



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 33 Issue 5

November, 2022



“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”

“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

Wow! Can you believe it is November!?! October was a busy month with Homecoming and Southern Conference. It was great seeing all of you at Homecoming. We had so much fun! I want to thank Commander Lynn Toomer, Karen Toomer and all of the Homecoming Committee for their dedication in making the Homecoming a great success!!

I want to thank Districts 6 and 30 for the great hospitality at my official visits. These Districts are “making it happen”! This month I will be visiting Districts 9 and 12 and look forward to seeing everyone.

Our trip to Madam President Jane Reape’s “Celebrating America’s Freedom Event” at the Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania was phenomenal. Madam President gave an eloquent and very moving speech which touched everyone’s heart.

To think what those men and women went through on 9/11 is unbelievable. They were so brave to have not only fought for their own lives but to have averted a catastrophe in our Nation’s Capital.

This month I want to recognize our District Presidents for the great work they are doing. District Presidents have the role of working with not only the Auxiliary Presidents but every member in their Districts and the District Commanders. As I have travelled to District meetings, it is apparent that the VFWs and Auxiliaries are working so well together.

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day at the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Poppies are distributed on this day to raise money in the support of our veterans and are worn on your lapel as a sign of remembrance. Engage with your Posts to help with Buddy Poppy distribution.

A reminder that your 990s are due November 15. “Thank you” for getting them in on time as you did with the bonds and audits!

Your work on our programs and membership during the first quarter of this year has been great! We are having a fantastic year because we are all working together as a TEAM! It takes a TEAM to achieve a DREAM!

I want to wish each of you and your families a Beautiful and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Love and Belief,
Jeanenne



CHAPLAIN CORNER

Irma Solis – Dept.

Please keep all those that have lost family members in your prayers and pray for the healing of those that are under the weather.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Karen Jeffrey – Chairman
Kathy Marrelli – Co-Chairman

Cooler weather, holidays on the horizon, what a wonderful time to reflect on our Veterans, active-duty, family members and our Youth. Plan Thanksgiving events and include the youth to participate and assist.

A multitude of information has been distributed since the Statewide Training. The program has many working parts that mesh together with one common factor – involving our youth. Have youth organize an event for youth.

Encourage Youth to be involved in any Veterans Days activities. Grave Beautification project will help the youth understand the importance of maintaining respect and loyalty to the deceased veterans. Just by clearing one grave will enlighten the youth. The Red/White/Blue Singing Contest and the Illustrating America Contest are excellent ways to bring the youth into the Auxiliary year.

The reports have been steady and good. Please remember that pictures sent alone do not count as a report. There has to be a report that accompanies the picture.

Please continue the wonderful dedication to this program and the involvement of youth.

Any questions please reach out to the Youth Program Chairmen. Happy Thanksgiving to all

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HOSPITAL
Pamela Fintel – Chairman

We are still having some restrictions that limit our presence at VA Facilities but I know we can find ways to serve our Hospitalized Veterans. Contact your Volunteer Coordinator to find out what items are needed for your facilities. Maybe it might be a blanket, toiletries or even

a magazine. Don't forget your nursing homes, retirement and assisted living facilities.

This is a great time to send those HONOR CARDS - Thinking about You, Veteran's Day as well as Thanksgiving cards. Make those handmade cards and get your youth involved too. Let's let our Veterans know we care and appreciate the sacrifices they have made.

Please make sure you report all the hours, any expenses (with receipts), mileage and the number of Volunteers even if it was just to drop off toiletries. Every dollar, mile, purchase and volunteer to complete your task COUNTS.

Our Hospital Ambassador, Mary Spindler, commented on her Blog, please keep posting your hospital projects on social media or by any means to let others know what the VFW Auxiliary does to serve hospitalized veterans. The ultimate goal is to attract volunteers and get them involved. She said thank you to all who have embraced the Hospital Program – your work truly makes a difference.

MID YEAR REPORTS are due by December 10th to your District Presidents. Keep sending in those reports. Let's show our Hospital Ambassador that TEXAS has huge hearts for our Hospitalized Veterans.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

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MEMBERSHIP
Donna James – Chairman
Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman

These are several items that need to be addressed in Auxiliaries and Districts. Department, District and Auxiliary Officers (Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers) dues MUST be paid by December 31, 2022 or submit an email or letter to relieve any non-paid Officers to National Headquarters by January 5, 2023.

Sec. 207 Page 26 - An Auxiliary having less than ten (10) members in good standing on its rolls, upon recommendation of the Department President, shall surrender its Charter. Please read the whole section to understand the Bylaw. We have several Auxiliaries with less than 10 members. Please work on getting members.

Our membership is doing great but we still need 2840 members to be 100% in membership. The following are 100% or 100% plus:

District 1 - Frisco – Lake Dallas

- District 2 - Port Neches – Beaumont
- District 3 - Mesquite - Duncanville
- District 4 - Baytown – Crosby
- District 5 - San Marcos – Wimberley - Startzville
- District 6 - George West – Corpus Christi
- District 8 - Windthorst – Merkel
- District 12 - Pittsburg
- District 13 - Kerrville – Del Rio
- District 16 - Rosenberg – LaMarque – Sweeny
- District 17 - Brenham – The Woodlands
- District 18 - McAllen
- District 20 - Poteet – San Antonio (4815) – Kirby
San Antonio (9186)
- District 21 - Arlington Heights – Alvarado
- District 28 – Smithville – Leander

Thank you for working Membership to keep Texas strong.

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SCHOLARSHIP
Robin Swain - Chairman

I can't believe it is already November. Where has the year gone? I hope you had a fun and safe Halloween. November is the month we give thanks for our families and all we have with a day of Thanksgiving, and I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

By now the VOD and Patriot Pen essays should be in the hands of the VFW posts. Talk with your VFW Scholarship chairman to see if you can help with judging. I always find that fun and entertaining. Remember, if you do help with the selection of the winners to send me a report. I love reading all you are doing with the scholarship.

Now, we are going to concentrate on the Continuous Education Scholarship. This scholarship needs to be sent directly to National by February 15th, 2023. The address is in the Program Book.

Then the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, both the 2D and 3D art. The art needs to be to the Auxiliary by March 31st, 2023. The winners need to be in my hands before April 15th. I look forward to seeing the artwork. Talk to ya in December.

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois - Chairman

The auxiliaries in Texas are having FUN. Using TEAM along with Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care, encourages each of us to share with one another the knowledge and experience that we each have to better support our veterans and their families.

As I travel around the state, I can see how this is helping Texas to stay connected and allows our stories to be shared in years to come. It has also been a joy as we see new members join and are willing to get us all up to speed with the modern technology. As our national ambassador states: *“Mentoring is all about sharing our knowledge to make the Auxiliary an organization that respects the past and embraces the future”*.

Keep up the great work and always share your ideas. That is what mentoring is all about.

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CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION
Denise DuBois

We have been busy in Texas. Staying in communication with our District Presidents, along with their Deputy Chief of Staffs, is proving that we are moving forward in keeping our auxiliaries strong and working with new upcoming auxiliaries. I would like to remind you of the 5 essentials once again that National requires of us. Yes, I feel there are six. Who can tell me what the 6th one is? Send me a text or email and I will send you a little token. Keep having fun with your meetings and I always encourage you to study the resources available on MALTA. I thank you again for going above and beyond in helping your auxiliaries and members.

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

Hard to believe the year 2022 is almost over. During the month of November, we celebrate Veterans Day. Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. Veterans.

Unfortunately, some Americans don't know why we commemorate our Veterans on November 11. It's imperative that we, as auxiliary members, know the history of Veterans Day so we can honor our former service members properly and teach fellow Americans, specifically our youth, concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans. Veterans Day is the perfect time to distribute Buddy@Poppies. When you have your Buddy@ Poppy drive, try to make something special for the youth for when you give them a Buddy@Poppy.

VFW National Home Statewide Project – UNRESTRICTED FUNDS – this continues through the full year. If you do a fundraiser for this, report to us how it turned out. Remember the award for this is based on the monies sent that are not earmarked for the TEXAS HOUSE. The home is in need of the funds to help take care of other things at the National Home complex.

Buddy Poppy Statewide Project – A DECORATED PICTURE ON A FRAMED CANVAS OR POSTER. The picture is not to exceed 20 inches x 24 inches. The theme can be military, patriotic, etc. using Buddy Poppies, other decorations, paint, etc. Take the picture to your District Meeting for judging. The winner from that meeting comes to Mid-Winter to be judged there. The winners will not be announced until State Convention in June 2023. Would like for the pictures to be donated to a Veteran or Veteran facility to be displayed. We have enjoyed receiving and reading your reports. Keep them coming. We appreciate each and every one of you and your dedication to this organization.

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**LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby**

Mid-term elections are upon us. Please remember, we are not a political organization but one that fights for legislation that improves the lives of our veterans and their families. Please be sure you know the difference between the two.

S.4319-Informing VETS Act of 2022. The VFW supports this proposal to better inform veterans about the opportunities offered through the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. Currently, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for all veterans in America in June of this year was 2.7 percent. While this is good news regarding veteran employment, the VFW understands this situation can be cyclical. If we do not put proper tools in place, we could see these numbers rise again

during this country's next period of financial instability. VR&E offers a proven system that enables veterans to retrain for their next career, allowing them to continue participating in the American dream of prosperity.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please email me at tjpruplerose@yahoo.com or call me at 936-414-5293.

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**AMERICANISM
Annie Nickerson – Chairman**

Thanks to all for those wonderful Gold Star Family programs, POW/MIA ceremonies and VFW birthday celebrations. It is important to remember where we have been in order to move ahead.

We are just days away from your Veterans Day Parade this year. See what you can do to help as well as possibly handing out small flags and/or Buddy Poppies to members of the crowd. Take some membership applications with you also (both Auxiliary and VFW). There are more than likely potential members who attend the parade and might be open to suggestion.

Check local senior living facilities for veterans who also might like to attend the parade and provide transportation if possible. If that is not an option, maybe arrange for them to watch it from their facility. See who might be streaming the event. This is one more way to honor them. Veterans Day is one of the most important days of the year. This is our day to honor ALL veterans, past and present. Be creative with flags, meals, memorials ... the list is endless!

Many radio stations play the National Anthem at noon every day. Contact them to see if you can have them give a piece of patriotic information on the air. They are required to make public service announcements periodically throughout the day and they are free. Maybe even cajole your way into a message or two every day. Our flag and our veterans deserve all the positive publicity they can get.

Partner with parents and educators to raise awareness and help educate America's future leaders about the meaning of Patriotism. Inspiration is contagious!

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.

Your patriotic dates this month are November 10 - U.S. Marine Corps Birthday (1775); November 11- Veterans' Day.

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.

This month, discuss the meaning of the stars and stripes on our flag.

Ask the Secretary to describe and explain the duties and obligations of being Secretary.

Ask the Auxiliary Outreach and Youth 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 VPRs.

Host recognition experiences of Auxiliary Programs; for example, Patriotic Art participants, hospital volunteers, legislative activities, Buddy Poppy drives, veterans or caregiver, etc. Consider candlelight vigils, luminary walks, videos demonstrating flag etiquette, etc. Invite Star Families to special Auxiliary events such as Freedom Festivals.

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.



**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
Sally Jarrett - Chairman
Yolanda Chambers – Co-Chairmen**

Hello November! This is a great month to recognize our Veterans and their families. I know you will have a great month planned out for your Veterans. To start off with **Veterans Day on Friday, November 11th**. Time to bring out your cooking skills for the homebound, in

nursing homes, assisted living facilities and, of course, our VFW Veterans that patronize our Post. Let us prepare a meal or have a special event for them and their families.

Do not forget **Thanksgiving** preparations for the Veterans and their Families. Sharing a home-cooked meal shows our appreciation to our Veterans, especially when we all get together and count our Blessings.

I want to thank everyone for sending in your reports. Remember PDF form and a picture or two. I'm looking forward to getting awesome reports from everyone honoring our Veterans and their families on Veterans Day. I wish a wonderful Thanksgiving and many Blessings to you and your families.

A Big TEXAS hug for you all. I'm here for you Monday thru Friday; call or email me.

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**AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Rene Batson - Chairman**

I hope you are all doing well and you're all healthy. I want to say happy holidays to each and every one of you. Just when you think life can't get any busier, it proves us all wrong.

I have gotten a lot of reports for Auxiliary Outreach. Ya'll are amazing! I am loving the pictures I'm getting. I think there is still some confusion on what Auxiliary Outreach is. I know it's easy to be confused. Please remember that donations of items, money, etc. is not Auxiliary Outreach. Aiding your Post with a project they are hosting is not Auxiliary Outreach. Auxiliary Outreach is donation of your TIME to an outside organization. If you can report it under another auxiliary program, it is not Auxiliary Outreach.

With the holidays being here, there are so many different ways and organizations who would more than welcome you to volunteer with them. Toys for Tots, food pantries, Salvation Army, schools, nursing facilities, blood banks and many more. Just remember – donating food, toys, items, blood etc. is not Outreach. You must physically donate your time to an outside organization. Distribute toy donation boxes, organize and distribute food for food banks, ring the bell and take donations, help with holiday activities in nursing facilities. There's nothing more fulfilling than giving back to our communities and helping others. Make it fun. Remember to wear your VFW Auxiliary attire and to keep those pictures coming.

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THANK YOU

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the prayers and cards during a very difficult time. The love and friendship of my VFW Auxiliary family has sustained me through all of this. I am grateful for each of you and the kindness and support you have shown me.

Melanie McConaghy
Past Department President



Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

From the Desk of Department Secretary

District 14 President – correct phone number: 317-654-9910.

Email: vfwauxhl6974burnet@gmail.com

District 17 President email address:
Patbyrne1@comcast.net

HAPPY THANKSGIVING





**President Luncheon
Mid-Winter
January 20, 2023**

Send Reservation to:
VFW AUXILIARY Department of Texas
PO Box 15285
Austin, TX 78761

Deadline: January 5, 2023

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

Meal—to be determined

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL DEPARTMENT AT 512-834-9190
ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$40.00 PER LUNCHEON TICKET**

PLEASE MAKE CHECK TO: VFW AUXILIARY, DEPT OF TEXAS – EARMARKED LUNCHEON

Names:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

2022-2023 Mid-Winter Round Up Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas

Wednesday - January 18, 2023

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Registration – Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas -	Laguna Madre
6:00 p.m.	Dinner with the National Rep, C of A, Line Officers & Past Department Presidents (Dutch Treat)	TBA

Thursday – January 19, 2023

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Booths	Laguna Madre
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Council of Administration Meeting (Jeanenne’s DP Blue Shirt)	
11:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Free Time
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Reception	Copana
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Floor Practice	TBA
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Celebrating With The Stars (Invitation Only)	TBA

Friday – January 20, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Booths	Laguna Madre
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Joint Memorial	CC Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Joint Opening Session	CC Ballroom
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	President’s Luncheon (pre purchase tickets)	Nueces Ballroom
	Presentation of Past Department Presidents	Nueces Ballroom
	Presentation of District Presidents	Nueces Ballroom
	Programs: Program Coordinator and Drawings	Nueces Ballroom
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Quarter Auction – Ways and Means	Nueces Ballroom

Saturday – January 21, 2023

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration & Booths	Laguna Madre
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	POW/MIA Ceremony	Nueces Ballroom
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Programs and National Representative	
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Free Time
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Programs Completion	
6:00 p.m.	VOD/Patriotic Pen Banquet (pre purchase)	Corpus Christi Ballroom

Sunday – January 22, 2023 – Safe Travels