

General Orders No. 4

October 2025

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The District visits are well underway, and I have enjoyed every stop so far. It's a humbling experience to meet the Veterans at the hospitals and centers that care for these heroes, to reconnect with members, meet many new members, visit areas I've never been to before, and to witness firsthand the dedication, compassion, and love our Auxiliary has for our Veterans and their families. Each visit is a reminder of why we serve this organization, and I carry the spirit of these moments with me as we remember that "Every Day is Veterans Day."

Several important resolutions were proposed and voted on during the VFW Auxiliary National Convention. A full recap can be found in MALTA under Member Resources, National Convention (about halfway down the page, look for the **2025 Adopted or Defeated Resolutions**). Highlights include:

- The reduction of the bond surety amount from double the amount of funds and property to 1.25 times the amount (effective next program year).
- A requirement that all monies collected for a special project must be forwarded to the designated recipient within the same fiscal year, unless otherwise specified.
- Updates to the Disciplinary Action process.

Please take a few minutes to download the document and share this valuable information with your members.

We have also been reminding Auxiliaries and Districts to complete their IRS 990-N e-postcard in the past two issues of General Orders. Thank you to everyone who has already filed and confirmed acceptance. For those who have not yet completed it, the deadline is quickly approaching. **Please don't delay**. Filing early is always best, as some Treasurers have reported challenges with the process. While some of these issues are easy to resolve, others have been much more complex. Timely filing ensures compliance and gives us the chance to assist if problems arise.

Finally, this is a friendly reminder that a lot of email messages are flying around asking for your assistance because we're "stuck in a meeting" or "can't talk" for one reason or another. There are way too many shady characters out there looking for people to respond because the recipient believes they are receiving the message from a legitimate sender. <u>ALWAYS</u> take a moment to verify the sender's email address because many fraudulent messages look official but come from unusual or incorrect accounts. If something doesn't seem right, <u>DO NOT</u> click links, share personal information, or act on their requests. When in doubt, contact the person directly through trusted channels: text, phone call, etc. - before responding to a random email you receive.

Please pay attention to the attached list of our VA Hospitals and Home; with special attention to the October 31 deadline for our **Christmas Canteen Fund.** ALL donations **must be** at Headquarters **no later than October 31, there are no exceptions.**

Important Dates:

October 4 District 16 Meeting @ Red Hill #5954 - 11:00 A.M.

October 7 District 7 Meeting @ Essington #4845 - 7:00 P.M.

October 13 Columbus Day - Department Headquarters will be closed

October 14 District 14 Meeting @ Catawissa #8306 - 2:00 P.M.

October 24-25 Eastern Conference, Wilmington, DE

October 30-November 1 Commander's Testimonial, Doubletree by Hilton, Pittsburgh-Cranberry

With warmest regards,

Robin

Robin Kohler Department President Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1

2025-2026 SERIES

September 24, 2025

- Having been elected National President and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command.
- 2. The following officers have also been duly elected and installed by the 112th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

National Senior Vice President

Donna K. Mills, Auxiliary 1754, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

National Junior Vice President

Kim Harney, Auxiliary 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

National Treasurer

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chaplain

Sandra L. Uzell, Auxiliary 7536, Lyndhurst, Ohio

National Conductor

Margaret Jane Feher, Auxiliary 7387, Hazard, Kentucky

National Guard

Cynthia P. Davis, Auxiliary 8509, Baltimore, Maryland

National District Council Members (NDCMs):

NDCM No. 1 Maine | New Hampshire Celeste Leigh Nicholas

NDCM No. 2 Vermont | Massachusetts Lisa Jackson

NDCM No. 3 Maryland | New Jersey Elizabeth DallaTezza

NDCM No. 4 Delaware | New York Millie Hayes

NDCM No. 5 Missouri | Illinois Danetta G Wakefield

NDCM No. 6 West Virginia | Virginia Tina Lynn Hicks

NDCM No. 7 Tennessee | Kentucky Cindy Kohrs

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

1

NDCM No. 8	Georgia Alabama		Paulette Murray
NDCM No. 9	South Carolina North Caroli	na	Sandra S Johnson Leu
NDCM No. 10	Oklahoma Arkansas		Amanda Pipkin
NDCM No. 11	Wisconsin Iowa		Renee M Quinn
NDCM No. 12	Wyoming North Dakota		Vivian Bernotas
NDCM No. 13	Kansas Colorado		Tessa K Butcher
NDCM No. 14	Montana Idaho		Gale L Bestland
NDCM No. 15	New Mexico Arizona		Betty L Decker
NDCM No. 16	Hawaii Alaska		Amy L Vukasin
NDCM No. 17	Utah Nevada		Renee June West
NDCM No. 18	Rhode Island Connecticut		GinaMarie Rodriguez Doherty
NDCM No. 19	Mississippi Louisiana		Mary F Johnson
NDCM No. 20	Oregon Washington		Erin Mezek
NDCM No. 21	Nebraska South Dakota		Nancy Worth
NDCM Area A	Pennsylvania		Bonnie S Drake
NDCM Area B	B Michigan		Carrie S Turner
NDCM Area C	Indiana		Linda S Misuraca
NDCM Area D	Ohio Ohio	Т	Teresa L Singh
NDCM Area E	Minnesota		Sonia Marie Tatge
NDCM Area F	Florida		Tela Gay Harbold
NDCM Area G	G California		Kathleen M Smith
NDCM Area H	l Texas		Karen L Kaylor

- 3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.
- 4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

National Secretary

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chief of Staff

Karlene Beams, Auxiliary 2278, Hot Springs, Arkansas

National Patriotic Instructor

Diana Russell Milton, Auxiliary 4647, North Highlands, California

National Historian

Kristin M DiGiacomo, Auxiliary 2754, West View, Pennsylvania

National Color Bearer No. 1

Michael S. Yates, Auxiliary 10087, Beverly Hills, Florida

National Color Bearer No. 2

Katlyn M. Burke, Auxiliary 8334, Millard, Nebraska

National Color Bearer No. 3

Danetta G. Wakefield, Auxiliary 4207, Monett, Missouri

National Color Bearer No. 4

Karen Keech Lavoie, Auxiliary 237, Bristol, Rhode Island

National Banner Bearer

Sandra S. Johnson Leu, Auxiliary 7383, Cary, North Carolina

National Flag Bearer

Lisa Delaney, Auxiliary 4588, Bossier City, Louisiana

National POW-MIA Flag Bearer

Deborah Crowder, Auxiliary 10226, Oak Island, North Carolina

National Musician

Patsy Cole, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Soloist

Willa Watts, Auxiliary 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska

National Assistant Guard

Vicki McGahhey, Auxiliary 4554, Camden, Arkansas

National Assistant Soloist

Julia Price, Auxiliary 2111, Chula Vista, California

National Assistant Musician

Rhonda White Marcum, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Assistant Conductor

Shirlee Frias, Auxiliary 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico

5. As a reminder, some of the objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible.

We therefore support the VFW in their focus to identify, address, and eradicate racial bias and discrimination. And the VFW Auxiliary leadership unites with the VFW leadership in the pursuit to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization.

6. Attention all members, in accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article XI-Discipline, any member who commits offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary may be subject to disciplinary action and may be assessed the penalties provided in this Article. The VFW Auxiliary joins with the VFW in stating that acts of sexual harassment, racial or

sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination include any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW Auxiliary activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy always.

BY ORDER OF: Lois Callahan National President

OFFICIAL:

Ann Panteleakos

National Secretary-Treasurer

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

DOG T.A.G.S. is a specialized training session that consists of a support group where the Veteran has the opportunity to share in a group setting and then they train their dog to become their very own Service Dog



MISSION STATEMENT

To train, assist, guide and serve Veterans who have been diagnosed by a licensed mental healthcare provider with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) through the operation of a Service Dog Program.

In support of this mission, to search out and qualify veterans in need of psychological healing through a service dog program; to evaluate the dog that the Veteran brings to the program for suitability to be a service dog; to provide qualified volunteer trainers and a training regimen in obedience, public access and tasks/work that the dog will perform in order to meet the individual needs of the Veteran; to provide a facility suitable for this training; and to have available on staff volunteer professional social workers to help the veteran deal with psychological issues which may arise as they work through the program.

Please consider a generous donation to support President Robin's Special Project.

Make checks payable to Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary and earmark: President's Special Project

Breaking News!!!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & PROCESSING DEPARTMENT OF PA VFW AUXILIARY

There is some very exciting updates coming, regarding our membership application and processing!

Very soon we will see a **new** application launched. As information is received, it will be shared with all of you. It will be imperative to get the word out – **only** this new updated application will be accepted beginning January 1, 2026. There will be **NO** exceptions.

Plans are being made to assure that all Treasurers are well informed and comfortable with the new procedures that will be in place as well as the new application.

No matter whether you have an elected position or not; being knowledgeable about properly filling out a membership application is the responsibility of each of us.

Please mark your calendar: On Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Mid Winter Conference in Gettysburg, there will be a training session open to all members regarding our new membership application and the procedures for processing. Stay tuned for further updates.

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DE



100% + Distinguished Monthly Leadership EFFECTIVE 23.SEPT.2025

District Auxiliary

20 ** 8225

26 ** 7377

27 ** 3414

28 ** 3374 29 ** 7632

WHO WILL RANK UP NEXT ??????!!!!!!

Be sure to check our Facebook for the Membership "Basic Training" Reel!

It's 'locked & loaded' with membership tools & advice for Recruiting & Retaining!

Feel free to use & share at your next meeting!

**Other important tools can be found on MALTA



'FALL IN'.....RANK UP!!!!



- **** DEPARTMENT AWARDS AWAITING DEPLOYMENT****
- > FIRST DISTRICT TO HIT 100%, WINS PRESIDENT TESTIMONIAL TICKIES!!
- ➤ EACH AUXILIARY THAT HITS 100% BY NOVEMBER 30TH GOES INTO \$100 GIFT CARD DRAWING!

EVERY DAY IS VETER INS DAY



"ALL STATE" CALLS OF DUTY!

- > CHRISTMAS CANTEEN -SEND TO DEPT BY OCTOBER 31ST
- SEND IN BUDDY POPPY AND FLAG ORDER
- ➤ ARE YOUR PRESIDENT, SECRETARY & TREASURER
 DUES PAID YET? ***DUE BY NOVEMBER 30TH

Hope to see you all at the Commander's Testimonial!



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT October 2025





VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania

AMERICANISM

Cherie Dysard, Chairman

Show Respect for Our Flag A VFW Auxiliary Reminder

The American flag is a powerful symbol of our nation and the sacrifices made by our veterans. During meetings and events, let's honor it properly with correct display and respectful practices.

Proper Display During VFW Auxiliary Meetings

- The U.S. flag is always placed to the speaker's right on stage or head table.
- No other flag should be placed above or to the right of the U.S. flag.
- The VFW Auxiliary flag should be placed to the speaker's left.
- The flag must never touch the ground.
- If displayed flat against a wall, the union (blue field) should always be at the top left as viewed by the audience.

Respect During Ceremonies

- Stand and face the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, and opening/closing rituals.
- Civilians should place their right hand over their heart.
- Veterans and active-duty military may render a salute.
- Speak or sing clearly and proudly during the Pledge and Anthem.

The American flag represents the freedom and sacrifices we hold dear.

Treat it with the dignity it deserves.



VFW Essay Competitions

Oct 31

Voice of Democracy grades 9-12 Patriot's Pen grades 6-8

VFW AUX Continuing Education

Due by Feb 15 to assist Aux members & their immediate family members who wish to further their education

VFW AUX Patriotic Art Contests

Young American Creative Patriotic Art grades 9-12
3-Dimensional Patriotic Art grades 9-12
Illustrating America Art grades K-8

Karen Mooney, Auxpresvfwpost7415@comcast.net

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!"

It's October already! HAVE YOU

- Sent your Christmas Canteen Donation to PA Department Auxiliary Headquarters by October 31st for use this Christmas?
- Sent your Annual Dues Renewal Letters Yet?

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Marsha Fuhrman, Chairman

Become a Reading Buddy - Make a Difference, One Story at a Time!

Do you love books and want to help children grow their confidence and reading skills? Start a Reading Buddy Program in your community and inspire a lifelong love of reading!

As a Reading Buddy, you will:

- Spend 30–60 minutes a week reading with a child.
- Encourage young readers with patience and kindness.
- Build confidence and make reading fun and exciting.
 - Help children reach their full potential.

How to make this happen:

- Contact your local elementary schools and libraries and volunteer to help read with kids.
 - Hold a Reading Buddy day at your VFW Post



Children who read regularly with a caring adult improve their literacy, comprehension, and self-esteem. Just a little of your time can change a child's future!

Get Involved Today!

Don't forget to get proper clearances and proper permission from schools and parents and require that parents/guardians also attend Reading Buddy Post events! #auxreadingbuddy

EXTENSION

Karen Hoover, Chief-of-Staff



🌞 GROW WITH PURPOSE – BUILD A STRONGER AUXILIARY! 🏃



Our Mission:

The VFW Auxiliary is dedicated to serving veterans, military families, and our communities. To continue making a difference, we need YOU to help grow our membership and strengthen our Programs!

Why Growth Matters

• More Members = More Impact!

Each new member brings fresh ideas, extra helping hands, and new energy to our mission.

• Stronger Programs: Growth allows us to expand vital Programs that support veterans, educate communities, and promote patriotism.

Be a Part of the Momentum

- Invite membership-eligible friends, family, and neighbors who care about veterans and their families.
- Share your enthusiasm and positivity passion is contagious!
- Encourage new members to get involved in Programs that make a real difference.

TOGETHER, WE CAN:

- Build thriving Auxiliaries full of energy and purpose
- Reach more veterans and families with support and resources
- Create a legacy of service and community pride

Let's grow our VFW Auxiliary with enthusiasm and positivity — because Every Day is Veterans Day, and every Program has a purpose!





HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling, Chairman

DID YOU KNOW!

Happiness Encourages Healing Ghowcase your creative juices!

The holidays are fast approaching; this is a perfect opportunity to showcase your creative juices.

Did you know there is an award for just that!

Under the Hospital Program you will find the award – check it out!

There is so much we can do with Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas - not to mention the many non-traditional holidays.

IDEAS:

Halloween – dress up in your best costume and play bingo or just visit and/or hand out treats.

I am sure you will get a few good laughs too! Or better yet have a Halloween party with our

Veterans Day – visit your hospitalized veterans and bring along a token of your appreciation for their service to our country.

hospitalized veterans.

Thanksgiving – donate items for a craft, better yet take in the craft and do it with our veterans.

Christmas – Not all our veterans have family close by, depression can hit hard, we need to keep this in mind. It is very important this time of year to visit and maybe bring a gift. By giving of yourselves, you will truly feel the spirit of the holiday season.

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado, Chairman

What is Auxiliary Outreach?

- Auxiliary Outreach involves partnerships between an Auxiliary and other organizations to benefit the community through volunteer time, not monetary or in-kind donations.
- It can engage individuals of any age or ability and can support various groups, including youth, seniors, and animals, across diverse community settings.

Qualifying Activities

- Examples include volunteering at local events (e.g., walks, runs), collaborating with emergency services for training, participating in community beautification projects, and serving at food pantries.
- Activities must be voted on by the Auxiliary and should not benefit the VFW or Auxiliary directly.

Non-Qualifying Activities

- Efforts that support the Post or Auxiliary, such as fundraising meals, maintenance of the Post home, or church-specific activities, do not qualify as Auxiliary Outreach.
- Community service for veterans should be reported under Americanism or Veterans & Family Support, not Auxiliary Outreach.

Reporting and Recognition

- Auxiliary Outreach activities should be reported to the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman **Quarterly**.
- Your efforts will be rewarded with pins this year!

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Athena Theodorakos-Gjerde, Chairman

VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs

- > The National Veterans Service (NVS) provides free assistance to veterans and families in accessing earned benefits through accredited Service Officers.
- > The Pre-Discharge program aids military personnel in securing VA entitlements upon discharge.
- The Military Assistance Program (MAP) supports local military units, though financial aid for social events is no longer available.
- > The Student Veteran Support Grant funds specific events for student veterans, while VFW Foundation Grants support community service projects, food relief, and building repairs.
- > Donations for disaster relief are accepted at VFW National Headquarters to assist affected veterans and families.

LEGISLATIVE

Tim Altman, Chairman

Hello Auxiliaries. The legislative fall session wrapped up a short time ago. The house passed the NDAA including VFW-backed Tap promotion act. In order to keep up on everything going on with the VFW bills in congress, be sure you register for Action Corp Weekly. Attached are two cards - on them are QR codes that will let you view the VFW talking points and view VFW- supported bills introduced in the 119th congress. This card was sent out from our National Legislative Ambassador Amy Jo Lett. Let's do as much as we can to help support our VFW members by supporting these bills in congress.



FALL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE 2025

Bringing Veterans' Voices to Capitol Hill



SCAN TO VIEW VFW-SUPPORTED BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE 119TH CONGRESS





HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Debra Antosh, Chairman

WHAT TO DO AS A HISTORIAN?

You will record the events of the Auxiliary, District and or Department (best to do in order they occurred). A tip is to follow the 5 W's, Who, What, Where, when and Why. Be very thorough in your documentation to make it easy to report.

MEDIA

At the Auxiliary, District and Department levels contacting local Newspapers and TV Stations, Facebook and Twitter. You can also make posters and banners to put out in your community. Word of mouth is also a great way to let the community know. Research all the ways you can reach your community and try to do them all. Getting the information out is your goal.

Here's a list of both Traditional and Social Media Outlets:

TRADITIONAL: TV, Radio, Newspapers, Magazines, Newsletters, Word of Mouth and Fliers/posters DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA: Email, Auxiliary/Post Websites, Twitter, You Tube, Instagram, Snapchat and Tik Tok

Don't forget to check out the pavfwaux.org website for the PA and National Awards available for auxiliaries for the Historian/Media Relations Program!

'BUDDY' Poppy/National Home Program

Beverly Kemmerer / 2025-2026 Dept. of PA Chairman

Getting Started with Your "Buddy" Poppy Project

Now is the perfect time to begin working on your "Buddy" poppy creation. Don't wait—start developing your project today to ensure its success throughout the year.

Year-Round Opportunities for Donations

Remember, you can distribute "Buddy" poppies at any time during the year to collect donations. Consider reaching out to local businesses and asking if you can place a donation can with your poppies in their establishments. This effort can continue year-round, helping to increase both awareness and contributions.

The Importance of "Buddy" Poppies

"Buddy" poppies serve as a meaningful reminder for everyone to RESPECT, HONOR, and REMEMBER those who have sacrificed their lives fighting for our country and our freedom. Every poppy distributed helps keep the memory of our fallen heroes alive in the hearts of our community.

Supporting the National Home and Other Needs

Donations collected through the "Buddy" poppy program benefit our National Home and support many other important needs within our organization and community.

Encouragement for Participation

Whether you are working with your Post or organizing independently, get out and conduct your poppy drive. Your involvement makes a difference all year long.



EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY!

SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS CENTER

GENERAL ORDERS #4

October 2025

Another year is moving along and I send best wishes to all our VFW Auxiliaries across Pennsylvania. Thank you to President Robin Kohler for trusting this position to myself and my Deputy for the 2025-2026 year. It is so important to support our Veterans in the Hospitals and Homes.

Our facility is always gaining new residents while our present population ages. With the donations from our Auxiliaries across the State we have been able to send residents to a local annual fair for tasty food and games to interact in, they had a ball. We supported two bingo's this year donating canteen coupons, snacks and drinks. All our residents love BINGO! We purchased picture frames for our new Wall of Fame (this features all our residents when they were serving in the military). It is fun guessing who is who. We provided candy for a recent Frank Sinatra event which was in correlation with acknowledging the Korean War and several of our residents. We are presently getting ready to purchase a new computer for our residents use. They love doing research on many topics.

Our Veterans' wants and needs are always first on our minds, so thank you again for supporting all the hospitals. Have a wonderful year and continue to keep our Veterans in your thoughts and prayers.

God Bless America

God Bless our Veterans

Respectfully,

Linda

Marsha

Linda L. Neiman – Representative SEVC 205 Lilac Lane Douglassville, PA 19518 610-385-6394 Marsha Lush - Deputy

VAVS Hospitals and Homes

The following are hospitals and homes that the Auxiliaries are asked to send donations into Department Headquarters for. **This may be done on ONE check!**

1	Butler VA Medical Center	\$
2	Coatesville VA Medical Center	\$
3	Corporal Michael J Crescenz VA Medical Center	\$
4	Delaware Valley Veterans Home	\$
5	Erie VA Medical Center	\$
6	Gino J Merli Veterans Center	\$
7	Hollidaysburg Veterans Home	\$
8	James E VanZandt VA Medical Center	\$
9	Lebanon VA Medical Center	\$
10	PA Soldiers & Sailors Veterans Home	\$
11	Pittsburgh VA Health System – HJ Heinz	\$
12	Pittsburgh VA Health System – Oakland	\$
13	Southeastern Veterans Center	\$
14	Southwestern Veterans Center	\$
15	Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center	\$
16	Allentown VA Outpatient Clinic	\$
	TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT FOR FACILITIES	\$
Chri	stmas Canteen Fund (10/31 DEADLINE)	
	Christmas Canteen Fund - Needed for All-State	\$
	FUNDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 10/31!!!	
	This fund is divided by the number of patients at that time.	
	DO NOT LIST A HOSPITAL FOR THIS FUND!	
<u>Gen</u>	eral Hospital Fund	
	Department Hospital Fund	\$
	This fund is distributed evenly to all facilities annually in June and individual hospital donations above.	isn't related to
TO-	FAL ANACHINIT FOR ALL DONATIONS	ć
10	FAL AMOUNT FOR ALL DONATIONS (including Individual Hospitals, Christmas Canteen, and General H	Spital Fund
	(including marvioud riospitals, chilistinas canteen, and deficial fi	ospitar i unuj

Please send this form along with a check payable to:

Dept of PA VFWA 4002 Fenton Ave Harrisburg, PA 17109