



General Orders No.8

February 2025

Sisters and Brothers:

As I pass the halfway point of my presidency, I am reminded daily of how blessed I am to serve as your president. It has been an incredible journey so far, and I remain in awe of the dedication, compassion, and righteous work you are doing for our Veterans, their families, and your communities. It may not always be evident, but your efforts are making a real difference. Together, we are living out our mission and showing the world our unwavering commitment.

I would like to highlight some key areas:

Membership Growth and Retention

Membership remains the foundation of our strength as an organization. By growing our membership and re-engaging current members, we not only honor our legacy but also ensure that we have the resources and manpower to sustain our mission. Each member provides us with the ability to leverage legislation that aligns with our Priority Goals. As of January 20th, PA was at 96.81%, and we needed 1331 to get to 100%. We have reached 105% for the past three years, and I have confidence that we will reach that goal again this year.

Did you know that the VFW passed to accept any qualified purple heart recipient, which gives you an opportunity to find more qualifying Auxiliary members? Let's continue to work together to share our mission and invite others to join us in supporting our Veterans and communities. We CAN do it! PA Rocks!!

Mentoring to Ensure Our Future

Elections will be here before we know it. It's essential to remember the importance of mentoring and sharing knowledge. Our ability to sustain this organization and its mission into the future relies on nurturing the next generation of leaders. Take the time to guide, encourage, and support those stepping into leadership roles. Share your knowledge, experience, and wisdom, and help them carry our Auxiliary forward with confidence and purpose.

Celebrating Mid-Winter Conference

Thank you to all that were able to attend our Mid-Winter Conference! Please share what you learned with those who were not able to attend. Sharing and teaching will surely help us to continue growing and serving. Congratulations to our First Place Voice of Democracy winner, **Benjamin Ferster** sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary #9639, District 18; and our First Place Patriot's Pen winner **Lanie Koliscak** sponsored by VFW Post ary #879, District 1. Best of luck in the National competition.

Looking Forward to Testimonial Weekend

Mark your calendars and please join us at the Joint Testimonial Weekend, April 11-12, 2025. Friday night will be the Department President's Testimonial celebration, and Saturday night will be the State Commander's celebration. Come join us for both evenings. We would love to see you all there. Also, watch your mailbox for VFW Auxiliary Raffle tickets. This is our only Department fundraising event, and we ask that you be generous and return your tickets along with your donation. Winners will be drawn on Friday, April 11th during our Testimonial Weekend at the Eisenhower Conference Center in Gettysburg, PA.

As we approach the second half of this year, I am filled with pride and hope for what we can achieve together. Thank you for your continued dedication, hard work, and passion for this organization. **Together**, we are not only honoring the sacrifices of our Veterans but also preserving our legacy, while building a brighter future for those who will follow in our footsteps.

Important Dates:

February 2 - District 24 Meeting @ Lawrence #8308 – 2:00 P.M.
February 2 - District 30 Meeting @ Pleasantville #9219 – 2:00 P.M.
February 9 - District 1 Meeting @ Parkway Memorial #7650 – 2:30 P.M.
February 9 - District 17 Meeting @ Newport #34 – 2:00 P.M. *
February 9 - District 26 Meeting @ Johnstown #155 – 2:00 P.M.
February 16 - District 8 Meeting @ Whitehall #7293 – 1:30 P.M.
February 16 - District 19 Meeting @ Brockway #7252 – 2:00 P.M.
February 16 - District 20 Meeting @ Tobyhanna #3448 – 2:00 P.M. *
February 16 - District 29 Meeting @ Coraopolis #402 – 1:00 P.M.
February 17 - Department Headquarters Closed – Presidents Day
February 23 – District 13 Meeting @ Mohnton #9045 – 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



Loyally,

Andrea

Andrea Meintel
Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

January 14, 2025

OFFICAL RULING – Property Ownership

At the 2024 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the **VFW Auxiliary National Bylaw, Article IX, Sec. 920 – Property Ownership** was passed. To resolve any confusion, I have made this official ruling on the interpretation of this Bylaw.

As stated in **Sec. 920, B.**, *For the purposes of these Bylaws, personal property is defined as tangible and intangible property that is moveable, even if a small amount of disassembly is required to move. C., For the purposes of these Bylaws, real property is defined as land and permanent structures on the land.* Therefore, be it known that:

- Auxiliaries may own personal property, **per Sec. 920, A.**
- When personal property is placed in a VFW Post building, there shall be a clear understanding of who owns the property, how it will be used and disposed of if the VFW Post and/or VFW Auxiliary goes defunct.
 - This understanding shall be in writing and signed by both the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
- Any items without a clear, signed statement of ownership and usage, will be the property of the VFW Post.
- Items donated to the VFW Post prior to the Bylaw change, are the property of the VFW Post, unless there is a previously signed document stating otherwise.
- Additionally, the Auxiliary may not charge the VFW Post rent to use items purchased by the Auxiliary that are kept at the VFW Post building (e.g., tables, chairs, etc.), unless a written agreement exists between the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Post for the rental of these items.
- Any shed or building purchased by the Auxiliary and placed on the VFW Post property shall belong to the VFW Post and not the Auxiliary. The VFW Post as owner pays the taxes and insurance on such property. Any ad valorem tax or any other taxes are the responsibility of the owner of the property.
- The exception to this is that Auxiliary specific and/or Auxiliary branded items (e.g., Auxiliary Charter, Auxiliary Flags, Color Bearer Flags, Auxiliary Banners, Auxiliary Plaques, Auxiliary Awards, etc.) remain the property of the Auxiliary.

The goal is teamwork. We encourage all VFW Auxiliaries and VFW Posts to work together. Clear communication is the key.

By Order of

Brenda Bryant
National President

BB:AP: cb

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Auxiliaries and Members In-Action at Mid-Winter Conference



PA Voice of Democracy Winner, Ben Ferster sponsored by Shellsville Post and Auxiliary 9639 and District 18.



District 21 Commander Roger Miller presented a check for \$25, 073 raised from the John Brenner Memorial Diabetes Walk



AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

FEBRUARY 2025

“Together Helping Veterans”

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

2024-2025

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Stacey Miller

I see that the Winter hasn't stopped you from helping our Veterans and their families. As we get closer to the time to complete our Year-End Reports, I wanted to remind you about the 2024-2025 Veterans & Family Support National Award #1. You'll find the entry form in MALTS—Member Resources—Veterans & Family Support. This award is for the Most Outstanding Activity and/or Event to increase awareness of Suicide and Mental Health for Veterans, military and their families. Please send your completed forms to me by March 31, 2025 for judging. For your convenience my email is: staceyauxiliary@gmail.com.

When you have events, please take the opportunity to promote the Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1 or Text 838255. 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

Sisters and brothers, February 3rd is 4 Chaplains Day. On this day, each year we honor the 4 Army chaplains who died in the sinking of the USAT Dorchester in 1941. The chaplains were awarded The Purple Heart and The Distinguished Service Cross. On this day you can recognize the chaplain in your posts. As always let's work “Together Helping Veterans”



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado

Winter is upon us! There are so many organizations and people asking for help. How can we assist them with Auxiliary Outreach? Here in Pennsylvania, we have programs that can assist organizations and individuals. If they need help with heating refer them to organizations such as LIHEAP that will give emergency assistance. The Salvation Army will assist people with food and clothing.

If your able to donate your time to organizations such as food banks, clothing drives, local churches and blood banks, these organizations need our help. Please remember that we do not donate money for this program, we donate our time to our community!

Send me pictures of your work with outreach.



“BUDDY” POPPY & NATIONAL HOME **Cindy Utter Peters**

I hope this message finds everyone in good health after the holidays! I just wanted to let you know about some of the happenings at the VFW National Home.

Please help us CELEBRATE the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday on Jan. 7th, 2025. The celebration begins at 4PM and ends at 7 PM. There will be refreshments, remarks, and cake cutting. There will also be tours of the campus (depending on the weather). Reservations are not required but are preferred.

Recently there were 2 new pavilions added to the National Home Campus. These were completed with the combined efforts with supplies donated by Home Depot Store #2770 in Jackson, MI; Monetary contributions from VFW Post #3186; and the skilled labor of Sesco Builders from Pikeville, KY.

This past year has also seen a large roadwork project where they repaved many of the existing roads that were in disrepair for the safety of the resident families and visitors!

I would like to offer my most sincere "THANK YOU" to those who have already raised money for The President's Special Project! Also THANK YOU to those who have future plans to raise money! You guys ROCK!





EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING KATHY ALTOFF

As Winter has set-in, it's a perfect time to take a look at how your Auxiliary Meetings have been going over the past year. Have there been obstacles and how have you gotten around them? During your review, it might be helpful to look at some of the tools available in the **Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit** found under the Member Resources section of MALTA, specifically under the Extension and Revitalization Program. Here you will find tools such as, "VFW Auxiliary Meeting Challenges & Solutions," "Healthy Communication Phone-Text Tree" and "VFW Auxiliary Member Questionnaire." Here, you will also find the templates for "**Good Job Awards.**" Print some out and give them to those members who go above and beyond. A little recognition goes a long way. 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.**



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HOSPITAL LINDA DILLING



Let's talk Hospital Awards. Everyone does an incredible job giving their time and energy to our Veterans! It is time to recognize the hard work and commitment of your members.

Have you Recruited hospital volunteers?

Has your auxiliary been creative in bringing happiness to our veteran patients? Do you know someone who is an "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer"?

If so, you are eligible for an award. It is important to recognize those of you who go above and beyond for our veterans. The award forms can be found on the vfwauxpa.org website under Programs / Hospital.

"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
FEBRUARY 2025, PAGE 4



SCHOLARSHIPS—PAM SOPHER

Greetings to my Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters. It's so hard to believe that we are in the month of February, and our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship programs are completed and our State's First place winner's essays are on their way to National. If you didn't get the chance to attend our Mid-Winter Conference in Gettysburg, we had the National Scholarships Ambassador, Dina Hudson with us! We all had an amazing time from the meet and greet with our students and our VFW State Commander Barbara Loncar and VFW State Auxiliary President Andrea Meintel to the pizza party on Friday night, and our bus trip, with breakfast at VFW Post 15 and followed by a tour of Gettysburg/Battlefield. Lunch was served by VFW Post 8896 and their Auxiliary, and then returned to our hotel for pictures and the lineup with their respected District Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents. Congratulations to all the students who took the time and put forth the effort to participate in our Programs, and to spend endless hours working on them.

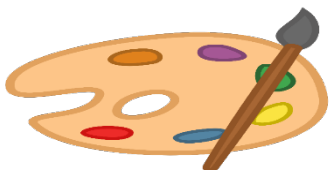
Our Scholarships program is not over yet, we still have our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest as well as our 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. Please remember that the deadlines to your Auxiliary is March 31 for judging, and your winner to me by April 15. Use TLC when shipping them. Better yet, hand carry your entries to the President's Testimonial on April 11 and give them to me. Also, remember our Continuing Education Scholarship which is to be mailed directly to: Program Awards Administrator, VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W, 34th. Street, 10th. Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, or email to: info@vfwauxiliary.org by February 15, 2025.

Thank you to our Posts and Auxiliaries for helping our youth further their educations. All of this information can be found by using our QR Code, our Auxiliary website, and MALTA.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

JEANNA LEYDIC

How is it February already???? I cannot believe how fast this year is going, we just got home from Mid-Winter!! How fun was that weekend?? Who do you think is going to win that "Special Starburst Award" at Department Convention? Will it be your Auxiliary, for the most Youth Activities initiatives? I've been seeing some great events going on this year!! Make sure your Auxiliary or Post is tagging our PA VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Facebook page.



PA VFW Aux Youth Activities 2024-25 'Illustrating America' contest deadline is March 31, 2025, right around the corner. Link below for entry form. I am so excited to see all the beautiful art of our youth!! Print out the entry form and get those entries!! Reach out to your schools, 4-H clubs and youth groups!! We can do this, "Together Helping Veterans", will be our best year yet!!

<https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/IllustratingAmericaentryform2024-2025.pdf>

February 2025 Legislative Program - #8
Karen Mooney, Program Chairman

Happy February. One month into 2025 already and if you have not done so already, now is the time to start looking at your year end reports to be sure that you have met the expectations for the Legislative Program for 2024-2025.

Our National Legislative Award for this fiscal year is for the most outstanding activity/event collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. If you did something with your Auxiliary and Comrades, be sure to submit this entry. You will find the entry form out on the vfwauxpa.org website, under Legislative Program. This is due to me by March 31, 2025.

What about our Legislative Year End Report? 4 simple questions on this years report to make is easy for everyone. These reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2025. Remember that you should be able to answer yes to at least one question. If not, you have 2 months to make that happen!!

New Priority Goals have been published for 2025. Have you seen them as of yet? Well, here they are. You can find this out on the VFW webpage and share with your Auxiliary members and Comrades. A few changes have been made but still on point from the 2024 priority goals



The flyer is titled "VFW 2025 PRIORITY GOALS" and features the VFW logo and the tagline "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS." It includes the following text:

Support Today's Veterans and Military
Please contact or visit your congressional representatives and stress that these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 119th Congress. These priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find your congressional representatives, visit vfw.org/ActionCorps.

Play a Role in the Process
Engage and help us ensure that these priority goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts:

- Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps
- Text "VFW" to 50457*
- Scan QR Code below

*Messaging and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Reply HELP and STOP to unsubscribe.

Delivering the promise to our veterans, service members, and their families.

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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VFW National Headquarters
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www.vfw.org

1. Budget
2. Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
3. Education/Employment/Transition Assistance
4. Healthcare
5. Military Readiness
6. National Security, Foreign Affairs, POW/MIA

Remember to be sharing with your membership the VFW Action Corps newsletter that is free for everyone to sign up for. This is a great way to see what is on the table in the legislative arena in DC. Membership is our volume, our volume is our voice. So the larger our volume the louder our voice to be heard in DC when working on pointed legislative topics. Be sure that we are working on keeping our membership so that our voices continue to be heard loud and clear!!

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.

***"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 #vfwauxmembershipPA
 #TogetherHelpingVeterans #StrikeUpTheBand**



REMINDER ALERT!!!!
"REFRAIN" Retention Award
 Email nominations to thepetersons@breezeline.net
 no later than March 31, 2025
 Auxiliary Member Name, Member #, Aux #, Dist #
 & brief explanation as to why this member is the
"Leader of the Pack!"



District	Auxiliary
Non-Dist	1532
8	2124
9	287
	1463
	2435
	5752
	5956
	6759
	8757
10	25
	7069
11	5010
	8161
	8317
13	216
	411
14	384
	8306
15	3428
	7810
16	7155
18	1620
	1718
	6168
	6417
	6704
20	509

District	Auxiliary
21	15
	537
	1446
	1599
	2506
	6319
	7012
	8951
22	7043
	8386
	8724
23	7250
25	1821
26	155
	2076
	4315
	4963
27	33
	781
	8427
28	169
	2006
	4789
	4965
	6166
	7599
29	9199

"Love is in the air!!!"
 But, **"What's love got to do with it?"** if you don't
 SHARE your WHY!??
 Come on Pennsylvania! Let me hear you
"SHOUT!"....."get a lil' bit LOUDER NOW!"
 Go back to your 'roots' and share YOUR reasons
 why you LOVE supporting our Veterans!
**CRANK UP THE TUNES &
 SHOW US SOME LOVE!**

DRUM ROLL, please!
 Congratulations to our
 first District to reach
100% ++++
"BIG BANG BAND"
 Award Winner
District 13
 Nancy Bauman - President
KEEP ROCKIN' !!!!



"ALL-STATE" HOT-TOPICS!

Be sure obligations are completed by May 1.
 Donate to Dept President's Special Project
 Be sure at least ONE member attends District Mtgs!