



**Greetings,**

**It's almost over!**

During our 2023 Convention it felt like I was looking through a never-ending tunnel. There was plenty of time to do everything that is required, plus all the fun extras. A year gives us 365 days to do it all!

Whoa!! What was I thinking?? I have been asked, just out of curiosity, if I would consider another year if it was on the table. My answer was, "Only if I could be fifteen years younger." Being Department President has been an adventure, a learning experience, an opportunity, a challenge, absolute frustration and a privilege.

As a VFW Auxiliary member, I discovered a passion that began when I was taking my husband Dan to VA facilities. I just didn't know it then. During my visits to our institutionalized Veterans this year, it has grown. If you are not yet involved with a VA or Non-VA medical facility, please talk to someone who is.

Thank you for all the kindness and courtesies shown to me during this "Let Freedom Ring" year. It has been amazing.

**Included within:**

Membership  
Reception to Celebrate  
Past District Presidents/25 Year Club Luncheon  
2024-2025 Program News  
Program Conference  
2024 On-The-Road Auxiliary Training  
CAFE

## IMPORTANT DATES:

June 12-15 - Department 100<sup>th</sup> Aux. Convention, Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey  
June 19 - Juneteenth – Department Headquarters Closed  
July 12-13 - Program Conference – Altoona Grand Hotel, Altoona  
July 26-Aug 1 - National VFW/Aux Convention, Louisville, KY  
Sept. 6-8 - **CAFÉ** VFW National Home, Eaton Rapids, MI

**Review enclosed - On The Road Training information and sign-up**

*Mary Jean Mastridge*

Mary Jean Mastridge  
Department President

*Jodie Hollinger*

Jodie Hollinger  
Department Secretary/Treasurer



# MEMBERSHIP

General Orders #12

JUNE 2024

***"CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN"***

103.90%



**CMR 105.20%**

**SUMMARY 103.90%**

**RETENTION 89.83% (1,421 that still needs to renew)**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE 103.49% (#1)**

**Congratulations to District 25, District 28 & District 30 for reaching over 100% in Membership. We have 4 Districts so close to reaching the top of the Mountain. Let's do this Pennsylvania!!!**

**JUST A REMINDER THAT RETENTION IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE VFW AUXILIARY. WE ARE NEVER DONE WORKING TOWARDS THIS GOAL AND PENNSYLVANIA WILL KEEP WORKING TO RETAIN OUR FELLOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS. SO REACH OUT TO YOUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED. IT IS NOT TOO LATE THEY HAVE UNTIL JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> TO RENEW.**

Would like to give a big shout out to the following Auxiliaries for reaching 100% or more in membership as of May 26, 2024: **District 11, Auxiliary 821-100%; District 15, Auxiliary 6757 -103.31%; District 16, Auxiliary 1074 -100%; District 18, Auxiliary 6417 100.79%; District 19, Auxiliary 1835 -100.50%; District 29, Auxiliary 2754 -101.77% & Auxiliary 6664 -101.09%; District 30, Auxiliary 5754 -101.18%.**

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





**Please Join the  
Reception to Celebrate  
Incoming 2024-2025**



**VFW State Commander Barb Loncar &  
VFW Aux Dept. President Andrea Meintel  
As they begin their "TOGETHER Year"**

**What: Cocktails, Dinner, Music and Fun**

**When: Saturday, June 15, 2024**

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

**Time: 6:00pm: Doors Open/Cocktails**

**6:45pm: Seating of the Officers/  
*Opening Services***

**7:15pm: Dinner/Remarks**

**8-10pm: Music by Josh Squared Band**

**Preferred Attire: nice dress, casual pantsuit, skirt,  
slacks, collared shirt, or sports coat.**

**Commander/President shirt would be appropriate.  
No shorts or jeans please.**

## **PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AND 25 YEAR CLUB LUNCHEON**

The Luncheon for Past District Presidents and the 25 Year Club will be held on Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup> following the Joint Session at 12:00 Noon. 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 will include choices of: Roast Beef and Provolone Wrap, Italian Hoagie or Chicken Caesar Salad.** Included with your luncheon choice will be Whole 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 \$32.00. See the form below to send in for your reservation or your club dues.

**Deadline for reservations is June 3rd.**

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### **25 Year and Past District Presidents Club Reservation**

**Please indicate if you are attending the Luncheon and paying your dues**

**Or you are just paying your dues**

**Luncheon and Dues \$32.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (Includes \$27 for lunch and dues)**

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

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



## AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

JUNE 2024

*"Together Helping Veterans"*

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

2024-2025

### VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

#### Stacey Miller

I am a 19-year member of the VFW Aux. to Post 5752, and a 29-year veteran of the USAF. As a Veteran, the spouse and daughter of Veterans, the service and sacrifice our loved ones have faced is vital to our great nation, and our duty as an Auxiliary, to support these Veterans & their families, giving them the support and the peace of mind they deserve. My focus will be on connecting veterans to the support programs and services available, supporting the families of our veterans, and building connections to veteran support organizations across our local communities.

#### PTSD Awareness Month:

Throughout the month of June, share the resources available for Veterans and Family members to assist with transitioning and overcoming the challenges our loved ones may be facing.

### AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

#### Tim Altman

I'm your Americanism-Patriotic Instructor Chairman this year. I am currently engaged to PSC Ruth Fairchild. I earned my eligibility through my father who was a Korean War Veteran. As chairman, my goals are to ensure all are instructed on patriotic holidays and honoring our Flag. I also want to ensure we honor our Veterans and help our communities to understand what each of these holidays is about and to get them involved in celebrating our great Nation!

### AUXILIARY OUTREACH

#### Jency Mercado

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is about volunteering with other organizations for the benefit of the community. It is a donation of our time, and not monetary donations. One member, a group of members, or an Auxiliary can perform volunteer work to improve and show appreciation for the community in which we live and our pride as members of the Auxiliary. Auxiliary members who volunteer **"From our Roots to Our Branches - Extending Service to Our Veterans"** while working **"Together Helping Veterans"** will be successful in the Program.

### "BUDDY" POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

#### Cindy Utter Peters

As the next Chairman of the "Buddy" Poppy & National Home, I would like to introduce myself. I am the daughter of a WWII Army soldier, and the Widow and sister to Veterans of Vietnam Era Marines. I am the wife of VFW Dept. of PA PSC Ronald Peters who is serving as VFW National Home Chairman. This year we **CELEBRATE** the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Home. I hope to look for innovative ideas and interest for the "Buddy" Poppy Program.

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## **AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS**

### **JUNE 2024, PAGE 2**

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#### **EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING**

**Kathy Altoff**

Hi, greeting from your Extension, Revitalization & Mentoring Program Chairman for this coming year. The Extension, Revitalization, and Mentoring Program is now a 3-part program designed to assist Auxiliaries with some of the latest ideas that will be introduced this program year. These latest ideas, along with other established concepts, will help support you as an Auxiliary to better generate a more welcoming environment for all. We want to add Auxiliaries to our unaffiliated posts, while expanding on the growth of the Auxiliaries we have. And we need to mentor those new and younger members so they can fill our shoes in the future!

#### **HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS**

**Kristin DiGiacomo**

I'm back at the helm for another year as the Department Historian and Media Relations Chairman. For those of you who may not know, I'm from Pittsburgh, and the District 29 Auxiliary President. Remember, our history is our legacy. It is what will live on forever after we are gone. How can we expect the future to learn from the past if they have no reference points? It's impossible! So, make sure that you get out there and document the events that you are participating in throughout the year! Take the photos, remember to SNAP - Stop Now Ask Permission, and create memories that can live on forever. Send them to me within 2 weeks of each event. Please be sure to identify everyone in each photo, and what you are doing.



#### **HOSPITAL**

**Linda Dilling**

As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are aware of the importance of veterans. Without their service and sacrifice we would not have the freedoms we so easily take for granted. This program offers a way to bridge loneliness with care and compassion. Our Veterans can be blessed by the most precious gift possible – the sacrifice of your time. Your time is the most valuable contribution you can give. This year we need to think about “Why” we recruit Volunteers - because hospitals and homes cover the basic needs. Volunteers fill the gaps between what is needed and what is wanted. I will be concentrating on Recruitment, their Recognition and Support, Women Veterans Health Care and the Honors Escort Program, and cards and letters for the holidays for our Veterans – so they don't feel so alone!



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## AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

### JUNE 2024, PAGE 3

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#### LEGISLATION

Karen Mooney

I consider myself blessed to have the military exposure that I have from being raised in the Navy and then marrying the Navy. Many can easily overlook the Legislative Program, due to a lack of understanding of this process. The VFW Community has a voice that can make a difference! You can help support this by knowing what you are looking for and where to find hot topics. Be sure to sign up for the Action Corps newsletter to get regular emails of items that are being discussed. Reach out to your Congress people to let them know the importance of these action items that affect the military, Veterans, and their families. Malta has a wealth of resources that can use and share with the members of our communities and posts. The goal is to get more involved and give this Program the attention that it needs.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

Pam Sopher

**Who** Is Eligible - **What** Programs Do We Have to Offer - **Where** Do We Send Completed Forms - **When** Are the Deadlines - **Why** To Get Involved and Help Further Education? I am going to teach you the answers to that question this year. All our scholarships were designed to get our Youth involved, and to help with their expenses. By working as a VFW and Auxiliary Team, we can encourage our students to apply. Not only does this teach our youth about Patriotism but keeps it alive. By encouraging our Programs, we instill in our Youth the respect for our Country's Flag, and a desire to see our Nation succeed. We are all One Nation under God, have a deep abiding love of our



MEMBERSHIP  
Amy Peterson

#### "STRIKE UP THE BAND"

Are you ready??!!

Time to get in gear and put some spark in your **"ASK"** this year!! **"TOGETHER Helping Veterans,"** tune in, turn it up and play it loud! I'm SO excited to "get your motors runnin'" and ROCK this year with you all!!! Going beyond traditions, we will have some exciting changes! **NEW** Division categories/awards & a **NEW** QR Code for recruiting & retaining! Find the music within you, share your **"WHY"** and **TOP THE CHARTS** for Pennsylvania!

#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jeanna Leydic

One of our biggest roles is to mentor the youth to become patriotic adults. Our children are the future of the VFW Auxiliary organization, and it is up to us to keep our children involved and grow our membership for the future. Our children are the future of this organization and that is what we shall do! My intent is to teach you how we can get them involved with our great organization, through Literacy, by sponsoring and working with youth groups, with our Patriot Youth Award, RAP Cards, and Illustrating America Art Contest. Stay tuned!





# PROGRAM CONFERENCE

**JULY 12-13, 2024 (Fri/Sat)**

**ALTOONA GRAND HOTEL, ALTOONA, PA**

***JOIN THE VFW AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF PA***

FOR A FUN FILLED WEEKEND LEARNING ABOUT THE  
VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS:

***Veterans and Family Support***

***Americanism***

***Auxiliary Outreach***

***Legislative***

***Buddy Poppy/National Home***

***Scholarships***

***Membership***

***Historian/Media Relations***

***Mentoring/Extension/Revitalization***

***Hospital Program***

***Youth Activities***

**Friday, July 12, 2024**

**7:00-8:00pm**

**Pre-Conference Workshop (everyone's invited)**

**8:00-10:00pm**

**Hospitality Room**

**Saturday, July 13, 2024**

**8:00-8:15am**

**Council of Administration**

**8:15am-12:00pm**

**Program Information**

**12:00pm-1:00pm**

**Lunch (box lunch included with pre-registration)**

**1:30pm-5:30pm**

**Program Information with Q & A**

**6:00pm-10:00pm**

**Hospitality Room**

**Meet the Department Program Chairmen      Ask Questions**

**Find out What's New      Make New Connections**

**Make your reservations:** Altoona Grand Hotel &  
Conference Center  
1 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA 16601  
(814) 946-1631

**Room block name:** VA of Foreign Wars

**Cost of the room:** \$89 plus tax – Total= \$98.79 per night



# Program Training Box Lunch

July 13, 2024

This is a great time to network and share ideas with other Auxiliary members. There will be no assigned seating. We encourage you to meet new people!

**Reservation Deadline: June 28, 2024**

Cost of Ticket: \$25 – Receive your printed program book, roster book and choice of box lunch

Make Checks Payable to: VFW Auxiliary, Department of PA  
Mail to: Jodie L. Hollinger, Dept. Treasurer  
4002 Fenton Ave  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

**Lunch Choice:** All come with whole fruit, potato chips, condiments, cookies and bottle of water: Choose one  
Ham & American on a sub roll  
Vegetarian Wrap  
6" Italian sub

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Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch Choice: \_\_\_\_\_



# 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:**

**VFWA, Dept of PA**

**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, D11**

**July 21—Levittown Post 6495, D8**

**Aug 10—Clarion Post 2145, D19**

**Aug 11—Coraopolis Post 402, D29**

**Aug 17—Duboisstown Post 7863, D15**

**Aug 18—New Cumberland Post 7415, D18**

**Aug 25—Duncansville Post 8724, D22**

**TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS**



# UPDATED HOTEL INFORMATION!!!

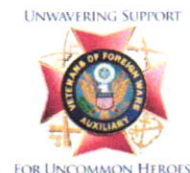
## VFW AUXILIARY'S 12<sup>TH</sup>

### 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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.**