



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”

Here we are, already stepping into September **“Banding Together for Our Veterans”**. As I have said, the Statewide training in July was a great success and the attendance was wonderful. I am hoping that everyone has had their District and Auxiliary training, your chairmen and officers know their jobs and everyone has hit the ground running and working together as a team.

I started my travels in August. I attended meetings at the following districts.

District 17 at 9182 Katy District 12 at 5398 Pittsburg

District 1 at 4852 Bonham District 5 at 8315 Schertz

District 13 at 1480 Kerrville

The hospitality at each of these districts was exceptional. The meetings were productive and well attended. Jimmy and I had a great time and enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones. My heartfelt thanks to all of you for making our visits memorable. I am looking forward to visiting District 2 and 20 in September.

Now is the time to work your membership. It is time to collect annual dues from your membership. Send out dues notices, do early bird specials and utilize your phone committees. It is not just the President, Treasurer and Membership Chairman’s duty to work membership. It is the duty of every member to collect dues, sign up new members and work toward our 101% goal. This can be accomplished by every Auxiliary, District and our Department. So, let’s get busy.

An issue we have addressed many times and will continue to follow, is members signing up for MALTA. Old and new members need to login and familiarize themselves with MALTA. There is a world of information on programs in the National Program Book, Auxiliary Traditions, Resource Guide, Auxiliary Foundation Book, the membership hub for discounts and so many other useful tools that an Auxiliary, Officers, Chairmen and Members can have access to. At your next district meeting, have your Secretary and Treasurer or other officers bring a laptop and help members sign up for MALTA so they can do the same within their Auxiliaries. When your District President comes for her official visit to your Auxiliary, she will ask the question of how many members have accessed MALTA.

I challenge every Auxiliary to work on this and see if we can improve the number of members that are signed up. Have a great September while you are always **“The Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**.

“When it comes to our Veterans, all that is left for we the living to do is; Honor them, take care of them and re-dedicate ourselves to the cause in which they gave”. Tom Selleck

“BUDDY” POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME

Denise DuBois – Chairman
Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman

National Convention is over and it was a great time and Texas was well represented. It was such an honor to meet Layla, the VFW National Home Buddy Poppy child for this year. Layla is 12 years old and will be in the 7th grade this fall. She is very busy at the VFW National Home with all the numerous activities available for the children. Layla enjoys learning how to play the keyboard. She wants to be an entrepreneur when she grows up so she can be her own boss. As I was visiting with Layla, she stated that she loved living at the National Home because her family has a home that is safe and beautiful.

Have you started recruiting in each of the Auxiliaries for your Buddy Poppy Child? Please work with the Post side and select a child between the ages of 5-12. This child shall represent each Auxiliary and your District at planned events. Be sure and send me your selection and pictures.

Just remember each and every day can be a Buddy Poppy Day. The monetary donations received must go into our Relief Fund to help Veterans and their families. The Poppy should be worn with respect on the left breast, close to the heart.

VFW National Home

At National Convention, we were able to visit with the Executive Director, Michael Wilson. He shared the improvements that have been made and other ideas that will be completed soon. There are 42 homes on campus along with a guest lodge and many other resources for the families to use and call home.

After you have chosen your Buddy Poppy Child and you have that child participating at events with you, remember to encourage the child to learn about the VFW National Home. When donations are given to the child and **specified for the National Home** these are to be sent to Texas VFW Auxiliary earmarked **President Special Project # 2**.

Have you recruited any life members for the National Home? How about a Tribute Brick? The National Home “Helps Families Set Up Their Plans and Goals For the Future”. Your gift will be life-changing for the families of our nation’s heroes.

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“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 defines 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 wonderful 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. Be sure to vote at your monthly meetings for you or your members to assist other organizations in the name of your Auxiliary. Wear your Auxiliary attire (name badge, hat, shirt, jacket, etc.).

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 the website www.volunteermatch.org to see if there are organizations in your area needing help. Most Auxiliary members belong to other organizations as well who may need extra hands. Check local newspapers for upcoming events, check local community bulletin boards, or town/city websites calendar of events for more opportunities.

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. By helping others, learning new skills, meeting new people, developing a sense of purpose you will have personal growth. 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.

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

Greetings. Thank you for all your reports. They were amazing. What an opportunity it was to educate our youth about patriotism by observing Memorial Day and celebrating the July 4th Independence Day.

We can continue to help them understand and appreciate why we celebrate Independence Day and Memorial Day by supporting our Patriotism through Literacy program when volunteering to read books to our youth, such as *The Declaration of Independence for Kids*, by Debra Housel Ages: 5-7 or *Coming to America the Story of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island* by: Kathleen E. Bradley, (ages 5-7). These are excellent books to read to our youth.

A new school year is beginning, Let's get excited for The Red, White and Blue contest by singing our National Anthem. Video of contestants' solo performance singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" must be recorded between July 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. Performance must be saved as a YouTube video. The contest consists of two grade divisions K-8 and 9-12. Contestants may sing acappella or with music to any genre of their choice but may not change the words. The Department first-place winner from each grade division will be forwarded to the Auxiliary National Headquarters. Motivate our youth to participate in our Illustrating arts contest. Encourage our youth to draw or paint how they are inspired by America. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

Let's not forget to reward and recognize our youth with a R.A.P card when you see them do Random acts of Patriotism toward our Veterans or within our communities. Let's continue to inspire our youth to become our leaders of tomorrow. Remember to Report, Report, Report.!

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HOSPITAL/VAVS
Pamela Fintel -Chairman

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have already sent in their Hospital Pledges which were due August 31st. I hope you are using your National Day Calendars

to make those non-traditional day cards. Get your youth to come help make these awesome cards. Did you know....Sept 15th is National Neonatal Nurses Day? This would be a great time to make some Nurses appreciation bags. Put some gum, crackers, mints and tissue in a bag and decorate the outside of the bag with stickers, ribbons, etc. The Nurses would really be grateful you thought of them. Representatives and Deputies, it is now time to contact the CDCE (Voluntary Services) to get recertified for this year. Visit with them to get their upcoming schedules of events and ask what the Auxiliary can do to help. **Remember you must get your Auxiliary's approval first and make sure it is in your minutes.** This is also a perfect time to get new Volunteers to work at the VA Hospitals.

I will be sending the Blue Tear Drop template to your District Presidents. Have a fundraiser with your Post, ask for donations for a Tear Drop. Monies raised can be sent to VFW National Headquarters for Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

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PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Denise DuBois

I would like to thank all the Program Chairpersons. You are doing a great job with your programs thus far. You have sent your articles in on time.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR ARTICLES WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN WORD FORMAT! This is a requirement from our editor.

Watch for the blogs that your Ambassadors place on the National website. Those are to be shared with Texas membership. Use the material in your articles.

I know that reports are being sent. Membership – Keep up the great work. The Texas VFW Auxiliary is doing great things.

TEAM WORK

Coming together is the
Beginning
Keeping together is
Progress
Working together is
Success

SCHOLARSHIP
Dorthy L. Bennett – Chairman

The school year has started. Time is fleeting by for programs to be started. I hope that each Auxiliary is working with their Post and members to place the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen in charter, private, church, home schools and in individual hands. Be prepared with information and datelines. Remember that the dateline for these two programs is October 31, 2023 to your Post.

Continuing Education has new information. Please go to – vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing_education. Remember that the scholarship award is now \$1,250.00. The deadline for this to be to National is February 15, 2024. Share with your members. The Texas goal is one entry for each District to National. Please report how you promoted this program and how many members and their spouse or children entered.

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.

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

Hello to all the wonderful movie crew members that are working tirelessly in each of your Auxiliaries for your “Membership Movie”! Texas is going to have the best movies in our organization.

How are your talent scouts doing? Are they looking for passionate, like-minded people to join the Auxiliary? Are your Auxiliaries incorporating recruiting events while hosting, holding or attending

other functions? A recruiting event can happen anywhere that there are prospective new members. The answer will always be “NO” if the question isn't asked.

There are a number of Auxiliaries that are already at 100% membership. There are also quite a few Auxiliaries that are already over 90%. Keep up the great work! Wouldn't it be awesome if more tables and chairs were needed for the Membership Celebration, that takes place during the Mid-Winter Convention, because so many Auxiliaries met the goal by the deadline in December?

Please help the Membership Director and Co-Director pass the word: the ONLY report that Auxiliaries are required to do for the Membership Program this year is the Year-End Report.

There is no need to send monthly or Mid-Year Reports as this is being tracked through MALTA on a regular basis.

Thank you for everything you do for the betterment of this glorious organization!

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MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Candi Baines – Chairman
Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman
Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman

I hope everyone's year is off to a great start and hopefully you have recruited a new member or 20,000.

An easy way to break the ice is to put together a welcome packet with Auxiliary information, history and ritual information. You could also include a list of officers or a phone tree for any questions they may have. This opens the door for some conversation and explanations of the basic things we take for granted or assume everyone should know.

By now you should have sent in your Auxiliary chosen mentor(s). Thank you to those who have sent them in so far, for those who haven't please do so soon.

Please share with me your most creative way to mentor a member to become a leader. I would also ask that we could SWAP some of your ideas to strengthen the bond of our Auxiliaries.

I challenge every mentor to engage your new members by sitting with them during your meetings with your Bylaws book and program books open, ready to follow along with the meeting. Quietly answer any

questions they have along the way. I then ask you to raise your hand and ask the questions they may not know to ask such as; “Madam/Mister President, what does VOD mean?” or “What is VAVS?”

Allow the discussion to happen on the floor so the new member can hear it out loud and read it in the book. This also allows the members to hear other members, get to know their faces and voices and feel like a part of the meeting. Everyone retains information in different ways, we would like them to feel included and not alienated.

As always, remember to C.A.R.E. Everyone is right from their own perspective, so have the conversations, ask the clarifying questions if you do not understand or do not agree.

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VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**Tammie Mosby – Chairman
Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**

The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say “thank you” to those who fought for our freedoms. To find out more about this program go to vfw.org.

The VFW recognizes that both funding and support for our student veterans and dependents at institutions of higher learning, can often be difficult to find. The VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The grant, administered by the VFW Washington Office, focuses on supporting the overall student veteran population within the community, which consists of many student veterans at campuses across the country that are not affiliated with an SVA chapter.

The grants will be disbursed to a VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application, to support the student veterans at the university or college. The information for this grant can be found on the VFW's web site: vfw.org.

Karlene and I are enjoying reading all the reports and seeing what the Great State of Texas is accomplishing. Keep up the good work.

If you need me for anything, please email me at tjpurplerose@yahoo.com or you can call me at 936-414-5293. You can also contact my co-chairman Karlene Chambers at karlene440@gmail.com or call her at 713-502-1436.

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AMERICANISM /PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Auxiliaries who have sent reports and pictures, we have received so many. Keep up the great work.

Star Family Recognition

You may have seen a Blue Star, Gold Star or Silver Star Service Flag or banner in the window of a home in your area. A service flag or banner is a banner approved by the Secretary of Defense that family members or those serving in the United States Armed Forces can display. Please recognize and honor these families in your community.

- Blue Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the United States Armed Forces during any period of war or hostilities.
- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a gold star for each family member who died during military operations.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a blue field with a red outer border and inner white border with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded or became ill during or as a result of combat.

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LEGISLATIVE
Cheyenne Harper - Chairman

I hope everybody had a great time at training and learned something. Have you started going into your communities and talking about the VFW legislation? I want to set a goal to see who can get the most people to sign up for after action. The winner will receive a personal prize from me at the state convention.

Have you looked at your VFW Priority Goals Pamphlet and to see which one you could help with? Make sure you are sending our congressmen and women these letters.

Have you started on your poster to bring to Midwinter because I know I have. The biggest thing they will be judged on is the “message”.

Don't forget report - report. I have been getting reports in and I love them. Keep up the good work.

You can always find more of the legislation on the VFW page. It will tell you all the acts we still have to pass plus the ones we already passed as well.

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Directory Changes

District 10 Martha Gonzalez email:
martha.gonzalezauxpost812@gmail.com

Debbie Daniel – Chief of Staff
725 Parsons St.
San Angelo, Texas 76903

PDP Donna James – New phone number
979-236-3170

GERALD SPRADLIN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY GUARD
2024-2025**

Endorsed by District 19 & Auxiliaries
Endorsed by Post/Auxiliary 1836

JEANENNE LUMPKIN

**Candidate for National Council Member
Area H**

2024-2026

**Endorsed by
Auxiliary 9182 District 17**

KAREN KAYLOR

**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL
COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H**

2024 – 2026

ENDORSED BY VFW AUXILIARY 4008
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 14

JO ELLA MENN

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER
2024-2025**

ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6

President's Travels

Official Visits

September 9	District 2
September 23	District 20
September 17-19	CAFÉ Salt Lake City, Utah