



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”**

First, I want to give you my heartfelt thanks for having the confidence in me to lead you and the Great State of Texas VFW Auxiliary for the 2023-2024 year. I promise to give you 100% and more. I know working together we can make Texas the Best in the Nation.

Each Auxiliary President will be receiving a copy of our Program Book and it is our hope that you will share all information it contains with your entire membership. This will ensure that our programs are completed, aiding our veterans.

The Department of Texas and all Auxiliaries will achieve our goal of being the best that we can be to become the “Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”. Our Program Coordinator and Chairmen have worked very hard to see that our programs will be not only exciting, but will truly support our Veterans, our active-duty military personnel and the families of both.

As new information regarding our programs comes down from National, it will be disseminated to you accordingly. You may also get information regarding the programs from our monthly newsletter (Our Two Cents), which can be found online, if you do not wish to receive a hard copy or from Malta.

I look forward to meeting new faces, reuniting with old ones and hearing your thoughts and ideas while visiting with each of you this year as we work together to ensure that Texas remains the brightest shining Auxiliary in this Organization. I will be getting a copy out to you very soon as to when I will be making my official visits.

God Bless you, the United States of America, Our Great State and the Department of Texas VFW and Auxiliary.

Susie Carter  
President

**“When it comes to our Veterans, all that is left for we the living to do is;  
Honor them, take care of them and rededicate ourselves to the cause in which they gave”.**

**Tom Selleck**



### 23-24 National Chairmen

<b><u>Program Coordinator</u></b>	Denise DuBois
<b><u>Chief of Staff</u></b>	Debbie Daniel
<b><u>Americanism</u></b>	Ronnie Wiley
Co-Chairman	Laurie Wiley
<b><u>Auxiliary Outreach</u></b>	Gerald Spradlin
Co-Chairman	Cyndy Yancy
<b><u>Historian</u></b>	Bernie Adams
<b><u>Hospital/VAVS</u></b>	Pamela Fintel
<b><u>Legislative</u></b>	Cheyenne Harper
<b><u>Membership</u></b>	Beth West
Co-Chairman	Shawn Terry
<b><u>Mentoring</u></b>	Candice Baines
Co-Chairman	Patsy Kemp
Co-Chairman	Jayne McCormick
<b><u>National Home/Buddy Poppy</u></b>	Denise DuBois
Co-Chairman	Eunis Cordova
<b><u>Scholarships</u></b>	Dorothy Bennett
<b><u>Veterans &amp; Family Support</u></b>	Tammy Mosby
Co-Chairman	Karlene Chambers
<b><u>Youth Activities</u></b>	Teresa Ramon
Co-Chairman	Michelle Booker

### 23-24 Department State Chairmen

<b><u>Chaplain/Sunshine Chairman</u></b>	Sharon Macey
<b><u>Nursing</u></b>	Kat Carter
<b><u>President's Special Project</u></b>	Jennifer Richardson
<b><u>District President Achievement</u></b>	Karen Jeffrey
<b><u>Auxiliary President Achievement</u></b>	Irma Solis
<b><u>Ways and Means</u></b>	Tracie Frink Lydia Leal



## VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**Tammie Mosby – Chairman**  
**Karlene Chambers-Co-Chairman**

I am so excited about this new year as your Veterans and Family Support chairman. I, along with my Co-Chair, Karlene Chambers, have quite a lot in store for you.

Veterans and Family Support is the heart and soul of our organization. Every member can and should participate. There are things that we do in our daily lives that fall into this category. So, think about the things that you do and report on it. Our wonderful National Ambassador, Tessa Butcher, said it so well in her presentation, “One word often comes to mind: Unity.” We are all truly united in our passion for our veterans, our service members, their families and our communities.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for us and it’s time that we do all that we can for them. This year, the primary points of focus will be Veterans and Military Support Programs, National Veterans Service Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

So, this year let us all be the “**Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings**” while we are “**Banding Together For Our Veterans**”.



### SCHOLARSHIPS

**Dorothy Bennett – Chairman**

Welcome to the 23-24 Scholarship year where we will be the Wind beneath Our Veterans Wings by Banding Together for Our Veterans. National Scholarship Chairman, Becky Lamb, has set a remarkable program for us to work. Points to keep in mind for program participation are:

- \* Student Participation to get the scholarship paperwork in into their hands
- \* Recipient Recognition with awards and a Thank You
- \* Build Community awareness through newspaper, social media and flyers
- \* Increase Funding through individual gifts and auxiliary fundraising.

There are 5 key parts to the Scholarship program. First, Continuing Education for Auxiliary members or immediate family members who wish to advance their education and have a financial need. Second, is the Young American Creative Patriotic Art. This scholarship is Auxiliary funded and is for grades 9-12. Third, is 3-Dimensional art and is somewhat new to the Auxiliary, again funded by the Auxiliary for grades 9-12. Fourth, is the Voice of Democracy audio essay, which we work with the VFW, to place information into the hands of students in grades 9-12.

Lastly, Patriot's Pen Essay which is written and will be submitted to the VFW.

Again, we help the VFW to place the information into the hands of students in grades 6-8.

Find resources in Malta under Scholarships. Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essays information can be found on the VFW website.

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“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**



**HOSPITAL/VAVS**  
Pamela Fintel – Chairman

We are going to have a great year, but I need your help. First, we need to get those Hospital Pledges into the Treasurer at Department as soon as possible. The Hospital Pledge is .50 cents per member based on June 30, 2023 membership total. These funds will help assist our Veterans and their families. Make sure you earmark your check “Hospital Pledge”.

There is so much we can do. We are going to take our “Veterans Cards” up a notch and have fun and celebrate the little-known special days of the year.

Did you know that July 7<sup>th</sup> is World Chocolate Day? How cool would it be to have a hand-made card that said “Thinking of You” and a little Hershey Kiss attached to it. This is a great way to entertain our hospitalized Veterans. Check out this link [www.nationaldaycalendar.com](http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com)

New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Any member in good standing can volunteer at a facility in the name of the VFW Auxiliary if that member has been approved by the Auxiliary to do so. Contact your VA facility, nursing homes, hospitals and retirement homes to see what opportunities are available for our volunteers.

The VA understands that women Veterans face specific challenges, have unique healthcare needs and may struggle to feel respected. Beginning in 1992 with the Veterans Health Care Act, the VA has been providing gender-specific care to eligible women Veterans.

Since then, the VA has been expanding those gender-specific services and launching initiatives to make women Veterans aware of their well-deserved benefits. Learn more at [www.va.gov/womenvet](http://www.va.gov/womenvet).

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**“BUDDY” POPPY  
VFW NATIONAL HOME  
Denise DuBois – Chairman  
Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman**

The new year has begun. I am certain your Memorial Day Event was a success. Always remember those “Buddy” Poppy donations go into your Relief Fund. Always thank your volunteers who worked the areas. Have you thought about selecting a Poppy Girl or a Poppy boy? Wouldn't that be a fun tradition to bring back? Remember every day can be a “Buddy Poppy Day”.

Have you ever thought about how the VFW National Home has grown since 1925. Pictures of the campus offer us the opportunity to see the benefits of having a place where families can remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman didn't come home.

Let's consider purchasing life memberships this year. Our very own Texas House was built in 1927 and is 1933 square feet and had 3 bedrooms with 2.5 baths. What can we do for our Texas House?

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

“Banding Together for Our Veterans” says it all. We as Auxiliary members must “band together” as a team to ensure that we revitalize Auxiliaries in need, contact and work with bachelor posts to institute NEW Auxiliaries and lastly, to stay on TOP of problems and issues preventing auxiliary suspensions and closures.

It is my duty as the Department of Texas Chief of Staff to work with Auxiliaries and District Presidents, your District Deputy Chief of Staffs and the general membership. My goal is to hear what you have to say, gather all data related to problems and issues and address them accordingly.

There are very important tools that you can and should use to aide Auxiliaries in becoming more productive. These are found on the [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org) website. They are the “Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit” and the “Building on the Auxiliary Foundation” book. Another is the National Online Academy as stated by the National Director in her material.

“These tools invite all members to come forward and take on a position of leadership, mentoring and being a member who advocates for their Auxiliary and the veterans we serve.”

I look forward to an outstanding “Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings” year. Let’s get down to business and show Texas Proud!!

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



**HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS**

**Bernie Adams**

I am honored to be the chairperson for the 2023-2024 year. Thank you, President Susie for having me as your Historian/Media Relations person for your year.

The work of the Auxiliary is important. By sharing our stories, we are doing our part to promote the Auxiliary in our communities. Be mindful and respectful before you S.N.A.P. Stop Now Ask Permission. Be sure to print the youth and adult photo release available in MALTA Members Resources. These releases protect the photographer and the person being photographed, especially children. Photography opens doors into the past, but it also allows a look into the future.

Photography tips to avoid:

- Closed eyes
- Open full of food, distracting objects in the picture (e.g., bunny ears, trees popping out of someone’s head)
- People posed in awkward positions.
- Offensive language on clothing or offensive hand gestures

The job of the Historian & Media Relations Chairmen is to capture the Program Year. The Auxiliary Historian & Media Relations promotes the Auxiliary through media, Post/Auxiliary newsletter, websites, and any other media available to them; they capture special memories and activities through photos and videos, to inform the public. We are the **Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings**.

Historians/Media Relations person; your President appointed you to this position because he/she believes you can and will record the events of the year by **Banding Together For Our Veterans**. Remember you are not just preparing a record for this year’s President but continuing to provide historical information for all current and future members.

Remember to send me your pictures of President Susie’s visit to your District or any other events you are with Susie. I am looking forward to a new and exciting year.

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

We are ready to have an exciting year working with our youth within our schools and our communities. A new school year is about to begin. What a wonderful time and opportunity to get involved with our youth.

Our Patriotism through Literacy program is a fantastic way to start working with our youth. Volunteering to read or donating books about American history can plant a seed within the mind of our youth.

As the late Whitney Houston sang, “I believe the children are our future teach them well and let them lead the way,” emulating these words should motivate us to get involve with teaching, mentoring and encouraging our youth to participate in our auxiliary programs. Helping our Veterans when possible.

Encouraging our youth to participate in our **K-12 singing the Star-Spangled Banner contest, Illustrating America and Getting Excited for the Red White and Blue**, are ways we can help them understand the history behind the flag and price that our veterans fought for freedom in our Country.

Let us recognize our youth when they do unselfish acts of kindness when serving our Veterans and community. Let us continue to plant the seeds of patriotism within our youth giving them the knowledge and the tools to prepare them to be the leaders of the future. As Nelson Mandela once said, “The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.”

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**MEMBERSHIP**

**Beth West**  
**Shawn Terry**

Welcome to the 2023-2024 show! We have our work cut out for us. President Jeanenne and her team did an outstanding job with 17 of 23 districts and 117 auxiliaries reaching 100%. Our work may be cut out for us, but we have faith in you. You are the perfect one for this role!

*Lights!* The work done last year should have put us all in the perfect light for a sequel like none other.

*Camera!* First things first: make sure that you look at your membership numbers as of 30 June and then double check the stat sheet to make sure we start the year off in agreement and the stage is set. Auxiliary Presidents should have appointed their Membership Committee. According



to Section 810A of our By-Laws, the Membership committee should be comprised “of not less than five (5) members, including the Treasurer, to contact all members during the year for payment of dues”. Remember, they may be the main actors for this movie, but all members are extras. In other words, every one of us is a recruiter and can assist in retention.

*Action!* Contact your members, not only the ones unpaid, but all members. Check on them. Make sure they know that their Auxiliary cares. If they are unpaid, ask if they are in need of assistance. If they are annual, ask if they would like to convert to life. Dues notices should be sent this month. Send in those applications you receive and remember to proof them for accuracy and completion. Utilize social media to promote renewal and recruiting. It is also a great way to thank current members or highlight a member.

We are the “Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”. Membership in this organization is based on our veterans’ eligibility and is our way to honor them. “Banding Together For Our Veterans”, we will soar to new heights and keep Texas at the top of our division.

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**LEGISLATIVE  
Cheyenne Parker – Chairman**

I just want to say what an honor it is to have this position. I am truly grateful. This is my first ever state chairmanship. I hope you will have patience with me throughout the year.

I will be sending out information from our National Ambassador soon to the District Presidents. I can't wait to see you at statewide training.

Always remember to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy.

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**AMERICANISM  
Ronnie Wiley – Chairman  
Laurie Wiley – Co-Chairman**

“Americanism consists in utterly believing in the principles of America,” - Woodrow Wilson. Americans are passionate about being Americans! Americanism is an

unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty and posterity.

America is an almost perfectly realized vision. Though the founders of our nation were far from perfect, their concept of what our nation could and should be was as close to pure as a may earthly be expected of any society. We have been guaranteed in our founding documents the unbridled right to grow and achieve without limits.

### **More Than Letters**

The words we use are immensely important! Just as our nation was “spoken into existence” so too we must speak the words we need people to hear to manifest the reaction we want to see. We tend to use acronyms, while accurate, they don’t pack the same punch as saying the entire word. This year and going forward, we encourage you to use #MoreThanLetters especially when referring to our **POWs, MIAs and KIAs**. They are more than letters. Encourage the use of words: **Prisoner(s) of War, Missing in Action, Killed in Action**.

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**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR  
Ronnie Wiley – Chairman  
Laurie Wiley – Co-Chairman**

As Patriotic Instructor you have an important part in presenting information at every auxiliary meeting (usually during Good of the Order). Spend five minutes or less presenting your information and encourage your members to participate in demonstrations such as the correct stance for standing at attention and parade rest.

Explain the meaning of the raps of the gavel. One rap means “attention” or “be quiet”; two raps mean “stand up”; and three raps mean “sit down.” In planning your presentations for each month, please read the yellow section in your podium book.

**#AUX TRIBE** When many of our servicemen and service women leave the service, they can feel displaced and depressed to solution and lost without the identity they shared with their comrades often this is identified as post-traumatic stress. The extreme feeling of being without uniforms without their comrades and lacking a common mission with those around them along to talk about their shared experiences.

When we know and adhere to the auxiliary traditions and rituals, we create the environment that these veterans are yearning for! Everything we do should build up our #AUXTRIBE and draw in our veterans!

Patriotic Holiday coming up this July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day and July 27<sup>th</sup> for the Korean Armistice. Fly our flag proudly and discuss these days at your monthly auxiliary meeting. A certificate or an article in your local newspaper for "Random Acts of Patriotism" can go a long way when recognizing local businesses who fly the flag regularly or schools who promote Americanism.

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

Auxiliary Outreach is a tool for forming a partnership with other organizations in our community which allows us all to work together to accomplish our VFW Auxiliary mission.

The more people we reach in the community, the more Veterans we reach, thus accomplishing our main mission: to serve and help our Veterans and their families.

**A few examples of Auxiliary Outreach are:**

- ❖ Senior citizens center activities
- ❖ Community beautification events
- ❖ Homeless Shelter volunteer programs
- ❖ Literacy programs (adult and children)
- ❖ Blood drives
- ❖ Meals on Wheels, food pantries, soup kitchens etc.
- ❖ Summer food programs for children
- ❖ First Responders safety programs
- ❖ Salvation Army bell ringer
- ❖ Youth sports, classes, field days

When volunteering you must wear VFW Auxiliary attire such as badge, shirt, hat, jackets, etc. You must report the hours and number of workers participating. Monies spent cannot be reported.

We truly believe that through the community seeing us active we will increase our presence and image in our communities.

We look forward to seeing all that you are doing in your community through your reports and pictures.

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**OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

**Irma Solis – Chairman**

Congratulations on being elected to lead your auxiliary. A lot is on your "plate" but training will be a beacon of light in your upcoming year.

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**OUTSTANDING DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

**Karen Jeffrey - Chairman**

District Presidents, what a great year it is going to be! Enjoy your District President year and make it all you want it to be and then some!

I am excited to be the District President Achievement Award Chair and looking forward to working with every one of you.

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**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT**

**Jennifer Richardson – Chairman**

"Where there's tea there's [hope](#)." -- Arthur Wing Pinero

President Susie Carters' Special Project is the Veterans' Assistance Program (VAP) administered through the Texas VFW Foundation created by the Texas VFW in 2002.

We should also be planning our **Tea Party** to educate surviving spouses on their potential benefits through both VAP and the VA. More times than not it is actually the lack of information that holds surviving spouses back from applying and/or obtaining benefits they may be entitled to. By doing our part to educate our sisters and brothers, we give them hope.

Please contact the Foundation at [foundation@texasvfw.org](mailto:foundation@texasvfw.org) for logos and/or information for you to better fundraise. Websites: <https://www.texasvfw.org/veterans>  
<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/>

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## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

**Candace Baines – Chairman**

**Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman**

**Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman**

It's time to hit the floor running brothers and sisters! Get your leadership in order, get your mentor motors running and C.A.R.E. It is important to build each other up, encourage and promote all the ways we can assist our veterans and their families. Get your new members involved and encourage each new and existing member to find what they are passionate about and give them the opportunity to come up with fresh ideas. This could spark some new or a different excitement in your members. I challenge each Auxiliary to post the following C.A.R.E. acronym in your meeting room for constant encouragement and reminder. Remember to send at least one Auxiliary mentor contact information to [candibaines@gmail.com](mailto:candibaines@gmail.com), we may need to reach out for some ideas.

### **New Members:**

**C**-Catch the member when they first join

**A**-Ask them to participate

**R**-Remember what it felt like to be new

**E**-Engage them in a program that fits them

### **Current/Inactive Members:**

**C**-Continue to/or start participating

**A**-Ask yourself/them why I/they joined

**R**-Remember the pride of accomplishment

**E**-Encourage teaching and mentoring others

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## NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

**Kat Carter – Chairman**

In this day and age of pandemics, sickness and continued medical problems that are endured by all, the VFW Auxiliary is honored and privileged to be able to provide a scholarship to deserving nursing students.

Nurses are the Angels in times of need for families and our Veterans. Please review the requirements that are listed in the program book. If assistance is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone or email. Please DONATE to the Nursing Scholarship Fund.

**God found some of the strongest people and made them nurses.**

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## WAYS AND MEANS

**Tracie Frink/Lydia Leal**

Here we are again, another year and ready to hit the ground running. Ways and Means provides a financial need for the day to day duties as well as the Statewide Training, Mid-Winter Conference and State Convention. Money raised also goes to awards and recognition to offset some of the expenses of volunteers and the general business functions of our organization.

**Deadlines for all Ways and Means items will be due by Mid-Winter. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **Ways and Means will consist of:**

Lotto Calendars - State President Pins

Shirts with President's Logo - Program Books

### **The Statewide Fundraiser will consist of 2 Raffles.**

1<sup>st</sup> Raffle will be split between Mid-Winter and State Convention. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Raffle will be for a rifle which will be given out at State Convention. Tickets are \$10 or 3 for \$20. Check with the Auxiliary President or District President for purchasing of tickets.

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## CHAPLAIN RECOGNITION

**Sharon Macey**

The Chaplains of the Department of Texas Auxiliaries do an amazing job, offering words of comfort, encouragement, lending a hand whenever needed or just caring enough to listen.

All of these attributes are so important. Chaplains deserve recognition and to be noticed for the love and comfort that is shared throughout the state, in whatever capacity. Please review the program found in the program book.

Please note that as the Sunshine Chairman, assistance is given to Madam President with cards going out to members who are shut-in, ill or hospitalized or just a thinking of you card. Each auxiliary is being asked to send \$5.00 donation to the Department earmarked for Sunshine Postage. This will help defray to cost of stamps.

Please contact me with names of individuals or if assistance is needed as the Chaplain.

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## **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**Denise DuBois**

I am excited to be your Program Coordinator this Auxiliary year. Each of the chairmen have begun working their respective program.

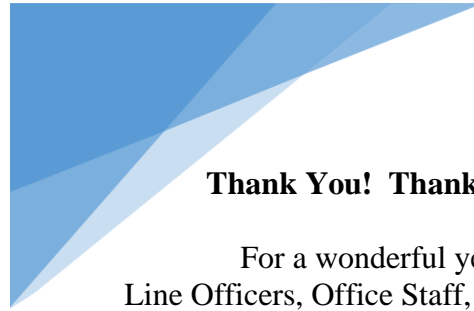
The programs with National Ambassadors have been notified of their program materials and promise to hold to the requirements set by the National Ambassadors.

The State Program chairmen will report their program promotion as well. The State Program Chairmen will report to the Program Coordinator with what has been done to promote the program.

As the Program Coordinator, I will maintain the information from all and will keep Madam President Susie aware of the work that is being done.

We will have a great year and Texas will be a state that will be noticed!

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**Thank You! Thank You!**

For a wonderful year!

Line Officers, Office Staff, Program Coordinator and Chairmen, Committee Members, District and Auxiliary Presidents and “each” member of this Department, our year would not have been successful without all the hard work you did!

You are the Best! I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with you!

Thank you for your support and all that you give to our veterans, their families and their surviving spouses!

Jeanenne Lumpkin



**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY**

