



Greetings,

I hope this missive finds each of you in high spirit with endless energy. I extend my thanks to those District Presidents and Program Chairmen who attended our recent Instructional Weekend.

As a Reminder:

The program promotions included with general orders are to be presented at your next Auxiliary and District meetings

The upcoming **Programs/Leadership/Training Workshop** shall be held on August 12-14, at the Ramada Conference Center in State College at 1450 South Atherton Street. This Workshop is open to **all members**, and it is recommended that at least one member from each Auxiliary attend. Jodie Hollinger and Sarah Smith will be the event co-chairmen and they have an exciting, educational agenda scheduled. The complete agenda may be viewed and downloaded from the VFW Auxiliary PA website, www.pavfwaux.org. I hope to see you there.

A **suspension request** shall be submitted to National for any Auxiliary not bonded before August 31. Please have your Auxiliary bonded before the deadline.

VFW Auxiliary On The Road Training. The PA VFWA line officers with assistance from staff, shall be traveling to locations within PA to provide a full training day addressing subjects such as ***“Is that Audit Correct? What’s your Chain of Command, What’s Those Programs About?”*** We will be at **VFW Post 6631 in District 17 on August 14**, and on **August 27, we will be in Clarion at VFW Post 2145, in District 19**. Our July 30 **On The Road Training** day at Dupont VFW 4909 in District 11 had **over 40** members signed up to learn more about their work in our Auxiliaries.

I have selected this year’s membership theme – **Every Member Matters** – for a reason. I strongly believe each of you are important to our organization and to the veterans and families that we serve. I have appointed Andrea Meintel as this year’s Membership Program Chairman and I have great confidence she will do us **#PA Proud**.

How can you make your Auxiliary successful?

Start with attending the meetings. Arrive on time and support the work being done by the officers and other members. Accept an office. Congratulate others on their good work. Pay your dues early, or better still, become a life member. Volunteer to work at Auxiliary sponsored events. Speak to potential new members about who we are and what we do. These are just a few ways you can help your Auxiliary be successful. Another way would be to become more familiar with our organization.

Our Department Website is presently “**under construction.**” Thank you for your patience. Stay tuned for our new look!

Mark your calendar! Starting in September you could join the Department monthly **Zoom Chat**. **Zoom Chat** is discussion time which is open to all members. Be sure to read the September General Orders for a link and more detailed information. September topic will be **Auxiliary Traditions**. This open discussion time is another opportunity for PA’s members to chat with myself and the other line officers.

The position of State **Assistant Soloist** is vacant and I’m hoping to fill this position. It would be a plus if he/she was a trained singer. If interested contact me at valeriedecorte50@gmail.com.

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

To dip the US flag is to render a salute. 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.

Veterans & Family Support
Americanism
Auxiliary Outreach
Hospital
Membership
Membership Application
PA Soldiers & Sailors
Scholarships
TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES

2022

August 7 District 18 Meeting @ Lykens Post #2385 – 2:00 P.M.
August 12 & 13 Training Workshop, State College
August 14 On Road Training, Selinsgrove #6631 – 9:30 to 4:30
August 21 District 8 Meeting @ Macungie Post #9264 – 1:30 P.M.
August 21 District 14 Meeting @ Great Bend Post #6223 – 2:00 P.M.
August 27 On Road Training, Clarion #2145 – 9:30 to 4:30

BY ORDER OF:

Valerie DeCorte

Valerie DeCorte
Department President

ATTEST:

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, B, C or D and F. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section E.

A

Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID

Auxiliary No. City State Member ID (If already a member)

Annual Membership Rejoin

Life Membership Transfer

Member at Large in Department of Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

(If not a transfer, skip to B.)

LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary

ANNUAL TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary Paying Nonpaying

ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership information below.) Previous Auxiliary

B

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

Name Date of Birth

Address Female Male

City State ZIP Phone Email

C

POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship to Eligible Veteran* VFW Membership ID

D

NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship to Eligible Veteran* VFW Post (If applicable)

Name of campaign ribbons or medals:

Dates of Service: to Location:

E

Investigating Committee Signatures

1 2 3

Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. Rejected Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date

F

By signing this, I agree to the stated charges for a Life Membership fee.

OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.

Signature Date

(Must be signed by all members.)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY Check here if this is a gift.

Credit cards may **NOT** be used for initial payment of Annual Dues.

Cash Check Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX Life Membership Fee

Name on credit card

Billing address for card

City State ZIP

Credit Card No. CVV Code

Exp. Date Date Signature

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58



Veterans & Family Support General Orders #2 August 2022

Suicide Awareness A staggering too many veterans commit suicide every single day. We are tasking each and every member to educate your members and others of the warning signs.

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families with qualified caring Dept. of VA responders through a confidential toll-free hot line, online chat, or text. Support is available 24/7.

- Call 1-800-273-8255 & press 1
- Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net
- Text message to 838255

Remember to promote and use your social media. Document your event on your year-end report. “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care” while we “Respect...Honor...Remember



PA Smile

I hope all of you have honored a care giver this last month with something meaningful for their lives.

Tips for you to consider:

- A card to say you are thinking of them.
- Flowers to brighten the day.
- Call and drop by just to chat.

Remember it's the small things that count. Send me the things that you do and remember to document these for your year-end reports.

**“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”
While we
“Respect...Honor...Remember”**

Paula Havasi
10 Van Lane, Beaver, PA 15009
412-671-5721
phavasi@live.com

MEMBERSHIP

General Orders #2

August 2022



It's time to make your **MEMBERSHIP PLAN**. Every Auxiliary should have a **Membership Committee**. This Committee should develop a Membership Plan. This Plan serves as a road map to **connect** all aspects of your membership: **Recruitment, Orientation, Engagement, & Follow-Up**.

What should be included in the Membership Plan?

- ✓ How/when you will contact current and former members
- ✓ When/where you will have recruitment events (try to hold at least 4 community events)
- ✓ How you will welcome new members;
- ✓ Assigning mentors for new members or existing members who want to learn something new;
- ✓ How/when dues notices will be distributed
- ✓ How to reconnect with disengaged members, etc.



When you post information about membership events on social media or you post pictures of membership drives/tables/recruitment efforts, use **#vfwauxmembership** and **#vfwauxpamembership**. This will help National and Department to easily find your posts.



HOT OFF THE PRESSES: In an effort to make filling out the Membership Application easier, a **revised version** has been created (Revised May 2022). Take notice of the Letters along the left-hand side of the page. Before submitting an application, please make sure each applicable section is completed.

The **applicant** completes sections **A, B, C or D and F** and the **Auxiliary** completes section **E**. Just a reminder that a minimum of **two members** of the Investigating Committee must sign section E. You will find that a copy of the revised Membership Application is included in General Orders #2.

This year's Membership Program is all about **Building, Reenforcing 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. Through **Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**, we will **Respect... Honor... Remember...** our veterans.

Andrea Meintel
Department Membership Chairman
andreavfwaux@gmail.com

PA SOLDIERS AND SAILORS VETERANS HOME
August 2022
General Orders #2

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Department President Valerie DeCorte for our appointments as Representative and Deputy of Pa. Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, Pa.

To all the Auxiliaries, that have supported us in the past, we extend a Sincere Thank You for your many donations.

We also want to Thank all the volunteers as they **“Respect, Honor, Remember”** our Veterans, for without them a lot of things they did would not have gotten done.

Because of your **“Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care,”** our Veterans are again beginning to enjoy many activities - fishing trips, visits to the zoo, Veteran’s Home Week, bingo, birthday parties, and music.

Thank You again for continued interest in serving our Veterans and their families.

Please send your donations earmarked to PSSH TO VFW Auxiliary Dept of Pa., 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, Pa. 17109-5943.

Thank you again Sincerely,

Doris

Doris L. Svitek, Representative

Marlane

Marlane E. Zaken, Deputy

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

AUGUST 2022

GENERAL ORDERS #2

This is the best time of the year to get a head start on your programs!!! Especially **AMERICANISM!!**
When you have a patriotic heart, THIS will be the easiest program of all!!!

As soon as you get your program books, gather materials, and get ready to visit schools, youth groups and festivals! It's never too early to open the possibilities! Let's get busy and do this!!! 😊

Using our "**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care,**" Always "**Respect.... Honor.... Remember**" our Veterans!!

Start planning a **Family Freedom Festival** for your community, invite First responders and the local SPCA. Maybe a local resource center would co-host and help with giveaways and educational fun for the littles! Ideas and Resources can be found on the National VFWA resource website.

Capture moments and promote.... remember to use **#AuxiliaryPatriotism & #AuxiliaryPatriotismPA** on social media. **SHARE, SHARE, SHARE!** Whatever you do, document & report, which is so important!

Nominate a deserving teacher for his/her outstanding commitment to Americanism! The **Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award** shows your appreciation to his/her dedication. Information can be found **at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education** on the National VFW website.

As **the Patriotic Instructor, TEACH & INFORM**, incorporate a simple 5-minute demonstration into each meeting to teach the traditions in our Ritual books.....5 minutes can remind a 'seasoned' member & relax a "new" member.... mentor with knowledge, making he/she feel welcome! 😊

Important August 2022 Military Dates:

- US Coast Guard Birthday (USCG) - August 4
- Hiroshima Day - August 6
- Purple Heart Day - August 7 (Purple Heart Foundation: <http://www.purpleheartfoundation.org/>)
- Military Marriage Day - August 14
- National Spirit of '45 Day - August 14, 2022 (Second Sunday in August)
- National Aviation Week - August 15-21 (Week of Orville Wright's Birthday on August 19)
- National Airborne Day - August 16
- National Aviation Day - August 19
- Marine Corps Reserve Birthday - August 29

Raps of the Gavel

One rap = Attention

Two raps = All Rise

Three raps = Please be Seated

Looking forward to a wonderful year for the Department of Pennsylvania!

Loyally yours,

Amy Peterson

PA Department Chair 2022-2023

THEPETERSONS@ATLANTICBB.NET

814-331-1142



FRONT of Walker

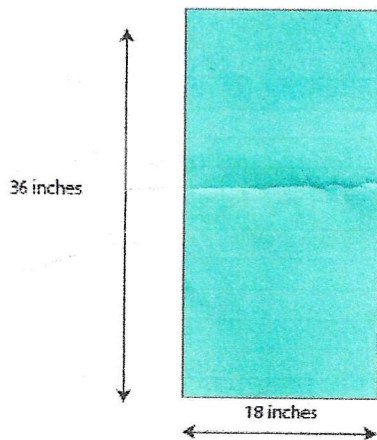


BACK of Walker

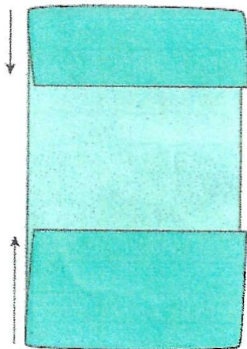
To make this caddy you'll need

- Two pieces of fabric measuring 18" x 36". One of these should be a heavier weight fabric – like heavy twill, denim, canvas, etc.
- Ties or ribbon – I used ties made of bias tape sewn shut – you'll need 1 1/2" yards
- 1/2 yard of sew on velcro

To start, cut your two pieces of fabric to 18" by 36"



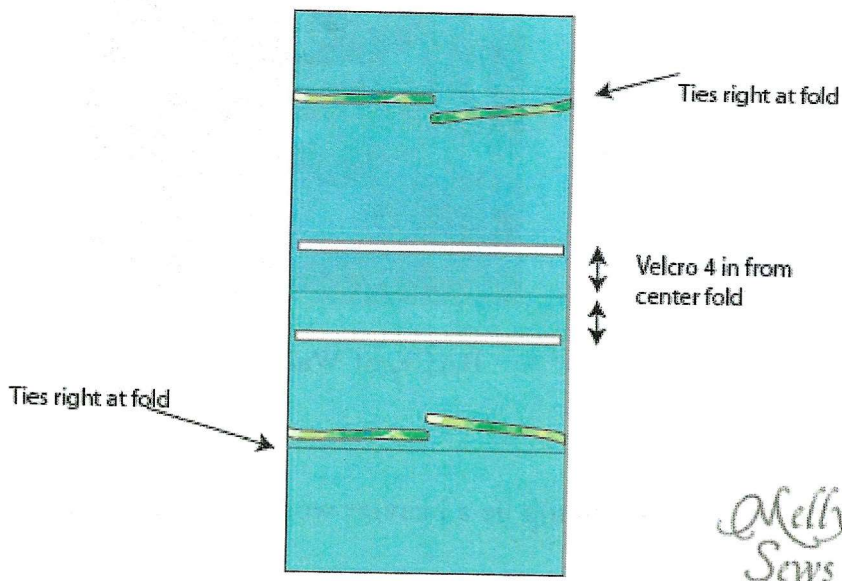
With your sturdier fabric wrong side up, fold the two ends up as deep as you want the pockets to be. I made the pockets on one side 8 inches deep and 5 inches deep on the other side. Iron these folds so that you leave a crease in the fabric. Then, with pockets still pressed up, fold the fabric in half right sides together and press that fold as well.



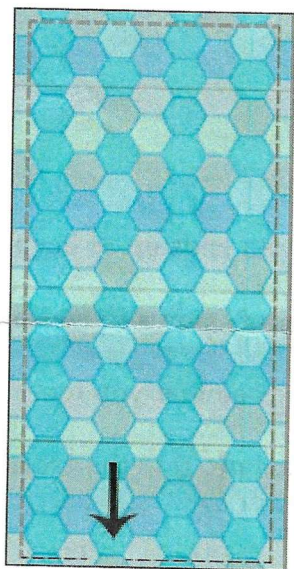
Cut your tie ribbon into 4 equal length pieces. Using your pressed creases as a guide, lay your fabric right side up and pin the ties right next to the pocket folds, and pin the velcro about 3-4 inches to each side of the center fold.

Sew on velcro and ties.





Place your other piece of fabric right sides together with your tied/velcroed piece and sew around the edges, stopping with your needle down at the corners to turn and leaving an opening for your hand to turn this right side out.

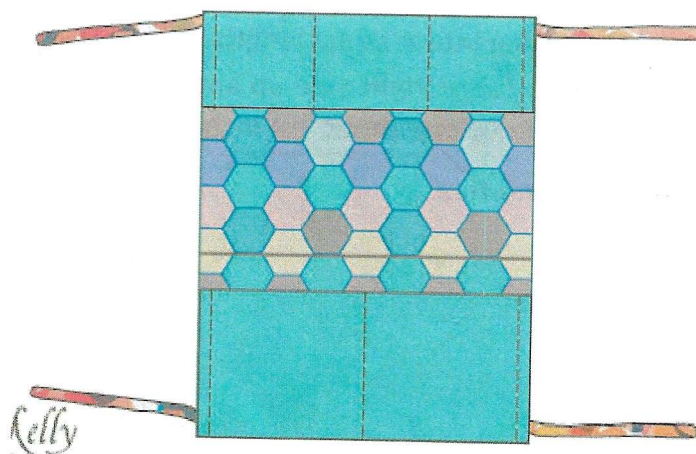


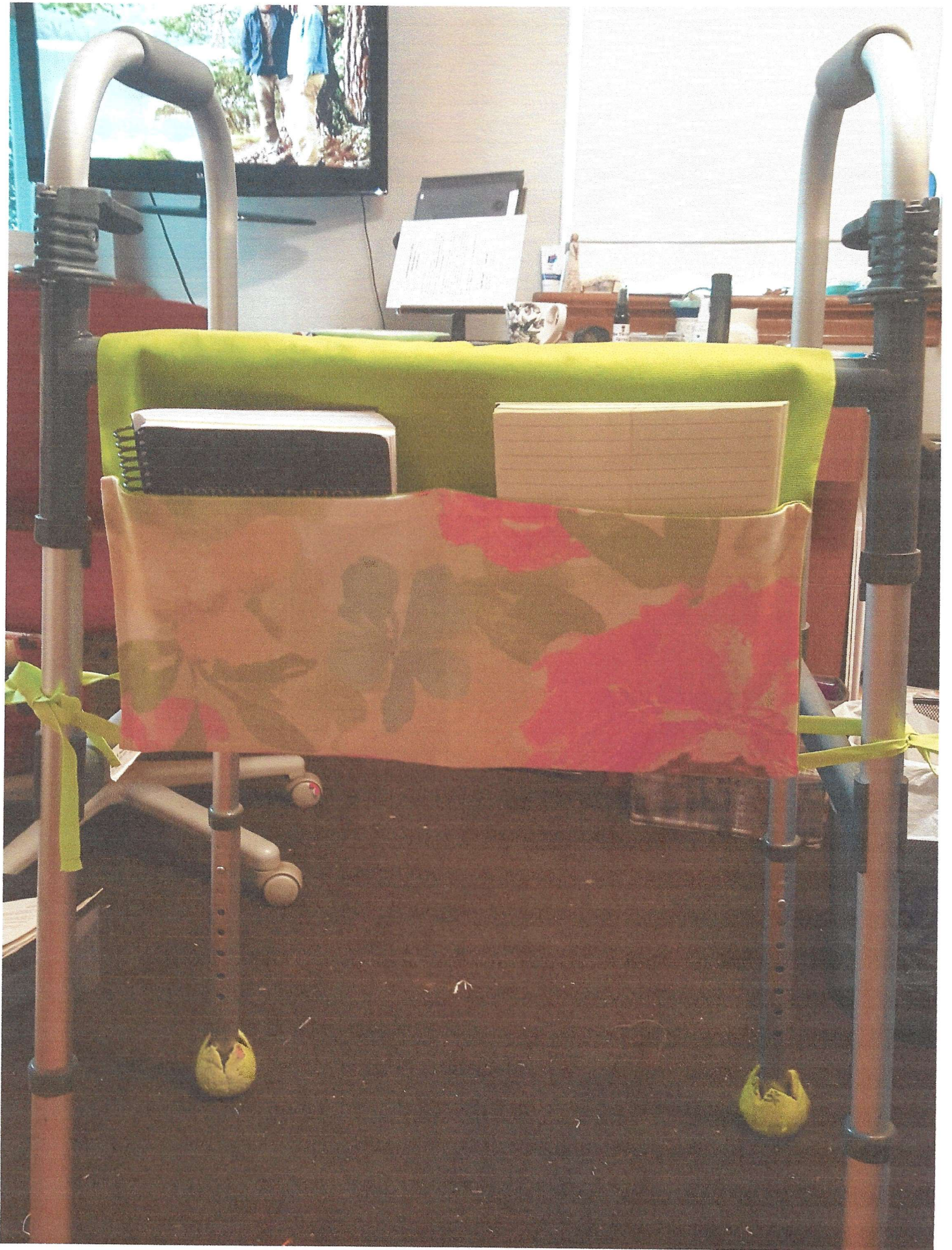
Sew sides together, leave hole for turning

Turn the caddy right side out. Press the edges and topstitch all around the edges, closing the hole you used to turn the caddy right side out. Then fold the pockets back up and stitch down sides, backstitching to reinforce the top edges of the pockets. Sew dividing lines on the pockets, backstitching at these top edges as well.

Fold up pockets and stitch in place

And then all that's left is to fold this caddy onto the recipient's walker, securing the velcro and the ties.







VFW Auxiliary
Department of Pennsylvania



Auxiliary Outreach

(Formerly called Auxiliary Community Outreach)

General Orders #2

August 2022

For years Auxiliaries were required to track **Community Service Hours Report (CSR)**. Although these hours are still important, they **should be reported to your Post Community Service Chairman**. In addition, they provide a **good resource to keep track of data for other Auxiliary Programs**. Keep in mind that there are **no CSR requirements for National Auxiliary Outreach Program awards**.

Auxiliary Outreach gives auxiliaries the opportunity to work with others to benefit children, the elderly, those with special needs, animals, the environment and public areas. It is important that at a meeting, a motion is made that when members volunteer their time with another organization, they are representing the VFW Auxiliary. Wear your Auxiliary t-shirt, pin, hat, etc. proudly to the event.

Get underway:

- Volunteer with First Responders to process Child ID Kits, assist with fire safety seminars, or CPR training. Partner with a community to host First Responder Appreciation Day.
- Volunteer with School Programs, Library Programs, Sports Clubs, Performing Arts, Scouts or other Youth Groups.
- Volunteer with Meals on Wheels, Home-bound meal delivery, Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging, drive seniors/disabled to doctor appoints, or assist with housekeeping/lawn care.
- Volunteer with Food Pantries, Food Banks, to sort, stock and distribute meals. Volunteer at Soup Kitchens, or Rescue Mission to sort donations, cleaning and maintenance.
- Volunteer at Animal Rescue Groups as dog walkers, animal care, sort donation, or cleaning. Volunteer to help Parks and Recreation Groups by planting trees or flowers.
- Volunteer with Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Heart Association, etc. to assist with registration, water stations, timekeeping, or parking.

Keep track of hours spent volunteering and the number of Auxiliary members participating! Remember one or a group of Auxiliary members can participate in events. Report monthly from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. Monthly Reporting form can be found on Department website under programs. Visit www.pavfwaux.org

“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care” while we “Respect...Honor...Remember” our Veterans.

Kimberly Grundon
Department Chairman
kgrundon@comcast.net/717-275-7094

TIPS continued

Here are some **basic photography tips** for when your Historian/Media Relations Chairman is documenting your Auxiliary functions. Be sure to adhere to these to help elevate your skills and take your photos to the next level! More detailed tips will be available at Program & Leadership!

- Get in close
- Practice every day
- Check for even lighting
- Keep an eye out for composition
- Keep your batteries charged
- Plan out your depth of field
- Watch for the golden hour
- Stick to the rule of thirds
- Experiment with filters
- Learn how to work with motion
- Edit your photos
- Keep your photos organized

Kristin DiGiacomo, Historian

Extension & Revitalization (Formerly called Chief of Staff/Extension Program)

The VFW National Organization has 5 requirements of an Auxiliary

1. Have at least 10 business meetings per year (Sec. 210) Five members in good standing constitutes a quorum (Sec. 212)
2. Dues should be paid on at least 10 members on or before Feb. 1 of the current year (Sec. 207)
3. Quarterly audits by Trustees must be submitted (Sec. 814)
4. Officers elected & installed & reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30 (Sec 804A & 806A)
5. The offices of President and Treasurer must be bonded (Sec. 814)

Mentoring for Leadership (Formerly called Chief of Staff/Extension Program)

Do you have a Mentoring Team? More than one person can mentor a new member. The Auxiliary Chief of Staff can put a Team together. Individuals can volunteer to sit with a new member, explaining the meeting proceedings. A different individual can be responsible for making a phone call to the individual, making sure they understood the Auxiliary meeting. Good mentoring is important so members can fulfill their role in the Auxiliary. They are our future leaders. Bobbie Lawrence auxiliary2145@hotmail.com
814-229-8878

TIPS

August 2022
General Orders #2

I had the privilege of being Co-Chairman for credentials at the National Convention in Kansas City. I feel I need to share how important it is to have the Auxiliary Secretary put your delegates into MALTA. Many members across the country were unable to cast their vote for the next National Guard because they were not listed as a delegate for their Auxiliary. There is no fee for National Delegates, but there is a registration fee to attend the convention. Any member who THINKS they may attend should be voted as a delegate at your April meeting and placed in MALTA by May 31. With Donna Mills, Auxiliary 1754 in District 30 as National Conductress I hope many of you will try to attend the National Conventions and I want to be sure you all have the right to vote as a member in good standing.

Jodie Hollinger, Secretary/Treasurer

I hope everyone is looking forward to attending Program & Leadership in State College and/or one of the scheduled instructional sessions. There are many aspects to Youth Activities this year. I will be talking more about them in next General Orders. We must always remember to include our Youth in our Auxiliary activities! NOTE TO AUXILIARIES: Please report to me monthly. You may contact me at: Nancy Kreiner, 440 S. York Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or mrsplk2@aol.com

My first tip for this Buddy Poppy/National Home program year is twofold. When you have a “Buddy” Poppy Drive, combine it with another program or so. Americanism is a GREAT one. Idea: Display the American Flag and have small ones or even stickers to pass out. Or perhaps Scholarships – have copies of the Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy applications available. You can promote several programs at once. Engage your visitors and let them know just how much their donations mean to Veterans.

Have the story of the “Buddy” Poppy and the Mission Statement of the VFW National Home available for people to see. Let them know where the donations collected are used. Carolyn Paccio, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We honor our Veterans when we are providing educational opportunities for ourselves and our youth, with **“Hands that serve, Hearts that care!”** So, let’s begin!

Every competition has its own rules and regulations. Prior to any judging on the Department Level, chairmen evaluate the entries. Yes, we time the recordings, count the words, and measure or weigh the art before it ever reaches the judges! And unfortunately, that means we also must disqualify any entry not meeting the official rules established by National Headquarters. Please, **read the rules** for each contest!

The \$1,000 **Continuing Education Scholarship** – does not get delivered to the schools! It is only available to our members (who has been a member for at least one year) his/her spouse or their dependent child, who fills out the application and writes a short essay (one paragraph) describing how the scholarship will help them achieve their educational goals. The application and full instructions are available on MALTA.

The theme for the **Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition** is “Why is The Veteran Important?” and **Patriot’s Pen Essay** for the year is “My Pledge to Our Veterans.” To meet the deadlines, essays must be at the Post by Midnight, October 31, 2022. More details and the official entry forms for both scholarships are available on the VFW National Website.

Pennsylvania Voice of Democracy Teacher of the Year Award is given to one teacher who supports and promotes the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition in their classroom. Entry forms are available at PA VFW Department Headquarters.

I have copies of all entry forms that I can email to you if needed. 484-639-8953 is my cell, jbfaddis@gmail.com is my email, and you can find me on facebook at Joan Baldwin Faddis. I am here to help you in any way I can, and I love questions – just ask!

My wish is for a great year as we are **“Respect...Honor...Remember”** Let’s work hard this year and make President Valerie proud !

Loyally,

Joan

Joan Faddis
Department Scholarships Chair



HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM

Bonnie S. Drake ~ Department Chairman / Diane Haller ~ Co-Chairman
GENERAL ORDERS # 2 – August 2022

August is here and I hope you will make plans to join Pennsylvania's very own Department VFW Auxiliary President, Valerie DeCorte and members from across our great State, August 12-14, 2022 for the Program & Leadership Conference to be held in State College, PA. You will be able to meet the chairman, hear about the programs, learn and join in the fun things that are planned. So, get ready for a great weekend and please go onto the PA website for details (pre-registration, hotel information and agenda are available). Hope to see you there!!!

It's time to start "THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX" - by participating in the **Pennsylvania Pouch Project**: This year's special project will be a pouch that can be made by our Auxiliary and/or VFW members; they will have pockets to hold any items the patient may have and that can easily be held on a wheelchair or walker with Velcro. **A pattern is included with this General Order**, or you can design your own, these can then be provided to local VA Hospitals, VA Centers, Nursing Homes, Hospitals etc. A citation will be given to any Auxiliary/VFW Post whose members participate in this special project. Get creative with the material you use, if you want to go above and beyond, think of a way to have a place they can put a name tag in case they misplace theirs. (When you deliver them, take a picture for your records, and provide a copy to us with your year-end reports). Some other ideas were to add a buddy poppy to a US flag and make an extra stitch to hold the flag firmly in an upright position.

HOSPITAL/VA FOCUS: This month we are focusing on Coatesville VA. Built in 1929 original mission was to provide neuropsychiatric care to Veterans. Coatesville VA has 302 operating beds, 148 residential treatment programs beds, 126 community living center beds and 28 mental health beds. In 2021 there were 204,654 outpatient visits and 1,237 hospital admissions.

Some things they do there: Play Bingo with the Veterans where prizes are canteen books, followed by snacks, pizza, etc. Have a picnic treating the Veterans with Burgers, hotdogs, potato & macaroni salads, and of course homemade desserts. Take the Veterans to baseball, hockey games, other outside sporting events.

Remember all the things Hospitals and VA Centers do, depends on your donations, so refer to the hospital donations list and send donations to PA Department headquarters, earmark hospital donations.

Every day we will "**Respect...Honor...Remember**" our Veterans and continue to assist our Veterans, families and our Communities with "**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.**"

Loyally,

Bonnie S. Drake
Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman
Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone 570.647.8685

Diane Haller
Co-Chairman