



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT IRMA SOLIS

“THANKFUL & GRATEFUL FOR THE SACRIFICE”

“FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES, EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”

As March begins, I reflect on a productive February, marked by significant collaboration with Program Chairman Ambassadors during several productive meetings in Corpus Christi and Cancun. These meetings yielded substantial progress on key initiatives. Looking ahead, March will be equally demanding and rewarding.

My travel schedule includes visits to various Texas Districts, followed by attendance at the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and concluding with a training session in Kansas City. These engagements will further advance current projects and allow for the exploration and development of new ones.

Auxiliary members please be aware how close we are to the April deadline for the end of our programs. Much work must be done to insure proper recognition for your hard work.

PLEASE NOTE

Department has taken over the Youth Program for the remainder of the year. Auxiliary monthly reports that were previously submitted to Youth Chairman of Record, Joe Akers, have not been forwarded or made available. In order to be considered for any awards, Auxiliaries need to resubmit monthly reports- send to the Program Coordinator – us@wf.net by March 31, 2025 or sooner, for collection purposes only. All reports will be forwarded to Department as received for judging.

Previous notification was sent to District Presidents with instructions and the response has been low.

Any Auxiliary that is submitting the Youth Activities National Program Award Entry Form should submit by March 31, 2025. Send this form as well to the Program Coordinator for collection only, will be forwarded to Department as received. District Presidents were emailed the form for distribution to the Auxiliaries.

Do not send any further reports to the Youth Chairman of Record, Joe Akers.

Thank you for working with the office on this matter.

MARCH DATES

March 1 – March 6
March 13 – March 16
March 29

Legislative Conference
Training
District 18

Washington D.C.
Kansas City

MEMBERSHIP

Gerald Spradlin – Chairman
Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman

It's time to work on the push to make Texas 100%. If each Auxiliary gets 6 new members by June 30th, Texas will get there. Make this your Auxiliary's goal. It is very doable, so keep up the good work. Team Texas can do this!

Talking to people and sharing with them why you are part of this organization and how they could be an asset to the Auxiliary is the key to enticing new members to join.

We MUST root ourselves firmly in our history, traditions and legacy of service. We MUST branch out and include EVERY one of our qualifying family members in our mission. And we MUST provide our new branches and young leaves with all of the necessary support to thrive indefinitely. So don't "leaf" any qualifying member behind. Share your passion for this organization and why you joined.

Find out what prospective members are interested in and let them know where they would be a good fit in your Auxiliary. Be sure to keep the QR code on your phone and offer to share it. Give them time to think about what our organization is and what we do. Keep their names and contact information handy so you can check back with them in a week. Don't let them lose interest or feel they weren't important enough.

We want to see Texas make 100% plus in Membership! Keep working hard on recruiting new members! As always, if we can help, let us know!

**“From Our Roots To Our Branches Extending
Service To Our Veterans”
“Thankful and Grateful For The Sacrifice”**



NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Renee Clark – Chairman

On November 20th I reached out by email to 110 nursing school administrators across the state. By the time Mid-Winter came and went, over 50 administrators and/or schools had reached out and either requested additional information or just said “Thank You”.

I was amazed how many schools with nursing programs, stated that they had never been contacted...numerous administrators asked “why it was the first time that they had heard about this LONG RUNNING PROGRAM”? **I could not answer!**

Let us set a goal that in future years...we ALL need to reach out and notify our local universities and colleges, that have nursing programs, about the scholarship offers.

Now is the time to follow up with the nursing schools in your area. They all have been notified ... you just need to take that one extra step. All I am asking is a simple email or phone call to follow-up and see if there is a way YOU or YOUR AUXILIARY or YOUR DISTRICT can assist the school in spreading the word.

A list of the schools was provided in print, to each District President at the StateWide Training. I will also gladly supply a link; you just need to email me and request it.

As of the writing of this article, **I have received 10 Nursing Scholarship Applications**. The applications are being accepted through postmark date March 31st. WOW – Going to be a great year!

NOW THE HELP I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST FROM YOUR AUXILIARY (or DISTRICT)

Being that so many have already been received and with over a month to go. And, being that our District and my own Auxiliary has sponsored numerous applicants in the past (one year our Auxiliary sponsored 10 applicants) I would like to give each nursing scholarship applicant this year, a local Auxiliary and/or District contact that is willing to sponsor them AND to reward them with at the minimum some word or action of “Thanks.”

I AM NOT REQUESTING MONEY or anything lavish...just a simple act of reaching out to the applicant in your area and at least acknowledging with a Thank You for participating card or maybe a Certificate of Appreciation or maybe even invite them to an Auxiliary /Post gathering. ****HINT – they COULD BE A PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBER!!!!**

I have reached out to each of the District Presidents and notified them of the same information.

In Mid-March, I will begin matching up the applicant's city of residence and their college location. I will match them with both a local Auxiliary and the local District.

I will email the Auxiliary and the District with the information on the applicant.

All I ask in return is that your Auxiliary and/or District just follow-up with the student and say **THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!** Such a simple act can go such a long way. And, you may just find your newest member!!!

In regards to Honoring the Nurses – I am still struggling with a double whammy of Influenza A and Acute Covid-19 – I have so much gratitude for the two nurses that helped me out during that time... Take a few minutes to thank your nursing staff, no matter where they are located and what job they are doing, just say **THANK YOU.** Maybe take them some snacks. Do not forget to report it!

Personally, I am looking forward to Spring Break from school for a little relaxation before all the required end-of-year stuff starts rolling in.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at ReneeSClark@msn.com, or leave a detailed message on my cell phone 512-269-8643.

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LEGISLATIVE
Michelle Booker – Chairman
Karen Kaylor – Co-Chairman

Greetings to All

Let me start by saying thank you. Your reports have been amazing. You have completed every task that was asked of you to do. However, our mission advocating for our Veterans and their families' rights is far from over. There are so many bills that need to be passed in Congress. We must stay alert, respond and get involved! Continue to educate our community leaders of the needs of our Veterans.

There are local elections coming up within your communities. This would be a great opportunity for you to assist Veterans and residents with rides to the polls and for you to attend town hall meetings to inform your local council members of our Veterans' needs. Be

prepared and show them what our priority goals are, making them aware of what our Veterans and their families' needs are.

Partner with your VFW and invite your local representatives to an awards ceremony for our first responders and educators bringing awareness in how we recognize people in your community. Our mission is to keep our Veterans' rights and needs imbedded in the minds of our local representatives so they will support any bills that benefit our Veterans and their families

**Here are some important dates to remember. All reports after March 31 will be for the 2025-2026 year: Year-End Reports due to District President by April 10th 2025 - District Presidents will forward to Department Chair by April 20, 2025 Again thank you for all that you do

Being Thankful and Grateful For The Sacrifice From Our Roots To Our Branches, Extending Service To Our Veterans



AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Pamela Fintel – Chairman
Ilona Shipley – Co- Chairman

Happy St Patrick's Day!!!!

We are almost at the end of program year. Texas has done an excellent job reporting this wonderful Auxiliary Outreach program. I am so proud of everything you and your Auxiliaries are doing for our Communities.

Auxiliary Outreach programs are empowering communities through support and engagement. This serves as a bridge to connect resources with the individuals and groups that need them the most.

This Spring like time of year opens so many more opportunities for Auxiliary Outreach programs. Some opportunities might include helping local garden growers plant seeds and grow vegetables for the elderly or the homeless.

Volunteer at a Senior Center, playing games, reading. Education is the cornerstone of personal and community development. It includes adult literacy programs can empower individuals who did not have the opportunity to complete their formal education.

We are seeing 5K runs and a lot more outdoor events. Check your Facebook pages and local bulletin boards for these events.

Remember you cannot plan these events, give money or participate in the events.

You are the WORKER BEE....You can pass out water at a water station, register runners or walkers.

You can only Volunteer your TIME.

Your Year-End Reports are due to your District Presidents on April 10th. Please do not be late. Your District Presidents have to get those reports to me by April 20th.

You all have done an outstanding job! Let's let everyone know that TEXAS is hard to beat when it comes to Auxiliary Outreach. We are there for our communities.

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**VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Missi Palmore – Chairman**

March is stepping in cadence and marching spring into Texas. Of course, we all know we shouldn't start planting and spring hasn't truly sprung until after the last frost..lol. So, what great Veteran & Family support things are you planning for the month of March? Sometimes the idea wells get a little dry towards the end of our reporting year or we just fall back to the same ole thing.

How about you sass up your Spring and March for your Veterans and surrounding families/communities that you lovingly serve. First, I want to remind you of two important Veteran support days this month:

K-9 Veterans Day | March 13th

Medal of Honor Day | March 25th

National Vietnam War Veteran Day | March 29th

Spring and March have been long thought to be times of renewal and clean out time. I know many of us look in the closet or garage and think “hmmm I really need to clean that out”. Or perhaps as you drink your morning coffee (like me) looking outside thinking I need to clean out the flower beds, plow the garden, and mentally draw out my footprint of planting. (And often reminded to walk fast through the plant nursery it's too early). How can you perhaps assist some of your Veterans with these

same tasks? It truly does not cost much or maybe not a penny—just some time and good hard work. And the feeling of love you can share with the Veteran, perhaps get a couple good stories to tell also.

Honoring the *pawtriot*s in your community. Do you have any K-9s that have seen active duty, they would certainly deserve a treat and celebration. But what about we stretch it a bit, honor those K-9 that support the Veterans in your Post/Auxiliary. We see these working dogs daily—maybe a little celebration for them or ask the Veteran is there anything you can help with. Even the working dog gets a break or could use a treat. Perhaps the Veteran and their K-9 could use a ride for an annual veterinary visit. Or perhaps animal shelter donations in honor of the faithfully K-9 to feed those without a home.

Honoring those of Honor. Perhaps letting your community and youth know/see the faces behind the Medal of Honor. Honor any in your community, share stories of Medal of Honor recipients via social media or have information to share with the youth of your communities. These heroes should be recognized and shown great honor. Our youth should understand their stories to keep the honor alive for years to come.

Our Vietnam War Veterans are due more honor, hugs, love and “whatever else” we have to give them for sure. Make them your honorees for any dinners, trips to town, spring cleaning or perhaps a story time. Story time of days gone by, not necessarily the battle scars they don't want to share, but just listen to things they have seen and want to share.

I can't wait to see the great reports of all that you do to Spring into March for Veterans and Family Support. Ya'll come up with some of the greatest things to show gratitude and love for those in your community. Remember some things do not cost a penny and they can mean the most.

Keep shining your fabYOUlous Texas*selves bright throughout our great state. Keep those reports coming this way, you all make me smile daily.

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CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION/MENTORING
Patricia "Patsy" Kemp

District Presidents and Deputy Chief of Staffs, now is the time to get the word out and encourage all members to attend their Auxiliary April meetings. Why? Election of Officers and District Delegates. Some Auxiliaries even have their Department Delegates elected then. Depending when in the month they meet. Now more than ever, knowing the duties of each office and the progression of the line is very helpful. If there is any doubt about filling chairs this month (for 2025-2026), this the perfect time to discuss filling chairs. Think long and hard about their capabilities and desire to do a good job before electing them.

This year **"From Our Roots to Our Branches"** **"Extending Services to Our Veterans"** as we showed we are **"Thankful & Grateful for The Service."**

Keep working membership -- We still have March, April and May to get it into Department.

Auxiliary Presidents, Deputy Chief of Staffs and District Presidents; As you prepare those End-of-Year Reports:

1. Did you send me a nomination for someone that assisted in revitalizing his/her Auxiliary and who used the Healthy Auxiliary materials? Give details
2. Did you turn in a name of a member that demonstrated mentoring in his/her Auxiliary, District or Department? Give details.
3. Do you have an Auxiliary that used publicity, such as radio/TV/social media, in forming their Auxiliary or revitalizing their Auxiliary? Give detail and back up material.
4. Did you have an Auxiliary that implemented the CARE Mentoring Program or some other mentoring program? Give details.
5. Did you turn in the name of a Line Officer that you think did an outstanding job of Mentoring this year? Who? Give details.

Anyone can nominate someone for any of my awards. You Must give details.

District Presidents there are still a few Auxiliaries that need help reporting. Please assist them and make sure they get credit for work done.

Thank you, Sisters and Brothers, for striving to achieve all of our goals this year. It could only happen by working together as a team.

The things that I hope everyone learned this year was to communicate better, more often and the importance of communication. Also, the importance of having a mentoring program in each Auxiliary. Thank you to each one that stepped up and mentored in any way. The

goal of Officers & Mentors is to train and equip leaders of today and to strengthen our Auxiliary and Districts: in other words, Our Foundation for tomorrow.

April End of Year Reports are due in District Presidents hand by April 10th

I HAVE Two (2) Different End of Year Reports:
#1 (One) for DCOS Extension/Revitalization. ANYONE that did any work in these areas can fill out what pertains to them.

#2 (Two) MENTORING - IS FOR ALL MENTORS ANY LEVEL.

If you (any Member) are nominating a Line Officer for Outstanding Mentor or an Auxiliary Mentor or District Mentor for the Outstanding Awards, just sent me a sheet with Who you are nominating, Why and what they have done for this award.

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BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME
Sally Jarrett – Chairman
Sarah Begley – Co-Chairman

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, remember that every "Buddy" Poppy worn is a "Pot of Gold" for a Veteran in need. With warmer weather on the horizon, now's the perfect time for Auxiliaries to hold "Buddy" Poppy drives. Check your supply of "Buddy" Poppies so you are maximizing donations. It's my pleasure to announce the Mid-Winter "Buddy" Poppy Finalists

1st Place District 18

2nd Place District 9

3rd Place District 16

Honorable Mention District 17

Thank you for all your hard work and your amazing "Buddy" Poppy Displays.

VFW National Home

At the Mid-Winter Roundup, we unveiled the new year incentive to help support the VFW National Home. Please note, we **MUST** have a copy of the application submitted so that we can verify the new member for your entry into the raffle can count. Entering this raffle is very simple! For you to be in the raffle, you must recruit **5 CENTENNIAL LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS**. Once verified, your name will be entered into the raffle!

This will continue until April 30, 2025. Recruit new members and earn REWARDS!! Contact us if you have any questions. Let's make some "GREEN" for our heroes! Don't forget REPORT - REPORT - REPORT with PHOTOS!

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**HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS
Marissa Anderson**

March Madness! It is as true in our organization as it is on the courts. (That's all I will say on that theme - I know nothing about basketball...) This month is truly the month to start wrapping up everything for the year.

As we are here, I have several things the membership needs to know. Firstly, I want to make sure that y'all are working on your award entry forms. The National Award is for the "most outstanding promotion of the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources." In order to be eligible for this award, you have to submit your award form to me at the Department Level by March 31st.

PLEASE NOTE! This form is separate from the Department form and can be found on MALTA. If this form is not submitted, you are not eligible for the award. If you need help finding the form, please reach out to me by text or email and I can send you a copy. If you are submitting by paper mail, please send it in early. If it is not in my mailbox delivered by March 31st, it does not count. Thank you and I look forward to seeing these submissions.

Second important item to note - as of the end of February, I have moved! My new address is 1005 W Stassney Ln, Unit 139, Austin TX 78745. I will be having my mail forwarded, but you know how the post office can be sometimes! If you can, please utilize email as much as possible. Thank you and as always, please reach out with any questions or clarifications you need.

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**SCHOLARSHIPS
Ronny Mote – Chairman**

Well folks, our ScholarSHIPS fleet is approaching its final port of call for 2024-2025, before making the return voyage to home port. Our journey thus far has included visits to the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, as well as to the Continuing Education Scholarship opportunities. Our upcoming arrival on March 31, 2025, provides the DEADLINE for our Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art contests. The informational pages, available through the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Dynamic QR Code and Facebook page, have all the details for each competition. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible for both and do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate. Entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2025, for judging.

First place for the YACPA contest is \$15,000

First place for the 3-DPA contest is \$2,500

So, let's all help Get The Word Out! We need to encourage as many of our Texas high schoolers as possible to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. I would also like to encourage our Auxiliary members and communities to donate to the Scholarship Fund to help support the different scholarships available.

Student Participation ● Recipient Recognition ●
Community Awareness ● Increasing the Fund

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**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
Amanda Humphrey – Chairman**

Happy Rosie the Riveter Day to the great State of Texas!! Can y'all believe it's already March our year is getting so close to being over and it saddens me!! How did everyone enjoy Mid-Winter?? I absolutely had a fantastic and informative time! I always love getting the chance to see old friends, network with everyone and meet new friends!! With spring break coming up in March please make sure you stay on task and get your

National Forms sent to Department Chairman no later than March 31st, your end of year reports are due to your District Presidents by April 10th. Please get them in as soon as possible so if there are any issues your District President has time to get them back to you for corrections then compiled and sent to the State Chairman.

How many of these dates in March did you promote? What did you do to promote them? I would love to hear about it!!

March 3rd, Star Spangled Banner Day

March 13th, K-9 Veterans Day

March 21st, is Rosie the Riveter Day

March 25th, is Medal of Honor Day

March 29th, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day

While we were at State Convention, I asked everyone to research and report back to me about March 21st, Rosie the Riveter Day for a lesser-known patriotic holiday! For the ones that don't know Rosie the Riveter was the star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers for the defense industry, factory industry and other jobs during World War II.

All the men had enlisted into the war leaving no one here to make the airplanes or the ammunition or anything else for the war or for the home front. That is when the "Rosie the Riveters" stepped up to keep the War and the World going while our Warriors were fighting over seas with the slogan "We Can Do it".

By 1940 the female percentage of the US Workforce was almost 37% then by 1945 one in every four women worked outside the home.

While I was traveling to District #25, I got the absolute pleasure of meeting and even got a hug from the daughter of a real life "Rosie the Riveter" her mother worked as a riveter/bucker on the wings of the airplanes because she has small enough to fit in the wings!!

More than 310,000 women worked in the US aircraft industry in 1943, making up 65% of the industries total workforce compared to just 1% in the pre-war years!!

Mae Krier is one of the original Rosie the Riveters of WWII and has been fighting for Women's Rights ever since. She was born in Dawson, North Dakota in 1926, she had an uncle that was in Guadalcanal, then she heard about the bombing on Pearl Harbor, she knew then she wanted to do something to help. Mae, her sister and several friends got a job at Boeing and started working on B-17s and B-29s. In May of 1944 they built the 5,000th B-17 since Pearl Harbor and all the "Rosies" got to paint their name on it and push it out on the tarmac!!

On April 17th, 2018 Mae Krier got "Rosie the Riveter Day" approved through congress. Then on April

10th, 2024 in Washington DC Mae Krier and other "Rosie the Riveters" accepted the Congressional Medal of Honor on behalf of all the Rosies. For more info on this amazing era of women please visit rosietheriveter.org.

Now that we are in March, please discuss your April dates with your Auxiliary and VFW. Having a calendar for the month printed out ready to go at your meeting encourages your members to write in all the dates you decide on and helps them to remember. What other tips or tricks does your Auxiliary do to help your membership show up to your events? Here are the dates that I have for April. Do you have any others?

April 5th, Gold Star Spouses Day

April 15th, Purple up Day – for Military kids

Thank you for all you do,

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**TEXAS STAR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD
DISTRICTS AND AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS
Laurie Wiley – Chairman**

Congratulations District and Auxiliary Presidents. We have made it through 2024-2025. Now we must get the important work done.

I am sure you have been keeping track of all the work your District and Auxiliaries have done throughout the year.

Please fill out your Texas Star of Excellence EOY report. Send to my email:

Navyblue4378@outlook.com

or send by US Mail to:

Laurie Wiley
24228 Holly Street
Porter, Texas 77365

As President of your District or Auxiliary be proud of your Auxiliaries' accomplishments. The success of your Auxiliary or Auxiliaries depends on your leadership.

As District President or President of your Auxiliary, your officers and chairmen have looked to you for guidance throughout the year. Thank you for all your hard work this year. If you need me for anything, please feel free to call or text 713-247-9591.

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GOOD. BETTER. BEST. NEVER LET IT REST.
UNTIL YOUR GOOD IS BETTER,
AND YOUR BETTER IS BEST.
---- Tim Duncan ----



**WAYS AND MEANS
Tacie Frink – Lydia Leal**

Thank you to all of the Auxiliary's that brought Grab Bags to Mid-Winter and a Special Thank You to Tanya Jackson for your help with them. You are amazing.

Thank you to the Districts that brought baskets or their money raised for the baskets.

Please continue sending in your ticket stubs, Lucky Calender stubs and money to Department.

We still have several drawings for State Convention.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call or text me or Lydia.

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**HOSPITAL/VAVS  
Glenda L. Hunt – Chairman**

No article -submitted late



**JO ELLA MENN**

**C ANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF  
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER  
2025-2026**

**ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621  
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6**

**\*\*\*Delegates/Alternates Form and  
Election Form will be going out from  
the Department April 1 to the  
Auxiliary Presidents.\*\*\***