



Greetings,

As we prepare to enter the most joyous and spiritual season of the year, let's take a moment to remember who we are and why we are important. For nearly every veteran, past or present, who endured the dangers and hardships of military life - shared a foxhole, froze on the 38th parallel, endured monsoon season, and baked in the sandy desert-

REMEMBER, There was most likely a family member, waiting and worrying, at home supporting the war effort. Yes, we remember and honor our family member's military service.

REMEMBER, When everyone of us raised our right hand and solemnly promised to be faithful to the USA, obedient to the laws, and loyal to the Flag. Through our membership we honor and serve America's veterans and their families.

REMEMBER, Abraham Lincoln promised our soldiers that they would always be taken care of, you and I are fulfilling that promise by being an active member of the VFW Auxiliary - by supporting and advocating on behalf of our veterans, military, and their families, fostering true patriotism and good citizenship, maintaining true allegiance to the US Government, and preserving and defending the USA from all her enemies whomsoever.

REMEMBER, We matter to the veterans and their families because our collective impact through the delivery of our programs makes a difference. We selflessly honor the service of our veterans and the freedoms for which they fought.

REMEMBER, Be proud of your membership in the VFW Auxiliary

Our **2023 Mid-Winter Conference** will be held January 19-21 at the Wyndham in Gettysburg at 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA. The Voice of Democracy Banquet will be held Saturday evening. More information is on our PA VFW Auxiliary Website at www.vfwauxpa.org.

Zoom Chat with the membership. The time set aside for this zoom chat is 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 due to the holidays, the Zoom Chats are cancelled and will resume in January. I look forward to seeing and sharing with you then.

White Socks, Winter Hats, Warm Gloves Reminder. We are partnering with the VFW in collecting **NEW** socks, hats and gloves for homeless veterans. Please bring your donations to our Mid-Winter Conference at the Wyndham Gettysburg.

Annual Members: Our paid membership is almost 84% and that means a few of us have not yet paid our dues. Our membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. A member who does not pay their dues by December 31 is not in good standing and shall not be permitted to attend Auxiliary meetings nor to hold an office. Don't let this happen to you, pay your dues.

Auxiliary/District Treasurers: No checks should be made out unless it is voted on and approved at a regular meeting or previously voted on and is in the Auxiliary Standing Rules. All checks must have two signatures.

Membership Applications: It has been brought to my attention that the **Recruited/Recommended by** portion of our VFW Auxiliary application is being changed. The recruiter's name and member number are being removed (whited out) and another person's information is being added. Altering/changing this information on a membership application is not acceptable.

Please join me in welcoming Kathy Beattie as the **Department Assistant Soloist.**

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

In the military service a US flag carried by unmounted units is called a color or the colors. True or False? Email me at valeriedecorte50@gmail.com with your answer. Please include your name and Auxiliary.

Until you hear from me again, be strong, be safe, and be kind. I wish you and yours a joyous and Merry Christmas.

Auxiliary Outreach
Buddy Poppy/National Home
Chief of Staff
Christmas Greeting
Coatesville VA Medical Center
Hospital
Membership
Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System
TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 4 District 21 Meeting @ Spring Grove #5265 – 2:00 P.M.

December 7 Pearl Harbor Day

December 11 District 28 Meeting @ Reynolds #7599 – 1:00 P.M.

December 17 Wreaths Across America

December 23-26 Department Headquarters Closed - Christmas

Dec 30 – Jan 2 Department Headquarters Closed - New Years

Valerie DeCorte

Valerie DeCorte
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

TIPS

General Orders #6

December 2022

We have had many questions regarding who conducts your Auxiliary meeting if the President, Sr. Vice and Jr. Vice are absent. Please refer to our **By-laws – Sec. 811, page 77** to answer all questions regarding proper procedure when the President is not present to conduct a meeting.

Sec. 811 - beginning with second small bullet:

- In the absence of the President they shall discharge the duties of their office according to seniority.
 - If neither of them are present to take the President's office, the Secretary or any Past President will call the meeting to order and the members shall elect a President pro-tem.

On another note – when sending an email to Department Headquarters, please give your name, title and Auxiliary number. This will allow us to better serve your needs.

Every Auxiliary should be well into a great year for reporting: If you haven't already, setup a time during the Christmas breaks with your local youth groups or library to conduct a Patriotic "class" for the area children. This is a perfect time to provide flag education and provide a patriotic craft with them! The school break is long and kids get antsy, not to mention, parents would love a short break from the little angels! Make some connections in the community. Remember your Veterans during the holidays as well, check in with a quick call.....a couple kind words goes a long way to show our gratitude. Don't forget!! Be sure to tag us at #auxiliarypatriotism and/or #auxiliarypatriotism

December is a time for giving. What a perfect time to remember our Veterans & Families with a donation to Military Assistance Program (MAP). Or you can apply for assistance for Adopt a Unit. It is also a great time to honor the care givers for their selfless acts for our Veterans, **PA Smile.**



Building Partnerships Outreach • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach

(Formerly called Auxiliary Community Outreach)

General Orders #6 December 2022

There are several dates available in the New Year to host a local First Responder Appreciation Day or Week:

- January 9 – National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (L.E.A.D)
- Second Week of April – National Public Safety Tele communicators Wee
- May 4 – International Firefighters Day (IFFD)
- May 15 – National Peach Officers Memorial Day
- Week of May 15 – National Police Week
- Third Full Week of May National EMS Week

Auxiliary Members 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

“BUDDY” POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

General Orders #6

December 2022

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AUXILIARIES!! I hope you were all able to sign some people up to purchase Tribute Bricks from National Home last month. This month I feel it very important to share with you National Ambassador Cathey Farley's December information pertaining to National Home's Santa's Workshop Program. I am doing this so all Auxiliaries can learn about it and hopefully participate. So I leave you with warm tidings for a Blessed Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa.

Carolyn Paccio, 2022-23 “Buddy” Poppy/National Home Chairman

“Each holiday season, the National Home makes sure even the youngest residents of the National Home have an opportunity to experience the joy of giving! In December, the Community Center auditorium is transformed into Santa's Shop, where children can select the perfect gifts for the important people in their lives. Here, they will find a wide variety of books, toys, games and other useful and fun items they can purchase for family members, teachers and friends, using credits they have earned through community service. Young people at the National Home take part in a variety of community service projects throughout the year, earning credits for their own “credit card” to spend at Santa's Shop.

How can you help? At your December meeting, explain to your members the concept of Santa's Shop at the National Home; because of the expense of shipping, the practical thing for Auxiliaries to do is to send a donation earmarked for Santa's Shop. The money will then be spent to stock Santa's Shop; children love to give presents to grandparents, parents and other significant adults in their lives and are filled with pride to be able to do so.

Suggest to your members several items that they may want to give and to consider the expense of the item if they were to purchase it (see some suggested items below.) Then take up a collection to send the National Home. The Auxiliary Treasurer can make the donation online by going to the following website, or a check can be mailed to the National Home.

[Santa's Shop spreads the joy of giving to all! - VFW National Home](#)

When writing a check remember to memo the check for Santa's workshop. Please have all donations to the National Home by Tuesday, December 13 if possible; donations will be accepted anytime and will be used to maintain Santa's Shop. Any items that remain after Santa's Shop closes for the season will be available to the children for birthdays, special events and in the National Home's incentive closet. Thank you for helping to make this season special for the children at the VFW National Home.

When writing your report just attach the above letter to your report, record the number of participants, and money collected and turn it in to your Department Chairman.”

Suggested items:

Men’s toiletries	electric hair straightener
Wallets and billfolds	electric blow dryer
Insulated lunch bag	inexpensive jewelry for men and women
Small tool set	family games
Car emergency kit	travel coffee mugs
Small coolers	scented body wash and lotion
Coffee cup sets	craft/activity sets
Nail polish/makeup sets	adult coloring book
Sports equipment	dolls (small, large, white, African American
Sport bottles/totes	sport team clothing
Belts (men and women)	coffee, tea and hot chocolate gift sets

Chief of Staff

(Mentoring for Leadership, Extension and Revitalization)

General Orders #6

December 2022

Mentoring and nurturing members is a priority for our organization. We don't want to lose the knowledge of our seasoned members. They have many years of experience to share. However, mentors are not only long time seasoned members. A new member is likely to have knowledge and abilities to teach that are unknown areas for our seasoned members. They may be able to teach us ZOOM, Power Point, and how to navigate the internet! Do you want to send a mass email? There are ways to create a contact group so every email address is listed. You don't have to retype them each time you send out a mass email! Ask our newer members how they can help and what their interests are! Let them mentor and teach you! All of us are mentors to each other in one way or another!

Keeping an agenda is essential to conducting an Auxiliary meeting. It keeps the meeting running smoothly and helps to keep you on task and not go off on tangents. Committees play a vital role here. They plan events and projects outside of the meeting but bring the essentials to the meeting for discussion and final planning. Our meetings would be too long without the work of our committees!

Wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Bobbie Lawrence

Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

**TO EVERY AUXILIARY BROTHER & SISTER
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PA**



**May all our Veterans and their families have a
Happy & Healthy
2023**

COATESVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER

GENERAL ORDERS

December 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to our Department President Valarie DeCorte for these appointments as Representative and Deputy at Coatesville VA Medical Center. Every day we will

“Respect...Honor...Remember” and continue to assist our Veterans and their families with

“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”

We have been coming up with new ideas to take care of our veterans. Once a month our VA Veterans as well as Veterans from the community are given breakfast from one of the local coffee shops. Our annual Winter Carnival will be moved from March to May next year hence Spring Carnival. With all your donations we were able to purchase personal items, sweatshirts, hygiene items, and about anything our Veterans need. Labor Day is spent at Coatesville VA with our Veterans at our annual Labor Day Picnic, this year we were able to celebrate with our veterans again, outside. It was a wonderful day. Our long-term care Veterans are having a tough time dealing with no visitors due to the pandemic. Auxiliaries have been sending Thinking of You cards to let them know we care. A huge thank you to all the Auxiliaries for your donations.

Donations can be sent to: VFW Auxiliary, Department of PA,
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109- 5943. Earmark: Coatesville VA Medical Center.

Loyally,

Diane

Kelly

Diane Haller

Kelly Borrell

Representative

Deputy

HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDERS # 6 – December 2022

As we near the end of 2022, I hope you will take time to reflect on the past year and set some goals for the upcoming year. Although the last few years have been tough, we have to get back to be there in any way possible to help our hospitalized Veterans, whether they are in a hospital/VA/home/nursing home/or personal home health care, we need to show them, WE CARE!!!!

HOSPITAL/VA FOCUS: This month we are focusing on Lebanon VA Medical Center (VAMC) where Louise Gearhart is the Representative and Lorraine Klepper is Deputy. The VAMC is located in Pennsylvania Dutch country and has been proudly providing care to Veterans for more than 70 years. It is one of 170 VA medical centers in the nation with the sole purpose of providing world-class medical care to America's Veterans.

Their mission is to fulfill Lincoln's promise - "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring America's Veterans and their families. To deliver world-class service, defining success by Veterans' outcome one Veteran at a time, while integrating across VA programs to optimize productivity and efficiency.

Lebanon VAMC is also proud to be one of the leading teaching hospitals in the area. They have a vibrant affiliation with the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and other local educational institutions. The Veteran-focused facility is proud of the fact that one-third of its employees are Veterans.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM FOCAL POINT:

Honoring Veterans on Holidays: There are plenty of holidays throughout the year and Christmas and New Year is right around the corner. Work with local youth groups to write out Christmas Cards to give to those hospitalized over the holidays, or if you can get in to see them that would be even better. Please don't forget Valentines for Veterans – share the love! The week of February 14 (Valentine's Day) is also National Salute to Veteran Patients week. We want to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to our veterans staying in our VA and non-VA medical facilities. Use this week to renew the spirit of hospital volunteerism with "Valentine's for Veterans". Pay tribute and express appreciation in a variety of ways, from ward visits, Valentine's Day Parties, distributing or sending Valentine's cards. This week also provides an opportunity for you to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within a medical center. Locate a VA facility near you at volunteer.gov/directory/index.asp.

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

Department President Valerie DeCorte's theme, "**Respect...Honor...Remember**" and National President Jane Reape's theme "**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**" inspire us to do what we can to help our Veterans and their families.

Thought for the month: "**A goal without a plan is just a dream.**"

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



MEMBERSHIP GENERAL ORDERS #6 December 2022

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



Christmas is right around the corner: Great gift idea---pay for someone's Auxiliary Annual Dues or gift them a Life Membership. Remember you can pay dues for Auxiliary members who may have a hardship this season, using monies in the Relief fund.



I'm excited to have received several New Member Welcome Packets for entry into the *Connections Challenge Award #2: New Member Welcome Packet*. Deadline to send them to me is 1/7/2023 or bring your entry to the Mid-Winter Conference in Gettysburg, PA.

Make the Connection because **Every Member Matters!**

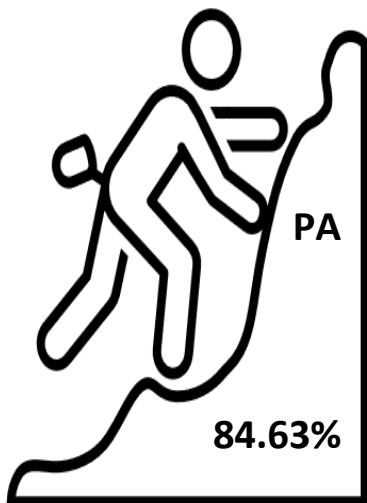


I keep hearing that it is difficult to get younger members to join and if they do join, they don't come to the monthly Auxiliary meeting. What is your Auxiliary doing to get younger members to join and to become involved? Email me your ideas and/or comment on my What's Our Number Wednesday Post on the Department Facebook Page. I will share these ideas in the January General Orders.

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

Andrea Meintel
Department Membership Chairman
andreavfwaux@gmail.com

105% Goal



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

District 1: Aux. 3090, Aux. 7650

District 8: Aux. 6393

District 9: Aux. 106, Aux. 5956

District 10: Aux. 25, Aux. 531, Aux. 6520

District 11: Aux. 1425, Aux. 8317

District 14: Aux. 5642

District 17: Aux. 1964

District 18: Aux. 7530

District 19: Aux. 1132, Aux. 8755

District 20: Aux. 509

District 21: Aux. 8896

District 22: Aux. 3

District 24: Aux. 764

District 25: Aux. 499, Aux. 1821, Aux. 8106

District 26: Aux. 1586, Aux. 7605

District 27: Aux. 3368, Aux. 3414

District 28: Aux. 470, Aux. 6166

District 29: Aux. 7090

PITTSBURGH VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
H.J. HEINZ PROGRESSIVE CARE CENTER, ASPINWALL, PA
UNIVERSITY DRIVE, OAKLAND, PA
General Orders #6
December 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To our Department President Valerie DeCorte, we would like to express our sincerest thanks for the appointments as Representative and Deputies at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare system, which includes HJ Heinz and University Drive,

To all of the Auxiliaries that have sponsored parties and especially delivered or sent donations, we would like to say a big "Thank You." Even though we cannot go into the facilities consistently at this time; through your continued support and concern for our hospitalized veterans, you have shown that we continue to **"RESPECT, HONOR AND REMEMBER"** our hospitalized Veterans and their families; and that we truly have **"HANDS THAT SERVE AND HEARTS THAT CARE"**

Through all of your past support, we have been able to have Bocce games, ward functions, bingos, provide comfort items, assist in the ceramic shop and support all the requests from the facility. Most importantly this year we have still been able to meet the needs of the residents even while social distancing, and thinking outside of the box.

In the past, you have been very generous and it is greatly appreciated. This year we are again asking for your continued support of patients at H.J. Heinz Progressive Care and Oakland (University Drive) Medical Center. **Please send your donation to: Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars, 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943.**

As soon as we receive notification that we can physically return to the facilities, we will be able to begin booking parties for 2023. Please contact myself or one of the deputies to book a party. Also, please take a few moments to thank your volunteers that go to your parties at your next meeting, you may just be able to pick up a new volunteer.

Loyally,

Ceil

Cecelia R. Cook
Representative