



COMMENTS

**DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT**

DONNA JAMES



Everything is great in Texas.
I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

Our membership is moving forward.
We still need under 780 members to be 100%
but memberships are coming in every day.

My friend, Linda Greer and I visited District 3.
They are so active in helping our Veterans. I
received several homeless mats that were given to
Chairwomen Denise Dubois and Candi Baines.

It was a wonderful visit. I even visited District
President Natosha Page in the hospital. She is
always so positive about everything.

Crystal Slown gave an excellent meeting.
Next, we visited District 24 with Department
Commander Keith King. We visited with a lot of
members at the dinner. Everyone is so friendly.
Thank you for the entertainment by Ms. Shirley
Vatter. She is very talented on the violin. We
enjoyed the music. District President Barbara
Koehn gave an excellent meeting. Thank you for
supporting the Department programs.

Department Commander and I participated in the
Wreaths Across America at the cemetery. Stephanie
Higdon presented an awesome program.

The Department will be welcoming 3 New
Auxiliaries. They are Frisco in District 1, Lampasas
in District 24 and Cloverleaf in District 4. Thank

you to Vicky Dickerson, JoJo Kilgore and Glenda
Hunt for all your hard work.

With the threat of a war, our Troops need us
more than ever.

Please continue to show strong support in your
cities to keep our communities aware of our vision.

We exist because of their service.

You are a representative of the person you
joined under. Always make them proud!

Scheduled Visits

February 1	District 25
February 9	District 5
February 19 -24	Hawaii
February 29 – March 4	Voice of Democracy Washington, DC



SCHOLARSHIPS Lynn Cook – Chairman

Hello Texas Auxiliary members! I hope everyone who attended Mid-Winter Roundup enjoyed the convention and I hope you found an abundance of useful information for our auxiliary programs.

Congratulations to our winning **Voice of Democracy**, **Patriot's Pen** and **Teacher Award** recipients and hosts. I wish you all the best of luck at National! Another convention highlight was the visit from National VFW Auxiliary President Peggy Haake. What an honor it was to have her join us! For those of you who were unable to attend you were missed but there is always next year!

We now find ourselves in February! This month brings us the **Continuing Education Scholarship** deadline. All entries must be **received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2020**. Not postdated by or on the 15th but received by the 15th! Any **entries received after the deadline will not be considered**. Be sure to include the applicants (300) word essay as well. Contest applications/brochures, rules, requirements and full details are available at www.texasvfwauxiliary.org and www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Winners will be notified by May 1, 2020. Remember, there will be (1) \$1000.00 winner from each of the (4) Conferences. Someone from Texas could be a winner! Good luck to everyone who enters!

March will bring the deadline(s) for our **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**, open to 9th-12th grade high school and home schooled students. Entries submitted to Auxiliary by – **March 31, 2020**, local Auxiliary winners to District (if applicable) – **on or before April 10, 2020** with District Judging completed and the winner submitted to Dept. Scholarship Chairman - **by April 15, 2020**. My address can be found in our Program book or is available from your District President. Please send all packages **'signature required'**. This helps prevent lost artwork. The first place winner in Department will be submitted to National and announced at Department Convention in June.

Be sure to follow the rules/requirements and complete applications including all required signatures. Updated score sheets and a "Hints and Common Mistakes" info sheet are also available on the resources link. Don't forget our program goals! Try to continue promoting and fundraising for both scholarships as much as possible. **March 31, 2020**, is also the deadline for submitting the **"Scholarship Award for Auxiliaries No. 1"**. Be proud, tell me how your Auxiliary supported, promoted and/or raised funds for the Patriotic Art Contest. This is a National award. Let's show them

what our Texas Auxiliaries are doing! There are also Department awards to be given! See your Program Book and get those activity reports in; there is still plenty of time!

Thank You to everyone who visited and supported our Scholarship table and basket raffle at Mid-Winter Roundup! Congratulations to the basket winner! I hope you all found the information provided very useful. The proceeds from the basket raffle will benefit the Department of Texas Scholarship fund and future contest winners.

Great job everyone! We are doing amazing things in Texas! Together we are loud and proud – **"We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo"**, endlessly **"Serving Our Veterans With Aloha"**!



LEGISLATIVE Nelda Hackett – Chairman

February, the month of love! Let's show love for our Veterans by continuing to work our Priority Goals and Get Out the Vote projects for the Legislative Program! My hope for us, District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents, Legislative Chairmen and all members, is that we have 100% reporting all the way through the 2019-2020 year. As you all know, Districts and Auxiliaries are required to work the Programs and report as soon as the project has been completed. It is much easier to fill out the form as soon as your project is completed.

All our auxiliaries in Texas have been doing a great job working the **VFW Priority Goals** and **Get Out the Vote** projects; let's keep up the good work. I appreciate everything you all are doing and will continue to do in 2020.

I know I say this is over and over but, don't forget that you can go to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters website and check out all the Legislative information available to assist you again this year. I hope all of you enjoyed Mid-Winter as much as I did! As always, I appreciate all your hard work!

To sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly: www.capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm

For lists, concerns, and solutions, etc.: www.vfw.org/advocacy

For the "Guide to Contacting Your Legislators": www.vfwauxiliary.org

To contact your Senator or Representative: www.congresslookup.com

As I have said previously, it is our responsibility to help ensure that the Congress and Senate take care of our veterans that have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

God Bless Texas and God Bless Each and Every One Of You!

**“We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo”
“Serving Veterans With Aloha”**



AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Barbara Koehn

Education and training are one of the building blocks of Americanism and Patriotism. It is essential that we teach, remind, and practice these principles of flag etiquette, American customs, traditions, and patriotic values of our country. No one is exempt. Everyone, young and old, should be reminded of our duty to respect our nation's flag. As Auxiliary members, we have a responsibility to create opportunities to provide instructional resources to our youth by visiting classrooms with our veterans, helping students learn about the Constitution, teaching the Pledge of Allegiance and presenting is also known as Washington Birthday flags to local schools. Our youth today is our future for tomorrow. In the past six months, I have submitted information for you to share. My question to you, “Have you shared this information with your auxiliaries, your schools, your local business organizations to name a few?”

All Americans should know the meaning of the flag draped coffin. Did you know the 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers of the year 1776? Did you know the honor guard at military funerals folds the United States Flag 13 times? The following explains to you what each fold represents:

The 1st fold – Symbol of life

The 2nd fold – Symbol of the belief in eternal life

The 3rd fold – In honor and remembrance of the veterans

The 4th fold – Trusting in God for His divine guidance in times of war and peace

The 5th fold – Tribute to our country

The 6th fold – Where peoples' hearts lie when they say Pledge of Allegiance

The 7th fold – Tribute to the Armed Forces

The 8th fold – Tribute to the one who entered the valley of the shadow of death

The 9th fold – Tribute to womanhood and mothers

The 10th fold – Tribute to Fathers

The 11th fold – Represents the seal of King David and God of Abraham

The 12th fold – Emblem of eternity and God the Trinity

The 13th fold – Reminder of our nation's Motto, “In God We Trust”

After the flag is completely folded, it resembles the cocked hat of all the members of Armed Forces of the United States wear. When you attend a military funeral, remember the folds of the flag and its deep meaning and share this with your children, grandchildren, your auxiliary, and anyone that you are around. We live in the greatest nation in the world and we should be even more proud of our veterans who serve to protect our God-given rights and freedoms. Remember, we are the Voice of our Veterans - not an Echo and always, serve our veterans with Aloha with welcoming arms and warm hearts.

On the third Monday in February is Presidents Day in honor of our Presidents. This patriotic holiday is also known as Washington's birthday, in honor of our first President of the United States. Celebrate and honor this day with your Auxiliary.



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Denise DuBois – Chairman

Candace Baines – Co-Chairman

Happy New Year! Each of you have been so very busy supporting and taking care of our Veterans and their families. We thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Our National Ambassador, Wendy, has given us a challenge. Have you made a donation to the VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS)? Your donation will help veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve – at no cost. The NVS provides a nationwide network of 300 VFW Service Officers who can help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs System. VFW Service Officers assist America's veterans every step of the way once they are ready to file a claim. This is a service the VFW is proud to offer to anyone seeking assistance with the claim process. NVS works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA Healthcare which includes:

- Hospital care
- Outpatient care
- Specialized health care for female veterans
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment

- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation or other environmental hazards.

Please consider a donation today. You may send it directly to VFW National Headquarters or you can donate online at: <https://www.vfw.org/ways-to-help> and select "National Veterans Service. Auxiliaries may use their Relief Fund to make a donation.

Wasn't Mid-Winter fun? It was great seeing each of you. How about the stat's you heard? Because of you, the state of Texas is doing great work for our Veterans and their families. We thank you again for supporting our program.

**We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo
Serving Our Veterans With Aloha**



**CHIEF OF STAFF
Betty Royston**

"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO". As we read these words, we must remember why we joined this organization. Not for self-glory, nor for awards that we receive. I joined because I had relatives that fought for the FREEDOM I enjoy as an American Citizen and risked their life that I am free to worship as I believe, that I am free to vote for the candidate of my choice, that I am free to obtain my education in the school of my choice, to further it in college and even higher schooling. Now, it is my obligation as a member to honor and to assist these men and women with whatever they may need. I sincerely hope you have joined for the same reasons as I did.

We, as an Auxiliary member, are united in assisting our VFW Members and their families when they need help to buy food, pay rent, need a ride to see their doctor, or just to call and ask is there anything we can help you with. My point being, we are the ones who continue to fight for the entitlements due those men and women, some gave their life for us, who make America great.

We need to encourage our Bachelor Posts to form an Auxiliary and let them know we are to assist them in promoting and working their programs, doing their reports if needed, to stand in front of that shopping mall with them to hand out Buddy Poppies, or to help raise funds for a VETERAN in need of help.

Did you know that you can be the person to assist in forming an Auxiliary??? As a member in good standing you may speak to one of our Bachelor Post Commanders about forming an auxiliary. Set aside a

time at a District meeting to explain the benefits of having an Auxiliary. This information is on our webpage, vfwauxiliary.org/resources, includes the eligibility wheel and facts leaflet, VFW Auxiliary Program & Publicity Resources. Our National Ambassador, Gwen Rankin, has an awesome promotional article on how to form an Auxiliary on our National website's newsletter. By the time you read this article, we will have been to Mid-Winter and enjoyed the visit of our beautiful National President, Peggy Haake, whose theme is **"Serving Our Veterans With Aloha"**.

Remember to honor our VETERANS during the week of February 14th for Valentine's Day. To me, you are all **"SWEETHEARTS"** for all you do for our Veterans and their families.



**MEMBERSHIP
Brenda Foltz -Chairman
Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**

Would like to thank everyone that was at Mid-Winter and was good to see everyone. Congratulations to all the Auxiliaries and Districts that reached their goals.

We still have work to do so let's keep Rounding 'em up and Roping 'em in. Hope everyone had a good time and will see you at State Convention. Happy Valentine's Day to All. **We Are A Voice for Our Veterans, Not An Echo - Serving Our Veterans With Aloha**



**HOSPITAL/VAVS
Sally Ramirez – Chairman**

Hello Brothers and Sisters! As we begin a New Year, let's review our Program Goals:

- * Volunteer Recruitment Recognition and Support
- * Promote Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Issues and Health Research
- * Educate the Community on Services in the VA and non – VA Medical Facilities and Health Research
- * Veterans Voices Writing Project. This Program enables military veterans to experience solace and satisfaction through their writing program. The organization's vision is a world where people appreciate that writing can both heal and entertain. Here are a few

ways you can assist our veterans with this project: Volunteer, Donate, Write and Subscribe to the Veterans' Voices.

Contact information: Veterans Voices Writing Project
406 W. 34th Street, Suite 103 - Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816-701-6844

The National Advisory Committee offers the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award provides scholarship opportunities to students who volunteer at VA medical centers: <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp> "We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo" - "Serving Our Veterans With Aloha"



NATIONAL HOME

Many veterans suffer during this time. Families also suffer when their veteran is not feeling the Christmas spirit. Please educate and promote the National Home *Helpline*. Encourage those in need to call 800-313-4200. Remember this is a *helpline* not a hotline. Be heard, be helped. All calls are answered and no caller is turned away. This free service offers information, creates connections and gives hope to struggling military and veteran's families. This helpline is answered by experienced problem-solvers who care deeply about veterans and their families and who have the contacts and knowledge needed to get each caller help. Sometimes an American hero just needs to be heard. Especially this time of year when depression can set in. There are various triggers to this feeling:

- Finances – Not enough money to buy gifts which leads to guilt.
- Stress – Not enough time to do everything that is expected of you during this season: dinners, parties, shopping and just being tired.
- Loneliness – 43% of Americans are single, with 27% living alone. 17% of singles are over 65 when health, age and mobility can make it more difficult to enjoy them self.
- Grief – Missing a deceased loved one. Seniors have more reasons to grieve.
- Estrangement – When you are not speaking to a relative, family get-togethers can bring feeling of sadness.
- Divorce – Especially difficult when adult children need to balance holiday visits.
- Pleasing – Trying to make everyone happy.
- Sadness – Gloomy weather and decreased sunlight can lead to Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Promoting this helpline may save a veteran and their family in time of need.



IRMA SOLIS

**Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard
2020-2021**

Endorsed by District 18 & Auxiliary 7473

Auxiliary President – 3 years
District President – 3 years
Auxiliary Secretary – 1 year
District 18 Conductress – 1 year



YOUTH ACTIVITIES Laurie Hayes Wiley – Chairman

Happy February everyone. The school year is past its halfway mark. Lets work on Patriotism through Literacy and Illustrating America. Patriotism through Literacy partial list of suggested book list:

Toddler-Preschool

- I Am series (I am Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Sonia Sotomayer, etc.) by Brad Metzger
- America the Beautiful by Katharine Lee Bates
- Blue Sky, White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus & Kadir Nelson

K-2 Grade

- We the Kids by David Catrow
- Shh! We're Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz
- Apple Pie 4th of July by Janet S. Wong

3-4 Grade

- I Could Do That: How Esther Morris Gets Women the Vote by Linda White
- Who Was/What Was series (including Tuskagee Airmen, The White House, Sacagawea, etc.)
- Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
- Magic Treehouse Mysteries & Fact-Checkers by Mary Pope Osborne
- We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart by Walter Dean Myers
- Stars & Stripes: The Story of the American Flag by Sarah Thomson

5-6 Grade

- The True History of Lyndie B. Hawkins by Gail Shephard
- Keeping Score by Linda Sue Park
- Worth by Alexandria LaFaye
- I Survived series (incl. I Survived the American Revolution, I Survived Gettysburg, etc.)

RECOMENDATIONS OF WHAT YOU CAN DO ONCE YOU GET THE BOOKS:

- Donate books to local schools, shelters, libraries, or youth groups
- Start a book club (members can participate with their children/grandchildren)
- Host a read-a-thon and award modest prizes

Don't forget! ILLUSTRATING AMERICA - DEADLINE APPROACHING

Remind your Auxiliaries that Illustrating America not only gives younger kids a creative way to show their love and understanding of our country but gets them excited for the Patriotic Art scholarship competition when they get to high school. Make sure when recognizing youth who've won at your local level, you give them information about the Patriotic Art contest, too. We can't wait to see your winning entries at National, where we'll award First, Second, and Third place prizes to student artists in each age division.

Illustrating America Due by March 31st Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Chairman by March 31, 2020.



*****Secretary Notes*****

IMPORTANT!!!! It is almost time for Delegates— DO you want a vote in your District, Department and National levels? Start planning NOW! DISTRICT--- Have you paid all dues to District? Please read section 303 Auxiliary Delegates. You MUST elect at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than 30 (thirty) calendar days prior to the District Convention at which District officers are to be elected.

1 Delegate and 1 alternate for each 15 members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election of Delegates. The Auxiliary Secretary SHALL send the names of the Delegates and the alternates to the District Secretary prior to the District Convention.

What this all means is look at the DATE of your District Convention and ensure that you back up 30 days to the month that you may need to elect District

delegates. You may have to vote in FEBRUARY if your convention is in April. Do not be caught without a vote!

NOTE 2!!! District delegates are NOT the same as DEPARTMENT DELEGATES. I will be sending out DEPT Delegate strength and dept dues amount after March 1st. Your number of delegates will be different than for District delegates. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact headquarters. We are here to assist you!

EMAIL — Do you want to receive *Our Two Cents* on email? Send an email to secretary@texasvfwaux.org with subject Our Two Cents and you will receive it in your personal email. You may also get other flyers for events that apply to all auxiliary members throughout the year. But you will not be spammed.

AUDITS!!!—When completing an audit there cannot be any NEGATIVE balance on a line item. Should you find there is a negative you must move the funds from General fund to that line item. Do not spend money in DUES that you have not already received. If you are paying for a member's dues by vote of the auxiliary then it comes from General fund or from Relief Fund depending on the circumstances. For more help and assistance contact Dept HQ we are here to serve you, the members.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

From Department President

There is a Chairman change in the Buddy Poppy/National Home Program. Effective January 15th the new appointed Chairman to finish out the year is Kathy Marrelli.

District Presidents: Please share this information with your auxiliaries and stress the importance of reports from here on out are to be sent to Kathy.

The deadline remains the same for Year-End Reports to be sent as well. Received on or before April 20th. No postmarked reports.

District Presidents, if possible, please send Mid-Year Reports to her – this is information that will be needed for the end of year award selections. Please offer help when needed and assistance to get this program completed for the year. Her address is:

Kathy Marrelli
5409 Carlson Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
940-337-1365 / us@wf.net

VFW & Auxiliary Homecoming Reception

April 23 to April 25, 2020

Hotels with Reserved Rooms – Book With Group: VFW
Room Charges are per night

Comfort Inn & Suites (55 Rooms in Block)
5100 7th St., Bay City
979-245-9300
\$70 + tax
Hotel has been blocked for Headquarters Only

Holiday Inn Express & Suites (30 Rooms in Block)
5618 7th St., Bay City
\$109 or \$119 + tax
979-244-3333

Super 8 Motel (20 Rooms in Block)
920 Ave. F, Bay City
\$70 + tax
979-323-9500

Days Inn by Wyndham (20 Rooms in Block)
407 7th St., Bay City
\$50 or \$60 + tax
979-266-0864

Fairfield Inn & Suites (15 Rooms in Block)
517 7th St., Bay City
\$85 to \$95 + tax
979-323-9191
~~~~~

## OTHER HOTELS/MOTELS - NO RESERVATIONS – 1<sup>ST</sup> COME 1<sup>ST</sup> SERVED

**Hampton Inn & Suites**  
4617 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-7100

**Regency Inn & Suites**  
3712 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-5115

**Studio 6**  
5511 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-244-2400

**Best Western Bay City Inn & Suites**  
501 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-557-0678

**Candlewood Suites**  
5800 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-7500

**Scottish Inn & Suites**  
5525 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-557-0690

**LaQuinta Inn & Suites**  
5300 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-323-9095  
~~~~~

BAY CITY & VICINITY RV PARKS NO RESERVATIONS AT THESE PARKS

60 North RV Park * (Closest to VFW 2438)
501 Ave. F, Bay City
979-245-6605

Bay City Holiday RV Park
1803 Horn Rd., Bay City
979-245-1803

Bert's RV Park
Bay City
979-245-2840

Nile Valley RV Park
Bay City
979-318-9717

***Contact has been made with this RV Park and they will not know if they have space available before November 2019.**

Numerous other RV Parks in vicinity of Bay City. Look up RV Parks in Bay City, Texas on internet.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

If everyone is moving forward together,
Then success takes care of itself.

-Henry Ford