



## General Orders No. 3

September 2025

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we move forward in this new year, I want to extend a sincere thank you to each of you. The recent VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, reminded me of the strength and pride we share as a Department, and I am excited about the awards and recognition that reflect the hard work and dedication of our Auxiliaries and Chairmen. These honors belong to each member who gives their time, heart, and energy in service to our Veterans and their families.

In the weeks ahead, I look forward to visiting Districts across our great state, meeting with you personally, and seeing firsthand the impact you are making in your communities. Each visit is a reminder that the Auxiliary family in Pennsylvania is strong, united, and deeply committed to our mission.

Most importantly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Every project, every volunteer hour, and every act of kindness ensures that our Veterans know they are never forgotten because **"Every Day is Veterans Day."** Thank you for carrying forward the proud tradition of honoring and supporting those who sacrificed for our freedoms.

**A housekeeping note:** Here's another friendly reminder to submit your **990-N e-postcard now!** Remember to make sure it has been **"Accepted"** and not just **"Submitted."** A copy of the confirmation of acceptance by the IRS must be sent to Department Headquarters.

Keep up the amazing efforts, and I look forward to seeing you along my travels!

### Important Dates:

September 14 District 9 Meeting @ Columbia #2435 – 2:00 P.M.  
September 14 District 10 Meeting @ Cortez #6520 – 2:00 P.M. \*  
September 14 District 11 Meeting @ Nescopeck #8227 – 2:30 P.M.  
September 14 District 28 Meeting @ Erie #470 – 1:00 P.M.  
September 20 District 25 Meeting @ Aliquippa #1821 – 2:00 P.M.  
September 21 District 12 Meeting @ Sunbury #1532 – 2:00 P.M.  
September 21 District 15 Meeting @ #6771 Galeton #6611 – 2:00 P.M.  
September 21 District 20 Meeting @ Mt. Pocono #3448 – 2:00 P.M. \*  
September 21 District 22 Meeting @ Duncansville #8724 – 2:30 P.M.  
September 21 District 23 Meeting @ Central City #7457 – 2:00 P.M.  
September 21 District 1 Meeting @ Parkway Memorial #7650 – 2:00 P.M.  
September 28 District 29 Meeting @ Sharpsburg #709 – 1:00 P.M.

President's Visit \*

With warmest regards,

*Robin*

Robin Kohler  
Department President

*Jodie*

Jodie Hollinger  
Department Secretary/Treasurer



# VFW AUXILIARY

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes®

## MEMO

DATE: August 21, 2025

TO:	National Line Officers	Past National Presidents
	National District Council Members	Department Presidents
	Department Secretaries	National Scholarship Ambassador

FROM: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: VFW Voice of Democracy Department Winners Trip – Valley Forge, PA

This is a reminder that the Department Winners for the VFW Voice of Democracy will no longer be brought to Washington, DC, but instead will be awarded a trip to attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership Program in Valley Forge, PA. This is an inperson educational experience designed and intended solely for the students.

**PLEASE NOTE: Members of the Department VFW or VFW Auxiliary are not invited to attend or participate.**

However, your support in helping to promote this outstanding opportunity is greatly appreciated. Highlighting the benefits of this program may encourage greater participation and generate more Voice of Democracy entries for the competition.

Please share as appropriate. Thank you.

AP:cb

**EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY**  
**GENERAL ORDERS - SEPTEMBER 2025**

## DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

CHAIRMAN - AMY PETERSON - amyaux212@gmail.com

#EVERYDAYISVETERANS DAY #SERVINGTHOSEWHOSERVEDJOINOURRANKS  
 #FROMSEATOSHININGSEAHONORINGVETERANSTHATKEEPUSFREE

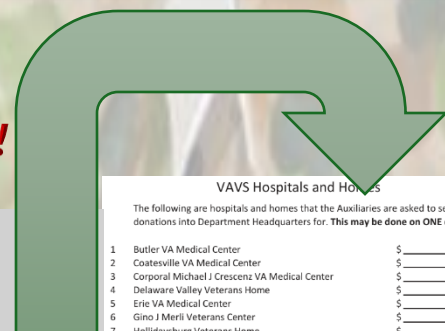
**PENNSYLVANIA ~ 73.97%**  
**SUIT UP TROOPS, WE'RE ON A MISSION!**

**IMPORTANT \*\*\*\*\*ALL STATE UPDATE\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT**

**#11 ON ALL-STATE FORM REFERS TO 15 HOSPITALS,  
 SINCE PRINTING, THE HOSPITAL FORM HAS BEEN UPDATED TO  
 16 HOSPITALS**

**TO SEPARATE OAKLAND & HEINZ (SO DONATIONS ARE FAIRLY SPLIT)  
 I APOLOGIZE FOR THE CONFUSION, ANY QUESTIONS, SHOOT ME AN EMAIL!**

**ORIGINAL FORMS WILL BE HONORED FOR ALL STATE AWARD PURPOSES.**



**VAHS 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	Coatsville 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	Holidaysburg 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	\$
<b>TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT</b>		\$
<b>Christmas Canteen Fund</b>		\$

This must be RECEIVED BY 10/31 TO QUALIFY FOR ALL STATE!!!!  
 This fund is divided by the number of patients at that time.  
 DO NOT LIST A HOSPITAL FOR THIS FUND!

**Department Hospital Fund** \$

This fund is distributed evenly to all of the facilities listed above.

Please send donations along with a check payable to: **CHRISTMAS CANTEEN DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 31st.**  
 Dept of PA VFWA  
 4002 Fenton Ave  
 Harrisburg, PA 17109  
**YOU CAN SEND IN SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER AS ONE CHECK TO DEPARTMENT.**

**RANK UP to "LANCE CORPORAL"!!!!  
 FIRST District to reach 100% +++  
 WINS 2 BANQUET TICKETS FOR PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONIAL!**

**INVITE, RECRUIT, INCLUDE, INVEST!  
 TIME TO YANK UP THOSE RANKS!**

**DUES REMINDERS OUT ✓**

**MAKE CALLS, BUDDY CHECKS ✓**

**MEMBERSHIP MATERIALS ✓**

**★ RECRUIT/REJOIN 1,2,3,4,5...20+ MEMBERS ★  
 QUALIFY FOR CHALLENGES, DEPT & NATIONAL AWARDS!  
 LET'S GO PA, GET YOUR REAR IN GEAR!!!!**



**100% + Distinguished Monthly Leadership  
 EFFECTIVE 23.AUG.2025**

**District Auxiliary**

**19 \*\* 8755**

**22 \*\* 3**

**RANKING TO HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS!!!!!!**

**ALL STATE DRILLS!**

**CHRISTMAS CANTEEN DONATIONS  
 MUST BE RECEIVED AT DEPARTMENT  
 NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
 DON'T DELAY, SEND IN TODAY!**

**SERVING  
 THOSE WHO  
 SERVED**



**JOIN OUR RANKS**

**PROGRAM  
SPOTLIGHT  
September  
2025**

# EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY



## VFW Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania

### HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

**Debra Antosh, Chairman**

#### GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW MEMBERS AND KEEP THEM COMING BACK!!

**Welcome Packet:** Provide a packet with information about the Auxiliary's activities, officers, committees and whatever you think would help them along the way.

**Make them feel welcome with a warm welcome message:** Send a personalized message expressing appreciation for their membership.

**Provide them a mentor:** Pair new members with experienced members to answer questions and provide support. Allow new members to introduce themselves and tell everyone a little bit about themselves and why they became a member and encourage others to get to know them.

**Offer Opportunities to Contribute:** Involve new members in projects and campaigns, valuing their skills and talents.

**Give Responsibilities:** Assign tasks and team up new members with experienced members to make them feel valued. Foster a sense of community and fun.

**Highlight Achievements:** Recognize and thank members for their contributions in meetings, newsletters, or on social media.

**Communication is Key:** Keep members informed about events and opportunities through emails, newsletters, or online platforms.

**Invest in their growth.** Be attentive and flexible.

**By implementing these ideas,** you can cultivate a welcoming and supportive environment that encourages new VFW Auxiliary members to stay engaged and enthusiastic about contributing to the organization's mission.

### SCHOLARSHIP

**Karen Mooney, Chairman**

- \*If you have not yet shared these programs, it is not too late
- \*Voice of Democracy (VOD) is due 10.31.25
- \*Patriot Pen (PP) is due 10.31.25
- \*Post judging to be completed and turned over to District Representatives by 11.15.25
- \*Be sure you are sharing the Art programs as well. Students need time to create their projects.

**Places to share these programs, if you cannot get into your local schools:**

Your VFW Post  
Local Libraries  
Local Churches  
Senior Citizen Centers  
Youth Sporting Practices/Events  
Senior Citizen Centers  
Grocery Stores  
Art Stores  
Craft Stores  
Share on Social Media  
Your friends and family

**Students have just about 60 days to complete the VOD and PP entries. Be sure to get these out!!!!**

**Check out the PA VFW Auxiliary website under Programs then Scholarships for an inexpensive, easy way to approach the youth in your community!**

**Additional information for these programs and activities can be found at [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) then programs – check out each program and look for the “Information Station!”**



## LEGISLATIVE

Tim Altman, Chairman

As your Legislative chairman I am asking all Auxiliary members to register for Action Corp Weekly. Don't only sign up for it but when requested to take action you do that. I have received some alarming statistics from our National Legislative chairman Amy Jo Lett; there are 20,365 subscribers in Pa. but only 157 participants that is only 0.77 percent. So come on Auxiliary members, let's get going and participate so that our senators and congressmen will know what bills we support for them to vote on to help our great Veterans. It would be awesome if Pennsylvania could be the top Action Corps Weekly participant.

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

## AMERICANISM

Cherie Dysard, Chairman

**ATTENTION** – There is a new form for ordering 3"x5" American flags from Department Auxiliary Headquarters!

They are reasonably priced.

The form can be found on [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) towards the bottom of the page and on the Americanism program page.

**GOLD STAR MOTHER'S and FAMILY DAY** is always recognized on the last Sunday in September, this year September 28<sup>th</sup>.

This day serves as a reminder of the losses suffered by our military families and is a way for the Auxiliary to pay tribute to their sacrifices and provide needed support for the families.

Organize an event for your community to remember these families!

#AuxiliaryPatriotism

## AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado, Chairman

**What's Considered Auxiliary Outreach?**

When an Auxiliary partners with an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach. The organizations that we volunteer with will need to be voted on, approved and in your monthly minutes. If it was done afterwards, you can have your minutes amended to add your time. Remember - when the Auxiliary volunteers and only one member shows up, it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach and the activity needs reported!

Consider doing something special for the following dates:

October 4, 2025 – Be the Change Day

October 25, 2025 – National Make a Difference Day

## BUDDY POPPY/ NATIONAL HOME

Beverly Kemmerer, Chairman

**ATTENTION** - There is a new form for ordering Buddy Poppies from Department VFW Headquarters since the cost of banks has increased. The form can be found on [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) towards the bottom of the page and on the Buddy Poppy program page.

## HOSPITAL/MEMBERSHIP

**ATTENTION** – PLEASE NOTE that there are 16 facilities on the VAVS Hospitals and Homes forms. Oakland and Heinz have been separated so donations are fairly split between the hospitals. ORIGINAL FORMS will be honored for All State Award Purposes for this year!

Hospital Christmas Canteen Donations **MUST BE RECEIVED** at Department Auxiliary Headquarters by October 31<sup>st</sup> to qualify for all-state and be used for Christmas gifts this year!

# EXTENSION

Karen Hoover, Chief of Staff

## Keep Your Auxiliary Healthy!

A Strong Auxiliary = A Stronger Mission

### Check Your Auxiliary's Vital Signs

- Are members engaged and attending meetings?
  - Is recruitment and mentoring ongoing?
- Are programs being supported and reported?

### Your Prescription for Success

1. Stay Active – Encourage participation at every level.
2. Grow & Mentor – Welcome new members and nurture leaders.
3. Communicate Often – Share updates, successes, and opportunities.

### Use MALTA – Your Member Resource Hub

Explore Extension and Revitalization resources to strengthen your Auxiliary.

**Remember: A healthy Auxiliary is one that connects, grows and serves – and MALTA provides the tools to help make that happen!**

Login today at [malta.vfwauxiliary.org](http://malta.vfwauxiliary.org)

## Veterans & Family Support

Athena Theodorakos-Gjerde, Chairman

### September is Suicide Awareness Month

#### Standing Strong for Our Veterans & Military Families

##### ♥ Every Veteran and Service Member Matters

- Veterans and service members are at higher risk for suicide, and awareness saves lives.
- Open conversations about mental health and well-being reduce stigma and foster healing.

#### What You Can Do

- ✓ **Check In:** Call, text, or visit. A simple “How are you today?” can make a difference.
- ✓ **Listen Without Judgment:** Sometimes being heard is the best medicine.
- ✓ **Share Resources:** Encourage use of professional support and peer networks.

#### Know the Resources

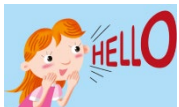
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** Dial **988**, then press **1**
- **Text:** 838255
- **Chat:** [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

#### Together We Can Make a Difference

Promoting **suicide awareness and mental health care** builds stronger, healthier communities and honors the service and sacrifice of those who served.

***This September — and every month — let's stand united for the well-being of our nation's heroes.***

## Dept. of PA VFWA General Orders September - Linda Dilling, Hospital Chairman



I want to give you a run down of what to expect this year. Each month I will be giving you information on the following:

As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are aware of the importance of veterans. We believe **“Every Day is Veterans Day”** and our gratitude stretches **“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans.”** Without their service and sacrifice we would not have the freedoms we so easily take for granted. This program offers a way to bridge loneliness with care and compassion. Our Veterans can be blessed by the most precious gift possible – the sacrifice of your time. Your time is the most valuable contribution you can give.

**Volunteer Recruitment:** Why recruit? Volunteers fill the gaps between what is needed and what is wanted.



Because hospitals and homes cover only the basic needs. Check out the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide on the [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under Program – Hospital – Volunteer for information and tips on how to recruit.



**Volunteer Recognition and Support:** Support your volunteers by thanking them for their service and recognize their contributions! A simple thank you goes a long way but you can also print a Certificate of Appreciation from the [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under Program – Hospital – Volunteer Awards.

**Valentines for Veterans:** Share the Love! The week of February 14<sup>th</sup> (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 hospitals, clinics, adult day-care centers, hospice, community living centers, etc. Use this week to renew the spirit of hospital volunteerism. Pay tribute and express appreciation in a variety of ways, from ward visits, Valentines 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 facility.

**Women Veterans Health Care:** Women are the fastest growing group within the Veteran population. Learn



about the resources and health care services that are now being tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Help our women veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve. Visit <http://www.womenhealth.va.gov> and learn more about what is available.

**Honors Escort Program:** A final farewell. It is an opportunity to honor each in a respectful and open manner



and provides an opportunity for a veteran’s family and friends, other veterans, and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high esteem and respect for the individual at the time of death.

**Creative and Unique Interaction:** Creative and unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide



happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA and non-VA facilities) You may qualify for an award for this check it out. [vfwauxpa.org](http://vfwauxpa.org) website under Program – Hospital

With this QR Code



you can go directly to the VFWA Dept. of PA Hospital Program Website.



## CHRISTMAS CANTEEN FUND

The goal of the Christmas Canteen Fund is to see that every patient in all our VA facilities receives a \$1.00 canteen book. For some patients this may be the only gift they will receive. We ask that your Auxiliary be generous with your donations to the Christmas Canteen Fund. Our Deadline for receiving this gift is **October 31, 2025**. This gives us time to process your gift and send out to our VFW Auxiliary Hospital Representatives.

Make checks payable to: Dept. of PA VFW Auxiliary  
4002 Fenton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

Pennsylvania All State Award requires a gift of a minimum of \$10.00 to the Christmas Canteen Fund.



Note the change on the Hospital Donation Sheet. Pittsburgh VA Health System (HJ Heinz/Oakland) are now listed separately as these are 2 separate hospitals. Please keep this in mind when making your donations.

Linda Dilling, Hospital Chairman



## GENERAL ORDERS SEPTEMBER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

MARSHA FUHRMAN

September has several important dates where you can have youth participate with your auxiliary. This is a great month to get the youth involved as school has just started and the fall sports have begun.

**September 11–Patriot’s Day** is also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance Day and it occurs on September 11. This is the day that we as a nation remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks. If you sponsor a September 11 program, be sure to invite youth groups to assist you.

**September 17–Constitution Day and Citizenship Day** is the day that commemorates the September 18, 1787 signing of the Constitution of the United States. The founders were aiming to create a stronger central government while safeguarding individual rights and state powers.

**September 19–POW/MIA Recognition Day** honors and remembers our prisoners of war and those still missing in action for their commitment and sacrifice to secure our nation's freedoms.



**September 28–Gold Star Mothers'/Family Days** honors our mothers and family members who have lost a service member while in the line of duty. There are three different stars that categorize the soldier.

A blue star represents a family member who is in active service.

A silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone. A gold star represents a family member killed during active duty and stands for their sacrifices made for honor and our freedom.

These are great days to involve youth in your activities. Print out the **RAP** cards and hand them out to the youth that are helping you. **A little recognition goes a long way.**

We want to make people aware that **“Every Day is Veterans Day”** and **“From Sea to Shining Sea While Supporting Veterans”** is what we do.