



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As you are aware, all officers on all levels must have their dues paid by the end of the calendar year, or they will be removed from office per the Bylaws. Additionally any member who does not pay their annual dues by December 31 will not be allowed to attend a meeting, visit the canteen, or receive benefits afforded to us through this amazing organization.

Don't delay...please log in to MALTA (<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/Account/NewLogin>) and pay your dues right away!

The deadline for submitting your 990 e-Postcard through the IRS has passed, but I continue to hear about complications and situations associated with filing statuses. If you are experiencing issues with your filing, please don't delay and reach out to Headquarters for assistance. Some situations are more complicated than others, so the sooner we start working on reinstatement, the better. We are here to help, so please reach out to us.

Finally, as we celebrate this holiday season, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for all that you do to honor and support our veterans, their families, and our communities. Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment make a profound difference every single day.

This time of the year reminds me of the values we hold dear, including service, sacrifice, and fellowship. May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and the warmth of loved ones. As we look ahead to a new year, let us continue to stand united in our mission and carry forward the legacy of those who have served.

Thank you for being a shining example of generosity and patriotism. Wishing you and your families a blessed holiday season and a bright, prosperous New Year.

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 7 - District 21 Meeting @ Spring Grove #5265 - 2:00 P.M.

December 14 - District 1 Meeting @ Parkway Mem. #7650 - 2:00 P.M.

December 14 - District 28 Meeting @ Hickory #6166 - 2:00 P.M.

December 24, 25 & 26 - Christmas Holiday - Department Headquarters Closed

December 31-January 1 & 2 - New Year's Holiday - Department Headquarters Closed

Robin Kohler

Robin Kohler
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Season's Greetings from the Department of Pennsylvania



l to r: Bonnie Drake, National District Council Member Area A; Carolyn Paccio, Department Chaplain; Jodie Hollinger, Department Secretary/Treasurer; Ceil Cook, Department Senior Vice; Robin A. Kohler, Department President; Becky Fox, Department Junior Vice; Joan Faddis, Department Conductor; Amy Peterson, Department Guard; Karen Hoover, Department Chief of Staff

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & PROCESSING UPDATE!

DEPARTMENT OF PA VFW AUXILIARY

The new/updated membership application attached will be the only one accepted beginning January 1, 2026. There will be **NO** exceptions. All outdated applications will be returned to the Auxiliary Treasurer.

Please review and become very familiar with this new application. It has a really different look and is very user friendly. Take the time to study it and be prepared to assist others.

Auxiliary Treasurers will be receiving further details and instructions during December.

Mark your calendar: On Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Mid Winter Conference at the Eisenhower Conference Center, Gettysburg, there will be a training session open to all members regarding our new application and the procedures for processing.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Please print legibly. An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, D or E and H,I. Auxiliaries/Departments complete sections B,F,G.

A

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name ☐ Female ☐ Male
Address Date of Birth / /
City State ZIP Phone () - Email

B

Auxiliary Post No. City State
☐ New Member ☐ Transferring Member ☐ Rejoining Member (Prior Member ID Number)
☐ Member at Large in Department of ☐ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

C

(Transfer only information) ☐ ANNUAL TRANSFER ☐ LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER
Member ID Previous Auxiliary ☐ Paying ☐ Nonpaying

D

☐ **POST-AFFILIATED** (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)
VFW Membership ID VFW Post (Must be same as B)

E

☐ **NON-AFFILIATED** (**Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)
Name of campaign ribbons or medals:
Dates of Service: to Foreign Location:

F

Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID
Check one: Aux ☐ VFW ☐

G

Investigating Committee Signatures
1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☒
Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. ☐ Rejected ☐ Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date

H

☐ Annual Membership ☐ Life Membership ☐ Check here if this is a gift (Membership card will be sent to Treasurer and not member.)
Payment Method and Amount: Cash ☐ _____ Check ☐ _____ Credit Card ☐ _____ ***
***If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided above for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days; otherwise the application will be voided. If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please list your phone number and email address below to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed.
Phone Email

I

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

Signature ☒ Date
(Must be signed by all members.)

By filling out this application and providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from the VFW Auxiliary. The communications may include updates, promotions, and other information related to our services. Communications may be in the form of emails, SMS text messages, and/or automated calls. You understand that these communications may be sent using an automated telephony dialer system. Standard message and data rates may apply. You can opt out at any time by following the instructions provided in the communications. No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

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

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



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026
 CHAIRMAN – AMY PETERSON amyaux212@gmail.com
 #EVERYDAYISVETERANS
 #SERVINGTHOSEWHOSERVED
 #FROMSEATOSHININGS – HONORING VETERANS THAT KEEP US FREE



DECEMBER 2025
GENERAL ORDERS



Please enjoy the Holiday Season with Family & Friends!
Make Many Memories!
Keep our Military in your thoughts as some can't be home with us!

THANK YOU DISTRICTS FOR THE ATTENDANCE SHEETS, SO FAR!!
CONTEST REMINDERS

Have you RECRUITED at least 4 NEW/REJOINS???
 (Remember, you COULD win \$100, entries must be rec'd by April 30, 2026)
 Have you CONVERTED to a LIFE??
 (Remember, you COULD win \$100, entries must be rec'd by April 30, 2026)



EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY

TREE TOPPERS

DIST	AUX #
8	7293
8	11322
9	106
11	8317
18	5507
18	7530
21	15
21	8896
24	764
25	499
25	1821
28	470
28	7482
29	7714
29	8430

PENNSYLVANIA

85.44% (PAID) ~ AS OF 11-25-2025
CLIMB OUTTA THE FOXHOLES & LET'S GET THAT
100% ++ BY DECEMBER 31ST!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Check in on members that haven't paid yet, some members just forget, or could be going through a rough patch.....or, perhaps thinks they aren't needed.....ask a committee to call upon these valuable members,

ONE CALL can mean the world to some 😊

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS

**PROGRAM
SPOTLIGHT
December
2025**

EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY



VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Marsha Fuhrman, Chairman

To all of my auxiliary sisters and brothers I would like to wish each of you **A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR** as we continue to serve our veterans and their families. During this busy season, it is an opportune time to include the youth as we have our Christmas parties and visits from Santa. Let's not forget that while the youth are helping us, it is very important to recognize them for what they do. The **YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS CITATION, THE PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD CAN BE FOUND IN MALTA AS WELL AS THE R.A.P. CARDS AND YOUTH ACTS OF KINDNESS.**

The **ILLUSTRATING AMERICA CONTEST** will be here before we know it. If you have not started to promote this contest yet you have time. The deadline for the entries to be sent to your auxiliary is March 31, 2026. All of the information is in Malta.



EXTENSION

Karen Hoover, Chief of Staff

Why is mentoring important?

 *Mentoring unlocks growth* — it gives members the confidence and skills to rise higher than they thought possible.

 *Mentoring strengthens unity* — it builds trust and teamwork, creating a culture where everyone feels supported and valued.

 *Mentoring preserves wisdom* — it passes on knowledge, ensuring no gaps and keeping the organization strong and resilient.

 *Mentoring inspires leadership* — it lights the path for members to reach their full potential and step into future leadership roles.

Consider being a mentor in your Auxiliary!

LEGISLATIVE

Tim Altman, Chairman

Have you signed up for the VFW Action Corps newsletter yet? If not, why not?!

Sign up today and learn how you can support the legislative issues that are important for our veterans.

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

Additional information for these programs and activities can be found at vfwauxpa.org then programs – check out each program and look for the “Information Station!”

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado, Chairman

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR QUARTERLY REPORT FORM!

The report form can be found
by clicking on this link:

https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxOutreach_QUARTERLYReport_25_26_Fillable.pdf

Thank you to the auxiliaries who have
submitted reports –
If you have already qualified for pins
you will be receiving them soon!

AMERICANISM

Cherie Dysard, Chairman

RED SHIRT CHALLENGE

This year, Auxiliaries in Pennsylvania are encouraged to participate in a Red Shirt challenge. Send pictures or post pictures on social media of your Auxiliary members wearing red shirts to be entered into a special drawing at Pennsylvania's mid-winter and annual conventions.

Use **#PARedShirt**
Or email to **cherpavfwaux@gmail.com**

There is still time to be entered into the drawing at mid-winter convention!

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Athena Theodorakos-Gjerde, Chairman

**Did you know that VFW Auxiliaries are able to
apply for Uniting for Veterans grants?**

The Uniting for Veterans Grant is a matching donation grant of up to \$1,500 available to VFW Posts and its Auxiliaries for monetary, food, or item donations to local food banks, pantries or homeless relief organizations in their communities. The VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match for every pound of food or dollar donated to food insecurity organizations. The VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match for every \$1 spent purchasing qualified items to donate to a homeless shelter or a \$1 match for every \$1 donated to a homeless relief organization. A minimum of 500 pounds or \$500 must be met each time you are submitting an application in order to qualify. A Post and its Auxiliary may apply separately, each must have their own distinct project.

VFW Auxiliaries applying for a VFW UFV Grant can download the grant at vfw.org/UFV. Please note, funds are not provided to VFW Posts or Auxiliaries. If approved, funds are submitted to the donation location listed on the application.

BUDDY POPPY/ NATIONAL HOME

Beverly Kemmerer, Chairman

Merry Christmas!

Just a friendly reminder to order your
Buddy Poppies from the
VFW Department of PA
if you haven't ordered them already!

Please use this form:

<https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/2025-2026BuddyPoppyForm.pdf>

SCHOLARSHIP

Karen Mooney, Chairman

December brings the holiday season. Hard to believe that the end of 2025 is around the corner. Are you an auxiliary member of at least one year, in good standings, and 21 years of age or older and have decided to go back to school to further your education? What about your spouse, son or daughter if you have any children that are at least 21 years old? Then you or your family member should consider applying for the Continuing Education Scholarship. All you need to do is answer 7 questions and write a 300-word essay and submit your entry to National Headquarters by February 15, 2026. Simple process and great chance to earn some money to assist with tuition for your schooling. Now is the time to do something for yourself or your family members.

Moving into December, please remember that there are still Art Scholarship programs that students can take advantage of. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest and you can even assist your Youth Chairman by also sharing the Illustrating America Art Program to capture all ages of students. Be sure that you get the information out to the same locations that you shared the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen information out to. Look at different groups to share these programs with such as your local art stores, your local craft shops, your local Starbucks and Dunkin Donut stores. Find places where young adults hang out and might see the application information. If you happen to have any arcades in your local area, this could be a good location as well. Remember to place these up in your VFW as well as local businesses, with their permission of course.

As the November General Orders highlighted some of the talented young Americans from prior submissions, who knows if you may not be lucky enough to receive some amazing entries yourself. We just need to continue to share the program details and give these young kids and young adults the opportunity to show off their talents.

If you have questions, please reach out. All of the application forms can be found on the website vfwauxpa.org. Take the time to pre-fill your Post information on the applications so that the students have your contact information to reach out to if they have questions. These submissions are due to the Posts by March 31, 2026.

Please remember that "Every Day is Veterans Day" and Uncle Sam wants to know what YOU are going to do to support the VFW & Auxiliary Scholarships Programs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Debra Antosh, Chairman

Reasons why it is important to celebrate military birthdays:

- **Honoring tradition:** Military birthdays are opportunities to commemorate the historical founding of each branch and its role in national defense.
- **Reinforcing heritage:** They serve as a way to teach new generations of service members about their branch's history, values, and the sacrifices of those who came before them.
- **Building community:** Celebrations reinforce a shared sense of purpose and camaraderie, strengthening the collective identity of the service members and creating a stronger sense of belonging.
- **Inspiring future generations:** Celebrating the history and achievements of the military can inspire current and future service members and the public to recognize and honor the armed forces.

Each date marks a significant moment in the branch's establishment, often during periods of national need. The branches in chronological order of their founding are:

Branch	Birthday	Founding Event
National Guard	December 13, 1636	Traces its roots to the first militia regiments in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
Army	June 14, 1775	The date the Continental Congress authorized the enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies, establishing the Continental Army.
Navy	October 13, 1775	The Continental Congress authorized the purchase of the first two armed vessels, leading to the Continental Navy.
Marine Corps	November 10, 1775	The Continental Congress resolved to raise two battalions of Marines, a decision famously made at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.
Coast Guard	August 4, 1790	President George Washington signed the Tariff Act, which authorized the construction of ten revenue cutters to enforce trade laws and prevent smuggling.
Air Force	September 18, 1947	The passage of the National Security Act of 1947 established the U.S. Air Force as a separate and independent military branch.
Space Force	December 20, 2019	Established with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, becoming the newest branch.



HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling, Chairman



VFW AUXILIARY HOSPITAL PROGRAM GUIDE

A great source of Information!

Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Learning the difference between VAVS vs. Hospital Program

VAVS Program: The Veterans Affairs Dept. created the **V**eterans **A**ffairs **V**oluntary **S**ervice program for organizations to serve in VA Medical Centers. Members participate in this government-run program.

Hospital Program: VFW Auxiliary establishes relationships with hospitals, nursing homes, veterans' homes, VA facilities, and other facilities where veterans are served.

Hospital Volunteers

Who can be a volunteer: Any member in good standing can volunteer at a facility in the name of the VFW Auxiliary if that member has been approved by the Auxiliary to do so. Members can volunteer alone or with a group of members and non-members.

Qualifications, Assignments and Orientation

A volunteer must:

- Have a willingness to accept hospital standards, orientation, conduct and supervision.
- Possess a clean and neat appearance.
- Be physically able to perform assigned tasks.
- Have a sense of responsibility, dependability, and stability on the job.
- Demonstrate a friendly, business-like approach to volunteer work, with honest sentiment and not sentimentality, maintaining the veteran's dignity and pride.

Every facility will have its own set of qualifications and rules that members should fully understand and comply.



With this QR Code you can go directly to the VFWA Dept. of PA Hospital Program Website where you will find the VFW AUXILIARY HOSPITAL PROGRAM GUIDE.

COATESVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER

GENERAL ORDERS #6

December 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to our Department President Robin Kohler for our appointments as Representative and Deputy at Coatesville VA Medical Center. Every day we strive to show that "**EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY**" and "**FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA HONORING VETERANS**" and their families with everyday needs.

Our annual Spring Carnival is held in May. With all your donations we were able to purchase personal items, sweatshirts, hygiene items, and other needs of our Veterans.

Birthday parties are held monthly with cake and gifts.

One of our events is the Labor Day picnic held on the holiday. Hotdogs, burgers and chicken with all the picnic fixings are prepared for the Veterans. This year a band was there for entertainment which the veterans really enjoyed. It was a good time had by all.

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

Diane Haller
Representative

Kathy

Kathy Weiker
Deputy

CHRISTMAS FOR OUR VETERANS

GENERAL ORDERS #6

Thank you for your generous donations to the 2025 Christmas Canteen Fund. Because of all that was earmarked “**Christmas Canteen Fund,**” every Veteran in each of our VA Hospitals and Homes across PA will receive a \$5.00 gift to be used in their respective Canteens.

For some of them, what we donate will be the only gift they receive during this Holiday Season.

To each of the Representatives and Deputies in our Hospitals and Homes – **Thank you** for making sure these gifts are distributed.

Christmas Blessings to each and everyone

