



General Orders No.6

December 2024

Sisters and Brothers:

On the heels of the incredible celebration of our 100th birthday, I want to take a moment to reflect on this important milestone and look ahead to the exciting opportunities in front of us. Reaching a century of service is an achievement we can all take pride in, but it also reminds us that our mission to support Veterans, their families, and our communities is as vital today as it was when we began.

Now is the time to take the strength of our history and use it as a foundation for building the future. **TOGETHER**, we can focus on the following key goals that will grow our organization and increase our impact:

1. **Expand Our Reach:** Let's seek out new ways to connect with Veterans and their families, ensuring that no one is left behind. From community outreach to innovative programs, our reach must be as broad as our hearts are compassionate.
2. **Grow Our Membership:** Let's work together to inspire others to join us in our mission and build a vibrant, active membership for years to come. Our future depends on welcoming new members who share our passion for service.
3. **Strengthen Our Programs:** Let's refine and expand our programs, by providing even greater support to Veterans and their families and meeting their evolving needs with care and dedication.
4. **Lead with Innovation:** Let's carry our legacy forward by embracing fresh ideas and new strategies, finding creative solutions to the challenges facing Veterans and our communities.

As we embark on this journey into the next century of service, I am confident that our shared commitment, compassion, and determination will guide us toward even greater achievements. **TOGETHER**, we have the power to continue to make a profound difference.

Finally, as the holiday season approaches, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. May your days be filled with joy, peace, and countless blessings. Let us also remember the Veterans and those serving who cannot be with their loved ones during this season. May we honor their sacrifices in all we do.

Important Dates:

- December 8 - District 1 Meeting @ Rising Sun #2819 – 2:30 P.M.
* December 8 – District 21 Meeting @ Spring Grove #5265 – 2:00 P.M.
* December 8 - District 30 Meeting @ Everett #2088 – 2:00 P.M.
December 8 - District 28 Meeting @ Meadville #2006 – 2:00 P.M.
December 24 & 25 – Department Headquarters Closed Christmas Holiday
December 31 & January 1 – Department Headquarters Closed New Years

*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



Loyally,

Andrea

Andrea Meintel
Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

TO EVERY AUXILIARY BROTHER & SISTER AND THEIR FAMILIES
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA



**A Happy & Healthy 2024 to all
Veterans and their families**

Auxiliaries and Members in Action



Jeanne Hoffman and Carol Schrum from Auxiliary 8951, West York for hosting VFW Auxiliary National President, Brenda Bryant on her Official Visit to PA.



Tammy Hunter, District 22 Treasurer, showing an historical display case that she put together for D. Merl Tipton VFW Post 43 in Martinsburg.



Bonnie Drake, PDP, and members of District 10 hosting a visit from Department President, Andrea Meintel



Betty Kraszewski, Past Department President 1971-1972 has been a VFW Auxiliary member for 81 years. She addressed the attendees of the Department of PA VFW Auxiliary 100th Anniversary Celebration (via video).



VFW Auxiliary 7155 in Trappe was busy making Thanksgiving dinners for the Veterans in their community.



Members of Auxiliary 5956 in Manheim helped with a wreath laying ceremony at Manheim Veterans Memorial Park.

GENERAL ORDERS – DECEMBER 2024

MEMBERSHIP 2024-2025, Chairman Amy Peterson

*"TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS" "TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE"
"FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS"*

"STRIKE UP THE BAND!"

*#PAproud #VFWAuxiliary #vfwauxmembership
#TogetherHelpingVeterans #vfwauxmembershipPA
#StrikeUpTheBand*



December?????? Who knew!!!!????

"City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style

In the air there's a feeling of Christmas"

Awwwww the holidays.....so why not get hustling & bustling?

'Tis the season for giving.... consider being a 'dues angel' for friends/family that may be struggling this year....

A VFWA membership is more than just a card, it's a gift that keeps on giving...through benefits, support, connection.... BEST GIFT EVER!

So, make a list, check it twice....

100% ++ is THE goal, wouldn't THAT be NICE??



Auxiliaries that have sent audits, attendance, welcome packets, Heath/Happiness & Christmas Canteen, THANK YOU!!!!

Merry Christmas to ALL, wishing you positive strength, good health & happiness to you & yours!

LOOK Who's Kickin' "ASK" & Takin' Names!! Let's Get THIS!!!!



- AUXILIARY 6493, DISTRICT 8**
 - AUXILIARY 106, DISTRICT 9**
 - AUXILIARY 7294, DISTRICT 9**
 - AUXILIARY 6520, DISTRICT 10**
 - AUXILIARY 6150, DISTRICT 13**
 - AUXILIARY 1964, DISTRICT 17**
 - AUXILIARY 7343, DISTRICT 18**
 - AUXILIARY 764, DISTRICT 24**
 - AUXILIARY 7632, DISTRICT 29**
- As of November 12, 2024*

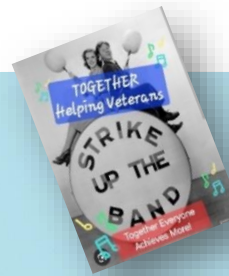
"ALL-STATE" HOT-TOPICS!

HEALTH & HAPPINESS

SCHOLARSHIP ENTRY? DONATION?

ATTENDING DISTRICT MEETINGS

HOSPITAL DONATIONS



AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

“Together Helping Veterans”

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

2024-2025

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Stacey Miller

December is filled with celebrations and bringing together family and friends. For some Veterans and their families, it may be a reminder of the past, or a reminder of a loved one that is not able to be with them during these celebrations. VFW Auxiliaries should use this time to come “Together Helping Veterans.” Here are a few ways that you can lend a helping hand:

- Support Wreaths Across America program, honoring our fallen Veterans.
- Partner with the Youth Activities Committee and host a craft night or Santa’s workshop for military families.
- Send holiday cards to Veterans who are home bound or residents of a care facility
- Send care packages to service members stationed away from home or deployed
- Bring holiday cheer to Veterans with holiday treats, enhance this by partnering with the Community Outreach Committee and include sharing the treats with First Responders.

There are many more ideas available for you and your Auxiliaries to bring cheer to our Veterans and their families. Let’s see how your Auxiliaries will Join Together in Helping Veterans.

AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Tim Altman

Auxiliary brothers and sisters, December is upon us. This month is a very important month in that December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day. On this day in 1941 the Japanese dive bombers appeared over Pearl Harbor and began their attack. There are not many survivors from Pearl Harbor left these days, but you can still give thanks for their service and sacrifice. As for December, remember to help our Veterans in need not just because of the Christmas season but all through the year. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year “Together Helping Veterans”.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Jency Mercado

The Holidays are coming and Outreach is in full swing! This time of year, organizations such as your local food banks and clothing closets are in high demand. It's a great time to partner with these organizations to hand out food, winter coats and shoes!

The giving of your time is priceless to these organizations! Don't forget to wear your VFW pride!

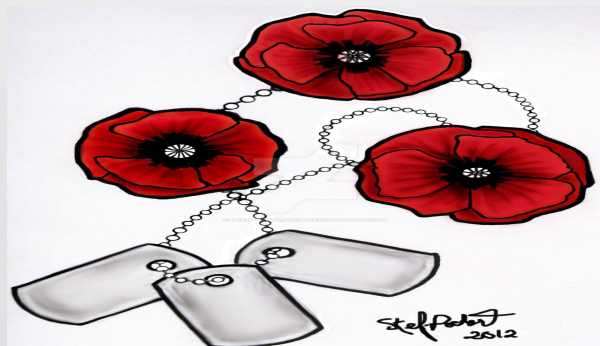
Please send me your pictures of your Auxiliary's Outreach at Jencyvfw@gmail.com



“BUDDY” POPPY & NATIONAL HOME
Cindy Utter Peters

As we come into the busiest time of the year, we must keep in mind our VFW and military brothers and sisters. It is also time to consider for gifting Centennial Life Memberships to the VFW National Home to others (or even yourself!) The Centennial Membership Program ends Dec. 25, 2025. For \$100, you would receive (or gift) 10% off Souvenirs and Apparel, reduced rates at the Guest Lodge at National Home, and EXCLUSIVE Member-Only Apparel! You will also receive an exclusive Membership Pin!

With the thoughts of Thanksgiving coming soon, we must be grateful for all the blessings we enjoy. It would be great to consider possible donations towards the President's and the Commander's National Home Challenge. Let's raise enough funds to build that new Outside Sports Complex!! My most sincere thanks to all my VFW family and friends! I wish you all a happy and joyful holiday season!





EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING KATHY ALTOFF

I hope everyone that attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration had a great time, and the COA and work sessions provided you with a lot of useful information. Hopefully, District Presidents, you are closing in on getting your visitations completed and therefore have the Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaires ready to send to me, your Department Chairperson. If you need more time or help let me know. You can save on postage IF you are going to Mid-Winter in January and give them to me.

Remember to look at the Awards for Auxiliary Members and Auxiliaries you may and can qualify for, that list is on the last page of my program information in your Program Books. Please pay attention to the dates to qualify, and any supporting documentation that may be needed.

I'd like to wish everyone a very Blessed and Joyful Christmas Season! From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans, Lets **Strike Up the Band** marching on to achieve our goals **Together Helping Veterans.**

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS DECEMBER 2024, PAGE 3

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS KRISTIN DIGIACOMO

As a reminder to everyone – don't forget about our Auxiliaries-in-Action Spotlight - What are your Auxiliaries doing? Share your activities and events with us so that we can spread the word!

Each month in General Orders and on the VFW Auxiliary - Department of Pennsylvania's Facebook page we will feature Auxiliary events and members who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. Send submissions to Dept of PA HQ, a Dept Line Officer, District President or Program Chairman.

When sharing your Auxiliary-in-Action recent activities on social media, remember to add the hashtag #auxiliariesinaction or #auxinaction. Both the National & Department Auxiliary love to see what we share! And these are often great additions to your Historian books as well!

***“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”** is why we are part of this amazing organization because we are **“Together Helping Veterans”** and our communities!*

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS
DECEMBER 2024, PAGE 4



LEGISLATIVE
KAREN MOONEY

As we welcome in the month of December, hopefully we all did our part in November and voted in the election on November 5, 2024 and let your voice be heard. Now that the election is over, the Legislative Program can focus back on the topic at hand and help support our veterans.

As the VFW focuses on the Priority Goals, there are important factors to keep on the front burner to keep in eyes on these topics. A hot topic item is the Dole Act (21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act). This piece of legislation would help provide health care services for veterans and caregivers that cannot wait any longer.

In the Action Corps email that everyone should receive, has a “Take Action” section under additional resources. When you click on this option, it explains the Dole Act and as you scroll down, the site even provides a standardized response that you can send to your US Representative to pass this legislation. All you have to do is fill in your contact information. This process cannot be any more simple that they have made it. If you are not receiving this free newsletter, you really should sign up so that you can see what is being worked on and where our assistance is needed to help 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.

HOSPITAL - LINDA DILLING

Merry Christmas! I want to thank you for donating to the Christmas Canteen Fund. It will make Christmas a little brighter for our Hospitalized Veterans. The Holidays are a time of giving and I know you are being generous of heart! Sometimes we cannot always be there, but we can give a gift and show our love for our Veterans.

When giving a gift, it is important to keep good records. Have a donation form filled out and give one copy to the organization you are donating to and keep a copy for your records. (A donation form can be found under the Hospital program on our vfwauxpa.org web page.)

Be sure to count the cost of the items even when members are donating the items themselves. Do not forget to list the items on the form.

Thank you again for being so generous!



SCHOLARSHIPS—PAM SOPHER

Greetings Auxiliary brothers and sisters. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving has gone, as we eagerly await our Christmas season. Our Scholarships programs have been in the hands of our Districts for judging and will soon be on the way to our Voice of Democracy Chairman, Mr. Vince Gavin, and our Patriots Pen Chairman, Mr. Bill Lamond, by December 9, 2024, with all the required documents. How exciting this time is for our students, and especially our members eagerly awaiting who has placed in our essays.

Our own **Continuing Education Scholarship** is open and looking for entrants. Every Auxiliary member who has been a member for 1 year and in good standing, their spouse, and children are eligible. Details for this competition can be found by scanning our QR Code, the entry form can be found on Department website: www.vfwauxpa.org, or on our National website: www.vfwauxiliary.org, by signing into your Malta account and going into Member Resources. One winner from each of the four Conferences will be selected. The deadline for this entry is February 15, 2025, and needs to be emailed or sent to: VFW Auxiliary National headquarters, 406 West 34th. Street, 10th. Floor, Kansas City, MO. 64111.

We also need to work on our Young American Patriotic Art competitions. Encourage prior students as well as other students who love art to enter these contests, as well as students of friends and family. Remember that one student can enter both 2D, and 3D contests, but **MUST** have a separate entry form for both. This information can be found on our websites, or by scanning our **QR Code**.

New for the program this year, the **matting no longer needs to be just white anymore**, and the student is allowed to place their name and grade on the back of the artwork. All artwork must be at my home by **March 31, 2025**. Please remember to pack it very carefully, and well padded. I was able to work with Joan Faddis last year - some were damaged in shipping and were disqualified. Please pack with love and care.

From "Our Roots To Our Branches, Extending Service To Our Veterans", we will forever be **"Together Helping Veterans."** Hope you all have a very **Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. God Bless**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
JEANNA LEYDIC

**Can you believe that it's already December!! I can't!!
I hope everyone is ready for Christmas, are you doing an
event for the youth?? Maybe a Meet & Greet with Santa?
That would be so much fun!!**

Do you have any artists in kindergarten through eighth grade that you have invited to participate in our "Illustrating America" program?? Time is running out to get those entries in! Get them to your district presidents by March 31st. I can't wait to see all the great young artists that we have in PA.

Find all the info you need here:

<https://vfwauxpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=126465>

We had a great turn out for the patriotic cheer videos! They were so great to see! Congratulations to the winners! I hope this tradition carries on with the incoming chairman! It was so fun to work with the Auxiliary members and their cheer squads.

Don't forget to hand out R.A.P. cards!! RAP stands for Random Acts of Patriotism and are to be given to our youth when you see them showing patriotism to our Veterans and to our Flag. Our young people appreciate that someone notices they are showing respect, and it is a small gesture of our appreciation for them.

Finally get involved with Youth groups in your community. Most towns have Scout Troops, Church Groups and 4-H clubs. Join them in their community activities, but more importantly get them involved in your projects for the Veterans. We can do this "Together Helping Veterans", our youth are our future.

COATESVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER

GENERAL ORDERS #6

December 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to our Department President Andrea Meintel for these appointments as Representative and Deputy at Coatesville VA Medical Center. Every day we will "Strike Up The Band" while "Together Helping Veterans" and their families with everyday needs.

Our annual Spring Carnival is held in May. With all your donations we were able to purchase personal items, sweatshirts, hygiene items, and about anything our Veterans need.

With the help of our community, our Coatesville Veterans receive homemade meals throughout the year prepared by Auxiliary members. Birthday parties are held monthly with cake and gifts.

One of our events is the Labor Day picnic held on the holiday. Hotdogs, burgers and all the picnic fixings are prepared for the Veterans. Good time had by all.

A huge thank you to all the Auxiliaries for your donations.

Donations can be sent to: VFW Auxiliary - Department of PA
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109- 5943.

Earmark: Coatesville VA Medical Center.

Loyally,

Diane

Diane Haller
Representative

Kelly

Kelly Borrell
Deputy

Operation Bottom Cover



Donate New Packages of Diapers & Baby Wipes

Our Active Military and Veteran Families Need Your Help!

National President Brenda Bryant has discovered there is a need for diapers for the babies and toddlers of our Military and our Veterans. So, we have partnered with Operation Showers of Appreciation. They distribute diapers all over the world to active-duty military and veteran families. *(Did you know that in Japan it costs twice as much for active-duty service members to purchase diapers than it does in the states?)*

How Can Your Auxiliary Help and Show How Much PA Cares?

1. Bring checks or gift cards to the Mid-Winter Conference being held in Gettysburg at the Aspire Hotel 1/24-1/26/2025. All money collected will be used to purchase diapers/wipes. (Make checks payable to Department of PA, VFW Auxiliary earmarked Operation Bottom Cover.)
2. Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts – National President's Special Project.

PA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE PROJECT