



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 off, I would like to extend congratulations to all that achieved awards at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. The success and recognition reflect proudly on the Department of Texas Auxiliary and the commitment to the Veterans.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings” Team my sincerest thanks and appreciation for helping the Department of Texas Auxiliary achieve a successful and educational statewide training. All the material that was received should be utilized and shared with the members.

To the Department Officers, appointed and elected, I pledge 100% commitment to the work and success that an organized and harmonic team can achieve. Texas will shine.

Please contact the Department Office if there are any changes to emails, phone numbers or the Auxiliary offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

District visits will start this month. I look forward to visiting with the members, meeting new members and enjoying the Auxiliaries and their achievements.

“Unless you treat failure as part of the journey, you’re never going to get anywhere.”

Tom Selleck

District Visits

August 5	District 17
August 12	District 12
August 13	District 1
August 19	District 5
August 20	District 13

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Candice Baines – Chairman

Patsy Kemp – Chairman

Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman

Your leadership role is to inspire, educate, motivate and communicate; to create a vision of the future that is vivid and compelling and that motivates members to want to be active and achieve. Everyone wants to be a part of something that makes a difference in the community.

As a leader, you are best able to help the members of your team connect what they do in their community with the impact of our mission of service to our veterans, military and their families. **(Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation)**

Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation is a great tool of instruction to help navigate the National Bylaws and Rituals, lists of officer and chairmen duties, program project planning and reporting and offers ideas and instructions for membership and recruiting. If you find the Bylaws and Rituals a little confusing, please look to this reference to help clarify as it uses terms that everyone can understand while giving reference to where to find information in the Bylaws and Rituals book.

Please ask your President or District President to share the information passed out at Statewide Training. It contains all this information along with several other tools that will help you along your journey. Do your best, be yourself and remember to always C.A.R.E.

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



SCHOLARSHIP

Dorthy L. Bennett – Chairman

Time will be flying fast for this program year. If you haven't already done so, please contact schools, home school associations, church schools, and youth organizations with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Remember deadline to the Post is October 31, 2023 for both contests. Work with you Post Scholarship Chairman to distribute information to parents, teachers, counselors and youth. We are here to help the Post with this part of the Scholarship program.

Young Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest are sponsored by the National VFW Auxiliary. These are funded through the Auxiliary. We are asking that the Auxiliary donate to these scholarships. Please note that the deadline for these projects is March 31, 2024 to the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary and then to me by April 15. These are firm dates. Please don't mail on April 15, 2024 they will be late and will be disqualified.

Please encourage Auxiliary members who would like to continue their education to complete the Continuing Education Essay. The application is found on the National Site. This application must be submitted with a 300 word or less essay. The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2024.

Information for all the programs listed here may be found in the member resources section on Malta and through me as chairman.

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MEMBERSHIP

Beth West – Chairman

Shawn Terry – Co-Chairman

Our National Ambassador, Ansje Lansing, asks us “Will you be the talent scout, director, cameraman or even a key grip?” in this movie we are working on: Membership.

What does a talent scout for the Auxiliary look like? They are people who are passionate about this organization and its mission to serve veterans and their families. They are in all shapes and sizes, from all walks of life and yet have all chosen to spend their time, talents and treasures taking care of our veterans and their families. In other words, they look like YOU!!!

While we are cooling off trying to beat this August heat, while we are holding Back-to-School drives, while we are getting into the swing of this new year, make sure you are recruiting through your words and deeds.

Talk up the Auxiliary. You joined because you believe in this organization. Who do you know is like-minded and not yet a member? Ask them. The answer is “No!” until asked. Show your passion and

joy in all you do around the Post and your community. Show them we have fun doing this. Many times, actions speak louder than words. Each one of us can be a talent scout. Keep your eyes open to possibilities. Speak when there is an opportunity. Listen to your veterans and their family members. Be bold in your excitement for this organization. **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings” - “Banding Together For Our Veterans”**



LEGISLATIVE
Cheyenne Harper –Chairman

What is Legislative? We could use the Google version which is having the power to make laws. My definition is having the power to change laws. We are in this organization to help veterans and improve their daily living. With legislation, we can change the way veterans receive healthcare. They deserve so much.

Going in to that statement have you looked into the after action. Right now, on the VFW Legislation, we are fighting the Camp Lejeune Act, which is where veterans and their families were exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals.

Please research information on past chemical contamination. We can help fight this battle by writing to our Congress members and House of Representatives and asking them to assist in helping our veterans and their families with this pain and their losses.

Email: chychycoke@gmail.com
#903-328-4724 - please text

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
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VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Tammie Mosby – Chairman
Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman

It was really good to see everyone at State Training. We hope everyone is as excited for this new year as we are.

Just want to remind everyone to spread the word about National Veterans Service (NVS). Remember the NVS helps veterans, service

members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve at no cost.

We also want to remind everyone about the veterans and military support programs initiated by the VFW: Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and the VFW “Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”. These programs serve active-duty and recently discharged military.

Most important don’t forget the Veterans’ Crisis Line. This line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat or text.

“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”
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YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Teresa Ramon – Chairman
Michelle Booker – Co-Chairman

Greetings to all. It’s summer. The children are out of school and maybe your grand kids came to visit. What can you do to keep them entertained? What a great opportunity for you to participate with your local libraries and read to our youths. How about introducing our youth to our Patriotism Through Literacy program? You can read to them or have them read to you.

There are many wonderful books Flag Day (June 14th), (ages 8-10) by Connor Dayton and Juneteenth (June 19th) by Van G. Garrett (ages 4-8) are just a few. These are very important dates in our American history.

You can read books like America the Beautiful, by Cholena Rose Dare (age 3-6) and sing songs like God Bless America. Teach them about historical writings like the Gettysburg Address. Make learning about our country fun and Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue. After reading or singing about these historical events, ask questions. Reward them when given the correct answer with a ribbon or a tasty treat. School maybe out for the summer but there are always opportunities to teach our youth about the history of our country.

Teaching our youth the history of America will help them to learn and appreciate what freedom really means and the price that was paid to achieve it. Let’s continue to give our youth the tools

knowledge to build a strong foundation built on Honor, Patriotism and Loyalty to be the leaders of tomorrow. **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”



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

Now that we have State Training under our belts and have learned even more about our programs, including Auxiliary Outreach; we should be a little more prepared to help our communities improve by lending a hand to the organizations that support our communities. That is one of the many things that define the VFW Auxiliary. Giving back to the people and organizations in our communities for all the support they give to the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary is a great way of showing appreciation.

Think about reaching out to particular groups that may have an ongoing project throughout the year which your Auxiliary, in part or as a whole, can support; one that all or a group of your members can participate in during the year. Individuals may also choose to participate in particular events or activities with different groups.

Projects involving senior citizen center activities, blood drives, youth groups, food pantries, first responders' safety programs, helping with a literacy program for children or adults are just a few ideas. You might want to check this website www.volunteermatch.org to see if there are organizations in your area needing help.

The Auxiliary Outreach Program was created to bring the VFW Auxiliary together with the community. By working side by side, we can better both the community and the VFW Auxiliary.

We hope you will have fun with this program, meet new people and enjoy being out in your communities. We look forward to seeing all of your reports and pictures and finding out what you are doing to strengthen the VFW Auxiliary's relationship with your communities.

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HOSPITAL/VAVS
Pamela Fintel – Chairman

WOW! What a great Statewide Training!!! So much fun and so much information. I am so glad we had the time together to toss around some wonderful ideas for the Hospital/VAVS Program. It is already August and school will be starting and the holidays are coming. So, start NOW and plan your Hospital/VAVS events. All projects done by the VFW Auxiliary must be voted on at a regular meeting and recorded in the minutes. Plan ahead.

We have so many OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER. These next months are prime time to get those Volunteers. Remember you don't have to be a member of the VFW Auxiliary to help. You as a Volunteer are so crucial to our VA and Non-VA Facilities. I can't wait to read your reports and hear what your Auxiliary is doing to make a difference for our Veterans.

Women have served our nation for generations and are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population. You can learn more at www.va.gov/womenvet. You can also call 855-829-6636 to the Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) M-F 8am-10pm ET.

I am so excited about celebrating Non-traditional holiday cards. This has been so fun to do and the Veterans absolutely love it. It has brought a lot of SMILES! Check out this link www.nationaldaycalendar.com. Our National Hospital Ambassador wanted to “shake” things up this year. So, let's show her that TEXAS can really shake it up. Our Veterans love to get cards from us and this is just another way to show them WE are thinking of them and WE CARE!

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Denise DuBois

Statewide training was held with a great attendance. Christmas In July proved to be a fun time as membership came together and new ideas were shared and goals will be accomplished.

I would like to thank the trainers and the chairpersons for doing a fine job. Hearing the programs shared with the heartfelt dedication will

always keep our Veterans and at their families taken care in Texas.

Thanks again for each and every member and the desire from each to make each day a better day for our organization. Keep doing all you can! It does not go unnoticed.

Be proud of yourself. You're doing a great job!

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“BUDDY” POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME

**Denise DuBois – Chairman
Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman**

It is great seeing each of you at Statewide Training and sharing our program with you. As you know, there are many changes going on with the Buddy Poppy. We will be seeing a new style of the poppy and each poppy will be made of metal. These poppies will be made in Kansas City by Cottonwood Inc. and a group of disabled individuals will assist in that effort. They can be purchased directly through the VFW store and can usually be shipped within 3 days. Let's be sure and use the buddy poppies you have on hand to make memories for our auxiliary as we share with others.

Many ideas and suggestions were shared at training and as promised, we will keep you updated. “The only way to do great work is to love what you do”.

VFW National Home

Oh, my goodness, wasn't it a fun time at statewide training! As we gathered, we learned more about our National Home. They are centering on the needs of the military, veterans and their families. The VFW National Home logo has changed also.

We encourage you to become life members of the VFW National Home and to purchase a brick in honor of or in memory of someone special.

Please consider becoming a Hometown Hero. This can be done by a monthly donation which is guaranteed money for the National Home to help them plan their budgets.

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AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

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

It was great seeing everyone at the department training! We hope everyone found it educational and fun. There are so many things we can do and be part of that and enhance our duty to our country and our veterans. Feel patriotism surge and share that passion with others and our homebound veterans. Contact various businesses around town to see if you can set up a Missing Man Table in their facility. Many churches, banks and hardware stores have space in their lobbies and are very cooperative in helping share the ceremony.

As Patriotic Instructors we need to encourage families to participate in their children's education, both at school and at home. We need to promote the patriotic holidays coming up in September: **Patriot Day** - September 11th, **Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day** - 3rd Friday of September, **Gold Star Family Day** – Last Sunday in September.

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EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION

Chief of Staff - Debbie Daniel

The 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary as required by the National Organization are;

1. Auxiliaries should have at least (10) **TEN BUSINESS MEETINGS PER YEAR**. (Sec 210) Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business (Sec 212)

2. Dues should be paid by at least 10 members on or before February 1 of the current year (Sec 207)

3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted (Sec 814)

4. Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30th. This generates the bond application via email. (Sec 804A and 806A)

5. The offices of President and Treasurer **MUST** be bonded by August 31st

District Presidents, you should have set up your visits to the Auxiliaries in your Districts. If you have a large District, start those visits. Be honest in your findings when you do your inspections. Problems can't be fixed if they are not addressed. Use your visit to instruct and mentor an Auxiliary President and its members. Never be overbearing or ugly to members. Praise where it is indicated whether it be as an Auxiliary or an individual member.

Deputy Chief of Staffs, listen to your District members, work with your District President and be ready to squelch problems before they have a chance to blow up. Aid your Auxiliaries with needs that ensure they are in good working order. Assist the District President in trying to institute new Auxiliaries. You know your bachelor posts and what their needs are. Talk to them, work with them if they are interested and help them find the prospective Auxiliary members, they need to get an Auxiliary started.

Bonds **MUST** be purchased no later than August 31st. If your Auxiliary has not done so, make sure you get it done as soon as possible.

“We will Band Together for Our Veterans” with the “Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”

Upcoming Office Closures
September 4 Memorial Day

JEANENNE LUMPKIN
Candidate for National Council Member
Area H
2024-2026
Endorsed by
Auxiliary 9182 District 17

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**Small Directory Changes**

\*\*\***Soloist** – Roslyn Mims-Lewis – correct email: [croserml@gytc.com](mailto:croserml@gytc.com)  
 \*\*\***PDP Aletha Jeter** – correct phone number & email: 281-731-8658 / [alethajeter2u@gmail.com](mailto:alethajeter2u@gmail.com)  
 \*\*\***Patriotic Instructor Carol Brietzke** – correct Phone #: 210-860-9575  
 \*\*\***District 24 President Barbara Koehn** – correct Phone #: 361-772-7498  
 \*\*\***Rachel Robinson – 8136 Aux President (District 24)** – correct Phone #: 361-564-8725  
 \*\*\***PDP Millie Holland** – correct Phone #: 903-471-5660

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GERALD SPRADLIN
CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY GUARD
2024-2025
Endorsed by District 19 & Auxiliaries
Endorsed by Post/Auxiliary 1836

AVAILABLE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR PURCHASING

Training Book	\$10.00
Program Book	\$10.00
Roster	\$10.00
Small Directory	\$ 3.00
2 for	\$ 5.00

History of the Organization

*Taken from 100 Years of Our Veterans Ladies
Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars*

1914-1919

September 14, 1914 marks the official foundation of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



First National President
Margaret Armstrong.

Founded by the women relatives of Spanish-American War veterans. The Auxiliary's responsibility was to assist veterans and their families, promote patriotism and raise funds to help veterans in need.

After the Civil War, volunteer groups became more organized. Veterans' organizations were forming. In 1866, several of these groups consolidated to form the veterans' organization that would dominate American social and political life for the next 60 years, The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). In 1882, delegates from many GAR women's clubs gathered to form the Woman's Relief Corps. At the National Encampment of 1883 the GAR adopted the Corps as its official Auxiliary. Two years later saw the formation of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. By 1889 the GAR had a total of five Auxiliaries.

In 1889 the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the Army of the Philippines, the first two overseas veterans' organizations merged to become the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Remembering how the GAR had been revitalized by their women's Auxiliaries, the men issued a call for women's groups and found that call answered immediately. The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was born.

The first Encampment was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1914, where the initial group of Auxiliary members adopted temporary Bylaws and assumed legal status with 47 members.

Instead of focusing on one socioeconomic class, the Auxiliary accepted members of any income, religious or racial group. Overcoming class consciousness and money snobbery gave the Auxiliary its greatest strengths.

On April 3, 1918, the President of the United States went before Congress to declare that a state of war already existed.

As the war became reality, millions of women became war workers. Auxiliary members turned their parlors into sewing stations to make soldiers' supplies and surgical dressings. They joined the Red Cross. Focused on helping wounded veterans by wrapping bandages, making lap robes and pillows, visiting in the hospital and helping veterans' families.

In general, women took traditional men's jobs working on assembly lines in factories, making "war" products. The strength, independence, patriotism and support demonstrated by these women gained the respect of many, almost guaranteeing the passing of women's suffrage after the war.

Through good times and bad, the Ladies Auxiliary VFW has been there to lend a helping hand, provide person-to-person assistance and remind Americans that everyone must do their part to ensure we retain our freedom.

From the women who founded the organization to those who carried the torch forward year after year, Auxiliary members exhibited passion for their country and for those who sacrificed so much in the name of freedom.

As membership exploded during the war years and world events impacted the nation, the organization found it needed to take on a more independent role, establishing its own programs. Eventually, the Auxiliary saw the need to migrate from serving only veterans to serving all mankind.

In 1917, once the U.S. decided to go to war, Auxiliary sisters led by National President Sadie Kern, stopped selling memberships and started selling Liberty Bonds.

Subscribing to the bonds was one way for many Americans to show their patriotism. Rallying cries and slogans included, **"Keep the home fires burning", "Do your bit" and "if you can't enlist-invest. Buy a Liberty Bond. Defend your country with your dollars."**

Hollywood stars, such as Charlie Chaplin, were engaged to help spread the message, encouraging Americans to buy these war bonds. Even President Woodrow Wilson did his part.

The Auxiliary's 6th annual convention also went on amidst the celebration and victory parades. Lydia Riegel, National President gave a touching thank you to close out the meeting. The Auxiliary had survived and was growing stronger.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
Circle of Excellence - Jeanenne Lumpkin**

Americanism	2 nd Place	Annie Nickerson
Extension/Revitalization	1 st Place	Denise DuBois
Historian/Media Relations	2 nd Place	Bernadette "Berne" Adams
Hospital	1 st Place	Pamela Fintel
VAVS Volunteer of the Year	2 nd Place	Glenda Hunt
Legislative	1 st Place	Tammie Mosby
Membership	2 nd Place	Donna James
Recruiter Achievement Award – 20 members		Donna James
Scholarships	2 nd Place	Robin Swaim

Information was provided via text and phone calls from attendees at the convention.
If any winners have been overlooked or left out, please let me know and it will be corrected in the
September Issue of the OTC.

AUGUST

August 12	National Bowling Day	August 14	World Lizard Day National Garage Sale Day National Creamsicle Day
August 18	National Pinot Noir Day National Fajita Day	August 26	National Dog Day
August 27	National Just Because Day	August 28	National Thoughtful Day

