



General Orders No.7

January 2025

Sisters and Brothers:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday season, filled with warmth, family, and cherished memories. As we turn the page to a new year, I want to express my gratitude for your dedication and hard work over the past months. Together, we've accomplished so much, and I'm excited to see what we can achieve in the second half of the 2024-2025 year.

January is the perfect time to bring in the New Year strong, with fresh energy and a renewed commitment to our mission. This year let's focus on building strong teams that will help us better support our veterans, their families, and our communities. When we work Together-combining our talents, ideas, and passion-we become an unstoppable force.

Here are a few priorities to keep in mind as we begin this journey Together:

1. **Strengthening Our Membership:** Let's work on recruiting new members and re-engaging current ones. A growing, thriving Auxiliary means we can make an even greater impact.
2. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** By fostering a culture of cooperation, we can tackle challenges more effectively and maximize the support we provide to our Veterans.
3. **Supporting Each Other:** Remember, we are a family. Lean on one another, celebrate each other's successes, and lend a helping hand when needed.
4. **Honoring Our Legacy:** While focusing on the future, let's never forget the values and mission that brought us here—service, commitment, and unwavering support for our Veterans.

As we move forward, I encourage you to share your ideas, lend your voice, and actively participate in our events and initiatives. Together, we will continue to honor our commitment to those who have served and their loved ones.

I look forward to seeing you in Gettysburg, PA, at our **Mid-Winter Conference, January 24-25, 2025**. Friday evening and Saturday morning will be filled with workshops and training and don't miss the VOD Banquet on Saturday evening, where the VOD State Winner will be announced.

Thank you for all that you do to make our Auxiliary strong. Wishing you a January filled with hope, purpose, and the promise of a wonderful year ahead. Let's make our next century of service as impactful and inspiring as the first.

Important Dates:

- January 19 - District 1 Meeting @ Parkway Memorial #7650 - 2:30 P.M.
* January 5 - District 18 Meeting @ Myerstown #6076 – 2:00 P.M.
January 8 - District 7 Meeting @ Darby #974 – 7:00 P.M.
January 9 - District 9 Meeting @ Lititz #1463 – 2:00 P.M.
* January 12 - District 27 Meeting @ Mt. Pleasant #3368 – 2:00 P.M.
* January 19 - District 11 Meeting @ Exeter #6518 – 2:30 P.M.
January 19 - District 22 Meeting @ Coalport #7043 – 2:00 P.M.
January 26 - District 10 Meeting @ Thomas Snook #6520 – 1:00 P.M. January
24-26 – Mid Winter Conference, Eisenhower Hotel & Convention Center

*Official Visit

Stay Connected:

- Visit our website: www.vfwauxpa.org
- Follow us on Facebook: VFW Auxiliary – Department of Pennsylvania
- Follow us on Instagram: pa_vfw_auxiliary



Loyally,

Andrea

Andrea Meintel
Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

CHINESE AUCTION
Ways & Means
And
VFW National Home
PA VFW Auxiliary
Mid-Winter Conference
January 24-26, 2025

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

Items needed by Friday, January 24
at the Eisenhower Hotel & Convention Center, 2634
Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA



GENERAL ORDERS – JANUARY 2025
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ~AMY PETERSON



“STRIKE UP THE BAND!”

#PAproud #VFWAuxiliary #vfwauxmembership #vfwauxmembershipPA
#TogetherHelpingVeterans #StrikeUpTheBand



10..9..8..7..6..5..4..3..2..1!!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR PENNSYLVANIA!!!



NEW CHART BUSTERS!!!

CRANKIN' UP  TO 100 +!!!

****As of December 14, 2024**

- Auxiliary 7650, District 1
- Auxiliary 6493, District 8
- Auxiliary 9264, District 8
- Auxiliary 7251, District 10
- Auxiliary 6558, District 13
- Auxiliary 9045, District 13
- Auxiliary 8488, District 14
- Auxiliary 9788, District 15
- Auxiliary 7343, District 18
- Auxiliary 2493, District 21
- Auxiliary 7046, District 21
- Auxiliary 8896, District 21
- Auxiliary 5644, District 22
- Auxiliary 6553, District 24
- Auxiliary 249, District 25
- Auxiliary 7605, District 26
- Auxiliary 470, District 28
- Auxiliary 5424, District 28
- Auxiliary 7632, District 29
- Auxiliary 7842, District 29
- Auxiliary 4440, District 30
- Auxiliary 7011, District 30

CONGRATULATIONS!



NEW YEAR!!!

Get a 'LIFE' GOALS!!

SOOOO.... HOLIDAY BLUES got you?

“Let’s get THIS PARTY started” up in here!!

My “BOOGIE SHOES” are ON..... YOU???

HOST AN APPRECIATION NIGHT

“ASK” MEMBERS TO BRING A GUEST!

Provide Info, Incentives & Applications

Get Excited!

Go get ‘em PA!!!

ATTN: Auxiliary Presidents!!!!

“REFRAIN” Retention Award Reminder!
Do you have a member that has gone above and beyond retaining current members? I WANT TO KNOW!!!

Email your nominations to me no later than March 31, 2025

Please include:
Auxiliary Member Name, Member #, Aux #, Dist #
& brief explanation as to why this member is the
“Leader of the Pack!”

“ALL-STATE” HOT-TOPICS!

DISTRICT VISIT COMPLETED?

HEALTH & HAPPINESS DONATION?

PURCHASED YOUR BUDDY POPPIES?

HOSPITAL DONATIONS SENT? DEPT HOSPITAL FUND?

Auxiliaries and Members in Action



Tracy Tunstall, Auxiliary President at Cyrus R. Peters Memorial Post 5956 in Manheim, was presented a special recognition award by her Post Commander, Craig Fisher, for always working Together for success.



Tina Hinkle, District 21 Pres., and Angie Kauffman, Senior Vice, with the help of Dist. 21 Commander Roger Miller play games with Veterans at the South Mountain Restoration Center.



Nancy Petshot, Auxiliary President Harmony-Evans City VFW Post 499, delivered Christmas gifts for the Butler VA Adopt-a-Veteran holiday program.



Auxiliary 499 West View in Pittsburgh made 19 Hugs and will be taking them to the H J Heinz Campus of Pittsburgh VA Healthcare.



Joey Diehl, District 18 President, participates in a Pearl harbor Remembrance Ceremony at VFW Post 7415 in New Cumberland.



Members of Auxiliary 15 in Gettysburg made Hugs for Hospitalized Veterans.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JANUARY 2025

“Together Helping Veterans”

“From Our Roots to our Branches extending Service to our Veterans”

2024-2025

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Stacey Miller

January is a time for new beginnings and setting goals. Just because the calendar year is over, we still have many months ahead to make an impact for our Veterans and their families.

Take Action:

- Review the Veteran and Military Family Support Program and the key elements of support you and your Auxiliary can act to make an impact.
- Identify partners in the community who have Veteran focused goals – how can you collaborate and make a larger impact across the community?
- Reach out to Veterans and family members to see if you can assist in rides, house chores, and with winter weather approaching, shovel their snow and help take down holiday decorations.
- Wreaths Across America is a great program to honor our fallen Veterans. January is another opportunity to assist with clean-up and removing the wreaths at our National Cemeteries.
- Take the time to get a committee together and set a plan forward for the new year.

We can make a larger impact if we come “Together Helping Veterans!” Share your stories and ways that you are showing your support
[#VFWAuxiliaryVetFamSupportPA](#).

AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Tim Altman

Are you a Patriotic Instructor? As we ring in the New Year, let’s focus on the Patriotic Instructor’s Role: As a Patriotic Instructor you have an important and crucial role in the Auxiliary. There are a few key things to remember as a patriotic instructor.

- Practice and learn our VFW Auxiliary rituals and traditions.
- See that the room is in keeping with the Ritual.
- Teach members about giving the proper salute to the American Flag.
- Educate members on the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Understand the Federal Flag Code

AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Jency Mercado

Winter Wonderland here we come!!!

This is an exciting time with the holiday season and winter weather! Grab some extra blankets and shovels and go outside to help if you are able too!! This is a great time to show Community Outreach!

A great organization that affects many of our families is the Area Agency on Aging. They hold blessings for the less fortunate who need a little extra help. They may need companionship, a ride, snow shoveling, help with heating, or just good TLC from a great volunteer!

I urge you to still look at your local churches that do food blessing boxes, meals and secret Santa's! You never know when your skills will be needed!

The holidays are always a great joy to some but a burden to others, but with spreading Outreach you can assist others that desperately need the help!

I pray that everyone has a healthy, happy Holiday and that your love for helping reaches in 2025! Together we can be the difference! Please keep sending me your pictures! I have some great ones!! I can't wait to share them!

“BUDDY” POPPY & NATIONAL HOME
Cindy Utter Peters

Make sure that your Auxiliary has sent a Birthday Card to National Home to CELEBRATE their 100th Anniversary! We need the cards to be received by the National Home in early January! The Address is: VFW National Home; 3573 S Waverly Rd; Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 .

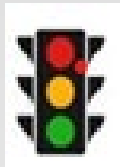
The response to our VFW Dept. of PA Auxiliary President Andrea Meintel's challenge has been exceptional! My most sincere thanks to you all! Please remember that these funds are to be noted as "President's Special Project" and should not be confused with your Health and Happiness funds.

Please don't forget to share with me the things you, and your auxiliary, are doing or have done to raise funds for the President's

Special Project! I am truly interested in what you're doing or planning!

Here are a couple of things going on in my area (District 19). My Post 1132 in Kane is going to hold a Bingo after the holidays to raise funds for Andrea's Special Project (this will also be split 50/50 with the VFW Dept. of PA Commander Barbara Loncar's Special Project Challenge!). Also, District 19 (Post and Auxiliary) is holding a drawing for an American Flag designed Cornhole set. The Set is regulation size and includes 2 boards and 2 sets of bags. For more information, contact Amy Peterson District 19 President (also 2024/2025 Dept of PA VFW Aux. Membership Chairman) or contact me.

I sincerely want to thank you all for your UNWAVERING SUPPORT for your veterans, your communities, and your VFW Posts. You do so much more than I will ever know. TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS! You are amazing and I really appreciate you all!



EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING

KATHY ALTOFF

As we begin a New Year we are closing in on the end of our Reporting year for our Auxiliary programs, So, now is the time to review the Awards and Citations that you can qualify for at the Department and National level, (page 40 of your Program book). Be aware of the deadlines that happen before March 31st, especially for instituting a New Auxiliary.

As we continue into the new year, here are some words from our National Ambassador Betty Arnold: “We must ensure that the legacy of the VFW Auxiliary continues through strong and healthy Auxiliaries comprising members who are prepared to take on leadership roles to continue to move the VFW Auxiliary forward”

Remember “Be the reason someone feels welcomed, loved, heard, seen, supported and accepted today.”

I'd like to wish each one of you a very Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year!

From Our Roots to Our Branches
Extending Service to Our Veterans, Let's
Strike Up The Band marching on to
achieve our goals Together Helping
Veterans.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JANUARY 2025, PAGE 3

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

KRISTIN DIGIACOMO



Has your Auxiliary been using social media to promote what you're doing in and around your communities?

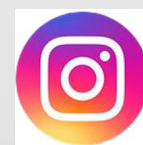


Remember, one of the Department Awards this year for Historian & Media Relations is a citation to the Auxiliary with the best use of a social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, Post and/or Auxiliary website, etc.).



Remember that documentation is required (screen shots of posts, website links, descriptions, etc.) and all materials are to be received by the Department Historian (via email) no later than the Joint Testimonial weekend in April.

* If the attachments are too big, you can hand deliver them to me at the Joint Testimonial weekend. And please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions on what you should or should not include in your submission!



AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JANUARY 2025, PAGE 4



LEGISLATIVE

KAREN MOONEY

Happy New Year!!!! Hope the holiday season treated everyone well. Now that we are a few months post election day, the commercials, emails, text messages and calls have all gone silent..... As we start 2025 ask yourself, do you know who your House and Senate Representatives are? If not, you should find out. These are the individuals that we elected, collectively and now we need to put them to task. We need to have our voices heard so they are aware of what is near and dear to our hearts as we fight for our Veterans. As I write this article, reading the Action Corps newsletter, there is a bill that was received in the House on December 3, 2024 and held at the desk on this same date. This bill is to amend title 38, United States code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled Veterans' outreach program. The title for this bill is S.3746 Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Service Act. If this is of interest to you, dig deeper and share this with your congress representatives to encourage movement on this bill.

Taking the time to look into what is going on and what is developing is important. If you are not sure where to gain some of this information, this would be another great reason to introduce yourself to your local representative and find out what is on the schedule. What bills are they working on that we can help to share news about? Build a working relationship to help be a part of this legislative process.

Be sure that you are sharing with your members at your VFW about Action Corps Newsletter. Encourage your members to sign up for this newsletter so they can see what is happening in DC. It is a free subscription and provides a great deal of information of what is going on in Washington DC.

The VFW is very active in DC and this is a great way to stay in touch with what the VFW is working on for our veterans.

Remember that **Together Helping Veterans** and **From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans**, No one does more for Veterans than the VFW Auxiliary!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Let's be sure we are heard.



SCHOLARSHIPS—PAM SOPHER

Greetings to my Auxiliary brothers and sisters. Hoping your holidays were festive and you were able to spend time with your families and friends. We have had our little break, and now it is time to jump back into our Scholarships program and meet our winners. With our Mid-Winter Conference coming up very soon, we will meet our District First place winners of Voice of Democracy, as they gather as a group of young people who will forever be friends. It will be a rewarding, life changing weekend for all of them. I am looking forward to having the opportunity to spend time with all of them. When I was VFW Auxiliary President 2021-2022, I was able to do this and I am so looking forward to this in 2024-2025. Congratulations to all who participated, and to those who made it to first place in our Districts. You all are our future America and we are very proud of each of you.

We don't stop here, we now focus on our other Scholarship opportunities. Young American Patriotic Art Contest (which needs to be mailed to me), and our Continuing Education Scholarship – deadline of February 15, (must be mailed to, VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, Attn: Continuing Education Scholarship). Review all details including, the forms by scanning our QR Code or by visiting our Department website, your Department Program Book or our National website. Please adhere to the rules, regulations and especially the deadlines. March 31, deadline to local Auxiliary, April 15 deadline for one winner from each Auxiliary to me. When sending me your artwork, PLEASE make sure it is wrapped and is marked fragile so it gets to me in one piece with no damages. If it is damaged in shipping it will be disqualified. I do understand that once it leaves your hands, it has to get to me the way you sent it. Our students have worked hard on these, and I would hate to see any damaged. Thank you for promoting our programs and the time you have spent.

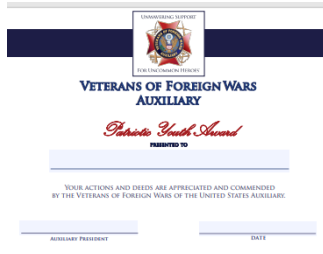
See you soon, take care.

Pam Sopher,

VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman

From **“Our Roots To Our Branches, Extending Service To Our Veterans,”** we will forever be **“Together Helping Veterans.”**

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS
JANUARY 2025, PAGE 6



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
JEANNA LEYDIC

I hope everyone had an awesome and safe Holiday Season!!

Please continue to work on ‘Illustrating America’ contests. Deadline is March 31, 2025.

REMEMBER: Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations

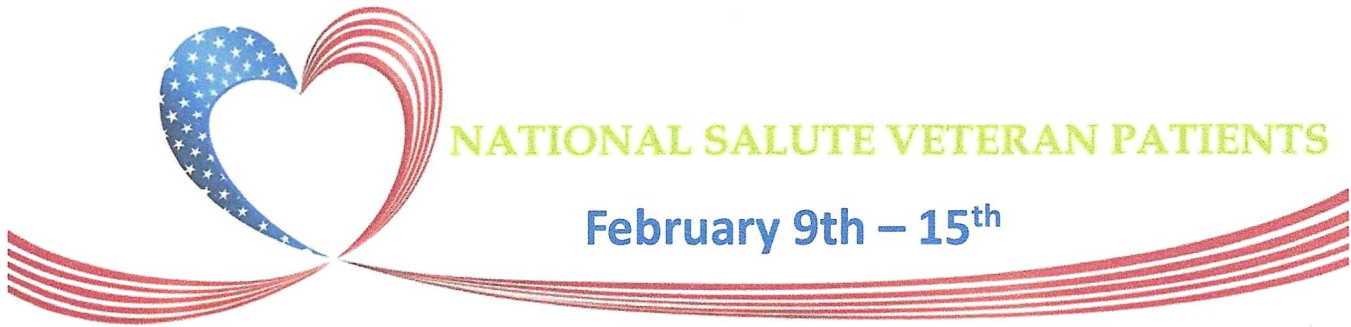
The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way for Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources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

Let’s start 2025 strong!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!



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 more 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?



Did you know!

Ways to participate in this annual event include:



1. **Valentines for Veterans:** Organize and /or participate in a community valentine card drive.
2. Host a Valentine’s Day party, ice cream social or bingo at a VA or non-VA medical facility.
3. Create signs/banners to hang in medical facility hallways.
4. Organize a student essay, art, or coloring contest for children of all ages to share what veterans mean to them.
5. Become a volunteer – apart from honoring veterans, one of the most important reasons for this holiday is to encourage people to volunteer. Contact your nearest VA medical center and volunteer both your time and resources.
6. Visit a VA medical center – one visit and a cheerful conversation might go a long way to brightening a patient’s day.



“Together Helping Veterans”



“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”

HOSPITAL – General Orders – January

Linda Dilling

JAMES VAN ZANDT VAMC

Altoona, PA

GENERAL ORDERS # 7

January 2025

Peggy and I would like to thank Department President Andrea Meintel for our appointments. I want to thank all our Auxiliaries for your donations.

This year we are getting back to the new normal. We are now allowed in the hospital for our activities. With your continued support and generosity, we can send craft activities, cards, and comfort items and sponsor luncheons and play bingo. 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!

Loyally,

Linda Dilling, Representative

Peggy Freyer, Deputy



“Together Helping Veterans”



“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”

Operation Bottom Cover



Donate New Packages of Diapers & Baby Wipes

Our Active Military and Veteran Families Need Your Help!

National President Brenda Bryant has discovered there is a need for diapers for the babies and toddlers of our Military and our Veterans. So, we have partnered with Operation Showers of Appreciation. They distribute diapers all over the world to active-duty military and veteran families. *(Did you know that in Japan it costs twice as much for active-duty service members to purchase diapers than it does in the states?)*

How Can Your Auxiliary Help and Show How Much PA Cares?

1. **Bring checks or gift cards to the Mid-Winter Conference** being held in Gettysburg at the Aspire Hotel 1/24-1/26/2025. All money collected will be used to purchase diapers/wipes. (Make checks payable to Department of PA, VFW Auxiliary earmarked Operation Bottom Cover.)
2. **Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts – National President’s Special Project.**

PA MID-WINTER CONFERENCE PROJECT