

General Orders No.8 February 2023

**Greetings,**

Please grab a handful of Kleenex and permit me to re-tell this story.

It was the evening of February 2, 1943, and the USAT Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian employees. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. On February 3, at 12:55 AM, a German submarine fired a fan of three torpedoes. One hit the Dorchester amid ship, far below the water line.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos set it. The blast killed scores of men. And many more were seriously wounded. The ship’s captain gave the order to abandon ship. Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope and light. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goods, Jewish; Lt. john P. Washington, Roman Catholic and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed. Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers and there they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded, and guide the disoriented toward safety. The chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets and when there ere no more life jackets, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

In less than twenty minutes the ship went down, and the survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains – arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could be heard offering prayers.

Of the 903 men aboard, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the Nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains. A special medal for heroism was presented posthumously to the four chaplains by President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961.

A Chapel of the Four Chaplains has been erected near the former naval shipyard in Philadelphia which serves as an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness.

I visited the Chapel a few months ago. It’s a small, brick chapel, not a larger-than-life monument. Fitting the lives of the Four Chaplains being honored for their faith, courage, and selflessness.

Isn’t that how we are to fulfill our mission - to serve our veterans and their families, demonstrating courage and selflessness.

Please take a moment and reflect to why you joined this organization**. Respect…Honor…Remember** that family member who through their selfless service provided you with your eligibility to join.

**Congratulations** to our First Place VOD winner, Charlee Kurtz, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5265, District 21, our Patriot’s Pen winner, Katherine Bruner, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 3258, District 8, and our VOD teacher of the Year, Oreste Dicerbo, sponsored by VFW Post 914, District 29.

 **LOOKING AHEAD**

Please keep the weekend of April 14-16 open so you can join me at the Ramada Conference Center in State College for the **Department President’s Retreat**. I’m looking forward to a fun-filled, relaxing weekend with you.

Auxiliary Presidents please ensure that your Auxiliary’s Program Chairmen have thoroughly completed the program year-end reports and are soon to be with your District President. The deadline to your District President is before April 7, 2023. Don’t be late.

By now you should have received your raffle tickets. As this is the Auxiliary’s only fundraising event, please be generous and return your tickets along with your donation. Winners will be drawn on Friday, April 14.

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

Presidents Day was originally known as Washington’s Birthday but in the 1980s it became commonly known as Presidents Day honoring all presidents. 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.**

Auxiliary Outreach

Hollidaysburg Veterans Home

Hospital

Legislative

Lebanon VA Medical Center

Membership

TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 4 District 16 Meeting @ Lansdale #32 – 11:00 A.M.

February 19 District 8 Meeting @ Warminster #6493 – 1:30 P.M.

February 19 District 19 Meeting @ Kane #1132 – 2:00 P.M.

February 19 District 20 Meeting @ East Stroudsburg #2540 – 2:00 P.M.

February 19 District 24 Meeting @ Waynesburg #4793 – 2:00 P.M.

February 19 District 29 Meeting @ Brentwood #1810 – 2:00 P.M.

February 19 District 30 Meeting @ McConnellsburg #655 – 2:00 P.M.

February 20 Presidents Day – Department Headquarters closed

**Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger**

Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger

Department President Department Secretary/Treasurer



 **(Formerly called Auxiliary Community Outreach)**

**General Orders #8**

**February 2023**

Has your Auxiliary participated in Auxiliary Outreach program? Review the Reports and Awards available to Auxiliaries below to ensure your Auxiliary is recognized for participation.

Auxiliary will receive citation to the Auxiliary Chairman who submits a **REPORT EVERY MONTH**.

PA **Auxiliary Outreach Monthly Report Form** located on PA VFW Auxiliary website at <https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxiliaryOutreachMonthlyReporting_Fillable.pdf>

**Review** Department **Auxiliary Outreach Programs and Awards on page 3** at: <https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxiliaryOutreachProgram.pdf>

Department Auxiliary Program Awards and Citations are determined from **Year-End Reports** **Download the newest form and answer EVERY QUESTION at:** <https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxiliaryOutreachYearEndReport_Fillable.pdf>

**National Auxiliary Outreach Awards and Citations** are determined from **Auxiliary Award Form** located at <https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/2022-2023AuxiliaryOutreachAwardNo.1.pdf> Download the form and answer **EVERY QUESTION**.

Each Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community will receive citation.

Auxiliary Members are the “Hands That Serve, Hearts that Care” while we “Respect…Honor…Remember Our Veterans”

Loyally,

Kimberly Grundon

Department Chairman

kgrundon@comcast.net/717-275-7094

**HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS HOME**

**GENERAL ORDERS #8**

**February 2023**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Department President Valerie DeCorte for this appointment as Representative and Deputy for the 2022-2023 year. We will continue to **“Respect…Honor…Remember”** our Veterans that call HVH home.

As we struggle to work through all the problems and protocols that Covid-19 has brought upon us, we look forward to our ability to bring back some of the fun times the residents have been looking forward to. We continue to have Bingo in all three buildings every month and hope to fit in a few springtime events to shake off those wintertime blues.

Thank you so much for your Christmas donations, it is greatly appreciated by us and all the Hospitals and Homes that the VFW and their Auxiliaries support.

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

Loyally,

 **Gail**

Gail Blattenberger, Representative

 Nola

Nola Thompson, Deputy

**HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM**

**Bonnie S. Drake ~ Department Chairman / Diane Haller ~ Co-Chairman**

**GENERAL ORDERS # 8 – February 2023**

February – the month of “LOVE” and I love poems so here is one I made up; it’s called….“I volunteer!”

I volunteer and give of my time; and now comes the hard part, to make this rhyme.

Our Veterans they need us every day; I hope this poem will start on your way.

Volunteers are needed at VA Centers, Hospitals and Homes for sure; so Volunteer for an hour or more.

Volunteering is to work for a cause, and not for applause.

I hope this poem was inspiring too; remember volunteering is easy, all it takes is you!

HOSPITAL/VA FOCUS: This month we are focusing on James E. VanZandt VA Medical Center located at 2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602. Linda Dilling serves as the Representative and Peggy Freyer is Deputy who plan lots of activities, including picnics, bingo, crafts, games, and go above and beyond to make sure everyone is happy. Established in 1950, there are beds, 973 dedicated clinical and professional staff, and more than one-quarter (234) are Veterans. They have 51 operating beds and have had over 181,342 outpatient visits, 151 hospital admissions and the doctors have performed over 1,083 surgeries in a year. The James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center (hospital) and 5 community-based outpatient clinics provide health care services at 6 locations. The Altoona Healthcare System is one of the leading VA health care systems in Pennsylvania. They are an innovative care center within the Veterans Integrated Service Network 4 (VISN 4). VISN 4 includes medical centers in Altoona, Butler, Coatesville, Erie, Lebanon, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Wilkes-Barre in Pennsylvania; Wilmington in Delaware; and 44 VA outpatient clinics in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio and serve over 87,000 Veterans in our 14-county service area.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM FOCAL POINT: I think it’s important to remind you not to forget …. Valentines for

Veterans – share the love! The week of February 14 (Valentine’s Day) is also National Salute to Veteran Patients week. We want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to our veterans staying in our VA and non-VA medical facilities. Use this week to renew the spirit of hospital volunteerism with “Valentine’s for Veterans”. Pay tribute and express appreciation in a variety of ways, from ward visits, Valentine’s Day Parties, distributing or sending Valentine’s cards. This week also provides an opportunity for you to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within a medical center. Locate a VA facility near you at **volunteer.gov/directory/index.asp**

I hope those who attended the Mid-Winter Conference January 19-22, 2023 enjoyed the Voice of Democracy,

Patriots Pen Banquet, attended the Auxiliary workshops, and learned more about the importance of completing

year-end reports. Remember the deadlines and make sure your obligations are complete.

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.

Every day we will “Respect…Honor…Remember” and continue to assist our Veterans and their families with

“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”.

Thought for the month: “An act of caring creates an endless ripple"!

Loyally,

Bonnie S. Drake and Diane Haller

Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman Co-Chairman

2318 Owego Turnpike, Honesdale PA 18431

Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone 570.647.8685

 **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

**2022-2023**

**General Orders # 8 February 2023**

With the holidays behind us and winter now trying to throw every storm towards us, there is no time to rest. We must show our newly elected officials how important it is for the legislation to be passed into a bill. It is our duty to assist the comrades in making sure all pieces of legislation are vital to every military service man and woman in our communities. We are the VFW Auxiliary and need to be courteous All the VFW endorsed bills from last year’s congressional body, has expired the beginning of January 2023. Please take the time to view which new bills have been endorsed. You can find the endorsements at votervoice.net/VFW/bills.

 How many of your members notified their congressional leaders at the end of 2022, to pass any Legislation still pending. Please take the time to read all the information under each of the 6 priority goals. You can view the new goals by going on find the new goals by going on the VFWNationalwebsite.LegislativePriorities. Last year our Department Legislative Chairman shared the American’s Creed, and I would love to share it again to our members.

The American’s Creed

 I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people: whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

 I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies. By William Tyler Page.

 We need to “Respect...Honor...Remember” our veterans as we show “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care” for our Veterans.

Loyally,

 **Dale Lepore**

Dale Lepore

Department of PA Legislative Chairman

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**February 2023**

**LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER**

 Well brothers and sisters the best way we can continue to show we have  **“Hands *that* Serve, Hearts *that* Care”** is by giving to the VA Medical Centers and volunteer since it almost impossible to volunteer in house since the start of the pandemic. We are honoring our veterans as we do service for them in any way we can, that way we are showing “**Respect…Honor… Remember”** in their honor.

 Like most of the VA Hospitals we are not able to do our regular volunteer activities with the veterans, so we are trying to adapt and do whatever we can to try to help them while they are in the hospital. I have been cooking meals at our local Post where they have a license & delivering them for different units at different times as they are requested. Or I have had places of business make & deliver them.

 I am trying to stay in contact with Voluntary service to meet any needs that our veterans may have. It so unfortunate that we can’t visit with our veterans when they need us the most but we are still trying to do whatever we can to make their time in the hospital as comfortable as possible. Please remember that all of the VA”s can always use comfort items such as body wash and those kind of items.

 We hope that you will keep all of this in mind as we try to do all that we can for our veterans and make a generous donation to the Lebanon VA Medical Center. Be assured we will put it to good use because our main objective is **“OUR VETERANS”** and how we can make things better for them. If you want to sponsor something in particular just mark your donation accordingly & I will make sure you get credit for that activity.

Respectfully submitted:

Louise S Gerhart

Louise Gerhart, Representative

Lebanon VA Medical Center

** MEMBERSHIP**

**GENERAL ORDERS #8**

**February 2023**

**Making Connections to reach for our**

**105% Membership Growth Goal!**

**EVERY MEMBER MATTERS!**

**Welcome Packet Winners Announced. CONGRATULATIONS!** 21 New Member Welcome Packets were submitted for the *Connections Challenge Award #2: New Member Welcome Packet.* These Welcome Packets were judged at the Mid-Winter Conference in Gettysburg, PA. The judging was very close, as the packets were outstanding; and **the Winners are**:

 **Division 1:** No Entries **Division 2:** No Entries **Division 3:** District 10, Auxiliary 531

 **Division 4: Tie—**District 25, Auxiliary 3577 and District 21, Auxiliary 15

 **Division 5:** District 14, Auxiliary 6824

 **Division 6:** **Tie**—District 9, Auxiliary 106 and District 21, Auxiliary 2493

 **Division 7**: District 21, Auxiliary 1599

**IT’S TIME TO GET REWARDED FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK THIS YEAR: THE PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM/CHECKLIST FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS 2022-2023.** The checklist is attached. You still have the next couple of months to make sure you have everything checked off. All of your documentation must be submitted to the Membership Chairman (me) by May 5, 2023. Pay attention to Numbers 15 and 16. They are new, this year. Don’t miss out on this award.

**WHAT’S YOUR WHY? Why did you join the VFW Auxiliary? Who are you honoring with your membership? How do you feel about helping Veterans? What does your membership mean to you? Why do you remain a member of the Auxiliary? Submit an entry for the Connections Challenge Award #3: Tell-Your-Story Recruitment Videos**

I know a video might sound a bit intimidating, but it’s just about talking. Have a conversation and tell your 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 Department Convention.***

**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***

 ***98.3%***

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

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

District 1: Auxiliaries: 3090, 6700, 7650

District 7: Auxiliaries: **3460**, 4845

District 8: Auxiliaries: **1597**, 2124, 6393, 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

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

District 14: Auxiliaries: 384, 5642, 6824, 8306

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

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

District 15: Auxiliaries: **6753, 7810, 8730**

District 16: Auxiliaries: **1074,** 5954

District 17: Auxiliaries: **34**, 1964, **7463**

District 18: Auxiliaries: **148, 1620, 3502, 5750**, **6168, 6417**, **6704, 7343**, 7530, 8023

District 19: Auxiliaries: 1132, **1835**, **2497**, **6391**, 7252, 8755

District 20: Auxiliaries: 509, 8225

District 21: Auxiliaries: **537**, **1446**, 1599, 2493, **2506**, 6319, 7046, 8896

District 22: Auxiliaries: 3, 43, **813**, 842, **5020**, 7043, **8685**

District 24: Auxiliaries: 764

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

District 24: Auxiliaries: **764, 4793**
District 25: Auxiliaries: 499, 1821, 7376, 8106

District 26: Auxiliaries: **155**, 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**, 4789, **4965**, 5424, 6166, 6233, **6404**
District 29: Auxiliaries: **1810,7090, 9199**

District 30: Auxiliaries: 4129, 8333, 9219

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

Newest members are in **BOLD**

Membership Program

Department of Pennsylvania

“**Every Member Matters”**

2022-2023 Year-End Report

Andrea Meintel, Department Membership Chairman

104 Belle Vista Drive, Marysville, PA 17053

717-580-0533 andreavfwaux@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM/CHECKLIST**

 **FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS 2022-2023**

DISTRICT#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AUXILIARY#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AUXILIARY NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AUXILIARY TREASURER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach all necessary documentation and submit to Andrea Meintel, 104 Belle Vista Dr., Marysville, PA 17053 no later than May 5, 2023\*

\_\_\_1. President & Treasurer bonded by August 31, 2022

\_\_\_2. President, Treasurer and Secretary dues must be paid by November 30, 2022

\_\_\_3. Membership 100% Plus by April 30, 2023

\_\_\_4. All Audits must be on file at Department Headquarters before: August 31, 2022,

November 30, 2022, February 28, 2023, and May 31, 2023

\_\_\_5. Auxiliary Inspection by District President completed (submit a copy)

\_\_\_6. Voice of Democracy entry and/or donation (minimum $10.00) (submit check number and date)

\_\_\_7. Patriot’s Pen entry and/or donation (minimum $10.00) (submit check number and date)

\_\_\_8. Young American Creative Art entry and/or donation (minimum $10.00) (submit check

number and date)

\_\_\_9. Donation to Pennsylvania’s Cottage #3 at the VFW National Home (submit check

number and date)

\_\_\_10. President Special Project donation (minimum $10.00) (submit check number and date)

\_\_\_11. Buddy Poppy purchase (submit check number and date of purchase)

\_\_\_12. Donation to all 16 VA hospitals, Christmas Canteen Fund and Department Hospital

fund (submit check number and date) (minimum $10.00 each)

\_\_\_13. Donation to Department Flag Fund (minimum $10.00) (submit check number and date)

\_\_\_14. At least one member has to attend each District Meetings, but the Auxiliary President

must attend at least one meeting.

**\_\_\_15. Must have an Auxiliary Membership Committee. (Submit committee members names)**

**\_\_\_16. Must have completed one of the following: Membership Plan, Tell-Your-Story**

**Recruitment Video, Membership Recruitment event, or New Member Welcome Packet (submit relevant documentation)**

\*In order to qualify for the All-State Award, all Auxiliary obligations must be met by May 5, 2023

**TIPS**

February 2023

General Orders #8

**Member Transfers:**

When transferring members please be sure you mark the applications correctly.

If Life Member – check that box and put the Auxiliary # of previous Auxiliary.

If Annual Member – check that box and put the # of previous Auxiliary and always remember to mark either **paying** or **nonpaying.** If you mark **paying** – that means

they have given you their dues for this year; if **nonpaying** – they have already paid

their dues for the year.

The members ID# must **always** be on the application. Per our By-laws – Page 17, Sec. 106 applicant wishing to transfer must provide their current membership card as this proves eligibility has been established and approved.

Veterans & Family Support with PA Smile Tips

WOW Mid-Winter Conference was informative. Check out the revised 2022/2023 End of the Year Reports. There is a new section for additional comments. Looking forward to your monthly report.

“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care” while we “Respect…Honor…Remember”

Paula Havasi, Dept. Chairman

 **AMERICANISM – PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

Have you heard of #AuxSwap? What a great idea! National has ask us to share our ideas with Auxiliaries all over the U. S.

Share your events with other Auxiliaries. It’s a win-win. A reminder that I want to hear your success stories via email, social media and snail mail. Americanism is in our bloodlines. Get your “swap” on.

 #auxiliarypatriotismpa #auxiliarypatriotism #auxswap