

Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Program Book 2023-2024



Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge
“Climb Every Mountain”

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Pennsylvania
2023-2024

“Let Freedom Ring”

Department President – Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge

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All obligations including audits, bonds, delegate fees, pledges, supplies, etc. to National, Department and District must be met for your Auxiliary/District President and Chairmen to qualify for awards.

PROGRAM BOOK 2023-2024

Greetings to my Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters

Here we are in our “*Let Freedom Ring*” 2023-2024 Year!

In *1776*, the Declaration of Independence declared that American colonists were breaking free from British rule. Without our many capable leaders we would not have been successful in that worthy endeavor. Leadership and success go hand in hand. A leader first learns, then teaches, then leads by example. Others follow and become leaders themselves.

Program chairmanships are “**Leadership**” positions. Become familiar with the details of each program as provided by National and our Department Chairman. “**Climb every mountain**” is our Membership theme. Our objective is to reach the peak of the Membership Mountain quickly and efficiently. Working together as a team we will!

Using prior experience and knowledge combined with the valuable information contained in this Program Book, each chairman should be prepared to instruct and guide our members as they serve our Veterans and their Families.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions. Contact information is provided and your Program Coordinator, Bonnie Drake will be your strongest cheerleader! Please distribute this information so that everyone in your Auxiliary is aware of how each program works and what they can do to help their Auxiliary to flourish. Be proud and be grateful that we can ring this bell of freedom while we “**Climb Every Mountain**” for our Veterans!

I wish you an exciting and productive Auxiliary year!

Thank you.

Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge

Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge
Department President, 2023-2024

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Tina Hinkle – tina@vfw5265.org

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Joey Diehl – joeydiehl@aol.com

YEAR END REPORT FORMS

All pages in this book may be duplicated for Auxiliary business

Americanism

Carolyn J. Paccio, Department Chairman
1287 Downs Rd, Susquehanna, PA 18847
570-396-1538 / cpaccio29@gmail.com

Americanism is a term first used by John Witherspoon of Princeton University in 1781 in reference to words and phrases distinct from use by the British people. It is the attachment and allegiance to traditions, interests, ideals, customs, political principles, and practices that are significant and unique to America and that are essential to our culture.

Americans feel passion, pride, and spirit for this country that was a vision and experiment for our Founding Fathers. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights give us the ability to enjoy the ideals of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Americanism is:

- Freedom and opportunity
- Ideal of loyalty
- Cultural, political, and moral virtue
- Public ideology
- Honoring diversity
- A declaration of unity
- Defined by its rights and responsibilities
- A shared vision and security
- Spoken into existence
- Chosen daily by its people
- Celebrating patriotic holidays together
- United under and honoring the Flag

Because of the precious freedom we have in the USA we can openly celebrate our patriotic holidays, honor our Flag, and National Anthem. We are able to give respect and honor to those who serve, have served, sacrificed, and gave all to ensure that our freedoms continue.

“LET FREEDOM RING”

In following our National Ambassador’s program goals **“More Than Letters”** is something that she is encouraging us to focus on for this year. We tend to abbreviate or shorten things for expedience or convenience in our language. We use acronyms to refer to some of our Veterans. Prisoners of War (POW) Missing in Action (MIA) Killed in Action (KIA) We should educate our Auxiliaries and our communities on using the words and not the acronyms. This will be more impactful when referencing those we are remembering.

More Than Letters

- Acknowledge them daily
- Learn and say their names
- Have a dedication ceremony
- Host a special program
- Write about them in your newsletter
- Share their stories
- Meet their families
- Go to POW/MIA Day ceremonies at the state Capitol or host one at your Post

“Banding Together for Our Veterans”

#AuxTRIBE

Our National Ambassador points out that when our servicemen and women retire from their service to our nation, many of them feel displaced, depressed, delusional, and lost without the identity they shared with their comrades. Being out of their uniforms and lacking a shared mission and conversations can be hard. This is where we can step in and become their **#AuxTRIBE**. Our rituals, traditions, uniforms, and mission to serve veterans and families can be relatable and comforting to them. This can create an environment they yearn for. Ways to develop #AuxTRIBE include:

- Embody a brotherhood/sisterhood
- Protect the peace of our Posts
- Be there for each other
- Learn and practice your VFW Auxiliary rituals
- Proudly wear our uniforms and gear
- Encourage #AuxTribe mentality

*For more information on #AuxTribe please visit VFW National MALTA Member Resources/Americanism Program.

Patriotic Instructors

Patriotic Instructors* educate Auxiliary members in the correct Salute to the US Flag and give proper instruction of reciting “The Pledge of Allegiance.” He or she should take the time to research and understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and the Federal Flag Code as well. It is the Patriotic Instructor’s responsibility to share this knowledge with the Auxiliaries within the Department. Flag education should be shared within our communities.

- In schools
- By recognizing a community individual or business for their Flag display
- Hold a Flag retirement ceremony or a Flag folding ceremony.

***This year’s Dept. Patriotic Instructor is**

Janet Albin
137 700 Road
New Oxford, Pa 17350
(717) 465-0550 janetalbin@comcast.net

Promote Patriotic Holidays

Promote Patriotism- Celebrate Patriotic Holidays

Patriotic holidays are a great time to bring attention to our Auxiliaries and our mission. Host family fun events on the holidays or weekends close to them. Hold a Family Freedom Festival or a “Buddy” Poppy Drive and incorporate Patriotism and Americanism in it. Share ideas with other Auxiliaries at your District meetings and refer to MALTA Member Resources for information and ways to celebrate. Always have flags available to pass out to the community members, especially the children. It is crucial and our responsibility as Auxiliaries to the VFW to see that we continue educating our Youth on what it means to be an American. Also, to see that our Flag and our Veterans are respected and honored.

Patriotic Holidays

- National Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29th
- Loyalty Day - May 1st
- Armed Forces Day - Third Saturday in May
- Memorial Day - May 30th (traditional)
- Flag Day - June 14
- Independence Day - July 4th
- Patriot Day - September 11th
- POW/MIA Recognition Day - Third Friday in September
- Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day - Last Sunday in September
- Veteran’s Day - November 11th
- Pearl Harbor Day - December 7th

Branch of US Military Birth Dates

- U.S. Army - June 17, 1775
- U.S. Marine Corps - November 10, 1775
- U.S. Navy - October 13, 1775
- U.S. Air Force - September 1947
- U.S. Coast Guard - August 4, 1790
- U.S. National Guard - December 13, 1636
- U.S. Space Force - December 20, 2019

Star Family Recognition: (You are encouraged to recognize these families in your area.)

You may have noticed a Blue Star, Gold Star or Silver Star banner in the window of a home in your community. They are banners, approved by the Secretary of Defense, that family members of those serving in the United States Armed Forces may display.

- Blue Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a blue star for each family member serving in the US Armed Forces during a war or hostile period.
- Gold Star Families can display a flag or banner with a white field and a red border, with a gold star to represent a family member who died during military operations.
- Silver Star Families can display a flag or banner with a blue field and an outer red and inner white border with a silver star that represents a family member who was injured, wounded, or became ill as a result of combat.

NATIONAL AMERICANISM PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community that our VFW acronyms are “more than letters.”
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are “more than letters.” Entry form required and available in **MALTA Member Resources**. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging. The Department Americanism Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that host the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are “more than letters.”

The Department Americanism Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Americanism Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA AMERICANISM PROGRAM CITATIONS

1. Citation to each Auxiliary that hosts an activity/or event that educates their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are “more than letters.” This citation is based on the National Ambassador’s Award and will be given to each Auxiliary that sends in an entry form to me by March 31st, 2024. Forms are available in **MALTA Member Resources**. *Please feel free to contact me with any questions.*
2. Citation to each Auxiliary that hosts, or co-hosts with their Post, a Flag folding ceremony or a missing man ceremony. (MUST include photo and description with your end of year report.)
3. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who best promotes a Patriotic holiday or any branch of service birthday within their community. (MUST include photo and description of event with your end of year report.)
4. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division that distributes the most American Flags.
5. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division that distributes the most POW/MIA Flags.
6. Citation to the Auxiliary with the best promotion pertaining to Flag education within their community. (MUST include photo and description of event with your year-end report.)
7. Citation to the Auxiliary with the best POW/MIA recognition or promotion. (MUST include photo and description of event with your year-end report.)
8. Citation to the Auxiliary with the best recognition of Blue, White, Gold, and/or Silver Star families. (Must include photo and description of event with your year-end report.)

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOU AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.

Auxiliary Outreach

Kimberly Grundon, Department Chairman
374 Rambo Hill Road, Shermans Dale, PA 17090
717-275-7094 / kgundon@comcast.net

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is about the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary being in service with other organizations for the benefit of the community. It is a donation of time, not in-kind or monetary donations. Volunteer work can be performed by one member, a group of members or an Auxiliary to improve and show appreciation for the community in which we live and our pride as members of the Auxiliary. This is a great way for Auxiliary Members **“Banding together for our Veterans” to “Let Freedom Ring.”**

Auxiliary Outreach can benefit children, senior citizens, and those with special needs as well as animals, the environment, and public spaces. When we participate in Auxiliary Outreach, we become better citizens of the community in which we live.

While emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary programs, we realize Auxiliary members and Auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations. Auxiliaries can now report and be recognized for such community work through the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Projects may be done by the Auxiliary alone or with the VFW Post.

Collectively, all of our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community. Be visible and show your VFW Auxiliary pride by wearing Auxiliary branded attire – shirt, hat, jacket, name badge, etc. The Auxiliary emblem can spark a conversation about the Auxiliary and what we do. It is also a great way to show our members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes.

What’s Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

When an entire Auxiliary volunteers for an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach if **the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.** On rare occasions such as a national disaster or emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. (When the entire Auxiliary volunteers and only one member is able to show up, it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach.)

- Participation in walks that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Outreach.)
- Working with local police on child ID kits
- Working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention
- Working with EMTs to host CPR training
- Working with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, adopt-a-park initiatives and develop community art installations
- Volunteering at an animal shelter
- Serving food at soup kitchens
- Delivering food or Meals on Wheels

What's NOT Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

- Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary is NOT considered outreach service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:
- Repairs/maintenance to Post home
- Cooking/serving meals for a Post/Auxiliary fundraiser
- "Buddy" ® Poppy distribution
- VFW or Auxiliary meetings, Conventions, Conferences, or schools of instruction
- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)

It is important that all partnerships with other organizations are approved by vote of the Auxiliary and recorded in your minutes. When member(s) volunteer their time for projects/programs of other organizations they are representing the VFW Auxiliary and should turn in their service hours to be reported for Auxiliary Outreach.

**REPORT MONTHLY by emailing or sending reports to
Kimberly Grundon (April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024)**

REPORTING GUIDELINES

1. The Auxiliary is to report on how many Auxiliary members participated, the number of hours volunteered and the activity/program they participated in.
2. Fundraisers are NOT considered for this service program IF organized by the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.
3. It is encouraged that you include written descriptions of community projects that were participated in by Auxiliary members, news articles, fliers, and photos.
4. A paper can be passed to members at your monthly meetings so that individual members can report what they have done.

HOW TO SUBMIT MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Email your report to kgrundon@comcast.net with subject line Auxiliary Outreach Program
2. Mail a copy to Kimberly Grundon, 374 Rambo Hill Road, Shermans Dale, PA 17090

NATIONAL AUXILIARY OUTREACH AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding community partnership with another organization.
2. Citation to every Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community. Entry form required and available in Malta Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

3. Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding community partnership. Entry form required and available in Malta Member Resources.

Citations will be mailed to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA AUXILIARY OUTREACH CITATIONS

1. A citation to the Auxiliary Chairman who submits a **REPORT EVERY MONTH.**
2. A citation to one District Chairman in each Membership Division with the best promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program. (Must send a written description to the Department Chairman)
3. A citation to one Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most combined member and/or Auxiliary hours volunteered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.
4. A citation to one Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most outstanding community partnership with another organization. (Must submit a written description, photos, fliers, news articles, etc. to the Department Chairman.)

Reminder: Only record number of Auxiliary members/hours volunteered with projects/programs NOT AFFILIATED WITH VFW OR VFW Auxiliary Programs.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.



**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
2023-2024 MONTHLY REPORT FORM**

AUXILIARY _____ DISTRICT _____ DATE _____

AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

*Auxiliary Members Volunteer Time with Another Organization
with Projects/Programs to Benefit the Community*

RECORD:	ACTIVITY WITH NAME of ORGANIZATION	HOURS SPENT	NO. of PARTICIPATING AUX. MEMBERS
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A. **FIRST RESPONDERS – POLICE / FIRE / EMT** (A few examples: volunteer with First Responders to distribute bike helmets, process Child ID kits, help with their fire safety seminars or CPR training. Help with their fundraisers: car washes, fill the boot, spaghetti dinners, motorcycle ride, 5K walk/run) Partner with community to host First Responder Appreciation Day or Week. Educate the community about Project Blue Light.)

1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

YOUTH / EDUCATION (A few examples: volunteer with School Programs, Library Programs, Sports Clubs, Performing Arts, Arts & Crafts, Youth Groups, Scouts, YMCA, Four Diamonds/Mini-Thon, etc.)

1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

B. **SENIOR CITIZENS / THOSE WITH DISABILITIES** Record time with Veterans under Veterans & Family Support (A few examples: volunteer with Meals on Wheels: home-bound meal delivery. AARP, Senior Center, Area Agency on Aging: teach computer skills, arts & crafts, drive seniors/disabled to doctor appointments, assist with housekeeping/lawn, etc.)

1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

C. **HELP THE HUNGRY AND/OR HOMELESS** (A few examples: volunteer with Food Pantries/Food Banks: sorting, stocking, distributing. Soup Kitchens: preparing or handing out meals. Rescue Missions, Homeless & Emergency Shelters: sort donations, cleaning, and maintenance. Habitat for Humanity: construction, etc.)

1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Auxiliary Members Volunteer Time with Another Organization with Activities to Benefit the Community

RECORD:	ACTIVITY WITH NAME of ORGANIZATION	HOURS SPENT	NO. of PARTICIPATING AUX. MEMBERS
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D. ANIMALS / THE ENVIRONMENT (A few examples: volunteer with local Humane Societies/Shelters, Animal Rescue Groups: dog walkers, animal care, sort donations, cleaning. Parks and Recreation Groups and Rail Trail Authorities: plant trees, flowers, weed/care for community gardens/parks/trails. Pick up trash along the road with Pick up Pennsylvania thru PennDOT.)

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| 5. | | | |

E. HEALTH / RESEARCH (A few examples: volunteer with American Cancer Society, Heart Assoc. etc. with walk/run events by helping with registration, water stations, timekeeping, parking, etc.; Red Cross: organize a blood drive)

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| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |

TOTAL HOURS _____ TOTAL NO. OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS _____

Attach additional descriptions and/or photos

ONLY RECORD HOURS SPENT / AUX. MEMBERS PARTICIPATING WITH ORGANIZATIONS

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE VFW OR VFW AUX. PROGRAMS

Do **NOT** report activities such as “BUDDY” ® POPPY distribution or repairs/maintenance to Post home, cooking/serving meals at/for a Post or Auxiliary Fundraiser, VFW or Auxiliary meetings or conventions, or church activities that do not benefit the community.

Examples listed in each category are only a few suggestions; there are MANY activities that qualify.

QUESTIONS? Please contact VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach Program Chairman at email below

PREPARED BY _____ DATE _____

TITLE _____ DISTRICT # _____ AUXILIARY # _____

MAIL TO: Kimberly Grundon
 VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach Chairman
 374 Rambo Hill Road
 Shermans Dale, PA 17090
 Phone: 717-275-7094 E-Mail: kgrundon@comcast.net

REPORT MONTHLY APRIL 1, 2023 TO MARCH 31, 2024

MAIL THIS FORM TO THE VFW AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH CHAIRMAN

DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

“Buddy” Poppy & VFW National Home

Amy Peterson, Department Chairman
12 N. Bennett St, Bradford, PA 16701
814-331-1142 / thepetersons@atlanticbb.net

"Buddy" Poppy

The “Buddy” Poppy has been honored in the VFW Community for many generations.

Known as the official memorial flower, the Poppy reminds us of the bloodshed and sacrifices made by American service members.

The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae’s famous poem, “In Flanders Fields”. Overlooking the endless rows of graves each marked with a lonely white cross and surrounded by fields of poppies, Col. McCrae penned the poem in remembrance of the thousands who had fallen during the second battle of Ypres in Belgium.

Poppies were first distributed by the Franco-American Children’s League to benefit the children of war-torn France and Belgium after WWI ended.

The first VFW poppy distribution was in 1922 just before Memorial Day. The VFW was the first Veterans’ organization to do this nationwide. In 1924, the poppy flower became a registered trademark in the name of “Buddy” Poppy.

These subtle tiny flowers have made powerful impacts for the welfare of our Veterans and their families. A “Buddy” Poppy is not to be ‘sold’, but donations to the program are fundamental to our Veterans’ needs, providing financial assistance over the past 95 years. Rehabilitation, services, essentials, and VFW National Home are supported through these donations!

The poppies still grow, the white crosses remain, and the poem echoes each year in our hearts. Auxiliary Members will be **“Banding together for our Veterans” to “Let Freedom Ring.”**

ORDERING POPPIES & SUPPLIES

- Poppies may be ordered by contacting your VFW Department Headquarters or downloading the order form from the Department website. We suggest you request/order 8 to 12 weeks before they are needed to avoid delays.
- This program requires a minimum purchase by each Auxiliary every year.
- Brochures, “Buddy” Poppy distribution supplies, and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org or calling 1-833-VFW-VETS

Distribution Tips

- Contact your city/town clerk's office to see if a permit is required at the location you would like to hold your distribution event. Obtain permission from the property owners/managers prior to your event.
- Share information of your location on websites, social media, newspapers, posters, etc.
- Ask for assistance from youth groups, faith-based organizations, scouts, or JROTC.
- Share time and place with your members, ASK for volunteers, invite your Post & social members to join you. The more, the merrier! THANK YOUR VOLUNTEERS 😊
- Ask volunteers to **wear VFW or VFW Auxiliary branded clothing** to promote the organization and connect the flower distribution to it.
- Remind volunteers that they are **NOT SELLING** but are **DISTRIBUTING** the "Buddy" Poppies for a donation. Use the manners momma taught you, **THANK** people.
- **Please DO NOT refuse someone a flower for any reason.** A "Buddy" Poppy honors veterans and everyone should be able to do so, just ask them to '**WEAR IT PROUDLY!**'
- Use the "Buddy" Poppy Drive guide on MALTA for helpful tips and resources.

HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING

- All proceeds from the Poppy drives are to be placed in the Relief Fund with receipts and expenditures in accordance with the Treasurer's Guide, Bylaws and Ritual
- "Buddy" Poppy drives can be ANY time of the year, try something once a month or quarterly if you have enough time and volunteers.....don't be shy, GIVE IT A TRY!
- Use/Display poppies everywhere and anywhere! Use your imagination for all events!

Use **#poppiescount** to post photos of your "Buddy" Poppy Drives

National and Department "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest

Takes place at Department Convention in the following three (3) categories:

****See Official Rules/Judging Guidelines in MALTA Resources****

1. **Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign**
Windows, booths, parades, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.
2. **Memorial or Inspirational Displays**
Wreaths, memorial tables, plaques, patriotic or devotional themes.
3. **Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies**
Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages.

**Winning displays will be sent on to National for judging at National Convention*

VFW National Home

The VFW National Home is a place where Military Veterans and their families can get a fresh start by living rent free for up to four years and have access to case management services, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services as well as recreational and community services needed to aid the healing process. It provides a safe and peaceful environment for the entire Veteran's family.

The 42 single family homes, grounds and facilities are supported by sponsorship.

Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary sponsors Cottage #3.

The Health and Happiness Fund is a critical resource for VFW & Auxiliary donations.

On January 7, 1925, the VFW National Home was founded in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The original goal was to help families left behind by war remain together when their military loved ones didn't come home. National Home serves as a living memorial to veterans by helping our nation's military and their families during difficult times.

The spacious campus includes tree lined streets with family homes, playgrounds, parks, childcare facilities, community center, multiple family-oriented facilities, a guest lodge, chapel, administrative offices, and indoor/outdoor recreational opportunities.

National Home is forever evolving to meet the changing needs of Veterans and Military families to better assist them with reintegration, PTSD, unemployment, rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, emotional wounds, financial stress, or fractured family relationships, among other issues that can affect anyone serving our country and his family or her family. ONE thing is asked, COMMITMENT. The family must be committed to making changes in their lives. To remain at National Home, they must show consistent progress toward family goals. Partnering with the home's staff/volunteers in helping the family to reach their full potential.

If you know someone or a family who may need assistance encourage them to:

- **Call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200**
- **Email help@vfwnationalhome.org**
- **Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help**

Auxiliaries support through their gifts to the **Health and Happiness Fund**.
******25 cents per member is the suggested donation from each auxiliary each year ******

Donations provide:

- Christmas and Graduation gifts
- Maintenance of Auxiliary sponsored buildings including emergency repairs and needed renovations.

Donate through MALTA:

Log into MALTA
Select "Make a Gift"
Select Amount
Enter Payment Information
Click "Pay Now"
Print Receipt

Donate by Mail:

Earmark check "Health & Happiness"
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Health and Happiness Donations
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Become a Life-Member:

VFW and VFW Auxiliary Members are encouraged to become life members of National Home. Life members may vote for Trustees who represent their National Home District, and approve any changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation. An Auxiliary may purchase a life membership and will receive one vote as well.

Any individual or organization not associated with the VFW can also support the National Home by becoming an Associate Life member. These members do not receive voting privileges.

The cost of becoming a **life member is a one-time fee of \$50.00** and includes a membership certificate, a wallet card, and a pin. Visit vfnationalhome.org/membership for more information, an application, or to purchase a life membership.

Other ways to Donate:

- Purchase a brick in a loved one's name or memory for the Tribute Park
- Become a Hometown Hero Contributor
- Shop the National Home Wish List on Amazon
- Donate to National Commander in Chief/National President joint Special Project funding the VFW National Home Welcome Center Special Renovation Project

More details can be found on the VFW National Home at vfnationalhome.org

NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding use of the “Buddy” Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that uses the “Buddy” Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

Auxiliaries must send the entry form to the Department.

"Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding use of the “Buddy” Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after the National Convention.

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community and/or other Veteran Service Organizations about the VFW National Home.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates the community and/or other Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

Auxiliaries must send the entry form to the Department.

"Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates the community and/or other Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after the National Convention.

3. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness Fund based on June 30, 2023, membership statistics. Citation will be mailed directly to the Auxiliary from National Headquarters.

DEPARTMENT OF PA BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME CITATIONS

1. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who has the best promotion of the “Buddy” Poppy through distribution and education within their Post or Community. (Must submit a description and/or photos to the Department Chairman.)
2. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division that hosted or co-hosted with their Post, the most “Buddy” Poppy distribution drives within the Post or community.
3. Citation to the first, second, and third place winners in each category for the “Buddy” Poppy display contest at Department Convention (Rules and Guidelines can be found on MALTA Resources.)
4. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who has the best promotion of the VFW National Home at an event. All entries will be considered and must be submitted with year-end reports. (Must submit a description and/or photos to Department Chairman.)
5. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who purchases the most Life Memberships and/or Tribute Bricks for the VFW National Home.
6. Citation to the Auxiliary who submits the most amount of donations overall to the VFW National Home Health and Happiness Fund. (Must show proof of payment.)

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS

Extension and Revitalization

Brenda Johnson, Department Chief of Staff
5031 Garner Dr, Morrisville, PA 19067
215-303-4848 / bbjohns19@comcast.net

The extension and revitalization program is designed to maintain and strengthen current Auxiliaries, recognize Auxiliaries having difficulties and encourage unaffiliated posts to establish new Auxiliaries and encourage constant communication.

Auxiliaries experience challenging times such as suspension, consolidation or even the loss of their Auxiliary. The Department Chief of Staff, District Chief of Staff, District Presidents and the Department President must work closely with these Auxiliaries to help support and maintain them.

There are resources and tools available in the Online Academy and in Malta under Member Resources. Resources are valuable tools in helping an Auxiliary be more productive. There are Seven (7) resources that can be used to identify and solve issues:

- 1) **Healthy Auxiliary Check list**
- 2) **Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaire**
- 3) **Auxiliary meeting clinic**
- 4) **Communication phone/text tree**
- 5) **Good job certificate**
- 6) **Healthy Auxiliary certificate**
- 7) **VFW Auxiliary mentoring guide**

Building on the VFW Auxiliary foundation educates members on the duties of officers, how to be a chairman and explains why reporting is required.

A Chief of Staff must be patient, listen, understand and show compassion. These are vital tools in solving problems. A Chief of Staff needs to utilize a "one size does not fit all" plan. We need to ensure that Auxiliaries are conducting business in a way that works for them and that their members feel empowered and engaged. The Department Chief of Staff and the District Chief of Staff should work together.

A District President or assigned representative must be honest in their assessment of an Auxiliary during their annual visit. If the Department President doesn't know that an Auxiliary is in trouble she cannot help.

Auxiliaries must maintain the five (5) essentials required by the National Organization to keep their charter.

1. Auxiliaries must have at least ten (10) business meetings per year (Sec. 210). Five (5) members in good standing of that Auxiliary shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Sec. 212).

2. Dues should be paid on at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year (sec. 207).

3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted. (sec.814)

4. Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email (Sec. 804A and 806A).

5. The Offices of President and Treasurer must be bonded by August 31.

Establishing New Auxiliaries

Whether a VFW Post decides on its own that it wants an Auxiliary or whether an Auxiliary member or non-member sees the potential for a new Auxiliary, the steps for creating an Auxiliary are the same.

- 1) A VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority to have an Auxiliary. An Auxiliary can never exist on its own without a VFW Post and can never be started without the VFW's permission.**
- 2) The Department President appoints the official organizer of that Auxiliary. He/she must be an Auxiliary member.**

When making a presentation to an unaffiliated post, choose a person who is positive and knowledgeable to speak with the Commander of the Post. Request permission to speak with the post membership. Let them know how having an Auxiliary will benefit the VFW Post. It would help to allow two others who are knowledgeable with Auxiliary business and who work well with others to be on an organizing team. They can assist with training, educating, and mentoring the new Auxiliary. It is recommended that the organizer and team remain with the Auxiliary for at least one year or until they are ready to proceed as an Auxiliary without their guidance.

A minimum of 15 eligible applicants must be on the charter application. Transfers are accepted at the close of the institution and just prior to the installation of the newly-formed Auxiliary.

The Department Chief of Staff would assist by providing the following tools to the organizer and the organizing team:

- Talking points for the first meeting.
- A procedure for membership applications.
- When and how to collect dues.
- Assist in securing and filling out official and proper paperwork.
- See that deadlines and filings are met in a timely manner.

For more information on this topic, see Article II of the VFW Auxiliary podium edition: Bylaws and Ritual.

Suspensions, Cancellations and Consolidations

An Auxiliary is in danger of losing their charter when they are unable to meet the five (5) essentials of an Auxiliary. Suspensions are used in certain cases to give Auxiliary members a chance to fulfill their duties and continue to become a healthy Auxiliary again. When an Auxiliary is placed on suspension it is not negative or labeled as a bad thing. It simply means that there is some work to be done to get your Auxiliary where it needs to be. The Department President will appoint a team to mentor, educate and listen so your Auxiliary can get back to being a healthy Auxiliary.

Cancellations can only be done by the National President with or without the recommendation of the Department.

If a VFW Post closes or consolidates, Auxiliary National Headquarters will be notified. **ONLY AFTER THIS NOTIFICATION** can the process for closing or consolidation begin.

The notification from National Headquarters will allow ample time to close, move members to their desired working Auxiliary or consolidate where the Post goes.

NATIONAL EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION AWARDS

1. \$25 VFW store gift certificate to one member in each of the four conferences who assisted the Department Chief of Staff in Nurturing/strengthening a struggling Auxiliary and utilized *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* in their efforts. The Department Chief of Staff must complete and submit the required nomination form available in Malta member resources to the National Chief of staff by April 30, 2024.

\$25 VFW store gift certificate will be mailed directly to the winning members from National Headquarters after the National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION CITATIONS

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARY MEMBERS

1. Citation to an authorized member that organized and institutes a new VFW Auxiliary between July 1, 2023 and February 28, 2024.
2. Citation to the member in each membership division who best assists in revitalizing their Auxiliary and who utilized the Healthy Auxiliary Materials. Documentation must be sent to the Department Chief of Staff.

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Citation to each new VFW Auxiliary instituted from July 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024. All paperwork must be received at National Headquarters.
2. A Certificate of Good Health to each Auxiliary submitting the Auxiliary Healthy Check-up questionnaire. Questionnaire must be sent to the Department Chief of Staff.
3. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division presenting the most "Good Job Awards."
4. Citation to the Auxiliary best using publicity, newspaper social media, etc. in forming a new Auxiliary or revitalizing their own Auxiliary.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.

Historian & Media Relations

Kristin DiGiacomo, Department Chairman
418 Edmond Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-867-0021 / k.digi@pitt.edu

Department President's Theme	<i>"Let Freedom Ring"</i>
Department President's Colors	<i>Red, White and Blue</i>
Department President's Membership Theme	<i>"Climb Every Mountain"</i>
National President's Theme	<i>"Banding Together for Our Veterans"</i>

Tradition and history are revered in our organization. There are many Auxiliaries that proudly celebrate 100 or more years of history. Many of our members treasure long-standing rituals and practices. Unfortunately, it's becoming increasingly common that some of our Auxiliaries do not necessarily share this type of enthusiasm or have members wishing to join an Auxiliary that does. Thus arises a conundrum: Can we retain our traditions while also attracting the new members necessary to keep the Auxiliary a strong, vibrant and relevant organization?

Service is more than something we do; it's who we are. The work of the Auxiliary is important, and by sharing our stories, we are doing our part to promote the Auxiliary in our communities.

Be sure that you remember to be both mindful and respectful before you #SNAP (Stop Now Ask Permission) a photo. Carry around some of the youth and adult photo releases available in MALTA Member Resources. Releases help protect both the photographer and the person(s) being photographed, especially children. For various reasons, it's important to have permission to take someone's photo.

Remember, photography opens doors into the past while also allowing a look into the future. A camera is a SAVE button, so let's SAVE our history. Let your Auxiliary legacy members become STARS, for without our STARS, our Auxiliary would not exist. This Program Year, connect with a legacy member and complete a three- to five-minute video interview:

- Ask why they joined.
- Ask about their favorite memorable moment(s).
- Place emphasis on bringing the past to life.
- If your Auxiliary has no legacy members, look to your District.

HISTORIAN DUTIES • MEDIA RELATIONS

Our Historian & Media Relations members are responsible for capturing the narrative of the Program Year. They are our memory keepers and collectors of the 5W's: the ***who-what-where-when-and-why*** of your Auxiliary. But these members aren't just responsible for taking photos; there's so much more that is involved with this Program, including compiling, chronicling, and sharing events and memories in both written and digital format through photographs, memorabilia, audio/video clips, print news

and social media posts! Our Historians & Media Relations Chairmen promote the Auxiliary through media, Post/Auxiliary newsletters, websites and other media available to them.

MEDIA

At the Auxiliary, District and Department levels, these members are the voices that get the word out about our Auxiliary to our communities! As our Auxiliary grows, 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 to educate others about our nation’s patriotic traditions. Without our storytellers, fewer people will know about our organization and how we raise money for our veterans and their families, how we fight for our veterans’ rights and how we support our young people with scholarships and various other opportunities!

Media is an essential piece that creates a successful Auxiliary. It’s imperative that we communicate with **both** our traditional media outlets as well as our digital, social media outlets. A great place to start is MALTA Member Resources. There are many resources there, everything from the basics to setting up a Facebook page for your Auxiliary. And while social media may seem scary or intimidating, don’t allow that to become an excuse. This is a wonderful way to involve another tech-savvy member of your Auxiliary, or a family member or student who can assist you in learning how to navigate and utilize these new forms of digital media. Be willing to learn new ways to preserve your Auxiliary’s memories!

Get to know your local newspaper, radio and television reports. Send information directly to those contacts rather than the editor. Send a personal email and be sure to include your personal contact information.

Traditional Media Outlets	Digital and Social Media Outlets
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Television• Radio• Newspapers• Magazines• Newsletters• Fliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email• Auxiliary websites• Facebook• Instagram• Twitter• YouTube• Snapchat• TikTok

HISTORICAL RECORDS at ALL LEVELS

It’s very important to keep written reports and photos of our history at all levels of our organization. Consider how great it is to have the ability to look back at years gone by and see what took place in your Auxiliary or District.

Nowadays, there are multiple ways to keep records and photos, such as a digital photobook/scrapbook, a traditional photobook/scrapbook, or a three-ring binder. And make sure to

include any newsletters, fliers, or other mementos as well! Lastly, always be sure to keep the records in chronological order.

I would urge each Historian, at all levels, to write down what's happening, take as many photos as you can and always include a description. Also, you can always check MALTA Member Resources for more information.

QUICK TIPS

Remember, all photos should be clear and sharp, digital photos should be at least 1 MB (megabyte) in size, and all photos should be taken with attention to detail. Be sure to avoid the following:

- Subjects with closed eyes
- Subjects with open mouths or food in their mouths
- Awkward or distracting objects in the frame
- Offensive language on clothing

Please note that the reporting year for this program is Department Convention 2023, when your President is installed, until Department Convention 2024, when the new President will take office.

The deadline for all pictorial History Books will be April 6, 2024 for judging. All Auxiliary submissions can be turned into their District President to be hand delivered to the Department Historian at the Madam President's Testimonial Weekend or sent via regular mail.

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS AWARDS AND CITATIONS

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding video interview with a VFW Auxiliary legacy (longtime active) member.
- Citation to every Auxiliary that submits a 3-5 minute video interview with a legacy Auxiliary member. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form and video interview to their Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.
 - The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form and video interview.
 - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that submits most outstanding 3-5 minute video interview with a VFW Auxiliary legacy member.
 - The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form with the winning video to the National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.
 - Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. A Citation for the best pictorial History Book on the Auxiliary Level.
2. A Citation to every Auxiliary who send a newsletter out to members either monthly or quarterly.
3. A Citation for the best use of a social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, Post and/or Auxiliary website). All documentation and/or materials are to be received by the President's Testimonial weekend.
4. A Citation to every Auxiliary who submits an Auxiliary legacy member video by March 31, 2024.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS

Hospital

Peggy Freyer, Department Chairman
408 N. Market St, Martinsburg, PA 16662
814-327-0291 / peggy_freyer@yahoo.com

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. By volunteering in VA hospitals as well as non-VA centers we can in some small way repay their sacrifice. Auxiliary Members **“Banding together for our Veterans” to “Let Freedom Ring.”**

The Hospital Program for the Department of PA will focus on:

Volunteer, Recruitment, Recognition and Support: By volunteering you are helping the VA to save millions of dollars in health care expenses. There are many opportunities to volunteer either as a regular volunteer or as an occasional volunteer. It is easy to become a volunteer contact the Volunteer Director at the facility.

Recognize those that volunteer. A simple thank you goes a long way. Certificates can be printed, go to www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources to print certificates.

Valentines for Veterans: Share the love we have for our veterans by sending either store bought or homemade valentines. Consider hosting (if allowed) or sponsoring a party, recognition event or dinner in their honor. This is an opportunity to get the community involved.

Women Veterans Health Care: Women have served our nation for generations and are the fastest growing group within the veteran population. There are services available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Visit <http://www.womenshealth.va.gov> to learn more about what is available.

Honors Escort: This program is designed to inform nursing homes and hospitals of a respectful manner to honor veterans at the time of death. The program provides an opportunity for a veteran’s family and friends, other veterans, and medical staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the veteran.

Celebrating Non-traditional Holidays: While we remember our hospitalized veterans at Christmas, New Years, and Veterans Day, let us shake it up and remember them on little know special days of the year. Such as Christmas in July, National Hug a G.I. Day, Football kick off day. Here is a great link: www.calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023/.

Special Project - Adult Clothing Protectors (Bibs)

There is a great need for bibs at your VA
and non-VA hospitals and nursing homes.
Patterns are available at your local sewing centers.
(Simplicity # 2687 for just \$2.00 at Joann Fabrics.)

NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA hospitals & nursing homes) from July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org – MALTA member resources.
2. “Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year” plaque awarded to one member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA hospitals & nursing homes) from July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Entry form (*required*) available at vfwauxiliary.org – MALTA member resources.
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. (VA & non-VA hospitals & nursing homes) Entry form (*required*) available at vfwauxiliary.org – MALTA member resources.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and /or event that recognizes veterans on non-traditional holidays. Entry form required.
2. A Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and /or event recognizing veterans on non-traditional holidays. Entry form required and available at vfwauxiliary.org – MALTA member resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.

DEPARTMENT OF PA HOSPITAL CITATIONS

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary in each Membership Division donating the most money to the VA hospitals and homes **thru** Department Headquarters.
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary in each Membership Division that has the most Hospital Volunteer hours. (Volunteer hours will be totaled from the year-end report.)
3. “Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year” plaque awarded to one member in the Department who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA hospitals, nursing homes, and medical facilities) from July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Entry form (*required*) available at vfwauxiliary.org – MALTA member resources.
4. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year (VA & non-VA hospitals & nursing homes) Entry form (*required*) available at vfwauxiliary.org – MALTA member resources.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.

Legislative

Sherry D. Barbour, Department Chairman
612 Church St, Mount Joy, PA 17552
717-989-0813 / Sherbarbou6262@hotmail.com

As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we can appreciate and celebrate the legislative victories that we, as an organization, supported to better serve all veterans. Much has been accomplished, but there is so much more to do. The more our members know and understand legislative matters, the better they can support the veterans, service members and their families and show that we are **“Banding Together for Our Veterans” to “Let Freedom Ring.”**

Priority Goals

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Priority Goals for 2023:

1. Budget
2. Disability Assistance and MEMORIAL Affairs
3. Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance
4. Health Care
5. Military Quality of Life
6. National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA

You can study these priority goals which are listed on the National website at vfwauxiliary.org. Select “What we do”, then click “Legislative”. These goals reinforce, strengthen, and ensure that our Veterans, present and future, will have a smooth and efficient VA system.

Arm Yourself for Action

1. Know the issues!
2. View Current Legislation
3. Find your legislators!
4. Read VFW testimony
5. Take Action!
6. Read Weekly Action Corp.

Guidelines for Auxiliary Involvement in the Election Process

1. Remain neutral
2. Use legislative websites for U.S. Congress and Senate to track pieces of legislation.
3. Find your Legislator
 - a. Go to the internet and type <http://congresslookup.com/>

4. Visit your legislator!
 - a. Make an appointment.
 - b. Be on time and dress appropriately.
 - c. Be respectful
 - d. Be prepared by making your presentation brief, clear and concise.
 - e. Focus on the issue.
 - f. Send a Thank You note to the Legislator and their staff for taking time to discuss your concerns.

Legislators want to hear from you. The most important part of communicating with your legislator is to just “do it.”

Things your Auxiliary Can Do to support the legislation, which is important to our Veterans, Service member and families:

- a. Attend Town Hall meetings.
- b. Set up Voter Registration Drives/Push the Vote Campaign on the local level.
- c. If possible, provide carpool service on Election Day for disabled or elderly so that they can vote.
- d. Support and work for your favorite Candidates.
- e. Do wear clothing/pins with the VFW Auxiliary Emblem at public events such as Town Hall, rallies, forums and/or debates.

Things not to do include:

- a. Do not endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary National Organization, Department, District or Auxiliary.
- b. Do not wear your Auxiliary Cap when actively campaigning, soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking for pledges for voting for candidates.

It does not matter which candidate you are supporting, as long as they understand that you are a VFW Auxiliary member and you are concerned about our veterans, families and military personnel.

Be An Advocate

VFW Action Corps Weekly:

Follow what is happening on Capitol Hill, with our veteran and service member issues. Subscribe at the National Website at vfwauxiliary.org by selecting "What We Do" then click on "Legislative".

Contact your legislators; find out who is who. To identify your congressional representatives, visit the VFW website at votervoice.net/VFW/register.

Step By Step-A Bill

Follow the progress of a bill through the stages of the legislative process, visit congress.gov, where you may find a specific bill by its number or by a keyword or phrase.

Be Aware of the VFW's Lobbying Efforts

To contact the D.C. office:

Website: vfw.org/advocacy

Phone: 202-543-2239

Mail: 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

National Legislative Awards and Citations for Auxiliaries

Criteria must be met and submitted to Department Chairman no later than March 31, 2024

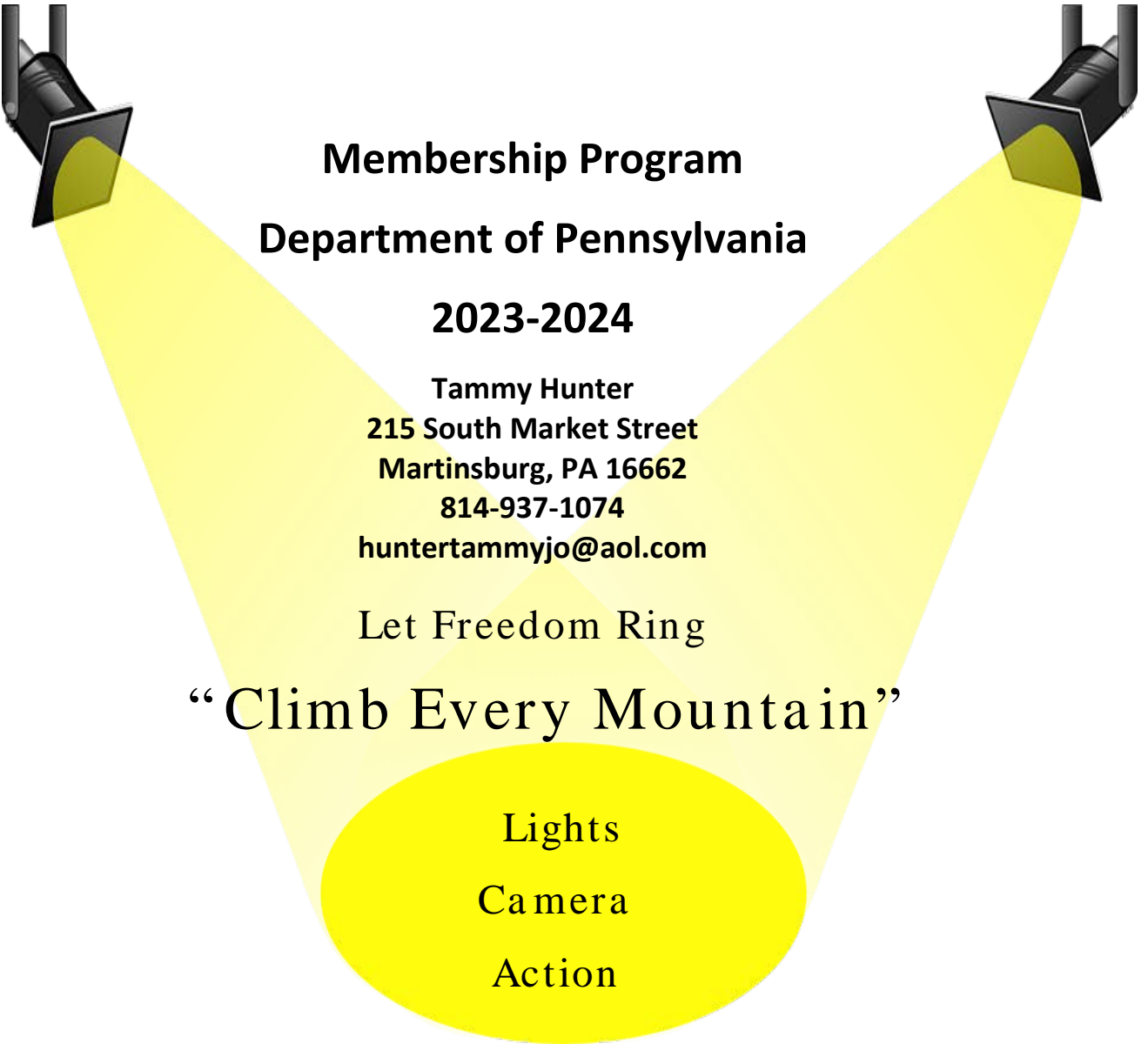
1. Most outstanding activity and or event educating their community or the Veteran Legislative issues.
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community on Veteran Legislative issues.
 - Entry forms required and available in MALTA member resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.
 - The department Legislative Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at vfwauxiliary.org a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their department that completed and submitted and entry form.
 - Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

2. Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that host the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Legislative issues.
 - The department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry for to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.
 - Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary Account after Nations Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA LEGISLATION CITATIONS

1. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with the most enrollments to the *VFW Action Corps* weekly e-mail newsletter.
2. Citation to the Auxiliary with the best promotion/activity regarding the VFW Priority Goals.
3. Citation to the Auxiliary with the best promotion/activity regarding the VFW Priority Goals with their VFW Post.
4. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with most member contacts to legislators.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.



Membership Program
Department of Pennsylvania

2023-2024

Tammy Hunter
215 South Market Street
Martinsburg, PA 16662
814-937-1074
huntertammyjo@aol.com

Let Freedom Ring

“Climb Every Mountain”

Lights
Camera
Action

Lights, Camera, Action! We are getting ready to start production on our new show. It is so important to recruit the right actors for the big show. Let's all of us search high and low for new talent. We need all different talents for a great product movie. Who will you be, the talent scout, director, cameraman or musical conductor? We will need lots of extras for a successful season to produce our new show called “**Banding Together for our Veterans.**”

Every member should be involved for us to succeed as an organization.

So how will we start this process? Use the **Resources** we have in **Malta**.

- **VFW Auxiliary Application**
- **VFW Auxiliary Brochure Order Form**
- **New Member Engagement Guide**
- **New Member Orientation Checklist**
- **New Member Packet**
- **Retention Tools**



Lights: To Invite & Recruit

Our talent scouts should be **Recruiting** up-and-coming new members to accomplish the Auxiliary mission. Let's keep scouting for talent in all our new members that we have Recruited. Seasoned members can help new members by helping them discover their talents that can help the organization in their programs. It is up to you to invite more Auxiliary members to get involved by becoming talent scouts for our new and upcoming new actors.



Camera: Include Everyone

Get the cast and crew members involved in your Auxiliary no matter how small or large it may be. Don't isolate new cast members from the organization, you should ask them to become a part of the process of the production to see what talent they can bring to the final production of the show. Reminder that at one time we were all newbies and learned as time goes on with mentoring our new talent. Did your Auxiliary President appoint a five-person membership team, this include the producer (Treasurer) to contact all members during the Program Year for payment of dues?



Action: Invest and Encourage Participation

Everyone is important to making a great award-winning film. The same holds true for the Auxiliary. From the writers to the cameraman to the directors, it is up to each one of use to encourage and accept all ideas a member may have. Remember, all ideas are important and may need editing for the final cut. Everyone has different strengths, skills and encourages them in the program that fits them. A thank you goes a long way for a member to get involved and stay involved in the organization.



Follow Up: New Members and Rejoined Members

To begin the production of a new show you need a read-through with the cast. This is why it is so important to follow up with new and rejoined members. Let them know when the meetings are and what time. Check with them and see if they might need a ride. Before the first meeting see if you can meet and answer any questions about the meeting and Rituals that might help them through it.



Ticket Sales: Ways to Encourage Participation

- Monthly sign-up sheet at regular meetings
- Emails and phone calls for special events
- Spotlight members involvement with a Good Job Award
- Be specific about what they will be doing and include time.
- Ask them the best way to contact them by phone, text, email, etc.
- New members should have a Mentor with them to help answer questions.
- If new members say “no” at the first invitation, be sure to ask again.
- Plan a family-friendly event! Members with children in the home want opportunities to do something together to feel involved in the Auxiliary.



Promote: Have a Plan

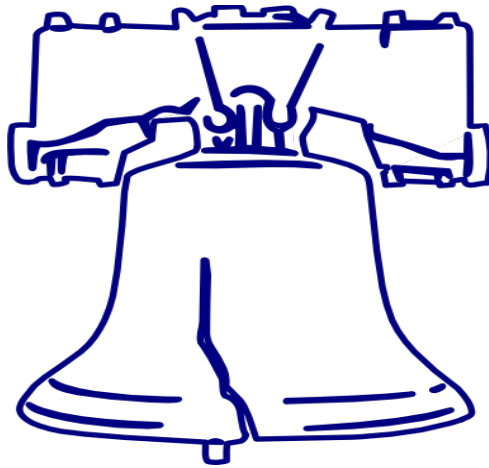
Every Auxiliary should have a Membership Plan. This Plan should have the following:

- Contacting Current Members
- Outreach to former Members to Rejoin
- Recruiting events for new members
- Picking a Mentor for each new member
- Before the Membership year begins, setup your calendar for the events:
 - Make it easy as possible for members to renew their dues. Remind them they can pay in Malta also.
 - Plan at least four recruiting events in your community each year.



Golden Malta:

Our Directors (Conference Coaches) were chosen for their knowledge of the program. Their goal is to strive and help their Conference earn the coveted “Golden Malta.” It is a dream of every director to achieve “Best Picture of the 2023-2024 Program Year “for **Banding Together for Our Veterans**. By investing in the future of your Auxiliary, you can grow into a successful Auxiliary with Lights, Camera, Action!



LET FREEDOM RING

“**Let Freedom Ring**” is our Department President’s Membership Theme and her chosen colors are Red, White & Blue. We must work together as a team to “**CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN**” to reach the peak and succeed in our Membership Goal.

Membership Plan: It is very important for all Auxiliaries to have a membership plan to help **Invest, Invite, Include and Retain** our membership to complete the climb.

Let’s invent a plan to help our members know how important membership is and how easy it is to renew their membership either in person or by logging into **MALTA** to renew.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS/MEMBERSHIP DIVISIONS

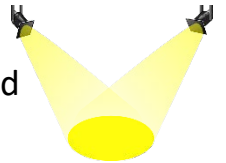
Division I	Auxiliaries with 10-20 members
Division II	Auxiliaries with 21-40 members
Division III	Auxiliaries with 41-70 members
Division IV	Auxiliaries with 71-100 members
Division V	Auxiliaries with 101-200 members
Division VI	Auxiliaries with 201-325 members
Division VII	Auxiliaries with 326 or greater

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS



1. **CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN AWARD** In each membership division all VFW Auxiliaries reaching 100% Plus in membership by April 30, 2024, will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 VFW Store Gift Card.

2. **LIGHT AWARD: MOST NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD** In each membership division the top VFW Auxiliary who has the most increased Life Members by April 30, 2024 will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.



3. **CAMERA AWARD: RETENTION AWARD** In each membership division the member who has gone above and beyond to retain members will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate. Auxiliary President must submit the Nomination Form to the Dept. Membership Chairman by March 30, 2024.
In the case of a tie a drawing will be held.

4. **ACTION AWARD: RECRUIT AWARD** In each membership division, the Auxiliary that recruits the most new and/or rejoined members from July 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.



5. **LET FREEDOM RING AWARD:** The first District President reaching



100% PLUS in membership shall be given a complimentary Saturday evening banquet ticket to the Department President Testimonial. Only one banquet ticket shall be awarded.

National Membership Awards for Auxiliaries

1. **Lights, Camera, Action!** Pin to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024 with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2024. **Lights, Camera, Action!** Pin will be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters.
2. **National Membership Achievement Award** to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2024. NMA award to be presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. If a member is not in attendance, the award to be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters after National Convention.
3. **Lights, Camera, Action! VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing.** Each VFW Auxiliary National Membership Achievement Award recipient will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$500 Visa Gift Card. (VFW Recruiters are not eligible)

Department of PA Membership Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 98% Plus in Membership by March 31, 2024.
2. \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2024.
3. Lights, Camera, Action! VFW Auxiliary Drawing. Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by June 30, 2024, will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$50.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS

**PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM
FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS
2023-2024**

DISTRICT# _____ AUXILIARY# _____
AUXILIARY NAME _____
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT _____
AUXILIARY TREASURER _____

Please attach all necessary documentation and submit to Tammy Hunter, 215 South Market Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662 no later than May 8, 2024

1. President & Treasurer bonded by August 31, 2023
2. President, Treasurer and Secretary dues must be paid by November 30, 2023
3. Membership 100% Plus by April 30, 2024
4. All Audits must be on file at Department Headquarters before May 5, 2024
5. Inspection by District President completed (submit a copy)
6. Voice of Democracy entry and/or donation (minimum \$10.00) (submit check number and date)
7. Patriot's Pen entry and/or donation (minimum \$10.00) (submit check number and date)
8. Young American Creative Art entry and/or donation (minimum \$10.00) (submit check number and date)
9. Donation to Pennsylvania's Cottage #3 at the VFW National Home (submit check number and date)
10. President Special Project donation (minimum \$10.00) (submit check number and date)
11. Buddy Poppy purchase (submit check number and date of purchase)
12. Donation to all 15 VA hospitals and Department Hospital fund (submit check number and date) (minimum \$10.00 each)
13. Donation to Christmas Canteen fund (submit check number and date) by October 31, 2023 (minimum \$10.00 donation)
14. Donation to Department Flag Fund (minimum \$5.00) (submit check number and date)
15. At least one member has to attend each District Meeting, but the Auxiliary President must attend at least one meeting.
16. Must have an Auxiliary Membership Committee. (Submit committee members names)
17. Must have a completed New Member Welcome Packet (submit relevant documentations)

***In order to qualify for the All-State Award, all Auxiliary Obligations must be met by May 5, 2024.**

Mentoring for Leadership

Sandy Brenner, Department Chairman
P.O. Box 525, Mount Wolf, PA 17347
717-891-2093 / miteymou@aol.com

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

Benjamin Franklin

In order to keep our Organization healthy and productive, it is vital for us to mentor, teach and inspire. All of our hard work and knowledge must be passed on and utilized in order to deem being successful. Our efforts are only successful, when those taking our place are comfortably able to carry on and make new paths.

Encourage members – both new and seasoned by:

Always listening to what they say

Show a genuine interest in them and help to encourage

Recognize their strengths and interests and encourage them to set Auxiliary leadership goals.

Mentoring

Whether you create a formal or informal mentoring program, every Auxiliary should have resources to assist in communicating and motivating members to better understand the organization. Utilizing the *Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the future* document will help you get started in creating a Program for your Auxiliary.

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.

Leadership

We are so very fortunate with the many resources available to help members to understand our organization. Receiving the Podium Edition of our Bylaws & Ritual is the most valuable asset for success. Encouraging all members to browse through the resources available in MALTA at their own leisure, can really help to lift the fog from their eyes as they learn about our organization. Attending your first meeting and having no knowledge of our traditions and ritual work can be very intimidating; giving a new member all the support and resource that you possibly can, will make

a world of difference if the passion to learn is there.

“Let Freedom Ring” as we plan and mentor those stepping up behind us. Through our keen planning **“Banding Together for Our Veterans”** will help us to continue developing strong leaders in order to continue our quest in serving all Veterans and their Families.

A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.

Oprah Winfrey

NATIONAL MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. Citation awarded to the first, second and third place VFW Auxiliary members in each Department with the most unique and/or creative way to mentor a member to become a leader. Three nominations from each Department Mentoring for Leadership Chairman are due to the National Mentoring for Leadership Ambassador by April 30, 2024. Citations will be mailed directly to winners from National Headquarters after National Convention.

NATIONAL MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their Auxiliary members about how to find and train mentees while using and promoting VFW Auxiliary resources and learning materials. (Entry form found in MALTA and required. Send entry form to Department Chairman no later than March 31, 2024.
 - Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the outstanding activity and/or training that educates their Auxiliary members on how to find and train mentees while using and promoting Auxiliary resources and learning materials.

DEPARTMENT MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division who holds and **reports** at least two mentoring activities during the year.
2. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division presenting the best activity or on best ways to utilize mentors effectively.
3. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with best special recognition for mentors in their Auxiliary.
4. Citation to the District in each Division with the best mentor recognition program.

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.

Scholarships

Joan Faddis, Department Chairman
12 Melissa Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335
484-639-8953 / Tee3cubed@aol.com

Each of our National Scholarships encourages Patriotism and assists with secondary educational expenses. By educating our youth, our members and our families, we ensure they have the means to fulfill their potential, as they are the future of this Nation.

Our Scholarships Program also has the potential to introduce the important work we do in our communities and school districts. Our VFW and Auxiliary Team, promoting each contest and encouraging all to participate, can strongly influence parents, students, and teachers alike. And our yearly goal is always to make these Scholarship available to more and more students!

We can “**Let Freedom Ring,**” because of the sacrifices Veterans willingly made for us. When we are “**Banding Together for Our Veterans**” we acknowledge the debt of gratitude we will forever owe them!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2023-2024

Student Participation -

Recipient Recognition -

Community Awareness, and

Increasing The Fund!!!

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY CONTEST

2023 - 2024 Theme: “What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

This contest was created to give high school students a forum to express their opinions by creating an essay on a specific theme, then recording the essay as a speech. Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1947, the Auxiliary is in partnership with the comrades to promote and encourage youth participation in their premier Scholarship program.

The Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest is open to students in grades 9-12 by October 31, 2023. Students can be enrolled in public, private, parochial high school, or an approved home study program in the United States, its territories or possessions, or dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas school. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawfully U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application of which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign Exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous 1st Place Department Winners, GED or Adult Education students are ineligible.

Students are required to write an essay offering their opinion on the specific theme, and the student must be the sole author of the essay. The essay is then recorded on a flash drive. Please note that CD's are no longer accepted. The recording of the speech is to be in the student's own voice and in English. No music, singing, poetry, sound effect, or background noises are permitted. The essay must not identify the student in any way, (including but not limited to name, school, city, state, race, or national origin,) although the recording and typed essay should be labeled with the student's name to show ownership. The recording is limited to between 3 – 5 minutes (+ or – 5 seconds) in length.

The entry application, flash drive, and a printed copy of the essay are then submitted to the local VFW for judging. Judging is done on the recording. District level winners are required to submit a head and shoulders photograph along with their entries. Please download the complete rules and official entry form at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

Each VFW Post & Auxiliary may sponsor 1 entry for each 15 entries or a part thereof, to advance to the District Level of judging. One winner from each District then advances to the Department level of judging. **PLEASE, DO NOT MAIL DISTRICT LEVEL WINNERS TO STATE HEADQUARTERS!**

MAIL TO: Mr. Thomas Hanzes, Chairman
State of PA, VFW VOD
106 North 16th Street
Greenville, PA 16125

DEADLINES: Entries to VFW Post: Midnight, October 31, 2023
Completion of Post Judging: November 18, 2023
Completion of District Judging: December 3, 2023
To State Chairman Hanzes: December 9, 2023 - District Winner Entry form, flash drive of essay, typed copy of the essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place - \$ 35,000

Second - \$ 21,000

Third - \$ 15,000

4th through 36th - \$ 7,000 to \$ 1,500

37th – 53rd - \$ 1,000

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST
2023 – 2024 Theme: “How are you inspired by America?”

This competition is provided for all students in 6th-8th grades by October 31, 2023, enrolled in a public, private, parochial school, or an approved home study program in the U.S., its territories, or its possessions. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residency (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign Exchange students, students aged 20 or older, students who previously placed in the National Competition, GED and Adult Education students are ineligible. Please download the complete rules and official entry form at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

All essays must be the contestants original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the essay's theme should be positive and focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly, and plainly identified wherever used. Parents, counselors, or teachers may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestants!

Essays should be 300 – 400 (+ or – 5 words) and typed in English. (Every word counts regardless of length, excluding the title and footnotes.) The essay must not identify the student in any way, (including but not limited to name, school, city, state, race, or national origin.) Graphics and color are not permitted on the essays. Only White 8"x11.5" paper for printing. **DO NOT PUT A NAME, GRADE, or DATE on the essay.** The completed Entry form is your cover page. District level winners will be required to submit a head and shoulders photograph along with their entries.

The essays and application forms are submitted by the schools to the VFW Post for judging. Each VFW Post may sponsor 1 entry for each 15 entries or a part thereof, to advance to the District Level of judging. One winner from each District advances to the Department judging, and one Department winner advances to the National finals.

PLEASE, DO NOT MAIL WINNERS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS!

MAIL TO: Mr. William Lamond III, Chairman
State of PA, Patriot's Pen Essay
3360 Nashotka Road
Madison Township, PA 18444

DEADLINES: Entries to the Sponsoring VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2023
Post Judging Complete – November 18, 2023
District Judging Complete – December 3, 2023
To State Chairman Lamond: December 9, 2023 - District Winner Entry form,
typed copy of the essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AWARD

First Place - \$400.00 and a Plaque

NATIONAL AWARDS

First -	\$ 5,000
Second -	\$ 4,000
Third -	\$ 3,500
Fourth through 53rd: -	\$ 2,750 - \$ 500

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is designed to assist Auxiliary members or family member by helping with the economic burden of secondary education. It is **ONLY** awarded to a current Auxiliary member in good standing (who must be a member for at least one year), their spouse or child who has a financial need. The Scholarship is paid directly to the student's choice of American College, University, or Vocational/Technical school.

Applicant must be at least 21 years old by 2/15/2024, complete the application, and write a statement (of 300 words or less) describing their commitment to their goals, and how this scholarship would help them reach those goals by lessening the fiscal impact of returning to school.

Can you meet these qualifications? Because the VFW National Headquarters receives less than 100 applications per year, and one of them could be yours! One \$1,250 scholarship will be awarded to one applicant from each of the four Conferences. Applications are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education. Application and statement must be received at National HQ by February 15, 2024.

Mail completed application to: Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111
Or email to: info@vfwauxiliary.org

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

This scholarship provides students with the opportunity to express their idea of Patriotism using their artistic talents. The competition is available to 9th-12th grade students, enrolled in public, private, or parochial schools, or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools, by the March 31st deadline. The maximum age of the student at the time of entry is 19. While U.S.

Citizenship is not required, they must be lawful U.S permanent resident (the application for which not denied) and they intend to become a U.S. Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over age 20, GED and adult education students, or previous winners of the Patriotic Art Contest are not eligible.

Artwork may be done with oils, watercolors, pencil, pastels, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylics, markers, pen-and-ink, or any other media. Artwork must be on stretcher frames, canvas or paper and may not be smaller than 8" x 10", nor larger than 18" x 24" excluding mat. Do not frame entries! Entries not on stretcher frame or canvas board may be matted with only white matboard, and must be reinforced with heavy paper or cardboard on the back so it does not bend. Mounted/floating matting is permissible, **but must be white**. If the American flag is shown in the art, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code. Entries are judged on the Patriotic theme and technique.

Students shall submit their artwork with an entry form and a brief description of the patriotism being expressed in the artwork. (150 words or less, typed, and in English.) Both must be securely attached to the back of the art. Please download the fillable entry form on MALTA. Complete rules are available at: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.

Each Auxiliary may sponsor one winner. District judging is not required or recommended in PA. Package the artwork securely to prevent damage in transit, and ship to:

Joan Faddis
Department Scholarships Chairman
12 Melissa Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335-1255

DEADLINES: Entries received by: Local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2024
VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman by – April 15, 2024

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP YOUR ENTRIES at the conclusion of Department Convention by the submitting student, Auxiliary member, or their representative.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

First Place - \$500.00 Second Place - \$350.00 Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place - \$15,000
Second - \$ 7,500
Third - \$ 3,500
Fourth - \$ 2,500

Fifth & Sixth -	\$ 1,500
Seventh & Eighth -	\$ 1,000
Ninth-Nineteenth -	\$ 500

All Scholarships are paid directly to the American College, University, Vocational, Technical or Trade School of the winners' choice.

3-DIMENSIONAL ART CONTEST

The 3-Dimensional Art Contest promotes Patriotism while recognizing young artists in grades 9th -12th. The contest accepts three-dimensional art that can be paper, papier-mâché, pottery, sculpture, metal, wood, fabric, etc. (See the official rules for art forms that are allowed.)

The competition is available to 9th-12th grade students, enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school, or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. The maximum age of the student at the time of entry is 19. While US Citizenship is not required, they must be lawful US permanent resident (the application for which not denied) and they intend to become a U.S. Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over age 20, GED and adult education students, or Previous winners of the Patriotic Art Contest are not eligible. The student must attend a school in the same state as the sponsoring Auxiliary, but is not required to be a VFW/Auxiliary member or a relative of a member.

Pieces should be no smaller than 8" and no larger than 18" in any direction. Art cannot weigh more than 5 lbs. Digital art, photography and jewelry are not eligible.

Students shall submit an entry form and a brief description of the patriotism being expressed in the artwork. (150 words or less, typed and in English.) Attach both to the artwork. Please download the fillable entry form and complete rules, which are available at:

vfwauxiliary.org/wpcontent/uploads/Creative-Patriotic-Art-Form-Fillable-For-Website.pdf

Each Auxiliary may sponsor one winner. District judging is not required or recommended in PA. Package the artwork securely to prevent damage in transit, and ship to:

Joan Faddis
Department Scholarships Chairman
12 Melissa Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335-1255

DEADLINES: Entries received by the local Auxiliary: March 31, 2024

Entries received by the Department Chairman: April 15, 2024

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP ARTWORK at the conclusion of Department Convention by the submitting student, Auxiliary, or their representative.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place - \$ 2,500

Second - \$ 1,000

Third - \$ 500

All Scholarships are paid directly to the American University, College, or Vocational/Technical School of the student's choice.

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART ESCROW FUND

Each year, there are than 80 First-place Department Patriotic Art 2-D and 3-D Student winners who are unrewarded on the National Level. Due to our extremely limited funding, only 22 students for the two contests receive a scholarship. Please consider helping us to increase not only the number of students we reward, but also the amount of the awards given, by hosting fundraising events or simply donating to the Escrow Fund established for these contests.

Donations can be made on MALTA or earmarked and sent to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

DEPARTMENT OF PA SCHOLARSHIPS CITATIONS

1. Citation to VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition.
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the Patriot's Pen Essay Competition.
3. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the 2-D Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest.
4. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest.
5. Citation to the District Chairman with the most outstanding promotion of the Scholarships Program. (Based on **Monthly** reporting to the Department Scholarships Chairman.*)
6. Citation to the Auxiliary Chairman with the most outstanding promotion of the Scholarships Program. (Based on **Monthly** reporting to the Department Scholarships Chairman.*)

*Monthly reporting means a report sent every month, which includes a copy of your promotion. (i.e.: What handouts you presented at your meeting, what you spoke about, how you encourage your members to participate, etc.) **Sending 4 reports at once is not monthly reporting!** However, I will accept April through July reports all sent in August 2023, no later!!!

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.

Veterans & Family Support

Tina Hinkle, Department Chairman
3675 Fox Chase Dr, Dover, PA 17315
717-634-1892 / tina@vfw5265.org

The one thing we all have in common is love for our veterans, we strive to serve them and honor their service to our country in any way we can. Veterans & Family Support is the heart of our organization and a Program that every member can and should participate in. This year, we are **“Banding Together for Our Veterans” to “Let Freedom Ring”** by offering guidance to veterans about acquiring VA benefits, working toward higher education with scholarship opportunities and providing helpful resources for when life gets rough.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for us, so we are banding together to do all we can for them. This year, the primary focus will be:

- Veterans and Military Support Programs
- National Veterans Service (NVS)
- Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

Veterans and Military Support Programs and National Veterans Service (NVS)

We can step up to ensure that our veterans, and their family members, are aware of the aid available to them in times of need such as financial assistance with mortgage or rent payments, vehicle expenses, utilities, food, or clothing. Now more than ever, we need to guide our veterans and their family members in their efforts to obtain their VA benefits by pairing them with VFW Accredited Service Officers. Financial aid is also available to those service members and veterans who are looking to further their education and find a new career path in life. We can adopt units and send care packages to our deployed troops. While it's important to remember them when they're away, it's equally as important to remember them and their family prior to and after deployment. The VFW has financial grants that are available to help with events held by our Auxiliaries and Posts to support and recognize our troops. For more information, visit the VFW website at: vfw.org/assistance

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

Our Veterans are our heroes and it's time we show them how much they mean to us. Many veterans return home with heavy hearts and minds. By banding together with other organizations such as the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and Give an Hour, we'll be able to raise awareness and foster community engagement to change the stigma surrounding mental health.

We need to be proactive in looking after our heroes. Be mindful of the characteristics associated with thoughts of suicide and be watchful of our veterans' mental health. One veteran lost to suicide is one veteran too many! We can't pass up the time to honor our veterans' service to this great nation. One of the easiest ways to do this is by giving our time to serve in any way that we can to give back to those who've given so much for us.

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

Spread the Word about National Veterans Service (NVS)

The VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve – at no cost.

NVS provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents.

These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:

- Disability compensation
- Rehabilitation and educational programs
- Pension and death benefits
- Employment and training programs

NVS also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care, including:

- Hospital care
- Outpatient care
- Specialized health care for female veterans
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards

Donations to NVS can be made online or by mail. Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select National Veterans Service, click “Contribute”.

Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for NVS. Mail checks to:

VFW National Headquarters
Attn: NVS
406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

VFW Veterans & Military Support Program

Veterans & Military Support contains programs initiated by the VFW: Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and the VFW “Sport Clips® Help A Hero Scholarship.” These programs serve active-duty and recently discharged military.

Donations to Veterans & Military Support can be made online or by mail. Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select Veterans & Military Support, click “Contribute.”

Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for Veterans & Military Support.

Mail checks to:

VFW National Headquarters
Attn: Veterans & Military Support
406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Military Assistance Program (MAP) Funds Ways to Connect with Troops

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. It helps forge and nurture bonds with those units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send-offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers.

Post and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. MAP keeps care packages circulating by covering postage costs.

For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans & Military Support office at 816-756-3390.

Unmet Needs Can Help in a Crisis

A soldier is serving on foreign soil, but the rent is due back home. A soldier is driving a tank on alert for IEDs, and the family car needs a new radiator the family cannot afford. These are the situations Unmet Needs can address. Grants of up to \$1,500 payable to a creditor can bridge the gap to make a mortgage or rent payment or to fund home and auto repairs, insurance, utility costs, food and clothing. To learn more, visit vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants.

VFW “Sport Clips® Help A Hero Scholarship” Program

The VFW and Sport Clips are giving the gift of scholarships to our nation’s heroes as a way of thanking them for their dedicated service to our nation. The VFW “Sport Clips® Help A Hero Scholarship” awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. To learn more, visit vfw.org/studentveterans-support.

Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

Make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis by educating yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide.

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Veterans and their loved ones can:

- Call 1-800-MyVA411 to access all VA departments
- Call 988 and Press 1
- Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net or
- Send a text message to 838255

Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals is available.

Tip: Add the Veterans Crisis Line number as a contact in your cell phone for easy referral.

Purchase the Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin from the VFW Store. When someone asks you about your pin, tell them that the VFW Auxiliary is concerned about the rates of suicides among veterans and military service members; we want everyone to be aware of the unique stress they face.

Mental Wellness Support and Resources

More than 16 veterans commit suicide each day, and the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are committed to helping change the conversation and stigma surrounding mental health in the United States.

Change the stigma, improve research, support your community, and explore treatment options at the resources below:

- **VFW Mental Wellness Campaign** vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness
- **The Campaign to Change Direction** changedirection.org
- **Give An Hour** giveanhour.org
- **Patients Like Me** patientslikeme.com/join/vfw
- **One Mind** onemind.org
- **The Elizabeth Dole Foundation** elizabethdolefoundation.org
- **Help Heal Veterans (Therapeutic Craft Kits)** healvets.org
- **Veterans Voices Writing Project** veteransvoices.org

Other Resources

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary helped pass the Deborah Sampson Act that will enhance and improve VA programs and health services for women veterans and ensure they receive the care and support they need and have earned. It includes an expansion of the Women Veterans Call Center to include text messaging capability.

- **Women Veterans Call Center**
Call or text: 855-829-6636 or 1-855-VA-WOMEN
- **Women Veterans Health Care**
www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/index.asp

National Veterans & Family Support Awards and Citations for Auxiliaries

Criteria must be met and submitted to Department Chairman no later than March 31, 2024

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, service members and their families.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase support of veterans, service members and their families. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase support of veterans, service members and their families. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT CITATIONS

Criteria must be met and submitted to Department Chairman no later than March 31, 2024

1. A Citation to the Auxiliary, in each Membership Division, with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness. (Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to the Department Chairman.)
2. A Citation to the Auxiliary, in each Membership Division, with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase support of veterans, service members and their families. (Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to the Department Chairman.)
3. A Citation to the Auxiliary, in each Membership Division, with the most outstanding promotion to increase awareness of VFW National Veterans Service (NVS). (Must send description of activity to the Department Chairman, photos may be included.)
4. A Citation to the Auxiliary, in each Membership Division, with the highest monetary donation and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families. (Report monthly to the Department Chairman the description of donations and amount of monetary donation and/or value of donation.)
6. A Citation to the District Chairman with the best promotion to increase awareness of VFW National Veterans Service (NVS). (Must send description of activity to the Department Chairman, photos may be included.)
7. A Citation to the District Chairman with the best promotion to increase awareness of Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness. (Must send description of activity to the Department Chairman, photos may be included.)
8. A Citation to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs. This includes Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs, and Sport Clips® Help a Hero Scholarship Program. (Must send description of activity to the Department Chairman, photos may be included.)

“Banding Together for Our Veterans”

to

“Let Freedom Ring”

**ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BONDS, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC.
TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET
FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.**

Youth Activities

Olive 'Joey' Diehl, Department Chairman
77 S High St, PO Box 198, Newville, PA 17241
717-386-7598 / joeydiehl@aol.com

One of the roles of the VFW Auxiliary is to mentor our youth to become productive and Patriotic Adults. Patriotism for youth is defined as "love for or devotion to one's country". We will teach them the importance of the freedoms we have through literacy, singing, art, and involvement with our Veterans. We will help them **"Let Freedom Ring" by "Banding together for Our Veterans"**.

Creating, Sponsoring, and working with Youth Groups

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage them in any of our Programs, including activities to honor our veterans or assist our service members and their families.

Many youth groups require them to participate in other organizations to receive credits in their group. Remember if we get youth involved in service to our veterans and our Auxiliary it can bring new members to our organization. When youth are involved so are other family members and they feel more invested in the Auxiliary. Sponsoring a youth group can create a brighter future for our Auxiliary, veterans and community.

Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citations

The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way the Auxiliaries recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available in Malta Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Patriot Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and /or support of our veterans, service members and their families. A fillable, printable version of the Patriotic Youth Award is available in Malta Member resources under Youth Activities.

Patriotism through Literacy

Reading is an easy way to promote patriotism because it is simple, fun and mostly free if we utilize our public library. Reading books can help our youth learn about historical figures and historical events that happened in our great nation. One important item to teach is the Pledge to the Flag. There are books on our Flag for them to read and learn the etiquette of the Flag and finally for us to teach them to recite the Pledge to the Flag.

How can we promote Patriotism through Literacy?

- Donate both nonfiction and historical fiction to our public libraries, school libraries, and shelters.
- Volunteer to read historical or nonfiction books at your local library.
- Host a Read -a- Thon with different age groups and give out small awards for most books read.
- Promote writing by hosting a writer's workshop for the youth at your Post or the library.
- If you know an author who writes historical books or articles why not invite them to give a talk at your local VFW or library.

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

Do you know the words to the Star- Spangled Banner? We have a contest for our youth to learn and perform this great song.

It is open to youth in grades K-12 at the time of local entry and is a U.S.citizen or U.S.national. Entry will be judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entry forms are found in Malta Member Resources under Youth Activities and also eligibility requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines for Entries:

Participating Auxiliary send to District President by March 31

District President send to Department Chairman by -April 15

Department Chairman send to National Headquarters -May 5

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades k through 8

First Place - \$300.00

Second Place - \$200.00

Third Place - \$100.00

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades 9 through 12

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

Illustrating America

Open to any student in grades K-8 that is enrolled in a public, or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories, and possessions: or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible. National grade division winners of previous

Illustrating America contest may enter the subsequent grade division but are ineligible for the same grade division which they are a previous National winner.

Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The Department first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please see the student brochure and entry form in Malta Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Contest Rules

- Art must be two-dimensional.
- Art must be on canvas or paper.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other media maybe used'
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy paper.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18"x24", not including mat.

Deadlines for Entries:

Participating Auxiliary send to District President by March 31

District President send to Department Chairman by - April 15

Department Chairman send to National Headquarters – May 5

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades k through 2

First Place - \$50.00 Second Place - \$30.00 Third Place - \$20.00

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades 3 through 5

First Place - \$50.00 Second Place - \$30.00 Third Place - \$20.00

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades 6 through 8

First Place - \$50.00 Second Place - \$30.00 Third Place - \$20.00

Involve Youth in All Auxiliary Programs

Youth play such an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary Programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans. Reward our youth with our very own VFW Auxiliary R.A.P. card! This is RANDOM ACTS OF PATRIOTISM. If we have them involved in our programs we will see them showing patriotism by thanking a veteran, placing their hand over their heart correctly, and showing respect to our flag.

Make Your Auxiliary Accessible to Today's Youth

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social media as teaching and information tools have natural collaborative elements allowing our youth to view and comment on each other's activities. They are tweeting on twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram and subscribing to YouTube channels. If you don't know what any of this is – **LEARN**.

POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn | YouTube | Pinterest | Instagram | Snapchat

Get online and see what's new!

Visit **Malta Member Resources** for publicity tips, social media guidelines and other helpful information.

NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES AUXILIARY AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and using the RANDOM ACTS OF PATRIOTISM card (R.A.P.)

Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and uses the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging.

The Department Youth Activities Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total of combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

2. Citations and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and / or event that educates their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)

The Department Youth Activities Chairman must sign and sign and a copy of the Department-winning entry form to the National Youth Activities Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

DEPARTMENT OF PA YOUTH ACTIVITIES CITATIONS

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary working with the highest number of Youth
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary presenting the most Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans Citations
3. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the Best Promotion of Patriotism through Literacy Initiative
4. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary that donated the most books for Patriotism through Literacy Initiative
5. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the Best Promotion of the “Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue” Initiative
6. Citations to the VFW Auxiliaries sponsoring the first -place winners in each division of the “Get Excited for Red, White and Blue Initiative
7. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the Best Promotion of the “Illustrating America” Initiative
8. Citations to the VFW Auxiliaries sponsoring the first-place winners in each division of the “Illustrating America” Initiative
9. Citations to the VFW Auxiliaries that hosted an awards ceremony for both “Get Excited for the “Red, White and Blue” and “Illustrating America” Initiatives

ALL OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING AUDITS, BOND, DELEGATE FEES, PLEDGES, SUPPLIES, ETC. TO NATIONAL, DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT MUST BE MET FOR YOUR AUXILIARY/DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMEN TO QUALIFY FOR AWARDS.

AMERICANISM

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report

Carolyn J. Paccio, Department Chairman
1287 Downs Rd, Susquehanna, PA 18847
570-396-1538 / cpaccio29@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024

Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024

Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Americanism material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes___ No___
2. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate in, or recognize any patriotic holiday or branch or branch of service birthdays? Yes___ No___ If yes please describe and attach photos required to qualify for citations.
3. Did your Auxiliary distribute American Flags or POW Flags? Yes___ No___
If yes to either please provide the numbers.
4. Did your Auxiliary present any certificates of appreciation or respect for the Flag citations to citizens or businesses within the community, in recognition of their display of the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag, or any other display of American Pride or Patriotism? Yes___ No___ If yes, please attach picture.
5. Did your Auxiliary host, or co-host with your Post, a Flag folding ceremony, missing man ceremony, or a Star Family recognition ceremony? Yes___ No___ If yes please attach picture and description to qualify for citation.

PRESIDENT _____

CHAIRMAN _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report
Kimberly Grundon, Department Chairman
374 Rambo Hill Road, Shermans Dale, PA 17090
717-275-7094 / kgrundon@comcast.net

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Auxiliary Outreach material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes___ No___
2. Did your Auxiliary as a group volunteer/partner with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary? Yes___ No___
3. How many organizations did your Auxiliary volunteer/partner with during the year? # _____
 - a. First Responders # _____
 - b. Churches # _____
 - c. Towns # _____
 - d. Disaster relief # _____
 - e. Cancer, Heart, ALS Association, etc. # _____
 - f. Other # _____

4. Number of combined member and/or Auxiliary hours volunteered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary? _____

5. Did your Auxiliary or Auxiliary members do anything to promote the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program that has not been reported in any of the previous questions? (For example: newsletters, social media, etc.) Please describe or attach a copy to this report.

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

"BUDDY" POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME

2023-2024 Year-End Report

Amy Peterson, Department Chairman
12 N. Bennett St, Bradford, PA 16701
814-331-1142 / thepetersons@atlanticbb.net

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

"Buddy" Poppy

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the "Buddy" Poppy material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes ___ No ___
2. How many "Buddy" Poppy drives did your Auxiliary hold
With VFW Post? _____ Without VFW Post? _____
3. Number of combined "Buddy" Poppies that were distributed. _____
4. Did your Auxiliary have an Entry for the VFW "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest? _____

VFW National Home

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the VFW National Home material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes ___ No ___
2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home ? Yes ___ No ___
3. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home Helpline? Yes ___ No ___
4. Did your Auxiliary purchase a VFW National Home Life Membership? Yes ___ No ___
How Many? _____
5. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick? Yes ___ No ___
How Many? _____
6. Did your Auxiliary donate to the Health and Happiness Fund? _____ Amount? _____
(copy of check OR receipt from MALTA required)

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report

Brenda Johnson, Department Chief of Staff

5031 Garner Dr, Morrisville, PA 19067

215-303-4848 / bbjohns19@comcast.net

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024

Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024

Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary use the Extension & Revitalization material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes _____ No _____

2. Did your Auxiliary use the Department Chief of Staff for help, suggestions and direction for Auxiliary/member issues? Yes _____ No _____

3. Did your Auxiliary complete the Healthy Check-up list and receive a Healthy Auxiliary Certificate? Yes _____ No _____

4. How many Good Job Awards were given by your Auxiliary? _____

List the reasons why a Good Job Award was presented:

5. Was information presented to a Bachelor Post about starting a new Auxiliary?

Yes _____ No _____

6. How many times was publicity used for revitalizing your Auxiliary or to form a new Auxiliary?

_____ What media was used?

TV _____ Radio _____ Newspaper _____ Facebook/Social Media _____ Fliers _____

PRESIDENT _____

CHAIRMAN _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report
Kristin DiGiacomo, Department Chairman
418 Edmond Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-867-0021 / k.digi@pitt.edu

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the **Historian** material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes___ No___
2. Did your Auxiliary create a Historian’s book documenting the previous year using any method? Yes___ No___
3. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the **Media Relations** material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes___ No___
4. Did your Auxiliary send a monthly or quarterly newsletter to your members either via printed mail or email? Yes___ No___
If yes above: Were they printed and/or mailed? _____ How many? _____
Were they electronic (sent via email)? _____ How many? _____
5. Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page? Yes___ No___
Is it a joint page with the Post? Yes___ No___
6. Does your Auxiliary have a website? Yes___ No___
Is it a joint website with the Post? Yes___ No___
7. Did your Auxiliary conduct a Media Relations “how to” training to educate your members (example: how to log into MALTA, email, navigating Facebook and other social media outlets)? Yes___ No___
8. Did your Auxiliary use media to promote the Auxiliary and its Programs? Yes___ No___
If yes, please select what type of media was used (check all that apply):
TV___ Radio___ Newspaper___ Social Media___ Fliers___

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

HOSPITAL

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report
Peggy Freyer, Department Chairman
408 N. Market St., Martinsburg, PA 16662
814-327-0291 / peggy_freyer@yahoo.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Number of Auxiliary members that volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility.
(Auxiliary member to be counted one time only per year.) _____

2. Total number of hours that Auxiliary members volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility. _____

3. Total number of hours that Sponsored Volunteers and/or students volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility. _____

4. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate or host any of the following activities listed below:

- Honors Escort
- National Salute to Veteran Patients-Valentines for Veterans
- Veterans Health Care (VHA)
- Women Veterans Health Care Program

With your VFW Post? Yes ____ No ____ / Without your VFW Post Yes ____ No ____

5. Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects.
Total \$ _____

6. Number of "Adult Clothing Protectors" made for VA or non-VA hospitals and/or nursing homes. Total _____

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

VAVS Hospitals and Homes

The following are hospitals and homes that the Auxiliaries are asked to send donations into Department Headquarters for. **This may be done on ONE check!**

1	Butler VA Medical Center	\$ _____
2	Coatesville VA Medical Center	\$ _____
3	Corporal Michael J Crescenz VA Medical Center	\$ _____
4	Delaware Valley Veterans Home	\$ _____
5	Erie VA Medical Center	\$ _____
6	Gino J Merli Veterans Center	\$ _____
7	Hollidaysburg Veterans Home	\$ _____
8	James E VanZandt VA Medical Center	\$ _____
9	Lebanon VA Medical Center	\$ _____
10	PA Soldiers & Sailors Veterans Home	\$ _____
11	Pittsburgh VA Health System (HJ Heinz/Oakland)	\$ _____
12	Southeastern Veterans Center	\$ _____
13	Southwestern Veterans Center	\$ _____
14	Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center	\$ _____
15	Allentown VA Outpatient Clinic	\$ _____
		\$ _____
	TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT	\$ _____

Christmas Canteen Fund

This must be RECEIVED BY 10/31 TO QUALIFY FOR ALL STATE!!!!

This fund is divided by the number of patients at that time.

DO NOT LIST A HOSPITAL FOR THIS FUND!

Department Hospital Fund

This fund is distributed evenly to all of the facilities listed above.

Please send donations along with a check payable to:

Dept of PA VFWA
4002 Fenton Ave
Harrisburg, PA 17109

LEGISLATIVE

Sherry D. Barbour, Department Chairman
612 Church St, Mount Joy, PA 17552
717-989-0813 / Sherbarbou6262@hotmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Legislative material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes_____ No_____
2. How many Auxiliary members are subscribed to VFW Action Corps Weekly E-Newsletter?

3. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate and/or host activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, please describe activities: _____

4. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate or co-host with their VFW Post, activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, please describe activities:

5. How many Auxiliary members corresponded with Legislators regarding Veteran's issues by any means? (Example: emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.)
Number of members _____
6. Number of Auxiliary members who attended events where they could interact with legislators (example: legislative conferences, town halls, meet-and-greets, etc.)
Number of members _____

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

MEMBERSHIP

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report

Tammy Hunter, Department Chairman

215 South Market Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662

814-937-1074 / huntertammyjo@aol.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024

Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024

Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary reach 100% plus in Membership? Yes _____ No _____
2. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Membership material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes _____ No _____
3. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, host or co-host with their VFW Post, activities regarding VFW and/or VFW Auxiliary education and Membership Recruitment? Yes _____ No _____
4. Did your Auxiliary educate your members on their benefits for being a member (Example: insurance plans, travel benefits, cancer grants, hearing plans, etc.)? Yes _____ No _____
5. Did your Auxiliary educate their members on the National Membership Program Awards? Yes _____ No _____
6. Did your Auxiliary participate in any recruiting events on any level? Yes _____ No _____
7. Did your Auxiliary recruit at least one new member? Yes _____ No _____

PRESIDENT _____

CHAIRMAN _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

2023-2024 Year End Report
Sandy Brenner, Department Chairman
P O Box 525, Mount Wolf, PA 17347
717-891-2093 / miteymou@aol.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024
Your District President must receive this report by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Auxiliary records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Mentoring for Leadership materials/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes_____ No_____

2. How did your Auxiliary educate your members on Mentoring and Leadership? (Give brief description and picture if possible).

3. Did your Auxiliary hold at least two mentoring activities during the year. Describe and share picture(s). Yes_____ No_____

4. What was the best way your Auxiliary utilized mentors during this year?

5. Did your Auxiliary give recognition to mentors during this year? Yes_____ No_____ Give explanation_____

PRESIDENT _____

CHAIRMAN _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

AUX. NAME _____

AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report

Joan Faddis, Department Chairman

12 Melissa Lane, Downingtown, PA 19335

484-639-8953 / tee3cubed@aol.com or jbfaddis@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024

Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024

Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

- a. Did your auxiliary promote the Continuing Education Scholarship Program? (i.e.: by distributing applications to members during meetings, publicizing the program in a newsletter, or posting applications on a bulletin board?) YES_____ NO_____
- b. Did your Auxiliary donate to the Continuing Education Fund? YES_____ NO_____

2. YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

- a. Did your Auxiliary promote the Patriotic Art Competition? YES_____ NO_____
- b. Total number of students who submitted an entry. _____
- c. Total amount of money awarded by your auxiliary to these students. \$_____
- d. Did your Auxiliary donate to the National Patriotic Art Scholarships Fund? YES___ NO___

3. 3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

- a. Did you promote the contest in any way? (i.e.: distributing applications to members at meetings, publicizing in a newsletter, or posting anywhere?) YES_____ NO_____
- b. Total number of students who submitted an entry. _____
- c. Did you make any donation to the National 3-D Patriotic Art Fund? YES_____ NO_____

4. VFW SCHOLARSHIPS

- a. Did your Auxiliary assist the post in conducting The Patriots Pen contests? YES___ NO___
- b. Did your Auxiliary assist the post in conducting the VOD contest? YES_____ NO_____

5. RECOGNITION

- a. Did your Auxiliary/Post host an awards ceremony to recognize the winners and/or participants in any/all these contests? YES_____ NO_____
- b. Total amount of awards presented to students in ALL these contests. \$_____

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS YOU MAY AWARD TO YOUR STUDENTS!

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____

PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____

AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report
Tina Hinkle, Department Chairman
3675 Fox Chase Dr, Dover, PA 17315
717-634-1892 / tina@vfw5265.org

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Veterans & Family Support material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources? Yes___ No___
2. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, host/co-host with their VFW Post activities for any VFW Program listed below? Yes___ No___ Please include description of activity.
 - a. Disaster Relief
 - b. Military Assistance (MAP)
 - c. National Veterans Service (NVS)
 - d. Unmet Needs
 - e. Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness
3. Did your Auxiliary provide direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families? (example: meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.) Yes___ No___
4. Approximate number of veterans, service members, and/or families assisted. # _____
5. Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families. \$ _____

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2023 – 2024 Year-End Report
Olive 'Joey' Diehl, Department Chairman
77 S High St, PO Box 198, Newville, PA 17241
717-386-7598 / joeydiehl@aol.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024
Auxiliary Presidents are to send (2) copies to your District President by April 6, 2024
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary publicize Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations?
Yes_____ No_____ How many youth groups were nominated for citations? _____
2. Did your Auxiliary sponsor/work with Youth Groups? Yes_____ No_____ If yes, how many programs / activities? _____ How many total youths were involved? _____
3. Did your Auxiliary participate in "**Patriotism through Literacy**"? Yes___ No_____
Number of Books Donated? _____
4. Did your Auxiliary promote the "**Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue**" National Anthem singing contest? Yes___ No___ If you so please describe _____
Number of Students submitting entries? _____
Did your Auxiliary host an Awards Ceremony to recognize winners? Yes___ No_____
Total dollar amount and/or value of Awards presented_____.
5. Did your Auxiliary promote the "**Illustrating America Art Contest**" ?
Yes___ No___ If so please describe _____
Number of Student entries _____
Did you host an Awards Ceremony to recognize the winners? Yes___ No_____
Total dollar amount and /or value of Awards presented_____

PRESIDENT _____ CHAIRMAN _____
PHONE: _____ PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____ EMAIL: _____
AUX. NAME _____ AUX. # _____ DISTRICT # _____