



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 32 Issue 8

February, 2022



“Tipping Our Hats To Vets”



“Soaring Above & Beyond”

Department President Karen Kaylor

Mid-Winter Round Up was wonderful. I hope everyone left with new and continued enthusiasm to work and finish up our projects this year. There was something for everyone in **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** teamwork while **“Soaring Above & Beyond.”** We enjoyed seeing Past National President Sissy Borel. She is such a delight and has always brought a ray of sunshine to Texas. Her enthusiasm is so contagious. Thank you to her and National Area H Rep. Donna James for attending. With the refresher training from all our Program/State Chairman and Officer Training we did get new information to help us finish up the year. A special thank you to all First-Time attendees! We welcome your attendance and please return next year. We were able to network with our Comrades and ended with the Voice of Democracy Banquet again held on the U.S.S. Lexington. Being allowed to visit with our wonderful Comrades and students was outstanding. Our Youth are such a joy to see with their patriotism and love of our country. We are in good hands with our next generations. They will continue our work for Veterans.

This month we have the National President Jean Hamill visiting us in San Antonio. Mark February 15-17 on your calendars to come join us. March is Commander Norm Macey’s Homecoming so please go online and register through the VFW registration process. It will be held March 24-26 in Porter Texas. Let’s tell him thank you for all he has done this year and welcome him home! We are a Team!

Last month I visited District 29 and 19. Such wonderful Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters all working for the good of our Veterans. Then Mid-Winter week and in the last week I headed out for the Celebration in Florida for our National President and the CAFÉ at NASA. You were well represented by our department line officers and many more from Texas. They knew Texas was in the house.

Please continue all the hard work that you are doing. If we can keep working together for the good of our Veterans, we can make Texas number 1 and be a member of the Circle of Excellence again this year.

Official Visit Schedule

February 4-5	District 16
February 6	District 28
February 11-12	District 6
February 13	District 18
February 15-17	National Presidents Visit San Antonio
February 19-20	District 1
26 February - 3	March VFW Legislative Conference



NURSING

Trisha Mullins – Chairman

With all the new variants of COVID-19, nurses are still putting themselves at such a high risk of catching it. On the frontlines of this continuing pandemic there is still an enormous need for nurses. Because of this need, it is imperative to get the VFW Auxiliary Nursing Scholarship information out to those educational institutions where qualified nurses are trained and mentored... especially to those who are so close to the end of their initial training program.

These are just some of the ways to get the information out, but nothing is stopping you to think outside of the box and get creative:

- Advertise in your local newspapers
- On Social Media Flyers
- Even have an informational table at the colleges

But most importantly is word of mouth, because you do not know whom you are talking to. Please REPORT with pictures.

Letting today's nurses and medical personnel know they are appreciated is paramount. And like the pandemic is everywhere so are our nurses working hard to ensure our health and safety.

From the community clinics to the Doctors Without Borders program, they are our neighbors and family members and cannot do what they do without our support.

Please contact me if you have any questions at 254-651-8784 or trisha.mullins.vfwa@gmail.com. Be the Missing Piece.

MEMBERSHIP

Mona Benotti - Chairman

Retain and Gain! As we enter February we must look to these key words – Retain and Gain! We still have members that were on the roster last year but have not renewed for the 2022 membership year. I ask each of us as auxiliary treasurers/membership chairs and presidents to review the list carefully of ‘lapsed members.’ These brothers and sisters can still pay their dues before June 30 – or have a generous auxiliary or member pay those dues – and keep their continuous member status.

“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” by adding more new members. Texas, you have met and exceeded the number that National asked us to GAIN. However, we must not stop seeking new members. Our future is in adding to the auxiliary workforce that supports our veterans.

Where do we find new members? The key word is ASK. Ask friends, family, Post members, other groups you participate in, everyone you meet. Share the Eligibility Wheel. Familiarize your members with the very first sections of the Bylaws – Sec. 101 – 112. It’s all about membership – who is eligible, how to join, how the investigating committee works and much more.

“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 or 817.805.3729.



CHIEF OF STAFF

Juanita Workman

I want to start with a big thank you to all of you who made the time to come to Corpus Christi for our Mid-Winter conference to learn, train and come together as a group who love our Veterans! Helping us continue to **Tip Our Hats To Vets** requires the continued dedication to the end of our year!!

District Presidents: Thank you for making sure your Auxiliary Presidents have any training you received from Mid-Winter Conference. Also, please follow through with your Auxiliary Presidents to have

reports in on time (mid-year reports were slow coming or late). Please make sure you are doing your follow up in a timely manner so the Auxiliary President has time to get with their people and this will help them and you for our year end reporting. Thanks

Here are a couple of reminders: Let's work to resolve our issues here in Texas by going through the correct officers. Yes, National is there but they should be utilized as the last step NOT the first!

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. Chain of Command and a paper trail is wonderful to utilize and will give you peace of mind when used correctly.

On all levels: If you are not the President or the Commander, please address issue 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 will help us keep Texas issues in Texas.

- 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. Thank you for continuing "**Soaring Above & Beyond**".



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Denise DuBois – Chairman

What a fun time we had in Corpus for our Mid-Winter Convention! It was great seeing each of you and I always love to visit and hear what your auxiliary is planning next! I was so happy to hear all of the accomplishments and I am proud to say that we are helping our veterans and their families throughout the state of Texas.

Please continue collecting items as I am confident that we will meet our goal of 100,000 items. Hasn't this challenge been fun? Each auxiliary big or small, can make a difference in the lives of those that fought for us. The membership is doing an awesome job in providing for those in need.

With the holidays behind us, we all can understand the caregivers need our support along with the family of veterans. Always show them respect and reach out to them with a phone call or a visit or surprise them with a meal. Or you could even offer to sit for them so they could have a short break. A simple card or a gift card or how about a day at the spa would bring a smile on the face and a happy heart. I thank you again for all you do! Keep up the great work!

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



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Jayne McCormick – Chairman

**You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
Gandhi**

Sisters and Brothers,

Character of Excellent Mentor:

- Good listener/sounding board
- Flexible
- Value diversity of perspectives
- Knowledgeable
- Nonjudgmental
- Able to give constructive feedback
- Honest and candid

Our Department of Texas is filled with new and old members that fit the character, yet we still struggle to reach out and give them the opportunity. They may be shy and don't let it be known to Auxiliary members they are interested--Ask them--Give them the opportunity to learn and grow. It will make a happy auxiliary member.

We must work together to build a strong Membership. Smile, there is nothing better than a smile in a place the new member hardly knows anyone. Walk up and introduce yourself, tell them

you are glad to have them with us. Try to make them feel at home.

Thank you for the reports. They are coming in slowly. **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** by enhancing leadership abilities of the members who will be **“Soaring Above & Beyond.”**



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

Happy February to everyone. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to see those that were able to attend Mid-Winter Convention in Corpus Christi a couple of weeks ago.

Thank you to everyone that put their talents to work on the Uncle Sam Hats for the Buddy Poppy Statewide Project. As I have stated several times before, I continue to be amazed at the artistic and creative talent of many of our auxiliary members.

I hear from many of you about the different ways you are implementing Buddy Poppies into various events and projects. That is so awesome. What is even more awesome is that people are reporting on their projects!

Auxiliaries are continuing to support the VFW National Home and their reports are proof. Keep up the great work!

Remember, this year's Statewide Project is to donate to the National Home's **Unrestricted Funds** so that monetary donations can be used wherever needed most. Thank you, auxiliaries, for reporting!

Looking ahead, April 10th will be here before we know it. Now is the time to go back and look at your Mid-Year Reports and try to get those projects finished that weren't completed by Mid-Year.

The Program Development Book is a terrific resource tool used to accomplish this task. Please remember to attach copies of checks, receipts and pictures, if it applies to the report you are sending.

If you need anything, please don't hesitate to contact me at either shawne1965@gmail.com or 817-776-1830.

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



LEGISLATIVE **Norita Jackson – Chairman**

Texas VFW uses Priority Goals and Action Alerts to communicate with you during the legislative session. These briefings are sent electronically and may be forwarded by all VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

Action Alerts are used to notify you when your voice is needed to communicate VFW's position on a piece of legislation. The alerts are sent electronically and will contain a brief summary or bit of background on the issue and then will ask you to take action, either by calling or emailing your legislator.

Action Alerts are time sensitive. The alert will contain a sample of the message VFW needs for you to communicate. **NOTE:** You must sign up to receive these briefings and alerts.

Hopefully, many of you will consider participating more actively in the legislative process. Perhaps it will be one of your New Year's Resolutions!

It's easy to participate and Texas VFW and the veterans of Texas need you to raise your voice on their behalf. From making calls to legislative offices to communicate our position, to meeting with your legislators in your home district, to testifying before a committee, you are a critical component of the legislative process.

Legislators are more likely to consider your opinions as a constituent than almost any other. The most important thing to remember is that your voice is important.

You CAN and you DO make a difference when you decide to use your voice.

On behalf of the nation's Veterans, I thank you wholeheartedly for all that you do as we continue to report all activities in our communities and record all correspondence and communications with legislators and representatives.

Keep up the push to register new voters and track those numbers, stay refreshed and updated on the VFW highlighted Priority Goals in order to be

able to discuss the objectives of the VFW to advocate on behalf of our nation's heroes.

There's still so much to do as we **"Tip Our Hats To Vets"** and **"Soar Above & Beyond"**

AMERICANISM

Janet Brown – Chairman

Hopefully everyone has been able to keep at least some of your New Year resolutions, especially if any had to do with working the programs and reporting!! Remember that our reporting year only goes through the end of March. Speaking of March, that's the anniversary of when the Star-Spangled Banner became the National Anthem in 1931. How can that be? you ask yourself, when it was written during the War of 1812 (published 1814). Many had been pushing for that to happen. In 1929, Ripley's Believe It or Not pointed out that the U.S. had no National Anthem.

The VFW and then Ladies Auxiliary were instrumental in making that become a reality. In 1931, the Star-Spangled Banner Bill was on the floor of Congress. Elsie Reilly of Auxiliary 824, Washington, D.C., sang it with the U.S. Navy Band accompanying. So, when you ask yourself whether we CAN make a difference in and for America...there's your answer.

Patriotic Instructors, since the new podium editions are available, please make sure you have a copy so you will be able to help your Auxiliary with any questions about By-laws or the Ritual that may arise. Also, please make sure any new members get one.

We CAN keep **"Soaring Above & Beyond"** as we make a strong push through the rest of our year and **"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"**. I know this because we are AmeriCANs!



SCHOLARSHIP

Annie Nickerson - Chairman

My, how time flies! While you are at your Voice of Democracy awards ceremony, please take time to talk with students and their families about other scholarship opportunities. Whether they won first

place in Voice of Democracy or not, give them a sales pitch about our scholarship opportunities. Ask these questions: Is the student also an artist? Are there any other students in the home? Use their answers to continue the conversation.

Be sure to carry a few Scholarships At-A-Glance flyers with you or make your own custom flyers and include Scout of the Year and Department-specific scholarships.

This includes Continuing Scholarship applications to National by February 15th. This program benefits members and their families who need assistance with tuition in college or technical school.

Next, Student Patriotic Art is due to you by March 31st and those winners are due to me by April 15th. Package them carefully along with the proper paperwork so that they will travel through the mail unscathed. We have so many truly talented young people whose art deserves to be displayed and sent in for competition. Patriotic Art is sponsored solely by the VFW Auxiliary and deserves our full support.

Has your Auxiliary hosted a fund raiser for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Escrow Fund? This will benefit the statewide project if you haven't done it already. Since Patriotic Art has had limited funding in the past, consider those fundraisers to contribute to the escrow fund and raise the rewards for our artists and is also a part our National President's Special Project.

I look forward to hearing from you, so keep those reports coming. I am only a phone call away.

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



AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Patsy Kemp – Chairman

This is the month of Love. Our VFW Auxiliary has always proved we have love in abundance for our Veterans and Communities.

I have loved this organization for 52 years and all it stands for. This is the first time I have felt discouraged. I don't know how I could have said any clearer what counts under Auxiliary Community

Service. I felt so down, I couldn't write my article. Then today, at church, through the sermon, my heart rejoiced.

James 1: 2 – 4 – Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature & complete, not lacking in anything.

I am going to give you some examples of what I have received as Community Activity; assume, that a motion was made at meeting to do.

****THIS IS A CONTEST TO SEE HOW MANY REALLY READ MY ARTICLES****

RULES:

1. You **Must** answer the examples (below) with a Yes or No (Is it Aux. Community Outreach) and give why.
2. You **Must** give me two qualifying examples and two Non-qualifying examples and tell me why for each.
3. You **Must** get this to me **by Monday, 21st of March**. Snail mail or email to me your answers and examples.

Question #1 We had a big Thanksgiving dinner and feed over 600. The mayor and other city officials came. The Post was full to capacity. Nothing but smiling faces. 231 Hrs. **Yes or No**

Question #2 We volunteered for the Salvation Army Bell Ringing with other organization. Saturday was our day and 6 Auxiliary and 4 Post members rang the bells. Aux. 22 Hrs., volunteered. **Yes or No**

Question #3 Our Americanism chairman and Members joined Boy Scout Troop #123 to clean Autumn Leaf Cemetery. All Veterans' graves got a flag, but all cleaned. The storm really made a mess. It took two days so more could work that way. 144 Hrs. Volunteered **Yes or No**

Will I be able to “Soar Above & Beyond” as “We Tip Our Hats To Vets” and send in the

requested contest answers? Show me what you learned at 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

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



**HOSPITAL
Karen Jeffrey – Chairman**

RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT new volunteers for the Hospital and VAVS Program!

Now is our time to make a positive difference in the lives of our Veterans by volunteering, donating needed items and showing up with a smile ☺

“VFW Auxiliary members have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities since the organization’s inception in 1914. The Hospital Program was one of the first nationally adopted programs for the organization.”

Robyn Kuznik, National Hospital Ambassador
****Where can we serve?**

Both VA and non-VA medical facilities and clinics, local hospitals, State Veterans Homes, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries and CLC Living Centers.

****Who can we serve?**

Members, Non-Members, Youth and Families.
****Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support** of our Volunteers is imperative.

****Recognize** the dedication of our VAVS and Hospital Volunteers by hosting a Volunteer Recognition event, present them with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Hospital Volunteer Service Pin to say Thank You and we appreciate you!

****Nominate an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer** to recognize an Auxiliary Member who has “gone the extra mile” to care for our Veterans by March 31, 2022. Form is in the Program Book.

****Recognize a youth or youth group** who respects our Veterans and loves to volunteer with a nomination for the Outstanding Youth Volunteer by March 31, 2022. Form is in the Program Book.

Non-Members can earn a one-time only volunteer pin for 100 hours.

Have you recruited new Hospital or VA Volunteers? Make sure to report it and turn in your information for the Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year by March 31, 2022.

The **Honors Escort Program** is a ceremony that ensures the veteran's service, accomplishments and sacrifices are not forgotten as they are laid to rest.

The Honors Escort Program is being presented across the State of Texas to local nursing homes, Living Centers, group homes, local hospitals and VFW Posts. There is a National Citation to every Auxiliary that provides outreach education about the Honors Escort Program.

Deadline March 31, 2022. Forms are available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources

Happy Valentine's for Veterans! and National Salute to Veteran Patients Week to pay tribute to and express appreciation to our veterans for their service and sacrifice!

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



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

Hello to all our Auxiliary members.

February is upon us, Valentine's Day is close, have our youth make Valentine cards and give them to our veterans. Especially our veterans in nursing homes, hospitals and homebound.

Thank you for all the reports we have been receiving. Looking at all the pictures we can tell our auxiliaries are really getting the youth involved in many projects

Let's continue to lead, mentor and be examples for our youth.

We are looking forward to all the entries for our two contests that you will be sending to us by April 15.

This includes your first-place entry (one per auxiliary) for **Get Excited for the Red, White and**

Blue – the singing of **"The Star-Spangled Banner"** using the exact words to the song – Kindergarten Through 12th.

*** Entries not sponsored by a local VFW Auxiliary will be returned without being judged.**

Please send all entries to the above contests to:

**Ronnie Wiley
24228 Holly St,
Porter, Texas 77365**

BETH WEST

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard
2022-2023

Auxiliary 3413

District 5



ANDREA KING

Candidate for National Council Area H
Endorsed by VFW Post 8790 & Auxiliary

Endorsed by District 4



JO ELLA MENN

Candidate for Department Treasurer
2022-2023

Endorsed by Auxiliary 8621/District 6

Jean Hamil

National President

2021-2022

Jean Hamil of Orlando, Florida, was elected to the office of National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 108th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.



A Life Member of East Seminole County Auxiliary 10139, she joined on the eligibility of her father, George W. Nunnery, a Korean War veteran, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1973.

She has served the Auxiliary in several capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department (state) President. On the National level she has served as National Guard, National Chaplain, National Conductress, National Junior Vice-President, National Senior Vice-President, National District Council Member and National Director of the Membership Program. Jean is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children and a member of the Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA).

Jean is employed as a Manager, Food Safety & Environmental Compliance for A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

In her spare time she enjoys quilting, spending time with friends and traveling. She belongs to a small group of "Quilting Angels" who make quilts for veterans at the Orlando VA Healthcare Center, Quilts of Valor-Orange and Seminole counties, and for children temporarily located at Safe House and seniors in Seminole County.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S
VISIT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
February 15th-17th, 2022**

February 14, 2022, Monday

- A.) Welcome, Early arrivals, check into Holiday Inn @ 4:00 pm
- B.) Hospitality Room.

February 15, 2022, Tuesday

- A.) Arrival 1:47 pm.—Check into Holiday Inn @ 4:00 pm, sooner, if available.
- B.) Dinner at Mi Tierra
- C.) Tour Market Square (if shops are open)
- D.) Horse Carriage Ride
- E.) Hospitality Room

February 16, 2022--WEDNESDAY

- A.) Breakfast at 8:00 am. at hotel.
- B.) Visit to Veterans Plaza at 10:00 am.
- C.) Lunch--TBD
- D.) The Alamo Tour at 3:00 pm.
- E.) Post 8541 Meet and Greet at 5:00 pm.-- Tour of Cyber Café
(featured in National News)
Dinner 6:00-7:00 pm. Cost is \$10.00.
Brisket - Sliced Sausage
Potato Salad - Onions/Pickles/Bread
Entertainment includes The Krueger Middle School Jazz Band.
Roosevelt High School Honor Guard to present the colors.
8541 will purchase the cake with National Presidents emblem on the cake.
Presentation of Love Gifts.

February 17, 2022—Thursday

- A.) Breakfast at 9 am
- B.) Visit Market Square (if wasn't completed on Tuesday) or River Walk
- C.) Lunch at 1 pm. TBD
- D.) Departure

VFW Auxiliary
Department of Texas
PO Box 15285
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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED

Happy
Valentine's
Day

