

General Orders No.11 May 2023

**Greetings,**

 **Loyalty Day –** is recognized on May 1st, but for some of us Loyalty Day is all year round. It is on this day we affirm our allegiance to our Nation and to the principles of freedom, justice, equality, and dignity enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. One may ask what is loyalty and how does one demonstrate their loyalty to the United States? It’s a holiday that celebrates an idea – and that idea is America. We Americans have both pledged and practiced loyalty from the moment the first patriots conceived the idea of a new and independent Nation. The allegiance we Americans give on Loyalty Day and throughout our lives is to a land and an ideal. “Of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

**Memorial Day** – for some it’s the time of celebrating the unofficial start of summer and for others Memorial Day has a much deeper meaning. However you choose to observe the holiday is your preference however I believe it’s important to remember the reason for this holiday. As a family member of a WWII and Vietnam Veteran, for me Memorial Day is a very special time of remembering and honoring those who fought to protect the liberties that our Founding Fathers proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and that were thoughtfully and carefully framed in the Constitution of the United States.

 As we observe Memorial Day, we do more than simply carry on a tradition dating back for more than one hundred and fifty years, we also fulfill a commitment to some very special people. Who were these individuals we pause to honor and remember? They were ordinary Americans – but what they accomplished was extraordinary. They answered the call to duty. Not for money or medals did such heroes step forward, but to act out their patriotism – a patriotism based on the ideals on which this country was founded. Throughout America’s history, from the patriots of the Revolution…to the forces deployed around the world today, America has been fortunate to rely on its citizens who willingly serve, fight…and die for their country. On this Memorial Day set aside time to Respect…Honor,,,Remember those brave men and women who met tragic ends while defending our freedoms.

**Reminders:**

**May is the Month Auxiliaries and Districts Install Their Newly Elected Officers**. Our Bylaws Section 806 states that Auxiliary officers shall be installed into their respective offices not more than sixty (60) days prior to the convention of our Department Convention but shall not assume their duties until the Department President is installed.

**Patriot’s Pen:** The 2023-2024 theme is **“How are you inspired by America?”**

**Voice of Democracy:** The 2023-2024 theme is

 **“What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?”**

**Special Project Update**: Our special project, benches for the Medal of Honor Grove near Valley Forge, is ongoing so please continue to send your donations to the Department Treasurer, Jodie Hollinger, at 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg PA 17109 and please mark your check Department President’s Special Project.

**Department Convention**: Our 2023 State Convention is scheduled for June 14-18 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg PA 17111, telephone 717-564-5511. Convention information is available on our website at [www.vfwauxpa.org](http://www.vfwauxpa.org).

**Department of PA VFW Auxiliary Annual Raffle –** Thank you to everyone who participated in this years Raffle! The drawing was held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at thePresidents’ Retreat with the following results:

**$2500.00 - Margaret Fiely, District 28**

 **500.00 - Linda Mueller, District 27**

 **250.00 - John Warhold, District 27**

 **250.00 - James Cycak, District 28**

 **250.00 - Pauline Little, District 15**

 **250.00 - Kimberly Ehrhart, District 9**

 **New email addresses for Department Headquarters Staff -**  To contact Jodie Hollinger, Secretary/Treasurer jodie@vfwauxpa.org and Sandy Brenner, Department Clerk, sandy@vfwauxpa.org.

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

Who is considered to be the “Father of our Country”? Email me at valeriedecorte50@gmail.com with your answer.

Veterans & Family Support

 Buddy Poppy/National Home

Auxiliary Outreach

Hospital

Membership

Past District Presidents/25 Year Club Luncheon

Legislative

TIPS

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

May 1 - Loyalty Day Program – 10:00 A.M. State Capitol

May 3 - District 7 Meeting @ Darby #974 – 7:00 P.M.

May 7 - District 9 Meeting @ Quarryville #3575 – 1:00 P.M.

May 7 - District17 Meeting @ Selinsgrove #6631 – 2:00 P.M.

May 7 - District 18 Meeting @ Mechanicsburg #6704 – Loyalty Day Prog-1:00/Meeting – 2:00

May 7 - District 23 Meeting @ Salisbury #8826 – 2:00 P.M.

May 7 - District 27 Meeting @ Vandergrift #566 – 2:00??

May 7 - District 28 Meeting @ Erie #470 – 1:00 P.M.

May 13 - District 16 Meeting @ Red Hill #5954 - 11:00 A.M.

May 14 - District 30 Meeting @ Mt. Union # 5754 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 1 Meeting @ Rising Sun #2819 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 8 Meeting @ Sellersville #245 – 1:30 P.M.

May 21 - District 10 Meeting @ Daleville #5207 – 1:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 11 Meeting @ White Haven #6615 – 2:30 P.M.

May 21 - District 13 Meeting @ Mohnton #9045 – 1:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 14 Meeting @ Lenox #8488 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 15 Meeting @ Galeton #6611 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 19 Meeting @ Franklin #1835 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 20 Meeting @ Tobyhanna #509 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 21 Meeting @ Red Lion #1446 - 1:00 P.M. Memorial Service/Meeting

May 21 - District 22 Meeting @ Dubois #813 – 2:30 P.M.

May 21 - District 24 Meeting @ McMurray #764 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 25 Meeting @ Mars #7505 – 2:00 P.M.

May 21 - District 26 Meeting @ Ashville #4315 – 2:30 P.M.

May 21 - District 29 Meeting @ West View #2754 – 2:00 P.M.

May 29 - Memorial Day – Department Headquarters closed

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

**Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger**

Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger

Department President Department Secretary/Treasurer

**Veterans & Family Support**

**General Orders #11**

**May 2023**

**May is the beginning of our new year. Please look over this program and add those things that have been falling by the wayside. Have you done something for:**

* **MAPS**
* **Unmet Needs**
* **Suicide Prevention**
* **Homeless Veterans**
* **Food Banks**
* **Homeless Veterans**
* **Sport Clips**
* **Caregivers**
* **PA SMILE**

**These are all very important to our mission to supporting our veterans. All of these are on your end of the reports not only for you awards but of our voice in Washington, DC.**

**I want to thank you for all of your hard work for not only this year, but for all the past and the coming years.**

**Paula Havasi**

**Department Chairman Veterans & Family Support**

**10 Van Lane**

**Beaver, PA 15009**

**Phavasi@live.com**

**412-617-5721**

**“Buddy” Poppy/National Home**

General Orders #11

May 2023

***Respect… Honor… Remember***

With the 2022-23 Auxiliary Year winding down, I would like to thank all of the Auxiliaries that participated in this program for your hard work. And Special Thanks to President DeCorte for entrusting me with one of our most important programs. It was an exciting year seeing all of the changes made to National Home. I know these changes will help them grow and be able to do even more for Veterans and their families. With that said there are several funds that need donations at this time. Below you will find a list of them and a brief description of each. I hope that even though this year’s reporting is finished, that you will consider doing summer projects to keep the donations rolling in. This information is taken directly from our National Ambassador Cathey Farley’s April 11th email to all the Departments Chairmen, and her information came directly from National Home representatives.

**Where Needed Most Operating Fund**

“Where Needed Most” tops the list of funds needing donations because these unrestricted gifts provide the National Home with the greatest flexibility. These gifts will be used for whatever is needed the most at the time to serve the families.

**Technology Fund**

Gifts to the Technology Fund are used for technology-based needs such as computer hardware and software related expenses, internet and website costs, phone systems for homes and offices, emergency contact systems, and any other technology related expenses.

**Family Support Services Fund**

Gifts to the Family Support Services Fund ensures that the National Home can continue to provide professional counseling, tutoring, parenting classes, employment services as well as other services that military and Veteran families need. The Family Support Services Fund is the foundation of the mission of National Home.

Any gifts you make to these funds can be earmarked as such. Keep up those “Buddy” Poppy Drives.

I wish you all a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you all at the Convention in June!!

Loyally,

Carolyn J. Paccio

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



 **(Formerly called Auxiliary Community Outreach)**

General Orders 11

May 2023

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who participated in the program during the year and for completing Year-End Reports. Good luck to everyone in receiving awards at State Convention!

After Auxiliary elections and installations, start planning for next year! Look for those opportunities now!

**Where to find partnership opportunities:**

* Ask your members; most members belong to more than one organization
* Look in your local newspaper for upcoming events
* Check local community bulletin boards
* Check your local and surrounding town/city website for their calendar of events

Auxiliaries are the “**Hands That Serve, Hearts that Care”** while we **“Respect…Honor…Remember”** our veterans.

Loyally,

Kimberly Grundon

Department Chairman

kgrundon@comcast.net/717-275-7094

**HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM**

**GENERAL ORDERS # 11 – May 2023**

WOW, can you believe it’s May already. That’s why I’m starting off this General Orders with the….

HOSPITAL PROGRAM FOCAL POINT: **DEADLINES** – if you are asking yourself why deadlines is part of the Hospital program, it’s because the deadline to have year-end reports to your District President was April 7, 2023 and then they in turn had to make sure they were to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2023. The Department Chairmen then had to make sure they have their final reports completed and in by May 1, 2023.

HOSPITAL/VA/HOME FOCUS: This month I will be focusing on **Allentown VA Outpatient Clinic,** whichis located at 3110 Hamilton Blvd, Allentown, PA is where Kathleen Spaar serves as Representative. The Outpatient clinic offers many of the same primary, preventive and mental health care services. It also offers audiology, dermatology, immunizations, optometry and podiatry services to the Veterans. Donations received help the Representative Kathleen Spaar to help as many Veterans in need as possible. AND **Southeastern Veterans Center,** which is located at 1 Veterans Drive, Spring City, PA. Established in 1986, the facility has 292 total beds, 430 dedicated clinical and professional staff and before covid 2019 had 11,543 hours donated by 259 volunteers. Residents at SEVC enjoy an active lifestyle with a full schedule of organized programs from bingo night, to gardening groups, to regular summer visits by a local ice cream truck. For residents looking for personal time, the home includes a glassed-lined passageway to “Main Street,” which supports a bank, post office, all denominational chapel, library, barber/stylist shop and snack shop. When our residents want to relax and enjoy the outdoors, they can either sit on the screened porch overlooking the home’s lush grounds or take a leisurely stroll around the facility to admire the beautiful landscaping. Therapy is provided by trained staff and meals are prepared on site by trained dietary staff. Donna Wyse is Representative and Patricia Wheeler serves as Deputy. Locate a VA facility near you at volunteer.gov/directory/index.asp.

Remember the National and Department VFW and Auxiliary websites: National Auxiliary: www.vfwaux.org/resources, Pennsylvania Auxiliary: www.pavfwaux.org, Veterans of Foreign Wars National VFW: www.vfw.org, and Pennsylvania VFW: www.vfwpahq.org, all contain vital information to help you have a successful year.

We “**Respect…Honor…Remember**” our Veterans and do the work of this great organization and with “**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**” our Veterans and their families and our communities feel the love and concern we show them.

***Thought for the month:*** “Goals aren’t enough. You need goals plus deadlines: goals big enough to get excited about and deadlines to make you run. One isn’t much good without the other, but together they can be tremendous!”

Loyally,

**Bonnie S. Drake** **Diane Haller**

Bonnie S. Drake Diane Haller

Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman Co-Chairman

Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone 570.647.8685

**MEMBERSHIP**

**GENERAL ORDERS #11**

**May 2023**

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I was really excited to read everyone’s Year-End Reports and see what you’ve been doing, during this **Every Member Matters** year. It is very evident that you have been working hard to nurture and grow your Auxiliaries.

**I’m also super excited about giving out program awards at the Department Convention!**

At the President’s Retreat, I was able to give out certificates to all Auxiliaries who reached 100% by February 2023. The rest of the **100% Membership** **Certificates** will be given out at **Department Convention.**

I want to thank everyone for their video entries for **Connections Challenge Award #3: Tell-Your-Story Recruitment Videos**. Judging is scheduled for 5/11/2023. The Auxiliary with the top video for each Membership Division will receive a $50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.These certificates will be awarded at **Department Convention**.

**ALL STATE AWARD FORM/CHECKLIST FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS 2022-2023.** Your completed checklists have been arriving dailyand all documentation must be submitted by May 5, 2023. I have loved hearing from you, through your emails, texts and phone calls. Keep them coming!! Make sure you come to Department Convention, where we will be presenting the All State Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers on **Thursday, June 15, 2023** at the **Joint Opening Ceremony** in Harrisburg, PA.

**Make the Connections because Every Member Matters!** Through ***Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care,*** we will ***Respect... Honor… Remember...*** our Veterans.

Andrea Meintel

Department Membership Chairman

andreavfwaux@gmail.com

PA’s Membership Growth Goal: 105%

 ***PA***

 ***103.5%***

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

Non-District: Auxiliaries: 298, 1532, 1665, 6982

District 1: Auxiliaries: 2819, 3090, 6700, 7650

District 7: Auxiliaries: 3460, 4845

District 8: Auxiliaries: 1597, 2124, 6393, 6493, 6495

District 9: Auxiliaries: 106, 1463, 2435, **3376**, 4480, 5752, 5956, 6759, 7294, 7418, 8757

District 10: Auxiliaries: 25, 531, 3474, 5207, 6082, 6520, 7069, 7251, 7963

District 11: Auxiliaries: **821**, 1425, 4909, 5010, 8161,8227, 8317

District 13: Auxiliaries: 216, 411, 6150

District 14: Auxiliaries: 384, 804, 1568, 5642, 6824, 8306, 8488

District 15: Auxiliaries: **4907**, 6753, 6755, 6757, 7810, 7863, 8730

District 16: Auxiliaries: 32, 1074, 5954

District 17: Auxiliaries: 34, 255, 882, 1964,5863, 6631, 7463

District 18: Auxiliaries: 148, 477,1213, 1620, 2385, 3502, 5750, 6076, 6168, 6417, 6704, 7343, **7415**, 7530, 8023, 8851

District 19: Auxiliaries: 212, 464, 1132, 1835, 2145, 2497, 6391, 7252, 8755, 8803

District 20: Auxiliaries: 509, **2540**, 3448,7215, 8225

District 21: Auxiliaries: 15, 537, 695, 1446, 1599, 2493, 2506, 6319, 7012, 7045, 7046, 7374, 8896, 8951

District 22: Auxiliaries: 3, 43, 813, 842, 1600, 1785, 3450, 4559, 5020, **5644**, 5825, 6321, 7043, **7689**, 8685, **8724**

District 23: Auxiliaries: 21, 747, 4795, **7250**, 7295, 7457, 8826, 8861

District 24: Auxiliaries: 764, 927, 1409, 3491, 4793
District 25: Auxiliaries: 128, 249, 499, 1821, 3577, 7376, 8106

District 26: Auxiliaries: 155, 779, 1586, 2076, 4200, 4315, 4843, 4963, 6555, 7377, 7605, **7783**

District 27: Auxiliaries: 92, **566**, **734**, 781, 3368, 3414, 6743, **8427**

District 28: Auxiliaries: 169, 264, 470, 519, 740, **2006**, 2341, 3374, 4789, 4965, 5424, 5958, 6166, 6233, 6345, 6404, 7465, 7842
District 29: Auxiliaries: **402**, 1810,7090, 9199

District 30: Auxiliaries: 4129, 4440, 8333, 9219

Districts over 100% in Current Membership: 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29

Newest members are in **BOLD**

PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

AND

25 YEAR CLUB LUNCHEON

The Luncheon for Past District Presidents and 25 Year Club will be held on Thursday, June 15th  at 12:30 P.M. following the Joint VFW/Auxiliary Opening Session. The room will be posted at the Hotel.

This luncheon is for all members who have 25 years continual membership and all current and past District Presidents.

**The luncheon choices are: Roast Beef and Provolone Wrap, Italian Hoagie or Chicken Caesar Salad**. Included with your luncheon choice will beWhole Fresh Fruit, Pasta Salad, Bag of Chips or Pretzels, Dessert and Coffee, Soft Drink and Water.

Cost of the luncheon including $5.00 dues is $30.00. See the form below to send in for your reservation or your club dues.

Deadline for reservations is June 1st

25 Year and Past District Presidents Club Reservation

**Please indicate your Luncheon Selection below**

Roast Beef & Provolone Wrap \_\_ Italian Hoagie \_\_ Chicken Caesar Salad \_\_\_

Luncheon and Dues $30.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dues ONLY $5.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please makes checks payable to *Department of PA Auxiliary* and send along with your form to Cecelia Cook, 173 Clearview Ave, Pittsburgh Pa 15229

**LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

2022-2023

General Orders # 11 May 2023

With each new sunny day, every Auxiliary member should let their Legislators know the agenda of the bills we need them to lobby for us. We don’t stop reporting or promoting our new Priority Goals after the year end reporting is over. This is the crucial time, before the Mid-term elections, where we should take our stand and keep lobbying for our goals. Our Veterans, active duty and their families need to know they can relax, and we have their backs. Promises and pacts are only as good as the ability we show in solving critical problems as we ask our Legislators to lobby for us in Congress. Our Veterans and their families are waiting for us to make sure the bills are passed, by the President into a law.

 The backlog for reviewing disability claims for this year is 450,000. This is a number that shouldn’t be as high and no light at the end of a tunnel. We need to expedite the ruling on these claims so we would minimize suicides, PTSD, brain and sexual trauma, the transition into a new career, and change the ruling on the retirees who are made to forfeit some of their DoD pension.

 How many times have you fought for your rights at your place of employment? We need to have all the resources available for our Veterans to use. The new Priority Goals have been listed and we need to make the passing of the goals our mission. Please take the time to read all the information under each of the 6 priority goals. You can view the new goals by going on find the new goals by going on the VFWNationalwebsite.LegislativePriorities. To every Pennsylvania Auxiliary member, stand with me and provide the much needed assistance to a Veteran, one at a time.

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

Loyally,

Dale Lepore

Department of PA Legislative Chairman

**TIPS**

General Orders #11

May 2023

**Americanism/Patriotic Instructor**

While most Americans are getting ready for cookouts, camping and celebrating a long holiday weekend, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are busy preparing for Memorial Services to remember our Fallen. It’s an honor to remind our communities of the **TRUE** meaning of Memorial Day.

Reach out to youth groups to help with placing flags on gravesites; partner with your Post to hold a Memorial Day Service. Share a speech or poem; or host a luncheon inviting local Veterans to share special memories.

Represent with pride…hand out poppies or small flags, promote your patriotic heart! It’s quite honestly a day for remembrance and reflection of Americanism. Do what we do best!

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Reminder:** July 1 begins our new membership year. When recruiting and obligating new members, please keep in mind that a new annual member accepted and processed in May or June will show in MALTA as **UNPAID** beginning July 1.

**AUXILIARY SEAL**

According to Article X – Sec. 1004 Auxiliaries on all levels shall have a seal, which shall be used on all official documents. Due to many items being sent electronically, we recommend every Auxiliary order this self-inking seal through the VFW Store. Item #3318 at the cost of $25.00 can be ordered by calling 1-816-968-1181.