



General Orders No.10

April 2025

Dear Members,

The flowers are beginning to bloom, and with them comes a fresh sense of energy, growth, and renewal—both in nature and in our organization. As we step into April, I want to thank each of you for the hard work, heart, and dedication you continue to pour into supporting our veterans, their families, and our communities.

We're now in the final stretch of our Auxiliary year, and it's the perfect time to reflect on how far we've come and look ahead to what we can still accomplish together. From community outreach to patriotic programs, you've all played a vital role in keeping our mission strong and visible.

Membership

In the last few months, we've seen great momentum in our membership efforts. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to recruit new members and reconnect with current ones. Remember, every member adds strength to our voice, our mission, and our impact.

Let's not forget—our Department Membership goal is 105%. By growing, we increase our collective strength, and our voice becomes louder, especially when it comes to advocating for Veterans' rights, benefits, and programs. Let's keep the momentum going by continuing to invite eligible family and community members to join and follow-up with unpaid members to help them stay active in our Auxiliary family.

Legislative Conference

I had the most amazing experience attending the **VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.** It was truly an honor to be part of this important event, where I had the opportunity to witness—and participate in—advocating for our Veterans on Capitol Hill.

Being surrounded by passionate VFW and Auxiliary members from across the country, all united in one mission, was incredibly inspiring. We met with legislators, shared our concerns, and reinforced the importance of supporting legislation that directly impacts the lives of Veterans, service members, and their families.

This experience reminded me just how powerful our collective voice can be. When the Commander-in-Chief says, *"We represent 1.4 million Veterans and Auxiliary members,"* it carries real weight in Washington. Advocacy is one of the most vital parts of our mission—and every member, whether near or far, plays a role in keeping that voice strong. Together, we're not only honoring our Veterans—we're fighting for their future.

Highlight: Voice of Democracy Parade of States

Another highlight of the VFW Legislative Conference was the inspiring **Voice of Democracy Parade of States.** I had the distinct honor, alongside **State Commander Loncar**, of escorting Pennsylvania's very own VOD winner, **Benjamin Ferster.**

It was a proud moment not just for Benjamin, but for all of us representing Pennsylvania. His powerful voice and thoughtful message earned him **5th place in the nation**, along with an additional **\$5,000 scholarship award**—a tremendous achievement! Congratulations, Benjamin! Your success is a shining example of what our programs can do to uplift and empower the next generation of leaders.

Department Convention

Start making your plans now to attend the **Department Convention**, taking place **June 11–15, 2025**, in historic **Gettysburg, PA**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate our accomplishments, learn from one another, and prepare for the year ahead. All convention information, including hotel details, schedules, and registration forms, will be available on the **Department website: vfwauxpa.org**.

Commander Loncar and I look forward to recognizing those VFW's and Auxiliaries who are working Together. Be sure to complete the Working Together Excellence Award Form which is attached to the General Orders.

We hope to see you there as we gather in the spirit of service, unity, and pride in our mission!

Important Dates:

- April 5 – District 16 Meeting @ Horsham #9788 – 11:00 A.M. *
- April 10 - 12 - Joint Testimonial Weekend for Commander Loncar & President Meintel – Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, Gettysburg
- April 18 - Headquarters closed – Good Friday
- April 27 - District 14 Meeting @ Catawissa #8305 – 2:00 P.M.

***Official Visit**

Stay Connected:

- Visit our website: www.vfwauxpa.org
- Follow us on Facebook: VFW Auxiliary – Department of Pennsylvania
- Follow us on Instagram: pa_vfw_auxiliary



With warmest regards,

Andrea

Andrea Meintel
Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Auxiliaries and Members In-Action at Mid-Winter Conference



Auxiliary to Post 7530, Lower Allen, held an Artisan Fair to raise money slated to be donated to Veterans Outreach of PA, assisting homeless veterans.



Kathy Belleville works endless hours confirming and processing Auxiliary Membership applications, achieving 100% at the France Sherman Auxiliary to VFW Post 212 in Bradford.



Auxiliary Members of VFW Post 8724 in Duncansville helped with a successful Veterans Health Fair.



Hospital Representative Linda Nieman and Deputy Marsha Lush coordinated a Bazaar for the residents of Southeastern Veterans Center. A great “shopping” experience that end with Canteen Coupons brought lots of smiles.



Auxiliary member Helen has been a volunteer at Lebanon VA for 18 years and has given over 25,000 volunteer hours at the hospital.



VFW and Auxiliary

Working Together Excellence Award

2024-2025



By working together, the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary can support veterans and their families more effectively. Collaboration is essential, promoting a sense of teamwork and mutual support. The VFW and the VFW Auxiliary provide vital resources and advocacy for veterans. By working Together, we create a stronger network of support, addressing the diverse needs of veterans and our communities. This partnership not only bolsters our individual missions, but also fosters camaraderie and a shared purpose, leading to a greater overall impact.

This award recognizes a VFW Post and its Auxiliary who exemplifies the power of collaboration.

The below form must be completed and submitted to Commander Loncar or President Meintel, 4002 Fenton Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17109 by May 1, 2025.

Post/Auxiliary Name _____ **Post/Aux. Number** _____

1. Do you have a joint Facebook Page? Yes _____ No _____
2. Do you have a joint Newsletter? Yes _____ No _____
3. How many times did the Post Commander speak at an Auxiliary Meeting?
(6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
4. How many times did the Auxiliary President speak at a Post Meeting?
(6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
5. How many joint Buddy Poppy Drives did you have? (6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
6. How many joint Membership Drives did you have? (6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
7. How many District Meetings did the VFW attend? (6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
8. How many District Meetings did the Auxiliary attend? (6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
9. How many joint events did you hold at the Post? (6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
Describe these events: (You can attach additional paper, flyers, pictures, etc.)

10. How many joint events did you hold in your community? (6/15/24-4/30/25) _____
Describe these events: (You can attach additional paper, flyers, pictures, etc.)

Post Commander Signature:

Auxiliary President Signature:

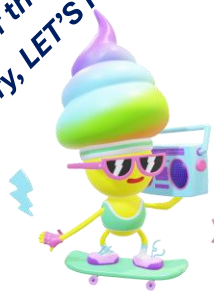
Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

GENERAL ORDERS
APRIL 2025
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
AMY PETERSON



CONGRATULATIONS PENNSYLVANIA!!!
WE MADE IT TO 100.81%..... YOU ARE AMAZING!
(based on Member Stat as of March 12, 2025)
Your year end reports should be into your District
Presidents by now, THANK YOU!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH.....INHALE.....EXHALE....
NOW!!! Let's GO after that 105% Plus!!!!
No rest for the weary, LET'S ROCK & ROLL!!!



NEW PHONE APP!!!!

Amazing Ambassador SHARE!

Stand out with a DIGITAL business card!!!
 Easily SHARE with everyone you meet
 Set the Membership QR code as a 'widget'
 on your phone's home screen too!!

QR Code + Digital Business Card = Membership Triumph!!!

DOWNLOAD THE 'BLINQ' APP TODAY!



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

CHART TOPPERS!!

DISTRICT- AUXILIARY(IES)

7	3460 ~ 4845
10	6082
14	714
15	7863
16	5954
17	255 ~ 7463
18	7415 ~ 8638
19	1835 ~ 2497 ~ 6391
22	6321 ~ 8269
23	7295 ~ 8861
24	1409
26	779 ~ 1989
27	734 ~ 6743
28	6404
29	7714
30	7527 ~ 8333

DISTRICT ROCKSTARS

14-16-17-18-27-28-30

National Ambassador,
 Linda Roloff...

NEVER misses a 'beat!'



She had a great ASK for
 your VFW comrades at
 their next business
 meeting.....

ASK to visit the next VFW
 meeting at your Post,
 Take member apps with
 you to share.....

ASK them this:

"Do you have a family
 member that is not an
 auxiliary member, if not,
 WHY??? Why not NOW?"
MIC DROP!!!! BOOM!!!

Remind them to
INVEST In THEMSELVES



INVEST in a Membership!

ALL STATE REMINDERS!!!

MUST BE COMPLETED & SUBMITTED
NOT A DAY PAST MAY 6TH

ALL AUDITS NEED TO BE INTO DEPT'S
HANDS BY MAY 1ST

HEALTH/HAPPINESS PAID?
 (hop on MALTA and Pay!)

HOSPITAL DONATIONS PAID?
 (Send to Department)

BUDDY POPPIES Purchased?

Auxiliary President attend at least
ONE District Meeting????

*****DISTRICT SECRETARIES*****

PLEASE SEND ATTENDANCE

(All District meetings)
 (May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025)

Why is your membership so important?

"We represent the families of all veterans" -Department President, Andrea Meintel

No Dues, No Vote, No Voice

Our Veterans matter, YOU matter!

Your Veteran made THE commitment, why not you? GO LIFE!!!



AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

APRIL 2025

“Together Helping Veterans”

*“From Our Roots to our Branches
extending Service to our Veterans”*

2024-2025

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Stacey Miller

As we launch into Spring and get busy with outdoor activities, let us not forget about our military families, specifically the children, and we honor them in April as Month of the Military Child.

Did you know that there are more than 1.6 million military children who face many challenges and unique experiences as a result of their parents' service.

While military members serve around the world, we often forget the challenges faced by their children. Military families move on average every two to three years, impacting military children through changing schools and support networks. Resources are available at www.militaryonesource.mil

AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR Tim Altman

Auxiliary sisters and brothers, can you believe it we are already in April? We have a few dates to recognize. April 5th is Gold Star Spouses Day. This is the day we honor and remember the surviving spouses of military members who have died in service to their country.

April 14th is the Air Force Reserve birthday. The Air Force Reserve was established on April 14, 1948 by President Harry S. Truman.

April 23rd is the Army Reserve birthday. The Army Reserve was established in 1916 under the national defense act, although its roots go back to the 18th century as a National Citizen Soldier Force.

Let's continue to honor and show respect to our veterans. “Together Helping Veteran.”



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado

I'm so excited to see the warmer weather coming through PA! I have been busy getting ready for my first Grandson this month, its tax season, and I am a tax professional.

In Auxiliary Outreach with the weather getting nicer, please check on our Veterans who may need assistance. A good way to do this is to check with agencies such as Area Agency on Aging (they have 52 local offices in PA,) and Meals on Wheels. They are good resources in the community to know where our help may be needed.

Please think about joining different organizations that will clean up your communities such as A.B.A.T.E. They organize events that will help benefit your community. They hold events such as Rabies clinics, swap meets, and adventure rides.

Please remember to send me your pictures and collages! I love seeing all your hard work that you have done! I am so very proud of you! PA Proud!

EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING



Kathy Altoff

We've talked about the Green-Light, Yellow-Light and Red-Light designations to determine how well an Auxiliary is doing. In April, your President, Secretary and Treasurer will be notified about your color designation. For those Red and Yellow Auxiliaries, Mentoring will be assigned. Curious about the health of your Auxiliary? Ask your President or your District President. Get involved and ensure that your Auxiliary continues to Thrive into the future, helping Veterans, Military Members, and the community.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

APRIL 2025, PAGE 2

BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Cindy Peters

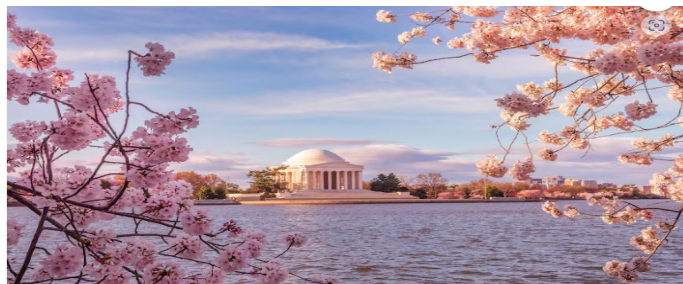
It is my honor and privilege to represent the "Buddy" Poppy/ National Home for the Dept. of PA Auxiliary this year and it has been such a pleasure! I hope everyone understands how important and close to my heart these programs are to me and, most importantly, to Veterans and their families around the country.

I just want to point out that although the National Home helps Veterans, when a Veteran receives help from the National Home, their family also receives help. Remember, the trauma Veterans go through can also affect their entire family! At National Home, children have a place to play, go to school, and even go to church. Spouses also get help with the things they need for their lives. These Veterans and their families have up to four years at the National Home to help them get on their feet!

Reminder: It is important to make sure your Program Reports are filled out and distributed to your District Auxiliary Presidents and Program Chairmen by April 5th (reporting ends March 31,2025). My sincerest thanks to those who have already sent completed forms! I am happy to see the great work you are doing for our Veterans and our VFWs!

Thank you all for your support for all the other Program Chairmen, me, and all Veterans!

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APRIL 2025, PAGE 3



LEGISLATIVE—Karen Mooney

April starts the beautiful blooming of Cherry trees in DC, but we would be remiss if we did not touch again on March and all that took place. March was a very busy month for VFW National Legislative Committee members, VFW Officers, Veterans, and VFW Auxiliary members in Washington DC. The VFW and Auxiliary were in DC, in large volume, advocating for our veterans and their families. The week-long event covered so many aspects that there are too many to cover but here are just a few highlights. Testimony was provided regarding Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs on the disagreement about fees for services rendered in the preparation of initial and supplemental claims for veterans' benefits.

#DontFeedTheSharks #VFWDC2025

Read the testimony: <https://www.vfw.org/.../congre.../2025/3/pending-legislation> or watch the hearing: <https://veterans.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx...>

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced in the beginning of March that it will complete deployment of the Federal Electronic Health Record system at nine additional medical facilities, bringing the total to go live in 2026 to 13, with complete deployment of the EHR at all VA medical facilities as early as 2031. This will be a major benefit to Service Officers as they assist veterans with filing for VA claims and other benefits.

VFW National Legislative Service Director Pat Murray testified before the full House Committee on Veterans' Affairs at a hearing on pending legislation:

- ✔ H.R. 472, Restore VA Accountability Act of 2025
- ✔ H.R. 740, Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025
- ✔ H.R. 1041, Veterans 2nd Amendment Protect Act

Just to list a few. Read his testimony

<https://www.vfw.org/.../congre.../2025/2/pending-legislation> or watch the hearing again:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bgPglVbr7u8> **House Committee on Veterans' Affairs GOP**
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Democrats

The National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan and Student Veterans of America representatives met to discuss The Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025. If passed into law, this legislation would expand GI Bill benefits to include Guard and Reserve members. **#VFWDC2025 #NoOneDoesMoreForForVeterans**

Stay informed with all that is going on in the legislative world, no matter where we are in our program year. Continue to make sure we stand for our Veterans. Remember that **Together Helping Veterans** and **From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans**, No one does more for Veterans than the VFW Auxiliary!!!! Let's be sure we are heard.

BE AN ADVOCATE* BE INFORMED* BE ENGAGED

HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling

Looking ahead to May:

If there was ever a time to show our appreciation for our veterans now is the time!

May is National Military Appreciation Month.



Do something special to honor veterans throughout the month. A small gesture such as a note saying you're thinking about them can make a huge difference.

Ask the volunteer or activities director if your Auxiliary could host a Memorial Day ceremony for those who are in medical facilities and are unable to attend or take part in public events and ceremonies. It does not have to be elaborate. A small table for an altar, a Bible, a candle to light and a prayer for the souls of the military members killed in service.

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the impact mental health can have on a person's well-being. Share resources that may benefit those struggling with mental health disorders. *The Veterans Crisis Line – dial 988 or text 838255. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.*

SCHOLARSHIPS - Pam Sopher

Greetings to all our Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters. By now you should have your entries for Patriotic Art, judging arranged, and be ready to send to me no later than April 15, 2025. They must meet this deadline or be disqualified. My address is Pam Sopher, 110 South Kerr St., Titusville, PA. 16354. Or you can make other delivery arrangements if you are in my area. I will also accept them at Commander Loncar and President Meintel's Testimonials held in April.

Please remember when mailing them, take extra caution in packing them so they can arrive safely. Some delivery carriers are not so delicate with them. After this, you can take a deep breath and let my judges do their jobs!

I want to take this time to thank you and our Comrades for all the time and effort you have put into this program. Thank you for working together on our Scholarships programs and ensuring that our students have the opportunity of a lifetime, one that they will never forget. They had the accomplishment of meeting new friends and having those friendships that will last a lifetime.

Sit back, relax, and think of other ways possible to get more involvement with our students in our coming months. Good luck to all our entrants! See you at the State Convention in June.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

APRIL 2025, PAGE 5

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

KRISTIN DIGIACOMO

As a friendly reminder to all Auxiliaries – there is no Department award for Historian books this year. To those who composed books for their Auxiliary or District, I hope that the members treasure the work that you've done so far, and will continue to do, to document our stories!

Also, for those who are looking to create QR codes, I found the best website to use for them is <https://www.qrcode-monkey.com/> and it's FREE!!

Don't know what a QR code is? A QR code is a type of barcode that stores data in a square-shaped grid of black and white pixels, allowing smartphones and cameras to quickly scan and access the information.

To scan a QR code, like the one to the right, simply open your phone's camera app and point it at the QR code; most smartphones will automatically recognize the code and offer a notification or prompt to open the associated link, website, or app.

Let us all remember to reach "From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans" as we continue coming "Together Helping Veterans" today and every day!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES—Jeanna Leydic

I have had so much fun this year as the Youth Activities chairman, I cannot wait to get all the beautiful and amazing drawings for the art contest! I know there's going to be a National Winner in there somewhere!

Who is excited to see who will get awarded the special "Starburst Award" this year for the most youth activities initiatives?? I have been working on the award, as I am making it myself, with the design help from my girls!! They are excited to see who wins their design award!

Can't wait to see everyone at the Joint President and Commander Testimonial! Get those year-end reports in and those submissions for the art contest!!

As always reach out if you need anything! You can find my contact information on the PA VFW AUX website or find me on Facebook under, 2024-25 VFW AUX YOUTH ACTIVITIES



TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS



COMMANDER BARB
AND
PRESIDENT ANDREA
JOINT TESTIMONIAL AGENDA

April 10, 2025 – April 12, 2025

Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center
2634 Emmitsburg Road Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-2755

**THEMES FOR THE COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT
TEAM—Together Everyone Achieves More
Together Helping Veterans**

Hospitality Room will be closed during Council meetings and the banquets.

VFW DEPARTMENT

Barb Loncar

Bill Roland

Jim Brown

John B. Getz, Jr.

Glenn R. Umberger, Jr.

State Convention

Sr. Vice Commander

Jr. Vice Commander

Adjutant/Quartermaster

Nat'l Council Member

VFW AUXILIARY

Andrea Meintel

Robin Kohler

Ceil Cook

Jodie Hollinger

Karen Hoover

President

Sr. Vice President

Jr. Vice President

Secretary-Treasurer

Nat'l Council Member

THURSDAY, April 10, 2025

2:00 PM-Veterans Service Meeting

Stillwell Room

3:30 PM-Finance Committee Meeting

Stillwell Room

FRIDAY, April 11, 2025

7:00 AM – 10:00AM Complimentary Breakfast at both hotels

9:00 AM-Convention Corp Meeting

Stillwell Room

10:00 AM-Past Commanders Meeting

Stillwell Room

11:00 AM—Past Commanders and Presidents Mtg

Stillwell Room

12:00 PM-5:00 PM Banquet Ticket Pickup

Eisenhower Lobby

5:15 PM- Auxiliary Sweepstakes Drawing

Eisenhower Lobby

6:00 PM – 11:00 PM Dinner and Entertainment by Three Hour Tour

Saturday, April 12, 2025

7:00 AM – 10:00AM Complimentary Breakfast at both hotels

10:00 AM-VFW COA Meeting Powell/Schwartzkopf

10:00 AM-Auxiliary COA Meeting Bradley/Nimitz

10:00 AM-12:00 PM- Banquet Ticket Pickup Eisenhower Lobby

5:30 PM-Cash Bar

6:00 PM-10:00 PM Dinner and Entertainment by Enlisted

Sunday, April 13, 2025

SAFE TRAVELS HOME

Dress Code

Council—Commanders Shirt (VFW)
Presidents' Shirt (Auxiliary)
Banquets---Business Professional



**VFW NATIONAL HOME
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
JUNE 28, 2025**



The Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary is taking a bus to the National Home for the National Home Community Celebration on June 28, 2025. The bus will depart VFW headquarters Friday, June 27th at 6:00 am and depart Michigan Sunday, June 29th at 7:30 am. There will be two pickup options:
Fairfield Inn & Suites, 4436 Business Route 220, Bedford
DoubleTree Pittsburgh-Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars

The cost for the bus is \$165.00 per person. Your check should be made payable to: Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary with **National Home Bus Trip** on the memo line and mail to Marsha Fuhrman 5059 Rislyn Court, Spring Grove, PA. 17362. The deadline for reservations is May 23, 2025.

There will be drinks and snacks on the bus going to and returning from the National Home, as well as 50/50's and gambling.

The hotel reservations will need to be made by you. We are staying at the Clarion Lansing Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917. The cost of the rooms are \$173.60 a night. When calling in to make your reservation, be sure to press "option 3" and refer to Group Block Code: **"062725SB"**. Room reservation deadline is May 23, 2025. The phone number to the hotel is 517-627-3211.

On Saturday, June 28th, from 11am to 4pm the grounds will have carnival rides, a car show, and family activities. After 4pm there will be live entertainment with a laser light show to cap off the evening. There will be a diverse selection of food trucks offering a wide variety of food for purchase.

Come and join us in celebrating the National Home Community Celebration. Don't miss the bus, the fellowship and the fun—**Make your reservations EARLY!!**



V F W
NATIONAL HOME



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ District/Post _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check Number _____

Getting on bus at VFW Headquarters _____ Will get on at one of the other pickups _____

Any questions, call Marsha @ 717-578-2953 or Sandy @ 717-891-2093.