



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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“Tipping Our Hats To Vets”



“Soaring Above & Beyond”

Department President Karen Kaylor

The National Mid-Year Celebration and Café held in Florida Jan 29 - 3 Feb was wonderful. We took the cold weather to Florida, they said it was the worse cold spell they had in 10 years. The NASA Celebrating Americas Freedom Event (CAFÉ) was outstanding. I with 34 other State Presidents participated in the Parade of Flags and I was so proud to have our Madame Sr. Vice President Jeanenne Lumpkin and Madame Jr. Vice President Susie Carter to carry the American flags for our great state of Texas as I walked with the other State Presidents. The rocket launches were a bonus to the festivities later in the day.

Madame National President Jean Hamil visited us in San Antonio Feb. 15-Feb 17. The hospitality of District 20 was outstanding. They worked hard for her visit, and she will remember our great State. Thank you District 20 for all your hard work and thanks to all who attended. I also visited Districts 6,18,1,28. Thank you so much for your hospitality.

Be sure and turn your clocks forward on 13 March. See you on March 24-26 at Commander Norm Macey’s homecoming.

Please begin compiling your end of the year reports at the end of this month. Remember our reporting year is 1 April 2021 to 30 March 2022. Reports are due to your District President by 10 April.22. DO NOT SEND to the

Department Office. Doing so will only penalize the auxiliaries in your District because the reports will be returned to you, which will make your entire district late. District Presidents, send on to the Dept. Chairmen, so they arrive NLT 20 April.

These are tight deadlines as May 1st I have to report to National the statistics from our department. So, I need before 1 May. Do not hold your reports for that one straggler.

Take care of your Auxiliaries. They have worked hard this year. Remember Auxiliary President to have them arrive early enough so that date 10 April is met. There should not be all N/As marked.

There should be something done. Thank you, Team Texas, as **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** and **“Soar Above & Beyond.”** Keep up the good work!!

Official Visit Schedule

March 5	District 16
March 11- 12	District 5
March 19	District 4
March 24-26	Commander Homecoming Porter Texas

BUDDY POPPY

Shawn Terry – Chairman

The “Buddy” Poppy is a small but mighty memorial flower that has raised millions of dollars for the welfare of veterans and their dependents. The “Buddy” Poppy Program also provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans’ rehabilitation and service programs. “Buddy” Poppies are assembled by veterans in need and disabled veterans, affording them additional income and a form of therapy.

For each “Buddy” Poppy purchased by your department for distribution:

*One-and-a half cents go to the Department’s Veterans Service Fund

*One cent goes to VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund

*One cent goes to the VFW National Home for Children

Learn more by visiting the VFW website at vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/buddy-poppy.

Thank you to all that participated in the Mid-Winter Hat Contest. Such creativity was enjoyed by all attendees.

NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, the National Home welcomes families of active-duty military personnel, veterans and relatives of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to their small-town community where they may live up to four years and benefit from numerous community services.

Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home’s commitment to honor our nation’s veterans and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families. Learn more about the National Home at vfnationalhome.org.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Ronnie Wiley – Chairman

Laurie Hayes Wiley – Co-Chairman

Today there are more opportunities in which we will be able to work with our youth by involving them in more projects and helping to build a stronger bond with them. Taking the time to mentor our youth today will create quality leadership skills for them tomorrow. Use the Random Acts of Patriotism cards and certificates to award our youth when you see them doing something patriotic and/or right. Everyone likes to be recognized and you might just be the one that encouraged that particular youth

to continue doing positive actions in the future. They may even join the military or become Auxiliary members!

Getting Excited for the Red, White and Blue Contest

Youth K-12 singing the Star-Spangled Banner

- Video of contestant’s solo vocal performance of “The Star-Spangled Banner” must be recorded between July 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.
- Contestant shall state name and age prior to vocal performance.
- Contestant may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- Contestant may sing in the arrangement and genre of their choice.
- Contestant may NOT change the words. • Complete and sign contest entry form. • Parent/Guardian signature required on entry form

Illustrating America

Open to students in grades K-8 who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

CONTEST RULES

- Art must be two-dimensional. • Art must be on canvas or paper. • Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, glitter or other media may be used. • Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy paper. • The art should be no smaller than 8” x 10” but no larger than 18” x 24”, not including mat.

National Youth Activities Award for Auxiliaries No. 1 Entry Form • 2021-2022 Program Year

Most outstanding promotion of Illustrating America.

Citation to every Auxiliary that promotes Illustrating America. Citations will be mailed directly to the participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding promotion of Illustrating America. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2022 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.



AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Patricia “Patsy” Kemp – Chairman

“The Ides of March”, “March Madness”, March Winds”, all of these statements are ones we hear each year. Some we know readily because of hearing or said at home. Others have to be taught what they mean and their tradition. The ones that is good for the Auxiliary

Community Outreach is March winds. Why? Because, after our Mid-Year training, disinformation & misunderstandings about Community Outreach are blown away. We don't always agree or understand why rules are made but, we have to abide by them. I thank each one that understands that.

District Presidents, have you reminded your auxiliaries of the **Deadline Date**, no later than March 31st, to me, Patricia Kemp, for the Community Outreach Award #1? Will each District have at least one entry? I know you don't want to be the only District without at least one entry.

Auxiliary Presidents, has your auxiliary done at least one qualifying Auxiliary Community Outreach project? If not, time is running out. I have faith in you and your auxiliary. Now is the time to review the End of Year Report and compile all needed information.

I received a message from a Past Department President, that works with Toys for Tots, asking why I said, at Mid- Winter, hours for that couldn't be counted? I am sorry whoever told her that didn't listen to the full training. To repeat – Hours collecting toys and carrying them to the Marines Does Count. A motion must have been made at a regular meeting, to participate, clothing and/or badge showing you are VFWA worn, not at VFW Post home, to qualify.

God Bless you all and thank you for all you do and are planning to do, on time.
Patricia "Patsy" Kemp 409 988-3269
kemppat@aol.com

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



**DISTRICT PRESIDENT AWARD
Glenna Alexander - Chairman**

I want to thank each of the District Presidents for all that you have done this year to make Texas "Tip Our Hats to Veterans" and be "Above and Beyond" the rest. Your monthly reports have been read and I can tell that many of you are working hard in your District to make the very best. Please get your end of the report to me on time as we do have a deadline in Department to get your awards out to you. Thank you and have a great convention.

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



**CHIEF OF STAFF
JUANITA WORKMAN**

District Presidents: Thank you for all you are doing and continue to do to help us reach our goals for Texas 2021-2022!! I hope you know by now that I am only a phone call away to help anyway I can or to share in your accomplishment! Good, bad and the ugly... please reach out!

Reports, Reports and more Reports! Reports are both rewarding and annoying but are such a big part of keeping everyone informed of how we as an organization and as the great state of Texas are moving forward in serving our veterans, their families and the community! So please encourage and reward your Auxiliaries to be getting all reports in, in a timely manner☺ End of year right around the corner!!

Membership, Membership and more about membership!! Another word that may make you cringe but will also give you such accomplishment! Keep checking in with Post Commanders that do not have an Auxiliary! Share with them the advantages of having an Auxiliary (per the Aux. By-laws). This cannot happen without your help! This will grow membership but also may be helping a seasoned member be closer to home and be able to take on a leadership role or maybe there are members that have moved and are finding out there isn't an Auxiliary close to them, this can help them be able to join in again.

So, let's get creative while continuing to **"Soar Above & Beyond"** and **"Tip Our Hats To Veterans"** while sharing and growing this organization!!



**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Jayne McCormick – Chairman**

The year has been successful, productive and busy for the Mentoring for Leadership program.

There have been many avenues touched on and loads of information funneled to Auxiliaries throughout the year. As the Mentoring for Leadership year winds down, helping and assisting continues on. There is no deadline. It is a continuous program.

From year to year, the verbiage may change along with the National Ambassador, but the core of the program remains the same:

- *Building strong relationship among members
- *Foster interest in the organization
- *Motivate and help build strong leadership

Educating new members, tenured members and sparking the interest of others will remain a constant focal point for the Auxiliaries and Districts.

Please note that Year-End Reports are due in April. Now is the time to start working and compiling the information needed. I will be more than willing to accept Year-End Reports early. Please do not hold.

Thank you to the Auxiliary and District Mentors and Department Senior Advisors for the dedication and involvement to make this program a success while “**We Tip Our Hats To Vets**” in our daily life ever “**Soaring Above & Beyond**”.



WAYS AND MEANS
Tracie Frink – Chairman
Glenda Ramirez – Co-Chairman

Thank you all for supporting the Quarter Auction. We had a great time and raised money for Ways and Means.

Thank you also for your support in buying and/or selling all of the raffle tickets, pins and Lottery Tickets.

The baskets from the Districts were amazing you can tell you put a lot of effort into them. The Department of Texas appreciates the continued support of the members.



SCHOLARSHIP
Annie Nickerson - Chairman

As we have left the winter behind, just a few reminders as our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship comes to a close. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling over \$33,000.

Patriotic Art: Who is Eligible to Apply: Any student in grades 9-12 who is enrolled in a public, private, or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools • Maximum student age of 18 at time of local entry. • Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. • Applicant does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member in order to participate.

Requirements: Art must be on paper or canvas. Water color, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media taught may be used. •

Digital art, jewelry, and photography are **NOT ACCEPTED**. • Submit canvas entries on stretcher frames or canvas board; other entries must be matted on white. Do not use colored mats. Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. • Do not frame two-dimensional pieces. • Art should be no smaller than 8” x 10” but no larger than 18” x 24,” not including the mat. Three-dimensional art can be paper, paper-mache, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc. • Pieces should be no smaller than 8” in any direction and no larger than 24” in any direction. • Art cannot weigh more than 5 lbs.

The student should submit a typed explanation of patriotism expressed in art (150 words or less). Complete the entry form and attach to the back of the entry. Make sure that ALL required SIGNATURES are there.

Be sure the student has the name and contact information of the person they submitted their artwork to at the local VFW Auxiliary and that the auxiliary has theirs. Deadlines: Young American Creative Patriotic Art due locally by March 31: VFW Auxiliary and District Judging Complete and entry received by me by April 15.

District Chairman/District President, to make sure I have received your art work, send it requiring a signature for delivery. Also, make sure that your art is packaged properly so that it will arrive in good shape. If it is 3 dimensional, please OVERpack it to ensure its safe arrival.

National President’s Special Project: Fund the Future: Since our National President’s goal is to increase the awards for Continuing Education Scholarship and the number and awards for Patriotic Art, we need your help. Please make whatever monetary contributions you can. Contributions can be made through Malta.

In addition, if you have not worked your **statewide project for the Endowment Fund**, you are running out of time. Since this is an auxiliary project, be creative in your efforts. Some suggestions might be: Host a paint night with wine and hors d'oeuvres

- Host a craft night
- Raffle a quilt or handmade items
- Host a gallery night for local artists to show and sell their pieces
- Host a gallery night for local students to show off their work
- Hold an auction of donated items from local artisans
- Auxiliaries near the beach could host a sand castle contest. Auxiliaries can also do some of the traditional fundraisers such as raffles, dinners, bake sales, etc., but wouldn’t it be more fun to be creative and try something new?! Let your imagination lead the way.

I look forward to your monthly and year-end reports. Remember that all end of year reports is due to your District President by April 10.

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



**LEGISLATIVE
Norita Jackson - Chairman**

As we March into spring and around the corner of our VFW year, here are a few of our recent Legislative Victories which Include:

- Implementation of VA’s maternity care coordination program to equip community care providers with training and support for the unique pregnancy and postpartum needs of women veterans.
- Passage of the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act which will establish a pilot program on dog training therapy for veterans diagnosed with PTSD and require VA to provide service dogs for those veterans, including veterinary insurance.
- Inclusion of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the list of Department of Veterans Affairs presumptive conditions for herbicide exposure.
- Passage of the Deborah Sampson Act, which will remove the barriers to health care impacting women veterans.
- Elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.

Among the VFW's most recent and important legislative victories was expanding college education benefits for military service members with the signing of the Forever GI Bill, and ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve - whenever and wherever they need it - by passing the VA MISSION Act.

The above information was taken directly from the e-newsletter and from the Action Corps bulletins that come to your email weekly. That’s how easy it is to stay informed and up-to-date on where and how the VFW is advocating on behalf of our veterans to obtain all of the benefits they have earned and are entitled to receive. Make spending a few minutes weekly with each of the publications a priority goal, so that you too can be informed and abreast of all the updates and important issues that affect our veterans. Share this resource and

make sure that others are signed up to receive these important notifications.

If each auxiliary would make sure that all of their members are signed up and sign up 5 new ones, we will have furthered the mission of advocating for our nation’s heroes.

Report all activities and meetings attended. We were reminded at Mid-Winter by Madam Past National President Sissy Borel, that our attendance at the training counted as a reportable activity for the Legislative Program. Please do send in those reports, don’t let that be a missed opportunity. Now is the time to circle back and report on those activities that may have been done but not reported.

Year-End Reports are due to your District Presidents by April 10, 2022 and forwarded to the Department Chairman by the District Presidents by April 20, 2022. I continue to receive wonderful reports and some pictures accompanying. Wherever possible please do include pictures with your reports. Consult your program books for the categories for awards and work on the Statewide project. I look forward to seeing you all in action. Let’s continue to show our support as **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** and **“Soar Above & Beyond”**



**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
Denise DuBois – Chairman**

Spring is just around the corner! Our reporting year is almost over. Each auxiliary has amazed me with all that you are doing to support our Veterans and their families. I want to thank you once again for the love and support you showed by purchasing the grab bags at mid-winter and participating in the Hero Walk.

Please continue to work the programs and I am certain that every auxiliary will report. Speaking of reports, you must submit your End of Year Reports to your District President no later than April 10th. Review your mid-year reports and filing timely is important. We must show that the Department of Texas is strong.

We will take care of our Veterans “No Matter What”. Thanks for all you do!

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“Soaring Above & Beyond”**



MEMBERSHIP

Mona Benotti - Chairman

Did you ever play baseball? Think of that feeling when you've hit the ball but you're not real sure if it's going out of the park or not. So, what do you do? You run as fast as you can toward the first base, then realize you have time to keep going to the next base and maybe pass that. As you enter March, you have certainly achieved that hit and are running like crazy to make it all the way home.

"We Tip Our Hats To Vets" by running on toward our goals. This time of year, it is easy to slow down a bit but we must not allow ourselves to do that. We are not yet to the home run! We must continue to seek out those members from last year who did not pay their dues by December 31, 2021. They have until June 30, 2022 to renew without having to rejoin as a 'new' member.

Recently, while listening to a Zoom call with membership chairs from many departments, I heard our National Membership Ambassador, Debbie Tilley, say some very wise words. Those words were, "We can never have too many members." In addition to retaining, let's continue to add new members.

Please do not overlook eligible males. In my own auxiliary, we have four men serving as officers, including president, and many others who assist in our activities. The Auxiliary is open – check out that Eligibility Wheel.

"Soaring Above & Beyond" retaining, gaining and sharing with fellow members is what we do. It takes us all. Thank you for all you do; contact me at mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729.



HOSPITAL

Karen Jeffrey - Chairman

Once again, I say "Thank You to the Texas VFW Auxiliary membership for embracing the Honors Escort Program and making it a success!"

We Are The Missing Piece! Each piece is special, each piece is important, each piece is needed to create a beautiful picture and all of us pieced together made it happen!

We have shared the Honors Escort with our VFW Auxiliary Members who have contacted Nursing Homes, Living Centers, Hospice or any facility their Veteran is housed in, spoken with the Director and made the wishes of the family known to have an Honors Escort for their Veteran to ensure their accomplishments and sacrifices are not forgotten as their Veteran is laid to rest.

Be prepared! Ask your Auxiliary members where their Veterans are housed so we can allow the family, friends, other Veterans and facility staff the opportunity to participate in an Honors Escort. Auxiliaries as well as individuals have donated money to purchase a casket flag to be presented to the facility for when that time comes. Thank You Texas for loving and serving our Veterans until their last breath.

What is your WHY? I appreciate your responses written on the puzzle pieces from Mid-Winter in Corpus Christi. I read each and every one. We are an amazing group of individuals who have come together to serve our Veterans for many different reasons.

The Office of Research and Development www.research.va.gov has many interesting topics such as research on Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans. VA researchers are seeking new ways to restore ill and injured Veterans from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to their highest level of functioning and help create the best life possible for them when they return home. This is good information for our Veterans.

Remember to say Thank You to your VAVS and Hospital Volunteers. A Certificate of Appreciation and a Hospital Service Pin for volunteered hours will show our Volunteers how important they are to our Veterans. Printable certificates and Pin Applications can be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org/Hospital

Year End Reports are due to your District President by April 10, 2022. I am looking forward to ending President Kaylor's **"Tip Our Hat To Vets"** year Texas Strong!



AmeriCANism

Janet Brown – Chairman

After considering several things to comment about, I decided that the best and most accurate way to express how I feel is to sincerely thank all of you for your dedication and hard work promoting true AmeriCANism. Also, thank you to those who came to the POW/MIA program at mid-winter. Hopefully you were motivated to make sure that the POW/MIA situation is taken to the public.

Even though our reporting year is done at the end of March, that no way means that our continuing to work our AmeriCANism and POW/MIA program ends. Patriotic Instructors, keep inspiring and informing the members of our rituals, rules, and traditions.

If you look through your VFW or Auxiliary calendar you will find many occasions to have activities or events that promote AmeriCANism. April 9th is National Former POW Recognition Day.

There are anniversaries of cease fires, battles and wars ending, Loyalty Day, and of course Memorial Day. If you have events and report them, I will see that next year's chairman receives all those reports. I'm sure that he or she will be as impressed as I was with all your efforts.

Remember, "To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it". (Mother Teresa)



OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Tanya Jackson – Chairman

This program holds the same importance as a National Program. It is the only award that showcases the hard work that has been done by Auxiliary Presidents in Texas

If there is no reporting done on this program no consideration will be given for this award.

Year-End Report is due in April and documentation can accompany that report. From the beginning to the end of the Auxiliary year, I extend thanks for taking this position within your Auxiliary and taking on the leadership position. As Auxiliary Presidents, "**We Tip Our Hats To Vets**" and "**Soar Above & Beyond**" to meet our goals.



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Beth West – Chairman

There are so many reasons to fundraise for the VFW Auxiliary and its programs. The underlying theme of all of them is that we joined this organization to serve veterans. Every program at the National and State level is created to help veterans, their families and/or their communities in some way.

Can you say you've tipped your hat for Texas veterans yet? If the answer is "No", then you have a short time to do so before the end of the year. Hold that fundraiser, pass the hat, and/or do what you need so that you can help Madam President reach her goal in supporting Texas veterans. Please make sure you report **all** you have done on the Year-End report and get to your District President prior to 10 April 2022.

District Presidents, please remember to make sure you get those reports to me, not the Department office or Madam President. Attach those pictures and copies of cleared checks and all needed to show why what you and your Auxiliary did is so special. This isn't just for an award: it is about us learning how to share ideas and brag on ourselves because we do not tell our story very well.

Reporting is also giving your Chair and your officers the tools to brag on the VFW Auxiliary and record just how much you and your Auxiliaries are doing every single day no matter what is thrown at us.

With your words we can advocate better for our veterans, we show integrity for the funds entrusted to us and in meeting the veterans' needs, allow us to use the funds in a manner that continues to bring honor to our cause and our veterans, and record how we truly **Tip Our Hats To Veterans**.

I look forward to 100% reporting for this program: you can do it, **Soaring Above & Beyond** for our veterans.

ANDREA KING

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

Endorsed by District 4



JO ELLA MENN

Candidate for Department Treasurer
2022-2023

Endorsed by Auxiliary 8621/District 6



BETH WEST

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard
2022-2023

Auxiliary 3413

District 5

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St. Patrick's Day!**



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