

General Orders No.10 April 2023

**Greetings,**

In membership we are over 102% and I’m very **PA PROUD** and I hope you are too. As a reminder in the beginning of this Auxiliary year, we set a Department goal to attain 105% in membership Can we do it? Let’s keep working on collecting membership dues.

Congratulations to Charlee Kurtz – our Department First Place VOD winner sponsored by Pvt. Allen J Beck, Jr. VFW and Auxiliary 5265, Spring Grove in District 21. It was a distinct pleasure for Commander Mannella and I to escort her in National’s Parade of States in Washington DC she won an additional $1500 scholarship.

**Reminders:**

The PA Auxiliary **Sweepstakes** annual raffle tickets have been mailed. Please consider purchasing tickets as this is the only fundraising event, we as a Department have. If you would like to purchase additional tickets, contact Department Headquarters, or you can purchase more raffle tickets at the Department President’s Retreat. The winners will be drawn on Friday, April 14 in State College.

**Programs Update**: Auxiliary Presidents, are your Auxiliary’s program year end reports complete and in the hands of your District President?

**Department President’s Retreat**: Will take place at the Ramada Conference Center in State College, April 14-15 and **every** VFW and Auxiliary member is welcome to attend this fun, entertaining, and relaxed weekend with friends and family. Leave your tux and gown at home, but be sure to pack your red, white and blue attire.

**Special Project Update**: Our special project, benches for the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge, has gotten off to a wonderful start. Continue to send your donations to the Department Treasurer, Jodie Hollinger, at 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg PA 17109 and please mark your check Department President’s Special Project.

**Department Convention**: Our 2023 State Convention is scheduled for June 14-17 at the Harrisburg Sheraton. Convention information will be available on our website go to www.pavfwaux.org.

 **New email addresses for Department Headquarters Staff -**  To contact Jodie Hollinger, Secretary/Treasurer jodie@vfwauxpa.org and Sandy Brenner, Department Clerk, sandy@vfwauxpa.org

 **What is the Difference Between a Regularly Scheduled Auxiliary Meeting and a Special Auxiliary Meeting?** Every Auxiliary shall hold at least **10** business meetings per year and a change in this regular meeting (date, time or place) shall be approved by a 2/3 vote of the members present at such meeting. Notification of such change shall be sent to **all** of the Auxiliary members and also a notification sent to **National, Department and District secretaries within 10 calendar days**. The **Auxiliary President** may call a special meeting whenever he/she deems it may be necessary for the welfare of the Auxiliary. Also, the Auxiliary President may call a special meeting upon request, in writing signed by 5 members in good standing. The **Auxiliary Secretary shall notify all members in writing of the time and place of any special meeting and of the business to be transacted, such notice to be sent at least 48 hours in advance of the time set for the meeting. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except that for which the meeting was called which was stipulated in the meeting notice.** For additional guidance please refer to Section 210 of our Bylaws.

A very special thank you to the Districts I have visited to date. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to accommodate my visit. Your hospitality and camaraderie have been greatly appreciated.

Patriotic Trivia: How well do you know your **red, white, and blue**?

When the US flag becomes soiled it cannot be washed or dry cleaned it must be burned in an appropriate ceremony. True or False? Email me at valeriedecorte50@gmail.com with your answer. Please include your name and which Auxiliary you are a member of. The first correct response received will be posted on our Department Facebook page.

Until you hear from me again, be strong, be safe, and be kind.

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor

Hospital

Membership

TIPS

Youth Activities

Loyalty Day

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 1 - District 16 Meeting @ Conshohocken #1074 – 11:00 A.M.

April 30 - District 14 Meeting @ Towanda #1568 – 2:00 P.M.

**Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger**

Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger

Department President Department Secretary/Treasurer

**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

**APRIL 2023**

**GENERAL ORDERS #10**

#auxiliarypatriotism

#auxiliarypatriotismpa

***“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”***

 **“*Respect…. Honor…. Remember” our Veterans*!!**

Thank you all for closing out the reporting year with **AMAZING** projects and accomplishments!!

***So proud of Pennsylvania!! Keep those ideas rolling!***

**It’s been a wonderful year serving as your Chairman, I have learned so much and enjoyed every second!**

District Presidents, I encourage you to **award your Auxiliaries** that are working so hard!

Hand out Citations from the website OR design your own.

 A simple **THANK YOU makes a HUGE difference**, showing the work is SO appreciated!

 Don’t slow your roll just because reports are completed**, KEEP PROMOTING our Country, Flag & Freedom!**

Time to get involved and plan your Memorial Day Services, Parades & Events 😊

***Work together with your Posts, Remembering our Fallen.***

Finish out the School Year, visit classes to teach **Flag Etiquette & the Importance of the Pledge of Allegiance.**

Has your Auxiliary participated and carried out a shared idea from **#AUXSWAP???**

**I would LOVE to hear if you did! Email me the Details!**

**Upcoming Military Dates:**

***WHAT’S A PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR TO DO???***

SEES THAT THE ROOM IS IN KEEPING WITH RITUAL

INSTRUCTS MEMBERS PROPER USE OF & SALUTE THE FLAG

MAINTAINS RECORD OF PATRIOTIC DAYS & OBSERVESS

PROVIDES MENTORSHIP ON PATRIOTISM & GOOD CITIZENSHIP

PERFORMS OTHER DUTIES THE RITUAL MAY REQUIRE

**APRIL 5 - GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY**

**APRIL 14 – AIR FORCE RESERVE BIRTHDAY**

**APRIL 15 – PURPLE UP! DAY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

**APRIL 23 – ARMY RESERVE BIRTHDAY**

**MAY 1 – LOYALTY DAY & SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY**

**MAY 8 – VE DAY**

**MAY 12 – MILITARY SPOUSES DAY**

**MAY 20 – ARMED FORCES DAY**

**MAY 29 – MEMORIAL DAY**

**JUNE 6 – D-DAY**

**JUNE 12 – WOMEN VETERANS DAY**

**JUNE 14 – US FLAG DAY & US ARMY BIRTHDAY**

**JUNE 27 – PTSD AWARENESS DAY**

***Thank you for all you are doing for the Department of Pennsylvania!***

Loyally yours,

Amy Peterson **THEPETERSONS@ATLANTICBB.NET**

PA Department Chair 2022-2023 814-331-1142

**HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM**

GENERAL ORDERS # 10 – April 2023

They say that April showers, bring May flowers. If you are a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary you know April brings year-end reporting deadlines. This is where you get to tell everyone what your Auxiliary members have accomplished this year. IF everyone does what they are supposed to, this process flows smoothly, however, when anyone doesn’t complete their end of the process, that’s when problems arise, and credit is not given where credit is due. I hope you completed your part of this process.

HOSPITAL/VA/HOME FOCUS: This month I will be focusing on **Erie VA Medical Center** which is located at 135 East 38th Street Boulevard, Erie PA. Linda Magee serves as Representative and Jessica Nadolny and Katherine Nadolny are Deputies. Erie VA Medical Center opened in 1951 as a general medicine and surgical hospital for combat Veterans. During its first year, it served more than 1,300 Veterans. In those early days, patients shared rooms with anywhere from 7 to 15 other Veterans, and each ward featured only 2 roll-about televisions and a pay phone on wheels. As more Veterans started to seek VA services during the Korean and Vietnam wars, VA began to offer comprehensive health care services to all Veterans. At the Erie VA Medical Center, we expanded our services to include primary and specialty care. They also offer long-term care in medicine, surgery, behavioral health, physical medicine and rehabilitation, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care. In 1997, they opened our first 3 community-based outpatient clinics—in Ashtabula, Crawford, and McKean counties—to provide convenient, high-quality health care to Veterans in rural areas. In 2005, we opened 2 more clinics in Venango and Warren counties. Today, Erie health care provides world-class health care to more than 23,000 Veterans in a 9-county area in northwestern Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and southwestern New York. AND **Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center,** whichis located at 3900 Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, PA and has a husband/wife team; Carol Ann McGinley serves as Representative and Michael J. McGinley is Deputy. This VA Medical Center opened on December 16, 2014, and originally was named the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, but was renamed Corporal Michal J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, paying tribute to the only Vietnam-era service member from Philadelphia to receive the Medal of Honor. In 2022, they served 61,482 Veterans in our 7-county service area: 92.2% men and 7.8% women Veterans and had 3,036 full-time employees, had 678,013 outpatient visits and 7,091 hospital admissions.  Today, Philadelphia health care serves nearly 58,000 Veterans living in Philadelphia and a 7-county area of southeastern Pennsylvania, and southern New Jersey. The Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, a leading teaching hospital, is affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. We offer residencies in all major medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties. We also offer associated health training in nursing, dentistry, psychology, audiology (hearing), social work, dietetics (nutrition), and pharmacy. Each year, more than 500 residents train at our hospital and clinics in various specialties. We also train more than 200 medical students every year.

These two facilities still have covid protocols and is limited to visitors and those who may want to volunteer, but the Representative and Deputies make sure our Veteran’s needs are met in any way they can.

**HOSPITAL PROGRAM FOCAL POINT**: Like every day, our focus should always be on our Veterans, whether they are in a VA Hospital, Home or Center, or in a local Nursing Home or have home health care. Those Veterans who are at this point in their life need something extra, “US”, showing we care and are going to do all we can for them. The care that these Veterans receive is important, and them knowing that we, as members of the VFW Auxiliary are here to help them in any way is the most important thing we can do! Locate a VA facility near you at volunteer.gov/directory/index.asp.

Remember the National and Department VFW and Auxiliary websites: National Auxiliary: www.vfwaux.org/resources, Pennsylvania Auxiliary: www.pavfwaux.org, Veterans of Foreign Wars National VFW: www.vfw.org, and Pennsylvania VFW: www.vfwpahq.org, all contain vital information to help you have a successful year.

**REMINDER: Don’t forget to nominate someone for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer – full details on National website!!!**

Our Veterans and their families are thankful for the “**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**” and if we “**Respect…Honor…Remember**” our Veterans and remember their sacrifices, they, their families and our communities will see that the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary is an organization that truly cares.

***Thought for the month:*** “Say good words, think good thoughts, do good deeds!”

Loyally,

**Bonnie S. Drake**  **Diane Haller**

Bonnie S. Drake Diane Haller

Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone: 570-647-8685 Co-Chairman

**MEMBERSHIP**

**GENERAL ORDERS #10**

**April 2023**

This year’s Membership Program is all about **Building, Reinforcing and Reuniting Connections** to ensure that **Every Member Matters**. We want new members to feel welcomed, current members to feel needed, and disengaged members to feel re-energized. We appreciate everything you are doing to make this happen. Please make sure you are reporting your information for the awards that are available. Below are a few that you can still submit:

**Connections Challenge Award #3: Tell-Your-Story Recruitment Videos**

Each of our members has a story to tell: Why did they join the VFW Auxiliary? How long have they been a member and why do they stay? What is their favorite program? How do they believe they’ve been impacted by their membership? What impact do they believe they’ve had through their membership? I know a video might sound a bit intimidating, but it’s just about talking. Have a conversation and get them to tell their story. A short story can make a huge difference for someone considering membership or someone who needs some motivation to get involved. Try It, Post It, and **Make the Connection because Every Member Matters!**

***Pick the best Tell-Your-Story Video for your Auxiliary and submit it to the Department Membership Chairman by April 15, 2023. The Auxiliary with the top video for each Membership Division will receive a $50 VFW Store Gift Certificate. \*\*\*In order to qualify for judging, each video must mention this year’s membership theme: Every Member Matters. Winners will be announced and shown at State Convention. (Tip: When recording, turn your phone horizontal, so the video will record in full screen,)***

**District Award #3** The District in each Membership Division with the best overall promotion of the Department Membership Program will be awarded $50. All promotional materials must be submitted to the Department Chairman by April 30, 2023.

**THE PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM/CHECKLIST FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS 2022-2023.** Even though all of your Year-End Reports have been completed, there’s still time to submit your All State Award Checklist. You can find it in your Program Book or on the VFW Auxiliary PA Website (vfwauxpa.org) under Programs—Membership or under Resources—Forms. All your documentation must be submitted to the Membership Chairman (me) by May 5, 2023. If you have questions, give me a call, text me or send me an email. I can’t wait to see these awards presented to the All State Presidents and Treasurers during the Joint Opening Ceremony of this year’s State Convention in Harrisburg, PA.

**Make the Connections because Every Member Matters!** Through ***Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care,*** we will ***Respect... Honor… Remember...*** our Veterans.

Andrea Meintel

Department Membership Chairman

andreavfwaux@gmail.com

PA’s Membership Growth Goal: 105%

 ***PA***

 ***102.3%***

***CONGRATULATIONS*** to the following Auxiliaries who are ALL MEMBERS of the **100% Membership Mission Club**:

Non-District: Auxiliaries: 298, 1532, 1665, 6982

District 1: Auxiliaries: **2819**, 3090, 6700, 7650

District 7: Auxiliaries: 3460, 4845

District 8: Auxiliaries: 1597, 2124, 6393, 6493, 6495

District 9: Auxiliaries: 106, 1463, 2435,4480, 5752, 5956, 6759, 7294, 7418, 8757

District 10: Auxiliaries: 25, 531, 3474, 5207, 6082, 6520, 7069, 7251, **7963**

District 11: Auxiliaries: 1425, 4909, 5010, 8161,8227, 8317

District 13: Auxiliaries: 216, 411, **6150**

District 14: Auxiliaries: 384, 804, 1568, 5642, 6824, 8306, **8488**

District 15: Auxiliaries: 6753, 6755, **6757**, 7810, 7863, 8730

District 16: Auxiliaries: 32, 1074, 5954

District 17: Auxiliaries: 34, 255, 882, 1964,5863, **6631**, 7463

District 18: Auxiliaries: 148, 477,1213, 1620, **2385**, 3502, 5750, **6076**, 6168, 6417, 6704, 7343, 7530, 8023, **8851**

District 19: Auxiliaries: **212**, 464, 1132, 1835, 2145, 2497, 6391, 7252, 8755, **8803**

District 20: Auxiliaries: 509, **3448**, **7215**, 8225

District 21: Auxiliaries: 15, 537, 695, 1446, 1599, 2493, 2506, 6319, **7012**, **7045**, 7046, 7374, 8896, 8951

District 22: Auxiliaries: **3**, 43, 813, 842, **1600**, **1785**, 3450, **4559**, 5020, **5825**, **6321**, 7043, 8685

District 23: Auxiliaries: **21**, 747, 4795, 7295, 7457, 8826, 8861

District 24: Auxiliaries: 764, **927**, **1409**, 3491, 4793
District 25: Auxiliaries: **128**, 249, 499, 1821, 3577, 7376, 8106

District 26: Auxiliaries: 155, 779, 1586, 2076, 4200, 4315, 4843, 4963, 6555, 7377, 7605

District 27: Auxiliaries: 92, 781, 3368, 3414, 6743

District 28: Auxiliaries: 169, 264, 470, 519, 740, 2341, **3374**, 4789, 4965, 5424, **5958**, 6166, 6233, **6345**, 6404, **7465**, **7842**
District 29: Auxiliaries: 1810,7090, 9199

District 30: Auxiliaries: 4129, **4440**, 8333, 9219

Districts over 100% in Current Membership: 1, **7**, **8**, 9, 10, 11, **13**, **14**, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, **22**, **23**, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29

**DISTRICT 10 (1st Place) DISTRICT 11 (2ND Place) DISTRICT 27 (3rd Place)**

Newest members are in **BOLD**

**TIPS**

April 2023

**Chief of Staff (Mentoring for Leadership/Revitalization)**

New officers are elected this month. Don’t be afraid to step up and take a position of leadership.

There are members throughout our organization who will assist and mentor you. Change can be

good. Don’t let your Auxiliary become stagnant! Our reporting year for 2022-23 is over but our jobs

 are not finished! Please continue to mentor your new members and encourage ALL members to attend meetings and volunteer for your projects. Have you given any Good Job Awards to members? Let them

know they are appreciated for who they are and what they do! No job is too small to be recognized!

Bobbie Lawrence - auxiliary2145@hotmail.com

**Legislative**

Hey VFW Auxiliary members of Pennsylvania this is a reminder.

That we make sure the new Priority Goals are taken out of your binder.

Then reviewed and made sure our Congressional members in Washington.

Lobby for the passing of our bills,

And making sure they become a law and just not sit on Capitol Hill.

We need to make sure our bills presented to Congress for Veterans past, present, and future,

Are handled by our legislators and passed for sure.

Our bills are just as important as any other piece of other legislation.

And need as much attention as any other in our nation.

Show our Veterans, active duty, and their families we have their backs.

So this is one more hurdle that won’t fall through the cracks.

Dale Lepore - dale@vfw6704.org

**Veterans & Family Support**

This is the time of our year we should be thinking of ways to bolster our coming year for

the Veterans & Family Support Program. Most of this program will remain the same, so keep

logging the things that you are doing or make plans for what you would like to do. Keep up the

great work.

Paula Havasi - phavasi@live.com

**Auxiliary Outreach** – Benefits of Program

 Helping others

 Learning new skills

 Career advancement

 Meeting new people

 Personal growth

Kimberly Grundon – kgrundon@comcast.net

**Youth Activities Program**

**2022-2023**

**General Orders #10**

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Thank you for working so hard with our Youth this year Always remember that we are educators teaching our Youth that “Freedom is not Free”!!

Auxiliary Chairmen: Report…Report…Report! Your Year-End Report should show something you did which included our Youth!! **Remember: Year-End Reports are due to your District President by April 7th!!**

District Presidents: Please review Auxiliary Year-End Reports before sending to me!! If you have reports with nothing reported, please contact your Auxiliary to make sure they are not forgetting to report an activity.

Let’s make sure Pennsylvania is 100% reporting in Youth Activities!! You do the work, Report!!

Why do we do Year-End Reports? Reporting information about the great things our Auxiliaries do assists the VFW Auxiliary National Officers in proving our non-profit status. Also, would your Auxiliary work as hard as you do for our Veterans if you weren’t held accountable to your District & Department?

Good Luck in receiving awards at State Convention in June!! Hope to see you there!!

It was a pleasure working with you in 2023 on this our Youth Activities program. As we “***Respect….Honor…Remember”***our Veterans, we must always continue to have ***“Hands the Serve, Hearts that Care”***.

Nancy D. Kreiner

Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary

Youth Activities Chairman 2022-2023

(717)460-1635

mrsplk2@aol.com

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**LOYALTY DAY**

Monday, May 1, 2023

PA State Capitol

501 North 3rd Street

Harrisburg, PA

Loyalty Day is a special day for the reaffirmation

of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition

of the heritage of American Freedom.

**Every Post, Auxiliary and District are encouraged to**

**participate in this reaffirmation of our loyalty.**

 **Monday, May 1 – 10:00 A.M.**

**In the Capitol Rotunda**

**Bring your Flags w/stands**