


**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary
Department of Pennsylvania**

**EVERY DAY IS
VETERANS DAY**



**PROGRAM BOOK
2025-2026**

Robin A. Kohler

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Pennsylvania
2025-2026

“EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY”

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PA VFW Auxiliary Programs

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.

Welcome

Welcome to the 2025-2026 VFW Auxiliary Program Book - your comprehensive guide to planning, implementing, and reporting on our Auxiliary programs for the coming year.

This book is more than just a tool; it's a reflection of our shared commitment to the idea that **Every Day is Veterans Day**. Every page, every program, and every action we take honors those who have served, those still serving, and the families who stand beside them. These programs lie at the heart of our mission: supporting veterans, active-duty service members, their families, and strengthening the communities they call home.

While your Auxiliary may not think you have the capacity to participate in every program, you might be surprised how many of your efforts overlap or complement each other within a single event. By thoughtfully combining initiatives, you can extend your reach, amplify your impact, and raise the visibility of your Auxiliary within the community, while also drawing in new, mission-driven members.

We encourage you to embrace your creativity and your members' talents to achieve the goals set forth in these programs. Our Department Chairmen have developed actionable and achievable goals for each one of their programs, so we know that, with the passion you share for this organization and mission, you will strive to accomplish more than the minimum requirements. Every member and every effort made throughout the year matter. Let's work together to serve our Veterans and organization as we complete each of these programs.

Thank you for your dedication, your enthusiasm, and your unwavering support of our mission. Every day that you serve the VFW Auxiliary is a day that honors our Veterans, and every act, no matter how small, reinforces the truth that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

Let's make this year remarkable by serving with integrity and inclusion, because **Every Day is Veterans Day**.

Loyally,

Robin

Robin A. Kohler
Department President 2025-2026

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VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Athena Theodorakos-Gjerde, Chairman
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Phone (717) 917-8614
agtheodorakos19@gmail.com

The Veterans and Family Support program is the foundation of our organization, demonstrating that **Every Day is Veterans Day**, and that our appreciation for their efforts to defend our freedoms extends **From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans**.

This year, the primary focus of our program will be:

- VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs
- Veterans' Mental Health Awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment

VFW-BASED VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS)

The NVS helps veterans, service members, and their families access the benefits that they have earned, free of charge. NVS consists of a nationwide network of VFW-accredited Service Officers and Pre-Discharge Representatives who are experts in navigating VA processes.

PRE-DISCHARGE

The VFQ Pre-Discharge program was established in 2001. The program ensured that separating and retiring military personnel receive assistance in obtaining their VA entitlements upon discharge.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claimsseparation-benefits>

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. A large part of MAP is the Adopt-A-Unit program, which gives VFW posts and Auxiliaries the opportunity to support military units. Unfortunately, financial assistance is no longer offered to VFW Auxiliaries to support social events as part of this program. However, VFW Auxiliaries are still able to request Foundation grants.

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support>

STUDENT VETERAN SUPPORT GRANT

The VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant is available to support specific student veteran events. VFW Posts or Departments are eligible to submit applications.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veteranssupport>

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

VFW FOUNDATION GRANTS

There are three types of grants available to apply for:

- VFW #StillServing Grant, which offsets incurred costs for community service projects
- Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant, which is a matching grant available for community food or homeless relief efforts
- Post Assistance Grant, which is offered exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses for building repairs

<https://www.vfw.org/community/communityinitiatives/post-grants>

DISASTER RELIEF

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is accepting donations to help veterans, service members, and military families impacted by natural disasters.

VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with a qualified responder. Please continue to look for the warning signs of suicide. Always promote that help is a call or text away at 988 (Press 1)! Other options include online chat or texting 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

VFW MENTAL WELLNESS CAMPAIGN

This campaign was developed to educate everyone about mental health and wellness and provide tools to intervene on behalf of veterans in crisis.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>

WOMEN VETERANS SUPPORT

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: <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>

VETERAN AND VETERAN SPOUSES EMPLOYMENT

Consider working with local employers to host a job fair or job skills training for your local veterans and their spouses. Sometimes, a little assistance is needed to help our veterans and their families transition back into a civilian lifestyle.

PROGRAM DONATIONS

Donations for this program are always needed and very much appreciated. Donations can be made online or by mail.

Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select the program you would like to donate to, and click "Contribute."

Donate by mail by sending a check to:
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Processing Center
P.O. Box 2002
Milford, NH 03055-2002

Please remember to earmark your check. Otherwise, your donation will be immediately directed to the VFW programs where your support is most urgently needed.

<https://vfw.org/donate/your-support-matters>

NATIONAL VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community. To include veterans' job fairs, unit homecomings, mental health-related stand downs, etc.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Veterans and Family Support – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT CITATIONS

1. A citation to the Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community.
2. A citation to the Auxiliary who assisted the most veterans and service members.
3. A citation to the Auxiliary who donated the most money to assist veterans and service members.

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

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Athena Theodorakos-Gjerde, Chairman
4624 Hamlin Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone (717) 917-8614
agtheodorakos19@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate in, host, or co-host with your VFW Post activities for any VFW Program? (Examples: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance Program (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Awareness, Job Fair, etc.)

Yes _____ No _____

Please provide a description of your event(s). Please feel free to include additional documentation and pictures!

2. Did your Auxiliary provide direct aid to veterans, service members, and/or their families? (Examples: meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.) Yes ____ No ____
3. How many veterans, service members, and/or their families were assisted? _____
4. Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members, and/or their families? _____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

AMERICANISM

Cherie Dysard, Chairman
611 Mill Road, Clearfield, PA 16830
Phone (814) 496-1940
cherpavfwaux@gmail.com

Across the country, citizens display flags to symbolize that **Every Day is Veterans Day** and demonstrate that love **From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans**.

Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas, a desire to secure the blessings of liberty and posterity, and an undivided allegiance to the Flag. As a member of the Auxiliary, it is our duty to show our patriotism by supporting veterans, their families, volunteering in our communities, promoting patriotism, and flying the American Flag.

The VFW Store has many inexpensive patriotic items available for purchase. Consider using them in your school and community activities. www.vfwstore.org

This year, the primary focus of the Americanism program will be:

- Flag Education
- Promoting Patriotism
- POW/MIA Remembrance
- Patriotic Instruction

FLAG EDUCATION

It's important to teach Auxiliary members and citizens the proper etiquette for displaying and handling the American flag. Work with schools and local community groups to provide training and spread awareness of flag etiquette. Recognize community establishments that properly display their US flag. Establish a program for the respectful disposal of worn or damaged flags at your VFW post and/or within your community.

vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette

PROMOTING PATRIOTISM

Educate Auxiliary members and citizens about the meaning and importance of patriotic symbols and traditions. Spotlight the National Holidays and Branch of Service Birthdays in social media campaigns or events. Recognize Star Families within your community.

Use #AuxiliaryPatriotism.

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE

Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Remembrance Day is a solemn day dedicated to remembering those who have endured captivity or remain unaccounted for while serving our country. Hold a ceremony on this day.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

The Auxiliary's Patriotic Instructor is often an overlooked position, yet it plays an important part in educating our members about the significance of our national symbols and the Auxiliary ritual. Patriotic Instructors at every level are encouraged to hold training sessions within their auxiliaries and their communities to maintain the values and traditions that we stand for.

SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER PROGRAM

Each year, the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers – one elementary teacher, one junior high teacher, and one high school teacher – for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and instilling patriotism in their students. Consider nominating a local teacher in your community.
<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-andeducation/teacher-of-the-year>

RED SHIRT CHALLENGE

This year, Auxiliaries in Pennsylvania are encouraged to participate in a Red Shirt challenge. Send pictures or post pictures on social media of your Auxiliary members wearing red shirts to be entered into a special drawing at Pennsylvania's mid-winter and annual conventions.

Use #PARedShirt

NATIONAL AMERICANISM PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity or event displaying or educating others about the proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA & non-VA facilities)

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Americanism – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM CITATIONS

1. A citation to the Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.
2. A citation to the Auxiliary with the best promotion of any patriotic day or branch of service birthday.
3. A citation to the Auxiliary who presented the most Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificates of Appreciation, or Respect for the Flag Citations to citizens/businesses within their local community in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag, and/or other displays of American pride.
4. Special drawing at mid-winter convention and annual convention for all auxiliaries who participate in the red shirt challenge and share a picture of their members wearing red shirts.

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

AMERICANISM

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Cherie Dysard, Chairman
611 Mill Road, Clearfield, PA 16830
Phone (814) 496-1940
cherpavfwaux@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Did your Auxiliary hold an activity or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag? Yes _____ No _____

Please provide a description of your event or activity. Please feel free to include additional documentation and pictures.

2. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate in, and/or recognize any patriotic day and/or branch of service birthdays? Yes _____ No _____

Please provide a description of your event or activity. Please feel free to include additional documentation and pictures.

3. Did your Auxiliary distribute and/or present American Flags and/or POW/MIA flags? Yes _____ No _____

4. If you distributed/presented flags, how many were distributed/presented? _____

5. How many Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificates of Appreciation, or Respect for the Flag Citations were presented to citizens and/or businesses in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag, and/or other displays of American pride? _____

6. Did your Auxiliary participate in a "Red Shirt" event? Yes _____ No _____
Must email a photo to the chairman or share a photo on social media.

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Jency Mercado, Chairman
PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843
Phone (814) 496-1712
jencyvfw@gmail.com

Volunteering is an important aspect of the communities in which we live. It helps create a better place for our Veterans and their families by building self-confidence, meeting new people, and improving social skills. Auxiliary Outreach provides our members with a sense of belonging within our communities and promotes a healthy environment.

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is about volunteering with other organizations for the benefit of the community. It is a donation of our time, and **not** a donation of money. One member, a group of members, or an entire Auxiliary can perform volunteer work to improve and show appreciation for the community in which we live and our pride as members of the Auxiliary.

Auxiliary members who volunteer show that **“Every Day is Veterans Day”** while reaching **“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans,”** and will be successful with this program.

Auxiliary Outreach can benefit children, senior citizens, 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. The Auxiliary may do projects alone or with the VFW Post.

Collectively, all 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 wonderful way to show our members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes.

What’s Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

When an Auxiliary volunteers with an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach. The organizations that we volunteer with will need to be voted on, approved, and included in your monthly minutes. If it was done afterwards, you can have your minutes amended to add your time. (When the entire Auxiliary volunteers and only one member shows up, it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach.)

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Examples:

- Participation in walks that benefit other organizations, such as an event sponsor, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc.
- Partnering with local police on child ID kits.
- Partnering with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Partnering with EMTs to host CPR training.
- Partnering with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, adopt-a-park initiatives, and develop community art installations.
- Volunteering at an animal shelter.
- Fostering animals.
- Serving food in soup kitchens.
- Delivering food or Meals on Wheels.

What's NOT Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

- Walking or running in a race that supports another organization is not part of Auxiliary Outreach (i.e., Relay for Life).
- 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 the 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.).

Did you know that almost every month has a day or week recognizing volunteerism?

Please spread the word about these days and consider doing something special.

August 5, 2025 – National Night Out Day

September 11, 2025 – National Day of Service and Remembrance

October 4, 2025 – Be the Change Day

October 25, 2025 – National Make a Difference Day

November 13, 2025 – World Kindness Day

November 22, 2025 – National Family Volunteer Day

December 5, 2025 – International Volunteer Day

January 28, 2026 – Global Community Engagement Day

February 9-13, 2026 – Student Volunteer Week

March 9-13, 2026 – AmeriCorps Week

April 12, 2026 – Good Deeds Day

April 19-25, 2026 – National Volunteer Week

April 24, 2026 – Global Youth Service Day

May 2, 2026 – VFW Day of Service

June 21, 2026 – United Way Day of Action

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

It is important that all partnerships with other organizations are approved by a 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 QUARTERLY by emailing or mailing reports to Jency Mercado, or through the vfwauxpa.org website reporting portal (April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026).

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. You are encouraged to include written descriptions of community projects that were participated in by Auxiliary members, to include news articles, fliers, and photos.
4. A paper can be passed to members at your monthly meetings so that members can report what they have done individually.

HOW TO SUBMIT QUARTERLY REPORTS

1. Email your report to jencyvfw@gmail.com with the subject line Auxiliary Outreach Program.
2. Mail a copy to Jency Mercado, PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843.
3. Visit vfwauxpa.org – Login – Report Entry (member ID = your membership number and password = your last name).

NATIONAL AUXILIARY OUTREACH AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using #AuxiliaryOutreach.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event using #AuxiliaryOutreach during the current Program Year.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Auxiliary Outreach – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY OUTREACH AWARDS AND CITATIONS

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

*****NEW*****

I am excited to introduce a new incentive for Auxiliary Outreach. When reporting quarterly, I will enter your hours, and when your Auxiliary hits the milestones listed below, your Auxiliary will be mailed a citation and pin for those who all participated. I want this program to be exciting and have participation!

500 Hour Club – Citation and Pin

750 Hour Club – Citation and Pin

1000 Hour Club – Citation and Pin

1500 Hour Club – Citation and Pin

1750 + Hour Club – Citation and Pin

Who wants to join my Clubs??

1. A citation to the Auxiliary Chairman who submits a REPORT EVERY QUARTER.
2. Citation for the District that has the most participation in Auxiliary Outreach.

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

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Jency Mercado, Chairman
PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843
Phone (814) 496-1712
jencyvfw@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Did your Auxiliary partner with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary? Yes _____ No _____
2. How many organizations did your Auxiliary partner with during the year? _____
3. What is the number of combined members and/or VFW Auxiliary hours volunteered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary? _____
4. Did your Auxiliary participate in the new "Club Pin" award program? _____
What level did you reach? _____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

“BUDDY” POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME

Beverly Kemmerer, Chairman
15 Pine Run Lane, Shickshinny, PA 18655
Phone (570) 332-4706
bevkemmerer@gmail.com

“BUDDY”® POPPY

“Every Day is Veterans Day,” while we stand **“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans.”** We can enforce our dedication to our veterans by distributing “Buddy”® Poppies within our communities. Donations collected are used to aid veterans, service members, and their families who are in need.

There are three options for the “Buddy”® Poppy:

1. The traditional “Buddy”® Poppy.
2. A metal “Buddy”® Poppy. This new metal Poppy is nice for a collar or a suit jacket.
3. Special traditional artificial flower Poppies are available to VFW Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th, and 100th anniversaries.

THE “BUDDY” POPPY AND HOW IT ALL STARTED.

The “Buddy”® Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community for 100 years. As the VFW’s official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the blood shed by American service members. It reiterates that we will not forget their sacrifices. The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae’s famous poem, “In Flanders Fields.” The Franco-American Children’s League originally distributed poppies to benefit children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium following World War I. The VFW conducted its first Poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans’ organization to organize nationwide distribution. In February 1924, the VFW registered the name “Buddy”® Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. No other organization, firm, or individual can legally use the name “Buddy”® Poppy.

HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING

These small but mighty memorial flowers have raised millions for the welfare of veterans and their dependents. The Poppy Program also provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans’ rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home.

Here are some important things to consider when preparing for your “Buddy”® Poppy distribution:

- Identify potential volunteers within your Post and Auxiliary and gather them together for an informational meeting explaining the purpose of the “Buddy”® Poppy campaign.
- Plan for each volunteer to distribute a certain number of Poppies.
- Determine how many Poppies you should order based on the number of volunteers.
- Choose distribution dates. Memorial Day and Veterans Day are always a popular time, **but any time is a good time** to distribute this memorial flower.

“BUDDY” POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME

- Stake out key distribution venues in advance. Choose high-traffic areas and determine the number of workers you need to cover the locations. Ideal locations include storefronts, office or factory entrances, and recreational areas. Make sure you get permission from the business owners before setting up. Post flyers, with permission, around town in key areas such as the post office, coffee shops, gas stations, etc. It will let people know when and where they can get a “Buddy”® Poppy. If your local newspaper has a community calendar section, be sure to let the editor know at least two weeks in advance that you would like to place your Poppy announcement on the calendar.
- Encourage your volunteers to smile and be enthusiastic during the distribution. If they appear friendly, it will project a good image for the VFW and Auxiliary.
- Make sure your volunteers wear their VFW or Auxiliary gear.
- Remind your volunteers that they are **NOT** “selling” Poppies but distributing them with the hope of getting **DONATIONS**. If you follow these simple steps, your “Buddy”® Poppy campaign is sure to be a success.

WHERE TO GET POPPIES

Contact the Department of Pennsylvania VFW Headquarters to order poppies using their official form, 6-8 weeks in advance of your poppy drive. The order form is available on the vfwauxpa.org website under Forms.

Please note the following for each poppy purchased:

- ❖ One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Home.
- ❖ One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund.
- ❖ One and a half (1.5) cents goes to the Department’s Veterans Service Fund.

“Buddy”® Poppy Items “Buddy”® Poppy apparel, distribution supplies, and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store (vfwstore.org).

CONTESTS

For rules and questions about the “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest, refer to MALTA’s Member Resources.

VFW NATIONAL HOME

The VFW National Home was founded in 1925 as a place where families left behind by war—mothers and children, brothers, and sisters—could remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their serviceman did not come home. The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to America’s veterans by helping our nation’s military and veteran families during difficult times. Over the years, the National Home has met the changing needs of America’s military and veteran families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home’s commitment to honor our nation’s veterans and service members by providing help and hope for their children and families.

The VFW National Home honors and supports veterans and service members by aiding their families. Let’s focus this year on promoting the VFW National Home’s Military & Veteran Family Helpline. To learn more, visit the VFW National Home website at vfwnationalhome.org/get-help.

“BUDDY” POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME

THE VFW NATIONAL COMMUNITY

The VFW National Home located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has helped military and veteran families who need a fresh start. Families can live there rent-free for up to four years and have access to professional case management services, on-site licensed childcare, life skills training, tutoring, and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities. The National Home’s community is open to families of service members, veterans, and their descendants. For more information, visit vfnationalhome.org.

PROMOTING THE VFW NATIONAL HOME

This year, the focus is to create awareness about and educate on eligibility and who qualifies for help from the National Home. Let’s promote this way to help veterans and their families in the Department of Pennsylvania.

HEALTH & HAPPINESS FUND

One way the Auxiliary supports the National Home is through gifts of 25 cents per member to the Health & Happiness Fund. Contributions are critical since the campus and its programs receive no government funding. Donations can be made online in MALTA. Gifts can be made by an entity (Auxiliary or District) or by individuals.

VFW NATIONAL HOME LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Another way to offer support is by becoming a Life Member of the National Home. There are two types of membership.

VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation. Please be sure the VFW National Home has your correct name and email address; the bylaws and ballots are emailed.

Any individual or organization wishing to support the VFW National Home’s mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges. For more information on membership, visit vfnationalhome.org/membership.

Other Ways to Give and Offer Support

- Become a Home Front Hero.
- Purchase a Tribute Brick or a Centennial Garden Brick.
- Purchase an item for the Tribute Park.
- Gifts from your IRA, stocks, and securities.
- Amazon Wish List items.
- Create awareness by wearing VFW National Home apparel and distributing promotional materials.

“BUDDY” POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME

NATIONAL “BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.
2. Most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home, and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home, and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Buddy Poppy National Home – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT “BUDDY”® POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM AWARDS

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 the Department Chairman.)
5. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who purchases the most Life Memberships for the VFW National Home.
6. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who purchases the most Tribute Bricks for the VFW National Home.

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

“BUDDY” POPPY & NATIONAL HOME

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Beverly Kemmerer, Chairman
15 Pine Run Lane, Shickshinny, PA 18655
Phone (570) 332-4706
bevkemmerer@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

“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 or without your VFW Post? _____ Please describe your poppy drive on a separate sheet and include pictures if you are able.
3. How many “Buddy” Poppies were distributed? _____
4. Did your Auxiliary participate in the VFW “Buddy Poppy display contest? Yes____ No____

VFW NATIONAL HOME

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home? Yes____ No____ Please describe your promotion on a separate sheet and include any documentation.
2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home Helpline? Yes____ No____
3. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Life Membership in the current program year? Yes____ No____
4. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current program year? Yes____ No____
5. Did your Auxiliary donate 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness Fund? Yes____ No____ How much was donated? \$_____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

Karen Hoover, Chief of Staff
582 Hoover Lane, Halifax, PA 17032
Phone (717) 503-0996
karen.hoover0996@gmail.com

As Auxiliary members, we strive to remind everyone that “**Every Day is Veterans Day,**” with our efforts reaching “**From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans.**”

There are many tools available in Malta and the vfwauxpa.org website to aid in maintaining strong and healthy Auxiliaries. However, when issues arise, the Chief of Staff is also a great resource to provide assistance when needed.

The Chief of Staff wears many hats, including coach, counselor, and mentor to all members. They must be knowledgeable about all parts of the Auxiliary, including bylaws and programs.

The VFW Auxiliary is implementing a Green Light – Yellow Light – Red Light identification plan to allow easier identification of struggling auxiliaries. If your Auxiliary is struggling, please do not hesitate to reach out for guidance and potentially a “Performance Improvement Plan” (PIP) to get you back on track. We need all Auxiliaries across the department to be in good working order to fulfill our mission of serving veterans.

The National Organization requires only five (5) items for an Auxiliary to be considered in working order:

1. Hold ten (10) business meetings per year with a minimum of five (5) members present.
2. Dues paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
3. Quarterly audits performed by the Trustees and submitted to Department Headquarters.
4. Officers elected, installed, and reported to National Headquarters by June 30.
5. The offices of President and Treasurer are bonded by August 31.

The goals of the Extension & Revitalization Program for this year include the following:

1. Establish New VFW Auxiliaries.
2. Recognize New VFW Auxiliaries.
3. Maintain Current Auxiliaries.
4. Mentor and Encourage Members to maintain their membership and consider holding an office within their Auxiliary.

ASSESSING AN AUXILIARY’S HEALTH: GREEN LIGHT – YELLOW LIGHT – RED LIGHT

GREEN LIGHT: Healthy Auxiliaries, Membership, Programs, and Officers.

YELLOW LIGHT: Auxiliaries are exhibiting the Caution Flag. This Caution Flag could wave because the Auxiliary has failed to meet the essentials of an Auxiliary. The Caution flag could wave for other reasons, such as failure to vote for new members, failure to report involvement in activities/programs that assist veterans and their families, failure to elect officers, or the Auxiliary isn’t growing. Another Caution Flag is failure to attend District and Department meetings and

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

trainings. As soon as the Caution Light appears, the District President will notify the Department President so assistance can be given.

RED LIGHT: The Auxiliary will be put on suspension as a time to step back and regroup. Suspension simply means there is some work to get the Auxiliary where it needs to be. The hope is that the Auxiliary will recover and come back stronger and better than before.

SUSPENSIONS, CANCELLATIONS, AND CONSOLIDATIONS

The suspension of an Auxiliary does not label your Auxiliary as a bad Auxiliary. It means there is some work that needs to be done to improve your Auxiliary and return it to good working order. During the suspension, the Department President will appoint a team to mentor your Auxiliary back to health.

The National President is the only one with the authority to order cancellations, with or without the recommendation of the Department President.

Auxiliaries cannot consolidate without first receiving a notification from National Headquarters. The notification will allow time for the Auxiliary to close, move members to their desired working Auxiliary, or consolidate with wherever the Post goes. The Auxiliary must wait for directions from National Headquarters before taking any action.

MENTORING

Mentoring is a way of advising or training someone, sharing their knowledge, skills, and experience with another person to help them progress and grow. Mentoring is used to train and educate future leaders. Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills, and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members as they work hand-in-hand. Mentoring for Leadership will enhance all types of program activities. Mentoring will make the difference in obtaining and maintaining members. Through the mentoring process, extending a hand of friendship to a new member or even a long-time member who has been inactive can create a strong 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. Through this program, you will be encouraged to embrace and promote the CARE concept:

- C-CATCH the member when they join.
- A-ASK them to participate.
- R-REMEMBER what it felt like to be new.
- E-ENGAGE them in a program that fits them.

A mentor who can communicate, energize interest, is patient, and willing to explain the meeting proceedings, the Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual, and National Programs will enhance member experience. Over time, the mentee may express interest in going beyond just attending meetings. They might even take the next step into a leadership role as an officer, chairperson, or committee member. A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

RESOURCES

- Build on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation
- Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit
- MALTA – Extension & Revitalization
- The current year's National Program Book
- "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" Video

THERE IS NO YEAR-END REPORT FOR EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION.

NATIONAL EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Members:

1. Providing the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions providing the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President

Awards for District Presidents:

1. Providing the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President.
 - Citation and \$25 to one District President or Official Representative in each of the Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Chief of Staff/Extension – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AWARDS

To be presented at the state convention at the discretion of the Department Chief of Staff and Department President.

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

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

Debra A. Antosh, Chairman
1071 Rozelle Road, Harding, PA 18643
Cell (570) 466-1896 -or- Home (570) 388-2464
77red7711@gmail.com

Department President's Theme	Every Day is Veterans Day
Department President's Colors	Red, White, and Blue
National President's Theme	From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans

WHAT TO DO AS A HISTORIAN?

You will record the events of the Auxiliary, District, or Department (best to do it in order they occurred). A tip is to follow the 5 W's: Who, What, Where, When, and Why. Be very thorough in your documentation to make it easy to report.

MEDIA

At the Auxiliary, District, and Department levels, contact local Newspapers and TV Stations, or use social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. You can also make posters and banners to put out in your community. Word of mouth is also a great way to let the community know. Research all the ways you can reach your community and try to do them all. Getting the information out is your goal.

Here's a list of both Traditional and Social Media Outlets:

- TRADITIONAL: TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, word of mouth, and fliers/posters.
- DIGITAL/SOCIAL MEDIA: Email, Auxiliary/Post Websites, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok.

REELS

This year, the National Historian Ambassador is encouraging auxiliaries to focus on creating REELS, short videos that have great presence on both Facebook and Instagram. MALTA member resources provide information on how to create a reel. Give it a try this year.

HISTORICAL RECORDS AT ALL LEVELS

Here are a few ways to keep your records and make them accessible (keep them chronological):

- Binder (3-ring if possible), a regular scrapbook or photo album, and the newest is a digital notebook/photo frame. Make sure you include all the information used for each event.
- Take as many photos as possible. This will give you a choice of the best one. Also, jot down a description of said photo.

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

QUICK TIPS

REMEMBER to pay attention to the details. All photos should not be fuzzy or blurry. Your digital photos should be at the correct size, at least 1 megabyte (this will ensure better resolution).

Double-check these things:

- Eyes are open.
- Mouth is closed, and the subject is smiling (when possible).
- Avoid anything that can take away from the main subject.
- Check clothing to make sure it is appropriate.
- Try to have group photos in a nice formation where you can see everyone's faces.
- Avoid pictures with alcoholic beverages or smoking.

Publish the best pics as possible!!!

NATIONAL HISTORIAN PROGRAM AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the Program Divisions for the most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Historian – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN PROGRAM AWARDS

1. A Citation to every Auxiliary who communicates at least four times (quarterly) during the program year to each of their members (via email, printed mail, text, or phone call). **Documentation required – please submit one copy of each communication to the Department Historian via email no later than April 1, 2026**
2. A Citation to the Auxiliary with the best use of a social media platform (Facebook, Instagram, Post, and/or Auxiliary website, etc.). **Documentation required (screenshots of posts, website links, descriptions, etc.) and materials are to be received by the Department Historian (via email) no later than President Robin's Testimonial weekend in April 2026.**
3. A Citation to each Auxiliary that creates a social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action. Must send the URL for the reel.

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

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Debra A. Antosh, Chairman

1071 Rozelle Road, Harding, PA 18643

Cell (570) 466-1896 -or- Home (570) 388-2464

77red7711@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Did your Auxiliary communicate quarterly to each member via email, mail, text or phone?
Yes _____ No _____ Please include a copy of each communication with this report.
2. Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page? Yes _____ No _____
Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page with your Post? Yes _____ No _____
3. Does your Auxiliary have a website? Yes _____ No _____
Does your Auxiliary have a website with your Post? Yes _____ No _____
4. Did your Auxiliary create a reel(s) this year? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please share the URL (s):

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

HOSPITAL

Linda Dilling, Chairman
411 E. Allegheny Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662
Phone (814) 330-9391
vfwauxldilling@gmail.com

As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are aware of the importance of veterans. We believe “**Every Day is Veterans Day,**” and our gratitude stretches “**From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans.**” Without their service and sacrifice, we would not have the freedoms we so easily take for granted. This program offers a way to bridge loneliness with care and compassion. Our veterans can be blessed by the most precious gift possible – the sacrifice of your time. Your time is the most valuable contribution you can give.

Volunteer Recruitment: Why recruit? Volunteers fill the gaps between what is needed and what is wanted, because hospitals and homes cover only the basic needs. Check out the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program Guide on the vfwauxpa.org website under Program – Hospital – Volunteer for information and tips on how to recruit.

Volunteer Recognition and Support: Support your volunteers by thanking them for their service and recognizing their contributions! A simple thank you goes a long way, but you can also print a Certificate of Appreciation from the vfwauxpa.org website under Program – Hospital – Volunteer Awards.

Valentines for Veterans: Share the Love! The week of February 14th (Valentine’s Day) is also National Salute to Veteran Patients week. We want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to our veterans staying in our VA and non-VA hospitals, clinics, adult day-care centers, hospice, community living centers, etc. Use this week to renew the spirit of hospital volunteerism. Pay tribute and express appreciation in a variety of ways, from ward visits, Valentine's Day parties, distributing or sending Valentine’s cards. This week also provides an opportunity for you to become acquainted with the volunteer opportunities within a medical facility.

Women Veterans Health Care: Women are the fastest-growing group within the Veteran population. Learn about the resources and health care services that are now being tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Help our women veterans receive the benefits and services they deserve. Visit <http://www.womenhealth.va.gov> and learn more about what is available.

Honors Escort Program: A final farewell. It is an opportunity to honor each in a respectful and open manner and provides an opportunity for a veteran’s family and friends, other veterans, and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high esteem and respect for the individual at the time of death.

Creative and Unique Interaction: A creative and unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

Heroes Heat & Chill Packs: This year, the hospital special project is a rice pack, made with 100% cotton fabric, that can be either heated in the microwave or chilled in the freezer to provide additional therapy to our hospitalized veterans. They can be made in a variety of sizes and require simple stitching. Patterns and more information can be found on the vfwauxpa.org website under Program – Hospital.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERS

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA facilities).
2. “Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year” plaque awarded to one member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA facilities).
3. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year (VA & non-VA facilities).

NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA & non-VA facilities).
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA & non-VA facilities).

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL CITATIONS AND AWARDS

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary in each Membership Division donating the most funds to all Hospital Program-related items and/or projects (amount will be totaled from the year-end report).
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 facilities) from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.
4. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year (VA & non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.
5. An award for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and to provide happiness to veterans in hospitals. (VA & non-VA facilities) under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.

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

HOSPITAL

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Linda Dilling, Chairman

411 E. Allegheny Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662

Phone (814) 330-9391

vfwauxldilling@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026

Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Number of VFW Auxiliary members who volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility. (Auxiliary member to be counted one time only per year.) Total _____
2. Total number of hours that VFW Auxiliary members volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility. Total _____
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. Total _____
4. Total number of new volunteers sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility. Total _____
5. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host any activity with their VFW Post at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility? Yes _____ No _____
6. Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program-related items and/or projects. Total \$ _____
7. Number of **Heroes Heat & Chill Packs** made for VA and/or non-VA hospitals, nursing homes, and care facilities. Total _____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

LEGISLATIVE

Timothy L. Altman, Chairman
160 Lakewood Road, New Castle, PA 16101
Phone (724) 944-9961
dieman002@aol.com

Be an advocate - Be Informed - Be engaged

We emphasize that **“Every Day Is Veterans Day”** and make a difference **“From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Veterans”** when we support legislation that improves the lives of veterans and their families. The main idea of the legislative program is to make the lives of our veterans, military members, and families better through advocacy. By contacting our legislators, we can make a difference that will make our service members, veterans, and families' lives better.

VFW PRIORITY GOALS

The VFW uses these goals to ensure that VA has what it needs to best help our current and future Veterans. The goals are listed in six areas:

- Budget
- Health care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Employment and Transition Assistance
- Health Care
- Military Quality of Life
- National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA

The VFW releases the goals in January each year on the VFW national website: www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service.

VFW ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

To best help our Veterans sign up for Action Corps weekly, by doing so, you can see what is happening in Congress relating to our service members and veterans. Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps to receive the weekly emails. Sign up now to become advocates to help our veterans by simply pressing a button to send a letter to your legislators letting them know that you support that legislation.

THANK YOU NOTES WITH A PURPOSE

This year, as a way to provide non-member engagement with the VFW legislative program, Auxiliary members are asked to host note-writing campaigns where handwritten notes to veterans include a QR code or link that directs the recipients to the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-up page or the VFW Priority Goals.

A BILL

Follow the steps of a bill going through the legislative process using a keyword or number, go to www.congress.gov.

HOW CAN WE BEST HELP

We must pay attention to the candidates and what they stand for to be informed as to how to vote to best help our military members, Veterans, and families. We should all vote in our public elections. Attend town hall meetings, listen, and ask questions to the candidates, but never endorse a candidate in the name of the Auxiliary. You can vote on the issues, but must remain neutral as an Auxiliary member.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most outstanding activity and or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or Priority Goals.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions that host the most outstanding activity and/ or event to create thank-you notes and cards to Veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Legislative – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Citation to Auxiliaries in each membership division that promoted, participated in, or hosted activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals.
2. Citation to the top 3 Auxiliaries whose members contacted legislators on Veterans issues by any means (emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.).
3. Citation to the top 3 Auxiliaries whose members attended events and interacted with legislators (legislative conferences, town halls, meet and greets, etc.).
4. Citation to Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity or event to create thank-you notes and cards sent to veterans that include links to the VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or VFW Priority Goals.

Must submit supporting documentation with year-end reports.

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

LEGISLATIVE

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Timothy L. Altman, Chairman
160 Lakewood Road, New Castle, PA 16101
Phone (724) 944-9961
dieman002@aol.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate in, host, or co-host activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals on your own or with your VFW post? Yes ____ No ____
2. How many of your VFW Auxiliary members contacted their legislators on Veterans issues by any means (example: emails, postcards, phone calls, etc.)? _____
3. How many of your VFW Auxiliary members attended events where they could interact with legislators (example: legislative conferences, town halls, meet-and-greet, etc.)? _____
4. Did your Auxiliary hold an activity or event to create thank you notes and cards to veterans that include links to the VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or VFW Priority Goals?
Yes ____ No ____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

**SERVING
THOSE WHO
SERVED**



JOIN OUR RANKS

**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
2025-2026**

Amy Peterson, Chairman
120 Barrett Road, Lewis Run, PA 16738
Phone (814) 331-1142
amyaux212@gmail.com

Why are we members? Why did we JOIN? We wanted to HONOR our Veterans, give back to our Heroes!

Veterans served us, WHY NOT give back?? HOW do we do THAT?

RANK UP! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Look at your VFW Membership Number versus Auxiliary numbers, **WE CAN DO BETTER!**

STRONG membership is the core of our organization, *sharing* our passion with others will *attract* NEW members and *encourage* current members to stay involved and *ask* friends and family to

JOIN OUR RANKS!

RECRUIT

Use Membership Tools

Member Drives
Community Events
Word of Mouth
QR Code~ Business Card
Welcome Packets ~ Fact Sheet
Auxiliary Shirts/Hats
MALTA Resources ~Applications
Share YOUR STORY, your
REASON
Scholarship Opportunities
Personal Volunteer Experience
Share YOUR "feels"
Offer Incentives
Post members' family

**EVERY DAY IS
VETERANS DAY**

INVITE, INCLUDE, INVEST

You recruited, retained, NOW what?

Ask a new member to event planning
Assign a Mentor at Meetings
Exchange Contact, Tag on Social Media
Offer incentives to ATTEND meetings
Reach out when he/she is Sick & Well
Pass an INTEREST sign-up sheet
New Member = New Lifeline!
New Members = New friends/family
New Ideas, Breath of Fresh Air
Increases Survival Rate
THANK YOUR VOLUNTEERS!

RETAIN

**Every Member Has a
Strength**

Contributing comes in
MANY ways
Communicate & find
his/her Value
Create a 'Buddy Check' List
Pay it Forward
Offer Incentives for Early
Renewals
RANK UP your Reminders!
Eye Catching ~ Colorful
Reminders
EARLY Reminders!
Email/Text Reminders
Offer Incentives to Convert
to LIFE
Host Dues Payer Fundraiser
Paying for "Seasoned"
Members!
Struggling Members =
Relief Funds
Welcome NEW Ideas!



Membership Theme: *“Serving Those Who Served - Join Our Ranks”*

Department President’s Theme: *“Every Day Is Veterans Day”*

National.President's.Theme

»FROM.SEA.TO.SHINING.SEA?HONORING.VETERANS.WHO.KEEP.US.FREE«

...MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS/DIVISIONS

DIVISION 1	AUXILIARIES WITH	10-45	MEMBERS
DIVISION 2	AUXILIARIES WITH	46-70	MEMBERS
DIVISION 3	AUXILIARIES WITH	71-90	MEMBERS
DIVISION 4	AUXILIARIES WITH	91-120	MEMBERS
DIVISION 5	AUXILIARIES WITH	121-165	MEMBERS
DIVISION 6	AUXILIARIES WITH	166-240	MEMBERS
DIVISION 7	AUXILIARIES WITH	241 +	MEMBERS

What’s Working?

Welcome Packets
EARLY Dues Notices
Communication
OTR Training
Attendance
Incentives ~ Challenges
Social media ~ QR Code
Program ~ MALTA Training
Follow Up
.....



What’s NEW? Goals to RANK UP!

Membership Keychains
Virtual Business Cards
Virtual Member Packets
Recruiter Recognition
Meeting Deadlines ON TIME
Promoting Member Benefits
Increasing Involvement
Positive Impact in Community
REVISED ALL-STATE REPORT

»OFFICIAL.NOTICE«

There.is.NOT.a.»YEAR.END« .MEMBERSHIP.REPORT
ALL_STATE.REPORT._Submit.COMPLETED.Forms.ONLY

*This membership year, our biggest GOAL is to increase involvement with **BASIC TRAINING!***

RECRUIT, INVITE, INCLUDE, INVEST & RETAIN ↔ **MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS!**

*Let’s make a direct **IMPACT** on our communities, Participate, Volunteer, Share!*

*Attend Over the Road Trainings, District Meetings, Conferences, **LEARN & ABSORB!***

***Support YOUR Veterans**, Inform new members of benefits & programs from the Get-Go!*

*Network with other members to **CREATE positive results serving a shared MISSION!***

LET’S GO PENNSYLVANIA ~ LET’S RANK IT UP!!!!

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND CONFERENCES WILL BE BASED ON THE PAID TOTAL LISTED ON THE CMR-PAID, CANCELED & DECEASED REPORT IN MALTA.

National Awards for Members

1. **5 Member Recruiter Pin.** Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a 5-Member Recruiter Pin. Pin mailed directly to the recruiter.
2. **5 Member Recruiter Drawing.** Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered into the 5 Member Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card.
3. **“National Membership Achievement” Recruiter Award.** Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a “National Membership Achievement” Recruiter Award.
VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.
4. **“National Membership Achievement” Recruiter Drawing.** Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered in the “National Membership Achievement” Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$400 Visa Gift Card.
VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

New and/or rejoined members must be recruited to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. The Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2026.

VFW recruiters must complete the VFW Members Only recruiter form to be received at National Headquarters by June 10, 2026.

Membership Award winners from No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 will be announced, and the awards will be presented at the 2026 National Convention in Reno, NV.

If the award winner is not in attendance, the award will be mailed directly to the winner from National Headquarters after the National Convention.

National Awards for Auxiliaries

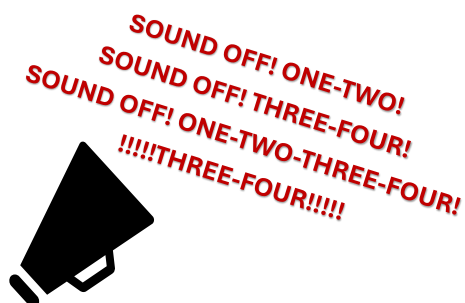
1. **\$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2026. ***

DEPARTMENT OF PA AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

1. **"SPECIALIST" AWARD** -- All VFW Auxiliaries in each membership division reaching 100% Plus in membership (PAID%) by **November 30, 2025**, will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
2. **"LANCE CORPORAL" AWARD:** The first **District President** reaching **100% PLUS** (PAID%) in membership shall be given **TWO complimentary banquet tickets** to the **Department President's Testimonial Dinner**.
3. **"CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT" RETENTION AWARD** - In each membership division to an Auxiliary member who has the **MOST CREATIVE IDEA** to **RETAIN** annual members will receive a \$100 VFW Store Gift Certificate.

Entries/Ideas MUST be submitted to the Department Membership Chairman by March 31, 2026. The submission must include Dist #, Aux #, Member Name & Description of the "Creative Idea." (In the event of a tie, a drawing will be held.)

4. **"SERGEANT MAJOR" AWARD** - In each membership division, the top VFW Auxiliary who has the most increase in **LIFE Members** (New/Rejoins) by **April 30, 2026**, will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
5. **"SOUND OFF" RECRUITING AWARD** - In each membership division, the Auxiliary that recruits the most **Annual Members** (New/Rejoins) **July 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026**, will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.



AUXILIARY MEMBERS ONLY

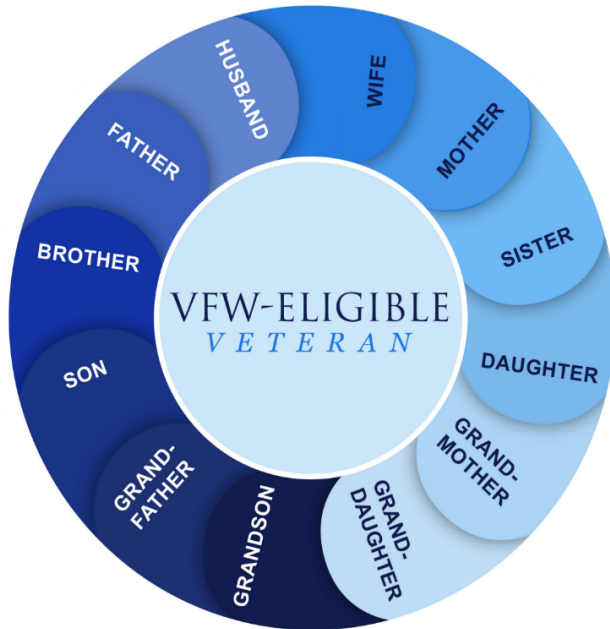
"EARN YOUR WINGS!" BY RECRUITING
4 OR MORE NEW MEMBERS(LIFE/ANNUAL)
GO INTO ONE-TIME DRAWING FOR \$100

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN GENERAL ORDERS!!!

6. **"SERGEANT MAJOR" AWARD:** Auxiliary Drawing. Each Auxiliary that reaches **102% Plus CURRENT** by **May 31, 2026**, will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$250 VFW Store Gift Certificate.

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

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*



**RECRUITING
MUST HAVES!**
(FULL SIZE AVAILABLE ON MALTA)

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, B, C or D and F. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section E.

A	Recruited/Recommended by: _____ Recruiter Member ID _____ Auxiliary No. _____ City _____ State _____ Member ID (if already a member) _____ Annual Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoin <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Member at Large in Department of _____ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters _____ (If not a transfer, skip to B.) LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Auxiliary _____ ANNUAL TRANSFER <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Auxiliary _____ Paying <input type="checkbox"/> Nonpaying <input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership information below) Previous Auxiliary _____
B	THESE FIELDS REQUIRED Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email _____ Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
C	POST-AFFILIATED (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.) Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Membership ID _____
D	NON-AFFILIATED (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.) Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Post (if applicable) _____ Name of campaign ribbons or medals: _____ Dates of Service: _____ to _____ Location: _____
E	Investigating Committee Signatures 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted Meeting Date _____ Obligated Date _____
F	OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God, I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 18 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran. Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Date _____ (Must be signed by all members.) LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a gift. Credit cards may NOT be used for initial payment of Annual Dues. <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership Fee _____ Name on credit card _____ Billing address for card _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Credit Card No. _____ CVV Code _____ Exp. Date _____ Date _____ Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES
Life Membership fees, \$100.00 minimum.

Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.	Fee
Through 20 \$225	
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

By signing this, I agree to the stated charges for a Life Membership fee.

Revised February 2024

PENNSYLVANIA ALL-STATE AWARD FORM
FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS
2025-2026

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

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please attach documentation and submit it no later than May 8, 2026.

Amy Peterson, 120 Barrett Rd, Lewis Run, PA 16738
or email to amyaux212@gmail.com

1. President & Treasurer bonded by **July 31, 2026**. Date Paid _____
2. President, Treasurer, and Secretary dues must be paid by **November 30, 2025**.
3. **Current** Membership is 100% Plus by **April 30, 2026**.
4. All Audits must be on file at Department Headquarters before **May 1, 2026**.
5. District Visit completed (**signature page must be attached**).
6. Voice of Democracy ~ # of Entries _____ Donation? _____ CK# _____
7. Patriot's Pen ~ # of Entries _____ Donation? _____ CK# _____
8. Young American Creative Art ~ # of Entries _____ Donation? _____ CK# _____
9. Donation to **Department** President's Special Project: **Dog T.A.G.S. Program**.
Date sent _____ Check # _____
10. Parade Flag purchase (minimum 25 Flags + shipping). Order Date: _____
11. Donation to all **15 VA hospitals, Department Hospital fund & Christmas Canteen***
(minimum TOTAL \$170.00 - *** MUST BE RECEIVED by October 31, 2025**)
12. How many Buddy Poppies purchased by Auxiliary? _____ Order Date: _____
13. Auxiliary must be represented by one or more members at **ALL** District Meetings with Auxiliary President being in attendance at least **ONE** District meeting.
(**District Secretary MUST send Attendance Records from meetings held between May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026**)
14. Health and Happiness donation to VFW National Home. (Payable through MALTA - \$0.25 per member)
15. Please list 5 items that are included in your auxiliary's "Welcome Packet"?

16. Auxiliary must attend any "On the Road Training." (RSVP is required to attend.)
Meeting Date _____ Location _____
Do you feel it was beneficial to you/your Auxiliary? Yes _____ No _____
Comments? _____

Confirmed through
MALTA

Confirmed through
Department

Mail Checks
Payable:
VFWA
Dept of PA
(Minimum \$10
EACH)

Mail Checks
Payable:
VFW
Dept of PA
(Minimum 100
Poppies)

To qualify for the All-State Award ~ Back up documentation is required.

ALL Auxiliary Obligations must be met by May 1, 2026.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Karen Mooney, Chairman

81 Greenwood Drive, New Cumberland, PA 17070

Phone (717) 580-3994

karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

This year's themes for the Auxiliary ring so very true. **"Every Day is Veterans Day"** and **"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans"** cover so many perspectives, and these are thoughts we should live by from an Auxiliary standpoint, as these are the primary reasons we do what we do. How fitting that this year, the National President's special project is the Continuing Education Scholarship, and the Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen theme is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?" By engaging in these programs, we help to share a vision that the youth of today should understand and come to appreciate if they do not already. By interacting in these programs, we gain the ability to cover all age groups, which plays to our benefit in the long run. The majority of the scholarship programs allow these young individuals to display their creativity at different levels. All we have to do is get the word out and encourage these young individuals to take that first step. It could make all the difference. Reach out to your local schools, call the administration, and find out who your contacts are for these different specialties. Remember to also reach out to your home-schooled students because that could be a whole new vein. There is a growing volume of students who have selected a home school environment in the last few years, and we should remember them as a solid resource. By educating ourselves and our youth, the future will be a bright one, by ensuring our youth have the means to fulfill their potential.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Continuing Education Scholarships are offered to assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school. Must be 21 years old and an Auxiliary member for a minimum of one year to qualify. Scholarship is in the amount of \$1,250. **Applications are due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2026.** The application can be found at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education. The mailing address for applications is:

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email submissions to info@vfwauxiliary.org.

The National President's Special Project for this program year is the Continuing Education Scholarship. This year, you can make a donation to this program through MALTA by selecting the "Make a Gift" tab in the system and selecting "National President's 2025-2026 Special Project." If you do not have a MALTA account, now would be a great time to create one. The mailing address to support the National President's Special Project is:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
ATTN: Continuing Education Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST & 3-D PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

Contests are open to any student in grades 9-12 who is enrolled in a public, private, parochial high school, or home study program in the United States. Students must be lawful US permanent residents or have applied for residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a US Citizen. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or older, GED, adult education students, or national winners of the same previous art contests are ineligible. Entries will be judged on a patriotic theme and technique.

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 must 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

Scholarships are paid directly to the American college, vocational, technical, or trade school of the winner's choice.

- VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships prizes range from \$500 - \$15,000 for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art program.
- VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships prizes range from \$500 - \$2,500 for the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art program.

Entries should be mailed to:

Karen Mooney
81 Greenwood Drive
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Deadlines for Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art entries:

Participating VFW Auxiliary – Due by March 31, 2026

(District Judging is OPTIONAL)

VFW Auxiliary Department – Due by April 15, 2026

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters – Due by May 5, 2026

VFW “SPORT CLIPS HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIP”

Introduced in 2013, this VFW program awards scholarships to qualifying service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.

VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY (VOD) SCHOLARSHIP

This year’s theme for the VOD is “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?” The Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9-12, and entries are due by October 31, 2025. Students can be enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools, or an approved home study, if it is in the United States, its territories or possessions, or dependents of the U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous first-place Department winners, GED, or Adult Education students are NOT eligible. Students are required to draft an essay pertaining to their thoughts and ideas on the selected theme, and must be the sole owner of this essay. The essay is recorded on a flash drive, or sent as a voice file, as we NO longer accept CDs. The recording must be the student’s own voice and MUST be in English. No music, singing, poetry, sound effects, or background noises are permitted, and the student may not be identified in any way, including name, school, city, state, race, or original origin, but please make sure the essay is labeled with the student’s name to show ownership.

The recording is limited to 3 to 5 minutes in length. Please adhere to this rule. The entry application, recorded speech, and a printed copy of this essay are submitted to your local VFW for judging. Judging is done on the recording. District-level winners are required to submit a head and shoulder photograph with the submission of their entries. Please read the rules; one little mistake could disqualify your entry. The complete rules and entry form can be found at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

Each Post may sponsor one winner for each 15 entries or fraction thereof. If a Post receives 170 entries, they may sponsor 12 entries! If you have remaining entries submitted to you, please check with other Posts in your District to see if they would like to sponsor one of your students. Please, if possible, give ALL our entries a winning chance. Offer them to other Posts to involve more students. One winner from each District will then advance to the Department level for judging.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL DISTRICT LEVEL WINNERS TO STATE HEADQUARTERS.

Entries should be mailed to:

Mr. Vince Gavin
State of PA., VFW VOD Chairman
658 Miller Street
Eynon, PA. 18403

DEADLINES:

- Entries to VFW Post: Midnight, October 31, 2025
- Completion of Post Judging: November 15, 2025
- Completion of District Judging: December 1, 2025
- Due to State Chairman Vince Gavin: December 9, 2025

District Winner Entry Form, recorded speech of essay, typed copy of Essay, and a head and shoulder photo must be sent in as well.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS:

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

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

This year's theme is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for our Country?" This program is provided to ALL students in grades 6 to 8, and entries are due by October 31, 2025. is open to all students in grades 9-12, and entries are due by October 31, 2025. Students can be enrolled in public, private, parochial high schools, or an approved home study, if it is in the United States, its territories or possessions, or dependents of the U.S. Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. 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 intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous first-place Department winners, GED, or Adult Education students are NOT eligible. Please download the complete rules and official entry form at: vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships. All essays must be the student's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The essay's theme should be positive and focused. Poetry is NOT accepted. Quotations may be used sparingly and identified when used. Parents, Counselors, or Teachers may check this essay for punctuation, grammar, and spelling, but the essay must remain the student's work.

Essays must be 300-400 words (+/- 5 words) and typed in English. Every word counts in the length of the words, excluding the title and footnotes. The essay must NOT identify the student in any way, including but not limited to name, school, city or state, race, or national origin. Graphics and colors are NOT permitted on the essays. Only white 8"x 11.5" paper for printing. DO NOT PUT YOUR 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 shoulder photo along with their entries. The essay and application forms are submitted by the schools to the VFW Post for judging.

One winner for each 15 entries or a part thereof will advance to the District level for judging. One winner from each District advances to the Department for judging, and one Department winner advances to the National finals.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL WINNERS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Entries should be mailed to:

Mr. Bill Lamond
State of PA., VFW PP Chairman
3360 Nashotks Road
Madison Township, PA 18444
email: ta30chev@gmail.com

DEADLINES:

Entries to VFW Post: Midnight, October 31, 2025
Completion of Post Judging: November 15, 2025
Completion of District Judging: December 1, 2025
Due to State Chairman Bill Lamond: December 9, 2025
Include the District winner entry form, typed copy of essay, and a head and shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AWARD:

First Place - \$400.00 and a Plaque



NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Scholarships – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

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-Dimensional 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 VFW Auxiliary who provides the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities available from the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.
6. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary that promoted and/or donated to the Continuing Education Scholarship.
7. Drawing for a \$25 gift card for the District President whose District is 100% in reporting for the Scholarship Program.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Karen Mooney, Chairman
81 Greenwood Drive, New Cumberland, PA 17070
Phone (717) 580-3994
karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Continuing Education Scholarship Contest? Yes ____ No ____
2. Did your Auxiliary hold an activity or event educating your community about the scholarship opportunities available from the VFW and VFW Auxiliary? Yes ____ No ____
If yes, please provide documentation.
3. Did your Auxiliary promote the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest? Yes ____ No ____
4. Did your Auxiliary receive any entries for the Patriotic Art Contest? Yes ____ No ____
 - a. How many entries did your Auxiliary receive? _____
 - b. How many entries did your Auxiliary submit to Department? _____
5. Did your Auxiliary promote the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest? Yes ____ No ____
 - a. How many entries did your Auxiliary receive? _____
 - b. How many entries did your Auxiliary submit to Department? _____
 - c. Did your Auxiliary assist your VFW Post in promoting/conducting the Patriot Pen Essay Contest? Yes ____ No ____
 - d. How many entries did your Auxiliary receive? _____
6. Did your Auxiliary assist your VFW Post in promoting/conducting the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest? Yes ____ No ____
 - a. How many entries did your Auxiliary receive? _____
7. Did your Auxiliary/Post host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in any/all contests? Yes ____ No ____
8. If your Auxiliary did not receive any entries, did you support the program with a financial donation of at least \$10.00? Yes ____ No ____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Marsha Fuhrman, Chairman
5059 Rislyn Court, Spring Grove, PA 17362
Phone (717) 578-2953
fuhrman1070@comcast.net

The youth of our great nation are the future of the VFW Auxiliary. It is up to us to ensure that youth are taught the skills and respect to honor the great heroes, our veterans, who have so selflessly fought to protect our freedoms. We need to keep our youth involved to help grow our membership for the future of our great organization. Now is the time for us as the VFW Auxiliary to teach our youth that **"Every day is Veterans Day."** There is no better way for us to do this than making sure that we reach out **"From Sea To Shining Sea Honoring Veterans,"** who keep us free.

SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

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

Many youth groups and youth organizations require various types of community service or activities to maintain their status, be their reason.

High school seniors are always looking to earn school credit with the same activities.

Remember that involving our youth with our Auxiliary will help us to bring new members to our organization. Sponsorship of a youth group can create a bright future for your Auxiliary, our Veterans, and the community as a whole.

Some examples of youth groups include Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, youth centers, boys & girls clubs, 4H clubs, and religious youth groups.

VFW SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM

Some of the earliest ties to the community involve youth groups, and perhaps none are stronger or more lasting than the relationship between the VFA and America's scouting organizations.

The VFW Scout of the Year program recognizes members of the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America for their standout citizenship, patriotism, and love of the country.

Official form, details, and rules are located at vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year.

YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS' CITATIONS

The purpose of this citation is one way for the Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our Veterans. The youth groups supporting our Veterans citations are available in MALTA's Member Resources under Youth Activities.

R.A.P CARDS AND YOUTH ACTS OF KINDNESS CERTIFICATES

Encouraging today's youth by letting them know that they have been seen performing acts of kindness through patriotism. You're encouraged to continue to use the Random Acts of Patriotism cards and certificates for children that you see showing respect to the Flag, say the Pledge of Allegiance, or honor our country and heroes. Both versions – cards and certificates – are available in MALTA's Member Resources. They would be given to youth caught in the act of kindness, and it's another way to celebrate our youth by letting them know that we see their acts of kindness through patriotism.

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA

Open to any student in grades K-8 who is 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. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence and intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible. National grade division winners of previous Illustrating America contests may enter the subsequent grade division, but are ineligible for the same grade division in which they are a previous National winner.

Entries will be judged on a patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The Department's first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

There are National awards for first, second, and third place in each grade division. The first, second, and third place entries in each grade division will be displayed at the National Convention.

DEADLINES:

Entries must be received by:
VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2026
Department Chairman by April 15, 2026
National Headquarters by May 5, 2026

Official form, details on requirements, and contest rules can be found in MALTA's Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, GRADES K-2

1st place-\$50; 2nd place-\$30; 3rd place-\$20

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, GRADES 3-5

1st place-\$50; 2nd place-\$30; 3rd place-\$20

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, GRADES 6-8

1st place-\$50; 2nd place-\$30; 3rd place-\$20

Contest Rules:

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two-dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Reinforce the back with heavy paper.
- Do not frame art with wood, metal, plastic, or glass.
- Mats, including mounted and floating mats, may be used.
- Entries may not be smaller than 8"x10" and not larger than 18"x24," **INCLUDING** mat.
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, glitter, marker, or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it **DOES NOT** need to conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors or numbers of stars and stripes.
- Complete the contest entry form and submit it with the art entry.
- Parent or guardian signature required on contest entry form.
- **Coloring sheets, digital art, and photography are NOT accepted.**

PATRIOTIC 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's Member Resources under Youth Activities.

PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

Promote and support reading among youth with this simple, fun, and potentially free initiative. Introduce youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning.

Benefits of Patriotism through Literacy:

- Teach kids about various times in American history. Promote empathy and expose students to experiences unlike their own.
- Foster a love of books that leads to a lifetime of learning.
- Spend time with kids in the community in new, creative ways.
- Help youth gain a better understanding of American history through nonfiction.

How can I participate in Patriotism through Literacy?

- Volunteer to read a historical or creative nonfiction picture book to kids at your local library.
- Donate historical fiction or creative nonfiction books to local schools, shelters, or libraries.
- Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (stickers, pins) for the number of books or hours read.
- Run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors at your Post home.
- Invite an author of historical fiction or creative nonfiction to do a book talk/signing in your area.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Reading has many benefits, including improved grammar and writing skills, improved focus and concentration, and it helps children to understand and share the feelings of others; reading stretches our imagination. As Dr Seuss said, “Reading can take you places you have never been before.”

READING BUDDIES

Be a “Reading Buddy.” We sometimes forget that we have many children who are being left behind in schools due to issues concerning reading and comprehension, but if just one person in each Auxiliary could reach out and help a child become a better reader through reading one-on-one or electronically, imagine what an impact we could make in their daily lives and self-confidence. You can use the Patriotism through Literacy reading list in MALTA or talk with the child’s parent, teacher, or guardian that you have buddied up with to help find out what their interests are, and what reading level books to look for.

NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AWARDS

1. Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Youth Activities – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AWARDS

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 most creative Youth Group activity or event.
4. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best promotion of Patriotism through Literacy Initiative.
5. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary that donated the most books for Patriotism through Literacy Initiative.
6. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best promotion of the Illustrating America Initiative.
7. Citations to the VFW Auxiliaries sponsoring the first-place winners in each division of the Illustrating America initiative.
8. Citation to the VFW Auxiliaries that hosted an awards ceremony for the Illustrating America initiative.

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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

2025-2026 Year-End Report

Marsha Fuhrman, Chairman
5059 Rislyn Court, Spring Grove, PA 17362
Phone (717) 578-2953
fuhrman1070@comcast.net

Reporting period: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
Year-end reports are due to your District President by April 5, 2026.

Youth Groups

1. Number of youth groups the Auxiliary worked with during the program year. _____
2. Did your Auxiliary host an activity with a youth group during the current program year?
Yes ____ No ____ If yes, please attach documentation.
3. Number of youth that the Auxiliary worked with during the current program year. _____
4. Number of youth groups supporting our Veterans Citations awarded by the Auxiliary during the current program year. _____
5. Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Yes ____ No ____
6. The number of books donated in participation of Patriotism through Literacy. _____

Illustrating America Art Contest

1. Did the Auxiliary promote the Illustrating America Art Contest? Yes ____ No ____
2. Number of students who submitted art entries to the Auxiliary for judging. _____
3. Did the Auxiliary host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants of the Illustrating America Art Contest? Yes ____ No ____
4. Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by the Auxiliary for this contest. _____

Auxiliary President _____ Auxiliary Chairman _____
Phone _____ Phone _____
District # _____ Auxiliary # _____ Auxiliary Name _____

