



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”

As we move into October, cooler weather and the beginning of fall, we continue to work in our hospitals, clinics and communities for our Veterans and their families.

There are so many opportunities coming up to work our programs and of course, report them. School is in full session and the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay as well as the Patriots Pen Essay should be in the schools. Your Scholarship Chairman should be available to give you any info that you might need on those themes and deadlines.

My visits to the Districts of our great state continued throughout September. Jimmy and I traveled to Districts 2 and 20. Each and every member went out of their way to welcome us and treat us with grace, friendship and offered amazing hospitality. I enjoyed well run meetings, great food and visited with some amazing Auxiliary members and Veterans. Thank you for making our time with each of you an unforgettable experience.

We also traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah for the annual “Café” event. We went to the Golden Spike National Monument in Promontory, Utah. It was a great historical event and trip.

I will be busy traveling throughout October and I am looking forward to making visits to Districts 8, 25 and 28 as well as the Department Commander’s Homecoming in San Antonio.

Reminder: 990’s will soon be due. It’s time to start getting those in and always report what your Auxiliaries are doing in your communities. Work membership and encourage the membership to pay their dues.

Continue to be **“The Wind Beneath Our Veteran’s Wings”** as
“We Band Together For Our Veterans.”



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

September Article – Editor missed

District Presidents: Have you started your “official” visits? If not, its time to get busy. Especially those of you that have a lot of Auxiliaries. You want to be able to jump on any problem areas, address them and work on a plan of action to solve any problems. Don’t hesitate to schedule a follow up visit to any Auxiliary that you feel needs it. If needed, assign one or more “mentors” to aid struggling Auxiliaries.

Have you had a “School of Instruction” for your Auxiliaries. It is your responsibility to share what you received at the State Training and to instruct your Auxiliaries in the programs for the new year, ensure your District and Auxiliary Officers know their duties and chairmen are familiar with promotion, deadlines and reporting of programs.

Second Quarter Audits were due by August 31st (Sec 814) 2023 ByLaws. District Presidents, please follow up to make sure all of your Auxiliaries got those audits completed and sent to the Department office.

District Presidents have you contacted your “Bachelor Posts” with the information they need to open a new Auxiliary? Go to the National Website Resources pages to find handouts that explain why they need an Auxiliary and in your 2023 ByLaws, you will find the appropriate process for getting started (Article II Auxiliaries Sec 201-204).

As stated by our National Extension/Revitalization /Chief of Staff Penny Hurt, “(If We Are **Banding Together For Our Veterans**), start with our Auxiliaries being strong.” We then become the “**Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings**”. Until next month....God Bless.



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

The fall weather of October is already here and thankfully it has cooled down just a little bit here in our Texas oven. We have been “**The Wind Beneath Our Veteran’s Wings**” for several months and I want to say that you District Presidents are doing great. Ya’ll have responded each time I have emailed and called. You have dealt with the issues of making sure your

Districts and Auxiliaries are bonded by the scheduled deadlines. Now it is time to start working on 990s. From the IRS website, “the Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-PF must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your organization’s accounting period.” That puts us due by the 15th of November. Most Auxiliaries can do the simple form 990 and it is very easy to do online, if you have questions or problems. If needed, an Auxiliary can file for an extension (usually only needed by an Auxiliary that makes large amounts of money as in Bingo Revenue). The Office Staff can help with any of this if needed. Don’t hesitate to call.

District Presidents: you should also be deep into or finished with your inspections or “official visits” of your Auxiliaries. Just a friendly reminder to send me a copy of that inspection. Some of you have been excellent in sending those to me while others have not. This tool is essential in monitoring the ability of an Auxiliary to function properly. It enables us to see those “**red flags**” that indicates an Auxiliary in distress and to move forward in assisting that Auxiliary. You should have also made at least one first contact letter or phone call to your Bachelor Posts with info on establishing a new Auxiliary, with a planned follow up in the works.

Don’t forget to use your Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit, Resources Guideline on the National Website and your District Deputy Chief of Staff to assist you in working with these Auxiliaries that need assistance as well as possible new Auxiliaries. You do not have to print all of that material for every Auxiliary, as it is quite a large amount of printing. However, if you know a specific Auxiliary in need and would benefit by it, please do make a copy and get it to them.

Always be kind. Praise goes a long way. Discuss problems in private. Address issues in a nice way. Always say thank you. All of these things do make a difference. Until next month Be Blessed and “**Band Together For Our Veterans**”



**NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Kat Carter-Chairman**

Thanksgiving is upon us soon! Don't forget to thank your local nurses with a special treat or Survival Kit and send in reports and pictures! If your Auxiliary has sent in a contribution to the Nursing Program, remember that is also a report!!! Thank you ahead of time!!!



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS
Bernie Adams

If you were not at training to hear me tell that National is giving out another award for Historian/Media Relations. It is for the most outstanding video interview with a VFW Auxiliary Legacy (longtime active) member. The winner will receive an award from National and every Auxiliary that submits a 3-5 minute video interview with a legacy Auxiliary member will receive a citation. An entry form and video (on flash drive) are required.

Entry form is available in MALTA Members Resources. Auxiliary Historian/Media Relation person must send the entry form and video interview to me by March 31, 2024. Some of the things you could ask is:

- Why she joined.
- Ask about her favorite memorable moment(s).
- Place emphasis on bringing the past to life.
- If your Auxiliary has no legacy member, look to your District or Department.

What was put in the Program Book this year was wrong. My Statewide Project this year is: I would like a report on the First President of your Auxiliary. Where and when was she born and when did she become President. The Veteran that she joined under was content to let her shine. He was her hero and the wind beneath her wings.

Remember to send me your pictures of President Susie's visit to your District or any other events you are with Susie.

Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings
Banding Together For Our Veterans



CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER CORNER
Sharon Macey



Jayne & Preston McCormick
Our Veterans & their Families
Our Troops
Dolly Shepherd
Bernie Adams

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Tammie Mosby – Chairman
Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman

Just wanted to give everyone the web site for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

It is: elizabethdolefoundation.org. Please go explore this site. It is full of so much information on military and Veteran caregivers.

For those of you who are not aware of what "Troopons" is go to their web site. It is: supportourtroops.org/troopons. All the information you need is on the web site. The address where you need to mail your coupons is: Support Our Troops, P.O. Box 70, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0070.

I am receiving reports hand over fist. The dedication you are showing to our Veterans and their families is overwhelming. A couple of the reports have made me cry. I just want to say keep up the good work and give your selves a pat on the back.

Don't forget the Veterans and Military Support Programs initiated by the VFW: Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and the VFW "Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship". These programs serve active-duty and recently discharged military.

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.

"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"



SCHOLARSHIP
Dorthy L. Bennett

Happy Halloween! Hope this finds everyone in a scary good place working the Scholarship program.

School has started and the weather is somewhat cooler. I hope that everyone was able to put the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen into the hands of students, home scholars, teachers, church groups, youth groups and any others dealing with young adults. Remember that these two program parts are due to your Post by midnight Halloween. Please continue to help the Post with judging, if asked and to celebrate those who entered even if they did not place.

Please report your activities with this part of the program. Thus far I have not had many reports. To be

100% in reporting you need to report at least one part of this program.

Don't forget that this program continues with Young Patriotic Art, 2 and 3 Dimensional. Follow the guidelines in the Program book starting on page 62. You may also find more information on MALTA under Scholarship. The Auxiliary must receive art pieces by March 31 and sent to me no later than April 15.

Many of our Auxiliary members are struggling. Remember to tell them about the Continuing Education Scholarship. Remember that a member, spouse and or son-daughter can submit an essay as to why they need this scholarship to continue their education or update their education.

Forms are on line at vfwauxiliary.org/continuing_education. This is due to National by March 31. Please tell me how many times that this was promoted to the members and if possible if anyone from your Auxiliary submitted an application. We are aiming for 23 submissions from the state of Texas.

Madam President Susie Carter has given me permission for this request. As most of you know we have two National Art Contests within the Scholarship program. On the Department level we have not set aside funds for awards for this part of the program.

At this time, we are seeking funds to be able to award the top three winners. That being said the more that we raise the better the award can be for these students and any money left over will start the new year of 2024-2025.

The suggested amount for each auxiliary would be \$15 or more if the funds are available. Target for funds would be \$500 1st place, \$300 2nd place and \$200 for 3rd place. Please note that the Art Escrow requested in the program was to build the scholarship awarded at National.

Please send funds to VFW Auxiliary Department of TX ear marked for Department Scholarship 2 & 3 Dimensional Art.

I know that each Auxiliary is working hard this year to meet all the program goals not just in Scholarship. So please be the **Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings** as we **Band Together for our Veterans**. Thanks so much for your hard work.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”



HOSPITAL/VAVS **Pamela Fintel – Chairman**

TEXAS is AWESOME... I have been receiving a lot of great reports. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries for all you do for our Veterans and their families.

We are beginning to come up on the Holiday season, as you plan your Hospital events, remember you need to get them approved on your floor. Make sure you have enough volunteers to complete your events so they will be successful.

Another way to volunteer is to contact your local VA CDCE (Voluntary Services) to volunteer for VA Compassionate Contact Corps. The Compassionate Contact Corps is a virtual social prescription program where trained volunteers are matched with Veterans that are experiencing loneliness or are socially isolated. The volunteer typically calls the Veteran weekly for 15—60 minutes to provide socialization and companionship via phone or video calls. Many volunteers come from Veteran Service Organizations and are Veterans themselves, but that is not a requirement to volunteer for this program. This is a great way to serve if you are not able to go to the VA.

Don't forget www.nationaldaycalendar.com to see the fun National Days you can do for the Veterans in the Hospital or make the non-traditional holiday cards. Did you know, October 4th - National Cinnamon Bun Day, October 8th – National Navy Day and October 14th - National Dessert Day. October 18th is Recognition of Women in Military Service Day.

The Call Center is your guide to Women's Health 1-855-829-6636 to get help or find available resources. I want to remind all the VAVS Representatives to meet with their Chief CDCE (Voluntary Services) to schedule your annual Joint Review (AJR) in November. These AJR's must be received by National Headquarters no later than January 15, 2024. Both the VAVS Representatives and their Deputies will participate. The Hospital Chairman may also be invited.

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“Banding Together For Our Veterans”



AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Ronnie Wiley – Chairman

Laurie Hayes-Wiley-Co-Chairman

Thank you, thank you and thank you for all the awesome reports. It is amazing how we can find Americanism in everything we do day in and day out.

Dates to remember:

October 9 **Start of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan**

October 13 **Navy Birthday**

October 18 **Women in Military Service Recognition**

October 28 **Lady Liberty gifted to America from France.**

This is what **Linda Roloff** our National Americanism Ambassador has in her Americanism Blog. “America’s cities and terrain help to form her regional cultures and we are blessed to have such a diverse landscape and people! How many different environments can you see in a one-day car drive? While the weather is still gorgeous, I challenge you to get out and experience this country from her open roads...In other words; **MOTORIZED YOUR FREEDOM!**”

Here are some suggestions for your “Motor ‘Merica’ Day Trippin’”: Research your local historical sites and markers and visit them.

*Visit a local state or national park

*Visit a big city and a small town in the same day, try to feel what makes them both tick

*Walk around your State Capitol (Really take in the statues and monuments)

*Have a truly impressive bridge or dam nearby? Visit it!

*American engineering is a national treasure

*Walk the campus of a university, college or trade school in your area; be proud of America’s educational institutions.

*Spend the day at the ballpark; how people play says a lot about who they are

We Love our Freedom, We Love Our United States of America and We Love our Veterans.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”

“Banding Together For Our Veterans”



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Gerald Spradlin – Chairman

Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman

It was exciting to go to National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona and get to hear our Auxiliary

Outreach Ambassador, Sandy Pinsonault, speak about this program. It is great to be working under a passionate leader who truly cares about this program. It has been wonderful to receive and read all of your reports. You are all doing amazing things and helping your communities to grow and thrive. Giving back to the people and organizations that support the VFW and the VFW Auxiliaries is the best way to show how much we care and how much we appreciate their support.

It is amazing seeing you all reaching out to your churches, firehouses, historical societies, helping with American Cancer Association Relay for Life and so many other activities. We are proud that you have embraced this program and really gotten involved.

Thank you for including the pictures. We love to see them, so be sure to take lots of them. Don’t forget to wear your Auxiliary attire (name badge, hat, shirt, jacket, etc.).

Try to get involved with youth programs in your area. Youth are the future of our organization, so show them that we are here to help others and they can learn that from you. If you are having trouble finding programs to volunteer or help with, check the website www.volunteermatch.org to see organizations in your area needing help, remember to check local newspapers for upcoming events, check local community bulletin boards or town/city websites calendars of events for more opportunities.

The Auxiliary Outreach Program was created to bring the VFW Auxiliary together with the community. By working side by side, we can better both the community and the VFW Auxiliary. Have fun with this program, meet new people and enjoy being out in your communities.

We love your reports and pictures, so keep them coming! See what you can do to strengthen the VFW Auxiliary’s relationship with your communities.

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LEGISLATIVE

Cheyenne Harper – Chairman

Hello, my fellow Auxiliary members. It is the time we talk about what is going on in our legislature. Have you read the After Action lately? Let me tell you what’s going on.

The V.A. in the Pacific Islands is assisting their care and recourses to help the Veterans and their families that

were affected by the wildfires In Maui. If your Auxiliary is to assist in any way, please reach out and donate what you can.

Please make sure to continue to go out into your communities and keep encouraging people to vote.

I also continue to sign up members for After Actions Corps Weekly.

Auxiliary Award

Most outstanding activity event/or event that educates their community on Veteran Legislative issues. Entry form required and available in MALTA under Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman no later than March 31, 2024 for judging.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings” “Banding Together For Our Veterans”



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Denise DuBois – Chairman

Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman

We are receiving reports daily and each one amazes us as we read them. Your ideas are proving that Texas continues to brighten our Veterans and their Families lives each and every day.

Our National Ambassador, Lisa Jackson, encourages us to incorporate the Buddy Poppy in all of our events. This can include game night, membership drives and centerpieces, just to name a few. We can also incorporate the Buddy Poppy into each of our National Programs as we work with the other chairmen. Here are a few examples:

- Add the Buddy Poppy to a flower arrangement or gift for a hospitalized veteran
- Invite the Scouts or 4-H members to assist with your Poppy drives
- Include a Poppy in your letters
- My favorite is to wrap a poppy around our silverware during our Auxiliary sponsored meals.
- Another favorite is to use a small bunch of buddy poppies (10) and wrap it with red/white/blue ribbon and add a small clothes pin to the back, these are taken to the ICU and the nurses clip it to the patient’s bedside. The patient always knows who it’s from even when we cannot visit.

Has your Auxiliary selected your Buddy Poppy Youth Ambassador? Please send the information to us.

Just a reminder to keep working on your piñata. These will be judged at our annual Mid-Winter Convention in January. We are anxious to see what you have chosen as your piñata design. We know they all will tell a story.

Please don’t forget to include your donations to National Home. Our President’s Special Project # 2 is a joint project with Commander Sanders. Please make sure your check is earmarked as such.

Our National President’s Special Project is the VFW National Home Center Renovation efforts. She is hoping to raise funds to remodel the existing lobby area and turning it into a friendly retail space with updated reception and information area.

Keep up the great work that each of you is doing. You are appreciated and we are thankful for each of you.

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YOUTH

Teresa Ramon – Chairman

Michelle Booker – Co-Chairman

Greetings. Thank you all for your reports. So many school supply donation events with our youth were reported. We have also seen many reports involving youth in your community projects. While working with our youth and schools let’s keep the train of enthusiasm going with other creative youth activities. This would be a great opportunity to introduce our patriotic art contest where our youth can be creative, showing their artists abilities. Elementary grades 1-2, middle 3-5 and junior high grades 6-8 can participate. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique. For more information: www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities.

- Deadline is Local Auxiliary - March 31.
- Department - April 15.
- National Headquarters - May 5.

Another fun activity to do with our youth is a fall festival or a trunk or treat. Make it fun. And remember to reward our youth with a R.A.P. card when you see them do kind deed to our Veteran and within our community.

We will be looking forward in seeing all your amazing pictures and remember Report....Report!

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Denise DuBois

Chairmen, kudos and appreciation for a job well done. Promotional effects have fostered and encouraged new ideas, camaraderie and a renewed devotion to the Organization and our Veterans.

The National Ambassadors develop and set goals that reflect their ideas, not always what the previous years have done. The line of communication that has been established with the National Ambassadors is a useful tool and as of this article, Texas Chairmen are meeting the National Ambassadors expectations.

Chairmen are following the programs closely, are taking the information from the National Ambassadors provided through blogs, the National Program Book and communications and making the program a reflection of themselves while still maintaining the integrity of the program goals.

Chairmen put a lot of time, effort and commitment into the programs implementing the positive changes that come with each year. Members should appreciate and be thankful that Chairmen for Texas take the time to make sure that the current information is available, not just rely on what had been done in the past.

Please remember, members help the team grow and fulfill true potential – which is sharing and educating on all programs.

Remember this:

- Other people's lives are not our responsibility
- The best way to help someone is to love them
- Loving someone is not the same thing as trying to fix them
- Do not give orders or wanting things to be done the way you wish you had done them
- Appreciate the contribution that was made by a member
- Always remember that everyone has something special to offer

Chairmen, again great job and continued success throughout the year.



MEMBERSHIP

Beth West – Chairman
Shawn Terry – Co-Chairman

As we write this article, the Department of Texas is at 84%!!! Can you believe it? YOU are amazing!! The first benchmark is whether or not the Department can

make 95% by 30 November. At the rate you guys are going you will easily make that! We are so *very* proud of you! With all the Auxiliaries already at over 100%, the Mid-Winter celebration will be bursting at the seams!

With every good movie script, there is some background and research that goes into it and is what makes the script so believable. Membership is no different. We research the eligibility thoroughly. We make sure the recruiter is not part of the investigating committee. We make sure there are at least two signatures of the investigating committee. We make sure that all fields, including date of birth, are completely filled out before presenting to our Auxiliaries to vote on the applicant. Without this due diligence, our movie will flop.

Movies also need promotion. How are your promotions going? With the first quarter behind us, have you had a recruiting event yet? What worked? What hasn't worked? What funny thing happened? Feel free to share at txvfwauxmem@gmail.com. We do not require monthly reports, but that doesn't mean we wouldn't love to hear an anecdote from you! Send us a quick email with the name and age of your oldest, new member. The bar might be a little high as we know of one new member that is 86 years young.

As we move into the second quarter, it is time to review and edit our script. The Department awards are based on new members. With the increase from \$5 to \$10 in National dues that was approved at July's National Convention, it should incentivize us to recruit those new members before 01 July 2024 when that rate increases. It is also an opportunity to recruit life members and convert to life. Recruiting and retention are easy when you make sure that eligible individuals and existing members know "You're the one that I want!", to quote our Southern Conference movie, Grease.

Cannot wait to see when our membership rate is greater than the temperature outside!

Happy fall, ya'll!

"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Candice Baines – Chairman

Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman

Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman

We are off and running! More and more mentors' information is being sent in. I challenged you all last month to sit with a new member and explain and follow the ritual in your podium books. I hope you were all able to have positive experiences. A new challenge is to take a member who has been a member a while, but maybe only attends occasionally. Sit with them and follow along in the podium book. When the chairmen are sharing their reports, ask questions and see if anything sparks their interest. If so, ask the chairmen to reach out to them or talk with them after the meeting and see if they would be interested in lending a hand, or if they have some new and fresh ideas.

Did you post your C.A.R.E. posters in your Auxiliary room? If so, please send me pictures of your handy artwork. You may have an outstanding display that catches attention. I would love to share your ideas with other Auxiliaries that may be struggling. We are all here for the same reason, the love of our Veterans, so let's S.W.A.P. ideas and get our servant hearts regenerated.

Auxiliary Presidents

Mentoring Chairmen Assignment

Please select an area from the podium book that you feel needs some review/reminders or recently updated. Take a few minutes to share that section, word for word from the podium book. Ask for feedback from your members to see if different people read/heard what you said with different perspectives. Report to me how you and your Mentoring For Leadership chairman were able to break it down to the differing perspectives and get everyone on the same page.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” Maya Angelou

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”

“Banding Together For Our Veterans”



KAREN KAYLOR

**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H**

2024 – 2026

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

JO ELLA MENN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER**

2024-2025

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

JEANENNE LUMPKIN

**Candidate for National Council Member
Area H**

2024-2026

**Endorsed by
Auxiliary 9182 District 17**

GERALD SPRADLIN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS
VFW AUXILIARY GUARD**

2024-2025

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