



General Orders No 11

May 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Our Department Convention is right around the corner, and this amazing honor to serve as your Department President is quickly coming to a close. There are still a few visits and events remaining, and the next focus will be on executing a successful convention and transitioning from one term to the next.

We have done so well with membership, and I can't believe how quickly we reached some of our goals, and how we continue to knock it out of the park! As of this moment, we are over 100% in current membership (minus any deaths throughout the year) and over 102.5% in paid membership!!

However, our work is not done. We need to continue to reach out to our unpaid/lapsed members and see if they are struggling and could use some help. Sometimes it just takes a phone call, text, or email to let them know that we care. Some of our members need to choose food on the table and gas in their car before they even think about paying their annual membership dues. If they need help, consider being a dues angel or voting at your meeting to help offset the cost of their dues with your relief fund. We are stronger together, and every member matters.

Finally, there is still time to donate to my special project, **Dog TAGS**. "TAGS" stands for **T**rain, **A**ssist, **G**uide, and **S**erve. If you attended the Testimonial last month, you heard from two of their graduates and learned how this program changed their lives. Dog TAGS operates on donations to support Veterans who suffer from things like PTSD, TBI, etc., and require the support of a service dog. The Veteran is able to use their own dog, one with which they already have a bond, and have them go through the program to become a fully accredited service dog. While they go through the program, they also receive well-deserved therapy to help them heal in other ways. As I've mentioned many times during my travels, this program is a win-win in my mind because it supports two of my favorite things – Vets and pets! If you're able to donate, please send the check to Department Headquarters with "special project" noted in the memo line. Thank you to everyone who has donated, and I greatly appreciate anyone who is considering a donation.

Important Dates:

May 3 District Meetings: D-17 @ Selinsgrove #6631 – 2:00 P.M. *
D-18 Meeting @ Myerstown #6076 – 1:00 P.M.
D-24 Meeting @ Strabane #553 – 2:00 P.M.
D-27 Meeting @ Herminie #8427 – 2:30 P.M.
D-28 Meeting @ Edinboro #740 – 2:00 P.M.
D-30 Meeting @ Huntingdon #1754 – 2:00 P.M.

May 6 District Meeting: D-7 Meeting @ Folsom #928 – 7:00 P.M.

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

May 17 District Meetings: D-8 @ Macungie #9264 – 1:30 P.M.
D-9 @ Reinholds #6759 – 1:00 P.M.
D-10 @ John J. Michaels #5207 – 1:00 P.M.
D-11 @ Benton #8317 – 2:30 P.M.
D-12 @ Auburn #3975 – 2:00 P.M.
D-13 @ Womelsdorf #6558 – 2:00 P.M.
D-14 @ Lenox #8488 – 2:00 P.M.
D-15 @ Jersey Shore #5859 – 2:00 P.M.
D-17 @ Selinsgrove #6631 – 2:00 P.M.
D-19 @ Franklin #1835 – 2:00 P.M. *
D-20 @ Tobyhanna #509 – 2:00 P.M.
D-21 @ Spring Grove #5265 – Joint Memorial Service 1:00 P.M.
Meetings – 2:00 P.M.
D-22 @ Dubois #813 – 2:00 P.M.
D-23 @ Perryopolis #7023 – 2:00 P.M.
D-25 @ Evans City #499 – 2:00 P.M.
D-26 @ Blairsville #5821 – 2:00 P.M.
D-29 @ West View #2754 – 1:00 P.M.
***Official Visit**

May 25 – Department Headquarters Closed – Memorial Day 2025

Department of PA VFW Auxiliary Annual Raffle – Thank you to everyone who participated in this years Raffle! The drawing was held on Friday, April 10, 2026 at the President's Testimonial with the following results:

\$2500.00 – Daniel Wolfgang - District 21
500.00 - Matthew Mansfield - District 19
250.00 - Albert Savard - District 21
250.00 - Peggy Freyer - District 22 (She was present!!)
250.00 - , Doris Lau – District 21
250.00 - Gayle Fentor – District 17

Loyally,

Robin

Robin Kohler
Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

ATTN: Secretaries and Treasurers

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A few reminders for this busy end of our membership year: Secretary enters the Installation Report into MALTA – this should be done as soon as you have completed your elections. You **no longer** send anything to Department for Installation. All Delegates should have been elected at your April Meeting and Delegate sheets for District forwarded to your District Secretary. Department Delegate sheets come to Department Headquarters along with your Delegate fee check. Secretary enters Delegates in Malta for National. All Delegates must be elected regardless whether you think you will attend the Conventions or not. Delegates elected serve that position for one year. When electing Delegates; please consider those members who always attend Conventions; but may not regularly attend your meetings? Be considerate & add them to your Delegate list. Remember if no one attends, then your Auxiliary will not have a vote at all. We understand it can be confusing and we are always available to assist. We encourage you to email us here at Headquarters for assistance. Please just be logged into MALTA so that we can help you in a timely manner. This year we have found many Auxiliaries delinquent with their Audit Reports to Department. Remember to be sure you not only have the report completed, but email or snailmail it to Department Headquarters as soon as completed. Quarterly Audit Reports documented in Department are a requirement for a good working Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary Treasurer is responsible for making sure all membership applications sent to Department are completed, legible and correct information. The Treasurer should be the last set of eyes to confirm the application is correct. We do not correct or add information to a membership application; it must be complete when received at Headquarters.

Again, reach out and ask for assistance if you have questions on completion of a membership application. We always strive to answer your emails in a timely manner and will always confirm that they have been received.

**EVERY DAY IS
VETERANS DAY**

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
**MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026
MAY GENERAL ORDERS**

CHAIRMAN - AMY PETERSON amyaux212@gmail.com
#EVERYDAYISVETERANS DAY #SERVINGTHOSEWHOSERVEDJOINOURRANKS
#FROMSEATOSHININGSEA HONORING VETERAN THAT KEEP US FREE



**Keep ASKing, Keep RECRUITing, Keep CLIMBin'
UNLEASH THE BEAST PENNSYLVANIA!!!**



**MEMBERSHIP MEMOS
HAVE YOU MET ALL OF YOU OBLIGATIONS?
AUDITS, BONDS DELEGATE FORMS/FEEES,
ATTENDANCE SHEETS
OBLIGATIONS MUST BE MET TO ACHIEVE ALL-STATE**

DISTRICT	AUXILIARY		
1	7650		
7	928-4845		
8	1597		
10	3474		
11	283-1425		
12	298		
14	1536		
17	7463		
18	3502		
22	1785-8685		
28	6166		
29	6664		
30	5754	100% + PAID	
		100% + PAID	
		Congratulations!	
DEPARTMENT OF PA	CURRENT	100.52%	
AS OF APRIL 22, 2026	PAID	102.34%	

**WARRIOR
SHOUT OUTS!**

**AUXILIARIES REACHING 102% PLUS CURRENT BY MAY 31ST
GO INTO CHANCE DRAWING FOR \$250!!!**

**Memorial Day is a time of remembering our WHY
INVITE a guest to your ceremony
INVEST in strengths
RECRUIT and RETAIN values!**

**Membership NEVER sleeps,
THANK YOU for keeping PA "boots to the ground!!!"**



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Debra Antosh, Chairman

Important Dates:

June 16-21, 2026: [Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary Department Convention](#) (DoubleTree by Hilton Pittsburgh-Cranberry).

June 27, 2026: National PTSD Awareness Day.

June 30, 2026: Deadline for membership standings based on final June stats.

NATIONAL VFW & VFW AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Reno, Nevada July 25-29, 2026

Donna Mills' Celebration Registration Form (due by July 1)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE*

Garmisch, Germany November 1-9, 2026

Important Reminders:

Reports: Ensure all year-end reports are submitted to Department, and review program books for compliance.

Installations: All installation reports must be received at National Headquarters by **July 31, 2026**.

Bonding: All Auxiliaries must be bonded by **August 31, 2026**.

Scholarships: Promote upcoming scholarship deadlines for the next program year (Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen due **Oct 31, 2026**).

June 15, 2026: VFW National Headquarters and VSO offices will be **closed** in observance of [Juneteenth](#).

June 30, 2026: This is a critical administrative deadline for the 2025–2026 program year:

Membership Standings: Final membership standings for the year are determined based on MALTA Reports as of this date.

Hospital Donations: Suggested donations (often \$2 per member) to the Hospital General Fund are typically calculated based on membership numbers as of June 30.

Patriotic Holidays

June 6: Anniversary of D-Day (World War II).

June 15, 2026: Juneteenth recognized.

June 14: **Flag Day**, celebrating the adoption of the [U.S. Stars and Stripes](#)

June 23: Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday.

June 27: National PTSD Awareness Day.

“HAVE A FABULOUS MAY & JUNE”

HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling, Chairman



Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

New volunteers are needed every day in our VA and non-VA hospitals, nursing homes, and medical facilities across Pennsylvania. Volunteers create a friendly and caring environment for veterans and their families.

Here are a few tips for recruiting and maintaining volunteers:

- Contact volunteers by email or phone for special events.
- Monthly signup sheet for regular events.
- Celebrate your volunteers with a thank you event.
- Recognize your Hospital volunteers.
- Ask someone to volunteer, they may have never been asked before.

Match positions to your potential volunteers!

- A people person can work the information desk.
- Someone who likes to keep moving can serve as a patient escort.
- Someone who likes doing office work can assist in departments that are shorthanded due to illness, vacations or simply understaffed.
- A creative individual can volunteer to hold classes – for instance painting or music lessons.
- Someone who likes to talk can go room to room to visit patients.
- A shy person can make appointment reminder calls.
- Do you know someone who likes to assemble puzzles? There is a nursing home resident waiting for a puzzle partner right this minute.
- How about an event organizer? The patients and residents would love a monthly birthday party.
- A game enthusiast can hold a weekly card game or board game night.

Volunteering is the hallmark of the Hospital Program! Why Volunteer?



Volunteers make a positive impact



Volunteers save lives



Volunteers make a difference



Volunteers inspire hope



Volunteers encourage others



Volunteers can create better solutions

SCHOLARSHIP

Karen Mooney, Chairman

As we start the month of May, State Convention is just around the corner. Year-end reports have been turned in, Art submissions have been judged and winners will be shared with everyone shortly. State Convention is around the corner, and the program year wraps up. At the end of April, there was an Art Show held to determine which 2-D and 3-D Art submissions would represent the Department of PA at the National Level. The level of talent that was turned in was just amazing. A huge shout out to all the students that took the time to participate in this program this year. Hoping that the upcoming students continue to show off their talents as their skill level is amazing!!

A quick reminder that for all the artwork that was turned in for the Scholarships Program will be at State Convention for District Presidents or Auxiliary representatives to pick up so the work can be returned to the students.

If you happened to be interested in getting a jump on Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen participation for the 2026-2027 program year, the themes have been published. Entries forms are out online. The themes for both Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy this coming year is "What a Veteran Taught Me About America". Now would be a great time to reach out to your school contacts so there is plenty of time to share the themes and let the students get a jump on their submissions that will be due October 31, 2026. Never too early to get things moving.

One last push for the Scholarships Shirt Fundraiser. Taking orders for these shirts until the end of May so that funds can be prepared and presented to the Scholarships Programs at Convention in June. The fundraiser has done better than I had hoped so looking to see where we can finish this process for this program year. For all that have supported this program, thank you very much. It is truly appreciated!! An updated order form is attached to the Department website under the Scholarships Program at vfwauxpa.org

Remember that "Every Day is Veterans Day" and we should all celebrate all that we do for our Veterans, our VFW, and our communities. The VFW Auxiliary MAKES a difference! Here's to the VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Programs!! Fight to the finish line!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Loyally,
Karen Mooney, Scholarships Program Chair
VFWA, Dept of PA