

General Orders No.12 June 2023

**Greetings,**

I’m very happy to see so many Auxiliaries and Districts utilizing FaceBook to promote our organization and the great things each of you are doing. In Department we use FaceBook, TicTok and sometimes Twitter. It’s important to efficiently use **Social Media** to share the VFW Auxiliary’s message that “Every Member Matters.” However, it is also very important that you think before you post. Let me rephase that – think twice before you post something that may harm our image. And never post anything which could compromise your privacy or that is confidential or proprietary. Be aware that defamatory postings could be judged by a court of law.

 **Social Media** was originally meant to be social – a conversation engaging with others – sharing posts. Before you start talking/posting learn the etiquette. In social media there are cultural norms and expectations that govern user interactions. Failure to observe them may make you come across as a negative person when that may not have been your intention. Post things that talk about our programs, our projects, our mission. Share examples of events or activities happening in your Auxiliary. Keep the content of your postings fresh and update your page frequently. There is a lot of text posted on Facebook, but research shows that using a graphic or some visual such as photos/videos will greatly increase your number of engagements as well as shares. Think twice before you hit that POST button.

 Our **Every Member Matters** Membership program year will continue until June 30, so there is still time to increase your Auxiliary’s membership.

 To Commander Mannella – thank you for being such a great partner for our 2022-2023 VFW and Auxiliary year.

 To incoming Department President Mary Jean Mastridge and State Commander David “Spike” Gyger, I wish you both a successful year. Safe travels as you move around our state to meet our Auxiliary and VFW members.

 To the District Presidents, I considered it a privilege to work with you this past year and I sincerely thank you for all the friendship and camaraderie. Together we accomplished much.

 To the Department Program Chairman under the outstanding leadership of the Program Coordinator, Veronica Grant, thank you all for going the extra step and creating that **“PA WOW.”**

 I have been deeply honored to serve as your Department President during the **Respect…Honor…Remember** 2022-2023 year. You have given me everlasting memories. Thank you.

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

 **Included within:**

Prayers for the Family of Helen I. Harsh

Barger Scholarship

Historian

Hospital

Membership

Past District Presidents/25 Year Club Luncheon

**TIPS**

IMPORTANT DATES:

June 14 – 17 – Department Convention, Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey

June 19 - Juneteenth – Department Headquarters Closed

July 7-8 - Instructional Training (Incoming District Presidents and Line Officers)

July 21-27 - National VFW/Aux Convention, Phoenix, AZ

Aug. 4-5 - Auxiliary & Program Training (All members urged to attend),

 Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, Gettysburg

 Detailed information will be forthcoming

 **Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger**

Valerie DeCorte Jodie Hollinger

Department President Department Secretary/Treasurer

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Memo

Date: May 27, 2023

To: PA Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters

Our very own Past National/Past Department President

Helen I. Harsh has gone to her heavenly home.

Helen served District 9, the Department of PA and our National Organization with pride and dignity! She has earned her wings and is now at peace.

Her Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, June 1 at Groff High Funeral Home, 145 West Main Street, New Holland, PA. Visitation will begin at 12:00 Noon with the VFW Auxiliary Service, at 12:45 P.M. The Service will begin at 1:00 P.M.

Interment will follow at Ranck’s United Methodist Cemetery, 700 Ranck Road, New Holland.

In lieu of flowers contributions in Helen’s memory may be made to Hospice for All Seasons, 280 South Hill Drive, Grantville, PA 17028 or to a Veteran’s charity of your choice.

To send an online condolence to the family visit: [www.groffeckenroth.com](http://www.groffeckenroth.com).

**All Auxiliary Charters shall be draped for a period of thirty (30) days (page 91 under Special Ceremonies in our Ritual).**

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JACK BARGER SR. MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

A Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund was established at the 1989 VFW State Convention held in King of Prussia, PA. This fund was in Memorial of Jack E. Barger Sr., Department Commander, 1987-1988, who passed away during his term of office.

A $500.00 scholarship was awarded in 1990 and over the past 30+ years the amounts and number of scholarships awarded has increased to six (6) $1,000.00 scholarships per year. The two main efforts to raise money for these scholarships are requesting donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and the Annual Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble.

Candidates for this award will be solicited through the Pennsylvania Nursing Association and its contacts with nursing schools in Pennsylvania. Chairpersons and deans of nursing schools will be asked to submit names of worthy candidates. The recipient(s) will be chosen by means of a lottery conducted by P.N.A.

There are two qualifications placed on the candidate(s) by the VFW: (1) the individual be a veteran or the son or daughter of a veteran; (2) be a resident of Pennsylvania.

With the help of VFW posts and auxiliaries within Pennsylvania supporting the Golf Scramble by buying advertisements in the program book we will be able to increase the donation for the golf scramble to over $10,000.00 each year. **All monies for advertisements in the Golf Scramble Program Book and any monetary donations will go directly to the scholarship fund. Remember that none of this money supports the golfers participating in the scramble; however, they do support the scholarship program.**

The 29th Annual Barger Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, August 11, 2023 at the Bridges Golf Course 6729 York Road Abbottstown PA 17301 with registration at 7:00am and the shotgun start at 8:00am. This scramble will be followed by a luncheon at East Berlin VFW Post 8896.

Yours in Comradeship, 

Dwight Fuhrman

Barger Scholarship State Chairman

**PLEASE CONSIDER HAVING YOUR POST AND AUXILIARY DONATE TO THIS VERY WORTHWHILE CAUSE. Send donations to 5050 Rislyn Court Spring Grove PA 17362.**

**HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS**

GENERAL ORDERS #12

June 2023

At this time, I would like to thank every one of you for an amazing program year and for truly embracing what it means to **“Respect…Honor…Remember”** not only our veterans but their families too! This was evident in the many wonderful, amazing pictorial history books that I received from across the Department.

I know that for many social media is still seen as being very confusing and overwhelming. At times, it absolutely can be just that. However, I would invite each Auxiliary member to reach out to their 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. Hope to see many of you at Department Convention in Harrisburg!

Loyally,

**Kristin**

Kristin DiGiacomo

Historian & Media Relations Chairman k.digi@pitt.edu | 412-867-0021

HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDERS # 12 – June 2023

What a pleasure it’s been to serve the Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary for the 2022/2023 term as Hospital Chairman. I always said that I would love to serve in all aspects of this great organization and taking this Chairmanship has been something I will never forget. The time and effort put into this program is solely for the benefit of our Veterans who need us to lift their spirits and to let them know we are there for them.

The Representatives and Deputies this year had a lot of hurdles to jump over, with COVID protocols still in full swing throughout Pennsylvania in the Hospitals/VA/Homes. We had to be very innovative in how we were able to get items to them, raise funds to donate so they could have things they needed, even without volunteers being permitted. The members of the Auxiliary to the Department of Pennsylvania rose to the occasion time and time again. As I read the reports, calculated the funds given, items made, volunteers who helped do what they could from the outside, it was absolutely phenomenal !! You should be proud of all that you did.

HOSPITAL/VA/HOME FOCUS: This month I will be focusing on **Pittsburgh VA Health System consisting of H.J. Heinz III VA, Progressive Care Center and Oakland VA Medical Center** located in and near Pittsburgh, PA. Cecelia (Ceil) R. Cook serves as Representative and Charlotte Lopes is Deputy. The other two deputies, Penny Williams and Eileen Hunter had to resign due to health and other issues. The number of Veterans served in these 3 facilities is too numerous to count! COVID protocols were still in full swing which limited the number of volunteers & visitors allowed. Ceil Cook, the Representative saw to it that the needs of the Veterans in these facilities were met in very creative ways and she even got to do a few parties for the Veterans, who had no doubt after, that knew we were there for them, which is still so important. AND **Butler VA Medical Center** located at 324 New Castle Road, Butler PA had a change of Representative and Deputy midway through the year. Bobbie Lawrence is the Representative and Sharon Wagner is Deputy. This Center includes a 60 bed Community living center, 56 bed Domiciliary and compensated work therapy/transitional residence. It provides drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation, palliative and hospice care and rehabilitation and extended care. In 2022 they served 22,997 Veterans with 199,048 outpatient visits, completed 21,528 telehealth visits, employed 752 employees (213 are Veterans) and have 126 operating beds. All these facilities our Veterans come first!!!

“**Respect…Honor…Remember**” our Veterans and do the work of this great organization with “**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**”! As my chairmanship comes to an end, I want to THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for all you did for our Veterans through this program. I am humbled and grateful to each and every one of you. No matter what you did, how you helped, what you were able to give and do….trust me it mattered!

**CLOSING THOUGHT:** “BE SOMEONE WHO MAKES SOMEONE ELSE LOOK FORWARD TO TOMORROW!”

Loyally,

**Bonnie S. Drake** Diane Haller

Bonnie S. Drake Diane Haller

Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman Co-Chairman

2318 Owego Turnpike, Honesdale PA 18431

Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone 570.647.8685

**MEMBERSHIP**

**GENERAL ORDERS #12**

**June 2023**

****When Madam President asked me to be Membership Chairman, it was a bit intimidating to think about. For as challenging as this year was, it was equally fulfilling. I learned so much more about our organization, about our outstanding Auxiliaries and about our dedicated members.

Last August, at the Program and Auxiliary Training Conference, you set a Membership Growth Goal for the Department of Pennsylvania of 105%. As I write this, we have risen to 104.5%. I am confident we will get that last .5% by the end of June.

Throughout this **Every Member Matters** year, it was easy to see how hard working our members are. You were busy helping veterans, military personnel and their families; and you were busy helping your communities, your VFW Posts and your Auxiliaries. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

What isn’t always easy…is to find new members to volunteer to help you with your Auxiliary program and activities. Don’t be discouraged, they are out there. They have the same passion for our mission as you do. Remember “why” you joined and “who” you honor with your membership. Share your why and ignite that passion in others. Our future depends on you!

**Y You are important to us**

**O Our organization needs you**

**U Understand our mission**

**M Make a difference to Veterans**

**A Appreciate your community**

**T Take time to help others**

**T “Thank You” for all you do**

**E Enjoy the camaraderie**

**R Remember their sacrifices**

**I’m super excited to present the Membership Program Awards at the Joint Opening Session of the Department Convention! Hope to see you there on Thursday, June 15, 2023 in Harrisburg, PA.**

**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

PA’s Membership Growth Goal: 105%

 ***PA***

 ***104.5%***

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

Non-District: Auxiliaries: 298, 1532, 1665, 6982

District 1: Auxiliaries: 2819, 3090, 6700, 7650

District 7: Auxiliaries: 3460, 4845

District 8: Auxiliaries: 1597, 2124, 6393, 6493, 6495, **7293**

District 9: Auxiliaries: 106, 1463, 2435, 3376, 4480, 5752, 5956, 6759, 7294, 7418, 8757

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

District 11: Auxiliaries: **283**, 821, 1425, 4909, 5010, 8161,8227, 8317

District 13: Auxiliaries: 216, 411, 6150

District 14: Auxiliaries: 384, 804, **1536**, 1568, 5642, 6824, 8306, 8488

District 15: Auxiliaries: 4907, 6753, 6755, 7810, 7863, 8730

District 16: Auxiliaries: 32, 1074, 5954

District 17: Auxiliaries: 34, 255, 882, 1964,5863, 6631, 7463

District 18: Auxiliaries: 148, 477,1213, 1620, 2385, 3502, 5750, 6076, 6168, 6417, 6704, 7343, 7415, 7530, 8023, 8851

District 19: Auxiliaries: 212, 464, 1132, 1835, 2145, 2497, 6391, 7252, 8755, 8803

District 20: Auxiliaries: 509, 2540, 3448,7215, 8225

District 21: Auxiliaries: 15, 537, 695, 1446, 1599, 2493, 2506, 6319, **6771**, 7012, 7045, 7046, 7374, 8896, 8951

District 22: Auxiliaries: 3, 43, 813, 842, 1600, 1785, 3450, 4559, 5020, 5644, 5825, 6321, 7043, 7689, **8269,** 8685, 8724

District 23: Auxiliaries: 21, 747, 4795, 7250, 7295, 7457, 8826, 8861

District 24: Auxiliaries: 764, 927, 1409, 3491, 4793
District 25: Auxiliaries: 128, 249, 499, 1821, 3577, 7376, 8106

District 26: Auxiliaries: 155, 779, 1586, 2076, 4200, 4315, 4843, 4963, 6555, 7377, 7605, 7783

District 27: Auxiliaries: 92, 566, 734, 781, 3368, 3414, 6743, 8427

District 28: Auxiliaries: 169, 264, 470, 519, 740, **1338**, 2006, 2341, 3374, 4789, 4965, 5424, 5958, 6166, 6233, 6345, 6404, 7465, 7842
District 29: Auxiliaries: **214**, 402, 1810,7090, 9199

District 30: Auxiliaries: **1754**, 4129, 4440, **7011**, 8333, 9219

Districts over 100% in Current Membership: 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, **30**

Newest members are in **BOLD**

PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

AND

25 YEAR CLUB LUNCHEON

The Luncheon for Past District Presidents and 25 Year Club will be held on Thursday, June 15th  at 12:30 P.M. following the Joint VFW/Auxiliary Opening Session. The room will be posted at the Hotel.

This luncheon is for all members who have 25 years continual membership and all current and past District Presidents.

**The luncheon choices are: Roast Beef and Provolone Wrap, Italian Hoagie or Chicken Caesar Salad**. Included with your luncheon choice will beWhole Fresh Fruit, Pasta Salad, Bag of Chips or Pretzels, Dessert and Coffee, Soft Drink and Water.

Cost of the luncheon including $5.00 dues is $30.00. See the form below to send in for your reservation or your club dues.

Deadline for reservations is June 1st

25 Year and Past District Presidents Club Reservation

**Please indicate your Luncheon Selection below**

Roast Beef & Provolone Wrap \_\_ Italian Hoagie \_\_ Chicken Caesar Salad \_\_\_

Luncheon and Dues $30.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dues ONLY $5.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please makes checks payable to *Department of PA Auxiliary* and send along with your form to Cecelia Cook, 173 Clearview Ave, Pittsburgh Pa 15229

Call Ceil today if you have not signed up – 412-931-6869

**TIPS**

June 2023

General Orders #12

**Veterans & Family Support**

Congratulations to everyone for a TEFFIFIC year. And a big thank you to all for all of the

 Help you have provided to me this year. Now is the time to show your enthusiasm for the

 Coming year. Good luck and I hope to see you at the Department Convention. Paula Havasi

**Auxiliary Outreach**

The following qualify for Auxiliary Outreach when working with church organizations:

* Disaster Relief Projects
* Vacation Bible School
* Read Cleanup Projects Kimberly Grundon - kgrundon@comcast.net

**“Buddy” Poppy/National Home**

* Keep up the good work with “Buddy” Poppy drives through the Summer.
* Keep track of all your events and information for next year’s reporting.
* Check out the link from National Home on our Department Facebook page for their Amazon wish list.
* Don’t forget to have your “Buddy” Poppy contest entries to Dept. Convention by Friday
* And please stop by the National Home vendor table at Dept. Convention for information and raffle baskets.

Thank you for a great year!! I loved every minute of it! See you at the Convention!

 **Americanism/Patriotic Instructor**

Did you know that our upcoming Flag Day, June 14 is one of the most poplar days of the year when

Organizations host a Flag Retirement Ceremony? Every day is a great time to start collecting worn/tattered flags from the community and plan a ceremony with your Post or a local Scout Troop. (See the VFW

Ritual Book for proper disposal guidelines).

 **IMPORTANT Reminder!** Many well-meaning individuals have cut up soiled or worn Flags,

 sometimes cutting out stars and mailing them to our troops. Although this is a thoughtful gesture

 and appears on the internet in several places, it is in fact, an **inappropriate act and should not be**

 **conducted by any VFW Post or Auxiliary.**

 Thank you for a most memorable year! You’ve been amazing and I have enjoyed learning so much right

 along with you.

 Patriotic Dates**: June 6 – D-Day; June 12 – Womens Veterans Day;**

 **June 14 – U.S Army Birthday; June 14 – Flag Day**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Reminder: July 1 begins our new membership year. When recruiting and obligating new members, please keep in mind that a new annual member accepted and processed in May or June will show in MALTA as UNPAID beginning July 1.