

The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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Volume 34 Issue 4 November, 2023



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SUSIE CARTER



"WIND BENEATH OUR VETERANS WINGS"

"BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS"

Wow! What a great flight I am having as I soar through the Districts of this great state. The Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliaries are definitely the "Wind Beneath Our Veteran's Wings". As I visit each and every District, I see enthusiasm for our programs, continued dedication to the needs of our Veterans and their families, By sending supplies, coupons, cards and other things needed by our active-duty troops the Auxiliaries put in a lot of hard work.

I see the camaraderie of the Auxiliary members as they go about their business. I see VFW Post members working with Auxiliary members and so many beautiful Buddy Poppy displays and decorations. Thank you so much for everything each of you do and will continue to do for this organization.

Voice of Democracy (VOD) Audio Essay Contest and the Patriots Pen (PP) Essay Contest were due to Posts/Auxiliaries by 10/31. Get those entries judged and off to your Districts for that line of judging, meeting the appropriate deadlines.

Membership is moving right along. Early bird incentives are probably over but, every member should be assisting with gathering annual dues and getting those to your Treasurers. Remember that an

officer CANNOT hold office after 12/31 if their dues are not paid. Please don't let someone fall through the cracks by missing a simple payment of annual dues. If you haven't reviewed your current roster for those in need of dues payment, it's time to do it. Pay close attention to the elderly with decreased income, those in a nursing facility, those who have lost their job or fallen on hard times. Make a list and bring it before your Auxiliary for a vote to pay those specific dues. If you have any questions contact the State Membership Chairman Beth West and/or Co-Chairman Shawn Terry for assistance

Weekly stat sheets are received by your District Presidents and they are supposed to be sharing with their auxiliaries. Please review stats for checked boxes or the lack of. These stat sheets are things that need to be done and are checked off as the checks or paperwork is received by the Department Office. They are sent to assist you as a working tool. Please utilize them and present to your Auxiliaries at meetings to vote on what may be needed.

October's visits to Districts 8, 25 and 28 were amazing. The hospitality at each of these Districts was exceptional. The meetings were productive and well attended. I had a great time and enjoyed

visiting with old friends and making new ones. My heartfelt thanks to every one of you for making my visits memorable.

I look forward to attending Southern Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma and visiting District 10 this month.

Cool off with the "Fall Season" setting in and enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends.

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



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

It has been amazing to see all of the projects you are all doing in support of your local communities. We have received so many reports and we really enjoy getting to find out what everyone is doing.

We genuinely believe that Auxiliary Outreach is the path for the future of this organization. By being out in our communities, we are reaching people who may not have known we existed and therefore, did not know they qualified to be a part of us. Additionally, by seeing us out in the community and active it gives them an incentive to become a part of the VFW Auxiliary.

Young people today have remarkably busy schedules and have to pick and choose the organizations they are active in. They are not likely to pick an organization that is not actively working projects where they feel they can plug in and make a difference.

Continue to seek out projects in your community where your Auxiliary can help out. Lending a hand and being supportive gets our faces and our organization out there so that people can become educated as to what we do and what we are about.

A few things to remember

- (1) Make sure that your Auxiliary Outreach activities are voted on by your membership
- (2) You can host the activity you are helping with at your Post/property, but you cannot lead/organize it, you can just be a helper/worker
- (3) Be sure to wear apparel that identifies you as an Auxiliary member (shirt, name tag, hat, etc.)

By working side by side we can better both the community and the VFW Auxiliary by strengthening those relationships.



AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR Ronnie Wiley – Chairman Laurie Wiley Co-Chairman

Thank you for all those wonderful Gold Star Family programs, Prisoner of War ceremonies and Veterans of Foreign Wars birthday celebrations.

Veterans Day – November 11

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living Veterans. Originally called Armistice Day, it officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional Resolution. It became a National Holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had truly been "the war to end all wars" November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by Veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (The first Veterans Day parade took place in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the National Commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its original date.

Military Family Appreciation Month

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. This is an opportunity that is set aside to recognize you, the military family. Military families know what it means to serve. Every day you get up and support your service member, standing by during long training and deployments. You know the risks, but you accept this life of service anyway.

This year (and every year really) your role is big! You are the one who is responsible for building our AUXTRIBE.

You must:

- Embody Auxiliary sister/brotherhood
- Learn and practice our VFW Auxiliary Rituals and Traditions

- TEACH, mentor and model our VFW Auxiliary rituals
- Wear our gear! Encourage a similarity of dress whether VFW Auxiliary branded or patriotic
- Display, explain and properly wear our Official Uniform when appropriate.
- Encourage our #AuxTRIBE mentality...If we are unified in spirit, mission, and appearance we will attract new members and Veterans who may be feeling displaced

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



HOSPITAL/VAVS Pamela Fintel – Chairman

As the Holidays approach, let us not forget the needs of our Veterans and their families. Some of Veterans have a difficult time during the Holidays. Some are away from their families and some do not have any families. So let's make the Holidays special to them. Plan some events like Turkey Bingo, working on puzzles, dominos and card games. You can help your local VA Hospitals and non-VA Hospitals decorate their facilities. It is a great way to be involved and meet some of these amazing Veterans.

I appreciate all the wonderful reports you have sent in. **TEXAS** did an outstanding job getting the information out on Suicide Awareness. In her blog, Ambassador Della Steege, stated that Madam National President Carla considers suicide prevention a high priority and by Banding Together For Our Veterans we can make a difference.

Veterans Day is November 11th and is on a Saturday this year. Have a THANK YOU Party. Show them how much they mean to you. Make them goody bags. They can always use non-skid socks, snacks, sundaes and of course, bring plenty of Veterans Day Cards. This is a wonderful time to get your youth involved in making the cards and goody bags. When you pass out the Veterans Day Cards, sit with them a minute and truly Thank them for their service. This is also an excellent time to get those new Volunteers involved.

We are seeing a rise in Women Veterans. Let's make some goody bags for them with some feminine items like sweet smelling lotions, lip balms and hair clips. Tuck a "Thank You for Your Service" card in the bag too. Let's support all our Veterans!

Veterans Day November 11 is National Sundae Day!

Wishing everyone a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving

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



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

Happy Fall to each of you! The anticipated cooler weather should put a pep in our step and extra energy to get out and do a few things. We have been receiving reports and looking forward to seeing all the pinatas at Mid-Winter. Thank you for all that you do!

We have had verification from our National Ambassador, Lisa Jackson, that the new metal Buddy Poppy is not yet available. She promises to keep us informed. If you have selected a Buddy Poppy Youth Ambassador, please forward their information to me. Also, we must remember that all Buddy Poppy monies must be deposited ONLY in our Relief fund.

November 11 is Veteran's Day and one of the biggest days for a Buddy Poppy Drive. As you are assisting with this drive, please make sure you have educational material to hand out as this promotes the history and understanding of the Buddy Poppy.

If you are able to share this information with your local newspaper, please make sure that you send a copy of the article with your report. It is important to let the public know about the meaning of the Poppy and the importance of their donations as those make a difference in the lives of our veterans. Our **Red Poppy** is a symbol of both Remembrance and Hope for a peaceful future.

VFW National Home

Exciting things are happening at the VFW National Home. They are fully occupied with the Pollack house being renovated.

It is so exciting to receive the reports and read that many of the Auxiliaries have bought Life Memberships and Tribute Bricks. Thank you!

Please visit www.vfwnationalhome.org to learn more about everything the YFW National Home has to offer and to learn more about the history and how you can make a difference. It is the time of year that we begin our Holiday Shopping, so please consider reviewing the "wish list" for the VFW National Home. The link is above. Please follow their instructions.

Madam President Susie's Special Project # 2 is designated VFW National Home so earmark your donations to comply with that designation.

Please consider supporting National President's Carla Martinez's special project which is the Welcome Center Renovation Project.

We thank you again for all you do and remember to send your unrestricted donations to Department, earmarked, VFW National Home – unrestricted funds.

We wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

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LEGISLATIVE Cheyenne Harper – Chairman

Hello, my fellow Auxiliary members. It is that time again where we talk about what's going on in your Legislation. There are a few acts going around. The first one is the Major Richard Star Act.

This act is allowing combat wounded Veterans who medically retired before serving 20 years to concurrently receive military retirement and disability pay without offsets. This is also a quote from our National Chairman.

We also need to focus on Women Veterans' issues. We need to keep an eye for the benefits that focus on our military woman and their services. But, don't forget the men who also served.

Please keep an eye on the POW/MIA sections as well. These are updated as soon as information is received .We have one POW/MIA returning home who was killed in action on August 1, 1943. His name is Turner Y. Johnson. He served in the Army Air Forces Tec. He will be buried in Belton Texas.

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VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT Tammie Mosby – Chairman Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman

As we are now heading into the holidays, I just want everyone to take a moment and reflect on how the days ahead may affect our Veterans and service men and women. All though most of us look forward to being with our family and friends, some will really fight with depression. Be sure you know the signs of depression and have a way handy to help out anyone fighting it. You can reach the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 then press 1. I encourage everyone to keep this information in your phone. You never know when you may need it.

Remember November 11 is Veteran's Day. I look forward to reading all the reports on how you made this day special for your veteran.

The reports Karlene and I are receiving just fills our hearts. You are doing so much across the State of Texas. Keep up the good work.

If you need me for anything, please email me at tipurplerose@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.

Karlene and I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP Candace Baines – Chairman Patsy Kemp & Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairmen

We are off to a great start. Reports are trickling in and my Mentor list is growing every day. I hope all of you have been doing all the extra assignments I have given in the OTC articles. These extra assignments will help you be a great mentor for those who have chosen to do so and help develop confidence in those who are looking forward to becoming mentors.

As a mentor you should:

Be Informed

You need to learn all you can with the resources available to you.

1. Get a copy of the National Bylaws and read the entire thing. Your rights and responsibilities are

- contained in that document and you need to know them.
- 2. Be sure you read all communications from Auxiliary, Department and National levels.
- 3. Go to the Auxiliary website and Facebook pages often. You will want to stay up to date on news and information.

www.vfwauxiliary.org. Mentoring Guide-Relationship-Building for the Future

As always, remember to C.A.R.E.! If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to me, Patsy Kemp or Jayne McCormick. We are always here for you.

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MEMBERSHIP Beth West – Chairman Shawn Terry – Co-Chairman

Hello Texas Auxiliaries! Based on your MALTA Stats, everyone's "movie" is coming along nicely. As of October 1st, Texas is at 87.62%. I have no doubt that by the time you all read this it will be much higher. We are leading the other states in the Southern Conference in Membership! Keep up the amazing work! There are over 20 Auxiliaries that are 100% or higher, and over 50 Auxiliaries that are 90% or higher. Many Auxiliaries are 85% or higher. As the Membership Directors, we want to give a HUGE shout out to everyone that is helping to recruit and retain members.

The deadline for the Membership Dinner "Soaring with Eagles Celebration" to be held at Mid-Winter Convention, is December 15, 2023, for those districts and auxiliaries that reach 95% by the deadline mentioned above. This night of dinner and awards is always a great time. Now is a perfect time to contact your annual members and encourage them to pay before the end of November instead of waiting until the end of the year. We want to see as many smiling faces at the celebration as possible.

If you didn't see it out, the National Ambassador has a new blog! Be sure and read her reminders and ideas. One of the things she mentioned is the competition between conferences. Southern is doing very well, but we need to stay on top as we all know there is no place

like the South. The Golden MALTA award can easily be ours if we continue to promote this great organization and lead by example in our service to our veterans and their families.

Now for some housekeeping: make sure applications are filled out correctly and completely, notify the member that their application for membership has been approved, be courteous and helpful to new members and encourage them to volunteer (if health allows) in areas that are of interest to the new member. Please be sure and report your deceased members in a timely manner.

If you need help knowing where and how to look for members that you do not personally know, please reach out. Shawn, Beth and the Department Office Staff can provide some reliable sources to research obituaries.

Monthly reporting is not necessary, but please make sure you are looking at the Mid-Year Report so that your plans for November will work towards a great report.

Once again, we want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for the hard work that each of you is doing. We are so very proud of you!

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

John F. Kennedy once said, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Remembering these words can help you when mentoring our young adults (ages 13-18) motivating and encouraging them to learn about patriotism and the history of our country. Introduce them to our Patriotism through Literacy program.

There are many books available for them to read to teach them to have pride, honor and patriotism for our country. You can also explore the web site below to educate them on important history events of our country.

<u>USAGovhttps://www.usa.gov/historicaldocuments</u>

Did you know by getting involved with after school programs is another wonderful way to assist with our youth within your community. Think about assisting with school fundraisers or even create one with our youth such as can food drive (or with winter approaching) a blanket and or coat drive to name a few.

Remember, it is your leadership and you are mentoring that will help teach patriotism with pride and honor to our youth motivating them to be well informed leaders of tomorrow. We will be looking forward in seeing what great ideas you produce.

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR Denise DuBois

Fall is in the air. Texas Program Chairmen are very busy as they promote all aspects of their programs. Along with promoting, these Chairmen educate and help provide a full understanding of what is to be done.

The VFW Auxiliary has and will continue to unite members from all works of life with a common goal and purpose – to be part of improving the lives of Veterans, service members and their families. With the promotions and hard works of our Chairmen this purpose can be achieved.

As Program Coordinator, I communicate with each program chair and along with the Editor of our Department newsletter. Our Editor this year is Kathy Marrelli. Kathy is a book of knowledge and always lends a helping hand.

Thanks again for your hard work. Members are working hard to fulfill their program requirements. Great job!

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." – Henry Ford

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EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION CHIEF OF STAFF Debbie Daniel

Are we really into November? As the old saying goes "My how time flies when you are having fun." I'm getting a steady stream of inspections with great info

from many of you District Presidents. Congrats to District 24 President Barbara Koehn on getting all of yours done by October.

I ask that all of you follow up with any Auxiliary that had an issue, concern or maybe needed further training to ensure they fix their problem etc.

I am proud to say that we have 2 new Auxiliaries so far. Carthage 5460 in District 19 and Sweetwater 2479 in District 8. There are several others in the works and hopefully we can get those off the ground and operational soon.

District Presidents, inspire your Auxiliaries. Encourage them and praise them for a job well done. National Ambassador Penny Hurt states that "using words, we can revitalize our Auxiliaries on being the best they can be".

RechargingAspireEnergizeLiftVitalizationInspireIdealsZoneThrillingEntrust

By having a positive attitude, revitalizing, rejuvenating and making each member feel important, we can prevent the red flags that indicate an Auxiliary in trouble.

May all of you have a very blessed Thanksgiving filled with lots of love, friends, family and of course good eats.

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SCHOLARSHIP Dorthy L. Bennett - Chairman

Hope this finds all Auxiliaries and Districts with a plentiful amount of Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen entries for the Post. These were due to the Post by Oct. 31 and District should now be judging to be sent to Department. Good luck to all those who entered the contest. Please try to acknowledge those who entered but did not advance to the next round of judging.

Please report all your activities with this part of the program. To be 100% in reporting you need to report at least one part of this program.

Now is not the time to rest. Please continue working all other parts of this program. Remember we have Auxiliary Continuing Education for Auxiliary members, their spouses and children. This is a written entry to National due on or before March 31, 2024. Our goal is to have 23 entries for Texas please help anyway you can with this part of the program. Please cover in your Auxiliary meetings and District meetings.

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.

Remember we are asking that Auxiliaries donate monies to create a Department Award for 2 and 3-Dimensional Art. The goal is to have awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places that total an amount of \$1,000.00. Thank you in advance for this. We know that we have asked a lot this year. Remember that National also has an Escrow Fund for Art. Please give to this fund as this is one of our requirements. It also increases the amount of the Scholarship awarded at the National level.

You may contact me for any help or explanations that you might need. More information can be found in your Department Program Book and on MALTA under Scholarship Resources. Have a great Thanksgiving!

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Reminder

Department, District and Auxiliary Officers (Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers) dues <u>MUST</u> be paid by December 31, 2023. If not paid, they will be relieved of their office.

KAREN KAYLOR

CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H

2024 - 2026

ENDORSED BY VFW AUXILIARY 4008 ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 14

In Memory of Wayne Carnley, Past District 3 Commander, I would like to thank you all for the cards, prayers and calls during this time. Appreciate each of you.

Roberta Carnley PDP

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

JO ELLA MENN

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER 2024-2025

ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621 ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6

THANK YOU

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Texas VFW Auxiliary, I want to take this time to thank each of you for your good wishes and prayers during my recent surgery. You can't imagine how uplifting it is to know some one took a moment out of their day to send a card, say a prayer, send a message or call on the phone. I am truly blessed to have each of you in my life.

Aletha Jeter - PDP



$2023\sim2024$ MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas <u>TENTATIVE AGENDA</u>

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Wednesday – January 17, 2024 Registration Omni Hotel Floor Practice Arrival of National President – Carla Martinez Dinner with National Rep, Open to all VFW &	Ballroom Laguna Madre TBA TBD
0.001111	Auxiliary (<i>DUTCH TREAT</i>)	TBA
	Thursday – January 18, 2024	
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Registration and Booths	Laguna Madre
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch On Your Own	· ·
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Council of Administration Meeting	Corpus Christi
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Soaring With Eagles Celebration	Corpus Christi
	(Invitation Only)	
	E-: J 10 2024	
0.00 AM 4.00 DM	Friday – January 19, 2024	Laguna Madua
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration and Booths Joint Memorial Service	Laguna Madre Corpus Christi
6:30 ANI – 10:00 ANI	Joint Opening Session	Corpus Christi
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Presidents Luncheon (Pre-Purchase Tickets)	Nueces
11.00 AW = 4.00 TW	Presentation of Past Dept Presidents	Nueces
	Presentation of District Presidents	Nueces
	Presentation Benefit Hub	Nueces
	Presentation by Motorcycle Group	Nueces
	Programs: Program Coordinator and Drawings	Nueces
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Quarter Auction – Ways & Means	Nueces
	C-4I	
0.00 AM 10.00 AM	Saturday – January 20, 2024	I M - I
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Registration and Booths	Laguna Madre Nueces
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	POW/MIA Ceremony Programs	Nueces Nueces
11:30 AM – 11:30 AM 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch On your Own	Nueces
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Completion of Programs/Raffles	Nueces
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Remarks National President	Nueces
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	VOD/PP Reception <u>Cash Bar</u>	Corpus Christi
6:00 PM – Close	Voice of Democracy Banquet	Corpus Christi
0.001141 C1050	Pre-Purchased Tickets Required	Corpus Cinisti
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<u>Sunday - January 21, 2024 - Safe Travels</u>



President's Luncheon Mid-Winter Conference January 19, 2024

Send Reservation To:

VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas PO Box 15285 Austin TX 78761-5285

Mid-Winter Conference will be at the Omni Hotel, 900 N Shoreline Dr., Corpus Christi TX

Deadline: January 5, 2024

Meal to be Determined

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL DEPARTMENT AT 512-834-9190 ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$45.00 PER LUNCHEON TICKET

Please Make Check To: VFW Auxiliary, Dept of Texas-Earmarked Luncheon

Names:			
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