



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”

“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

An update on my August Official Visits—The Districts are so different in size but so alike in doing the work to help our veterans! The training themes were awesome and the District Program Chairmen did an outstanding job of presenting their programs! Thank you all for your wonderful hospitality!

I will have an update on our visit to the Flight 93 Memorial in Somerset County PA in next months’ OTC. On September 16 Commander Toomer threw out the first pitch at the Houston Astros (Go Astros!) game! What fun it was to be on the field with him!

As of this writing our membership is over 84%! This is a great start for our Department! I know each of you are doing your best in seeking out new members. Wear a VFW insignia wherever you go! It will attract attention and give you the opportunity to tell those you meet about our great organization!

A big thank you to all Auxiliaries for getting your bonds and audits in on time!! I so appreciate your efforts! The 990’s are due by November 15. I know that date is a few weeks away but the sooner you get those completed the better! It so helps the Department office when things are received in a timely manner such as audits, paying your obligations, etc. Speaking of our Department office, we are so fortunate to have Jo Ella, Andrea and Marjorie as our office staff! I wish each of you could be in the office for just one day to observe the work that is completed by them! These women are amazing!

Everything we can get in on time really helps make their jobs easier!

I want to say a big “thank you” to our Chief of Staff Denise DuBois! Denise has been traveling the state sharing her “Auxiliary 101” class as well as mentoring our Auxiliaries. Her presentation of this training material has been so well received and has helped our Auxiliaries to better understand how we should conduct Auxiliary business. Denise, we appreciate the love you have for our organization!

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



- Together – Working as a group!
- Everyone – All of us!
- Achieves – Reaches a goal!
- More – Extra effort to help our veterans!

Thank you so much for the effort, work and love you show our Veterans!!

Love and Belief, Jeanenne



CHAPLAIN CORNER
Irma Solis – Dept. Chaplain

Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.
 Maya Angelou



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Karen Jeffrey – Chairman

Illustrating America – art contest open to any student K-8. Open to students enrolled in public, private, parochial or home study program in the United States, its territories, dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

Rules:

1. Student must be U.S. Citizen or U.S. National
2. **Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible**
3. Entries judged on patriotic theme, techniques
4. Three grade divisions judged K-2, 3-5, 6-8
5. Art must be 2 dimensional
6. Must be on canvas or paper
7. Art should be no smaller than 8” x 10” but no larger than 18” x 24”, not including mat
8. **Coloring sheets, digital art, photography not accepted.**

Student brochures and entry form available at VFWauxiliary.org/What-We-Do/Youth Activities.

Deadlines:	Local Auxiliary	March 31
	Department	April 15
	National	May 5

Grave Beautification Log that we set up has been provided to the District Presidents. Please contact them if you have not received it yet. As you log the work, whether it is one grave or 10 graves, please send the log along with a report. As a big plus for Texas, this log has been forwarded to several other Department Youth Chairman that were inquiring about how to record their efforts. This is just another way that Auxiliary members work together regardless of where they are located for the continued success of the organization.

Please continue to report. If pictures are sent, please make sure there is an accompanying report to go with it. Cannot use pictures by themselves. The reports received so far have been wonderful and show the commitment of the auxiliaries.

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

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Bernie Adams

Well, we made it through the first few months of the 22-23 year, dealing with the hot weather and now we are entering the cooler busy months of the year. Hopefully, it will be a wonderful time to promote the VFW/Auxiliary activities. We just finished Patriot Day (9/11) and POW/MIA Day (9/16); I hope you were able to put it in the newspaper with a picture; I would like to have a copy if you did.

I would like to thank Eve Yorioka Post 9192 Auxiliary, District 14, for being the first to complete their “First Commanders” Report with the pictures of the Commander. She said it was fun doing it. I just need 181 more.

National First Responders Day, on **October 28th**, commemorates the heroic acts of the people who are there; first on the scene of an emergency. This day is all about showing appreciation for Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics, Police, and the Military who risk their lives to save others. Invite them to your post to have a breakfast or dinner. Let your local newspaper know or better yet invite them. Media allows us to brag about what we are doing for our Veterans, their families and our community.

What is the hardest picture to take? That would be a group picture because everyone is looking everywhere. Most are smiling while others are talking. So as your Department Historian, I will be hollering out, “Hey I am over here now smile.”

When Department President Jeanenne comes to visit your district, author an article along with taking a picture to submit to the newspaper. Auxiliary Historians, please remember that I need pictures. Lately, I have been getting reports but no pictures. I need the pictures to put with the stories, “We are the **Keeper of the Memories,**” which includes collecting all materials pertaining to the pictures and the history of his/her Auxiliary. I then compile it and submit it in a book of your accomplishments for the year to President Jeanenne. Remember: “**Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans” while “**Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care.**”**



LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby – Chairman

The new school year is now going full steam ahead. Please reach out to the young civic adult and youth groups and/or political groups and work with them on the legislative priorities. This is part of our National Ambassador Bobbie Goldman’s priorities for this year.

If you have any problems finding young adult civic and/or political groups, please let me know. I will do what I can to help you find them.

S.3548, Veterans Hearing Benefits Act of 2022: Service in the military is often accompanied by activities during training, deployments and everyday operations that can put service members' hearing at risk. A 2005 Institute of Medicine (now known as the National Academy of Medicine) report titled "Noise and Military Service: Implications for Hearing Loss and Tinnitus" found that based on the available data since World War II, "the evidence is sufficient to conclude that hazardous noise levels are and have been present in many military settings." In addition, the VA website states that hearing problems, including tinnitus, are the most prevalent service-connected disability among American veterans.

The VFW supports this legislation which would require VA to recognize tinnitus and hearing loss as presumptive conditions for service in combat or in military occupational specialties with exposure to acoustic trauma. Our members continue to support a VFW Resolution that urges Congress to pass legislation to this effect.

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.**



**CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION
Denise DuBois**

Here it is October already! Time sure does fly by when you are having FUN! I am so proud of the Deputy Chiefs of Staff and how they are working side by side with the District Presidents to keep the auxiliaries strong and healthy. Your training events have been wonderful. From indoor picnics to luaus to superheroes and the list goes on and on. The theme events are a big hit.

We are working with posts in getting new auxiliaries and there are several that are waiting for their charter. It is so exciting when we gather and these new members are super excited about having an auxiliary and supporting our mission of helping Veterans and their families.

I would like to remind each auxiliary of the 5 essentials of an Auxiliary:

- *Hold at least ten (10) business meetings
- *Dues paid by at least 10 members on or before February 1st

- *Quarterly audits submitted
- *Officers, elected, installed and reported to National
- *President/Treasurer bonded by August 31st
- ***Yes, I add # 6 – Get your 990's in ASAP**

I want to thank each of you for the hard work you are doing. It shows true TEAM work. Our mission of supporting veterans and their families shines throughout Texas.

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



**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois**

I want to thank each of the districts and auxiliaries that are taking the initiative to go above and beyond in providing extra training for your auxiliary members. This proves that you are dedicated to our organization and want your members to better understand what we are all about. The encouragement that I see from these members enables them to be great leaders. The willingness to listen to each member will ensure there is a positive member experience.

Remember I am just a phone call away. Together we are a TEAM. Shine! Shine! Shine!

"A good leader listens and talks to the team to find the individual strengths of each team member."

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**HOSPITAL/VAVS
Pamela Fintel – Chairman**

I have gotten several questions on what an Auxiliary can do for the Honors Escort Program. This program is not just the VA, it is all the Non-VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes and Hospice. Several Texas Health Hospitals have established a program that is called "FINAL SALUTE" which is the same as Honors Escort. In a Non-VA Hospital, a flag is draped over the Veterans body and is escorted from the room down the hall lined with nurses, doctors and staff. The flag will stay with the Veteran until it is given to the family and is properly folded. We need to contact the Chaplains at the Non-VA Hospitals, the directors at nursing homes, retirement homes and Hospice Home Health. In the Non-VA

facilities, a lot of times that question is not on an admitting form and they do not ask if they are a Veteran. To avoid the HIPPA confidentiality law, you can have a family member contact the non-VA facility and have them put it on their record. You can also contact the Funeral Homes in your area to make sure they have flags to use when they come and pick up the Veterans body. You can offer to donate a 5x9 flag for your Veteran's use.

October 18th is Recognition of Women in Military Service The women veterans call center is your guide to women's health. If you have questions and can't find what you are looking for call the WVCC at 1- 855-829-6636 to get help and find available resources and services in your area. WVCC representatives are available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 10 pm ET and Saturday 8:00 am to 6:30 pm ET. Trained women representatives can also help you with your questions.

It is time to get those Honor cards ready for Veterans Day next month. Get your youth, friends, Auxiliary and other organizations involved in making these cards. We want our Veterans to know we love them and are thinking about them.

VAVS Representatives meet with the Medical Center's Chief of Voluntary Service for your annual Joint Review (AJR) in November. Reviews must be received by VFW National Headquarters no later than January 15, 2023. The VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives will participate. The Department Hospital Chairman may also be invited. Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans and their families.

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



MEMBERSHIP
Donna James – Chairman
Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman

We are doing great in membership. Many are still unsure about qualifications to join. I hope the following information is helpful in recruiting new members. It is directly from National Bylaws.

Eligibility Requirements for VFW Auxiliary Membership: Members must be at least 16 years old.

Those eligible are:

- Husband/Wife**
- Widower/Widow**
- Father/Mother**
- Grandfathers/Grandmothers**
- Sons/Daughters**

--Grandsons/Granddaughters

--Brothers/Sisters of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Those eligible for membership in the VFW are those that have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

Step and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.

Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant. Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting:

National Archives and Records Administration
Phone: 1-866-272-6272

Online: **Veterans Service Records**

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

4-Step Veteran Request Process

<https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>

Military Records Request Using Standard Form 180

(SF-180): <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

Keep up the good work to help achieve our first goal of 95% by November.

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AMERICANISM
Annie Nickerson - Chairman

Now that it is officially autumn, many of our thoughts turn to cooler weather, pumpkin spice recipes and Halloween as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Remember to include our Veterans and Active-Duty personnel as well. Those holidays are few and far between for them.

October is here, so discuss the successes of your POW/MIA and Gold Star Family ceremonies and file away to use next year. That gives plenty of time to fine tune the plans.

Also, take a mental survey of your community and see how many Veterans do not have a flagpole or American flag flying. Check the group on Facebook "Flags for

Vets”; they provide flags and flagpoles to Veterans free of charge.

Now that schools are firmly back from summer vacation, see if you can gain entrance to the elementary schools to teach the Pledge of Allegiance or be a guest speaker at a PTA meeting. Possibly hand out small American flags, patriotic pencils and/or Buddy Poppies. Consider other organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, church youth groups and Scouts. Invite Veterans to go with you. They love interacting with children, and they make a great impact on them.

Unfortunately, we lose veterans every year. 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.

More than likely your community is well under way for its Veterans Day Parade this year. Now is the time to consider handing out small flags and/or Buddy Poppies to members of the crowd. Take some membership applications with you as well (both Auxiliary and VFW). There are more than likely potential members who attend the parade and might be open to suggestion.

Remember to post positive narratives and photos to Post and Auxiliary Facebook pages; upload your successes to #AmericanPatriotism. It also shares our endeavors with the public and furthers community relations. Get your local newspapers involved. Hand out certificates to local businesses who fly the flag regularly. A certificate may only be a piece of paper, but people love to be recognized.

Your patriotic dates this month are October 9 Enduring Freedom; October 13 U.S. Navy Birthday (1775); October 18 Women in Military Service; October 23 Beirut Bombing.

Last but not least, remember to report your activities. I love the reports I’ve received; you are doing wonderful things for your veterans and your communities. And as always, I’m only a phone call or email away. Feel free to contact me with questions or for more material.

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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.

For this month, demonstrate how to make a motion. Example: “I move that _____.” It is not correct to say, “I make a motion that _____.”

Demonstrate how to salute with hand over heart or Military Salute if a Veteran.

When a flag is displayed, explain and demonstrate the correct way to salute the flag, what to do when the flag is in motion, proper behavior during the playing of TAPS and the National Anthem. When a flag is not displayed during the National Anthem, all present should salute and face the music.

Ask the Treasurer to describe or explain the duties and obligations of being Treasurer.

Ask the Buddy Poppy/National Home and Legislative chairmen to explain their programs.

Discuss these days and take pictures. Not only is this good for our program, but we can also assist our Posts with their VPR’s.

Last but not least, I’m only a phone call or email away. Remember to report. I love hearing all about the amazing things you are doing! Feel free to contact me with questions or for more material.

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BUDDY® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME
Carol Brietzke – Chairman
Merlene Peters – Co-Chairman

This year’s goal of the National Ambassador for “Buddy” ® Poppy and National Home is to unite the “Buddy” ® Poppy and National Home; when we promote one, we can promote the other. “Buddy” ® Poppy + National Home = Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes.

Wouldn’t it be nice for the “Buddy” ® Poppy & National Home Program to be the first to have 100% in reporting? I know this would make our President very proud.

Distribution of “Buddy” ® Poppies should be included in every Post, District or Department activity or anything in which you may participate. Membership drives, Patriotic events, even Bingo should include distribution of our favorite flower. When distributing in your community be sure and wear your VFW or Auxiliary caps. Remember we are not selling “Buddy” ® Poppies but distributing them with the hope of donations. Aside from the Cross of

Malta, the “Buddy” ® Poppy is the most visible symbol of our great organization.

Information and/or pictures should be sent of your involvement with the distribution of “Buddy” ® Poppies. Please remember to send a copy of your check when you make a donation to National Home.

We want to thank each Auxiliary that has sent reports and those of you that have started getting a new Life Member for National Home.

Don’t forget to start working on your State Project with “Buddy” ® Poppies on a picture for judging at Mid-Winter; it will be here before we know it.

Our National Ambassador has sent out a project that really sounds like fun; I will be forwarding to District Presidents and with Fall approaching this could be fun yet simple. Keep the reports coming .

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SCHOLARSHIP
Robin Swain – Chairman

Happy October TEAM. I can’t believe it is October already. Remember the date the applications for VOD and Patriot Pen must be turned into the local posts is October 31, 2022. It was brought to my attention I have a date wrong in my program. I put the date for the National Awards Most Outstanding Participation in the Patriotic 3-Dimensional Art Contest deadline as March 21, 2023, but it is March 31, 2023. Page 84 in the Program Book. No matter how many times you look over something, you still miss things.

Also, there have been a few questions come up about the Scholarship payout. The scholarship for the Young American Patriotic Art Contest is paid directly to the college, vocational/technical or trade school of the winner’s choice.

Does National hold on to the monies until the student graduates? National holds on to the money until the student is ready to use it towards their college. When a student wins, we send a letter and an explanation of what to do and what we will need when they are ready to use it. No funds are dispersed until they notify us they are ready to use it.

What if the contestant is in the 9th, 10th or 11th grades and hasn’t committed to a college yet? It does not matter what grade they are in when they win. We hold on to the funds for up to 5 years after their anticipated graduation year.

What happens if the winner chooses to not go to college and/or joins the military? If the student chooses not to enroll in an American college, university or vocational/technical school within the 5-year grace period of high school graduation, the money is then forfeited and will stay in our scholarship fund.

Are the Departments supposed to keep the scholarship monies in escrow until after graduation and notify the winners in the same manner as National does? If the Departments are setting up their own scholarships for any reason, they are to decide how they would like to proceed. National does not and cannot control how they would like to set up and distribute their department scholarship funds.

I will be sending an email to the District Presidents letting them know which auxiliaries have sent me a report. Thank you and have a great October. Happy Halloween.

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VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Sally Jarrett – Chairman
Yolanda Chambers – Co-Chairman

Heading into October we are looking forward to your reports about all of your activities. We’ve been getting a large number of reports and just love reading those. Keep up the great work!

One very important part of our program is Troopons® - Coupons for Troops. Overseas and domestic military families use the coupons to supplement their purchasing power. Every member can assist with gathering these coupons.

What type of coupons are needed? Only "Manufacturer's Coupons" can be used. They can be from the newspaper, dispensers in grocery stores, tear-pads, and elsewhere as long as they state "Manufacturer's Coupon" on them. No store coupons. Clip, bag and mail to: Support Our Troops® P.O. Box 70 Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0070.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our military troops and their families!

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AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Rene Batson - Chairman

Thank you for the reports I have been receiving and for the work you are doing in your communities.

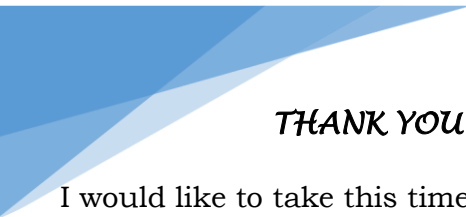
I've had some questions about this program and am reaching into the National Program Book using the message of the National Ambassador Laurie Lukas to reply.

Auxiliary Outreach is not to be reported under any other Auxiliary programs. It is a partnership entered into by the Auxiliary by vote and recorded in the minutes. The event is under the direction of the sponsor organization, not the Auxiliary or VFW. We are just volunteering time to assist.

Some places that might welcome us as volunteers includes community food and/or shelter programs, First Responders safety fair, Senior Centers, working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention and much more.

I encourage you to go to <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/> and click on the National Program Book; then check out the Auxiliary Outreach section, pages 12-15.

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THANK YOU

I would like to take this time to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for keeping me in your prayers!

I am grateful for your love & support! May you be blessed for the kindness you have shown me!

Karen Jeffrey
Jr. Vice President

From the Desk of Department Secretary

Some of the large State Rosters may have an error on Page 10 regarding Auxiliaries 9192 and 9213.

On Page 10 correct information should be:
9192 Killeen District 14
9213 McQueeney District 5

Please check the roster page and make the correction if needed. Thank You

District 2 President – Name Change to Marsha Tousha.

Renee Clark – correct phone number: 512-269-8643



Program Participation – October

**Health & Happiness - .10 per member or .25 per member to receive certificate from National Home



Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

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

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**FLYING THE BANNER FOR OUR
VETERANS**

