



## Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

This month, my message is one of gratitude and encouragement to every member who contributes on any level of our Department of PA Auxiliary. I extend my thanks and appreciation for your efforts thus far. With a spirit of cooperation at Auxiliary and District meetings we can lay the groundwork necessary to improve the lives of our Veterans. Our personal agendas should never interfere with our mission of service. As each year passes, we should be able to see the legacy that we leave behind for future generations.

Thank you to all that were able to attend our Mid-Winter Conference! Please share what you learned with those who were not able to attend. Sharing and teaching will surely help us to continue growing and serving.

Congratulations to our First Place Voice of Democracy winner, Sarah K. Burrows sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary #655, District 30; and our First Place Patriot's Pen winner Adalyn G. Pastuszek sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary #1532, District 12. Best of luck in the National competition.

As of January 29 our Department membership stands at **98.83%**. We need **less** than 500 paid members to reach our 100% mark. Let's especially work on collecting the dues of those unpaid continuous and break the 100% mark before March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Watch your mailbox for VFW Auxiliary Raffle tickets. This is our only Department fundraising event and we ask that you be generous and return your tickets along with your donation. Winners will be drawn on Friday, April 5 during our Testimonial Weekend at the Eisenhower in Gettysburg.

Make your reservations early for the Testimonial and plan to celebrate this **"Let Freedom Ring"** year.

Please continue to **"Walk With Me"** during this **"Let Freedom Ring"** year. We still have work to do!

Veterans & Family Support  
Auxiliary Outreach  
Auxiliary 100<sup>th</sup> Convention/Anniversary  
Barger Nursing Scholarship  
Chief of Staff  
Butler VA Medical Center  
Lebanon VA Medical Center  
Legislative  
Membership  
Women Veterans Expo  
TIPS

**IMPORTANT DATES 2024**

February 4 District 24 Meeting @ Lawrence #8308 – 2:00 P.M.  
February 4 District 30 Meeting @ Everett #2088 – 2:00 P.M.  
February 11 District 13 Meeting @ Womelsdorf #6558 – 2:00 P.M.  
February 17 District 16 Meeting @ Lansdale #32 – 11:00 A.M.  
February 18 District 8 Meeting @ Warminster #6493 – 1:30 P.M.  
February 18 District 19 Meeting @ Sheffield #8755 – 2:00 P.M.  
February 18 District 20 Meeting @ Tobyhanna #509 – 2:00 P.M.  
February 18 District 26 Meeting @ Blairsville #5821 – 2:30 P.M.  
February 19 Department Headquarters Closed – Presidents Day  
February \* 25 District 29 Meeting @ West View #2754 – 2:00 P.M.

**\*Department President Official Visit**

Climb Every Mountain,

*BY ORDER OF:*

*Mary Jean Mastridge*

Mary Jean Mastridge  
Department President

*ATTEST:*

*Jodie Hollinger*

Jodie Hollinger  
Department Secretary/Treasurer

**"Let Freedom Ring"**

# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

## GENERAL ORDERS #8 February 2024

We **LOVE** our Veterans and **Veterans & Family Support** is the heart of our organization. Let's show that love with **Valentines for Veterans!** Send store bought or home-made cards to Veterans - refer to Dept of PA Auxiliary's Hospital Program for Valentines for Veterans details. Remember the deployed: send cards and packages. Thank local military: host a meal or take snacks to those who are in the area.

**Veterans and Military Support** is made up of three components. **Military Assistance Program (MAP)** provides financial assistance for send-offs, homecomings, and get-togethers for adopted units. **Unmet Needs** provides grants up to \$1,500 for basic life needs: household expenses, vehicle expenses, utilities, food, clothing, and medical expenses. Learn more at [www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants). And financial assistance is available to service members and veterans pursuing educational goals through **VFW "Sport Clips® Help a Hero Scholarship."** Applicants may apply by April 30 for the fall semester at [www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support).

**K9 Veterans Day**, March 13 is a day to commemorate all military dogs. Honor their service by supporting your local organizations that work with and pair service dogs with Veterans. Share their information to help connect Veterans seeking a service dog with an organization.

**National Vietnam War Veterans Day** is March 29 - hold or attend a ceremony to recognize Veterans who served in the US military during the Vietnam War. Visit Veterans in VA hospitals/nursing homes. Thank the Veterans for their service and welcome them home!

**Thank Veterans with a Coin** Purchase coins from the VFW Store. Thank You Coin features VFW Auxiliary logo and "Thank You for Your Service" and the Welcome Home Coin features the Statue of Liberty and "You took Freedom to Distant Lands and Gave Hope to a World Oppressed...We Will Not Forget".



### Dates to remember:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Feb 14</b> Valentine's Day                               | <b>Mar 13</b> K-9 Veterans Day                            |
| <b>Feb 17</b> Random Acts of Kindness Day                   | <b>Mar 29</b> National Vietnam War Veterans Day           |
| <b>Feb 19</b> Founding of Mental Health America Anniversary | <b>Mar 31</b> National Award Forms due by today*          |
| <b>Mar 13-19</b> Brain Awareness Week                       | <b>Mar 31</b> Dept of PA Citation criteria due by today** |
|   | <b>Apr 6</b> Year-End Reports due by today**              |

\* **National Veterans & Family Support Award #1 & Award #2** forms are located at [www.vfwauxpa.org](http://www.vfwauxpa.org) click on Programs then Veterans & Family Support. **Dept of PA Citation** criteria for Auxiliaries and District Chairman is listed in the [Dept of PA Auxiliary Program Book](#) on page 72. These are due to me, preferably by email, no later than March 31.

\*\* **Veterans & Family Support Year-End Report** (2) copies are due to your District President, no later than April 6. It is found in the [Dept of PA Auxiliary Program Book](#) and at [www.vfwauxpa.org](http://www.vfwauxpa.org) click on Programs then Veterans & Family Support.

### ***What will you do for our veterans, service members and their families?***

We are **Banding Together for Our Veterans to Let Freedom Ring!**

Loyally,

**Tina Hinkle**

Tina Hinkle, Veterans & Family Support Chairman

[tina@vfw5265.org](mailto:tina@vfw5265.org)



Building Partnerships • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach

## General Orders #8 February 2024

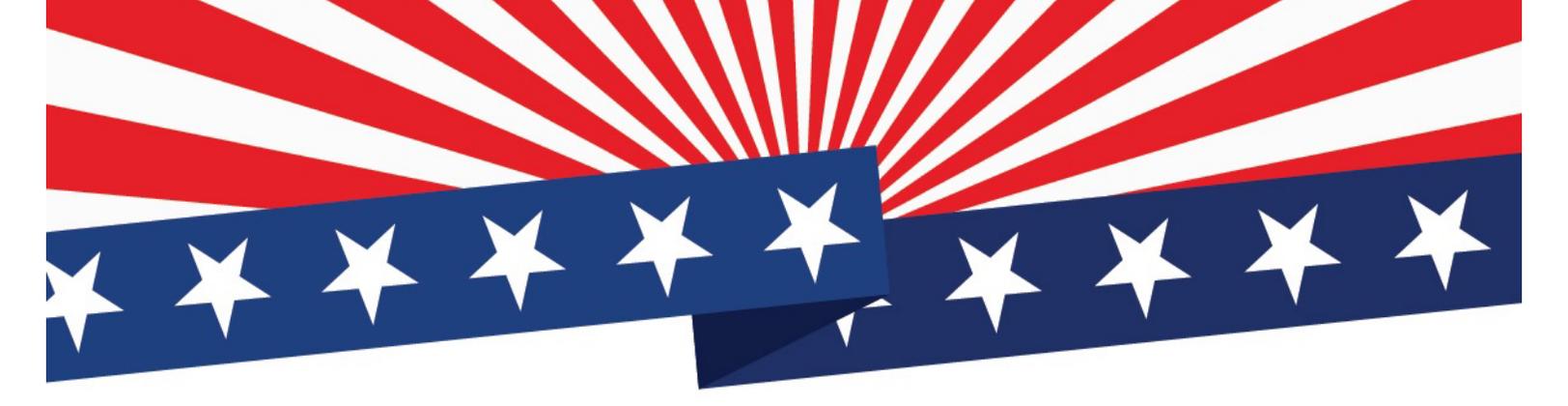
The American Red Cross has been advertising the need for volunteers. What a great opportunity for Auxiliaries to become involved with an organization! The immediate need for volunteers include:

- Blood Donor Ambassador  
Engage donors by greeting, registering, answering questions, providing information, and supporting them throughout the process.
- Blood Transportation Specialist  
Deliver blood, platelets, or other blood products to hospitals.
- Hero Care Network Caseworker  
Provide emergency communications and critical care to our military members, veterans, and their families.

American Red Cross provides training for volunteers and provides opportunities for online volunteers. To learn more about volunteering, visit their website at <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer>

Loyally,  
Kimberly Grundon  
Department Chairman

Auxiliary Members **“Banding together for our Veterans” to “Let Freedom Ring”**



**VFW AUXILIARY  
DEPT OF PA  
100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

IN HONOR OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION AND THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VFW AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA, WE ARE CREATING A 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOWCASE AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS. WE ARE LOOKING FOR **DONATIONS** OF MEMORABILIA FOR THE SHOWCASE. (THE SHOWCASE WILL BE UNVEILED AT THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, NOVEMBER 15-16, 2024.)

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES AND IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS THAT YOU MAY LIKE TO DONATE, CONTACT ANDREA MEINTEL: [ANDREAVFWAUX@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANDREAVFWAUX@GMAIL.COM)





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**AUGUST 9, 2024**  
**BARGER NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**  
**GOLF SCRAMBLE**

SCHOLARSHIP



**THE BRIDGES GOLF COURSE**  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024**

**GET YOUR GOLFERS LINED UP**  
**DON'T GOLF?? YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS**  
**WORTHY CAUSE BY MAKING A MONETARY**  
**DONATION TO THE PROGRAM**



ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL ME @ [fuhrman1970@comcast.net](mailto:fuhrman1970@comcast.net)  
CALL 717-225-3149 (H) or 717-578-2953 (Cell).

# EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION

(CHIEF OF STAFF)

## General Orders #8

February 2024

We are half way through our “**Let Freedom Ring**” year! I know each of our District Presidents and District Chiefs of Staff are busy working with their Auxiliaries. The Healthy Check-ups are arriving daily and there is some very useful information on many of them. Just please remember I do not need member name; I just need Auxiliary and District numbers.

Department President Mary Jean and I have seen interest in forming new Auxiliaries. We just want to be sure that everyone is familiar with the proper procedure as stated in **Article II – Sec. 201 and Sec. 202** of our By-laws, for forming a new Auxiliary.

In order to continue growing our Auxiliaries and helping them to become stronger, a great resource is “Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation” found under Member Resources in MALTA. Please utilize all resources found there. May we continue “Banding Together for Our Veterans” and continue working on the health of each of our Auxiliaries.

Loyally,

*Brenda Johnson*

Brenda Johnson

# Butler VAMC

General Orders #8

February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank President Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge, for this honor of naming us Representative and Deputy at Butler VA Healthcare system.

To all of the Auxiliaries that have sponsored parties and sent donations, we would like to say a big "Thank You." Through your continued support and concern for our hospitalized veterans, you have shown that we are "**Banding Together for our Veterans**" as we "**Let Freedom Ring**" it will be an outstanding year.

Christmas was a very busy month; we got our Veterans Sweatshirts with "You are our Hero's" on it. They have been shut down so many times because of Covids and they do not get to go anywhere. I asked the Veterans what they would like they wanted a Jukebox so that is what we got them.

February is going to be another busy month. We are planning a date with a Veterans for Valentines Day With candy and flowers if Covid stays away.

Through all your past support, we wish to thank those of you who have donated your time and money. Without the VFW Auxiliaries and the Volunteers, we would not be able to do what we do for our Veterans. With your donations the Veterans can have bingo parties, casino nights and date with a Veteran luncheon, go to movies, baseball games and bowling. Veterans are very active daily.

The Veterans are very appreciative of all we do with them and for them. We will do as much as we can to help. During the COVID way of life these days, we truly must think outside the box. Alot of the VA has not opened yet but we still can-do things for them and take homemade cards and gifts to them to let them know we still care and are out here for them.

In the past you have been very generous and it is greatly appreciated. For us to continue, to help our Veterans we ask for your generosity again this year. Please send your donation to: VFW Auxiliary, Department of PA, 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA. 17109-5943. Earmark your check Butler VA. If you want to sponsor something just mark your donation accordingly & I will make sure you get credit for that activity.

Loyally,

*Sandy*

Sandra Wilder, Representative

*Marcy*

Marcy John, Deputy

# LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER

## General Orders #8

February 2024

Well brothers and sisters the best way we can continue to show we are **“Banding Together for Our Veterans”** is by giving to the VA Medical Centers and volunteer since we are restricted to how much we can be in the VA with the veterans. We are honoring our veterans as we do service for them in any way we can as we **“Let Freedom Ring”** in their honor.

I am in constant contact with Voluntary Service to meet any needs that our veterans may have. It is so unfortunate that we can't visit with our veterans when they need us the most but we are still trying to do whatever we can to make their time in the hospital as comfortable as possible. Please remember that all of the VA's can always use comfort items such as body wash and those kind of items. My VA has requested almost monthly for different size underwear and then different size jeans and polo shirts. They have also requested we cook meals for 60 residents at a time. Their favorite request is Pork, Sauerkraut, Mashed potatoes, apple sauce, rolls & butter & pudding for dessert which we have done several times. Your donations make it possible for us to do these kind of things, since we can't be in to visit with them that much. For them this is home cooked food, not hospital food.

We hope that you will keep all of this in mind as we try to do all that we can for our veterans and make a generous donation to the Lebanon VA Medical Center. Be assured we will put it to good use because our main objective is **“OUR VETERANS”** and how we can make things better for them. If you want to sponsor something in particular just mark your donation accordingly & I will make sure you get credit for that activity.

Respectfully submitted:

*Louise J Gerhart*

Louise Gerhart, Representative  
Lebanon VA Medical Center

# LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

## GENERAL ORDERS #8

### FEBRUARY 2024

The Holidays are over and we are entering the home stretch of our 2023-2024 program year. There is still much that we can do to help our veterans and their families by contacting our legislators to support important bills that affect our veterans.

It is very important that we make sure to encourage our veterans to register with the Veterans Administration, so they are aware of the VA's compensation and benefits that they are entitled to. We, as auxiliary members, have had a part in obtaining these benefits, as we have helped to get important legislation passed.

During the first session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress last year the VFW National Legislative Service focused their attention on three areas of concern: transition from the military, suicide prevention and predatory claims companies. The VFW has urged Congress to pass these bills. That would require accredited representatives from national, state and local organizations to be in the TAP classes (transition from the military), to direct the VA to incorporate benefit usage data in to its annual suicide prevention report and to examine moving the office of suicide prevention to the enterprise level at VA (suicide prevention) & to reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits (Predatory claims companies).

Again, I am asking you to encourage your VFW & Auxiliary members, family and friends to join Action Corp **NOW**. You only have to be 18 years old and it is free. It has tons of information about what is happening on Capitol Hill with regard to our veterans, service member issues and national security.

A guide on how to contact your legislators can be found on the national website under Member Resources. Click on the legislative tab on the left. Go to legislative tools and resources and the third bullet point is the form. This is important information since we have elections coming up this year. A few of the bullet points are to make an appointment and be prompt. Be sure to dress appropriately. Be prepared and focus on the issue(s). Never belittle the legislator or their staff. Be sure to send a thank you after your visit.

As the year is ticking down, refer to the Department Program Book for the awards that are available at the national and department levels. If you do not have the program book, you can access it on the department website under resources. The awards are listed on pages 44 & 45 in the department program book. Also, start to look over your year-end report form so that you are sure to fill in everything that your auxiliary did this year supporting our veterans.

We will continue to serve our veterans and their families as we **"Let Freedom Ring"** while we are **"Banding Together for Our Veterans."**

Loyally,

*Marsha Fuhrman*

Marsha Fuhrman

Department of PA Legislative Chairman



# MEMBERSHIP

General Orders #8

February 2024

**“CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN”**

98.00%



**Congratulations to District 9 & District 10 for reaching the mountain first, District 8 in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, District 21 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place & District 17 4<sup>th</sup> place.**

Retention is a important part of our organization and we are only at 82.26%. So not only should we be recruiting New Members but also obtain our Annual Members. Right now we still need 2,499 members to renew their membership. We should be contacting our Annual Members by calling them personally and see if there is anything we can do for them to renew their membership. Has your Auxiliary contacted those Annual Members who have not renewed their membership last year and try to get them reinstate.

Would like to give a big shout out to the following Auxiliaries for reaching 100% or more in membership as of January 23, 2024: District 1, Auxiliary 6700 -100%; District 7, Auxiliary 974 -100% & Auxiliary 4845-103.23%; District 8, Auxiliary 1597 -100.90%; District 9, Auxiliary 287 -102.86%, Auxiliary 1463 -107.11%, Auxiliary 3376 - 102.84%, & Auxiliary 7418 -105.63%; District 11, Auxiliary 5010 - 101.96%; District 14, Auxiliary 714 -105.88%, Auxiliary 804 - 101.02% & Auxiliary 1568 - 101.45%; District 15, Auxiliary 6611 - 126.32%, Auxiliary 6755 - 101.11% & Auxiliary 7810 - 106.85%; District 17, Auxiliary 34 -101.63%, Auxiliary 255 - 100.42%, Auxiliary 882 - 100.62% & Auxiliary 6631 - 104.35%; District 18, Auxiliary 23 -100.69%, Auxiliary 1620 - 102.31%, Auxiliary 3502 - 104.49%, Auxiliary 6168 -101.08%, Auxiliary 6704 -102.39% & Auxiliary 7343 - 100%; District 19, Auxiliary 6391 - 103.31%; District 20, Auxiliary 8008 - 105.71%; District 21, Auxiliary 537 -103.61%, Auxiliary 695 -100%, Auxiliary 1446 - 102.58%, Auxiliary 1599 - 103.80%, Auxiliary 2493 - 102.37%, Auxiliary 7046 - 100% & Auxiliary 8951 - 102.22%; District 22, Auxiliary 6321 -108.78%, Auxiliary 7043 -101.62% & Auxiliary 8386 - 102.35%; District 23, Auxiliary 21 -105%, Auxiliary 747 -100%, Auxiliary 4795 - 105.77%, Auxiliary 7295 -103.85%, Auxiliary 7457 - 109.68%, Auxiliary 8826 - 105.50%) & Auxiliary 8861 -105.13%; District 24, Auxiliary 764 -100.00% & Auxiliary 4793 -100%; District 25, Auxiliary 7376 - 100%, Auxiliary 8106 - 104.84% & Auxiliary 8168 - 100.00%; District 26, Auxiliary 155 - 100.74% & Auxiliary 797- 100%, District 27, Auxiliary 92-101.18%, Auxiliary 781-101.72% & Auxiliary 6743-101.15%, District 28 , Auxiliary 264-100%, Auxiliary 6166 -100.00% & 6345 -101.98%, District 30, Auxiliary 2088 -103.39%.

As we “**Band Together for our Veterans**” it is time for us to get ready for a great year with “**Lights, Camera & Action.**” Get ready to “**Climb Every Mountain**” and we can reach the top of the mountain “**Let Freedom Ring.**”

*Tammy Hunter*

Tammy Hunter

Department Membership Chairman

huntertammyjo@aol.com

## March is Women Veterans Month

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

Is proud to sponsor the

## Women Veterans Expo

March 15-16, 2024

Harrisburg, PA



**All women veterans in Pennsylvania are welcome to attend.**  
*You do not need to be a member of the VFW in order to attend.*

Please join us for a time of fellowship, camaraderie, and informational displays by, for, and about women veterans—highlighting the issues that matter and impact them directly.

Preregistration is required; please see the VFW Dept. of PA Website for forms and the tentative agenda, or contact Amy MacKenzie (info below)

Final Registration 01/31/2024(*or until sold out*)

[www.vfwpa.org](http://www.vfwpa.org)

(under the “resources” tab, then “Women Veterans”)



This event is organized by the  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Pennsylvania, with  
financial contributions from Districts,  
Posts, Auxiliaries, & Individuals.

**Location:** Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111

2024 will offer a new format, consisting of many resource and informational vendors, along with women owned businesses showcasing their specialty products. Breakout presentations will also be offered.  
Each year is different, don't miss out!

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA**  
Women Veterans Chairperson Amy MacKenzie  
717.575.3982 [quartermaster@ephratavfw.org](mailto:quartermaster@ephratavfw.org)

# 2024 Women Veterans Conference / Expo

Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pennsylvania

**Who:** Any woman veteran who lives in Pennsylvania (or belongs to a PA Military Unit)

**When:** March 15-16, 2024

**Where:** Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111



This is a **TWO** Page Registration Form! **Please print legibly.**

Attendee Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

E-mail

Branch of Service & Years Served

Any veteran groups you belong to

Each year is different; don't miss out! The new format for 2024 will consist of many resources and informational vendors. There will be women-owned businesses showcasing specialty products, and numerous breakout presentations highlighting women veterans' issues. Come for the camaraderie; strengthening a bond reinforced each year. **Join us for the Women Veterans Expo 2024!**

## Tentative Agenda

### **Friday**

Registration opens at 3:00 pm

Expo Halls Open at 4:00 pm

Dinner On Your Own

Hospitality Room / Meet & Greet 7:00 pm

### **Saturday**

Breakfast On Your Own

Registration Opens at 8:00 am

Expo Halls Open at 8:00 am

Lunch – Included with Registration Fee

Workshops in Breakout Rooms (schedule will be emailed and posted at registration)

Topics may include VA Service Officer, Military Sexual Trauma, Women's Leadership Classes, Veterans Court, Legislation, Service Animals, etc

Expo Halls Close at 4:00 pm

Dismiss

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

**Registration Fee**

**\$40.00 per person**

- All attendees must pay the base registration fee, regardless of lodging requirements.
- Registration includes Access to the Conference / Expo, the Friday Reception, and Saturday Lunch.
- Please use the link to book your own hotel room, if required:  
[Book your group rate for Women Veterans Retreat 2024](#)  
Or call the hotel directly at 1-800-325-3535 and reference the 2024 Women Veterans Conference.
  - The room rate is \$123.00 / night + taxes. You may book both Friday and Saturday if you choose.
  - You are welcome to book a single or double occupancy room (with a roommate of your choosing)

**Donation to Event** (optional)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*This event is subsidized primarily through generous donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Pennsylvania. We also receive funds from our various “auctions” during the event.*

*Additional donations are greatly appreciated, to help us offer a high-quality program.*

**Totals Funds Submitted**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shirts will be available for purchase during the event. Please note your size so we can pre-order and have adequate inventory. **Unisex Shirt size** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit the completed registration form, along with funds, and a copy of either your DD-214 (black out the SSN), VA ID card, or VSO card (i.e. VFW, AmVets, or American Legion)**

If you attended in the past, we may have your proof of eligibility on file – please ask.

Make **checks / money order** payable to “Department of PA VFW” with

“Women Veterans Conference” in the memo.

**Send to: Amy MacKenzie, 311 Jeff Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522**

Please contact Amy with any questions: 717.575.3982 or email [quartermaster@ephratavfw.org](mailto:quartermaster@ephratavfw.org)

**You will receive a confirmation email / phone call once your registration is processed.**

**You are ONLY considered “registered” once all paperwork and fees have been submitted.**

*Please abide by all regulations of the hotel and conference center, specifically regarding smoking, pets, and personal alcohol usage (open containers in public spaces). No alcohol will be permitted in the Expo Hall or Breakout Sessions.*

# PA WOUNDED WARRIORS

## Department President's Special Project

### General Orders #8

If you have not sent your donation to support Department President Mary Jean's Special Project, please put it on your agenda for your next meeting. Remember all donations are used to help our PA Soldiers and Veterans.

The late Major General Gerald Sajer and his wife, Helen, founded **Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc.** in 2006 to support and assist Wounded Warriors and their families as the soldiers returned from deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

They started out by visiting wounded soldiers and their families in Washington, D.C., then invited them for a relaxing weekend at their farm in Adams County. As the word spread, **PAWW** began to work with the Lebanon VA Hospital to address other Veteran needs. Seventeen years later **PAWW** has grown tremendously thanks to the generous support of Pennsylvanians.

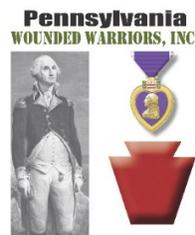
They are an independent non-profit 501C3 organization. They are not affiliated with nor a part of any national organization, including Wounded Warrior Project, and they do **not** receive any funds from them. They are not affiliated with any other Veterans support organizations, nor do they receive any funds from them.

The unpaid volunteer staff consists of an elected Board of Directors who meet monthly and provide general direction to the organization.

**Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc.** was founded on one major goal – to help over 1200 Veterans and their families each year with over \$1,500,000 in assistance. Emergency financial assistance is provided to Veterans by helping to pay for housing, utilities, transportation, medical and other expenses. Payments are made directly to landlords, vendors and creditors.

**Send your donations to Department Headquarters – payable to VFW Aux Dept of PA and earmark you check “President’s Special Project.”**

To learn more about this 100% Volunteer Organization you can go to [pawoundedwarriors.org](http://pawoundedwarriors.org)



# TIPS

## February 2024

### General Orders # 8

Buddy Poppy - VFW National Home - Amy Peterson, Chairman

#### Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home Trivia Game

Let's have a little fun this month! Feel free to use as a School of Instruction! 😊



1. What poem inspired the poppy as a symbol of remembrance?
2. What are poppy drive proceeds used for?
3. When can you hold a poppy drive?
4. What #hashtag should you use when you post your poppy drive pictures?
5. Is the National Home ONLY for VFW members?
6. How much is a National Home Membership?
7. What is the name of the garden that National Home will have in honor of its 100th Anniversary?
8. What is the minimum order of poppies to qualify for All-State?
9. Who is 2023-2024 Buddy Poppy Child for National?
10. What musical instrument is given to students upon completion of a special music program at National Home?

10	GUITAR
9	LAVLA
8	100
7	CENTENNIAL GARDEN
6	\$50 ONE TIME FEE
5	NO, ALL VETERANS/FAMILIES
4	#POPPIESCOUNT
3	ANY DAY & TIME
2	RELIEF FUNDS
1	IN FLANDERS FIELDS

#### Youth Activities – Joey Diehl, Chairman

The countdown is on for the “Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue” contest. Reach out to local schools and promote this singing contest. Do you have a youth artist in your community? Share the “Illustrating America” Contest. It is open to ages K-2, 3-5 and 7-8 grades. Deadline for both contests is March 31, 2024.

Promote Patriotism through Literacy – Go to your local library and plan a night of Patriotism. Read books, teach the Pledge to the Flag and Flag etiquette. Distribute flags and citations to the children who participate.

#### Historian/Media Relations TIP – Kristin DiGiacomo, Chairman

Now is a great time to reflect on your Auxiliary accomplishments to date. Make sure that you have documented these successes! Hopefully, you’ve also shared these events with your membership on social media!

It’s also a good time to reflect and ask yourselves:

- “What worked well?”
- “What didn’t work?”
- “What could we have done differently to make it more successful?”

By addressing these questions now, it will ensure even more success for your Auxiliary in the future!

#### Mentoring for Leadership – Sandy Brenner, Chairman

Have you completed/planned at least two mentoring activities during these last seven months? Time is marching on and you don’t want to miss out on completing and reporting all that you have done. Need ideas? Need support? Reach out and we will assist.

“Tell me, and I forget; teach me, and I may remember, involve me, and I learn.”

Benjamin Franklin