



## The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

### Our Two Cents

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August, 2022



**“Together Everyone Achieves More  
For Our Veterans”**

**“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”**



**Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin**

Our Auxiliary year is off to a great start! Our State training was over the TOP! There were more than 300 in attendance with so many members saying that they learned a great deal. We had a “blast” and the fun will continue into this next year. I want to thank our Program Coordinator, Mona Benotti, our Program Chairmen, Trainers, Line Officers, Office Staff and all of those in attendance who helped make the weekend a great success!

Be sure to attend your District School of Instruction. Everything we learned will be passed on by your District Presidents. Please know that our Program Chairmen are available and will assist you in any way. If you have questions about any program, please contact them. They have worked hard with our National Ambassadors to present our National Programs as well as our State Programs. Program and Training books are valuable tools in assisting you with your programs.

My official visits and travels begin this month and I am so excited to visit with each of you!!

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| August 6       | District 2   |
| August 13      | District 10  |
| August 21      | District 1   |
| August 27      | District 17  |
| September 8-10 | “Celebrating America’s Freedom Event<br>Shanksville PA |
| September 24   | District 30  |

The President’s Special Project this year is the Texas VFW Foundation with our funds being earmarked for surviving spouses. Surviving spouses sometimes need help in a financial way and this will allow them to be able to continue to reach out to the Foundation and get this assistance. Surviving spouses can apply online at the Texas VFW Foundation.

Together Everyone Achieves More for our Veterans and by working closely with our VFW Posts this year, we will accomplish so much for our veterans, their families and our surviving spouses. Teamwork is our GOAL! Commander Toomer and I are committed to the VFW and You. We will do all we can to help make the Department of Texas GREAT!

Communication is vital in our organization. Effective communication is dependent on listening. Communicating more clearly builds greater trust and improves teamwork. Let’s keep our communication open this year so we can continue to make our Auxiliaries successful.

Reminder, all Presidents and Treasurers must be bonded before August 31 and be sure to get your audits in on time!!

Thank you so much for your continued support. This year will be an exciting year for our Auxiliaries!

Love and Belief



**CHAPLAIN CORNER**  
**Irma Solis – Dept. Chaplain**

“Instead of worrying about what you cannot control,  
 shift your energy to what you can create.”  
 — Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

Please share with me the names of auxiliary members, family members or anyone that is in need of cards, phone calls or a boost in spirits.



**DISTRICT PRESIDENT AWARD**  
**Janet Brown - Chairman**

Well, District Presidents, how has it been since your installation at Convention?? Fun? Games? Or...have some of your Auxiliaries already come to you with problems? Remember, on the Auxiliary TEAM, you're a coach. National would be like a team owner. They are the last resort. Our State President, Jeanenne, is like the head coach. District Presidents are assistant coaches and Auxiliary Presidents might be like the specialty coaches.

All the Auxiliary members are the players. Now, this would be a better analogy if we were talking the high paying world of professional sports. But, we're not! We're talking about the volunteer world of helping to work for those that have been willing to pay the ultimate price – our veterans.

When there are questions or problems, your players will go to their specialty coach. If that coach needs help, they come to the assistant coach, you would go to the head coach. Sometimes you may feel more like you're playing a game of Red Rover when the various problems start coming at you. When that happens, we can link arms, form that chain and call 'Red Rover, Red Rover send the problem right over'. Please read page 74 of the program development guide. Feel free to contact me with any questions about this. Also, refer to the requests (requirements) from the Chief of Staff, Denise Dubois. "Put me in Coach, I'm ready to play" ...even if it's Red Rover!! "Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans"- "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"



**LEGISLATIVE**  
**Tammie Mosby – Chairman**

It was good to see everyone at State Training. I just want to recap a few things. We must all remember that legislative activity is not the same as political activity. We support bills not people or political parties. So please keep this in mind as we go through our year. If you have any problems finding young adult civic and/or political groups, please let me know. I will do what I can to help you find them.

We all need to know and be aware of what the VFW supports and doesn't support. The following legislation is one that the VFW doesn't support at this time. H.R. 1216, Modernizing Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Act: The VFW believes eligibility is an important issue as it directly affects our members and other veterans who wore the uniform. While we believe VA can improve upon its overall system, the VFW cannot support this legislation at this time.

We understand that VA eligibility standards may not be perfect and could be streamlined, but at this point we do not think a complete overhaul of the system is needed. We also do not think a proposed commission is the way to accomplish that goal. The VFW believes if changes are necessary for eligibility, there is more than enough knowledge and expertise between Veterans Service Organizations, Congress and veteran health providers to deem an expert commission unnecessary.

I will be sending out many emails through the following weeks to help keep everyone informed on legislation. At this time, I will be sending these out to the District Presidents. If you wish to receive them direct, please send me an email letting me know to add you to the email list. I will be happy to do this. I am here to help any way I can.

If you succeed, I succeed. Email me at [tjpurplerose@yahoo.com](mailto:tjpurplerose@yahoo.com) or by cell at 936-414-5293.

I just want to remind everyone that  
**Together Everyone Achieves More for our  
 Veterans with Hands that Serve, Hearts that  
 Care.**



**HOSPITAL**  
**Pamela Fintel - Chairman**

**WOW!!!!** We are off to a great start. It was great to see everyone at Statewide Training in Austin last month. Thank you to all the Texas VFW Auxiliaries that sent their Hospital Pledges early in the month of July. The Hospital Pledge is due this month, in August. It is \$.50 per member based on your membership as of June 30, 2022. This check must be sent to the Department of Texas Auxiliary attn.: Treasurer.

This is the perfect time to get our youth involved in volunteering at local nursing homes, retirement homes, local hospitals and VA and Non-VA Medical Facilities and Clinics before school starts again. Many facilities will have various types of opportunities to suit their schedules. Be sure and keep track of the hours and send in your report and pictures to me. I can't wait to see the reports and how creative our Texas VFW Auxiliaries are!

Reminder to all VAVS Representatives to turn in your Monthly Hospital Fund Report with the receipts attached to the Department Treasurer, Jo Ella Menn, Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary P.O. Box 15285 Austin, TX 78761. These reports are due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Thank you to the all the Auxiliaries that have been sending me their reports. Keep up the good work!

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”- “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”**



**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**Robin Swain - Chairman**

We are only a month into the new program year and I was very excited to receive my first report. Hopefully by now you are working with your local schools so they can add the VOD and Patriot Pen into their curriculum. I know this is summer vacation, but the new school year will be here before you know it. I would like to receive a monthly

report from each auxiliary because I want you to make it hard on me when it comes time for awards.

Auxiliary award #1 is Plaque to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the **Best Statewide Project, Fund the Artists of Tomorrow**. Auxiliary award #2 is a Plaque to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the **Best Reporting**. Citation to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for both awards.

Get the word out into your communities on these scholarships. A few suggestions are schools and JROTC Units, faith-based youth groups, youth-focused organizations, Home-School associations, Parent-Teacher Associations, youth sports teams, financial aid offices, and student veteran centers. Don't forget about social media.

Please make sure you have fun doing all the programs and remember we are a TEAM. If you have any questions, please let me know. **“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”- “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”**



**CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION**  
**Denise DuBois**

It was great seeing each of you at training in July. We had great training and fun times had by all. We will continue to create new auxiliaries while strengthening existing auxiliaries. Your District Deputy Chiefs of Staff will work closely with the District Presidents and as a team we will connect and communicate on a monthly basis or as needed to build up the auxiliaries. Let's continue to focus on our members and engage them in new activities within our auxiliaries. Please know that you can contact me anytime.

**Together Everyone Achieves More for Our Veterans - Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.**



**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP**  
**Denise DuBois**

What a great attendance we had at Statewide Training! This program encourages us to learn new ways to develop future leaders, while making sure

that our auxiliaries remain strong and healthy with knowledgeable members who can take over leadership roles and guide our organization into the future. We will have fun this year and will encourage each auxiliary to come up with ideas to make their meetings fun and engaging. We all should share our knowledge and work together as a team. As we all share, our auxiliaries become stronger. Get to know your members. Listen to their interests.

**Together Everyone Achieves More for Our Veterans - Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.**



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

This year's goal of the National Ambassador for "Buddy"® Poppy and National Home is to unite the "Buddy"® Poppy and National Home; when we promote one, we can promote the other. "Buddy"® Poppy + National Home = Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes®. Wouldn't it be nice for the "Buddy"® Poppy & National Home Program to be the first to have 100% in reporting? Here's how we can do it. Have each Auxiliary bring to the School of Instructions:

1. Information and/or pictures of your involvement with the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies on Memorial Day and/or participation in the Memorial Day Ceremony at your Post.
2. Documentation that your Auxiliary has met the fiduciary responsibility to Health and Happiness. At your School of Instruction, make available a copy of the report form and help attendees fill out reporting on 1 and 2. BAM!!!! 100% in reporting.

Now is the time to get organized for back-to-school preparations. As in any home or community, families and businesses are preparing for back to school. A great way to help the National Home is to have a back-to-school fundraiser for our veterans' children. Purchase a stock of pens or pencils from your favorite local businesses (supporting your community) and sell them for \$1 or the amount donors want to provide to the back-to-school fundraiser for the National Home. By wrapping a "Buddy"® Poppy on each pen or pencil you can

remind everyone that with the Fall season and a return to school comes Veterans Day on November 11. We appreciate each and every one of you and your dedication to this organization.

**TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE  
FOR OUR VETERANS  
HANDS THAT SERVE, HEARTS THAT CARE**



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

We are so excited about this new year and all the things we'll be doing to support our Veterans and their families. The end of Summer is approaching real soon; let's plan some Veterans Support events before the weather starts to change. Texas weather is one of our greatest assets for us to plan outdoor events.

Thank you to the Auxiliaries that have sent their reports in; they are amazing. This means only one thing, that our Auxiliaries care about our Veterans. Please utilize our **VFW Supported Programs** as listed on the Program Development Guide.

Don't forget the **CAREGIVERS CHALLENGE**, recognize them, reward them with an act of kindness, let's show them our appreciation. Our Veterans really depend on their caregivers. If you have any questions on the programs that are available to us, please contact me anytime.

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**AMERICANISM**  
**Annie Nickerson – Chairman**

It was so good to see all of you at department training! I hope that you found the materials and the experience to be educational and motivating. There are so many things that we can do and be a part of that enhance and reinforce our duty to our country and our veterans. All we have to do is look at a flag in order to feel that patriotism surging. Share that passion with others and our homebound Veterans.



September is closer than we think, so it is time to plan your POW/MIA ceremony and share the event information with your community. Contact various businesses around town to see if you can set up a Missing Man Table in their facility. Many churches and banks have space in their lobbies and are very cooperative in helping share the ceremony.

Also, get going on your Gold Star Family honor ceremonies as well. If you don't know who they are in your community, check [americasgoldstarfamilies.org](http://americasgoldstarfamilies.org). This database can help. When it comes to honoring our Star Families, it doesn't have to be extravagant, just sincere. Consider potluck dinners, honors ceremonies, certificates. The list is endless; be creative. As we move forward, it is time to incorporate our technology. Seek out appropriate TikToc videos to promote patriotism; add positive narratives and photos to Post and Auxiliary Facebook pages; upload your successes to #AmericanPatriotism. This can also encourage our younger members to participate and promote our programs through a medium in which they are well versed.

Last but not least, remember to report your activities. You do such great work; you need to get credit for all of it. 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**

I enjoyed seeing so many of you at Department Training. I hope we tapped into that patriotic passion that we all share.

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. You are responsible for making sure that the meeting room is in keeping with the Ritual and maintaining a record of all Patriotic days and initiating programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require. You will be

working closely with the Americanism Chairman in content and observing and planning ceremonies and observances. Additionally, you can share your activities under Reports of Committees Standing and Special as well as reporting them to the Patriotic Instructor chairman.

Encourage your members to attend the district school of instruction. Since it is not just for officers, everyone can benefit from the knowledge about programs and officers' responsibilities. The more people know, the better the auxiliary runs.

At your meeting this month, explain and demonstrate the MIA/POW ceremony. Make plans for the September ceremony. Ask the President and Sr. Vice President to describe or explain the duties and obligations of their offices. Ask the Veterans and Family Services and Scholarship chairmen to explain their programs. Explain what the raps of the gavel mean. Solidify plans for Star Families' celebration and for Patriot Day.

Seek ways to celebrate the VFW birthday with your Post next month. Discuss these days and take pictures. Not only is this good for our program, but we can also assist our Posts with their VPR's.

Last but not least, I'm only a phone call or email away. Feel free to contact me with questions or for more material.



### **AUXILIARY OUTREACH**

**Rene Batson - Chairman**

State Training is behind us now and the new year is underway. You may be asking yourselves, what is Auxiliary Outreach (formerly Auxiliary Community Outreach)? It is one of the many things the VFW Auxiliary is about. Helping our communities grow and prosper by lending a hand to outside organizations that support our communities. Paying it forward for all the support the VFW receives from the people and organizations in our communities.

There are many ways that we can do this. Sometimes it takes a little searching and a little imagination to find the right organization to volunteer yours and your auxiliaries' time. There is a great web site you can search to help you find local organizations in need of volunteers. It is

[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). This website will show you all the organizations in your area where you can volunteer. I have given your district presidents a list of a few ideas of places you can volunteer. I want you all to have fun with the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Take this opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, improve your communities, and so much more.

Remember to take lots of pictures and send in those reports. I'm enjoying reading the ones I have already gotten and seeing the pictures.

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**OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
Candice Baines - Chairman**

I just know everyone is off to a great start this year. By now you should have already started racking up some points! You should already or will by August 31<sup>st</sup>, have earned points by being bonded, turned in your audit, presided meetings, attended training(s) and have held your auxiliary school of instruction. All of these things add up and need to be reported.

Please remember to be mindful that you are all volunteers gathering for the love of veterans and their families. Start planning your fun day to build relationships and strengthen bonds. I feel that the auxiliary, on all levels, needs to get back to the **FUN IN THE PROCESS!** The more fun you have, the more work you will accomplish!

I challenge you all to make my job extremely hard this year, as you are all winners in my book.

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**MEMBERSHIP  
Donna James – Chairman  
Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman**

Membership is off to a great start. We started in July at 75.91%. We need 5403 members before

December 31, 2022 to achieve 100%. We have plenty of time to get this accomplished. Our first goal is to achieve 95% by November 30 to receive \$200.00 from National, which means 4300 members paid before November 30. This is achievable. We have lost 5 members to death

It is a new year and new opportunities. When having fundraisers, always include a membership drive. When visiting your post, ask visitors if they qualify, sign them up. Talk with annual members about becoming life members. As of July 5, 16,900 members are life members.

Thank you to all who participated in the State Training membership drive. It was a success. Keep recruiting and retaining.

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**YOUTH ACTIVITIES  
Karen Jeffrey – Chairman**

It was great to see everyone at the Statewide Training. We will have a highly successful year working together as a team for our youth. This month get started on distributing information.

Go to [www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities) and find information on the three big programs: Patriotism Through Literacy, Illustrating America Art contest and Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue National Anthem singing contest.

Information should be available to schools and other youth groups and at any of your community events as well as provided to all your members.

Remember we want to emphasize “By Youth, for Youth” through youth working with us on events to benefit youth in the community. Two examples would be school supply drives and collecting gifts for Christmas. Groups such as Scouts are eager to assist with these types of projects.

I look forward to your reports and I am available to answer questions. Have fun!

**“Together Everyone Achieves More For Our Veterans”- “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”**

Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas  
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17



**Patriotic Dates**

August 4 – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday  
August 31 – Iraqi Freedom



**Program Participation – August**

- \*\*Schools of Instructions
- \*\*Hospital Pledge
- \*\*Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen/  
Creative Art Scholarship



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Thursday  
9:00 to 4:00  
Closed on Friday

**OTC Information**

Anyone wanting the Our Two Cents emailed contact the Department Office Secretary with a good email address.

Issues can be downloaded from the website around the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.



Please contact the Department Secretary with any small directory changes or State Roster changes. Department Secretary will forward for publication in the OTC.



**AVAILABLE FROM DEPARTMENT**

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Program Book with Flash Drive | \$13.00 |
| Program Book only             | \$10.00 |
| Large Department Roster       | \$10.00 |
| Small Directory               | \$ 5.00 |

Contact Department Office for additional information on ordering and payments



**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Voice of Democracy Theme:  
“Why Is The Veteran Important?”

Patriot Pen Theme:  
“My Pledge To Our Veteran”

**VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Texas  
PO Box 15285  
Austin, Texas 78761**

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**SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS  
THROUGH TEAMWORK**