



General Orders No 11

May 2025

Dear Members:

It's hard to believe the Department Convention is just around the corner—this year has truly flown by. As I reflect on these past months, I'm filled with gratitude. It has been an absolute honor and blessing to represent you as your Department President.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and passion, your efforts have helped our organization grow stronger. Together, we've reached 102.3% in paid membership! That number represents more than just growth, it reflects our united voice, our shared purpose, and the commitment each of you brings to the mission of the VFW Auxiliary.

Your commitment has also been front and center in our Joint Special Project — supporting the Outdoor Sports Complex at the VFW National Home. The outpouring of generosity has been inspiring, and I cannot wait to unveil the final donation amount at the State Convention in June. I'm confident the Auxiliary has truly shined and, between us I think we may just be *taking the lead over* the VFW in this friendly competition!

These accomplishments are more than just numbers or totals—they are a testament to what happens when we come *together* with a shared vision. They represent opportunities for veterans' families to heal, grow, and thrive. They ensure that our collective voice remains strong, and our impact continues to reach those who need us most.

Thank you for making this a year to remember. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Gettysburg for our State Convention—let's finish this year strong, *together!*

Important Dates:

May 4 District Meetings: D-17 @ Selinsgrove #6631 – 2:00 P.M.

D-18 Meeting @ Kimberly Ann Fahnestock Voelz Memorial #7530 – 2:00 P.M.

D- 24 Meeting @ McMurray #724 – 2:00 P.M.

D-27 Meeting @ Herminie #8427 – 2:00 P.M.

D -28 Meeting @ Edinboro #740 – 2:00 P.M. *

D-30 Meeting @ Huntingdon #1754 – 2:00 P.M.

May 7 – District 7 Meeting @ Folsom #928 – 7:00 P.M.

May 18 District Meetings: D-8 @ Levittown #6495 – 1:30 P.M.
 D-9 @ Ephrata #3376 – Joint Memorial Service 1:00 P.M.
 Meetings – 2:00 P.M.
 D-10 @ Shopa Davey #6082 – 1:00 P.M.
 D-11 @ Benton #8317 – 2:30 P.M.
 D-13 @ Womelsdorf #6558 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-14 @ Lenox #8488 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-15 @ Galeton #6611 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-17 @ Selinsgrove #6631 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-19 @ Oil City #464 – 2:00 P.M. *
 D-20 @ Tobyhanna #509 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-21 @ Mt Wolf #2493 – Joint Memorial Service 1:00 P.M.
 Meetings – 2:00 P.M.
 D-22 @ Bellefonte #1600 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-23 @ Hooversville #7565 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-25 @ Evans City #499 – 2:00 P.M.
 D-26 @ Punxsutawney #2076 – 2:30 P.M.
 D-29 @ West View #2754 – 1:00 P.M.

May 26 – Department Headquarters Closed – Memorial Day 2025

***Official Visit**

Department of PA VFW Auxiliary Annual Raffle – Thank you to everyone who participated in this years Raffle! The drawing was held on Friday, April 11. 2025 at the President's Testimonial with the following results:

\$2500.00 – Julia Marker, District 21 (she was present and received the extra \$100.00)
500.00 - Steven Ecenrode, District 9
250.00 - Alexia Bauer, District 10
250.00 - Lois Ferree, District 24
250.00 - Colleen Cullen, District 23
250.00 - Lisa Price, District 18

Visit our website: www.vfwauxpa.org

- Follow us on Facebook: VFW Auxiliary – Department of Pennsylvania
- Follow us on Instagram: pa_vfw_auxiliary



Loyally,

Andrea

Andrea Meintel
 Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
 Department Secretary/Treasurer

ATTN: Secretaries and Treasurers

General Orders #11 - May 2025

A few reminders for this busy end of our membership year:

Secretary enters the Installation Report into MALTA – this should be done as soon as you have completed your elections. You no longer send anything to Department for Installation.

All Delegates should have been elected at your April Meeting and Delegate sheets for District forwarded to your District Secretary. Department Delegate sheets come to Department Headquarters along with your Delegate fee check. Secretary enters Delegates for National. All Delegates **must** be elected regardless whether you think you will attend the Conventions or not. Delegates elected serve that position for one year. When electing Delegates; please consider those members who always attend Conventions; but may not regularly attend your meetings? Be considerate & add them to your Delegate list. Remember if no one attends, then your Aux. will not have a vote at all.

We understand it can be confusing and we are always available to assist. We encourage you to call us here at Headquarters for assistance. Please just be logged into MALTA so that we can help you in a timely manner.

This year we have found many Auxiliaries delinquent with their Audit Reports to Department. Remember to be sure you not only have the report completed, but email or snail mail it to Department Headquarters as soon as completed. Quarterly Audit Reports documented in Department are a requirement for a good working Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary Treasurer is responsible for making sure all membership applications sent to Department are completed, legible and correct information. The Treasurer should be the last set of eyes to confirm the application is correct. **We do not** correct or add information to a membership application; it must be complete when received at Headquarters. Again, call and ask for assistance if you have questions on completion of a membership application.

We always strive to answer your emails in a timely manner and will always confirm that we have received it. Please be sure you are using our correct email: jodie@vfwauxpa.org and sandy@vfwauxpa.org



**VFW NATIONAL HOME
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
JUNE 28, 2025**



The Department of Pennsylvanian VFW Auxiliary is taking a bus to the National Home for the National Home Community Celebration on June 28, 2025. The bus will depart VFW headquarters Friday, June 27th at 6:00 am and depart Michigan Sunday, June 29th at 7:30 am. There will be two pickup options:
Fairfield Inn & Suites, 4436 Business Route 220, Bedford Doubletree Pittsburgh Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars.

The cost for the bus is \$165.00 per person. Your check should be made payable to: Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary with **National Home Bus Trip** on the memo line and mail to Marsha Fuhrman 5059 Rislyn Court, Spring Grove, PA. 17362. The deadline for reservations is May 23, 2025.

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

The hotel reservations will need to be made by you. We are staying at the Clarion Lansing Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917. The cost of the rooms are \$173.60 a night. When calling in to make your reservation, be sure to press "option 3" and refer to Group Block Code: **"062725SB"**. Room reservation deadline is May 23, 2025. The phone number to the hotel is 517-627-3211.

On Saturday, June 28th, from 11am to 4pm the grounds will have carnival rides, a car show, and family activities. After 4pm there will be live entertainment with a laser light show to cap off the evening. There will be a diverse selection of food trucks offering a wide variety of food for purchase. Come and join us in celebrating the National Home Community Celebration. Don't miss the bus, the fellowship and the fun—**Make your reservations EARLY!!**



**V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E**



Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ District/Post _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check Number _____

Getting on bus at VFW Headquarters _____ Will get on at one of the other pickups _____ **Any questions,**

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

GENERAL ORDERS – MAY 2025
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ~AMY PETERSON

“TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS” “TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE”
“FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”
“STRIKE UP THE BAND!”



The DANCE is far from over!
Time to feeeeeeel the Burn...
THE HEAT IS ON!
COM'ON BABY! WE'RE ON FIRE!

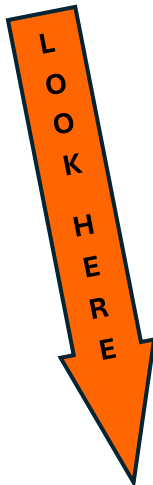


**DEPARTMENT
AWARD
REMINDER**

“STRIKE UP THE BAND”

**BE 101% +
BY MAY 31, 2025**

**YOUR AUXILIARY HAS
A CHANCE FOR \$250
VFW STORE CARD!**



NEW CHART BUSTERS!!!

The Heat is ONNNNN!

****As of April 15, 2025**

*Auxiliary 1690 District 9
Auxiliary 7418, District 9
Auxiliary 531 District 10
Auxiliary 7963, District 10
Auxiliary 283, District 11
Auxiliary 4909, District 11
Auxiliary 6755, District 15
Auxiliary 6611, District 15
Auxiliary 34, District 17
Auxiliary 3448, District 20
Auxiliary 8225, District 20
Auxiliary 5825, District 22
Auxiliary 7689, District 22
Auxiliary 21, District 23
Auxiliary 7505, District 25
Auxiliary 92, District 27
Auxiliary 740 District 28
Auxiliary 7645, District 28
Auxiliary 8430 District 29
Auxiliary 5754, District 30*

Districts 11~19~22

CONGRATULATIONS!

PENNSYLVANIA

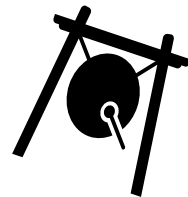
~~~102.16%~~~

THANK YOU PA!!!!

May is HERE!
**Take a minute to smell the
roses.....then,
Get those motors runnin'!!!!**

**We ONLY need 2 more members
to 100% Plus, Maybe our Relief
Fund can help them this year?**

**Great idea! We really
should help our
Brothers/Sisters
when they need it!**



ATTENTION AUXILIARIES BELOW 90% (04-30-2025)

**PLEASE WATCH EMAILS FOR SPECIAL
MEMBERSHIP TRAINING VIA ZOOM**

TRAINING DATES (Only 1 Required)

May 10 @ 8:30am/May 13 @7pm/May 22 @ 7pm



AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

MAY 2025

“Together Helping Veterans”

*“From Our Roots to our Branches
extending Service to our Veterans”*

2024-2025

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Stacey Miller

May is full of opportunities to honor and support Veterans and Military Families.

- **National Military Appreciation Month**
- **Month of the Military Caregiver**
- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day – May 9th**
- **Military Saves Month**
- **Children of Fallen Patriots Day – May 19th**

Band together supporting our Veterans and their Families in fun and creative ways to show how we care and support them.

Share your activities on social media

#VFWAuxiliaryVetFamSupportPA

AMERICANISM & PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Tim Altman

Hello auxiliary members. It was nice to see a lot of you at President Andrea's testimonial weekend. Thank you all for the amount of work you have put in helping our Veterans. We still have work to do this month; May 1st is Silver Star Banner Day. On this day Americans remember service members who have been wounded in combat, are sick and those who are dying. May 1st is also Loyalty Day in the United States. It was proclaimed by President Dwight D Eisenhower as a day for declaring loyalty to the United States of America and to acknowledge American history. May 9th is Military Spouse appreciation day this date recognizes the service and sacrifices of Military spouses. May 17th is Armed Forces Day, observed on the third Saturday every May, this day is dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. May 26th is Memorial Day a solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military. “Together Helping Veterans”



AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

MAY 2025, PAGE 2

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado

Hello warmer weather Auxiliary Family! I love that Pennsylvania has four seasons and I am grateful to see the sunshine and the flowers growing! What does this mean for Auxiliary Outreach? It means that we can get outside and enjoy the weather while volunteering! This is a great time to adopt a highway, volunteer for a carwash, go in a benefit bike ride. Don't forget our older veterans that can't get out, they will still need your help in mowing grass, going to the store, being a good companion.

I want to thank everyone that has sent me pictures. Please keep sending me pictures, I get to see all the good that you are doing in or communities! I am always PA Proud!

BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Cindy Peters

It was a pleasure to see you all at Andrea's Testimonial. I truly hope you had a good time!

I have been so glad to see the good work you have done on behalf of our veterans and your posts/auxiliaries! Your special efforts are greatly appreciated! I know that you are working TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS!

Also, your efforts towards the "President's Special Project" this year are quite impressive! The Dept. of PA VFW Auxiliary truly ROCKS! You all deserve to CELEBRATE!

As I look back over this past year, I am overcome with such good memories! You are not just the Dept. of PA Auxiliary, but truly my Auxiliary family! Thanks for your support!



NOW'S THE TIME TO BE WORKING ON YOUR BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY ENTRIES FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR CREATIONS. CONTACT CINDY FOR CONTEST RULES AND ENTRY FORMS.

EXTENTION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING Kathy Altoff

As the Auxiliary year is coming to a close, think about your members that have put in extra effort this year, whether they helped at a specific event, they come to every meeting, or they are always there helping in the background. Go to MALTA under Member Resources and Extension. Print out a Good Job Award Certificate and present them one. A small recognition and "Thank You" means a lot.

Now that elections are behind us, it's a great time to look around and spot those members who have the potential to be our future leaders. If you see someone eager to get involved, invite them to shadow one of your officers this year! Let them help with projects, help them understand what paperwork needs to be completed, and show them firsthand what it takes to keep our Auxiliary moving forward. A little encouragement and experience can go a long way in building their confidence to one day step into those shoes. Mentoring and relationship-building is the key to successful transition of leadership.

As I compose this for the May General Orders, it has been a busy month for April to this point. Year-end reports have been completed and submitted, reviewed and compiled for State numbers as well as National numbers. From the legislative program review, there were some real busy Auxiliaries this past year and that is awesome!! Thank you to everyone that submitted reports for processing and reporting. Even though the reporting year may have concluded, our responsibilities never stop, we just shift our direction for the next fiscal year which has now started. We need to be sure that we are still reviewing topics that are being presented to Congress, when we need/should reach out to our representatives and keeping our ears open and engage our members when the need arises. Perfect example was in the second week of April, the bills listed below were passed out of the House. Lots of good bills that are working their way through the legislative process. Be sure you are keeping your finger on the legislative pulse for PA:

H.R. 1228 – Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act (Rep. Ciscomani)

H.R. 981 – VETT Act (Rep. Van Orden)

H.R. 983 – Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2025 (Rep. Van Orden)

H.R. 586 – Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act, as amended (Rep. LaLota)

H.R. 1039 – Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act, as amended (Rep. Barrett)

H.R. 877 – Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended (Del. Moylan)

H.R. 970 – Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2025 (Rep. Strickland)

A reminder for everyone, Primary Election Day is May 20, 2025. If you have not registered to vote by this point, the last day to register for this election day is May 5, 2025. In PA, we have a closed primary system which means you can only vote in this election if you are registered as a Democrat or Republican and you are required to vote your party specific for this election. That said, be sure you double check to see who is going to be on the ballot. The individuals in each party that receives the most votes will be the individuals that will compete in the November election. Do your due diligence and research the individuals that will be on the ballot so you can plan to support for this election.

Another good source of information to share with your Auxiliary and Comrades is the information regarding military missing documents. We may know some of those veterans that misplaced their military documents, suffered a loss that caused the documents to no longer be available, or maybe they honestly did not think they would ever need them, until they realized they do. The information here can be used for veterans needing to locate lost military documents. These documents could be vital for receiving benefits or needed to assist a veteran/family member to join your VFW/Auxiliary. Call 1-800-547-2838, email RA-REQ@pa.gov or visit [Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs](#) online. Post this in our canteen for everyone's information so it is easily accessible to those that may benefit from this assistance.

Remember that **Together Helping Veterans** and **From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans**, No one does more for Veterans than the VFW Auxiliary!!!!Let's be sure our voices are heard.

BE AN ADVOCATE* BE INFORMED* BE ENGAGED

HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling



I want to thank everyone for their continued support of our hospitalized veterans! Our year has ended. But our work is not done but just beginning! Our hospitalized veterans are waiting for us to share a kind word, a smile, to have a conversation with. We need to show our veterans how much we love and appreciate the sacrifices they made on our behalf. So please continue to support our hospitalized veterans by volunteering.



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

KRISTIN DIGIACOMO

When someone asks you “what does the Auxiliary do?” Be sure to tell them about all of the events you host, the organization you sponsor, the projects you have completed and the community involvement your Auxiliary does...all of the ways you help Veterans and their Families. If you need a little help to develop your Talking Points, you can use the guides which are available on MALTA : Go to Member Resources---Historian & Media Relations---Local Talking Points and Elevator Speech. Also, be sure to check out the other Publicity Tools that are listed.

Spread the Word about the Good Works of the VFW Auxiliary!



TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS

SCHOLARSHIPS - Pam Sopher

As we are getting closer to our final months in this year, we look back at all the time spent working on the scholarship Program and wonder if we have done all we could to get our youth involved in this program. Could we have contacted more places, visited more schools, contacted teachers, posted more information on this program, got the word out better? All this we ask ourselves as we take that deep sigh of relief but want to be prepared for our next year.

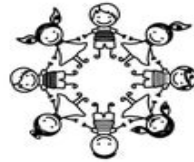
Involve your Auxiliary brothers and sisters, bring it up at your meetings. Ask your members if they have any ideas and write them down so you can be better prepared for the next time. Work your programs as a group, not an individual.

Thank you to all who brought your items to our State Commanders and Department President's Testimonial. I definitely had a car full. Hopefully our Programs this year were easy to follow, and the year-end reports as well. Please remember one important thing, if you are not sure, please don't be afraid to ask, that's what we are here for. Your job is done, and my job starts. I'm really excited to see these items, and so are my judges. Good luck to all who entered, and make sure you thank them as well. Our youth is our tomorrow, and what better way to instill our love for our Country through them. It has been a great year, and I am glad I was able to do this. Thank You. "OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES, EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS" we will forever be "TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS

AUXILIARY PROGRAM NEWS

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES—Jeanna Leydic



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH YOUTH:

1. **Consider taking Youth Protection Training.** One of the most comprehensive is offered by the Scouts. It is offered free online: <http://www.scouting.org/Training/>
2. **Youth are busy, so respect the time commitment you are asking for.** Be clear about the event or project, when it starts and ends.
3. **Parents should always be welcome to stay and take part in the activities.** (Great way to recruit a new member.)
4. **Make sure that proper safety measures are in place and that the activities are age appropriate.**
5. **Make sure there isn't smoking or drinking around the youth.** Be a Role Model.
6. **If you are taking the youth somewhere other than the Post or school, consider having the parents sign permission slips and make sure the parents understand if the youth may be riding in personal vehicles.**
7. **Get the required clearances for the adults working with the youth.**

You can find the **VFW Auxiliary 10 Tips for Working With Youth** document in MALTA under Member Resources—Youth Activities.

Past District President/25 Year Club Luncheon

The Past District President's and 25 Year Club Luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. during the Department Convention. This Luncheon is for all members who have been Auxiliary members for 25 Years or more or a member who has been a District President, including all District Presidents under Department President Andrea Meintel.

This year's luncheon menu is:

Baked Ham, Roast turkey, Roast Beef
American & Swiss cheese
Macaroni and Potato Salads
Chicken Noodle Soup
Pickles, Olives, Lettuce, Tomatoes & Onions
Assorted Condiments
Rolls & Bread
Dessert Table
Coffee-Teas-Decaf-Iced Tea

The cost is \$27.00 per person, which includes the \$5.00 club dues. If you are not able to attend the luncheon the Club dues only are \$5.00

Reservations must be made by June 4, 2025, and sent to Club Treasurer Cecelia Cook, 173 Clearview Avenue, Pittsburgh Pa 15229 with the attached form.

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Past District President/25 Year Club Reservation Form

_____ Luncheon Reservation and dues \$27.00

_____ Club Dues only \$5.00

Name(s) of those attending
