



Greetings,

Spring has sprung (well, it's trying). At least we can enjoy Mother Nature without a bulky coat! Outdoor activities have begun and it's time to get your creative juices busy outdoors planning Membership Drives, Americanism (Patriotic displays), "Buddy" Poppy and VFW National Home, Veterans & Family Support, Scholarships, Youth Activities and Legislation.

Your imagination will go a long way toward presenting our Programs to the public in their neighborhoods. You never know who will be involved in an organization that might benefit from our Auxiliary Outreach. We are busy all winter as well but most of that is invisible to the public. Now is our opportunity to advertise and show off what we are about. County Fairs, Car shows and special events in local parks are possibilities with a larger amount of traffic. Many stores will grant permission to set up at their entrance.

Always remember to explain who we are and why the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary exist. There are many people who have no idea what happens to our Veterans when they come back from war. Be prepared to share our mission of serving those who served our Country.

Greet the public with enthusiasm, conviction and a smile!

Special Project Update: Our special project, PA Wounded Warriors, is going very well. Continue to send your donations to the Department Treasurer, Jodie Hollinger, at 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg PA 17109 and please mark your check Department President's Special Project.

Thank you to all for supporting this very special organization who takes care of our Veterans.

Department Convention: Our 2024 State Convention is scheduled for June 12-15 at the Harrisburg Sheraton Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA. Convention information is available on our website www.vfwauxpa.org.

Department of PA VFW Auxiliary Annual Raffle – Thank you to everyone who **Participated in this years Raffle!** The drawing was held on Friday, April 5, 2024 at the **Presidents' Testimonial with the following results:**

- \$2500.00 – Tammy Shelley, District 9
- 500.00 – Clara Cussins, District 19
- 250.00 – April Sarver, District 23
- 250.00 – Shirley Podratsky, District 18
- 250.00 – Jamie Roberts, District 20
- 250.00 - Patricia Fielder, District 21

Veterans & Family Support
Annual Dues Increase
Auxiliary Outreach
Celebrating America's Freedom Event
Legislative
Installation Information
Membership
TIPS

IMPORTANT DATES:

- May 1 - Loyalty Day Program – 10:00 A.M. PA State Capitol
- May 1 - District 7 Meeting @ Folsom #928 – 7:00 P.M.
- May 5 - District 18 Meeting @ Lower Allen #7530 – 2:00 P.M.
- May * 5 - District 27 Meeting @ Irwin #781 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 5 - District 28 Meeting @ Erie #470 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 11 - District 16 Meeting @ Red Hill #5954 – 11:00 A.M.
- May 19 - District 1 Meeting @ Micheal J Crescenz #2819 – 1:30 P.M.
- May * 19 - District 8 Meeting @ Whitehall #7293 – 1:30 P.M.
- May 19 - District 9 Meeting @ Mount Joy #5752 – 1:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 10 Meeting @ Peckville #6082 – 1:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 11 Meeting @ White Haven #6615 – 2:30 P.M.
- May 19 - District 13 Meeting @ Womelsdorf #6558 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 14 Meeting @ Lenox #8488 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 15 Meeting @ Galeton #6611 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 17 Meeting @ Selinsgrove #6631 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 19 Meeting @ Bradford #212 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 20 Meeting @ Tobyhanna #509 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 21 Meeting @ Red Lion #1446 – 1:00 P.M. Memorial Service, 2:00 P.M. Meeting
- May 19 - District 22 Meeting @ Clearfield #1785 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 23 Meeting @ Salisbury #8826 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 24 Meeting @ McMurray #764 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 25 Meeting @ Mars #7505 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 26 Meeting @ Punxsutawney #2076 – 2:30 P.M.
- May 19 - District 29 Meeting @ Westview #2754 – 2:00 P.M.
- May 19 - District 30 Meeting @ Huntingdon #1754 – 2:00 P.M.

Mary Jean Mastridge

Mary Jean Mastridge
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

*Department President's Official Visit

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

GENERAL ORDERS #11

May 2024

May is Mental Health Month. GREEN is more than just a color, it's the international color for mental health awareness. It represents fresh starts, optimism, and energy. May 16 is Mental Health Action Day, *wear green to show that you care about mental health.* Be ready to share the Veterans Crisis Line phone number Dial 988 Press 1 and visit www.veteranscrisisline.net for information about VA mental health and suicide prevention resources.

National Military Spouse Appreciation Day is observed each year, the Friday before Mother's Day. It's a day to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. These spouses support their loved ones that protect our freedoms. They support our troops during deployments and keep the home fires burning.

Are you a **VFW Auxiliary member and a military veteran**? This pin is for you! It's available at the VFW Store. <https://www.vfwstore.org/products/32357>

Help support **VFW's Unmet Needs** program by visiting participating Burger King restaurants during the month of May. Each year, Burger King holds this annual fundraiser in support of VFW's Unmet Needs program. The Unmet Needs program is important because it funds the grants to active-duty military families facing financial crisis. Your Auxiliary can send a donation for Unmet Needs. Make check payable to VFW, with Unmet Needs in the memo. Mail to VFW National Headquarters Attn: Veterans & Military Support, 406 W 34th Street, 9th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Dates to remember:

May Mental Health Awareness Month
May Burger King fundraiser to support VFW's Unmet Needs Program
May 10 Military Spouse Appreciation Day
May 13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day
May 16 Wear GREEN Day! Mental Health Action Day
June PTSD Awareness Month **June 12** Women Veterans Day

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

Veterans & Family Support Chairman tina@vfw5265.org



VFW AUXILIARY

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes TM

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2024

TO: Department Treasurers
Department Secretaries

FROM: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

SUBJECT: Official Memorandum of Annual Dues Increase

Per the vote at the 2023 National Convention Delegates, starting July 1, 2024, the National Headquarters portion of annual dues will be increasing by \$5.00 for the 2025 dues year. For annual members associated with a local Auxiliary, the National portion of dues will be \$10.00 and for annual members that are Department at Large, the National portion of dues will be \$15.00

Due to this change it is **imperative** that each Auxiliary and Department review the annual dues amount that will be collected from continuous annual members for the 2025 dues year by June 30, 2024, in MALTA to determine if it should be updated.

If an Auxiliary is not charging enough to cover the increase of the National portion of annual dues for \$10 and Department portion of annual dues of \$?, it could result in the organization not receiving any membership dues when members pay their dues. Please note that National and Department portions will be paid first from annual dues and then the remainder will be the Auxiliary portion. Please see example below:

EXAMPLE: Currently Auxiliary XXXX charges a continuous annual member \$20 per year for dues. Of this \$20, the Auxiliary keeps \$10, the Department's portion is \$5, and the National portion is \$5. If an Auxiliary does not update their dues amount collected in MALTA by June 30, 2024, then on July 1, 2024, MALTA will still charge their annual members \$20 for dues. Of this \$20, \$5 will go to the Department, \$10 will go to National and thus the Auxiliary will only receive \$5 instead of the \$10 it previously received.

To update the dues amount charged in MALTA, there are two options:

1. The Secretary may update this amount when filing the Installation Report for the 2024-2025 year.
2. The Auxiliary Treasurer may update the dues amount in MALTA by clicking the Edit Dues Amount in MALTA under their Treasurer Duties tab and then clicking the blue button labeled Change Dues. Please note that the Treasurer has the ability to schedule the dues increase for the future and does not have to wait until June 30th to input this information.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your Department Treasurer and/or Department Secretary.



Building Partnerships • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach

**General Orders #11
May 2024**

Auxiliary members who work, have families, sporting events, etc. struggle to find time to volunteer. Virtual volunteering is the answer! Many organizations are looking for virtual volunteers. Some of these include:

- Translators without borders offer virtual opportunities to those who are bilingual.
- Crisis Test Line is completely dependent on its remote volunteers. Free training is provided.
- United Nations Volunteers program offers countless online volunteering opportunities.
- Create the Good allows volunteers to share their skills and passions within their community.
- Missing Maps volunteers help to map areas where crisis teams and humanitarian organizations are trying to meet the needs of communities. Requires no previous experience with mapping!
- Smithsonian Digital Volunteers help transcribe historic documents and collection records to make material more accessible to the public.
- Bookshare is an eBook library dedicated to making reading easier for people with visual or learning difficulties.

Loyally,
Kimberly Grundon
Department Chairman

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



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).

The hotel reservations will need to be made by you. We are staying at the Double Tree by Hilton Lansing. The address is 111 North Grand Avenue Lansing Michigan 48933.

The cost is \$129.00/night and reservations can be made by calling 1-833-904-2206 or by booking online @ hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=LANDTDT **Discounted Group Rate Code: NSG and identify as part of NATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER Group**

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!!**



.....
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.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
GENERAL ORDERS #11
MAY 2024

Our program year is coming to an end, but we cannot stop working for our veterans and their families in the legislative program. We can still contact our legislators asking them to support important bills that directly affect our veterans.

The VFW Legislative Chairman and other members of the VFW & Auxiliary attended the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC in March and here are some of the bills that are coming up. Don't let our legislators off the hook. Get In touch with them to support these bills—Remind them that they work for us not the other way around.

HR1282 & S344-Richard Star Act has made it to the calendar for a vote. There are four of our PA legislators that are not on this bill and they are Perry, Smucker, Lee & Joyce.

HR1139 & S740-The Claim Sharks Bill-This bill will penalize those who are stealing money from our veterans.

HR4157 & S948—This bill concerns veteran suicides. The VA gathers data on a yearly basis and puts out an annual report; which does not include the data. This report needs to share the data that they collect.

HR3933 & S2888---TAP Act (Transition Assistance Program)— This is a fairly new bill where that will mandate an accredited service officer be a part of the TAP program. This program assists the veteran and their family to transition to civilian life by providing information, resources and tools to assist them in this process.

It is so important that we do all that we can to get laws passed that support our veterans and their families. Be sure to stay on top of the issues as the election is coming up in November. We should support the legislators that support our veterans.

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.

We will continue “**Banding Together for Our Veterans**” so that we can “**Let Freedom Ring.**”

Loyally,

Marsha Fuhrman

Marsha Fuhrman

Department of PA Legislative Chairman

Secretary Information

On our website: www.vfwauxpa.org is the installation report that is required to be filled out and placed in the Secretary books. You can find this under Resources then Forms, it will have the Dept. President and the Department Secretary's signatures on the form. The Secretary will then log into MALTA and use the information on the form to input the newly installed Officers.

New this year: When entering the installation report, you will be asked WHO Installed the officers. Please refer to your Bylaws on who may install the officers:
Section 806A-Auxiliary Installation, page 64 – No. 3

Department Delegate information was emailed to Auxiliary Officers if you have not received it, please contact Department Secretary, Jodie Hollinger at: jodie@vfwauxpa.org

The delegate/alternate form can be found on the PA website under the Announcements

National Delegates – Please be sure you are inputting your **National** delegates/alternates on **MALTA**. With the National Convention being held in Louisville, Kentucky this year there are many members wanting to attend. You want to make sure they have the ability to vote for the next National Guard. National Delegates must be inputted by May 31, 2024.

Treasurer Information

I am still receiving checks made out incorrectly. Please remember ANY check that comes to Department must be made Payable to: VFWA, Dept of PA

Please DO NOT make checks payable to Jodie Hollinger or even Flag Fund. The memo line is to reflect what the check is for, Ex: Flag Fund, President's Special Project, Membership:
1life/3annual, or VOD/PP

Has your Auxiliary reviewed your annual dues amount? This is your reminder that as of July 1 when sending in new/rejoined annual membership to Department you will be required to send \$17 per annual member. Please see Memo from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Membership – Please reach out to those **LAPSED** members in your Auxiliary. If their dues are not paid by June 30th they will become **FORMER** members. To rejoin they **MUST** fill out an application and prove eligibility and be accepted by the Auxiliary again.



MEMBERSHIP

General Orders #11

April

MAY 2024

103.01%



“CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN”

**Congratulations to District 22 for reach over 100% in Membership.
We have 6 Districts so close to reaching the top of the Mountain.
Let’s do this Pennsylvania!!!**

Don’t forget the All State forms need to be received to me by May 8th. Make sure you read the form and mail all the paper work with it. Membership is so important to this organization and we should always be recruiting new members. Don’t forget to continue to contact members who have not renewed their dues yet and see what we can do to bring them back. We should always Include, Invite & Invest in our brothers and sisters and let them know how important they are to our organization. Our Veterans need us to help them fight for their benefits.

Would like to give a big shout out to the following Auxiliaries for reaching 100% or more in membership as of April 24, 2024: District 8, Auxiliary 2124-102.30%; District 9, Auxiliary 5956 -100.34% & Auxiliary 7294- 100.87%; District 11, Auxiliary 4909 -100%; District 14, Auxiliary 6223 -102.65%; District 15, Auxiliary 3428 -102% & Auxiliary 6753 -100%; District 16, Auxiliary 9788 -100%; District 18, Auxiliary 8851-101.44%; District 26, Auxiliary 1586 -100%, District 28, Auxiliary 3374 -101.19%.

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

AMERICANISM

Tips

MAY 2024

Carolyn Paccio, Chairman

HAPPY SUMMER AUXILIARIES!! May is one of the most important months for us. It is that time of year where we *Honor and Remember* those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy the freedoms we share each day. When you are preparing for your Memorial Day services and parades please remember to remind attendees of the real meaning of the day. It is a time where families and friends gather to celebrate the beginning of the Summer season. But, for those like us, a tribe who serves our Veterans, it is a day to pay respects to those who died fighting to preserve those freedoms. We can also *Honor the Dead, by Helping the Living* as well. A couple of ideas are to volunteer to do yard work or home repairs for the families of our fallen heroes, anything to let them know that their loved one is not forgotten. You could even provide shopping or rides to the VA Centers or doctor appointments to living Veterans or spouses of the deceased too. So long as we continue *“Banding Together For Our Veterans.”*

“LET FREEDOM RING”

Throughout Our Land



Mentoring for Leadership – Sandy Brenner, Chairman

Continue to build your Mentoring Program going into our new year.

We must continue to embrace, encourage and promote the CARE concept.

C-Catch the member when they first join

A-Ask them to participate

R-Remember what it felt like to be new

E-Engage them in a Program that fits them

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

Benjamin Franklin