



Greetings,

I want to share a special **thank you** with those members who have been working to increase our paid membership percentage. We are over **100%!!!!** I'm very **PA PROUD** and I hope you are too. National's 3d Quarter Membership award will be \$200 to each Department that retains 90% of its Annual members and achieves Department goal by April 30. Let's keep working on **collecting and winning**.

"A Cup of Kindness" Most of us have sung Robert Burns' Auld Lang Syne on many a New Year's Eve. Burns, a Scottish poet, probably never imagined his old ballad traveling the world and becoming the seasonal staple of the Guy Lombardo band and continues to be the first tune we hear after the famous Times Square "ball drop." There are several verses to the song, but I think the most favored is the first verse and it goes like this:

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne?

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, For auld lang syne

I think the words that have always stood out for me are **"a cup of kindness."** What a comforting thought. Sometimes, it's easy for kindness to be in short supply, especially with the high stress lives we lead. And sometimes, we focus so intently on the task at hand that we forget to add that **"cup of kindness."** Think about how much less stressful things could be if we passed out liberal amounts of kindness and patience.

Let's try to keep that **"cup of kindness"** close at hand. Pledge to use it frequently because we really can't have too much kindness and it never gets old.

Reminders:

The PA Auxiliary annual raffle tickets. There's still time to purchase your raffle tickets. This is the only fundraising event, we as a Department have. If you would like to purchase additional tickets, contact Department Headquarters, or you can purchase more raffle tickets at the Department President's Retreat. The winners will be drawn on Friday, April 14. And if your ticket is pulled and you are there, that's extra \$\$\$\$ for you.

Programs Update: Auxiliary Presidents, the end of our program year is March 31, 2023, and your completed reports must be with your District President no later than April 7, 2023. Please give that extra effort to meet this due date. And refer to the advice and suggestions you were given in completing those program year end reports during our Mid-Winter Conference.

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 the Department at 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg PA 17109, and please mark your check Department President's Special Project.

Department Convention: Our 2023 State Convention is scheduled for June 14-17 at the Sheraton in Harrisburg. Convention information will be available soon on our website at www.vfwauxpa.org.

Auxiliary Bylaws: Are Auxiliaries permitted to have their own bylaws? The VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws in accordance with Section 605 does permit a Department Convention to adopt Bylaws not conflicting with the Bylaws or order of the National Convention. Further, Departments may establish Standing Rules. There is no mention of Auxiliaries having the authority to have Bylaws, rather per Section 211, an Auxiliary may choose to write and have Auxiliary approval of its Standing Rules limited to specified operations, activities, events, expenses, and disbursements between meeting provided that such rules do not conflict with the National or Department Bylaws.

Are Auxiliaries permitted to have a Chief of Staff? Under Section 815 our Bylaws only list National and Department having a Chief of Staff position and the Department President may appoint at least one Deputy Chief of Staff in each District.

New email addresses for Department Headquarters Staff - To contact Jodie Hollinger, Secretary/Treasurer jodie@vfwauxpa.org and Sandy Brenner, Department Clerk, sandy@vfwauxpa.org

A very special thank you to the Districts I have visited to date. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to accommodate my visit. Your hospitality and camaraderie have been greatly appreciated.

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

There are federal penalties for the physical desecration of the US flag. True or False? Email me at 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.

Buddy Poppy/National Home
Historian
Hospital
Loyalty Day
Membership
TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 1 - District 7 Meeting @ Media #3460 – 7:00 P.M.
- March 5 – 9 - Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
- March 12 - District 9 Meeting @ Lititz #1463 – 1:30 P.M.
- March 12 - District 10 Meeting @ Throop #7251 – 1:00 P.M.
- March 12 - District 21 Meeting @ Gettysburg #15 – 2:00 P.M.
- March 12 - District 23 Meeting @ Everson #595 – 2:00 P.M.
- March 12 - District 26 Meeting @ Patton #779 – 2:30 P.M.
- March 12 - District 27 Meeting @ Lower Burrell #92 – 2:00 P.M.
- March 12 - District 28 Meeting @ Venango #169 – 1:00 P.M.
- March 19 - District 1 Meeting @ Bridesburg-Lawton #2 – 2:00 P.M.
- March 19 - District 11 Meeting @ Kingston #283 – 2:30 P.M.
- March 19 - District 14 Meeting @ Montrose #5642 – 2:00 P.M.
- March 19 - District 15 Meeting @ Duboistown #7863 – 2:00 P.M.
- March 19 - District 22 Meeting @ Martinsburg #43 – 2:30 P.M.
- March 19 - District 25 Meeting @ Rochester #128 – 2:00 P.M.

Valerie DeCorte

Valerie DeCorte
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP
GENERAL ORDERS #9
March 2023



Everyone is doing such a great job: Recruiting, Retaining and Rejoining members. Many of our Auxiliaries are 100%+ and many more are almost there. The more we grow our organization, the more Veterans we can help. Keep Making Those Connections! As you are reviewing those members who may still have not paid their dues, consider the following:

Reinforce Connections: Engaging Current Members.

Have you heard it said, “well nobody wants to help” or “we can’t get anyone to come to the meetings” or “it’s the same few people that do all of the work?”

Ask Them! *The key to keeping new and current members is getting them involved. Call or email them with information on upcoming events or projects and ask for their help. Ask them about their interests, create an Interest Survey (Do they sew or bake? What are their hobbies? What are they already involved in? Do they volunteer at the hospital or at the fire company? Are they in the church choir?) Match their interests with Auxiliary needs, events, projects. Share your mission.*

Connect with them! *If they feel connected and needed, they are more likely to get involved and stay involved. Be sure you have their contact information and know their preferred method of contact (phone call, email, text message).*

Encourage Participation

Post Monthly Sign-Up Sheets for regular events

Email/Call about special events

Make Member Recruitment Videos and post on Social Media

Publicly recognize current volunteers: thank them in the meeting, post a thank you in the Canteen, recognize their efforts on Social Media

If it’s their first time volunteering for something, assign a mentor to help them, stay with them and check on them.

Plan family events! Members with children want the opportunity to do things that are family-oriented

Keep up your Facebook presence—Post About It (Aux. news, events, legislation, needs)

Focus on our Mission and helping Veterans

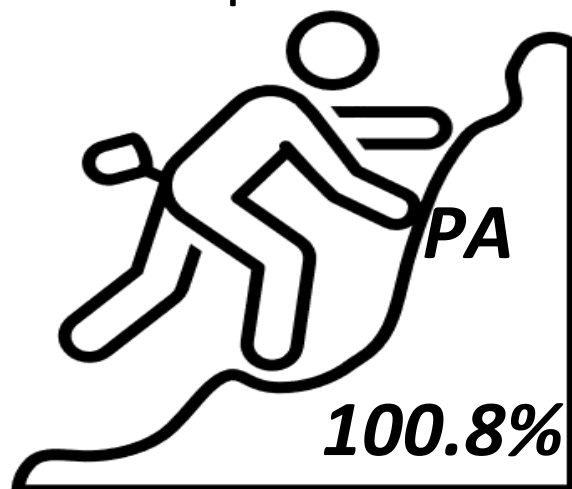
➡ THE PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM/CHECKLIST FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS 2022-2023.

I’ve started to receive your completed All State Forms. I just received a phone call, asking if you can still submit some of the items on the checklist. The answer is “yes.” You have until the end of March to make sure you have everything completed and checked off. All of your documentation must be submitted to the Membership Chairman (me) by May 5, 2023. Pay attention to Numbers 15 and 16. They are new, 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

PA's Membership Growth Goal: 105%



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: 3090, 6700, 7650

District 7: Auxiliaries: 3460, 4845

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

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

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

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

District 13: Auxiliaries: 216, 411

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

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

District 16: Auxiliaries: **32**, 1074, 5954

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

District 18: Auxiliaries: 148, **477**, **1213**, 1620, 3502, 5750, 6168, 6417, 6704, 7343, 7530, 8023

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

District 20: Auxiliaries: 509, 8225

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

District 22: Auxiliaries: 43, 813, 842, **3450**, 5020, 7043, 8685

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

District 24: Auxiliaries: 764, **3491**, 4793

District 25: Auxiliaries: **249**, 499, 1821, **3577**, 7376, 8106

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

District 27: Auxiliaries: 92, 781, 3368, 3414, 6743

District 28: Auxiliaries: 169, 264, 470, 519, 740, **2341**, 4789, 4965, 5424, 6166, 6233, 6404

District 29: Auxiliaries: 1810, 7090, 9199

District 30: Auxiliaries: 4129, 8333, 9219

Districts over 100% in Current Membership: 1, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29

DISTRICT 10 (1st Place) DISTRICT 11 (2nd Place) DISTRICT 27 (3rd Place)

Newest members are in **BOLD**

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

GENERAL ORDERS #9

March 2023

Let's talk about the Department Year-End Report for this program. I would love to have all Auxiliaries across the Department of PA be 100% reporting this year!

- You can find this Year-End report (and all other program reports) by visiting <https://vfwauxpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=127984>. Click on the Historian/Media Relations link.
- Answer questions 1-10.
 - Many of these are simple "Yes" or "No" answers. Every Auxiliary should be answering these! There is no right or wrong answer!
- Complete the form online, then **Save** it to your computer.
 - Once saved, email it to your District President by April 7th, 2023.
- Remember, the VFW Auxiliary Resources website was moved behind the MALTA login screen.

Also, as a reminder, please remember that any Historian Book (at the Auxiliary or District level) can be turned in at Madam President's Retreat next month! I will be available all weekend. This will save Auxiliaries and Districts the cost of shipping the books to me. If you are not attending, please get your book to your District President for submission.

Contact me with any questions at k.digi@pitt.edu! I'm here to help!

Loyally,

Kristin

Kristin DiGiacomo

Historian & Media Relations Chairman

k.digi@pitt.edu | 412-867-0021

HOSPITAL AND VAVS PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDERS # 9

March 2023

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. It is also the month where our reporting ends March 31, 2023, so let's finish strong. I know in Pennsylvania there are still many Hospitals, VAs and Homes that have restrictions for getting in the facilities with our Veterans. I'm sure though, that all of you have done a lot of great things for our Veterans and found ways to let them know we are still here for them.

HOSPITAL/VA/HOME FOCUS: I realize now that I should have focused more than one Hospital/VA or Home each month, as there are fifteen (15) that we support in Pennsylvania, and we only have 12 general orders to write. Therefore, this month I will be focusing on **Hollidaysburg Veterans Home (HVH)** located in Altoona near Duncansville, Blair County is where Gail Blattenberger serves as Representative and Nola Thompson is Deputy. It was established in 1977, has 424 beds, 550 + dedicated clinical and professional staff, over 548 volunteers. Residents enjoy an active lifestyle with a full schedule of organized programs from holiday parties, on-site cookouts. They can do independent activities such as craft work, bingo, reading good books from library out on home's patios enjoying fresh air and beautiful views, plus they are provided barber and beauty services. The **PA Soldiers and Sailors Veterans Home (PSSH)** in Erie is the oldest of the six veteran's homes which opened in 1886, sitting on 26 acres overlooking beautiful Lake Erie. They have 207 beds, 259 dedicated clinical and professional staff and when open has over 613 volunteers putting in over 15,700 hours. Doris L. Svitek serves as the Representative and Marlene E. Zaken is Deputy. Here the residents enjoy anything from Holiday parties to billiard tournaments to bingo. They can enjoy quite time in the outdoor courtyard where they can see ships coming into the Lake Erie Bay or sign along during one of the concert series performances held at the home's gazebo. If they want alone time they can sit in the beautiful chapel, go to the library, get a haircut in the barber shop or go to the canteen snack shop.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM FOCAL POINT: This month we are focusing on getting **Volunteers** to help in the various Hospitals, Homes and VA's. How do we entice volunteers to help? They say pull on their heart strings to help (now we are not cupid, or it would be easy) however, there are many high school and college students who need to show they do community service, possibly there is someone who has asked if they can help the Auxiliary, or you noticed someone who has a caring quality about them, these are prime candidates for increasing volunteers to help. Locate a VA facility near you at volunteer.gov/directory/index.asp.

DON'T FORGET to nominate someone for Outstanding Hospital Volunteer – full details on National website!!!

Never stop assisting our Veterans and their families with “**Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care**” and then every day we will “**Respect...Honor...Remember**” our Veterans and their sacrifices.

Thought for the month: Never forget “You are the sun to the shine, the drop to the rain, you are amazing!”

Loyally,

Bonnie S. Drake

Bonnie S. Drake
Hospital and VAVS Program Chairman
2318 Owego Turnpike, Honesdale PA 18431
Email: gotauxbonnie@yahoo.com Phone 570.647.8685

Diane Haller

Diane Haller
Co-Chairman

Veterans of Foreign Wars

LOYALTY DAY

Monday, May 1, 2023



PA State Capitol

501 North 3rd Street

Harrisburg, PA

Loyalty Day is a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American Freedom.

Every Post, Auxiliary and District are encouraged to participate in this reaffirmation of our loyalty.

Monday, May 1 – 10:00 A.M.

In the Capitol Rotunda

Bring your Flags w/stands

TIPS

General Orders #9

March 2023

Chief of Staff (Mentoring for Leadership/Revitalization)

Year end reports are due very soon. Have you completed the Healthy Checkup? Have you used the resources on the National Website? I'd like to see ALL Auxiliaries send in completed end of the year reports. Please pay attention to the National Awards for members. Have you fulfilled the role as a Mentor? Have you helped to nurture and strengthen an Auxiliary? Nominations for National Awards need to be sent to me. I hope to see several National Awards presented to our members.

We “Respect...Honor...Remember” our Veterans and have “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.”

Bobbie Lawrence

Auxiliary2145@hotmail.com

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Please refer to our By-laws Sec. 804A for the proper procedures for electing Auxiliary officers for the coming year. Nomination and Election of Officers is held at the regular business meeting in April.

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

By now you should be gathering all your information for yearend reports.

Each of us as Auxiliary members promote Patriotism every day. This report should be very simple to complete.

Did your Auxiliary host a Patriotic Community event this year? If so send your information and entry form (required, downloadable at vfwauxiliary.org/resources) to me by March 31. A citation will be sent from National Headquarters to each Auxiliary that participates. Each participating Auxiliary will also have a chance at a \$25.00 award announced during the Convention in Arizona.

#auxiliarpatriotism

#auxiliarpatriotism

Patriotic Dates: March 5 – US Navy Seabee Birthday, March 6 – US Navy Reserve Birthday
March 21 – “Rosie the Riveter” Day, March 29 – National Vietnam Veteran Day

Amy Peterson

thepetersons@atlanticbb.net

‘BUDDY’ POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

GENERAL ORDERS #9

March 2023

Respect... Honor... Remember

Happy hopping into Spring Auxiliary Members!! That means it is time once again to take care of those pesky year-end reports. Why do we do them you ask? Reporting and compiling information about the wonderful things our Auxiliaries do assists the VFW Auxiliary National Officers in proving our non-profit status. Not only that, but I believe it to be a great resource tool for Auxiliaries to use to keep track of what kind of events they are participating in and programs they are promoting...meaning if we weren't required to do them...would we do as much as we do? It is also a good way of encouraging the appointing of Program Chairmen. These Chairmen are the members of your Auxiliaries who have exceptional interests in the programs they represent. They are fabulous assets to their Auxiliary Presidents by assisting them with the record keeping of events your Auxiliaries host and with these end of year reports.

Reminder: This year reports are due to your District President by April 7, 2023.

The National Award entries are due to me by March 31, 2023 (No Exceptions). For all reporting involved in this program please provide proof of your answers on the reporting form for any questions possible. Pictures, articles, receipts, etc. are acceptable.

Example: Question #7 reads- Did your Auxiliary Promote the VFW National Home for Children helpline? If you answer Yes, provide information and an example of what form of handout or media you used. If you have any questions, you may call me at 570-396-1538 or email me at cpaccio29@gmail.com

You will notice that the words “ For Children” have been removed from this program title, this was a great decision made by the VFW and National Home administrators during this year.

There is also an online store where you can now purchase National Home merchandise!

I look forward to receiving your reports to see what creativity and outside of the box thinking your Auxiliaries came up with to promote these programs and how they are interconnected. Good luck with awards!

Keep up the outstanding work, and honor the dead by helping the living.

Loyally,

Carolyn Paccio

2022-23 “Buddy” Poppy/National Home Program Chairman