



General Orders No .1

July 2023-2024

Happy New Year, Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters!

It just doesn't seem possible that our convention has come and gone, but here we are, ready to embark on yet another journey of serving our Veterans and their families. I thank each of you for your past contributions to their needs and I know you will meet the challenges of the new year with the same determination and commitment.

Congratulations to all who were installed, and I wish you a productive and exciting year. My sincere thanks to all of our Auxiliary members who made our installation memorable. A special thanks to my husband and Installing Officer, Ben. I was so happy to see Dan, Carla, and my granddaughters, that I thought my heart would burst when I saw the girls running down the aisle into my arms.

To our outgoing President, Valerie DeCorte and Commander, Henry Mannella, I extend best wishes for success in your future endeavors as you continue to serve the Veterans of Foreign Wars and it's Auxiliary.

We will be working together for our Veterans during this **"Let Freedom Ring"** year. To be prepared, we will provide Instructional Training in Harrisburg for District Presidents and Line Officers only. If you cannot attend for a good reason, please arrange for your Sr. Vice President to attend and if not, the Jr. Vice President should be there for this learning opportunity.

Mark your calendars for Auxiliary & Program Training for ALL members to be held in Gettysburg at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center on August 4th and 5th.

I can't wait to see your smiling faces as we move forward together to care for our Veterans and each other. I wish each of you good health and God's blessings in our New Year.

Included within:

Auxiliary & Program Training
Barger Scholarship
Chief of Staff/Extension
Historian/Media Relation
Membership
On The Road Trainings
Special Project
TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 7-8 Instructional Training (Incoming District Presidents & Line Officers)
July 21-27 National VFW/Auxiliary Convention, Phoenix, AZ
Aug 4-5 Auxiliary & Program Training (All members are urged to attend).
Eisenhower Hotel & Conference Center, 2632 Emmitsburg Road,
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Mary Jean Mastridge

Mary Jean Mastridge
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Tentative Schedule
2023 Program Auxiliary Training

Please Join Us for Our Program and Auxiliary Training Aug 4 -5, 2023

Location: Aspire & Eisenhower Gettysburg
2632 Emmitsburg Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Room Rate: \$139 plus taxes (includes breakfast)

Click the link below to go directly to book a reservation:

<https://bit.ly/40g5N6W> or call: 717-334-8121

This training is open to ALL MEMBERS. Learn about the programs and connect with Auxiliary members from across the state. The schedule below is subject to change.

Friday, August 4

1:00pm Registration Opens
2:00pm Program Tables Open
3:00pm Opening Session
3:30pm Financial Year-End Report Review - Jeff Patackis
4:00pm Council of Administration Meeting
Passing of the final 2022-2023 budget
5:00pm Dinner Break
6:30pm Reconvene - Training
8:00pm Mastridge Hospitality Room

Saturday, August 5

8:00am Registration Opens
8:30am Welcome - Programs
10:00am Break
10:15am Programs
12:00pm Lunch Break
1:30pm Programs
3:00pm Break
3:15pm Programs
5:00pm Conclusion



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.**

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION

GENERAL ORDERS #1

JULY, 2023

Dear Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

It is an honor for me to be asked by Department President Mary Jean Mastridge to serve as her Chief of Staff.

As we start the 2023-2024 "**Let Freedom Ring**" as we begin "**Banding Together for Our Veterans**" year. It is my responsibility to work with each District Chief of Staff to provide the resources they need to work with their Auxiliary and District Presidents to ensure that Auxiliaries are functioning in a healthy manner.

We have the resources to provide you with the up-to-date information that you can use to assist your Auxiliaries in your District.

When a Commander inquires about starting a new Auxiliary or if you approach the Commander of a Bachelor Post, please make sure you inform them of all the benefits of having an Auxiliary. You can contact Madam Department President or myself for the information.

I look forward to meeting each of you as I travel with Department President, Mary Jean.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America.

Loyally,

Brenda Johnson

Brenda Johnson

Chief of Staff 2023-2024

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATION
GENERAL ORDERS #1
July 2023

Historians are the voices that get the word out about our Auxiliaries to our communities! As our Auxiliaries grow, we must continue to reach out to both members and non-members to tell the story of who we are, what we do, how we help our veterans (and their families).

It's vital that we communicate with **both** our traditional media outlets (television, radio, newspapers, etc.) as well as our digital & social media outlets (email, Auxiliary websites, Facebook, Instagram, etc.). I know that social media is overwhelming and intimidating, but don't allow that to become an excuse. Be willing to learn new ways to preserve your Auxiliary's memories!

It's imperative that we share knowledge – *and remember that's a two-way street!* While our younger members can teach our seasoned members the ins and outs of social media, our seasoned members should be teaching those younger members about the traditions that they hold so dear and why those traditions are important to carry on. **The past can learn from the future and the future can learn from the past!**

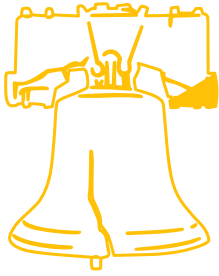
It's time for us to let everyone know what we do and who we are as an organization! When you're holding a function, be sure to invite your local media, take lots of pictures, set up a photo booth with props to match the event. Once the event is over, be sure to post your event information and photos to your Facebook page and/or Instagram account.

I am truly looking forward to working with you all on this program again! This year as we're "**Banding Together For Our Veterans**" we need to ensure that we preserve our past while looking ahead to our future as we "**Let Freedom Ring**" throughout our great state!

Loyally,

Kristin DiGiacomo

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



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDERS #1 - JULY 2023

“CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN”

It is time to start our journey for the Membership Year of 2023-2024 by climbing up the mountain named “**Let Freedom Ring.**” This journey is never easy so let’s gather all the information we need to have a successful climb. Before we start, we need to gather all the information we need and plan. So, what does your auxiliary need to start the climb?

- Print the Membership Renewal Letter from Malta.
- List of the current officers for the 2023-2024 year.
- Meeting Reminder of location, time and place.
- District information with location, time and place of meetings.
- Welcoming them with open arms to attend or help with events.
- Teach members about Malta and encourage them to pay their membership dues online.



We need to **Invest, Invite and Include** all Members in everything we do. This year is a promising year, so we need to retain our current members and help grow our organization with new incoming members to help our organization maintain power at capital hill.

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
Department Membership Chairman
huntertammyjo@aol.com

ON THE ROAD TRAININGS 2023

JULY 15 - CLARION VFW POST 2145, DISTRICT 19
603 LIBERTY STREET, CLARION, PA 16214

JULY 16 - NEW KENSINGTON VFW POST 92, DISTRICT 27
1601 WILDLIFE LODGE ORAD, NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068

AUGUST 12 - WEST CHESTER VFW POST 106, DISTRICT 9
837 LINCOLN AVENUE, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380

AUGUST 13 - DUPONT VFW POST 4909, DISTRICT 11
401 MAIN STREET, DUPONT, PA 18641

AUGUST 19 - SELINGSGROVE VFW POST 6631, DISTRICT 17
940 US-522, SELINGSGROVE, PA 17870

AUGUST 20 - DUBOISTOWN VFW POST 7863, DISTRICT 15
150 SHAFFER STREET, DUBOISTOWN, PA 17702

**ALL SESSIONS WILL BE
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

- \$15 PER PERSON
- LUNCH INCLUDED
- REGISTRATION DUE THE WEEK PRIOR TO SCHEDULED OTR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
DEPT OF PA VFWA

MAIL TO:
4002 FENTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17109

QUESTIONS? PLEASE EMAIL
JODIE@VFWAUXPA.ORG OR
SANDY@VFWAUXPA.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!
AUGUST 4-5, 2023

AUXILIARY & PROGRAM TRAINING, GETTYSBURG
WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



PA WOUNDED WARRIORS

Department President's Special Project

2023-2024

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.

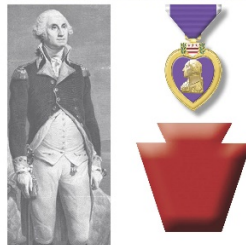
The unpaid volunteer staff consists of an elected Board of Directors who meet monthly and provide general direction to the organization.

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.

Pennsylvania's Veterans have served their nation in every conflict. Many of these men and women are recovering physically, mentally or emotionally at a military hospital, Veteran's Administration medical facility or with their families at home; and are in need of financial support. Through generous donations, they are able to assist our Pennsylvania Veterans.

To learn more about this 100% Volunteer Organization you can go to pawoundedwarriors.org

Pennsylvania
WOUNDED WARRIORS, INC.



TIPS

General Orders #1

July 2023

Veterans & Family Support

★ Increase awareness of the high rate of suicide among veterans by wearing the Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Pin. (Product code 01724 at vfwstore.org) It's a blue tear drop pin with the Auxiliary logo and combat boots. When asked about the pin, let them know the Auxiliary is concerned about the rate of suicide among veterans and we want everyone to be aware of the unique stress they face.

★ Plan an activity to increase support of veterans, service members and their families.

★ Access Veterans & Family Support materials/resources in MALTA under Member Resources.

What will you do for our veterans, service members and their families this year?

We are “**Banding Together for Our Veterans**” to “**Let Freedom Ring.**”

Tina Hinkle, Department Chairman

Buddy Poppy - National Home - Amy Peterson, Chairman

- Buddy Poppy Day isn't just ONE day, we can display and/or distribute ANY time! 😊 Go for it!
- **SET UP** a table at all your events, **GET NOTICED, SHARE** the Buddy Poppy Story!
- **Say, THANK YOU!**
- Order LOTS of poppies, the form is ready to download on our site vfwauxpa.org
- **'Health & Happiness' donations** support National Home, don't forget to send in your 25 cents per member to support these Veterans and families ❤️

Auxiliary Outreach

Where do you find partnership opportunities?

Ask your members, most members belong to more than one organization.

Look in your local newspaper for upcoming events.

Check local community bulletin boards.

Check your local and surrounding town/city websites for their calendar of events.

Kimberly Grundon, Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

A reminder to all Treasurers:

Early July after the start of our 2023-2024 year is the time for you to go into MALTA and pay your Auxiliary or District Bond! Do **NOT** wait until the end of August to get this completed. All Bonds must be renewed before the August 31 expiration.

At the same time go to the IRS website and file your E990 postcard. Taking care of these items early saves us all time and less headaches. <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>