



## Greetings,

*“I would like to remind each of us of our purpose as an Auxiliary, which is to serve veterans and their families. Let each of us treat one another with respect and kindness at all times”*

Each of us have heard this before, but where? When?

This is what the Auxiliary President says to the members as he/she closes the meeting. My thoughts are that if this was important enough to be included in our Ritual & Bylaw Book, and it is said at the close of each meeting, this is something worthwhile putting into practice. Please join me in treating one another with respect and kindness.

**Program Leadership Conference - August's Training Workshop** at the Ramada Conference Center in State College was spent learning how to become more productive Auxiliary members through a series of training events. There were over 145 Auxiliary members in attendance, some were first timers, some were looking for a refresher course, but the majority were members wanting to learn more about our organization and **Thanks** to the wonderful program co-chairmen, **Jodie Hollinger** and **Sarah Smith** for helping to make the training so meaningful and a special thanks to the Department line officers for stepping up to the plate and delivering another home run for the **PA Proud** team.

Resources for making your Auxiliary a success may include: VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania at [www.pavfwaux.org](http://www.pavfwaux.org); Online Auxiliary Academy and Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) go to Resources page; also becoming familiar with National Bylaws, Ritual and Booklet of Instruction.

The **VFW Auxiliary On The Road Training** pilot program has come to a close. We conducted a full day of training and member assistance at three locations within Pennsylvania, one in each section of the Commonwealth. A big **thank you** goes out to PA's line officers and staff on their delivery of an excellent training program for the members. Approximately 150 Auxiliary members attended this style of training. If you want this training event repeated next year, email Department HQ and let us know.

In case you haven't heard my special project will be to purchase benches to be placed in the Medal of Honor Grove near Valley Forge. Please consider donating to this worthwhile project. Mail your check to PA VFW Auxiliary HQ and add in the memo section: President's Project.

**ATTN: Treasurers** on all levels – have you filed your 990N-e-Postcard? Deadline for filing is November 15, 2022; however we ask that you take the time right now to complete this. <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/> After filing remember to log back in two weeks later to receive your confirmation of acceptance.

Something **new** is beginning this month, myself and the line officers will be hosting a monthly Zoom Chat which is open to all members. This chat is scheduled for September 29 from 6:00 – 6:30 PM and this month's topic will be Auxiliary Traditions. You will find the link and details within these General Orders.

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

The flagpole is named the staff. True or False? Email me at [valeriedecorte50@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Buddy Poppy/National Home  
Chief of Staff  
Christmas Canteen Fund  
Hospital  
Legislative  
Membership  
Wilkes-Barre VA Hospital  
Youth Activities  
TIPS  
Zoom with the President

#### IMPORTANT DATES 2022

September	5	Labor Day	Department Headquarters Closed
September	10	CAFÉ (Celebrating America's Freedom) – Flight 93 Memorial	10:00 A.M.
September	11	Patriot's Day	
September	11	District 26 Meeting @ Johnstown #155	– 2:30 P.M.
September	11	District 28 Meeting @ Edinboro/McKeen #740	– 1:00 P.M.
September	14–16	National President's Visit (Philadelphia)	
September	18	District 1 Meeting @ Michael J. Crescenz #2819	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 9 Meeting @ Columbia #2435	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 10 Meeting @ Dunmore #3474	– 1:00 P.M.
September	18	District 11 Meeting @ Benton #8317	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 13 Meeting @ Birdsboro #411	– 1:00 P.M.
September	18	District 15 Meeting @ Emporium #6221	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 20 Meeting @ Walnutport #7215	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 21 Meeting @ Chambersburg #1599	– 1:00 P.M. Awards/2:00 P.M. Mtg
September	18	District 22 Meeting @ Clearfield #1785	– 2:30 P.M.
September	18	District 23 Meeting @ Connellsville #21	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 25 Meeting @ Hopewell #8805	– 2:00 P.M.
September	18	District 29 Meeting @ McKee Rocks #418	– 2:00 P.M.

BY ORDER OF:

*Valerie DeCorte*

Valerie DeCorte  
Department President

ATTEST:

*Jodie Hollinger*

Jodie Hollinger  
Department Secretary/Treasurer



# Recruitment Booth Pointers

## What to Say

Practice what you'd say if someone came up to you and asked you what the VFW Auxiliary was about. An example is listed below.

**You:** "Hi, how are you today?"

*Potential Member:* "Good, thanks. What is the VFW Auxiliary/What does your organization do?"

**You:** "Have you heard of the Veterans of Foreign Wars – also known as the VFW?"

*Potential Member:* "Yes."

**You:** "We are the Auxiliary to the VFW; we support them in their efforts to assist veterans, active-duty military and their families.

*Potential Member:* "Wow. That's great!"

**You:** "We're active locally and nationally with nearly 4,000 Auxiliaries helping America's heroes in communities just like ours. (Hand them a flier at this point and say, "Some of the ways we offer support are"):

- By being a voice for veterans, locally and on Capitol Hill; we are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families.
- Assembling and mailing care packages to active-duty troops.
- Holding send-off and welcome-home events for troops.
- Spreading the word about PTSD and military/veteran suicide awareness.
- Participating in Stand-Downs and assisting homeless veterans.
- Visiting veterans in VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Veterans Homes.
- Offering youth scholarships and educating youth about the American Flag.
- Spreading patriotism and educating our communities about America's patriotic holidays.
- Highlight other ways your Auxiliary offers support (i.e. holiday parties for children, sponsoring a local baseball team, delivering meals to shut-ins, etc.)

Let the conversation proceed from there!

## DO'S

- Wear an Auxiliary shirt and/or identifying name badge.
- Smile and say "hello" to people when they walk by your booth - even if they don't stop!
- Stand to the side of the booth, or in front of the booth, and interact with people as they walk by.
- Look people in the eye when you speak with them.
- Shake hands if appropriate.
- Acknowledge and speak with others who are with them (spouse, parents, children, etc.).
- Give them a packet of information to take with them and ask them to share the information with others.
- Have at least two people working the booth.
- **Ask them to join and hand them an application. Help them fill it out if needed.**

## DON'TS

- Use profanity.
- Smoke while at the booth.
- Eat while at the booth.
- Talk or text on your cell phone while at the booth.
- Sit behind the booth with your arms folded in front of your chest.
- Be overbearing or overly aggressive.
- Have more than two people talk to a potential member at once; it can overwhelm them.

**REMEMBER...IF YOU DON'T ASK,  
THEY WON'T JOIN!**

General Orders #3  
September 2022

## **Chief of Staff**

### Welcome New Members to Your Auxiliary

#### Thanking New Members

Thanking new members for joining our organization can go a long way in making them feel welcome right off the bat. Send a personal email or hand-written note or even take a moment to call and thank the new member for joining the Auxiliary.

#### Making New Members Feel at Home /Assign the New Member a Mentor

Help new members feel comfortable right away by letting them know how our organization works, what to expect next, and where to go for information. Have contact information available for officers and Mentors. A Mentor(s) should be kind, knowledgeable and patient.

#### Keeping New Members Around for the Long Haul!

New members can decide if they are going to participate in our organization long-term within the first days, and even minutes, of joining our organization. Make sure the members love and understand our organization right off the bat and you will keep them around for the long haul! They are our future leaders!

Bobbie Lawrence  
[Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com](mailto:Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com)  
814-229-8878



## **Veterans & Family Support**

**VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) did you know?**

**Last year 110,000 veterans worked with VFW Service Officers to file VA benefit Claims.**

**VFW represents 550,000 veterans that receive \$9.7 BILLIONS in earned benefits each year from the VA each year.**

**Donations can be made by check to:**

**VFW National Headquarters**

**ATTN: NVS**

**406W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. 11<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Kanas City, MO 64111**



### **PA Smile Program**

- **Honor a caregiver in your Auxiliary in some way this month; send a card, a phone call, something to show we care.**

**Paula Havasi**

**phavasi@live.com**



## MEMBERSHIP GENERAL ORDERS #3

**At our Program and Leadership Conference the members set this year's membership challenge: 105%...Yes, this Mission *Is* Possible!**

This year's Membership Program is all about **Building, Reinforcing and Reuniting Connections** to ensure that **Every Member Matters**. Has your Membership Committee created your Membership Plan? If so, you've probably planned a Recruitment Booth.

➡ Check out the **Recruitment Booth Pointers** attached to the General Orders.

After you get all of those New Members, how about putting together a **Welcome Packet**?

➡ **Connections Challenge Award #2: New Member Welcome Packet**

*Develop a New Member Welcome Packet and enter it into the judging contest, which will be held at Mid-Winter Convention. You can either bring your Welcome Packet to the convention or you can mail it to the Department Membership Chairman by 1/7/2023. A \$50 VFW Store Certificate will be given to the Auxiliary winner in each membership division.*

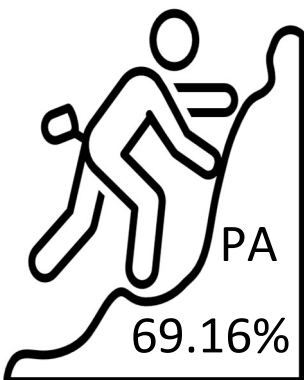
Just as important is **Retaining** our current members.

➡ Have you sent out your **Dues Notices**? It's time to get these sent out, and time to let your members know what's going on in the Auxiliary. What events are coming up? How can they help? Who should they contact?

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](mailto:andreavfwaux@gmail.com)

105% Goal



Congratulations to the following Auxiliaries Who Accomplished the 100% Membership Mission:

District 1: Aux. 6700

District 10: Aux. 531

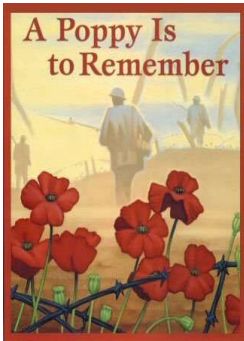
District 17: Aux. 196

District 19: Aux. 1132; Aux. 8755

District 22: Aux. 3

District 26: Aux. 7605

District 29: Aux. 7090



## “Buddy” Poppy/National Home Program

General Orders #3

September 2022



This month marks the the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the day that changed our lives here in the United States forever...

My POP-UP Challenge for this month is for Auxiliaries or Districts to hold a “Buddy” Poppy drive commemorating September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Join together with your Posts and First Responders if you can to see that the loss of 2,996 lives on that dreadful day, and the countless lost afterward as a result of the attack against our way of life, is never forgotten. Many of us as Auxiliary members lost love ones that day or in the years that have followed. A “Buddy” Poppy fundraiser is the perfect way to remind people in your communities to **RESPECT, HONOR, REMEMBER** those who have fallen fighting for our Freedoms, Liberties, and Values, since that fateful day and all of the days that came before it. You may split your reporting with Americanism. I have challenges for each month that will be coming out as **TIPS** on Facebook and here in General Orders, I encourage you to watch for them and to participate. The last question of your year-end reporting forms reflects your participation. Please note that you do not have to do all of them, they are just ideas to spark the imagination and creativity of the members of your Auxiliaries.

Also, in each General Orders I will spotlight either a National or Department award, this month being “Buddy” Poppy/National Home Award #1 from National Ambassador Cathey Farley.

. Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the Buddy™ Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that exhibited and/or explained how the “Buddy”™ Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other. Criteria and entry form (required) available at [vfwauxiliary.org/program-award-forms](http://vfwauxiliary.org/program-award-forms) must send the entry form to their Department "Buddy"™ Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Chairman by March 31, 2023.

The Department Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Chairman must send a copy of all submitted entry forms to National Headquarters by April 30, 2023.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that shows how the Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children impact each other. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Department Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National "Buddy"™ Poppy & VFW National Home for Children Ambassador by April 30, 2023 for judging.

Loyally, Carolyn Paccio 2022-23 Dept. of PA Chairman

## National President Jane Reape Visit to PA

National President Jane Reape will be making her official visit to the great state of Pennsylvania, September 14 and 15, 2022. She will be visiting the Philadelphia area including Madam Department President DeCorte' Special Project – **Medal of Honor Grove**, Phoenixville. Watch for an email with timeline of her visit including the Aisle of Honor at Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VFW Post 2819.

We are very excited to have Madam National President Reape with us and to be able to show her “**Respect...Honor...Remember**” is very important to us as a Department.

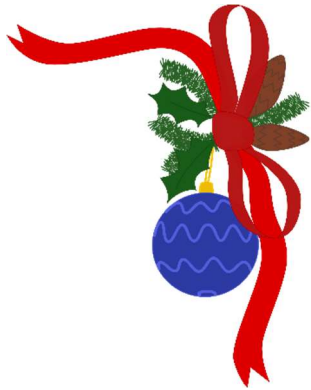
In order to make her stay with us a memorable one, we are asking for your financial assistance. If each Auxiliary could see fit to make just a small contribution, it would surely help us to give her a great Pennsylvania experience and not put a strain on our budget.

Thank you in advance for any help your Auxiliary can give.

Joan Faddis, Visit Co-Chairman

Dot Sokol, Visit Co-Chairman





## **CHRISTMAS CANTEEN FUND**

Dear Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

As Christmas approaches, we are asking for donations from each Auxiliary for our Christmas Canteen Fund.

The goal of the Christmas Canteen Fund is to see that every patient in all our VA facilities receive at least a \$1.00 canteen book. It may not seem like a lot to you, but to some it may be the only gift they will receive. Therefore, we ask that your Auxiliary be generous with your donations to the Christmas Canteen Fund.

Our deadline for receiving this gift is October 31, 2022 so we are able to process your gift and send out to our VFW Auxiliary Hospital & Home Representatives.

Make checks payable to: Department of PA VFW Auxiliary

Be sure to earmark **Christmas Canteen Fund**

Mail to: Dept. of PA VFW Auxiliary  
4002 Fenton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

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

**Loyally,**

**Bonnie Drake, Hospital Chairman**  
**General Orders #3**  
**September 2022**



# LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

2022-2023

General Orders # 3 September 2022

It is the beginning of a new year. Do you know who your Representatives and/or Senators are? Which candidates are running for an office in November? Which of the Legislators will lobby Congress and the present administration to act on the Legislative priorities and advocate on Veteran's issues? Do you know the answers, if not you can identify your congressional representatives by visiting VFW website at [vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts](http://vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts)? It is very crucial for the VFW and Auxiliary members to let their voices be heard on Capitol Hill.

First, I would like all the Auxiliaries to review the Priority Goals which can be found on both the National VFW and Auxiliary websites. This is my first promotion, for the Legislative Program to succeed. We need to review, relate, and advocate for the Veteran's benefits. Please send me your choice of legislation and the progress being made in Washington. Washington, DC allows the VFW to monitor all legislation affecting the Veterans, alert us to bills that are under consideration and to actively lobby Congress, President on Veteran's issues. You can find the specifics of a bill by visiting [congress.gov](http://congress.gov), either by the number or by a key word or phrase. The goals are grouped under six areas of concern:

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
- Military Quality of Life
- National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW-MIA

Please have fun while advocating for our Veterans now and forever. It is our turn to watch over these men and women who have sacrificed so much of themselves for our freedom. Let's try to make it a lot easier for the veteran, active duty, and their families.

As the new year is starting, 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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

## **WILKES BARRE VA MEDICAL CENTER**

General Orders #3

September 2022

Ann Ray and I want to say "Thank You" to President DeCorte for the appointment of Representative and Deputy for the ensuing year. We will continue "Respect...Honor...Remember" our veterans and to do whatever is humanly possible to make sure they have some joy in their lives.

At this point in time all we can do to support our hospitalized veterans is to make sure there is funding for whatever the hospital wants to provide for them. We still are not permitted to enter the facility, but as soon as we are able to...we will be there with "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care."

We will continue to provide the finances from donations sent to headquarters to provide pizza parties, pretzel day, specialty dinners, carnival items, clothing and whatever else the hospital needs for the veterans. These brave men and women sacrificed so much for us, it's the least we can do in return.

Please continue to make your annual donations to headquarters so all the Reps. And Deps. across this great state can continue to provide for these warriors.

With both of us serving on the Executive Committee, we hear firsthand what is needed in this hospital. We feel as though we are their voices to make things right, if we hear that something needs to change. We are still attending the Executive and VAVS meetings by phone so we are still in touch as to what is happening at the facility. Hopefully things will change this year so we can attend the meetings and especially be there in person to greet and have at least some personal contact with these men and women.

To all our Sisters and Brothers...Take Care, Stay Safe, God Bless and God Bless America!

Maryann Pauline, Representative  
P O Box 63  
Conyngham, PA 18219  
NO EMAIL

Ann Ray M. Begis, Deputy  
23 Catawissa Rd.  
Ashland, PA 17921-1327  
irsbaby1@verizon.net

# HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDERS # 3 – September 2022

We belong to one of the greatest organizations, the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We are not just a name but serve a purpose through the programs we sponsor and being there for Veterans, their families and our communities. Take a moment to reflect again on who you joined under, the why and remember you matter! We need your help in the Hospital Program, so I hope you have taken the time to read the Pennsylvania and National Program Books for 2022/2023 term and are already well on your way to participating, not only in the hospital program, but in each program we sponsor.

Each September I automatically think of 9/11 (Patriot's Day), a day that changed all our lives in one way or another. Not only do we remember all the lives that were lost, but those who still suffer. We owe so much to the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces fighting for our freedom, and as they grow older and depart this world to go to their heavenly home why not continue to show honor, dignity and respect to them. That is why I decided to remind everyone about the **Honors Escort** Program which is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner and provides an opportunity for a veteran's family and friends, other veterans and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death. A **"Final Salute"** of draping the veteran with an American Flag as they are taken out of their room while family, friends and staff show respect as they pass by is so moving. Gather the information about this program and go to your local Hospitals, VA Centers, Nursing Homes, or wherever Veterans may be cared for and help them get this program underway, they may need volunteers so please do. What a blessing you will be to those grieving.

**HOSPITAL/VA FOCUS:** This month we are focusing on Gino J. Merli Veterans Center (GMVC), located in Scranton PA which was established in 1994. GMVC has 196 beds, 290 dedicated clinical and professional staff, and many volunteers (last count in 2019 had 794 pre-covid). Naomi Woody, Representative and Cindy Lachovitz, Deputy do an awesome job seeing to the needs of our hospitalized Veterans.

Residents play cards and bingo, do puzzles, paint and crafts, have birthday celebrations that the residents help to plan and execute, plant flowers and vegetables in outdoor victory garden, enjoy picnics under covered pavilion and enjoy singing and watching plays put on by VFW and Auxiliary members. Veterans are transported to sporting events and local VFW Posts where they are treated to meals and honored. They enjoy parades and activities put on by a number of Community Service Based Organizations.

Hospitals and VA Centers depends on your donations, so refer to the hospital donations list and send donations through PA Department headquarters, earmark which hospitals you wish them to go to.

**"Respect...Honor...Remember"** our Veterans and their families with **"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"** and our communities will see what the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars is about.

Thought for the month: **"Life happens, between an inhale and an exhale"**

Loyally,

*Bonnie S. Drake*

Bonnie S. Drake  
Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman  
Email: [gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com](mailto:gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com) Phone 570.647.8685

*Diane Haller*

Diane Haller  
Co-Chairman



# Youth Activities

2022-2023

## General Orders #3

Well Brothers & Sisters, we are off to a great start educating our Youth. I have attached the three (3) contest applications & explanations to these General Orders. Also, I can't possibly get all the information for this program in one (1) General Order so I have formed a FB Group. I feel in this way, I can stay in touch with you on a regular basis. The contests are as follows:

### **“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag”**

This is our “WOW” project for this year. Please read the application carefully and make sure you get a parent's signature. These entries will be sent to ABC 27 in the Harrisburg area to be aired at 11:55 am M-F right before the news. This contest is not listed on your Year End Report, however, please report under #11. The deadline for the entries to be to me is December 31, 2002. Please do not hold entries. Please email or mail to me promptly when you receive them.

### **“Get Exited for the RED, WHITE & BLUE!”**

An individual singing contest for youth in grades K-12 at the time of entry, and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Youth learn the words to “The Star-Spangled Banner” while expressing their creativity. The contest highlights local the vocal talent of young people while promoting patriotism. Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division.

### **“Illustrating America”**

A patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. There are National awards for first, second and third place in each grade division.

I look forward to working with you this year on this our Youth Activities program. As we **“Respect....Honor...Remember”** our Veterans, we must always continue to have **“Hands the Serve, Hearts that Care”**.

Loyally,

Nancy D. Kreiner  
Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary  
Youth Activities Chairman 2022-2023  
(717)460-1635  
[mrsplk2@aol.com](mailto:mrsplk2@aol.com)



*Sponsored by VFW AUXILIARY OF PENNSYLVANIA*

## ***“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE” CONTEST!***

*AGES 5-8: PRIZE PLAQUE*

*AGES 9-12: PRIZE PLAQUE*

*GROUP: PRIZE PLAQUE*

## **PLAQUE AWARDED TO BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

*Send us a Video of yourself or your group reciting*

### ***“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG”***

*Rules: Proudly recite the pledge in whatever style you want just don't change the words.*

*Please make a video entry just for this contest!*

*Email completed signed form and your video to:*

[Mrsplk2@aol.com](mailto:Mrsplk2@aol.com)

*or*

*Send completed form & video on DVD or USB flash drive to:*

*Nancy D. Kreiner, 440 South York Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055*

*Entries must be postmarked or submitted before **December 31, 2022***

**2022-2023 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**  
**"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE" COMPETITION**

MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: First M.I. Last

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Email / phone

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Grade in School

\_\_\_\_\_

School Name/ City

**TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARD**

(required even if student is 18)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email Address

HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FINAL RULES I certify that I have met all requirements and that I am the sole author of the enclosed video entry. VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania **has permission to use, share and broadcast my video as seen fit** for the "I Pledge Allegiance" reciting contest. I understand the video will not be sold but will remain the property of the VFW/ Auxiliary.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student/Participant Date

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_

## ZOOM WITH THE PRESIDENT

Starting on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, Madam President will hold a monthly Zoom meeting for anyone interested. Various Topics will be covered and the meeting will only last 30 minutes!

Time: Sep 22, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Fourth Thu, until May 25, 2023, 9 occurrence(s)

Sep 22, 2022 06:00 PM

Oct 27, 2022 06:00 PM

Nov 24, 2022 06:00 PM

Dec 22, 2022 06:00 PM

Jan 26, 2023 06:00 PM

Feb 23, 2023 06:00 PM

Mar 23, 2023 06:00 PM

Apr 27, 2023 06:00 PM

May 25, 2023 06:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwrD-yvrTwrEt1OujkLs2DoCUBVL7B5\\_OH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqDsvHdeSsRGORpw-BligZ-3ztmZcj7cMswrvCCp\\_cVHSOcF3EIRTR\\_qF](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwrD-yvrTwrEt1OujkLs2DoCUBVL7B5_OH/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGgqDsvHdeSsRGORpw-BligZ-3ztmZcj7cMswrvCCp_cVHSOcF3EIRTR_qF)

Join Zoom Meeting: (Copy and paste the link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88605737189?pwd=OTZCc1Y5ZiJpOVE3Vno3RG12VEFFdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 0573 7189

Passcode: 399706

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,88605737189#,,,,\*399706# US

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

Meeting ID: 886 0573 7189

Passcode: 399706

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kb1LIV6cyv>





# Get Excited for the **Red, White and Blue!**

## VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner



Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value.

### Contest Rules

- Video of contestant's solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner must be recorded between **July 1 and March 31**.
- One entry per contestant.
- Student shall state name, age and grade level prior to vocal performance.
- Student may sing a cappella, with backing tracks or instruments.
- Student may sing in the arrangement and genre of their choice.
- Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring participating VFW Auxiliary by **March 31**.
- Student may **NOT** change the words. Student may **NOT** lip sync.
- Video must be a recorded live unedited version.
- Complete and sign contest entry form. Parent/Guardian signature required on entry form.
- Video must be saved on YouTube and submitted with completed entry form to a VFW Auxiliary for judging.

### Contest Eligibility

- Open to students in grades **K-12** who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Foreign exchange students and students aged 20 or older are ineligible.
- National grade division winners of previous *Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!* students may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous National winner.

### National Awards

#### Grades K-8

First place: \$500 gift card  
Second place: \$300 gift card  
Third place: \$200 gift card

#### Grades 9-12

First place: \$500 gift card  
Second place: \$300 gift card  
Third place: \$200 gift card

*VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for incomplete, lost, late, misdirected or poor-quality video entries. All scores are final as received from the judges. Falsifying information on the entry form is reason for immediate disqualification. All contestants agree to abide by the contest rules. Any violation of these rules shall be cause for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.*

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

### VFW Auxiliary judging and deadlines

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- **April 15:** One winner from each VFW Auxiliary advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state).
- **May 5:** VFW Auxiliary Department (state) winners due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- **July:** Students will be notified of entry status via the email address provided on the entry form.
- **August:** First through third place winners named in each of the two grade divisions on VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters social media pages and shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

# Get Excited for the **Red**, **White** and **Blue!**

## VFW Auxiliary National Singing Contest A video solo vocal performance of The Star-Spangled Banner



### Contest Entry Form

Please **print** or complete fillable form at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)  
This form must be submitted with the video entry at all levels of judging.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*I certify that I have met all the contest requirements and that I am the sole author of the attached/enclosed video entry. By entering the contest, I grant the VFW Auxiliary royalty-free rights to use, edit, share, publish and broadcast my contest video entry for the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! national anthem singing contest for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary. I understand the video will not be sold but will remain the property of the VFW Auxiliary.*

To acquire contact information and application assistance in your state please email [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YouTube link:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This section to be filled out by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.**  
**National Headquarters only accepts Department level first place winners.**  
Any other entries received at National Headquarters will be disqualified.

Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate grade division.

**This first place entry is for: Grade K-8 \_\_\_\_\_ OR Grade 9-12 \_\_\_\_\_**

**VFW Auxiliary Judging** deadline date March 31.

Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_

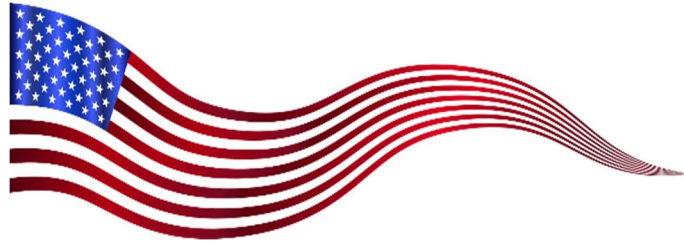
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**VFW Auxiliary Department Judging** deadline date April 15.

Department Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Level** - Department first-place entry must be received at  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by **May 5** or it will be disqualified.  
ATTN: Program Awards Administrator



*Sponsored by VFW AUXILIARY OF PENNSYLVANIA*

## ***“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE” CONTEST!***

*AGES 5-8: PRIZE PLAQUE*

*AGES 9-12: PRIZE PLAQUE*

*GROUP: PRIZE PLAQUE*

## **PLAQUE AWARDED TO BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

*Send us a Video of yourself or your group reciting*

### ***“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG”***

*Rules: Proudly recite the pledge in whatever style you want just don't change the words.*

*Please make a video entry just for this contest!*

*Email completed signed form and your video to:*

[Mrsplk2@aol.com](mailto:Mrsplk2@aol.com)

*or*

*Send completed form & video on DVD or USB flash drive to:*

*Nancy D. Kreiner, 440 South York Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055*

*Entries must be postmarked or submitted before **December 31, 2022***

**2022-2023 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**  
**"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE" COMPETITION**

MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL CONTESTANTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: First M.I. Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email / phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Grade in School

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name/ City

**TO BE COMPLETED BY STUDENT'S PARENT/GUARD**

(required even if student is 18)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Email Address

HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FINAL RULES I certify that I have met all requirements and that I am the sole author of the enclosed video entry. VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania **has permission to use, share and broadcast my video as seen fit** for the "I Pledge Allegiance" reciting contest. I understand the video will not be sold but will remain the property of the VFW/ Auxiliary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student/Participant Date

District # \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_

# TIPS

## September 2022 General Orders #3

### TIP for Historian/Media Relations – September 2022 *Kristin DiGiacomo*

\*\*\*Avoid zooming in!\*\*\*

When you take a photo from a distance, it's tempting to zoom in on something specific you're trying to capture. But it's better ***not*** to zoom in — doing so can make the photo appear grainy, blurry, or pixelated. Instead, try to get closer to your subject — or take the photo from a default distance, and crop it later. That way, you won't compromise quality, and it's easier to play around or optimize a larger image.

*Remember to follow the Department of PA VFW Auxiliary on both Instagram (@pa\_vfw\_auxiliary) and TikTok ([www.tiktok.com/@pa\\_vfw\\_auxiliary](http://www.tiktok.com/@pa_vfw_auxiliary))!*

### AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR *Amy Peterson*

If you haven't already, nominate a teacher that goes above and beyond for patriotism! The Smart/Maher Scholarship deadline for Post entries is October 31<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to get them judged and sent onto District judging. Be proud of these teachers, he/she deserves "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care" recognition.

Important Date Reminders:

September 5 – Labor Day celebrated

September 11 - PATRIOT DAY National Day of Service & Remembrance of those killed on 9-11-2001

September 16 – POW/MIA Day (Third Friday in September) Missing Man Ceremony at your Post?

September 18 - US Air Forces Birthday

September 30 – GOLD STAR MOTHER'S & FAMILY'S DAY (Last Sunday in September)

Use #auxiliarypartiotismpa and/or #auxiliarypatriotism – show me what you are doing in PA!

### Veterans & Family Support – *Paula Havasi*

#### VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) did you know?

- Last year 110,000 veterans worked with the VFW Service Officers to file VA benefit Claims.
- VFW represents 550,000 veterans that receive \$9.7 BILLIONS in earned benefits each year from the VA each year.

Donations can be made by check to:

VFW National Headquarters

ATTN: NVS

406W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Kanas City, MO 64111



PA Smile Program

- Honor a caregiver in your Auxiliary in some way this month; send a card, a phone call, something to show we care.