



Greetings,

Hope all is well with each of you and that you are the **"I"** in **kind**.

This year's membership program, *Every Member Matters* is off to a fast start with PA standing at 78.10% in members who have paid their dues. My personal thanks to those who have paid and for those who are financially struggling and can't afford to pay, ask your Auxiliary if they can show some kindness and help you. Keep making those membership connections.

Auxiliary Treasurers: If you have not already done so, please file your Auxiliary's 990-e-Postcard before November 15. If you need further assistance, please go to our website at www.vfwauxpa.org and under Resources – go to Treasurer's Guide for detailed information on filing.

Our **2023 Mid-Winter Conference** will be held January 19-21 at the Wyndham in Gettysburg at 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA. Reservation information will be available soon. The Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held Saturday evening. On Friday evening I am inviting all members to a Walk Thru of our new Web Site (www.vfwauxpa.org) and that will be followed by learning how to attend a Zoom Meeting and How to Host a Zoom. On Saturday morning please join us for Jeopardy an interesting Guest Speaker and some round table discussion on ways to lead our organization into the next decade. That afternoon we will have our 3rd Council of Administration meeting and the Department line officers will be performing a memorial service training exercise.

Election Day: Remember to vote on Tuesday, November 8.

Veterans Day: Friday, November 11. Many VFW Posts and Auxiliaries have special programs scheduled to Respect...Honor...Remember our veterans. Please find the time to participate, or maybe even volunteer, with the program. And if you do, take a couple of pictures and send them to our Department Historian at k.digi@pitt.edu to be added to our Facebook page.

Department, District, Auxiliary Officers (Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers): Your dues **MUST** be paid by December 31, 2022. If not paid, a letter to relieve from office shall be sent to National HQs.

In September we began hosting a monthly **Zoom Chat** with the membership. The time set aside for this zoom chat is for the 4th Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 PM and ending thirty minutes later. During this time several training tips and ideas are shared with those on the zoom. However, the Zoom Chats for this November and December are cancelled due to the holidays but will resume in January. I look forward to seeing and sharing with you then.

SOCK, HAT, GLOVE DONATIONS REMINDER. We are partnering with the VFW in collecting **NEW** white socks, winter hats and warm gloves for homeless veterans. Please bring your donations to our Mid-Winter Conference, January 19-23 at the Wyndham Gettysburg.

Auxiliary Members: Thank you for your dedication to our organization and to improving the lives of our veterans and their families. I am grateful for everything you do as an Auxiliary member.

May your upcoming **Thanksgiving** holiday be blessed with the things that matter most – memories, moments and experiences - shared with family and friends.

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

If the flag touches the ground, it must be appropriately destroyed. True or False?

Email me at valeriedecorte50@gmail.com with your answer. Please include your name and Auxiliary.

Does your Auxiliary practice Goodwill? Goodwill is a kind, helpful, and positive attitude toward others. Does your Auxiliary demonstrate goodwill toward new members as well as existing members? Remember Every Member Matters!

Until you hear from me again, be strong, be safe, and be kind.

Auxiliary Outreach
Chief of Staff
Delaware Valley Veterans Home
Hospital
Cpl. Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center
Legislative
Membership
Youth Activities
TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES 2022


November	4 – 6	Eastern Conference, Manchester, New Hampshire
November	5	District 16 Meeting @ Trappe #7155 – 11:00 A.M.
November	6	District 18 Meeting @ Myerstown #6076 – 2:00 P.M.
November	8	Election Day
November	11	Veterans Day – Department Headquarters Closed
November	13	District 1 Meeting @ Bridesburg-Lawton # 2 – 2:00 P.M.
November	13	District 9 Meeting @ Kennett Square # 5467 – 2:00 P.M.
November	13	District 10 Meeting @ Eynon #7983 – 1:00 P.M.
November	13	District 26 Meeting @ Sankertown #7377 – 2:30 P.M.
November	13	District 23 Meeting @ Confluence #7250 – 2:00 P.M.
November	13	District 30 Meeting @ Huntingdon #1754 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 8 Meeting @ Levittown #6495 – 1:30 P.M.
November	20	District 11 Meeting @ Berwick #821 – 2:30 P.M.
November	20	District 14 Meeting @ Sayre #1536 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 15 Meeting @ Knoxville #6753 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 19 Meeting @ Port Allegany #6391 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 20 Meeting @ Nesquehoning #8008 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 22 Meeting @ Juniata #8685 – 2:30 P.M.
November	20	District 24 Meeting @ Carmichaels #3491 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 25 Meeting @ Quality Inn, 1740 New Butler Rd, New Castle, 16101–2:00
November	20	District 27 Meeting @ Herminie #8427 – 2:00 P.M.
November	20	District 29 Meeting @ Coraopolis #402 – 2:00 P.M.
November	24-25	Thanksgiving – Department Headquarters Closed

Valerie DeCorte

Valerie DeCorte, Department President

TIPS

November 2022
General Orders #5

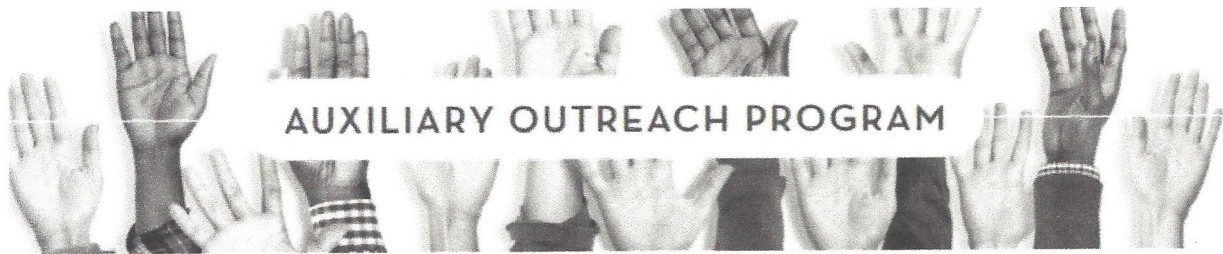
Fall Blessings Auxiliaries...  This is a Pop-Up challenge month for **Buddy Poppy/National Home**. November brings a very important holiday to us at the VFW and Auxiliary. Veteran's Day is November 11th, a day to honor those who have served, are still serving, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. My challenge for you is to be the Auxiliary who promotes the purchasing of the most National Home Tribute Bricks. This is the perfect month to promote this lasting tribute in honor of a Veteran or Auxiliary member special to Posts, Auxiliaries, families, and friends. As always, don't forget to keep track of your "Poppy" drives and send pics for FB and our website. *Carolyn Paccio*, Department Chairman

With Veterans Day and Thanksgiving coming this month it is a perfect time to remember all of our Veterans, here and deployed as well as their families. Take some time to send a card, make a phone call or drop off a little something to show that they are in our hearts.

How is your PA Smile program going? Don't forget to send pictures or what you have been doing. I am looking forward to your reports. Now is the time to start your reports to be ahead for the National Awards. Paula Havasi, **Veterans & Family Support**

Did you miss the Flag Folding Ceremony at the last Council of Administration meeting? If you did but want to check it out, please visit our NEW YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_o6H540-dr8UDgTfnumEA.
Kristin DiGiacomo, **Historian/Media Relations**

I sure hope you are enjoying the Fall season as much as I am – Pennsylvania is so beautiful this time of year. If you haven't had the chance to host a Freedom Festival, now is a great time to plan one. Invite First Responders, Scouts, SPCA to name a few, to set up a table to meet/greet your neighborhood children. Offer snacks, activities, workshops and more. Be sure to pass out American Flags, Poppies, Patriotic pencils, bookmarks, coloring pages and MORE! This is a great time to educate proper way to recite The Pledge of Allegiance & offer Flag Etiquette handouts. The possibilities are wide open, be imaginative, be informative and have fun sharing Americanism. **Amy Peterson, Americanism/Patriotic Instructor**



Building Partnerships Outreach • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach

(Formerly called Auxiliary Community Outreach)

General Orders #5 November 2022

Read Across America

Build a relationship with your local elementary or middle school by participating in Read Across America on March 2, 2023. Event is celebrated on March 2nd each year, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

The year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about everyone for everyone. Schools will provide books that can be read for the appropriate grade level.

- Contact your local school for details on how to sign up
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary apparel
- Consider reading to more than one grade level

Can't participate in Read Across America? Then, consider building a relationship with your local Senior Center by reading to the elderly.

- Contact local Senior Center
- Obtain days for reading to seniors
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary apparel

Auxiliary Members are the **"Hands That Serve, Hearts that Care"** while we **"Respect...Honor...Remember Our Veterans."**

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

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

Chief of Staff- Revitalization

November 2022

General Orders #5

Are you tired of doing the same old fundraisers? Some new ideas might revitalize members of your Auxiliary. Maybe the members would like to try one of the following:

All White Day Party (a ticketed event where everyone wore white and all decorations were white. Lots of fundraising)

Golf tournament

Grocery Game (Groceries are displayed on a table. If your ticket is pulled, you pick the item you want.)

Bingo

Lottery trees

Rest stop on highway

Mentoring for Leadership

National has a Mentoring for Leadership Award for Members. Send your nomination form to me of someone who fulfills the role as a mentor/leader.

Bobbie

Bobbie Lawrence

Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com

HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM

Bonnie S. Drake ~ Department Chairman / Diane Haller ~ Co-Chairman
GENERAL ORDERS # 5 –November 2022

The hospital program has many facets from getting donations, being there for our Veterans and their families, recruiting volunteers and showing care and concern for everyone who enter into our Hospitals/VA/Homes.

This month we are giving you a suggestion to do something more for Veterans who are moving into housing and starting a brand-new chapter in their lives. A New Home Welcome Kit will provide essential items to help our veterans transition to new housing. Each kit is estimated to cost about \$100.00-\$120.00. Your contribution will help a veteran settle in and begin their new chapter.

Welcome Kits Include:

Shopping cart with wheels - Box of Tall Kitchen Trash Bags - 6 pack of Toilet Paper - 2 rolls of Paper Towels - box of Tissues - Pack of Sponges - Bottle of All Purpose cleaner - Bottle Glass Cleaner - 1 Toilet Bowl Cleaner - Toilet Brush - Bottle of Dish Soap - Set Kitchen Towels - Dustpan/hand broom -Set of Bath Towels - Pack of Paper Plates - -Box Plastic Silverware -Pack of Disposable Cups



HOSPITAL/VA FOCUS: This month we are focusing on Delaware Valley Veterans Home (DVVH), located at 2701 Southampton Rd, Philadelphia PA which was established in 2002. DVVH has 171 beds, 254 dedicated clinical and profession staff and in 2019 had over 162 volunteers. Patricia Metcalfe (D8-Aux 1597), is the Representative and Janet Bossman (D8-Aux 1597), Deputy. Residents can do art and music therapy; they have military ball-themed dances. They can also socialize with fellow veterans playing cards, board games or relaxing on outdoor patio. They have access to on-site canteen snack shop, library, chapel, barber and beautician.

Please remember that the Hospitals/VA/Homes rely on our donations – please review the Hospital listing and donate as soon as possible. Everything we do for our Veterans is largely due to the generosity of our members.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM Focal Point:

Women Veterans Health Care: Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population. Learn about the resources and health care services that are now being tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Help our women veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve. Visit <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov> and learn more about what is available. Hospitals & VA Centers depend on our donations so be generous! .

As we “**Respect...Honor...Remember**” our Veterans and their families let us help with “**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**”.

Thought for the month: “**Be happy, not because everything is good, but because you can see the good in everything!**”

Loyally,

Bonnie S. Drake

Bonnie S. Drake
Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman
2318 Owego Turnpike, Honesdale PA 18431
Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone 570.647.8685

Diane Haller

Diane Haller
Co-Chairman

Cpl. Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center

GENERAL ORDERS #5

November 2022

To our Department President Valerie DeCorte, we would like to thank you for this appointment as Representative and Deputy for "Cpl. Michael J. Crescenz" Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

We also want to thank all the VFW Auxiliaries who give so generously their donations to be used for this Center. Your donations have allowed us to support many of the Centers programs and they are always greatly appreciated.

Please continue sending your donations to:

Department of PA – VFW Auxiliary
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Earmarked: **Philadelphia VA Medical Center**

Thank you for your support and kindness for our Veterans.

Loyally,

Carol Ann McGinley

Carol Ann McGinley
Representative

Michael T. McGinley

Michael T. McGinley
Deputy

Delaware Valley Veterans Home

GENERAL ORDERS #5

November 2022

Thank you, Department President Valerie DeCorte, for the appointment of Representative and Deputy for the 2022-2023 year. The volunteering that we all do will continue to ***“Respect...Honor...Remember”*** our Veterans.

Hopefully at this point you can do in person visits. They probably have changed some of the rules, but it's good to be back and see the veterans as they are glad to see you back again. There is so much that we can do for the veterans that is greatly appreciated by them. Contact your activity directors to schedule your events.

The holidays are here and handing out cards and goodies bags are always welcomed.

Your donations to Department Headquarters for all the hospitals is greatly appreciated and most especially the donations that you send for Delaware Valley Veterans Center.

Has your auxiliary given any thought to adopting a veteran? I am sure that they would welcome you as part of their family as we would them. Not for just the holidays but all year long. Just stopping by and saying Hi, how are you doing, is there anything you may need?

“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”

Patricia Metcalfe, Representative

pmetcalfe7363@gmail.com

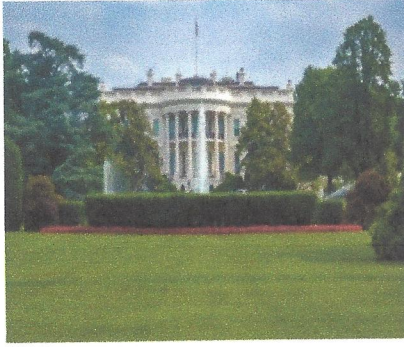
609-870-2691

Janet Bossman, Deputy

bdirtycat@aol.com

215-860-0996 cell

215-785-0061 home



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

2022-2023

General Orders # 5 November 2022

Fall has arrived and it is October already. How many Auxiliary members have utilized Action Corp Weekly and corresponded with your legislators? We need to make our voices heard on key important issues we feel passionate about. Have you held a town hall meeting or meet and greet?

Remember to send copies and pictures of your meetings and how you kept in contact with your legislators, especially those new candidates who may not be familiar with our causes. The mid-term election will be here sooner than you think. Time is of the essence, and we need to make sure all our members can vote, and those candidates will see our solidarity. Are you working closely with the young adult civic organizations in your community.?

I hope your Auxiliaries have chosen one or two of the Priority Goals and have acted on them, The PACT Act has opened the VA health care eligibility for hundreds and thousands of toxic exposed Vietnam, Gulf War, and post 9/22 Veterans. You can find out more information, by going on the VA Health and Benefits app, if you are a caregiver for a veteran, you can learn more about the Caregiver's Support Program by visiting www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp. The department's new and outstanding website has been completed. Please take the time to review all the areas and the most comprehensive reports on every program. Here you will be able to download the "I Vote in Honor of a Veteran Sticker," a guide on contacting your legislators, information on the involvement of the Auxiliary in elections, and resources such as VFW Voter Voice, Veterans Vote Brochure, and VFW Legislative Talking Paper. These resources can be used at any time.

In this month's message from our National Legislative Ambassador, Bobbie Goldman, she wrote we need to get Congress to eliminate the offset the present requirement of retirement pay for over 50,000 Chapter 61 combat veterans. She is asking all our members to use the link: <https://voterveice.net/VFW/Campaigns/97496/Respond>; and send our elected leaders **our message** to do the right thing by eliminating the offset of the retirement pay for every dollar they receive in disability compensation. Stop this! Our veterans have sacrificed enough.

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

MEMBERSHIP GENERAL ORDERS #5



**Making connections to reach for our
105% Membership Goal!
EVERY MEMBER MATTERS!**

➡ Can you believe it is already November and the holiday season is upon us? Great gift idea---pay for someone's Auxiliary Annual Dues or gift them a Life Membership.

➡ Have you sent out 2nd Dues Notices? It's time to get them out, so your members pay their dues before December 31st and remain in good standing.

➡ It's also time to take out those Program Books and read over the Membership awards that are available.

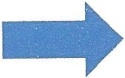
➡ Have you started working on your Auxiliary Welcome Packet? Take a look at Connections Challenge Award #2 and have them ready to be judged at Mid-Winter Convention.



Connections Challenge Award #2: New Member Welcome Packet

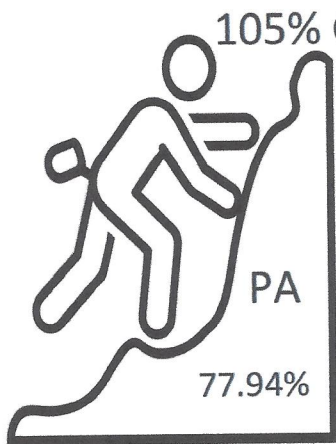
Someone joins your Auxiliary, so now what? We need to make them feel welcome and invited to participate. This should start with a phone call or a visit, if possible. Assign them a mentor. Give them a Welcome Packet. Not sure what to include in the packet? How about a list of contact names/numbers/emails for the Auxiliary and meeting information? Did you find out their preferred method of communication (text, phone call, email)? Perhaps include, a welcome letter, information on how to sign-up for events, information on resources (such as Facebook, Malta, Department website), Auxiliary Traditions, and/or information on benefits (such as a Cancer Grant). An Interest Survey can be included (do they like to bake, do they coach a team sport, do they volunteer as an EMT, etc.?) and information on how they can help/volunteer with the Auxiliary. Create your Auxiliary's

Welcome Packet. **Make the Connection because Every Member Matters!**

 **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.**

Through **Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**, we will **Respect... Honor... Remember...** our Veterans.

Andrea Meintel
Department Membership Chairman
andreavfwaux@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS to the following Auxiliaries who are the Newest Members of the **100% Membership Mission Club**:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| District 1: Aux. 3090 | District 8: Aux. 6393 |
| District 10: Aux. 6520 | District 11: Aux. 8317 |
| District 14: Aux. 5642 | District 20: Aux. 509 |
| District 24: Aux. 764 | District 25: Aux. 1821, Aux. 8106 |
| District 27: Aux. 3414 | District 28: Aux. 6166 |

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

General Orders #5 November 2022

With our Youth Activities program for 2022-2023 well underway, we must continue to help teach our youth the skills they need to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, and our Veterans.

First, I want to talk about our "WOW" project which is the "I Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" contest. **Deadline to get those entries to me is December 31, 2022.** Entry forms were attached to General Orders #2.

Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations & Patriotism through Literacy! The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation & a suggested list of books is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources under Youth Activities.

Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue & Illustrating America! Please see entry form at vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities. Must be submitted to Auxiliary by March 31, 2023.

Grave Beautification! Teaching this to our youth can be accomplished by beautifying the gravesites and headstones of our veterans.

Also we are continuing **R.A.P. coins/cards** as part of our Program. Coins may be purchased from VFW Store & the card template is located at vfwauxiliary.org/resources/youth-activities.

Our Youth need to know from where they receive their freedoms. We need to help them to "**Respect...Honor...Remember**" our Veterans & have "**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**".

You may contact me at: Nancy Kreiner, 440 S York Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or mrsplk2@aol.com.

Nancy Kreiner

Nancy Kreiner, Chairman
Youth Activities