

General Orders No.7 January 2022-23

**Greetings,**

Happy New Year 2023! Let our New Year’s resolution be this: “We will be there for one another and we will treat each with kindness.”

I want to share a special thank you to those members who have been working to increase our paid membership percentage. We are over 89%. I’m very **PA PROUD** and I hope you are too. The National 2d Quarter membership award is $150 to each Department that retains 75% of its Annual members and achieves Department goal by January 31. Let’s show them what **PA CAN DO** and win that award.

In the mail you will soon be receiving the PA Auxiliary Sweepstakes tickets. Please purchase the tickets as this is our only fundraising event. The winners will be drawn during the President’s Retreat in April 2023.

I hope to see many of you at our **Mid-Winter Conference** which will be held January 20-21, 2023 at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle. The VOD Banquet will be on Saturday and the Auxiliary has some fun workshops scheduled for Friday and Saturday. And don’t forget our **COA** Meeting Saturday afternoon

**Special Project Update**: Our special project, benches for the Medal of Honor Grove in Valley Forge, has gotten off to a wonderful start. Continue to send your donations to Department Headquarters, and please mark the memo section of your check President’s Special Project.

**Auxiliary Facebook Pages**: I’ve noticed several Auxiliaries have Facebook pages and I commend you for communicating in this manner. Here are a few general best practices for posting on Facebook. **Think** before you post and use common sense. **Think** before posting something that may damage the organization’s image. Encourage social sharing of the information. Talk about our organization, our events, programs projects. Share examples of activities – keep the content fresh and update it often. If you want your post to stand out, use visuals such as photos and videos. And last but certainly not least, celebrate – share good news, celebrate happy occasions, and share victories.

A very special thank you to the Districts I have visited to date. Your hospitality and camaraderie have been greatly appreciated.

Patriotic Trivia: How well do you know your **red, white, and blue**?

The term half mast means to lower the US flag some distance down from the top of the staff as a sign of mourning. True or False?

Email me at [valeriedecorte50@gmail.com](mailto:valeriedecorte50@gmail.com) with your answer. Please include your name and which Auxiliary you are a member of. The first correct response received will be posted on our Department Facebook page.

Until you hear from me again, be strong, be safe, and be kind.

Veterans & Family Support

Americanism

Auxiliary Outreach

Hospital

James Van Zandt VA Medical Center

Membership

Socks, Hats & Gloves

TIPS

Youth Activities

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 2 Department Headquarters Closed – New Years

January 8 District 9 Meeting @ Parkesburg #4480 – 2:00 P.M. \*

January 8 District 17 Meeting @ New Bloomfield #7463 – 2:00 P.M.

January 8 District 18 Meeting @ New Cumberland #7415 – 2:00 P.M.

January 15 District 11 Meeting @ Exeter #6518 – 2:30 P.M. \*

January 15 District 13 Meeting @ Mohnton #9045 – 1:00 P.M.

January 15 District 22 Meeting @ Bellefonte #1600 – 2:30 P.M.

January 15 District 25 Meeting @ Saxonberg #7376 – 2:00 P.M.

January 16 Department Headquarters Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr

January 19-21 – Mid Winter Conference, Wyndham Gettysburg

January 22 District 27 Meeting @ Mount Pleasant #3368 –

January 28 District 15 Training: Contact District President Michelle Fowler

For details

**Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger**

Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger

Department President Department Secretary/Treasurer

A picture containing person, military, uniform, military uniform

Description automatically generated

**Veterans & Family Support**

**General Orders #7**

As we welcome in 2023 let us all strive to make this an **AMAZING** year for the Dept. of PA VFW Auxiliary.

Going forward the challenge is to work on completing our Year End Reports. For example on Question #1, check out the resources on the VFW Auxiliary website. Question #2 promoting Disaster Relief, MAP, NVS, Unmet needs and Suicide Awareness, each of these is as important as our mission “**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”** while we **“Respect…Honor…Care”**.

Question #3, #4 and #5 should go hand in hand, providing direct aid to our veterans & their families, example cards, donations.

Question #6 is our special PA program this year, did you honor, help, or be of service to your care givers this year and if so provide an example.

So as new enter this New Year let us work harder on our year end reports to make PA Department of VFW Auxiliary number one in the nation. With this said let us welcome in this 2023 with emphasis on the reasons we do what we do, our **Veterans & Families.**

Happy New Year & thank you for all you do.

Paula Havasi

Chairman Veterans & Family Support Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary

**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

**JANUARY 2023**

**GENERAL ORDERS #7**

#auxiliarypatriotism

#auxiliarypatriotismpa

Happy New Year Department of Pennsylvania!!!!!

I hope your holidays were joyous and you made many memories with

***“Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”***

**“*Respect…. Honor…. Remember” our Veterans*!!**

I surely hope you did something very special for your local Veterans this past holiday season!

Just seeing the gratitude in their eyes and smiles lets me know, we are making a difference!

**I received SO MANY notifications and WOWSERS!!!!????**

Pennsylvania was BUSY-BUSY!!!! I LOVE it!!!

**Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!!!**

Now is the perfect time to start planning a **Family Freedom Festival** for your community!

All the materials can be found online from the Resource Page…..LOTS of IDEAS!

February and March are cold and boring, great time to have an indoor festival for the kiddos!

Be creative, Have Fun and ***PROMOTE AMERICANISM***…..ADVERTISE!!!

Patriotism is ALIVE and WELL, we just need to SHARE!

**Congratulations to all the Teacher of the Year Nominations, can’t wait to hear who will be chosen!**

Teachers are so valuable, recognition WELL DESERVED!

Have a citizen or business in your community that promotes Patriotism?

Text

Description automatically generated**Present a new US Flag and or/POW MIA Flag….along with a Citation of recognition!**

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

**JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR’S DAY**

**JANUARY 16 – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY**

**JANUARY 20 – 22 MID WINTER/VOD BANQUET WEEKEND**

**JANUART 22=27 NATIONAL VFWA MID YEAR CONFERENCE-CRUISE**

**FEBRUARY 20 - WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY (PRESIDENT’S DAY)**

**MARCH 23 – 25 WOMEN VETERANS RETREAT**

**MARCH 29 - NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY**

***Thank you for all you are doing for the Department of Pennsylvania!***

A red white and blue flag

Description automatically generatedLoyally yours,

Amy Peterson [**THEPETERSONS@ATLANTICBB.NET**](mailto:THEPETERSONS@ATLANTICBB.NET)

PA Department Chair 2022-2023 814-331-1142

A picture containing text, indoor, different

Description automatically generated

**(Formerly called Auxiliary Community Outreach)**

**General Orders #7**

**January 2023**

Volunteering is necessary aspect of meeting many of the needs facing our communities, and with guidance, there is NO limit to what we can achieve by working together. Partnering with other organizations within your community will bring out the best in everyone, utilizing strengths, talents, time and energy to make a difference in the lives of others.

Auxiliary members serve other organizations beyond the Auxiliary and VFW and that volunteer work needs to be counted. Reporting volunteer hours effectively shows the importance of the VFW Auxiliary to the community.

**Reporting is easy** using PA Auxiliary Outreach Monthly Report Form located on PA VFW Auxiliary website at <https://vfwauxpa.org/uploads/Documents/Programs/AuxiliaryOutreachMonthlyReporting_Fillable.pdf>

**Report name of organization, number of hours, and number of volunteers** on Monthly Reporting Form

**Report each month** April 1 2022 to March 31, 2023

Auxiliary Members are the “Hands That Serve, Hearts that Care” while we “Respect…Honor…Remember Our Veterans”

Loyally,

Kimberly Grundon

Department Chairman

kgrundon@comcast.net/717-275-7094

**HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM**

GENERAL ORDERS # 7 – January 2023

**Welcome 2023!!!!** Did you know that One (1) year consists of 12 months, 365 days, 24 hours in a day and 8,766 hours, 625,960 minutes and 31,557,600 seconds in a year? Think about what we could do in that time!

Let us learn from the year that just passed. If you had a good day, learned something new or a hard lesson did you pass that joy and knowledge unto others. If you were frustrated, hurting, feeling defeated, tired, losing hope, did you reach out to others to help you get through that moment. Each day we are given is a gift, let us use it to the fullest extent of what we are capable of doing. To all those who are continuing the work of this great organization I salute you and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**HOSPITAL/VA FOCUS:** This month we are focusing on Southwestern Veterans Center (SWVC) where Kelley Lepak is the Representative and Ceil Cook is Deputy. Established in 1997, there are 236 beds, 333 dedicated clinical and profession staff, plus over 600 volunteers. Situated less than 10 miles from downtown Pittsburgh in Allegheny County, the Southwestern Veterans’ Center (SWVC) is far enough from the city that residents can enjoy a quiet, tranquil living, but is only a short drive away from all the history, culture and entertainment a large city has to offer. Before ever setting foot into the home visitors are greeted by an island of American flags prominently flying high at the main entrance as if they are waving and welcoming veterans and their families. The patriotic feel continues throughout the inside of the home, highlighted by a hallway lined by military photos and a Purple Heart mural in the activities room that reminds everyone that heroes live here.

Patriotic symbols are not the only way our residents are honored. SWVC provides exceptional care for its residents thanks to a professional staff -- many of whom are veterans -- who proudly come to work each day excited and are honored to take care of true American heroes. Visits to the home by current service members and from representatives of local veteran service organizations are very common and provide a constant reminder that our residents are thought about often throughout the Pittsburgh community.

Residents at SWVC enjoy an active lifestyle with a full schedule of organized programs from ceramics and bingo, to gardening and a walking program. For residents looking for personal time, the home offers a chapel, canteen snack shop, barber and beautician services, and a library. The SWVC provides plenty of comfortable outdoor space on the large, paved, patio shaded by trees, at any number of picnic tables surrounded by the lush green grounds, or under the large pavilion -- perfect for anyone looking to relax and enjoy fresh air.

**HOSPITAL PROGRAM FOCAL POINT**:

**Recruit new volunteers:** Why recruit? Because hospitals and homes cover the basic needs doctors and nurses – brick and mortar – medication. Volunteers fill the gaps between what is needed and what is wanted. Check out the newly revised VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide, at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources, page 5 has great recruiting tips. Even if the hospital/VA/home is not open yet due to continued COVID/FLU issues, you can still be working on recruiting volunteers when you are up and running again. How many volunteers do you have lined up ready to go when you do reopen??? Remember to make that part of your monthly report.

Everything we do for our Veterans is largely due to the generosity of our members. Please remember that the Hospitals/VA/Homes rely on our donations – please review the Hospital listing and donate as soon as possible.

Thought for the month**:**  "**In a gentle way, you can shake the world**."— **Mahatma**[**Gandhi**](https://parade.com/1247073/marynliles/gandhi-quotes/)”.

Loyally,

**Bonnie S. Drake Diane Haller**

Bonnie S. Drake Diane Haller

Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman Co-Chairman

**JAMES VAN ZANDT VAMC**

Altoona, PA

GENERAL ORDERS # 7

January 2023

Peggy and I would like to thank Department President Valerie DeCorte for our appointments. I want to thank all of our Auxiliaries for your donations. Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care, we will Respect... Honor… Remember... our Veterans.

This year has been a challenging year for our hospitalized veterans; for family, friends and our many volunteers. The rules seem to change day to day with regards to our being allowed to visit or conduct activities. But with your continued support and generosity we are able to send craft activities, cards, and comfort items and sponsor luncheons. When the staff at James Van Zandt request help, we are there helping in every way we can.

We thank you for your continued support and donations to James Van Zandt and in helping our hospitalized veterans!

Please send your donations to:

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of PA

4002 Fenton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17109

Make checks payable to Dept. of PA VFW Auxiliary - Earmark – James Van Zandt

Loyally,

Linda Dilling, Representative

Peggy Freyer, Deputy

**Graphical user interface, application

Description automatically generated MEMBERSHIP**

**GENERAL ORDERS #7**

**January 2023**

**Making Connections to reach for our**

**105% Membership Growth Goal!**

**EVERY MEMBER MATTERS!**

**I hope you found joy and blessings in the Holiday Season. As we bring in the New Year, try making those Membership Reconnections.** Reach out to those disengaged members, the ones you haven’t seen for a while, those who are not actively involved or those who have dropped their membership. Don’t make your first contact about coming to a meeting. Find out how they’ve been doing and show an interest in their life outside of the Auxiliary. What’s been going on in their lives? Make the first contact about them and show them they matter: They matter to you and they matter to the Auxiliary. Connect with them about their “why.” Why they joined the Auxiliary and Who was their reason? What was their goal for their membership? Focus on the Positive and show your appreciation. Share *your* Why, Who and What with them. Tell them about *your* Auxiliary Connection. Don’t just let them know, make them feel that Every Member Matters. Tell them that They Matter. Just as you would for a new member, utilize their strengths (find out their interests/hobbies/work—youth teams/clubs; volunteer EMT, baking, etc.) and Follow-Up. **Make the Re-Connection**!

**Those Welcome Packets are coming in.** Be sure to send me your New Member Welcome Packets for entry into the *Connections Challenge Award #2: New Member Welcome Packet.* Deadline to send them to me is 1/7/2023 or bring your entry to the Mid-Winter Conference in Gettysburg, PA. I’ll report on the winning entries in our next General Orders.

**Have you been using the PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM/CHECKLIST FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS 2022-2023?** The list is made, make sure you are checking it twice. There are a few new criteria that have been added this year. Don’t miss out on this award.

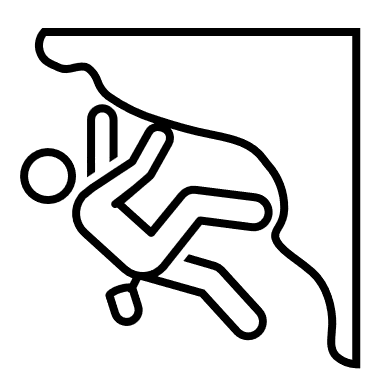
**Make the Connections because Every Member Matters!**

Through ***Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care,*** we will ***Respect... Honor… Remember...*** our Veterans.

Andrea Meintel

Department Membership Chairman

[andreavfwaux@gmail.com](mailto:andreavfwaux@gmail.com)

PA’s Membership Growth Goal: 105%

***PA***

***93.1%***

***CONGRATULATIONS*** to the following Auxiliaries who are ALL MEMBERS of the **100% Membership Mission Club**:

District 1: Auxiliaries: 3090, **6700**, 7650

District 7: Auxiliary: **4845**

District 8: Auxiliaries: **2124**, 6393, **6495**

District 9: Auxiliaries: 106, **2435**, 5956, **6759**, **7294**, **8757**

District 10: Auxiliaries: 25, 531, **3474**, **5207**, **6082**, 6520, **7069**, **7251**, **7963**

District 11: Auxiliaries: 1425, **4909**, 8317

District 14: Auxiliaries: **384**, 5642, **6824**, **8306**

District 16: Auxiliary: **5954**

District 17: Auxiliary: **1964**

District 18: Auxiliaries: **6076**, 7530, **8023**

District 19: Auxiliaries: 1132, **7252**, 8755

District 20: Auxiliaries: 509, **7215**, **8225**

District 21: Auxiliaries: **1599**, **2493**, **6319**, **7046**, 8896

District 22: Auxiliaries: 3, **43**, **842**, **7043**

District 24: Auxiliaries: 764   
District 25: Auxiliaries: 499, 1821, **7376**, 8106

District 26: Auxiliaries: 1586, **2076**, **4843**, **4963**, **6555**, 7605

District 27: Auxiliaries: **781**, 3368, 3414

District 28: Auxiliaries: **169**, 470, **3374**, **4789**, **5424**, 6166, **6233**   
District 29: Auxiliaries: **1810**,7090, **9199**

**DISTRICT 10 (1st Place)**

Newest members are in **BOLD**

**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**VFW & VFW Auxiliary**

**SOCK, HAT AND GLOVE DONATION DRIVE**

*for Homeless Veterans*

**Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters,**

During this **Respect…Honor…Remember** year we are partnering with the VFW in collecting white socks, gloves and winter hats for Homeless Veterans. Please bring items to our Mid-Winter Conference, January 19 – 23, 2023 at the Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA.

These items are stored at Department Headquarters until distribution to Homeless Veterans at Stand-downs, special events, etc. Your Post and Auxiliary may get a supply of these items at any time by contacting VFW Headquarters to schedule a pick-up.



[This Photo](http://narmo.milne-library.org/Socks-277863/Bonus-Pack-Sports-&-Fitness-Gold-Toe-Mens/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

Kind regards,

**Valerie DeCorte**

**Valerie DeCorte, President**

Department of PA – VFW Auxiliary

**TIPS**

General Orders #7

January 2023

**Chief of Staff (Mentoring for Leadership/Revitalization)**

We are halfway through this Auxiliary year. To date I have only received Healthy Checkups from Auxiliaries in 9 Districts. Maybe you are planning on delivering them to me at Mid Winter. I look forward to receiving them.

Some suggestions on increasing attendance at Auxiliary meetings: phone calls, emails, offer incentives (prize drawing) or serve food (potluck dinner before the meeting).

Have you navigated the Auxiliary website? Great ideas are there for training. Be a Leader/Mentor and help your Auxiliary to move forward!

*Bobbie Lawrence*

[Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com](mailto:Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com)

**Historian/Media Relations**

***How to Work with the Media More Effectively:***

Working with the media is not always easy. The following tips will help you to make your encounters with reporters positive and productive!

1. **Cultivate Relationships**

Allow time in your schedule to work with the news media.

Respond to phone messages as soon as you can. Many reporters,

especially those with daily deadlines, need sources quickly. Tomorrow

Is almost always too late.

1. **When a reporter calls**

Ask a few questions before the interview begins. What is the reporter’s

name and affiliation? What is the story about? Who is the audience?

If you are not the best source, direct the reporter to that individual.

1. **Preparation**

Prepare three key messages in simple language, not jargon. Condense

Each key message into two or three sentences.

For in-person interviews, gather visuals. Meet the reporter at the site

And be ready to hit the ground running!

1. **During the interview**

State your key messages early and often. You never know when the interview

Will end. Be honest. If you don’t know an answer, say so.

Answer the reporter’s questions and add the specific points you want to make.

For radio and TV interviews, be precise and to the point. The sound bites reporters

Use are only a few seconds long.

**Youth Activities Program**

**January 2023**

**General Orders #7**

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

I hope everyone had an awesome Holiday Season!!

I first want to thank every participating Auxiliary in the **“I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag”** contest. I received 147 entries. I will be submitting the entries to ABC Channel 27 the first week of January, 2023 to be aired at 11:55 am Monday through Friday. This contest is not listed on your Year End Report, however, please report under #11.

Please continue to work on **“Get Exited for the RED, WHITE & BLUE!” &**

**‘Illustrating America”** contests. Deadline is March 31, 2023.

**REMEMBER: Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations**

The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way for Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources under Youth Activities. These Citations mean so much to our Youth.

**Have you forgotten about our “Patriotism through Literacy” goal?** Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun and potentially free (use your local library) initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation’s history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. Let’s make sure we donate books to our Youth Groups, Schools, Libraries etc.

Have you organized an event for youth to clean and beautify the gravesites of veterans at a national, private, or municipal cemetery?

How many R.A.P. cards have you presented to our Youth?

I look forward to continuing to work with you in 2023 on this our Youth Activities program. As we “***Respect….Honor…Remember”***our Veterans, we must always continue to have ***“Hands the Serve, Hearts that Care”***.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Nancy D. Kreiner

Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary

Youth Activities Chairman 2022-2023

(717)460-1635

[mrsplk2@aol.com](mailto:mrsplk2@aol.com)