



## General Orders No.11

June 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year has been full of meaningful moments, incredible teamwork, and a whole lot of heart. Together, we've raised our voices, supported our veterans and their families, and built a strong foundation for the future.

We emphasized all year long that our voices are stronger and our work is lighter when we work **Together**. From the success of our joint events with the VFW to the overwhelming support for our Joint Special Project-the Outdoor Sports complex at the National Home you've shown just how powerful we can be when we stand united. This special project is more than a donation-it's a lasting gift of hope, healing, and joy for the Veterans and families who need it most.

I'm so thankful for each and every one of you-for your time, your energy, and your dedication to this organization. You've made a real difference.

Let's keep the momentum going. Let's keep showing up for each other, for our mission, and for those we serve.

Thank you for trusting me with this role. It's truly been a year I'll never forget. As we look ahead, I offer my full support to our incoming Department leadership and know they will continue to guide us with purpose and heart. The future of this organization is bright-and it's because of *ALL OF YOU*.

## Important Dates:

June 11-14 - Department Convention – Eisenhower Conference Center, Gettysburg

June 14 – Flag Day and 250 Birthday of the United States Army

June 19 – Juneteenth – Department Headquarters closed

June 27-29 – 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration at the VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI

With warmest regards,

*Andrea*

Andrea Meintel  
Department President

*Jodie*

Jodie Hollinger  
Department Secretary/Treasurer

# GENERAL ORDERS -JUNE 2025

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ~AMY PETERSON



Member Stats as of May 12, 2025

Pennsylvania	42,461	41,718	101.78%	102.85%
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**"TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS" "TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE"**  
**"FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS"**  
**"STRIKE UP THE BAND!"**

It's June baby!!!! Fresh air, fun in the sun!!!!

LOTS to be proud of Pennsylvania!!!

Thank you for jumping on the "soul train" with us this year!

I've had the "time of my life & I OWE it ALL TO YOU!"

**But WAIT!!! It's not over!!! Do NOT slow your roll just yet!!!**

Let's "get down & get busy" this LAST MONTH!!!  
ASK those unpaid members, ASK those Post family members!

Let's make this our "last dance" and GO OUT with A BANG!!!

**LAST MINUTE TIPS to get that 105%!**

**CHALLENGE YOUR MEMBERS TO PAY IT FORWARD**

Offer an incentive to a "Dues Angel"  
(GIFT CARD DRAWING, ANGEL PINS, DISCOUNTED RATE)

Example: I paid my brother's 2025 Dues for \$25.  
I get to only pay \$17 for MY 2026 Dues!

**OFFER DISCOUNTS ON LIFE MEMBERSHIPS!**

Set a timeframe, offer \$\$\$\$\$\$

Example: NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS GO INTO A \$100 DRAWING  
Annual Dues paid within a timeframe, go into a \$25 drawing!

**NEW CHART BUSTERS!!!**

**\*\*As of May 12, 2025**

Auxiliary 2819 District 1  
Auxiliary 3474, District 10  
Auxiliary 2385, District 18  
Auxiliary 6076, District 18  
Auxiliary 8851, District 18  
Auxiliary 1132, District 19  
Auxiliary 1600 District 22  
Auxiliary 8826, District 23  
Auxiliary 8106 District 25  
Auxiliary 7783, District 26

**District 25!**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

~~~102.85%~~~

**THANK YOU PA!!!!**

We need 1343 more PAID to  
TOP the CHARTS with a

**105 %**



## AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

**JUNE 2025**

*“Together Helping Veterans”*

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

**2024-2025**

### VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

**Stacey Miller**

The one thing we all have in common is love for our Veterans. With nearly 700,000 Veterans across PA, we have joined "Together Helping Veterans" this year. I'd like to thank you for your dedication to the heart of your mission. As you continue into the 2025-2026 Program Year, plan activities, events, education, and advocacy that will continue to help Veterans and their families. let's remember that "Every Day is Veterans Day."

### AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

**Tim Altman**

Hello Auxiliary members. We have come to the end of our year together, as your Americanism Chairman I would like to thank all the Auxiliaries and the members for their dedicated work in this program. There were a large number of reports turned in. We have a few important dates to remember this month: June 6th is the Anniversary of World War 2; June 14th is Flag Day; June 23rd is the Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday; and June 27th is National PTSD Awareness Day. These are important days this month that we should continue to recognize. "Together Helping Veterans"



## **AUXILIARY OUTREACH**

**Jency Mercado**

Hello warmer weather Auxiliary Family! I love that Pennsylvania has four seasons, and I am grateful to see the sunshine and the flowers growing! What does this mean for

Auxiliary Outreach? It means that we can get outside and enjoy the weather while

volunteering! This is a great time to adopt a highway, volunteer for a carwash, go in a

benefit bike ride. Don't forget our older Veterans that can't get out, they will still need your help in mowing grass, going to the store, being a good companion.

I want to thank everyone that has sent me pictures. Please keep sending me pictures, I get to see all the good that you are doing in or communities! I am always PA Proud!

## **BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME**

**Cindy Peters**

Wow.... what a great year for the Department of PA VFW Auxiliary! I have always respected the amount of work each and every one of you have done, but I am now actually in absolute awe of you all!!! I am sooo excited about the wonderful things you have done! You are all amazing!

This year has been a whirlwind for me! Nothing could have prepared me for the amount of love and efforts you all put into the Veterans, the VFW, and the VFW Auxiliaries. Your efforts are extraordinary, and the results prove it!

Most of all, I really want to thank you all for the CELEBRATION of National Home 100th year Anniversary! I hope most of you made the bus trip to Michigan to visit the VFW National Home! Thanks also for the money raised for President Andrea Meintel's special project! Your amazing efforts were truly appreciated! Thank you doesn't seem enough, but I truly am grateful to you all!!! **THANK YOU ALL SINCERELY!**

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## **EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING** **Kathy Altoff**



Mentoring in the VFW Auxiliary helps us grow stronger—together. It's about sharing what we've learned, offering support, and helping each other feel confident and connected. When we take time to mentor new members, we help them feel welcome, get involved, and understand the heart of our mission. By passing along our knowledge and experience, we guide future officers and leaders, keeping our traditions alive and our work moving forward. Mentoring isn't just about teaching—it's about inspiring, building bonds, and making sure our organization stays active, meaningful, and thriving for years to come.

**LEGISLATIVE—Karen Mooney**

As my last report for the Legislative Program for 2024-2025 program year, it has been an honor to represent the Department of Pennsylvania for this program. It was an eye-opening experience for me, and I learned a lot along the way. As a whole, we have all done well in representing the Department of Pennsylvania in a positive light.

I was able to report to Madam President Meintel that for the Legislative Program, we had 17 of 24 Districts, that were 100% in reporting. Of the 250 Auxiliaries in PA, 240 Auxiliaries participated in the Legislative Program. 234 Auxiliaries promoted the VFW Priority Goals this year in some way, shape or form. There were 965 members documented as communicating with their legislators this year and there were 1102 members documented as attending events where they could interact with legislators. This places the Legislative Program at 96% reporting for Department of PA!!! This is a strong showing for the Legislative Program for PA this year and I am so proud to have been able to report these numbers for sure. This is all thanks to you and all that your Auxiliaries did this program year. I thank all of you for investing the time you did this year and hope that you continue doing what you did moving forward.

Remember to stay the course. Continue to correspond with your representatives and senators to continue to let them know we are watching what is happening and that we are fighting for our Veteran's rights. 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.

**BE AN ADVOCATE\* BE INFORMED\* BE ENGAGED**



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**HOSPITAL**  
**Linda Dilling**

Veterans' Voices Writing Project is a therapeutic writing program designed to acknowledge military veterans' experiences and build self-esteem through creative writing.

Writing is known for being a good, safe and easily accessible way to process thoughts, feelings, ideas and trauma. For many veterans, seeing their poetry or prose in print is the boost that they need to help get over depression, emotional trauma or moral injury.

The continuation of Veterans Voices Writing Project through the 21st century depends on you! Please help visit <https://veteransvoices.org> where you can donate, subscribe, volunteer and read or listen to the Veterans Voices Writing Project magazine.



**HISTORIAN**  
**KRISTIN DIGIACOMO**

My time serving as Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman for the past three terms is starting to come to a close. At this time, I just wanted to take a moment to thank every one of you for the incredible journey you provided for me. I have met so many wonderful sisters and brothers doing what I love! You have shared the stories of your Auxiliaries with so many through your photographs and on Facebook! You have shown how “Together Helping Veterans” isn’t just a theme, but a way of life for our members and our Auxiliaries.

I realize that for many members, social media is still seen as very confusing and completely overwhelming. And at times, it absolutely can be just that. However, I continue to invite each of you to reach out to your younger Auxiliary and/or family members regarding the benefits of utilizing social media. This is a wonderful way to get everyone involved! You never know who may be willing to step-up and assist with getting your Auxiliary up and active on one or more social media outlets.

And remember, MALTA Member Resources is a great place to check throughout the year for more information regarding this program. I hope to see many of you at our Department Convention in Gettysburg!

“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans” is one of the many reasons why we became part of this amazing organization, because we are “Together Helping Veterans” and our communities first and foremost, always!

**SCHOLARSHIPS - Pam Sopher**

Greetings to our Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters. What a great year it has been serving as your Scholarships Chairman. When I was first asked by our Department President Andrea to take this position, I was very reluctant to do so. I was scared to death as I had no idea what was all involved in this position. I did say no a couple of times, because I thought I would fail, and didn't want to disappoint my Auxiliary members, but most importantly, embarrass myself. I was assured by many people that I was highly recommended, and I would have many mentors to see that I could do what needed to be done. Still being afraid, I took on the challenge still wondering if I could do this, made many phone calls and emails from me, and never left me to be alone and afraid. The point of this message is to let you all know that we need you to fill these positions, we need you to come forward and take these challenges, you will not be left alone figuring it out. Don't be afraid to take these positions and ask questions. We are a team, we are here for each other, and we won't let you do it alone. Step up to the plate, we need new ideas and challenges to make our organization better and fulfill our duties to our Veterans and their families to see that they never go without.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your time, effort, and contributions you have done this past year to see that our involvement with our youth goes above and beyond their challenges and keeps our Programs alive in their hearts. Thank you for working together with your Posts on our Scholarships programs, and I want to thank Vince Gavin and Bill Lamond for a great year and working closely with them to see that our youth have a chance to enter our Programs. Madame President Andrea, thank you for convincing me to do this position. It has been rewarding.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

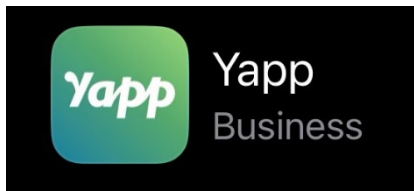
**Jeanna Leydic**

What a great year it has been!! I have had so much fun in my Appointment from Madame President Andrea this year as the Youth Activities Chairman! Being able to work so much more closely with the youth and help them learn more about our Veteran's, and interest them in becoming more Patriotic thru our many Youth Activities Programs. I wish the best of luck to next year's Youth Activities Chairman and hope they get to learn and make as many memories as I did this year!! Cheers to "Together Helping Veterans"!!



# PA VFW AUXILIARY EVENTS APP IS HERE!!

We have created an Events App to be used during our Department Events. We will download the Department Convention Agenda and any messages or updates needed will go through the app. Once you download the YAPP App, you can use the QR Code below as a short-cut to upload the VFWAUXPA specific App (which is the YAPP ID for the Auxiliary). Upload it and check it out!!



If you can't use the QR Code, then start by downloading the App--Go to your Play Store/App Store and find the **YAPP App** and Install/Add the YAPP App to your phone. Click "**Add Existing YAPP.**" Next, it will ask for the **YAPP ID**. You will enter **VFWAUXPA**. Mary Jean's picture will appear, click on her picture. The Welcome Message will appear and along the bottom will be: Welcome, Announcements, Schedule, People and More. **Click on People** and set up your user profile. Under **More**, you will find several sections. The first, Social Feed allows you to add comments and comment on or like other people's posts. Under Crown Pics, you can post messages or photos for everyone to see. Our Department Historian will post pictures in the Gallery section. Now explore and **enjoy the PA VFW AUXILIARY EVENTS APP.**



# **PLEASE JOIN US**

# **JUNE 14, 2025**



**Reception Celebrating the Incoming 2025-2026  
VFW State Commander Bill Roland &  
VFW Auxiliary Dept. President Robin Kohler**



***Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center***

***2634 Emmitsburg Road, Gettysburg, PA***

**5:30 pm    Doors Open/Cash Bar**

**6:15 pm    Seating of the Officers/Opening Services**

**6:30 pm    Dinner Buffet**

**7:15 pm    Remarks/Presentations**

**7:30–10:00 pm    Music by DJ Rich**

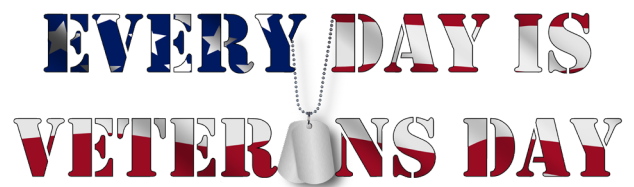
**Attire    Business Casual (no jeans, please)**



# JULY 12-13, 2025

# PROGRAM

# CONFERENCE



Join the **VFW Auxiliary Department of PA** for a fun and informative weekend learning about our programs and so much more!

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

### Saturday, July 12

- ✓ 2:00 pm Conference Begins
- ✓ 6:00 pm Dinner (with pre-registration)
- ✓ 7:15 pm Conference Con't.
- ✓ 8:30 pm Hospitality Room

### Sunday, July 13

- ✓ 7:00 am Breakfast
- ✓ 8:15 am Council of Administration
- ✓ 8:30 am Conference Con't.
- ✓ 12:00 pm Safe Travels

## HOTEL INFORMATION:

### Genetti Hotel & Suites

200 West Fourth Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701



### Reserve your room:

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.55001.html?groupId=1W2PY5X4](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.55001.html?groupId=1W2PY5X4)  
or call (570) 326-6600 and reference the **VFW AUXILIARY** block code.

\$110.00 (**per night**) plus applicable taxes base on double occupancy (includes full breakfast and free onsite parking).

## DINNER (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED):

- ✓ Grilled Lemon Rosemary Chicken
- ✓ Carved Roast Sirloin
- ✓ Roasted Baby Carrots
- ✓ Mashed Potatoes
- ✓ NY Style Cheese Cake

**\$36.00 PER PERSON**

## HOSPITALITY ROOM:

- ✓ Ways & Means Table
- ✓ National Home Table
- ✓ Beverages
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Games
- ✓ Networking

# PROGRAM CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

July 12 - 13, 2025

This is a great opportunity to learn about our programs,  
network, share ideas, and more!

**Registration Deadline: June 27, 2025**

Make Check Payable To:

VFW Auxiliary, Department of PA

Mail To:

Jodie L. Hollinger, Dept. Treasurer

4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109

**Please indicate the following for each person listed below:**

Printed Books (program and roster): **\$15.00**

Dinner (pre-registration is required): **\$36.00**

**Auxiliary #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Printed Books

☐ Buffet Dinner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Printed Books

☐ Buffet Dinner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Printed Books

☐ Buffet Dinner

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

**EVERY DAY IS  
VETERANS DAY**

# ON THE ROAD TRAINING

**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

## TOPICS

**"Members Only" Auxiliary Website**

**Reporting**

**Know Your Bylaws & Ritual**

**Financial Responsibilities**

**Special Services**

**Officer Responsibilities**

**Chairman Responsibilities**

**Engagement Techniques**

**Roundtable Discussion**

**And More...**

## DATES

**JULY 19, 2025**

VFW 7155 Trappe, PA (D16)

*RSVP by July 10*

**JULY 20, 2025**

VFW 7463 New Bloomfield, PA (D17)

*RSVP by July 10*

**JULY 26, 2025**

VFW 1338 Sharon, PA (D28)

*RSVP by July 17*

**JULY 27, 2025**

VFW 2754 West View, PA (D29)

*RSVP by July 17*

**AUGUST 3, 2025**

VFW 804 Bloomsburg, PA (D14)

*RSVP by July 24*

**AUGUST 16, 2025**

VFW 8724 Duncansville, PA (D22)

*RSVP by August 6*

**COST: \$15.00**

(per person, includes lunch)

### MAIL TO:

PA VFW Auxiliary Headquarters  
4002 Fenton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

### REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Auxiliary No.: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

OTR Date: \_\_\_\_\_