



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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Department President

Ramona Henson

Soaring Thru Texas



April is here and your Year-End Reports are due to your District Presidents by the 10th of this month. District Presidents, you are reminded again, send those reports to the individual Department Chairmen. DO NOT send them to the Department Office, the Program Coordinator, or me.

Department Chairmen, please have your Year-End Reports to me by April 30, so I can do my report to National on May 1st.

Auxiliary Presidents, any reportable activities you have between now and the end of this VFW Year should be saved and reported to the Chairmen for 2021-2022.

It's audit time again, please remember that you audit in April, and you do not have to perform the audit at your post home. You can find an alternative location that is convenient for the President, Secretary, Treasurer and all three Trustees. REMEMBER that the 1year Trustee calls the audit, not the Treasurer.

The link is up on the VFW website for the State Convention in Durant Oklahoma. Go to texasvfw.org to make your reservations. The rooms are going fast, so don't delay in making those reservations.

This has been an amazing year of challenges and losses. I would like to commend the members of the Department of Texas Auxiliary for all your hard work. You have met every challenge head-on and overcome every roadblock by thinking outside the box.

You are an outstanding group of people and it has been my honor to serve as your Department President for this year. As we visited each District, you have treated us like family. You need to know how very much it was appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our State Convention.

Let us all be reminded that in a world where you can be anything, be kind in our quest for **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans** as we **Honor Our Mission To Serve Veterans.**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Mona Benotti - Chairman

We've come a long way this year with our Youth Activities, but we are not yet finished. Now is the time to make sure the following is complete:

- By April 15, submit your first-place winner to me (one per auxiliary) for **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue** – the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” using the exact words to the song – and **Illustrating America** (one first-place winner for grades 1-2, 3-5 and 6-8) for the patriotic art.
- Review your year and submit any reports on youth activities that you have not yet sent to me. See awards list below and make sure I know about your successful program.
- Be sure to send me citation requests for **Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans**. My last date to submit these to National is April 20. Showcase all your accomplishments. Now is not the time to be shy. Submit your **Year-End Report** to your District President by April 10. We need to be 100% in reporting.

These are the Youth Activities awards that will be given at State Convention in June:

- * Best promotion/participation of **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue**

Plaque for 1st place in each division
Citations for 2nd & 3rd place in each division

- * Best promotion/participation of **Patriotism through Literacy**

Plaque for 1st place in each division
Citations for 2nd & 3rd place in each division

- * Best promotion/participation in **Illustrating America**

Plaque for 1st place in each division
Citations for 2nd & 3rd place in each division

- * Best program Statewide Project: **Include the American Flag**

Plaque for 1st place in each division
Citations for 2nd & 3rd place in each division

It's been wonderful to work with all of you this year and I look forward to the rest of the year and seeing many brothers and sisters at State Convention. If you can't find something you need, contact me so we can find it together: mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729. Thank you for all the wonderful work you have done with our youth.

**“HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT FOR
OUR VETERANS”**
**“HONORING OUR MISSION TO SERVE
VETERANS”**

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois – Chairman

Can you believe it's April already? Yes, it is time for the Year-End Reports. The form is in your program book and is due to your District President by April 10th and then on to me no later than April 20, 2021.

I am super excited to confirm that we have 51 mentors in the Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary. Our National Ambassador, Erin, has encouraged us all year to focus on Mentoring inside and outside Auxiliary business meetings, to host training sessions, to share knowledge and continue to use the online tools to build a strong foundation and serve our mission. It is time for us to encourage new leaders to lead. Elections are right around the corner. Have you started to recognize who would be a great leader? Please remember that all our members have strengths and abilities. Training is important. Communication is important. Leaders should always show respect to their members and praise their accomplishments. Continue to be a R.O.C.K.

It has been a great year and each of you has done a wonderful job for our organization.

Remember: Success does not depend on your age, a degree, your wealth or your IQ; it depends on your belief in yourself and consistent action toward your goals.

Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans
Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans



HOSPITAL
Patricia Kessler - Team Chair
Merriam Kubena - Team Co-Chair

Here we are already in April with only a few months left in this year. You will be sending in your Year-End Reports before long. Please remember to include the information that you sent on your monthly reports on your Year-End Reports.

Valentines for Veterans

I'm very disappointed that I did not receive many reports on this project. With the hospitals and nursing homes closed to families I thought this would be a great national program to cheer our veterans up. This has been a trying time, but we cannot let our veterans down.

Provides Needs

How the VFW Auxiliary members participate:

1. Submit projects to your auxiliary so they can vote on it and then Get-It Done.

2. Auxiliary members you can make lap robes, hats, quilts, cards, etc. If you have a quilting circle in your town go talk to them and see if they can help.

3. Have a fundraiser for the Department's Hospital fund.

4. Our veterans come back from the front line to the home front. Some are injured some are suffering from PTSD. Get out there and help. But don't forget our Veterans that have been home for years. They fought for our freedom remember them. Auxiliaries put together a thank you program. Present it to your own post, they need to be thanked also. We are always doing for the VA hospitals; nursing homes and we forget to thank our own Post members. Put something together.

Special Project

Some of you have done a great job on our special project. Your final task on that is to send me how many pillows were made, where they were sent to, how many involved to complete, and money spent and mileage.

Reports

I only have 32 monthly reports from the state of Texas. That is very poor. You still have time to get busy helping VETERANS. Please, please you can do it. This is the best organization in the world. Let's get out and show what we are made of. Help our veterans through our hospital program.

I have enjoyed so much being your Hospital Chairman. Have a wonderful rest of the year.

“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”
“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”



AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Susie Carter - Chairman

As always with any new program we have had a few hiccups but all is well we have overcome; our National Ambassador Diane Peak has given us this recap on the criteria for our program:

- Auxiliary Community Outreach is for projects **NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs.**
- Projects occur in the community and not at the Post.
- Project participation must be approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.
- While you are volunteering wear VFW attire such as a shirt, hat or name badge.
- Count only the number of members and number of hours of service.

- **No money** is reported. (Monetary donations can be recorded thru your local post community service program.)
- This is not the same Program as the VFW Community Service.

How to find community volunteer projects:

- Visit Facebook pages and websites of non-profits in your community; volunteer opportunities and projects are often posted online.
- Check community boards at coffee shops, libraries, grocery stores and community centers.
- Look at the event calendar for listings in your local community.
- Ask friends involved in other organizations if they need assistance.

Report forms can be found on the web site (texasvfwauxiliary.org). It only takes a few minutes to fill it out.

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LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby – Chairman

By now everyone should be getting their end of year reports to me. I have read so much of what everyone has done despite COVID. I am so proud of Texas. We have a lot to do in the next 2 years. Remember our fight is not over, we must continue to talk to our representatives not only nationally but on the state level also. We are the voice for our veterans.

There is an important bill that has been filed in the State of Texas. It is SB 989. This will allow Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts with a TABC license to be exempt from closure by future Emergency Orders. It will address the legal shortcomings and procedures identified by the COVID-19 pandemic and will allow our more than 290 posts to remain open regardless of any future emergency circumstances so that we can serve and contribute to our communities and care for all Veterans and their families as we have consistently done for the past 100 years. It is very important that you contact your state representatives to vote in favor of this bill.

The average cost of a new adaptive vehicle that disabled veterans need to drive safely and maintain their independence ranges from \$40,000 to \$65,000. U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) introduced bipartisan legislation that would reduce the

financial burden for severely disabled veterans who require special adaptive equipment to drive a motor vehicle. The *Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities (AUTO) for Veterans Act* would make these veterans eligible to receive a grant to help purchase a new adaptive vehicle once every ten years, helping them to drive safely and maintain their independence. Companion legislation was introduced in the House by Representatives Dan Meuser (R-PA) and David Trone (D-MD).

I want to remind everybody to 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.

I have enjoyed being your Legislative Chairman this year. I encourage everyone to keep up the good fight for our Veterans and I look forward to seeing everyone at our State Convention.

Remember there are things that we do in our daily lives that can be reported. Things do not have to be done as a group each individual can report. This is one of the ways we, as auxiliary members, have **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans** as we are **Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**.



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Bernadette Adams

Here we are at the end of another year. Let us not forget about my Statewide Project this year. Please help me finish my project; for those who have not given me information on your post, please do so.

I would like a short paragraph from those Auxiliaries on how the post received their name (if after the town or a person), the date the VFW Post was chartered and when the Auxiliary was chartered (both of these are required to be posted in the post for your meetings), along with a picture of the VFW Post Home. This is a picture of the building only. If there have been changes to the building or you are a new VFW, then I would like that picture to update my records. If you are a new Auxiliary, please send me your information on your post.

As Chairperson for the Historian/Media Relations, Madame President Ramona, thank you for allowing me to be your Historian/Media Relation Chairperson. It was a pleasure and a very trying year with COVID-19, but we

made it through it with “Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans” while “Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”.



CHAPLAIN RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Susie Carter - Chaplain

Chaplains, I want you all to know that I believe you are the wind beneath our wings. You support us so much each day. Thank you for all that you do.

Remember that when you send me a report/scrapbook you are not bragging on yourselves you are just sharing your stories.

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REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!  
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“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”
“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Tanya Jackson – Chairman

HAPPY SPRING DISTRICT PRESIDENTS!! Did you think that we would get to April? Here it is! April is here and we are looking at reports and pictures. Did you get yours in? You still have time. Call your auxiliary presidents and make sure that they have sent in a report. Tell them to utilize email so that they get in quickly. I will put both emails at the bottom of this little reminder.

BUDDY POPPY - This has been a year that has given us the opportunity to work outside the box to do fundraising. Did you put out the hat? Did your auxiliary do a dinner that was pick up only? Were you able to distribute? This is what needs to go into the reports. Did your auxiliary do a doll? Report that to us. This has been a trying year for all of us. But THANK YOU for all that you have done to make it a success.

NATIONAL HOME – “Unrestricted Funds”, the funds that are needed to help the National Home with costs that does not come from our House Funds. This is what I was told that they needed the most help with. Did your auxiliary donate to this? Did you report this? Has your auxiliary done at least 2 VFW National Home Life Members? Report this. Please remember that the VFW

National Home counts on us all for donations to help with the costs to run this very important place for OUR children. I would like to say THANK YOU for all the donations that went to this important place.

Very quickly. I would like to thank Brenda Foltz for being an amazing Co-Chair. She has been a driving force to keep me on track and to keep me on time. I would not have wanted to make this journey without her. When I moved, she stayed on top of me to make sure that I had everything where it needed to be. THANK YOU BRENDA AND I LOVE YOU!!!

We are all important and we are all in place to do the work of our programs, thank you. If you need to send a report, please do so now.

Year End Reports are due to District Presidents by April 10th, they will then send them to us by April 20th. You have time to get your reports in. The email addresses for reports are: tanyajackson@ymail.com and txblueeyes53@yahoo.com.

If you need to ask questions, please call or email and I will do my best to get an answer to you.

Remember that we are “**HONORING OUR MISSION TO SERVE VETERANS**” with “**HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT**” every day.



CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION
Donna James

The year is ticking by quickly. Now is the time to get obligations and membership paid.

As of March 10, we still need 818 members. Members that have not paid are not in good standing. On June 30 midnight, if not paid, you will no longer be a member. Many Auxiliaries have not paid their obligations. Please get these paid.

Elections are soon. If you are interested in becoming an Officer, step up and let your voice be heard. Anyone can run for any office as long as they are a member in good standing.

We are proud to welcome our New Auxiliaries: Killeen, Tyler, Garland and Cleburne. We are still working on three more. We lost a few Auxiliaries this year because of aging members. We need to recruit younger members because most of us are getting older and tired. New faces mean new ideas!

Remember, to have a Zoom meeting, 5 members need to be present at the meeting in person.

Keep up the good work supporting our Veterans during this pandemic year.

Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans
Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans



SCHOLARSHIP
Norita Jackson - Chairman

Hello April! As we head into more warm and welcome weather, we are also coming to the close of our scholarship program season. You all have been called upon to carry on, even in the unprecedented history making climate we found ourselves in. Better days are in sight. Faced with the challenges we had to overcome, never doubt that you all put forth an incredible effort and it is so apparent from the reports I have received that participation in the programs and contests did not suffer. Great job! You are much appreciated! While the March 31st deadline for the student to post artwork entries to be received has passed, I look forward to receiving your first-place winners “signature required” by April 15, 2021. All art-work should be securely packed for safety and preservation during mailing of the artwork. Please confirm that all required signatures and completed applications, along with the artists typed descriptions of the artwork are attached. Entries submitted without all of the required documentation will be disqualified. So please do the due diligence of checking and double checking out of respect to the hardworking and patriotic student up for consideration.

Don't forget to show appreciation to all of our participants and do publicly announce and celebrate all those worthy participants. Please consult the website at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resouces for a detailed checklist and more for useful forms and tools. The first place winner at Department will be submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging by May 5, 2021. Deadlines are strict.

Speaking of appreciation and awards, I do hope we didn't miss the chance to be recognized for jobs well done in promoting and getting the word out about the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. National will award the Auxiliary with the “Most Outstanding Promotion” of the contest in one of the 4 conferences. That winning Auxiliary will receive a citation and \$25.00 directly to the auxiliary. Once I receive the auxiliary's application for consideration, I will sign it and submit it to National, where it will be decided. I know the gifted

individuals that I have been privileged to serve with are due the recognition. I look forward to hearing good results from this award.

Please be mindful of Year-End reporting. The deadline for those reports to be submitted to your district presidents is April 10, 2021, whereby district presidents have a deadline date to submit reports to the Department by April 20, 2021. Timely reports are crucial, so that everyone can meet their requirements and expected deadlines. Year-end reports are due to Madam Department President from Department Chairmen, so that she can meet her deadlines. On time is expected and required. Late reports cannot be accepted and included in the reporting.

Out of fairness and respect to and for your auxiliaries, District President, Department Chairmen and Madam Department President as to the hard work they have done, please make sure those reports are ON TIME! Let's strive for 100% participation in this effort.

Please take pride in knowing that your work has been so instrumental in upholding and supporting the mission of the VFW and Auxiliary in fulfilling our purpose to the Veterans and Active-Duty Military, their families, and communities. The Scholarship Program has provided not only a sense of pride and patriotism, but also enriched today's youth in ways too numerous for words alone.

The best way I know how to describe this is in dissecting "PURPOSE." You come to realize that we are Pursuing Useful Relevant Proactive Objectives Serving Everyone!

RECAP OF DEADLINES DUE:

March 31st (passed) Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest entry to Auxiliary

April 10th VFWA and District Judging Complete

April 15th 1st Place Winner received at Department Scholarship Chair for judging

Send to: Norita Jackson 2815 Williams Way Ct., Dallas, Tx 75228 *Signature Required and will not be accepted after April 15th.

May 5th Department Winner submitted to National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters

Happy Resurrection Day Y'all!! You have truly upheld **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans** all while **Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Shawn Terry Chairman

Spring has sprung and everything is in bloom. It has been quite a challenging year where "normalcy" is a foreign concept. But even with the challenges put before everyone, auxiliaries have continued to get out and do what is needed to care for our veterans! I have thoroughly enjoyed this year as the Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Chairman. It has been an honor to serve Madam President Ramona and all of the auxiliaries this year.

As we all know, this month is crunch time for getting your final monthly reports in (remembering to include pictures of event if possible and copies of checks for money spent) as well as filling out the Year End Reports and getting them to your district presidents. I would like to kindly ask that you fill out your Year End Reports and send them to your district president. The deadline for this is April 10th. This means that they need to be in the district presidents' hands no later than April 10th. The district presidents will then collect all Year End Reports and send them to me via email or mail no later than April 20, 2021. It is my hope that every district will be 100% in reporting. I know this is an attainable goal.

I look forward to seeing as many auxiliary members as possible in Oklahoma for the State Convention. Thank you all again for everything you do help our precious veterans.

"Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans" "Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans"



MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Koehn – Team Leader

2021 has continued to be an exciting and challenging year. With the pandemic and the deep-freeze we have been struggling with; the Texas VFW Auxiliary has persevered and continues to studiously work on our membership. Texas now stands at 96.59% so we still have some work to do before the end of the year. We have 2 Districts that are 100% and over and 21 Districts over 90%. There are 3 Districts who are below 90% who can make a big difference in our stats. 86 Auxiliaries have obtained 100% plus so far this year. Please, please take the extra time and make a big push to get your membership stats up. We are Texas strong!!!!

Auxiliaries, please do not forget to send your year-end reports to your District President by April 10. The District Presidents will in turn send them to me. Do not be late!

I would like to thank Madam President for this opportunity to be the Department Membership Team Leader and to Kathy Marrelli for being the Co-Team Leader. It has been an awesome and challenging experience.

**Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans
Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**

 	SHAWN TERRY Candidate for Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary Guard
	2021 – 2022 Life Member of VFWA 7835 Endorsed by District 21

2021-2022 VFW Auxiliary Statewide Training July 15 th – 17, 2021 Crown Plaza – North Austin 6121 North IH35 Austin, Texas 78752 512-323-5466

2021 – 2022 INSTALLATION <u>Auxiliary Uniform</u> Blue shirt, black slacks, jacket, closed toe shoes <u>Jewelry</u> Collar pins, no dangle earrings or noisy jewelry

TEAM WORK = SUCCESS AND CELEBRATION



95th Texas VFW Auxiliary State Convention
Choctaw Conference Center ~ Durant, Oklahoma
Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Vendor Booths & Poppy Displays	The Landing
12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	TBA
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	President Reception (Invitation Only)	TBA
6:00 p.m.	Dinner with National Rep – PDP/Line Officers & Guests (Dutch Treat)	

Thursday, June 17, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	TBA
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	VFW Auxiliary Council of Administration	
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Past Department Presidents Luncheon	
1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Joint Memorial Service	Grand Theater
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Joint Opening Session	Grand Theater
5:15 p.m.	Floor Practice (Location to be announced)	

Friday, June 18, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means	
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Auxiliary Business Meeting	
	Opening Ceremonies	
	Presentation of Programs	
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Auxiliary Business Meeting & Nominations	
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Reception with Cash Bar	Theater Reception Rm
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Grand Theater

Saturday, June 19, 2021

7:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	VFW/Auxiliary Incoming Council Pictures	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – Noon	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting and Elections	
	Memorial Service	
	Presentation of National Representative	
	Election of 2021-2022 Department Officers	
2:30 p.m.	Meeting Closed	
4:00 p.m.	Installation	
5:30 p.m.	Joint Reception	

Sunday, June 20, 2021

SAFE TRAVELS