



Greetings,

I am deeply honored to have been installed as your 2024-2025 Department President. Our organization has a long history of supporting our veterans and their families, and I am committed to continuing this legacy with your help and dedication. TOGETHER, we will build on our past successes and work towards an even brighter future.

Our mission has always been to provide unwavering support to our veterans, our military and their families. Our goals for this coming year, include:

1. **Enhancing Programs:**
 - We will strengthen our existing programs and introduce new initiatives to better serve the needs of our Veterans and their families.
2. **Increasing Community Engagement:**
 - By fostering stronger relationships within our community, we aim to raise awareness and support for our organization and our veterans' causes.
3. **Promoting Volunteerism and Membership:**
 - We encourage more members to get involved in our activities and volunteer opportunities, creating a healthy and active Auxiliary.

Get Involved

Your participation and support are crucial to our success. Here are some ways you can get involved

- Attend our Auxiliary meetings and events.
- Volunteer your time and skills for our core programs.
- Spread the word about our mission and activities to friends and family.
- Share your ideas and feedback with us by talking to us or emailing us.

Auxiliaries-in-Action Spotlight

Each month in the General Orders and on our Facebook page, we will feature Auxiliary Events and Members who have made outstanding contributions in their communities. Send your submissions to the office, to a Department Line Officer, to your District President or to a Program Chairman.

Looking Forward to Our "Together" Year

As we embark on this journey, I look forward to our "Together" year, working hand-in-hand with our Auxiliary brothers and sisters, as well as our VFW Veterans. Together, we are stronger and unbeatable. This spirit of unity and collaboration will guide us throughout this Together Helping Veterans year.

Upcoming Events:

- **Program Conference—July 12-13, 2024 (Altoona Grand Hotel)**
 - Join us for a fun-filled day that's all about your Auxiliary Programs, for example, Americanism, Hospitals, Legislative, Scholarships, and Youth Activities. Learn what's new for the All-State Award, meet the Department Chairmen, make new connections and ask questions.
- **On-the-Road Training Sessions—July 20, July 21, Aug 10, Aug 11, Aug 17, Aug 18, Aug 25 (Check the flyer for locations):**
 - Join the Department Officers at one of these training sessions. Learn the Bylaws, learn why trustees are so important, learn how to grow your Auxiliary, learn what other Auxiliaries are doing, and much more. This is a great opportunity to discuss how to have a thriving Auxiliary. All members are encouraged to attend.
- **Celebrating America's Freedom Event at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan—September 6-8, 2024 Bus Trip (Check out the attached flyer):**
 - Come celebrate the VFW National Home with National President Brenda Bryant and the Department of PA. A bus trip has been planned for this exciting celebration.
- **100th Anniversary Celebration for the Department of PA, VFW Auxiliary—Nov. 15-16, 2024 in Harrisburg, PA**
 - The state organization is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a Night-at-the-Races fundraiser and a birthday bash.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president, and I am confident that, together, we can achieve great things for our veterans and their families. Let's make this year one of compassion, commitment, and community. Thank you once again to all our members for your unwavering support and dedication. Your hard work and kindness make a

world of difference. Loyally, *Andrea*

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 4-5 Department Headquarters closed July 4th Holiday
*July 11 Visit to James Van Zandt VA & Hollidaysburg Veterans Center
July 12-13 Program Conference, Altoona Grand Hotel, Altoona
*July 14 District 26 Meeting @ Johnstown #4200 - 2:30 P.M.
July 26 – Aug 1 National Convention, Louisville, KY
Sept 6-8 **CAFÉ** VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI

Review enclosed – On The Road Training information and sign-up.

Andrea Meintel

Andrea Meintel
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

Stay Connected:

- Visit our website: www.vfwauxpa.org
- Follow us on Facebook: VFW Auxiliary – Department of Pennsylvania
- Follow us on Instagram: pa_vfw_auxiliary

* President's Official Visits



2024-2025

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Stacey Miller

While most Americans are gearing up to celebrate our Nation's Birthday, let us never forget those who continuously fight for our freedom. Remember those who are missing out on the backyard barbeques, picnics, and spending time with families and friends. Let's bring the celebration of America to them and thank them for that continued support for our freedom.

Let's come together to help veterans by supporting the Military Assistance Program (MAP) and Adopt-a-Unit. MAP will cover the postage fees for all care packages. For instructions regarding how to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans and Military Support Office at 816-756-3390. Adopt-A-Unit

Resource: [AdoptAUnit - VFW](#)

June 14th - Happy Birthday US Army Veterans!

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JULY 2024

"Together Helping Veterans"

"From Our Roots to our Branches extending Service to our Veterans"

AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Tim Altman

There are a couple dates to remember this month - July 4th is Independence Day, the Birthday of our Nation. Our Declaration of Independence was written July 4, 1776, but it was formally titled "The Unanimous Declaration of The Thirteen States of America." There will be lots of celebrating on the 4th of July. As Auxiliary members be sure to wear something Patriotic, carry and wave our FLAG, and even pass some out to spectators. Let them see your patriotism!

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado

What does "From Our Roots to Our Branches" mean in Auxiliary Outreach? Our Roots are our beginnings, where we need to start in our communities. This is the beginning of reaching out in your community to see what organizations you want to be a part of, such as the local Food Banks, Cancer Societies, Blood Banks or Animal Shelters. The Branches are how we extend our time in our communities to create a better place to live. When we work with outside organizations, you will gain confidence, new friendships and a sense of purpose, while the organization will gain support and will grow, creating stronger branches in our communities. So, take some time this summer and find your roots to extend our branches!

"BUDDY" POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

Cindy Utter Peters

As National Home & "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman, this year has begun as a whirlwind! First, I would like you to please consider your support with the "Buddy" Poppy program. We now have a metal poppy to proudly display on our lapels. And remember, all money raised funds the Auxiliary's Relief fund and National Home.

Since this year we **CELEBRATE** the 100th Anniversary of the National Home, I'll update you on some new programs being offered at the National Home. The first is called a CUP OF JOE. On Saturdays for up to 2 hours. Veterans spend time with other veterans having coffee, donuts, and conversation! Though I am new to these programs, I am truly amazed at all your hard work and generosity! Thanks so much!

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JULY 2024, PAGE 2

EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING Kathy Altoff

Under the “Sneak Preview” for the Programs in the last Newsletter, some Chairmen introduced themselves, so I shall do so now. I am a 42-year member of the Auxiliary and a member of Pvt. Allen J. Beck Jr. Post #5265 Auxiliary in Spring Grove. I joined under the eligibility of my father, a Korean War Veteran. I am married to Larry, a Vietnam Marine Corps Veteran.

This year under the Revitalization section of the program is a new concept - **“Green Light, Yellow Light, Red Light”** to better help Auxiliaries understand their responsibilities and requirements to stay a productive part of our organization. The concept is to help struggling Auxiliaries reach out to their District President and other Mentors for assistance before it is too late! So let us band **“Together Helping Veterans”** this year and keep our Auxiliaries strong!

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS Kristin DiGiacomo

“Let’s get this party started!” This program year I want everyone to take part in all of Andrea’s adventures across this great state of ours! Get some pictures of what she is doing, and where she visits. Please email any photos to me within two weeks of her official visit. Remember to identify each person in the pictures (and what you were doing) so she can have memories to last a lifetime! If you have any questions about this, please don’t hesitate to contact me. **“Together Helping Veterans”** is what we do BEST!

HOSPITAL



Linda Dilling

Whether you can volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly, your assistance and time is priceless to our Nation’s Veterans. There are more Veterans being served in the VA system than ever before. This makes recruiting a vital part of the Hospital Program. Will you be the first? Volunteering can be a little intimidating to some, but everyone has something to offer. Will you be the first to lead the way? It just takes one little step. Call your local VA Hospital, community hospitals, clinics, adult day-car centers, hospice, Community Living Centers, and nursing facility and ask the Volunteer Coordinator or the Recreation Therapy Director how **YOU** can help.

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JULY 2024, PAGE 3

LEGISLATION Karen Mooney

Welcome to a new Auxiliary Program year and Dept. President Meintel's theme this year is "Together Helping Veterans" and we can all be a part of making this theme successful while making a difference.

Are you a member of Action Corps? If not, please sign up for free emails at vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts or vfwac@vfw.org. Knowledge is Power and the more knowledge we gain, the louder our voices become. Building a better understanding of the Legislative Program provides additional strength for our Veterans and their families. Being a member of Action Corps is a great way to find this legislative information. You can also search the VFW webpages. Build a relationship with your local officials. Recommendations on how to get more involved with your elected officials:

- Check out palegis.us/house site and you will find an option where you can find your representative by address.
- Communicate with their local offices.
- Reach out to their offices in DC.
- Go "old school" and write them a letter.
- Expedite your communication and email them.

Use the KISS method - Keep It Sweet and Simple. Keep your communication concise and to the point so your point does not get overlooked.



MEMBERSHIP Amy Peterson "STRIKE UP THE BAND"

Looking forward to Program/Leadership to "**STRIKE UP THE BAND!**" with YOU!!! Membership committees, time to get your **ASK** in gear!!! *NO rest for the BEST!* Get up, show up, and move that **ASK!** Refer to your **ALL STATE form** ritually. There is no time to just sit and wait, get up and **MOVE your groove to CHART-TOPPING** numbers! Get those **DUES** reminders out earlier as deadlines come up quickly.... shake that **ASK! Let's DO THIS!** Spark up your drives with social media, videos, or more.... Offer incentives, **share your WHY**, pay your obligations sooner, than later.....make a check-off list and stick to it! **Can't wait to ROCK this year!**

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JULY 2024, PAGE 4

SCHOLARSHIPS

Pam Sopher

I hope everyone is ready to start our 2024 -2025 Programs. Schools are out for the summer, and State Convention is in the books for another year. I was able to see all the hard work, time, and dedication our youth has given. Unfortunately, I also witnessed the hard work that was disqualified due to size, matting, and everything else not done according to our National rules. We must make sure that we all stress the importance of this as we are promoting these Scholarships. One wrong detail deters the whole process for them.

Each Scholarships Chairmen must be up to date on the contest rules! Disqualified artwork should never reach the Department level of judging!

Now is the time for us to get our contests out to our youth as quickly as possible. Contact your schools, talk to Guidance Counselors, Teachers, family, friends, and whoever you can think. We need to reach more students and get them more involved.

Work together on this program in your Auxiliary meetings, spread the word, and I know we have friends who have children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, etc. This program has endless possibilities for them. Work on this now, as we have deadline dates and requirements. Attending our Program and Leadership Conference to be able to learn what is new and get vital information on it and the other programs. You will be able to ask questions, and get the answers needed.

I am new to this program this year, so we will all learn together. The time at this conference is our time to learn and remember those important deadline dates which are so very critical to Scholarships.

State President Meintel's theme this year is **"TOGETHER Helping Veterans"**, and by doing so, we WILL make a difference! Start working now, have fun, and SPREAD THE WORD!



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jeanna Leydic

Summer vacation is upon us! Let's get those youth excited to get **"Together Helping Veterans."** While on summer vacation many youths are involved in groups, sports and clubs. Get together with girl/boy scouts and 4-H/FFA clubs to help promote **Patriotism** in today's youth! Use those **Patriotic Youth Awards** and **R.A.P.** cards to encourage our youth to participate. It's never too early to get a jump on youth contests this year!!!

<https://vfwauxpa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>

Can't wait to see what young Pennsylvania minds have in store!!

2024 ON-THE-ROAD AUXILIARY TRAINING

Please Join Us

Who: Everyone is Welcome
Where: See Below Schedule
Time: 9am-4pm
Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)
How: *Reserve Your Spot* (closes 1 week before training date)

Send reservations with check to:

PA VFW Auxiliary Headquarters
4002 Fenton Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17109

What: Lots of Shared Information
Some topics include—

- New “Members Only” Section of the PA Aux Website
- Easy Program Reporting
- Why are Trustees so Important?
- Know the Auxiliary Bylaws
- Growing Your Auxiliary
- Engaging Your Members
- Exploring the Online Academy
- What are Others Doing?

July 20—Dupont Post 4909

July 21—Levittown Post 6495

Aug 10—Clarion Post 2145

Aug 11—Coraopolis Post 402

Aug 17—Duboisstown Post 7863

Aug 18—New Cumberland Post 7415

Aug 25—Duncansville Post 8724

TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS

**JACK BARGER MEMORIAL
NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND
GOLF SCRAMBLE**

Friday, August 12, 2024

The Bridges Golf Club
6729 York Road
Abbottstown, PA 17301

**100% of all proceeds from Hole Sponsors
And Ads go to the Scholarship Fund**

Full Page & Sponsor of Hole - \$200.00

Full Page - \$100.00

Half Page - \$50.00

Quarter Page - \$30.00

Secure yours today!

Make check payable: Dwight Fuhrman

Send to: Dwight Fuhrman

5059 Rislyn Court

Spring Grove, PA 17362



UPDATED HOTEL INFORMATION!!!
VFW AUXILIARY'S 12TH
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT
VFW NATIONAL HOME
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024



The Department of Pennsylvanian VFW Auxiliary is taking a bus to the National Home for the National President's Cafe in September 2024. The bus will depart on Friday, September 6, 2024 at 6:00am from headquarters and return on Sunday, September 8, 2024 around 7:00pm.

The cost for the bus and your lunch at the National Home is a total of \$170.00 per person. Your check should be made payable to: Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary with **CAFE** on the memo line and mail to Marsha Fuhrman 5059 Rislyn Court Spring Grove PA 17362. Jodie will register everyone for the lunch at the National Home—do **not** go on MALTA and register.

There will be drinks and snacks on the bus going to and returning from the National Home; as well as 50/50's, gambling and raffle basket(s).

UPDATED INFO:

The hotel reservations will need to be made by you. We are staying at the AC/Marriott, Lansing. The cost is \$139.00/night and reservations can be made by calling **517-337-7771**. **Discounted Group Rate Code: VFW AUXILIARY BLOCK** **Please book today!!** **Breakfast is included!**

Come and join us in celebrating the National Home and our 100th year! Don't miss the bus, the fellowship and the fun—**Make your reservations EARLY – we want to be sure everyone is at the same hotel.**



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
 HELP HOPE HONOR



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

District/Post _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check Number _____

Any questions, call Marsha @ 717-578-2953 or Sandy @717-891-2093.

Auxiliaries and Members In-Action



Auxiliary to Post 5642 attended & participated in Montrose Memorial Day Services with a parade and presentation of wreaths. Picture left are Auxiliary 5642 members Brenda Lewis and Jean Dunn, as well as Anne Eastabrook Auxiliary 6824 President.



Junior Past Department President Mary Jean Mastridge addresses the Convention



Three District Presidents were named Outstanding District President: Bonnie Drake, District 10; Carolyn Paccio, District 14 and Kathy Altoff, District 21.



VFW 8724 Auxiliary members grilled and served 275 hot dogs at the firehall for everyone who participated in the Duncansville Memorial Day Parade.