) Legislative?

As of right now there’s nothing new and after action. Please make sure you keep looking at that.

I want to thank everybody in for continuing to report to me. The posters were amazing. I appreciate you going out into the community and sharing your posters and encouraging everybody to vote.

Thank you for giving me a chance to do this. Keep in mind just because this year is ending, it doesn’t mean we stop helping our Veterans and their families.

Continue to report even if it’s not to me as the current Legislative Chairman. You can send it onto the next Legislative Chairman when we find out at state.

I can’t wait to see you all at State Convention. Have a safe trip. Thank you. It was a tough year, but we did it.

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PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Jennifer Richardson - Chairman

"A cup of tea is an excuse to share great thoughts with great minds"-- Cristina Re

As the 2023-2024 year is winding down, I'd like to say thank you for all the reports and pictures submitted throughout the year. I truly believe we were able to make a difference working together to "Pass the Tea" throughout Texas educating our Veterans surviving spouses and dependents on their potential benefits through both the VAP and VA programs.

By doing our part to educate our sisters and brothers, we give them hope. By educating we can make a difference, so please do not stop distributing the information, continue the good work!!

Websites: <https://www.texasvfw.org/veterans>
<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/>

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Denise DuBois

The end is here. The reports have been submitted and the task of picking a winner becomes exciting not only for the Auxiliaries but for the Chairmen as they make their selections.

Chairmen have been cooperative, committed to doing a good job and together we have succeeded for the Department of Texas. Kudos to each Chairman.

Just a reminder that the End of Year Reports for National Programs are due to Madam President by the deadline date. Please make sure that she has the information.

Again thanks for a successful year.

"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"

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VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Tammie Mosby – Chairman

Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman

Wow, I can't believe this is the last Our 2 Cents of the year. It's been amazing seeing all that the Great State of Texas has done for our Veterans. It has been an honor working with each and every one of you this year. We have opened new doors to help our veterans out.

So many of you really stepped up to put more emphasis on our Veterans and their family's mental health and to combat hunger. We still have 2 months to go so don't slow down now. Our mission never ends.

Please keep the families of our Missing In Action and Prisoner of War Veterans in your hearts and prayers. I can't wait to give out the awards at the Texas State Convention.

I want to take this time to thank everyone across the "Great State of Texas" for all the hard work you have put into making our Veterans and their families lives better.

I have enjoyed so much reading all the reports and seeing all the photos that you have sent in this year. Everyone needs to give themselves a big pat on the back. Job well done.

If you need me for anything, please email me at tjpurplerose@yahoo.com or you can call me at 936-414-5293. You can also contact my Co-Chairman Karlene Chambers at karlene440@gmail.com or call her at 713-502-1436.

Let us all be the "Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings" while we are "Banding Together For Our Veterans".





Virginia Carman

Past National President

Past National President Virginia Carman of Renton, Wash., currently serves the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary as District Secretary/Treasurer and a member of the National Bylaws Review and Resolutions Committee.

In 2007-2008 as National President, she introduced her theme, ***“Tradition of Caring,”*** and emphasized that traditions are important, not only to her but to our organization as a whole.



Eligible through her father, Donald Bracken, who served in the U.S. Army in Korea, she was raised in an active VFW/Auxiliary home. Her father was VFW State Commander and served 10 years as State Quartermaster, and her mother served as Auxiliary Department President.

Virginia began her 54-year involvement with the Auxiliary by serving as President of the newly formed Junior Girls Unit at the age of 10. At age 16, she joined Rainier Auxiliary 2289 and has been an active member, serving three terms as President and several terms as Treasurer.

She has served the organization in other capacities, including District President, National Hospital & VAWS Deputy Director, and National Western Conference Chairman for the Community Service and Americanism Programs. When she served as Department President in 1998-1999, she was named Outstanding President of the Year in her membership group.

In 2011, she was elected to serve the VFW National Home for Children on its Board of Trustees. Her six-year term representing District 12 ran through 2017. She also served as President of the National Home Board from 2015-2016.

In 2000, she earned a bachelor's degree at City University while working full-time and holding several positions in the Auxiliary.

Virginia worked for the VFW Department of Washington for 13 years helping veterans with their VA claims, then 17 years as a manager for PACCAR, Inc., maker of Kenworth and Peterbilt trucks.

She has four stepchildren and three step-grandchildren.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

98th TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY STATE CONVENTION

Anatole Hotel – Dallas, Texas

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, 5 June 2024

12 Noon-4:00 PM	Vendor Booths & Buddy Poppies	Stemmons Foyer
12 Noon-4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	Stemmons Foyer
3:00 PM-5:00 PM	President Reception (Invitation Only)	East Atrium
6:00 PM Dinner	National Rep, PDPs, Line Officers & Guests (Dutch Treat)	TDB

Thursday, 6 June 2024

8:00 AM-4:00 PM	VFW AUX Registration/Credentials	Registration Desk
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	Stemmons Foyer
9:00 AM-11:00 AM	VFW AUX Council of Administration	Stemmons Ballroom
11:30 AM-12:30 PM	Past Department President Luncheon	TBD
12:30 PM-1:30 PM	Joint Memorial	Grand Ballroom
2:00 PM-5:00 PM	Joint Opening Session	Grand Ballroom
5:15 PM	Floor Practice	TBD
6:30 PM	Foundation Celebration	TBD

Friday, 7 June 2024

8:00 AM-4:00 PM	VFW AUX Registration/Credential	Registration Desk
8:00 AM-4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	Stemmons Foyer
8:00 AM-11:00 PM	Auxiliary Business Meeting	Stemmons Ballroom
	Opening Ceremonies	Stemmons Ballroom
	Presentation of Programs	Stemmons Ballroom
11:00AM-12:00 PM	Lunch On Your Own	
12:00 PM-4:00 PM	Auxiliary Business Meeting & Nominations	Stemmons Ballroom
5:30 PM-6:30 PM	Reception with Cash Bar	Grand Ballroom
6:30 PM-9:00 PM	Awards Banquet	Grand Ballroom

Saturday, 8 June 2024

8:00 AM-9:00 AM	VFW/AUX Registration/Credentials	Registration Desk
8:00 AM-Noon	VFW AUX Business Meeting	
	Memorial Service and Elections	
	Presentation of National Rep	
11:00 AM	Election of 2024-2025 Officers	Stemmons Ballroom
2:00 PM-3:30 PM	Pictures of incoming 2024-2025 Officers	TBD
2:30 PM	Joint Installation of Officers	Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM	State Cmdr. & Aux. President Reception	Grand Ballroom

Sunday, 9 June 2024 – Safe Travels



GERALD SPRADLIN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY GUARD
2024-2025**

**Endorsed by District 19 & Auxiliaries
Endorsed by Post/Auxiliary 1836**

KAREN KAYLOR

**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H**

2024 – 2026

**ENDORSED BY VFW AUXILIARY 4008
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 14**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

ALETHA JETER

**CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H
2024-2026**

**ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 17
ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 4709**

JO ELLA MENN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER
2024-2025**

**ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6**

