



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope each of you enjoyed a wonderful, peaceful holiday season surrounded by loved ones, celebrating the traditions that mean the most to you.

January offers us a fresh beginning and renewed momentum as we continue our mission of service, support, and commitment to our Veterans, their families, and our communities. I am truly grateful for the dedication you bring to every project, event, and initiative, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2026!

While the membership year for the Auxiliary runs from January 1 to December 31, our work in membership is ongoing. January is an ideal time to re-energize members who have not yet paid their annual dues, reconnect with those we haven't heard from recently, and continue welcoming new members into our organization.

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held January 16–17, 2026, in Gettysburg, and I hope you will join us. We have many exciting activities planned, including a fun team-building event, the “Last Chance On-the-Road Training” session, opportunities to network with fellow members, and the chance to meet the Voice of Democracy (VOD) winners from across the state. The VOD Banquet will take place on Saturday evening, where the state winner will be announced and will advance to the National level.

With the inspiration of these students, let's use their enthusiasm and optimism to carry us through the rest of the year with a renewed spirit of unity, compassion, and purpose. Each of us brings strength, heart, and unwavering dedication to our mission, and when we work collectively towards this mission, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Remember, “**Every Day is Veterans Day**,” and our dedication to this organization is what makes a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families.

Thank you for everything you do, and let's make 2026 a year of greater impact, growth, and continued service.

IMPORTANT DATES:

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

January 4 – District 18 Meeting @ Shippensburg #6168 – 2:00 P.M.

January 7 – District 7 Meeting @ Media #3460 – 7:00 P.M.

January 11 - District 9 Meeting @ Downingtown #845 – 2:00 P.M.

January 11 - District 10 Meeting @ Abington Memorial #7069 – 1:00 P.M.

January 18 - District 22 Meeting @ Fort Apache #8685 – 2:00 P.M.

January 16-17 Mid Winter Conference, Eisenhower Conference Center, Gettysburg

January 18 - District 11 Meeting @ Conyngham #8161 – 2:30 P.M. *

January 18 - District 25 Meeting @ Saxonburg #7376 – 2:00 P.M.

January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr - Department Headquarters Closed

Department President Kohler will visit *

Robin Kohler

Robin Kohler
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & PROCESSING!!

As of January 1, 2026 the attached membership application is the **ONLY** one accepted. All other 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 user friendly.

We know there will be outdated applications out there floating around for a while. **NO excuses** – if you receive an outdated application completed – it is your responsibility to go back to the potential member and have them complete the new application.

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 this new application and the procedures for processing. This will be held along with the “**Last Chance- On The Road Training**” session right after our lunch break.

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

CHINESE AUCTION

Ways & Means

and

VFW National Home

PA VFW Auxiliary

Mid-Winter Conference

January 16-18, 2026

Baskets, Special Items and Gift Cards
are requested to make this a huge success

Items needed by Friday, January 16
at the Eisenhower Hotel & Convention Center,
2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA





JOIN OUR RANKS

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026 JANUARY 2026 GENERAL ORDERS

CHAIRMAN - AMY PETERSON amyaux212@gmail.com
#EVERYDAYISVETERANS DAY #SERVINGTHOSEWHOSERVEDJOINOURRANKS
#FROMSEATOSHININGSEAHONORINGVETERANSTHATKEEPUSFREE

EVERY DAY IS
VETERANS DAY

Happy New Year Pennsylvania!

Always TIME for NEW Members!
Have you recruited 4 or more
New/Rejoins?
Ring My Bell!! & TELL ME!!!
You may WIN! Deadline, April 30th!



COUNTDOWN
TO REACH
100%
OR MORE!!!!
SOUND
OFF!
1-2-3-4!




New Year, New Ammo! Congratulations "Bullet Bangers!"

Do YOU have THE MOST
creative ideas to
RETAIN members?
Please SHARE your
'top secrets' with me by
March 31!
YOU could be our next
"Chief Master Sergeant"
(Membership Award #3)

DISTRICT	AUXILIARY
1	2819
9	287-3376-5752-7294-7418-8757
10	4712-5207-6082-7069
13	6150-6558
14	384-714-8306
15	6755
18	6076-6704-7343-9639
19	1132-7252
20	7215-8008
21	1599-2493-2506
24	4793
25	249-7376
26	4843-6555-7605
27	33-781
29	214-9199

WE SALUTE YOU
100% +++



DEPARTMENT OF PA CURRENT 92.74%
AS OF DECEMBER 30, 2025 PAID 93.94%

Department Award #1 for
The "Specialist"
Drawings for each Division
will be during
Mid-Winter Weekend!!!
Can't wait to Recognize
THE "TOP GUNS!"

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

January
2026

EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY



VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania

HISTORIAN/ MEDIA RELATIONS

Debra Antosh, Chairman

"VETERANS SPOTLIGHT"

Show your veterans how important they are to you and your post. Highlight a different veteran each month. Allow them to share their stories and/or experiences. You can do this through interviews, written articles or even a short video clip. Put them in your newsletter, if you don't have one, this is a great reason to start one. Post it on Facebook, or even in the local newspaper. Take a great picture and get a nice frame and start a **"VETERAN FEATURE WALL"** in the post. At the end of the year, have a dinner celebrating all 12, and vote on the veteran of the year, or give them some form of recognition. Make it fun, get creative.

REMEMBER, your veterans are the reason you are there. Do something special and different for them.

HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling, Chairman

National Salute to Veteran Patients Week February 8 thru 14, 2026

Let us take a moment to appreciate and celebrate the veterans whose selfless service has contributed to the safety and peace of our country. The purpose of the holiday is to honor and pay tribute to the brave military veterans who received medical care at a VA medical facility. The holiday also seeks to create awareness about the importance of these centers and encourage more people to visit and volunteer.

What will your Auxiliary do to recognize this special week?

One way is Valentines for Veterans.

Take this opportunity to share the love by making and distributing or sending Valentines Cards.

With this QR Code you can go directly to the VFWA Dept. of PA Hospital Program Website, where you will find more ways to participate in this annual event.

Check out "Did You Know!"



LEGISLATIVE

Tim Altman, Chairman

Have you signed up for the VFW Action Corps newsletter yet? If not, why not?! Check it out today.

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

More importantly, **CONTACT** your legislators regarding these issues. VFW Action Corps makes it easy!

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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Marsha Fuhrman, Chairman

It's not too late to get kids started on their Illustrating America artwork! Consider purchasing some canvases and paint from a discount store and visiting with a youth or scout troop – have each student paint a patriotic picture while you are there!

Deadline for entries to the Auxiliary is March 31st.
I must receive your winning artwork by April 15th.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado, Chairman

Auxiliary Outreach can benefit children, senior citizens, those with special needs as well as animals, the environment, and public spaces. When we participate in Auxiliary Outreach, we become better citizens of the community in which we live.

Please report your activities using the report form!

[https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxOutreach QUARTERLYReport 25 26 Fillable.pdf](https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxOutreach%20QUARTERLYReport%2025%2026%20Fillable.pdf)

Reports can be submitted by email or mail:

1. Email your report to jencyvfw@gmail.com with the subject line Auxiliary Outreach Program.
2. Mail a copy to Jency Mercado, PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843.

I hope to hear from all of you!

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Athena Theodorakos-Gjerde, Chairman

The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.

Applications for fall semester 2026 are being accepted through April 30th on the VFW's website:

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support> (click on the Apply Today button!)

AMERICANISM

Cherie Dysard, Chairman

Don't forget to order your 3" x 5" flags from VFW Auxiliary Department Headquarters for your upcoming activities!

Please use the form on the vfwauxpa.org website:

[https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Form s/2025-2026DepartmentAmericanFlagOrderForm.pdf](https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Form%20s/2025-2026DepartmentAmericanFlagOrderForm.pdf)

BUDDY POPPY/ NATIONAL HOME

Beverly Kemmerer, Chairman

Auxiliary members and Auxiliaries can become Life Members of the VFW National Home for Children! It is a one-time membership fee of \$50.00. The application form can be found on the vfwauxpa.org website:

<https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/VFWNatL.HomeLifeMembershipApplicationFillable.pdf>

Consider purchasing a Tribute Brick from you or your Auxiliary in support of the VFW National Home this year!

<https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/NationalHomeBrickApplication.pdf>

EXTENSION

Karen Hoover, Chief of Staff

Have you checked out the resources tab on Malta recently?

There is a lot of great information there to use within your Auxiliary meetings and activities!

Don't be afraid to try something new.
Login today!

SCHOLARSHIP

Karen Mooney, Chairman



Happy New Year!!!! We are halfway through the program year and still have work to do. As we ring in the new year, have you shared the information about the Continuing Education Scholarship? There is still time as these are not due until February 15, 2026. Remember that these are to be submitted directly to National Headquarters. This is a great program to take advantage of to help with school expenses. Also remember that this specific program is the National President Lois Callahan's special project this year and the goal is to help raise money for this program so that more scholarships can be offered in the future. **Please consider donating** to this program to help Madam President Callahan with her special project!! Use malta or mail checks to 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City MO 64111.

We are now 3 months away for the deadline for the Art Scholarship programs as well. Remember that there are many students out there that have talent that we should tap into. Consider tapping your local library, art stores, if you can get into your schools then of course your art students. Remember your charter schools as well. There are just as many students in a charter school setting than there are in brick-and-mortar schools today. Artwork is due to the Auxiliaries by March 31, 2026. Keep pushing for a great turn out!!!!!!!!!!



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!!
Fight to the finish line!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



ERIE VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

January 2026 General Orders #7

The year is quickly slipping by, and we want to thank President Robin Kohler for entrusting us all with the privilege of enriching the lives of our Veteran patients at the Erie VA Medical Center facility.

Donations have been constant from our Auxiliaries across the Erie VA Medical Center catchment area, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity and immense support from our members. We hold regular monthly Bingo activities and holiday parties for our Community Living Center residents — which they greatly appreciate and enjoy! We have been able to support the annual VA Baby Shower with numerous donations to make it a little easier on our new Veteran mothers and fathers. Another initiative that we have been able to graciously support is the providing of "back to school" supplies for Veterans who are either going to school themselves or have children in school.

Several Auxiliaries also monetarily support the Erie VAMC's annual Bowling and Golf Tournaments. Auxiliaries are recognized publicly at both events every year.

The CDCE Office at the Erie VA Medical Center never hesitates to reach out to us if a specific need arises for the Veteran patients served there. We are quick to respond to those needs and will always support our Veteran patients at the Erie VA Medical Center. Our Veterans are always on our minds, and we want and pray for the very best for them!

God Bless our Veterans, and God Bless America!

Respectfully,

Linda

Linda Magee — Representative

JAMES VAN ZANDT VAMC

Altoona, PA

General Orders #7 – January 2026

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Thank you, Madam President Robin Kohler, for the opportunity to serve, it is a privilege.

The continued support of each one of you is what makes it possible to bring some joy and light to our hospitalized veterans.

Peggy and I, along with our auxiliary volunteers, continue our twice monthly bingos on the CLC floors. Our veterans look forward to our visits. Your continued support is what makes this possible.

During February – our National Salute to Veteran Patients week – we provided a luncheon from Texas Roadhouse. It was a nice change to their regular menu.

On Valentines Day volunteers handed out cards and took time to visit with our veterans. This small gesture really brightens their day.

This year we tried something new and set up a carnival in the auditorium. The auditorium was decorated and we played carnival music and provided classic carnival food. We set up multiple gaming booths such as ring toss and bean bag toss. Our veterans enjoyed the dart board so much we had to encourage them to share. This went over so well that the veterans requested we do it again this year.

We hope to see more volunteers participate as it does require a lot of hands to make our events successful.

“Every Day is Veterans Day” and our gratitude stretches “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans”

Linda

Linda Dilling
VFWA Rep.

Peggy

Peggy Fryer
VFWA Deputy

SOUTHWESTERN VETERANS CENTER

January 2026 General Orders #7

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of our team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Department President Robin Kohler for placing her trust in us and granting the appointments of Representative and Deputy.

We also want to recognize and thank every Auxiliary that has hosted events, contributed donations, or supported our efforts in any way. Your kindness has allowed us to be more present with our Veterans each week, offering meaningful interaction and genuine compassion. Because of you, the message continues to ring true: Every day is a day to honor our Veterans. Your volunteers proudly carry this spirit, showing appreciation and respect with every visit.

Your support has made it possible to hold Bingo gatherings, organize bowling outings, assist with ward activities, provide comfort items, and fulfill countless needs requested by the facility. Your generosity year after year has made a tremendous difference and we again ask for your continued support of our Veterans.

Donations may be mailed to:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary – Department of PA
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

We are currently scheduling parties for 2026. Please reach out to one of us to secure a date. At your next meeting, please take a moment to acknowledge the volunteers who attend and support your events – your appreciation may inspire new members to join our efforts.

Thank you for all you do to brighten the lives of our Veterans.

Deanne Mannella, Representative
Southwestern Veterans Center