



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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Volume 33 Issue 3

September, 2022



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

“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care”



Department President Jeanenne Lumpkin

Already September? Wow, what accomplishments we have achieved!! And fun, too! Our training was attended by over 300 members—lots of learning and excitement! Program Coordinator Mona Benotti and the Program Chairmen did a wonderful job of presenting their programs. We had 55 questions asked by our members. Mona and the Program Chairmen have provided answers to these questions, and this information was emailed to all District Presidents who will forward them to their Auxiliary Presidents to share. These are excellent questions which we have all thought to ask at some point. Thank you to all!! You made our training a great success!

The National Convention in Kansas City was a fantastic event! Many congratulations are in order:

**Madam Immediate Department President Karen Kaylor and the Department of Texas achieved the “Circle of Excellence”. Texas is so proud of you!

**Andrea King was presented as the National Area H Council Member.

**National Youth Ambassador and Past Department President Ramona Henson proudly represented the nation and our state. Her presentation of the 2022-2023 Youth Program was outstanding!

**So many of our Program Chairmen received awards in their categories! All of our Program Chairmen did a great job in working their programs to enhance our ability to assist our veterans in every way. Congratulations to all!!

**Congratulations to Madam National President Jane Reape and her officers on their elections. Jane is a wonderful person and will lead the National VFW Auxiliary to an outstanding year! We are looking forward to her visit to Texas in April!!!

**Many thanks are extended to Donna James as the outgoing National Council Member. Thank you for representing Texas the last 2 years.

I visited four Auxiliaries in August—Districts 1, 2, 10, and 17. Thank you to all the members of these Auxiliaries for your kind hospitality. I felt so welcomed and I loved being with each of you!

September is a busy month! Get with your VFW to support all four Patriotic Days and remember to report to our Americanism Chairman!

Some of our members will be attending the 10th Annual Celebrating America’s Freedom Event in Somerset County PA at the Flight 93 National Memorial.

We are looking forward to the Commander’s and President’s Homecoming October 5-8 at the Stockyards in Ft. Worth. You can register and get hotel information at texasvfw.org under Upcoming Events. The registration fee is \$50 which includes the Saturday night banquet and admission to Billy Bob’s. You can attend as many days as you choose. When making your hotel reservations, just click on the nights you will be staying. If you have any questions, please give me a call. I so look forward to spending this fun time with all of you!

I want to thank you for all you do for our veterans!
Each of you are such a vital part of our organization!

Love and Belief



CHAPLAIN CORNER
Irma Solis – Dept. Chaplain

When you love and laugh abundantly, you live
a beautiful life. Author Unknown

Please keep Dept. Jr. Vice President Karen Jeffrey in
your prayers for a healthy recovery. Cards can be sent to
her address in Wellington, Texas. Also please keep all
who are sick, under the weather in your prayers.



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? I know this would make our President very
proud.

Distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies should be
included in every Post, District or Department activity or
anything in which you may participate. Membership
drives, Patriotic events, even Bingo should include
distribution of our favorite flower. When distributing
in your community, be sure and wear your VFW or
Auxiliary caps or other clothing item that identifies you
as a member. Remember, we are not selling "Buddy"®
Poppies but distributing them with the hope of donations.

Aside from the Cross of Malta, the "Buddy"® Poppy
is the most visible symbol of our great organization.
Items to report:

1. Information and/or pictures of your involvement with
the distribution of "Buddy"® Poppies on upcoming
Veterans Day and/or participation in a local county fair
parade. We have several holidays coming up in
September that we can distribute our poppies. Labor Day,
Patriot Day, VFW Day and more.
2. Documentation that your Auxiliary has met the
fiduciary responsibility to Health and Happiness.

I want to thank each Auxiliary that has sent me reports
and those of you that have started getting a new Life
Member for National Home.

Here are a few alternative methods for distributing
"Buddy"® Poppies. Sell coat hanger wreaths made from
Poppies. Use a child-size wire coat hanger and bend it
into a circle. Straighten the hook to make a ground stake.
Decorate with Poppies and decorations. Use Poppies to
make table centerpieces that can be raffled off at
Auxiliary functions. Now let's get busy with all of those
wonderful projects and get those reports in. We
appreciate each and every one of you and your dedication
to this organization.

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Karen Jeffrey – Chairman

Youth and Youth Groups are like "sponges" – given
the opportunity, the knowledge and information - the
desire and interest to participate is there. Include the
Youth in all the projects and programs planned.

The future is our Youth – provide for them
information that will allow a full understanding of what
the organization does, how the Auxiliary helps Veterans
and introduce them to Veterans – give them face time.

Grave Beautification – Statewide Project. This is also
part of the National Program this year. What a wonderful
way to honor our deceased veterans. Respect and
recognition is due no matter how they passed. Youth
should be encouraged to participate in this project. The
cemeteries usually have a lawn care maintenance, but does
not take care of headstones or graves. Organize events
to beautify the headstones.

1. Contact cemeteries
2. Access VA's National Cemetery Administration
guidelines for cleaning of headstones
3. Watch videos on YouTube
4. Take before and after pictures of all headstones
5. Keep log of all gravesites beautified during any event
6. Place flag on gravesite – follow cemetery guidelines

This is a wonderful education tool for any Youth or
Youth Group. Document the event with pictures of who
participated and attached to the report that is made.

Please refer to the Department Program Book for the
new year or the National Program Book on the National
Auxiliary website under Resources.

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MEMBERSHIP

Donna James – Chairman
Ramona Henson – Co-Chairman

Texas is off to a great start. As of July 31, we are 79.76% in membership. The following Auxiliaries are already 100% or more:

District 3	Mesquite	105.56%
	Duncanville	100%
District 4	Baytown	100%
	Crosby	100%
District 5	Wimberley	100%
	Startzville	100%
District 6	George West	100%
District 12	Pittsburg	100%
District 13	Del Rio	100%
District 16	Rosenberg	100%
District 18	McAllen	100%
District 20	Poteet	103.51%
	San Antonio (9186)	100%
District 21	Alvarado	100%
District 28	Smithville	102.78%

We have many that are really close to 100%. Keep up the great work in making the Auxiliaries stronger and always taking care of our Veterans. Our first Department goal is 95% by November 30. We can achieve this working as a team. Contact Bachelor Posts to see if they want an Auxiliary. We need all Posts to have Auxiliaries to help the VFWs with their programs by always working together.

Please, please, please fill out the applications completely. Check and double check so they will not be returned. It only makes the new members wait on processing.

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Denise DuBois

Members are doing a great job in working together to provide guidance and support. Each of you are participating in TEAM efforts to share knowledge and educate the members on our programs and other topics relating to the Auxiliaries.

Members are encouraging better understanding of the Podium Book, our By-laws and further training on keeping our auxiliaries healthy. Challenges have been

made to enable the members to work together while having fun as they take care of our veterans and their families. Every member makes a difference. Members are getting to know one another as they share their skills, talents and passion for our organization.

Contact me if you are interested in Auxiliary 101. I thank each of you for your dedication!

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CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION

Denise DuBois

This has been a very busy two months. Organizational meetings/Schools of Instruction were held. Your bonds have been purchased and 990's are being filed. Great job auxiliaries! Districts have planned great events to make their meetings fun. Keep up the good work. We have auxiliaries that are waiting to be chartered. Requested paperwork is being done. Department Of Texas is growing. Each of us must do our part. Change is a good thing. Taking care of our veterans is our top priority. Working together is a TEAM.

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HOSPITAL

Pamela Fintel

Thank you, TEXAS AUXILIARIES, for all the reports. I have been getting a lot of wonderful reports and I am so excited on your work for our Veterans.

I know some VA Hospitals are opening up slowly and that is OK. We want our Veterans as well as our Volunteer to be safe. One way we can help our VA Hospitals is contacting our Volunteer Services and asking if we can help at the entrance checking temps and asking the COVID symptoms questions as they are coming in.

We also can check our local Hospitals, Nursing Homes and retirement Homes if they need any volunteers. These Non-VA facilities are in your communities. Give them a call let them know we would love to Volunteer in their Facility. Our National Hospital Ambassador, Mary Spindler is challenging us to find creative ways to serve our Veterans. So put your thinking

cap on and let's show her what **TEXAS** Auxiliaries can do!

Remember: It is important to consult with any Nursing home, hospital or VA facility before considering activities, as well as adhering to all their policies, including screenings. **Auxiliary projects must be voted on and approved before they take place.**

We need to continue taking those Honor cards to our Veterans, let them know we Care.

Suicide Awareness Sep 10th – Crisis Line new # is 988. Then PRESS 1. Wear your blue tear drop and carry your Crisis Wallet card. Know the signs. I sent the District Presidents a copy of the printable card I made for you to use as well as the blue teardrop.

9-11- Have a ceremony in honor of our fallen First Responders – we will never forget their sacrifices as some are still suffering. Keep those reports with pictures coming in. Keep up the **AWESOME** work you all are doing for our Veterans.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Robin Swain – Chairman

We are two months in the new year. School has started and hopefully the VOD and Patriotic Pen scholarships have been sent to the schools and maybe posted on social media sites. I want to concentrate this article on the VOD and Patriot's Pen.

Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest theme is **“Why is the Veteran Important”**. The recording must be 3–5-minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a **flash drive or other electronic device**. You will submit the recording, typed essay and the completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. Your Voice of Democracy entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

Patriot's Pen is a written essay and the theme is **“My Pledge to Our Veterans”**. All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300 - 400 words in length (+ or – 5 words max). The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's

Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race or national origin). Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestants. Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition. Your Patriot's Pen entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

I want to thank everyone that has already sent me reports and I look forward to receiving more. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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AMERICANISM

Annie Nickerson – Chairman

Oh, my goodness! What a summer! However, we have all celebrated some of our most dear Patriotic Holidays. As we all remember, we celebrate these days because of our veterans and active-duty personnel. Include and celebrate them as well. Remember to work closely with your Patriotic Instructor.

September is here, so your POW/MIA ceremony should be planned and scheduled. Fine tune those details and share the event information with your community. Convey the deep meaning of the Missing Man Table and share this as well.

Also, plans for your Gold Star Family honor ceremonies should be complete. 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. If you need to research your area for Gold Star Families, check goldstarfamilyregistry.com. You can search by name or community.

Remember to post 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. It also shares our endeavors with the public and furthers community relations. Get your local newspapers involved.

Your patriotic dates this month are listed under the Patriotic Instructor article.

Last but not least, remember to report your activities. I'm enjoying 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. Remember to work closely with the Americanism chairman.

At your meeting this month, explain the following things beginning with how to demonstrate proper respect for the Altar and the *Bible*. Keep in mind that all motion and conversation by the members stop dead in their tracks when the chaplain is on the floor or on his/her way to or from the *Bible* for any reason. Members will NOT cross between the President's station and the Altar as this is considered sacred ground symbolizing where our comrades who have answered the final roll call are at rest. However, when the *Bible* is closed members may pass through this area.

Explain and correctly demonstrate how to stand at attention and parade rest.

Ask the Jr. Vice President to describe or explain the duties and obligations of being Jr. Vice President.

Ask the Americanism chairman to explain his/her program. *Discuss what plans might be appropriate to observe Veterans' Day. *Initiate and discuss the value of the school of instruction just attended. *Assist the Americanism chairman with the final details to honor Gold Star Families and the POW/MIA ceremony.

Your patriotic dates this month are September 2, Victory Over Japan; September 11, Patriot Day; September 16, POW/MIA Day (3rd Friday in September); September 18, U.S. Air Force Birthday (1947); September 25, Gold Star Mothers' and Families' Day (Last Sunday in September); September 29, VFW Birthday. 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. Remember to report. Feel free to contact me with questions or for more material.

LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby – Chairman

We did it!!! Thank you everyone for taking action when the alerts came out on the PACT ACT. It has finally been passed. Remember, we all make a difference.

One of the bills we need to help support is S. 3372, A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida and for other purposes. The VFW supports this legislation which would strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida by establishing an advisory council, care and coordination teams, and policy to delineate the duration of care and benefits.

Please be sure that you know and understand what the legislative goals are for this year. If you have any questions, please contact me. I am here to help you succeed. I am steadily adding more members to my emails. As I have said previously, if you want to be added, please send me your email address.

Please be sure each auxiliary member is receiving the Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter.

You can sign up online to receive this resource at www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-effort. You can also go to the resource page in MALTA under Legislative to find more tools and resources. Remember this is not just for auxiliary and post members; anyone can sign up for it. I am here to help you in any way I can. If you succeed, I succeed. You can email me at tjpurplerose@yahoo.com or by cell phone at 936-414-5293. I just want to remind everyone that

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

Brothers and Sisters thanks for all the reports coming in; 70% are **AMAZING**, 20% are favorable and 10% need a little help. You guys are rocking it. This only

means one thing - you are taking care of our Veterans and their families. Sometimes, when I receive your reports, I get teared eyes for all the wonderful things your Auxiliaries are doing for our Veterans and their families.

Don't forget the **Veteran Caregiver Challenge**, recognize or reward them with an act of kindness. Our Veterans really depend on them.

On your reports, please use the new updated form 2022-2023, complete the form, email or mail it to me. Please report only one program per form, multiple projects (activities) for that same program may be included. The report form is the last page on your Program Development Guide 2022-2023. If you are having problems with your printer no worries, mail it to me please. One more thing, please send me pictures of your events.

If you have any questions on the programs that are available to us, please contact me anytime.

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**AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Rene Batson - Chairman**

It's the beginning of a new Auxiliary year and you all are amazing. I have received so many great Auxiliary Outreach reports and pictures already. Keep them coming! I have also had several phone calls and emails with many questions. Please remember that anything you participate in for Auxiliary Outreach must be voted on by your membership at your monthly meetings.

With schools back in session, the holidays coming around the corner, colder weather and much more, it is the perfect time to get involved in your communities. There are so many out there that need our help and support.

Remember Auxiliary Outreach is a great way to pay it forward to our communities for the years of support they have given to our VFW's and Auxiliaries.



Want to thank everyone for cards for Clif & myself. He is hanging there."

Love to all
Millie Holland

Program Participation – September

- **Worldwide Suicide Awareness Day – Sept. 10
- **Patriot Day – Sept. 11
- **POW/MIA Recognition Day – 3rd Friday – Sept.
- **Gold Star Families – Last Sunday – Sept.

YOUTH CO-CHAIRMAN

When reporting, please send to both the Department Chairman and the Co-Chairman

Kathy Marrelli
5409 Carlson Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
us@wf.net

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

Laurie Hayes-Wiley

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard

Endorsed by VFW Auxiliary District 17

OFFICE HOURS

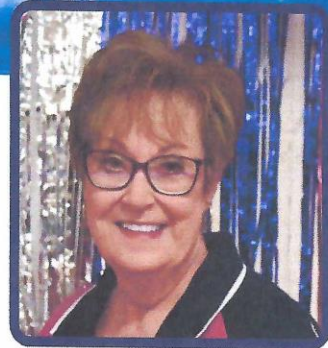
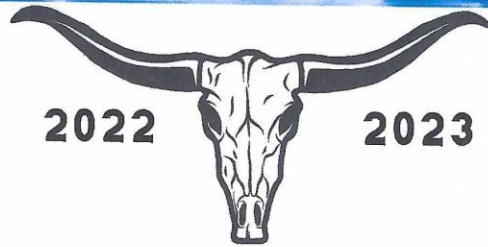
Monday – Thursday
8:00 to 4:00
Closed on Friday

Office Closed September 5

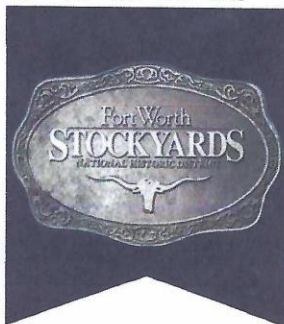
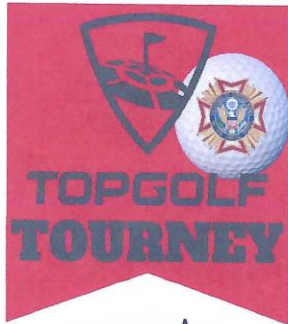


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

\$50 PER PERSON
(Deadline: September 26, 2022)



**STATE COMMANDER & PRESIDENT'S
HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 5-9, 2022**



★ HOMECOMING REGISTRATION ★

FULL NAME :

PHONE :

ADDRESS :

CITY :

STATE :

ZIP CODE :

POST/AUX :

DISTRICT #

T-SHIRT SIZE : S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL
CIRCLE ONE

TYPE OF CARD :

REGISTRATION IS \$50/PERSON

CARD :

INCLUDES:

- MAIN HOCO EVENT @ 81 CLUB
- CONCERT @ BILLY BOB'S
- SCAVENGER HUNT
- T-SHIRT (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

EXP DATE :

CVV CODE :

MM/YY

LAST 3 OR 4 #'S ON BACK OF CARD

\$3 CREDIT CARD FEE APPLIED TO ALL CARD TRANSACTIONS

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VFW 10429
MAIL PAYMENT & COMPLETED FORM TO:
BENBROOK MEMORIAL VFW POST 10429
1000 STEVENS DRIVE
BENBROOK, TX 76126
- OR- EMAIL INFO@VFW10429.ORG



FREE T-SHIRT w/ REGISTRATION
before SEPTEMBER 26th



REGISTER ONLINE

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

**Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
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ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED



**CELEBRATING TEAMWORK
FOR OUR VETERANS**