

Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Program Book 2024-2025



TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS

“Strike Up the Band”

Andrea Meintel

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Pennsylvania
2024-2025
“TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS”

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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 Annual Auxiliary Program Book, a comprehensive guide designed to assist you in utilizing and reporting your auxiliary programs for the upcoming year. This manual serves as a roadmap and provides an overview of each program that your auxiliary will be working on. These programs are at the core of our mission to support veterans, active-duty military, their families, and our communities. By targeting our assistance and resources, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of those who have served and continue to serve our country.

While your Auxiliary doesn't have to participate in every program, you might be surprised at how many programs can be incorporated into one event. By combining pieces from different programs, you can maximize your impact and ensure that you are getting your name out into the community and attracting new members. You are encouraged to use flexibility, creativity and innovation in the way you implement these programs. This manual is more than just a guide; it is a blueprint for your Auxiliary to thrive into the future. By following the outlined programs and embracing the provided resources, you can have a productive, rewarding and fun year. Be sure to report all the great work you are doing to the Program Chairmen. (For any questions or additional support, reach out to the Program Chairmen, listed on the top of page 1 of each Program.)

Thank you for your participation and commitment to our cause. Let's make this year a remarkable one. **TOGETHER**, we can achieve our goals and make a significant difference in the lives of our veterans, active-duty military members, their families, and our communities.

Grateful for All You Do,

Andrea

Andrea Meintel
Department President 2024-2025

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VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Stacey Miller, Department Chairman
598 N Strickler Rd., Manheim PA 17545
717.808.6444 / staceyauxiliary@gmail.com

The one thing we all have in common is love for our Veterans. With over 18 million Veterans across the US, we have ample opportunity to join **“Together Helping Veterans,”** and honor their service to our country. As an Auxiliary, we have the ability to support them and their families; and honor their service and sacrifice through our Veterans & Family Support programs. This program is the heart of our organization, where every member can and should participate. This year, we are joining **“Together Helping Veterans”** by offering guidance to veterans about acquiring VA benefits, supporting the Veterans and their families, not only while serving, but as they are transitioning to civilian life, and most importantly, providing helpful resources for when life gets rough.

Each day, Veterans who are serving or have served, have needs that we, the Auxiliary, can help them overcome. Our Veterans have sacrificed so much for us, so we are joining together to do all we can for them. This year, the primary focus will be:

- Veterans and Military Support Programs, and National Veterans Service
- Family and Youth Support
- Outreach to Veteran support organizations throughout your local community

So now the journey begins, **“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.”** Your Auxiliaries have the power to make a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families, **Together Everyone Achieves More.** I challenge YOU to make a difference!

VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

Veterans and their families struggle daily with financial burdens along with the physical, mental and emotional challenges due to their service to our country. We can step up to ensure that our Veterans, and their family members, are aware of the aid available to them in times of need by linking them with resources that can promote their overall wellbeing, (VFW Accredited Service Officers, National Veterans Service, Suicide Prevention, and Mental Health Resources). While the resources are critical, there are many other needs that still exist which include financial assistance with mortgage or rent payments, vehicle expenses, utilities, food, or clothing. As service members transition from active duty to civilian life, there is financial aid available to help further their education and find a new career path in life.

Military records indicate that there are approximately 2 million members on Active Duty or serving in the National Guard / Reserves. When they are away from home, we need to keep them in our hearts and minds by adopting units and sending care packages, along with supporting them through

their send-off and welcome home events. While it's important to remember them when they're away, it's equally as important to remember them and their family prior to, during, and after deployment. The VFW has financial grants that are available through the Military Assistance Program (MAP) to help with events held by our Auxiliaries and Posts to support and recognize our troops. For more information, visit the *VFW website at vfw.org/assistance*

RESOURCES AND WAYS TO SUPPORT

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS)

This service helps Veterans and their families obtain the benefits they deserve. The NVS involves a network of hundreds of VFW Service Officers (VSO) who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs (VA) system. Service Officers will assist all Veterans, whether they are VFW members or not in filing claims for:

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

The NVS also works to ensure that Veterans receive Veterans Administration (VA) healthcare such as:

- Hospital care
- Outpatient care
- Specialized health care for female Veterans
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical attention for disorders associated with Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards

Donations to NVS can be made online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select National Veterans Service, click "contribute." Or sent to the VFW National Headquarters Attn: NVS at 406 West 34th Street, 11th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111

VFW VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM

This service has three programs initiated by the VFW. It is for active duty, recently discharged military, and their families.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP): This program provides funds for Posts, Districts, and Departments to sponsor end-offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers. Posts and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive funds. MAP will cover the postage fees for all care packages. For instructions regarding how to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans and Military Support Office at 816-756-3390

VFW "SPORT CLIPS HELP A HERO SCHOLARSHIP" PROGRAM: This program awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualifying Veterans and service members to help them complete their education

without incurring excessive student-loan debt. To learn more, visit vfw.org/student-veterans-support.

UNMET NEEDS (CAN HELP IN A CRISIS): This program helps American's service members who have incurred unexpected financial difficulties. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available to assist with basic life needs (vehicle maintenance, mortgage payment, rent, etc...) Repayment is not required. To learn more, visit vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants.

VETERAN AND MILITARY SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Each day, an estimated 20 Veterans commit suicide. Make a difference in the life of a Veteran by educating your Auxiliary, VFW members, and community about the warning signs of suicide. Below are some resources to include in your educational awareness campaign:

BLUE TEARDROP STICKER: The VFW Auxiliary's symbol to bring awareness to this issue is the "Blue Teardrop" sticker. The teardrops can be worked to pen conversations regarding the issue of Veteran and military suicides.

VETERAN CRISIS LINE: This connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can:

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

Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals is available. TIP: Add the Veterans Crisis Line number as a contact in our cell phone for easy referral

OTHER MENTAL WELLNESS SUPPORT RESOURCES:

- VFW Mental Wellness Campaign: VFW.org/assistance/mental-wellness
- Campaign to Change Direction: changedirection.org
- Give An Hour: giveanhour.org
- Patients Like Me: patientslikeme.com/join/vfw
- One Mind: onemind.org
- The Elizabeth Dole Foundation: elizabethdolefoundation.org
- Help Heal Veterans (Therapeutic Craft Kits): healvets.org
- Veterans Voices Writing Project: veteransvoices.org
- Women Veterans Call Center: 855-829-6636
- Women Veterans Health Care: www.wsomenshealth.va.gov/Womenshealth/index.asp

FAMILY AND YOUTH SUPPORT

Our service members, especially when deployed, are focused on their mission, and want to know that their family is taken care of and has the support back home to keep things as “normal” as can be. As an Auxiliary, we often overlook the needs of the family, especially the needs of their children. This is a special focus this year within the Veterans & Family Support Program, by giving back to these families. Examples could include:

- Babysitting for a few hours a week
- Providing diapers for the babies or toddlers
- Assistance with lawn care / snow removal
- Taking a meal to relieve the stress of meal preparation
- Or just being emotional support for the spouse / caregiver left behind to take care of the family

These simple things our members can provide will bring much more peace for our service members and their loved ones.

OUTREACH TO VETERAN SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Across our communities, there are many organizations whose missions are to provide support and resources to Veterans. Some of these organizations can include service dog training, transportation, food pantries, and many more. Support these local organizations to be successful by volunteering, donating, or even coordinating a fundraising campaign. Invite them into your Auxiliary or Post to share their services, you never know who is in need, and will benefit from these resources. Note: Partner with your Community Outreach Committee and make your work even greater!

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT AWARDS AND CITATIONS FOR AUXILIARIES

Criteria must be met and submitted to Department Chair no later than March 31, 2025

NATIONAL AWARD

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of Suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.

Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health for veterans, military, and their families. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chair by March 31, 2025, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

1. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of Suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families.
2. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.
3. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the most outstanding activity and/or event in support of the VFW Veterans and Military Support Program.
4. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the most outstanding activity and/or event in support of a VFW National Veterans Service.
5. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the most outstanding activity and/or event in support of a veteran's families and their Youth.
6. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division with the most outstanding activity and/or event in support of veteran support organizations in your local community
7. STAR AWARD will be given to the top Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase the support of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. The candidates for this award will be selected from the citation 2 winners above.

For consideration for each of these awards, description of the event / activity along with photos must be submitted to the Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman.

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

2024-2025 Year-End Report
Stacey Miller, Department Chairman
598 N Strickler Rd., Manheim PA 17545
717.808.6444 / staceyauxiliary@gmail.com

Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**
Retain (1) copy for Auxiliary Records.

1. Did your Auxiliary host, co-host, or promote any event(s) to raise awareness of Suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families? Yes _____ No _____
2. Did your Auxiliary host, co-host, or promote any event(s) to increase the support of veterans, activity-duty service members, and their families? Yes _____ No _____
 - a. Number of veterans, service members and/or their families assisted: _____
 - b. Total monetary donation and/or value of donations and goods / services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families
 - c. Describe the direct aid that you provided (examples: meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.)
3. Did your Auxiliary host, co-host, or promote any fundraising or activity(s) for the National Veterans Service? Yes _____ Amount Raised _____ No _____
4. Did your Auxiliary host, co-host, or promote fundraising or activity(s) for the VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs?
 - a. Military Assistance Program (MAP) - Yes _____ Amount Raised _____ No _____
 - b. Unmet Needs - Yes _____ Amount Raised _____ No _____
 - c. Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship - Yes _____ Amount Raised _____ No _____
 - d. Disaster relief - Yes _____ Amount Raised _____ No _____
5. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host an activity and/or event in support of veteran's families and their youth? Yes _____ No _____
6. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host an activity and/or event in support of veteran support organizations in your local community? Yes _____ No _____

Note: All supporting documentation to include explanation of event and photos should be included as an attachment.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____
Email _____ Email _____
Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

AMERICANISM

Timothy L. Altman, Department Americanism Chairman/ Patriotic Instructor
160 Lakewood Road, New Castle, PA 16101
724.944.9961 / dieman002@aol.com

Americanism and Patriotism are symbols of our American pride and our way of life. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of individual freedom and equality not only for Americans but all people on earth." This year, as Americans, we are joining **"Together Helping Veterans."**

As the Patriotic Instructor this year I am responsible for the crucial role of teaching each member to give the proper respect due our American Flag, so that you can take that knowledge out into the communities and schools, to share with family and friends. I will also be teaching you about the traditions of our Organization. It is important to learn about the proper way to salute our Flag and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, as well as understanding the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and Federal Flag Code.

Demonstrating Americanism and patriotic spirit is respecting and properly caring for the U.S. Flag. Flag etiquette covers everything from how to display our Flag properly and acceptable conduct around this symbol of our Nation. It also covers the proper way to dispose of Flags that have served their purpose and need to be retired. For more information about Flag etiquette read the U.S. Flag code by visiting vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.

RESPECT FOR THE FLAG – ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Flag Education in Schools – Educating our youth about patriotism is a major step towards good citizenship.

Recognition of outstanding Community Flag Display – When businesses, individuals or organizations take the time to fly "Old Glory," recognize their patriotism by presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Auxiliary.

Flag Retirement Ceremonies – These ceremonies honoring our Flag are beautiful and moving forms of respect for our country. They can be a way to involve the community alongside the Auxiliary and Post members.

Parades – demonstrate your Patriotism by standing and saluting as the American Flag passes by. Use this opportunity to teach our youth by passing out Flags along the parade route and wave them proudly.

Flag Education during Patriotic events – we should never miss an opportunity to teach flag etiquette:

- How to properly salute the flag.
- When and how to display the flag.
- How to conduct a flag raising ceremony.
- How to fold and store a flag.

Promote patriotic holidays and special days for our branches of service. It is important to demonstrate our pride in our military service persons for what they represent, the sacrifices they have made, and the reason we are free.

- U.S. National Guard – December 13, 1636
- U.S. Army – June 14, 1775
- U.S. Navy – October 13, 1775
- U.S. Marine Corps – November 10, 1775
- U.S. Coast Guard – August 4, 1790
- Air Force – September 18, 1947
- U.S. Space Force – December 20, 2019

Hold ceremonies to educate honor veterans who are or were Prisoners of War/Missing in Action.

- Auxiliary members are enthusiastic about showing respect and bringing recognition for POW/MIAs to educate and honor these Veterans by conducting the Missing Man Table Ceremony. (This ceremony can be found in MALTA Member Resources.

Honor the Gold Star, Silver Star, White Star and Blue Star Families.

- **Gold Star** Family is one which has experienced the loss of an immediate family member who has died because of active military service.
- **Silver Star** Family is an organization that is dedicated to honoring and supporting wounded, ill, and injured Veterans from all armed forces of the United States of America.
- **White Star** Family recognizes families who have lost a service member to suicide whether military or first responder.
- **Blue Star** Family consists of family members of a service member during a time of conflict.

Lesser-known patriotic dates:

- April 5, 2024 - Gold Star spouses' day
- April 14, 2024 - Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 23, 2024 - Army Reserve Birthday
- May 1, 2024 - Silver Star Banner Day
- May 1, 2024 - Loyalty Day
- May 10, 2024 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- May 18, 2024 - Armed Forces Day
- May 27, 2024 - Memorial Day
- June 6, 2024 - Anniversary of World War 2
- June 14, 2024 - Flag Day

- June 23, 2024 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 27, 2024 - National PTSD Awareness Day
- July 4, 2024 - Independence Day
- July 27, 2024 - Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- August 7, 2024 - Purple Heart Day
- August 29, 2024 - Marine Forces Reserve Birthday
- September 11, 2024 - Patriot's Day
- September 17, 2024 - Constitution Day
- September 20, 2024 - Pow/Mia Recognition Day
- September 29, 2024 - Gold Star Mothers and Family Day
- October 26, 2024 – Day of the Deployed
- November 11, 2024 - Veterans Day
- December 7, 2024 - Pearl Harbor Day
- February 3, 2025 - Four Chaplains Day
- March 3, 2025 - Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 25, 2025 - Medal of Honor Day
- March 29, 2025 – National Vietnam Veterans Day

We should be patriotic **“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service To Our Veterans.”**

DEPARTMENT AMERICANISM AND PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the most outstanding promotion of patriotic holidays in the community.
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best POW/MIA promotion/recognition service.
3. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary who presented the most certificates to businesses or citizen in recognition of them displaying the American flag an POW/MIA flag.
4. Citations to the top three VFW Auxiliaries who distributed the most American flags.
5. Citations to the top three VFW Auxiliaries who distributed the most POW/MIA flags.
6. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary with the best recognition of Blue, White, Gold, and or Silver Star Families. (Must send description and or photos to Department Chairman.)

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

AMERICANISM

2024 – 2025 Year-End Report

Timothy L. Altman, Department Chairman
160 Lakewood Road, New Castle, PA 16101
724.944.9961 / dieman002@aol.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**
Retain (1) copy for your records.

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Americanism material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes ___ No ___
2. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, recognize any patriotic and/or branch of service birthdays? Yes ___ No ___ Attach a brief description of event.
3. Did your Auxiliary present/distribute American Flags? Yes ___ No ___ How many? ___
(Must be 2x3 or larger.)
4. Did your Auxiliary present/distribute POW/MIA Flags? Yes ___ No ___ How many? ___
(Must be 2x3 or larger.)
5. Number of Patriotic Appreciation citations, Certificates of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations presented to citizens and/or businesses in recognition of them displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA, and/or other displays of American pride. _____
6. If there is anything else that is not listed above, please attach the information.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____
Email _____ Email _____
Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Jency Mercado, Chairman
PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843
814.496.1712 / jencyvfw@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Examples:

- Participation in walks that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Outreach.)
- 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 at soup kitchens.
- Delivering food or Meals on Wheels.

What's NOT Considered Auxiliary Outreach?

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

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

REPORT MONTHLY by emailing or sending reports to Jency Mercado (April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.)

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 MONTHLY 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.*

NATIONAL AUXILIARY OUTREACH AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding photo collage created by the VFW Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach partnerships during the current Program Year.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most outstanding photo collage of their VFW Auxiliary partnerships during the current Program Year.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging.

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF PA AUXILIARY OUTREACH CITATIONS

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

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



**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AUXILIARY
2024-2025 MONTHLY REPORT FORM**

AUXILIARY _____ DISTRICT _____ DATE _____

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

RECORD:	ACTIVITY WITH NAME of ORGANIZATION	HOURS SPENT	NO. of PARTICIPATING AUX. MEMBERS
---------	---------------------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------------

A. FIRST RESPONDERS – POLICE / FIRE / EMT – INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

YOUTH / EDUCATION - INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

B. SENIOR CITIZENS / THOSE WITH DISABILITIES - INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

C. HELP THE HUNGRY AND/OR HOMELESS - INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |



**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
AUXILIARY
2024-2025 MONTHLY REPORT FORM**

AUXILIARY _____ DISTRICT _____ DATE _____

AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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

RECORD:	ACTIVITY WITH NAME of ORGANIZATION	HOURS SPENT	NO. of PARTICIPATING AUX. MEMBERS
---------	---------------------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------------

A. FIRST RESPONDERS – POLICE / FIRE / EMT – INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

YOUTH / EDUCATION - INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

B. SENIOR CITIZENS / THOSE WITH DISABILITIES - INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

C. HELP THE HUNGRY AND/OR HOMELESS - INCLUDE NAME OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Year End Report 2024-2025

Jency Mercado, Department Chairman

PO Box 624, Hyde, PA 16843

814.496.1712 / jencyvfw@gmail.com

Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**.

Retain (1) copy for your Auxiliary records

- 1. Did you 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 member and/or Auxiliary hours volunteered with another organization (not affiliated with the VFW or the VFW Auxiliary)? _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____

Phone # _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ Email _____

Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

“Buddy”® Poppy & National Home

Cindy Utter Peters, Department of PA Chairman
1075 South Kendall Avenue, Bradford, PA 16701
814.598.7743/ lmuttercin1@hotmail.com

NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

Please join us as we **CELEBRATE** the 100th anniversary of the VFW National Home! The VFW National Home, located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan will turn 100 on January 7th, 2025. A millionaire cattleman, Corey Spencer, heard about a 23-year-old woman, Amy Ross, from Detroit who had made it her mission in life to help veterans returning from war to find employment, and gifted her 472 acres of land in Michigan. And on January 7, 1925, their efforts **“Together Helping Veterans”** began a legendary tale which is the VFW National Home.

The National Home (which was the VFW Auxiliary’s first National Program) is a campus where military veterans and their families can make a fresh start, living rent free for up to 4 years. These families have access to life skills training, educational services, case management services, recreational, and community services. Through the years, the National Home has adapted to better serve the veteran community with assistance for things such as post-traumatic stress disorder, re-integration into society, rehabilitation for emotional and physical injuries, financial stress, and high unemployment. Families accepted must commit to making changes in their lives and make progress towards their family goals. The National Home is dedicated to helping each family succeed! As our National President Brenda Bryant believes - **“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.”**

Through the years, the National Home itself has become a campus with childcare facilities, playgrounds, parks, a chapel, guest lodge, a community center, along with administrative offices. The living facilities include 42 single family homes sponsored by different states named after their sponsors. Cottage #3 is sponsored by the Department of PA VFW Auxiliary.

Under the direction of the new Executive Director Mike Wilson, new changes have begun. Such as a **GUITARS FOR VETS PROGRAM**, in which a Veteran receives a new acoustic guitar after completing a ten-week program. A **HEROES TO HIVES PROGRAM**, in which staff and residents participate in beekeeping classes taught by a local beekeeper, who is also a VFW member. On Saturdays, there is a **CUP OF JOE** where Veterans can spend up to 2 hours with other Veterans having conversation, coffee, and donuts. **THE VETERAN TRIBUTE TREE** honors our living, deceased, or deployed by placing a ribbon on the tree at Christmastime. There is also a **GOLF**

EVENT in which an annual golf outing helps raise money for activities and events at the National Home.

The VFW Auxiliary supports the National Home through donations to the Health and Happiness Fund, 25 cents per member is the recommended donation. These funds support maintenance on Auxiliary sponsored buildings for emergency repairs and needed renovations. It also funds Christmas and Graduation gifts. Donations are accepted through **Malta**. Treasurers can log in under DUTIES and make donations for their Auxiliary OR individuals can log in and make their own donations. You may also send a check earmarked **Health and Happiness** to:

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

The National Home Helps Families in Need

The National Home offers families of veterans, active-duty military and members of the VFW and its Auxiliary opportunities for growth and development in our nurturing community. All 42 of their beautiful homes are located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan on the grounds of the VFW National Home. If any Auxiliary or member becomes aware of a family needing assistance, ask them to call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200 or email help@vfwnationalhome.org. In addition, referring them to the National Home Helpline may give them valuable information about local services.

National Home Centennial Life Membership

As the VFW National Home **CELEBRATES** its **100th Anniversary in 2025**, I am inviting you to join the Centennial Membership program. In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the National Home, a once-in-a-lifetime special Life Membership is being offered: **CENTENNIAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$100**. In appreciation they offer current & nonmembers who apply between April 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, the following benefits: an exclusive Centennial Membership Pin; 10% off Souvenirs and Apparel; Reduced Guest Lodge Rates; and Exclusive Member-only Apparel. Visit vfwnationalhome.org/membership for more information, an application, or to purchase a life membership! Only Life members may vote for Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation. An Auxiliary may purchase a life membership and will receive one vote as well!

National Home's 100th Anniversary Celebration

Various events will be held at the VFW National Home, throughout the 2024-2025 year in celebration of the home's 100th anniversary. Keep an eye out for flyers and information on these events. *Please consider sending a **Birthday Card** by early January to the National Home to be displayed at the Birthday Party!! Also, encourage others (if not yourself) to check out vfwnationalhome.org and explore the **Tribute Bricks** which are available to purchase.*

"BUDDY" POPPY

I am overwhelmed by the power and emotion evoked by this tiny red flower. It's a symbolic representation of patriotism, beauty, bravery, and unfortunately – death. These feelings all stem from the poem named "IN FLANDERS FIELDS" by Canadian Colonel John McCrae. In WWI, Col. McCrae saw a battlefield littered with many, many dead soldiers' bodies amid a carpet of red poppies during the second battle of Ypres in Belgium, after which he wrote the poem.

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow,
In Flanders fields.

Although Col. McCrae did not live to see the end of WWI, his poem lives on and helped the poppy become a symbol of hope and faith showing we will not forget their sacrifice and that we are eternally grateful.

In 1922, the VFW became the first National Veterans' Organization to organize a nationwide poppy distribution. This changed the little red flower into a symbol of the blood sacrificed by American servicemen and women everywhere. In 1923, the VFW decided that these "Buddy" Poppies should only be made in America by disabled, hospitalized, and/or needy veterans who will be compensated. These poppies are only created in 5 locations in the United States. In 1924, the VFW patented the "Buddy" Poppy name.

It is very desirable for each Auxiliary to have a poppy distribution. How to do it is up to your members, but working with your VFW Post Members is the most helpful. Remind everyone that you are **GIVING** poppies and not **SELLING** them. Poppies may be ordered by contacting the VFW Department Headquarters and the request should be made 8 to 12 weeks before they are needed. **New this year** is the addition of a **metal poppy** which is perfect for lapels! This program requires a "Buddy" Poppy purchase be made by each Auxiliary every new membership year. Also, "Buddy" Poppy distribution supplies, and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS. Each "Buddy" Poppy distribution contributes to VFW NATIONAL HOME, VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS VETERANS' SERVICE FUND, and THE DEPARTMENT'S VETERANS' SERVICE FUND.

Before going to distribute poppies, please have any required permits if needed. Also, make sure you have permission from managers and/or owners if needed. Have your team wear VFW/Auxiliary apparel and share the event on every available avenue you can think of! REMEMBER, the "Buddy" Poppy proceeds **go only** to the National Home **or** the Auxiliary's relief fund. See our Bylaws – Sec. 901, page 91 in the ritual book.

Buddy Poppy Display Contest

The Department "Buddy" Poppy display contest will take place and be announced at the Department Convention. There are 5 categories in which the displays are to be judged:

- Public promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)
- Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional items, etc.)
- Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, etc.)
- *NEW* Unique ideas for successful "Buddy" Poppy distributions (where and when)
- *NEW* Did your auxiliary have any special events to distribute and/or raise money for the "Buddy" Poppy program?

All entries MUST include at least one "Buddy" Poppy in its original form and color with the label attached. For all other rules, please go to www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources and visit the VFW "Buddy" Poppy Chairman's Guide. *The first-place winner of each category of the Department's "Buddy" Poppy Contest will be entered into the National "Buddy" Poppy Contest Level.*

NATIONAL "BUDDY POPPY" & VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW "Buddy" ' Poppy to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy" Poppy.

**Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW "Buddy" Poppy, to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy" Poppy.

2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and **CELEBRATE** the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday.

**Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday.

Entry forms required for each award and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry forms to their Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging. The Department "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry forms to the National "Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

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 Department Chairman.)
5. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division who purchases the most Life Memberships and/or Tribute Bricks for the VFW National Home.
6. A Star Award to the Auxiliary who submits the highest amount of donations overall to the VFW National Home Health and Happiness Fund. (Must show proof of payment.)

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

“Buddy” Poppy & VFW National Home

2024-2025 Year-End Report

Cindy Utter Peters – Department Chairman
1075 South Kendall Ave.; Bradford, PA 16701
814.598.7743/ imuttercin1@hotmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**.
Retain (1) copy for your records.

VFW "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 Poppy drives did your Auxiliary hold? With VFW Post _____ Without VFW Post _____
3. Number of combined “Buddy” Poppies that were distributed. # _____
4. Did your Auxiliary have an entry for the VFW “Buddy” Poppy” Display Contest? Yes _____ No _____

VFW National Home

1. Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the VFW National Home material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary website? Yes _____ No _____
2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home? Yes _____ No _____
3. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home Helpline? Yes _____ No _____
4. Did your Auxiliary purchase a VFW National Home Life Membership? Yes _____ No _____
5. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick? Yes _____ No _____ How many? _____
6. Did your Auxiliary donate to the Health and Happiness Fund Yes _____ No _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____
Email _____ Email _____
Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION and MENTORING

Kathleen "Kathy" L. Altoff, Department Chairperson
24 East Myrtle St., Littlestown, PA 17340
717.521.3525 / klaltoff@gmail.com

EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION and MENTORING is now a 3-part Program designed to institute new Auxiliaries, assists struggling Auxiliaries, and to better support those Auxiliaries needing innovative ideas, and to inspire our members to teach and generate a more welcoming environment for all.

EXTENSION: Is a part that is added to something to enlarge or prolong it; a continuation; an enlargement in scope or operation.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is an extension of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We need to make certain that current Auxiliaries are sound. It is also important to make presentations to unaffiliated Posts, and when viable, to install new Auxiliaries. An Auxiliary cannot exist without a Post and there must be a 2/3 vote of the Post to get started. Positive and knowledgeable Auxiliary presenters are important when addressing a Post. Ask permission to describe the benefits of an Auxiliary to a VFW Post. Extension tools and presentations are available in MALTA Member Resources.

MAINTAIN: Is to keep something at the same level or rate.

To Maintain Current Auxiliaries, District Presidents and Chiefs of Staff will be communicating with the Department Chief of Staff with concerns about Auxiliaries in need of support. They can then work together to rectify the situation. We need to maintain our current Auxiliaries and help them to grow! Members can find resources and tools on the **Online Auxiliary Academy** and the **Program & Publicity Resources** page of the National website: vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

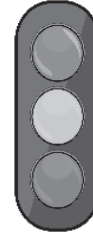
Two useful resources to help Auxiliaries be more productive are:

1. **THE HEALTHY AUXILIARY TOOL KIT** includes seven resources to assist Auxiliaries in Identifying and solving issues:

- Healthy Auxiliary Checklist
- Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaire
- Auxiliary Meeting Clinic
- Communication Phone/Text Tree
- Good Job Certificate
- Healthy Auxiliary Certificate
- VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide

2. **“BUILDING ON THE VFW AUXILIARY FOUNDATION”** educates members on all aspects of the duties of Officers at all levels, how to be a chairman, the whys of reporting, etc.

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



REVITALIZATION: Is infusing something with new life and vitality.

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, they have not brought in new officers and/or they aren’t growing. Another Caution Flag is failure to attend District and Department meetings and 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 do 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 where it needs to be. 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 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 where the Post goes. Please wait for directions from National Headquarters before taking any action.

MENTORING: 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 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 even might take the next step into a leadership role as an Officer, Chairmanship or a committee member. A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring.

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

DEPARTMENT EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION AND MENTORING AWARDS AND CITATIONS

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARY MEMBERS

1. Citation to an authorized member that organized and institutes a new VFW Auxiliary between July 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025.
2. A **Star Award** to the member who best assists in revitalizing their Auxiliary, utilizing the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit Materials. (Documentation must be sent to the Department Program Chairman.)

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

Extension/Revitalization

1. Citation to each new VFW Auxiliary instituted from July 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025. (All paperwork must be received at National Headquarters by February 28, 2025.)
2. Citation to the Auxiliary in each membership division presenting the most "Good Job" Certificate. (Documentation must be sent to the Department Program Chairman.)

Mentoring

1. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division who holds and **reports** at least two mentoring activities during the year.
2. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division presenting the best activity or on best ways to utilize mentors effectively.
3. Citation to the Auxiliary in each Membership Division with best special recognition for mentors in their Auxiliary.
4. Citation to the District in each Division with the best mentor recognition program.
5. Citation for the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their auxiliary members about how to find and train mentees while using and promoting VFW Auxiliary resources and learning materials. (Entry form found in MALTA and required. Send entry form to Department Chairman no later than March 31, 2025.)

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

Historian & Media Relations

Kristin DiGiacomo, Department Chairman
418 Edmond Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412.867.0021 / k.digi@pitt.edu

Department President's Theme	<i>"Together Helping Veterans"</i>
Department President's Colors	<i>Red, White and Blue</i>
Department President's Membership Theme	<i>"Strike Up the Band"</i>
National President's Theme	<i>"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans"</i>

Did you know that social media is the BEST tool an Auxiliary can utilize to share our Auxiliary news, events and projects, and for keeping our members (and the communities) "in the know" about what we do and how we help our Veterans, their families, our youth and our communities?

Remember, photography opens pathways into the future while also allowing us a glimpse into the past. A camera is a SAVE button, so let's SAVE our history.

HISTORIAN DUTIES • MEDIA RELATIONS

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

MEDIA

At the Auxiliary, District and Department levels, these members are the voices that get the word out about our Auxiliary to our communities! As our Auxiliary grows, we must continue to reach out to both members and non-members to tell the story of who we are, what we do, how we help our veterans and to educate others about our nation's patriotic traditions. Without our storytellers, fewer people will know about our organization and how we raise money for our veterans and their families, how we fight for our veterans' rights and how we support our young people with scholarships and various other opportunities!

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

Get to know your local newspaper, radio, and television reporters. Send information directly to those contacts rather than the editor. Send a personal email and be sure to include your personal contact information to help spread the word about what it is that we're doing!

Traditional Media Outlets

- Television
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Fliers

Digital and Social Media Outlets

- Email
- Auxiliary website
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube
- Snapchat
- TikTok

HISTORICAL RECORDS at ALL LEVELS

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

→ It is also important to keep a photographic record of the Department President's visit to your Districts! Get some pictures of what she is doing, and where she visits. Please email any photos to me within two weeks of her official visit. And remember to identify each person in the pictures (and what you were doing) so she can have memories to last a lifetime!

Nowadays, there are multiple ways to keep records and photos, such as a digital photobook/scrapbook, a traditional photobook/scrapbook, or a three-ring binder. Always be sure to keep the records in chronological order.

I urge each Historian to utilize MALTA Member Resources for the media relations side of our role. You will find there:

- The VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide includes lots of valuable information and ideas to promote your Auxiliary.
- The VFW Auxiliary Elevator Speech/What We Do summarizes who we are, what we do and how we describe ourselves as an organization to the media.
- Website and social media information – there are a lot of resources here!

QUICK TIP

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

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

Please note that the reporting year for this program is Department Convention 2024, when your President is installed, until Department Convention 2025, when the new President will take office.

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS AWARDS AND CITATIONS

DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

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 1st, 2025**
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 (screen shots of posts, website links, descriptions, etc.) and materials are to be received by the Department Historian (via email) no later than the Joint Testimonial weekend**
3. A Citation to each Auxiliary that participates in one of the Department Historian Media Relations “how to” online training session.

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most outstanding promotion of VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding promotion of the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging. The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

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

Historian & Media Relations

2024 – 2025 Year End Report
Kristin M. DiGiacomo, Department Chairman
418 Edmond Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-867-0021 / k.digi@pitt.edu

Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**

Retain one (1) copy for your Auxiliary records.

1. Did your Auxiliary send a communication quarterly to each of your members either via printed mail, phone call, text, or email? Yes _____ No _____
If YES above: Please select all mediums used to communicate:
Printed mail Phone Call Text Email
2. Does your Auxiliary utilize social media? Yes _____ No _____
If YES: Please select all mediums used:
Facebook Instagram TikTok YouTube
Pinterest Snapchat Threads "X" (formerly Twitter)
3. Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page (either separate or with the Post)?
Yes _____ No _____
4. Does your Auxiliary have a website (other than Facebook) either separately or with the Post?
Yes _____ No _____
5. Did your Auxiliary participate in one of the online Media Relations "how to" trainings?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Is there anything else you'd like to add that hasn't already been asked?

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____

Phone # _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ Email _____

Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Linda Dilling, Department Chairman
411 E. Allegheny St., Martinsburg, PA 16662
814.330.9391/vfwauxldilling@gmail.com

As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are aware of the importance of veterans. Without their service and sacrifice we would not have the freedoms we so easily take for granted. 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? Because hospitals and homes cover the basic needs. Volunteers fill the gaps between what is needed and what is wanted. 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, Valentines 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 Interaction: Creative ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.

“Together Helping Veterans”

“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans”

NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital Volunteers (VA & non-VA 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 in each of the 10 Program Divisions. (VA & non-VA facilities).

From July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. Most creative ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that were the most creative in ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.

From July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. 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 dollar amount spent on 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, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.
4. Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year (VA & non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.
5. A "STAR" award for the most creative way to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients. *Program – Hospital – National Awards Forms*.

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

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

2024 – 2025 Year-End Report

Linda Dilling, Department Chairman
411 E. Allegheny St., Martinsburg, PA 16662
814-330-9391/vfwauxldilling@gmail.com

Reporting period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**
Retain (1) copy for your Records.

1. Number of Auxiliary members that volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility.
(Auxiliary member to be counted one time only per year.) Total _____
2. Total number of hours that 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. Did your auxiliary host or co-host any activity with their VFW Post at any VA and / or non-VA medical facility. Yes ____ No ____
5. Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects.
Total \$ _____
6. Total dollar amount donated through Department to VAVS Hospitals, Homes, Christmas Canteen Fund, and Department Hospital Fund. Total \$ _____
7. Number of "HUG's" (ponchos) made for VA and / or non-VA hospitals, nursing homes, and care facilities. Total _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____

Phone # _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ Email _____

Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

VAVS Hospitals and Homes

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

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

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

Christmas Canteen Fund \$ _____

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

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

DO NOT LIST A HOSPITAL FOR THIS FUND!

Department Hospital Fund \$ _____

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

Please send donations along with a check payable to:

Dept of PA VFWA
4002 Fenton Ave
Harrisburg, PA 17109

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Karen Mooney, Department Chairman
81 Greenwood Drive, New Cumberland PA 17070
717.580.3994 / karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

BE AN ADVOCATE* BE INFORMED* BE ENGAGED

Do you know how you can make a difference for Veterans in your community? Be an advocate, inform yourself on issues that exist in the community and be engaged in local activities to help make a difference. Be the voice for your Veteran community.

VETERANS 2024 PRIORITY GOALS are to fully fund programs for veterans, service and their families. Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize the VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PRIORITY GOALS FOR 2024:

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

VFW ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

Sign up for this free subscription that provides an overview of what is happening on Capitol Hill regarding Veteran and Service Member issues. By accessing the vfwauxiliary.org website and reviewing the “What we do” and select “Legislative”, you can use this information as a tool to inform your Auxiliary members of important legislation currently on the docket.

- Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps
- Text “VFW” to 50457*

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary Advocates are respected highly and taken very seriously in Washington D.C. This is attributed to the hard work and persistence of members and officers over the years. To contact the D.C. Office:

Website: vfw.org/advocacy
Phone: 202-543-2239
Mail: 200 Maryland Ave N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

ASK THE QUESTIONS

Are you Registered to Vote? If not, do you know how to register? Every vote matters. Let your voice be heard. Do you know where your elected officials stand on Veterans issues? Prepare yourself to communicate with these individuals on upcoming legislation. Hold a local meet and greet for your community to be able to ask questions of those in office or those running for office. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO ENDORSE ANY CANDIDATE** on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary. The goal for the Auxiliary is to remain neutral. When working with youth activities, ask them what makes a person a Veteran. Do they know any Veterans or have any family members that may be service members or Veterans? Help to promote a better understanding in our youth of the importance of our Veterans.

MALTA MEMBER RESOURCES – LEGISLATIVE

Malta contains a great deal of information that VFW Auxiliary can tap into and share with other Auxiliary members. Review these tools and use these to share information about the legislative process to members in your Auxiliary

The VFW and its' Auxiliary have worked very hard to educate and prepare members to be active in the Legislative process. Providing the members with strong foundations in the following areas is very important:

- An understanding of our mission
- A mentor to train them
- A role they can fill to be part of the team

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE AWARDS AND CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with most outstanding activity and/or event that collaborated with the VFW Post connecting with members with local lawmakers.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging. The Department winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary Nation Convention.

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

1. A citation to each Membership Division who has the most members corresponding with legislators in the program year.
2. A citation to the Auxiliary or District that holds a Town Hall or another form of an informational session with Legislators or Candidates.
3. A citation to the Auxiliary that shows the best use of the Legislative Resources in Malta.
4. A "Star Award" to the Auxiliary with the best promotion of the VFW Priority Goals. Documentation must be submitted with year-end reports.

Must submit supporting documentation with year-end reports.

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

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

2024-2025 Year-End Report

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

Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**
Retain one (1) copy for your records

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate and/or host activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals with or without their VFW? YES / NO
2. How many Auxiliary members corresponded with Legislators regarding Veteran’s issues by any means? (emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.) _____
3. Number of Auxiliary members who attended events where they could interact with legislators. (Legislative conferences, town halls, meet and greets, etc.) _____
4. Number of Auxiliary members who assisted in National, State or local election activities? (Get out the vote, poll working, driving voters to polls, etc.) _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____
Email _____ Email _____
Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
2024-2025**



**Amy Peterson
Membership Chairman
12 N Bennett St
Bradford, PA 16701
814.331.1142
thepetersons@breezeline.net**

"Together Helping Veterans"

**Like "76 Trombones that led the big parade", LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE THIS YEAR!
Keep those numbers rockin' & rollin' all year long!
"Blame it all on our roots" as "we are family"VFW family!**

Membership should be FUN....so let us "unchain the melody" and GROW!!!

- **Keep your "WHY" close by!**
 - Revisit WHY you joined, why you still belong; Jazz it up, sing it to the choir! 😊
- **Prepare your "ASK."**
 - What's your Purpose?
 - Preserve/Strengthen Camaraderie
 - Assist Comrades and their families
 - Honor the memory and history of those that sacrificed
 - Promote True Patriotism, maintain our Freedoms
- **Get your "ASK" in gear!**
 - Our potential members are not connected just yet...but they could be!
"We're gonna rock down to Electric Avenue then we'll take it higher!"
 - They are online, on their phones, DMs, PMs, Emails.... GO BEYOND traditional meeting rooms! Embrace social media, *"that's LIFE"* these days!
 - We ALL make major decisions the quickest way...the 'swipe right' mentality.
"Get your motors runnin." and "meet in the middle!"
 - Keyboard Communication is where it's at.... USE it to our advantage!
Make Lists (List 1-people you KNOW will join, List 2-people who MAY join)
"ONE is the loneliest number" but is it???? NOOOOO!
If every current member recruited JUST ONE potential member,
we'd top *Kasey Kasem's* MEMBERSHIP charts!!! 🎵





- **“Light my fire!” Put some spark in your “ASK!”**

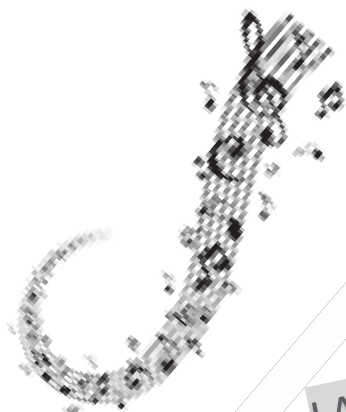
- Explore social media, leave no stone unturned! 😊
- Post fun videos/reels/stories, not just a picture.... Spice it up with *Salt-n-Pepa!*
- Create Instagram, Tik-Tok, Facebook, and whatever else in Cyberspace! 😊
- Reach out to ALL ages.... stay connected!

NEW THIS YEAR!!! We will have a QR Code, see below!

- This will link us to information to share with potential members.
- No more hard copies.... It will be quick and easy, right at your fingertips!
- It shows us how to be tech savvy, modern and adaptable.
- Less paper, more in tune with technology.

Behind the QR Code, you will find things like:

- Fact Sheet
- Membership Application
- What We Do Sheet
- Auxiliary Locator
- Programs & MORE!



LAUNCHING SOON!



INVEST, INVITE, RECRUIT, INCLUDE, RETAIN, ENCOURAGE, FOLLOWUP

“What’s the Plan, Stan?”

- Contact current members AND former members to rejoin.
- Recruit and Mentor potential new members.
- Encourage members to use MALTA to renew online...painless, and EASY!
- Offer incentives for early deadlines and/or to become LIFE members.
- Promote ‘paying it forward’ to struggling members.
- Ask for participation, Assign Tasks...if he/she says no, ASK again.
- Meeting incentives/drawings to increase attendance.

Membership Packets suggestions, but not limited to:

- Fact Sheet, Program Overview.
- Officer Contact Information, Upcoming Events.
- MALTA instructions, links and resources.
- QR Code, Date and Time of Meetings.
- Interests/Hobbies Survey – Looking for individual strengths.
- Membership Pin and/or Ritual Book.
- Auxiliary Traditions Sheet.
- Thank you and/or Welcome Note.



Membership Theme ~ "STRIKE UP THE BAND"

Department President's Theme ~ "TOGETHER HELPING VETERANS"

President's Colors ~ RED, WHITE & BLUE

National President's Theme

"FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS"

NEW!!!! MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS/DIVISIONS

DIVISION I	AUXILIARIES WITH	10-45	MEMBERS
DIVISION II	AUXILIARIES WITH	46-70	MEMBERS
DIVISION II	AUXILIARIES WITH	71-90	MEMBERS
DIVISION V	AUXILIARIES WITH	91-120	MEMBERS
DIVISION VI	AUXILIARIES WITH	121-165	MEMBERS
DIVISION VI	AUXILIARIES WITH	166-240	MEMBERS
DIVISION VII	AUXILIARIES WITH	241 +	MEMBERS

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

Membership Awards for Departments, and Conferences will be based on the paid total listed on the CMR-Paid, Canceled & Deceased Report in MALTA.

AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. Recruiter pin to each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits 5 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2025. Recruiter pin will be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters.
2. National Membership Achievement Award to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2025. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If the winner is not in attendance, award to be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.
3. Top Recruiter award to the one recruiter in each of the 4 conferences who recruited the most new and/or rejoined members in their conference. VFW Recruiters and VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If the winner is not in attendance, award to be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.
4. VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing for each VFW Auxiliary National Membership Achievement Award winner. Winners will be entered into a drawing to receive one \$500 Visa Gift Card. VFW Recruiters and VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If the winner is not in attendance, award to be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.

Recruiter Award Forms are no longer needed for VFW Auxiliary members. Reports are compiled by VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters from information entered into MALTA.

VFW Members who recruit new and/or rejoined VFW Auxiliary members will need to fill out the required VFW members only form that is available in MALTA Member Resources. Completed form must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and Department Treasurer must enter membership into MALTA by June 10, 2025.

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2025. *
2. VFW Auxiliary Drawing. Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by June 30, 2025, * will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$500.

DEPARTMENT OF PA AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

1. **“RHYTHM” AWARD** -- All VFW Auxiliaries in each membership division reaching 100% Plus in membership by November 30, 2024 will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 VFW Store Gift Card.
2. **“ALL ABOUT THE BRASS” AWARD** - In each membership division, the top VFW Auxiliary who has the most increased **LIFE** Members by April 30, 2025, will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
3. **“REFRAIN” RETENTION AWARD** - In each membership division the member who has gone above and beyond to retain members will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate. **Auxiliary President must submit the nomination in writing** to the Dept. Membership Chairman by March 31, 2025. (In the event of a tie, a drawing will be held.)
4. **“PREACH TO THE CHOIR” RECRUIT AWARD** - In each membership division, the Auxiliary that recruits the most new and/or rejoined members, from July 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025, will receive a \$50 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
5. **“BIG BANG BAND” AWARD** - The first District President reaching **100% PLUS** in membership shall be given TWO complimentary banquet tickets to the Department President Testimonial (Saturday.)
6. **“STRIKE UP THE BAND” AWARD** - Auxiliary Drawing. Each Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by May 31, 2025, will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$250 Store Gift Card.

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

PENNSYLVANIA ALL STATE AWARD FORM
FOR AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS AND TREASURERS
2024-2025

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

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Please attach all documentation and submit it no later than May 6, 2025.

Amy Peterson, 12 N. Bennett St, Bradford, PA 16701,
or email to thepetersons@breezeline.net

1. President & Treasurer bonded by **July 31, 2024. (NEW Date!)**
2. President, Treasurer and Secretary dues must be paid by **November 30, 2024.**
3. Current Membership is 100% Plus by **April 30, 2025.**
4. All Audits must be on file at Department Headquarters before **May 1, 2025.**
5. District Visit completed.
6. Voice of Democracy entry and/or donation to Dept PA VFWA, minimum \$10.00.
7. Patriot's Pen entry and/or donation to Dept of PA VFWA, minimum \$10.00.
8. Young American Creative Art entry and/or donation to Dept of PA VFWA, minimum \$10.00.
9. Health and Happiness donation to VFW National Home.
(Payable through MALTA) (\$0.25 per member)
10. Donation to Dept of PA VFWA for Department President's Special Project, minimum \$10.00.
11. Buddy Poppy purchase from Dept of PA VFW (Minimum 100 poppies.)
12. Donation to Dept of PA VFWA for all 15 VA hospitals **AND** Department Hospital fund, minimum \$10.00 each.
13. Donation to Dept of PA VFWA for the Christmas Canteen fund, minimum \$10.00 donation. **(MUST BE RECEIVED AT Dept HQ by October 31, 2024)**
14. Auxiliary must be represented by one or more members at **EACH** District Meeting with Auxiliary President in attendance at least **ONE** District meeting.
15. Promoted **VFW Auxiliary QR Code** via newsletter/social media (Attach promo.)
16. Submit a "New Member Welcome Packet" **(Must be submitted by Nov 17, 2024)**

***To qualify for the All-State Award,
ALL Auxiliary Obligations must be met by May 1, 2025.**

SCHOLARSHIPS 2024-2025

Pam Sopher, Department Chairman
110 South Kerr St. Titusville, PA. 16354
814.516.5157 / pamauxdp@gmail.com

All our scholarships listed below were designed to get our Youth involved, and to help with their expenses. By working together as a VFW and Auxiliary Team, we can encourage our students to apply. Not only does this teach our youth about Patriotism, but keeps it alive. By encouraging our Programs, we instill in our Youth the respect for our Country's Flag, and a desire to see our Nation succeed. We are all One Nation under God, have a deep abiding love of our Country and our people. It is our time to teach our youth about ALL our Programs. To see that everyone gets a chance, we need to push involvement. Remember, today's youth is our family's future, and is the most valuable asset of our Country. If we don't get this information out to them, then we have failed as their mentor. Enclosed is our Who, What, When, Where, and Why. It is up to us to get all involved and get this information to them.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2024-2025

Who Is Eligible -

What Programs Do We Have To Offer -

Where Do We Send Completed Forms To -

When Are The Deadline Dates -

Why To Get Involved and Help Further Education -

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO/ESSAY CONTEST

2024 - 2025 Theme: "IS AMERICA TODAY OUR FOREFATHER'S VISION?"

The Voice of Democracy Audio/Essay Contest is open to all students in grades 9-12 by October 31, 2024. 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 theme selected, 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 CD's. The recording must be the student's own voice and MUST be in English. No music, singing, poetry, sound effect, 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 is 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 your submission of your 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/youthscholarships.

Each Post may sponsor 1 winner for each 15 entries or fraction thereof. (If a Post receives 170 entries, they may sponsor 12 entries!) If you do 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.

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

DEADLINES: Entries to VFW Post: Midnight October 31, 2024
Completion of Post Judging: November 18, 2024
Completion of District Judging: December 3, 2024
To State Chairman Vince Gavin: December 9, 2024

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

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place -	\$35,000
Second Place -	\$21,000
Third Place -	\$15,000
4th through 36th Place -	\$7,000 to \$1,000
37th - 53rd Place -	\$1000

All of our Scholarship Programs are a great way for us to continue cultivating the passion of Americanism in the minds of our youth. The Nation built by today's youth will be passed on to future generations. They must protect and defend our Country's greatness, and by working together, this WILL be done, for ALL future generations.

PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST

2024-2025: Theme is "MY VOICE IN AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY"

This program is provided to ALL students in 6th to 8th Grades by October 31, 2024, enrolled in a public, private, parochial school, or an approved home study program in the U.S., it's territories or it's possessions. Although U.S. citizenship is NOT required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residency (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, students who have previously placed in the National competition, GED and 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 entries original work and a product of the contestants 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 students work. Essays must be 300-400 words (+or-5 words), and typed in English. Every word counts in the length of the words, excluding 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 National finals.

PLEASE DO NOT MAIL WINNERS TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS!

Mail to: Mr. Bill Lamond
3360 Nashotks Road,
Madison Township, PA. 18444
email: ta30chev@gmail.com

DEADLINES: Entries to the sponsoring VFW Post- Midnight, October 31, 2024
Post Judging complete- November 18, 2024
District Judging complete- December 3, 2024
To State Chairman Bill Lamond: December 9, 2024- District winner entry form,
typed copy of essay, and a head & shoulders photo.

DEPARTMENT AWARD

First Place - \$400.00 and a Plaque

NATIONAL AWARDS

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

CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

This scholarship is designed to assist Auxiliary members, their family, and our youth, helping defray the cost of a secondary education. It is ONLY awarded to a current Auxiliary member in good standing (and must be a member for at least one year), their spouse or child who has a financial need. This scholarship is paid DIRECTLY to the student's choice of an American College, University, or Vocational/Technical school. Applicant must be at least 21 years of age by 2/15/2025. This Scholarship is \$1,250 to one member from each of our four Conferences, to the school of their choice. Applications, information, and brochures can be found at our website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education, and if you are signed into MALTA, go into member resources for more information. Complete the application and write a

statement of 300 words or less describing your commitment to these goals, and how this accomplishment will assist you to better yourself through continuing education.

Please make sure this information is within reach of your Post/Auxiliary bulletin boards as well as your websites. Auxiliary, District and State levels, please be able to discuss this at your meetings and ask to share this information, so we can have more applicants apply for this program in the future. This money is within reach if you just apply. You may also apply through MALTA as well.

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

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

This program is hosted by our Auxiliary and has been a work in progress for nearly 50 years. This is a two-dimensional art contest for our artists in grades 9-12. The age of the student at the time of entry may not exceed 19 years. While US Citizenship is NOT required, they must be a lawful US permanent resident (the application for which is not denied), and they intend to become a US Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over the age of 20, GE,D and adult education students, or previous winners of the Patriotic Art Contest are NOT eligible. Artwork may be done with oils, watercolors, pencil, pastels, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylics, markers, pen-and-ink, or any other media. Artwork must be on stretcher frames, canvas, or paper, and may NOT be smaller than 8" x 10", nor larger than 18" x 24" excluding mat. DO NOT FRAME ENTRIES! Entries NOT on stretcher frame or canvas board may be matted with only white matboard, and must be reinforced with heavy paper or cardboard on the back so it does not bend. Mounted/floating matting is permissible, but must be white. If the American flag is shown in the art, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code. Entries are judged on the Patriotic theme and technique. Students 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.

This program gives our youth, our future tomorrow a chance to show off their talent, as well as their patriotism for our Country. National is offering 19 National scholarships ranging from

\$500 to \$15,000. These scholarships will be paid directly to the college, vocational/technical, or trade schools of the winner's choice. Applications and Instructions can be found at: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-artcontest and by signing into MALTA Member Resources.

Each Auxiliary may sponsor one winner. District judging is not required in the State of PA. Please make sure while mailing your piece it is packaged safe, and secure to prevent any damage. These are very fragile and need to be packaged very carefully.

Mail item to me: Pam Sopher
Department Scholarship Chairman
110 South Kerr St.
Titusville, PA. 16354

DEADLINES: Entries received by Local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2025
Entries received by VFW Auxiliary Department Chairman by April 15, 2025

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP YOUR ENTRIES at the conclusion of Department Conventions. If you are not able to do so, and have someone who will, please let me know the person who will be responsible for it in your absence.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

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

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

First Place -	\$15,000
Second Place -	\$7,5000
Third Place -	\$3,500
Fourth Place -	\$2,500
Fifth and Sixth Place -	\$1,500
Seventh and Eighth Place -	\$1,000
Ninth to Nineteenth Place -	\$500

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

This is our newest program and involves our Patriotic artists in grades 9-12. Three - Dimensional may be art made of Papier-Mache, fabric, metal work, pottery, wood, etc. (See official rules for art forms that are allowed.) This competition is available to 9th-12th grade

students, enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school, or a home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of our US Military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. The maximum age of the student at the time of entry may not exceed 19 years. While US Citizenship is Not required, they must be a lawful US permanent resident or have applied for permanent residence (the application of which has not been denied), and they intend to become a U.S. Citizen. Foreign exchange students, those over the age of 20, GED, and adult education students, or previous winners of the Patriotic Art Contest, are NOT eligible. The student must attend a school in the same state as the sponsoring Auxiliary, but is NOT required to be a VFW/Auxiliary member, or a relative of a member. Pieces should be no smaller than 8” and no larger than 18” in any direction. Art cannot weigh more than 5 pounds. Digital art, photography and jewelry are NOT eligible. Students shall submit an entry form and a brief description of the patriotism being expressed in the artwork. 150 words or less, typed and in English. Attach both to the artwork. Brochure, applications and further information is available on our website: vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest, and can be found through MALTA member resources.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

First Place - \$500.00

Second Place - \$350.00

Third Place - \$250.00

NATIONAL AWARDS

1st Place - \$1,500

2nd Place- \$1,000

3rd Place- \$1,000

4th Place- \$ 500

Please make sure this information is available to our members on all levels. You do not need to be a member to apply for this program, but we do need our members to promote this and ALL our programs. Entries must be received on time, if not they will be disqualified. Please adhere to THESE deadline dates.

DEADLINES: Entries to participating VFW Auxiliary, March 31, 2025.

Entries to VFW Auxiliary Chairman, April 15, 2025.

1st Place Dept. Winner to VFW National Headquarters May 5, 2025.

New to these Programs this year is a QR code to help the students access this information and any applicable application information faster and easier. If new to QR codes, use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code below to take you directly to this information.



Scan me for Scholarships!

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, POWER IS THE KEY

NATIONAL AWARDS

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

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

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Scholarship Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarship Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary Account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Winners will be announced and awards present at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

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

DEPARTMENT OF PA SCHOLARSHIP CITATIONS

1. Citation to VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition.
2. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the Patriot's Pen Essay Competition.
3. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary sponsoring the first, second and third place winners of the 2-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 in each membership division with the best promotion using the QR code. Must send to the Department Chairman no later than March 1, 2025 (Documentation to verify must be included).
6. **Star award** to the VFW Auxiliary using the most creative ways to benefit from establishing the QR code. (Documentation to verify must be included).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Pam Sopher, Department Chairman
110 South Kerr St. Titusville, PA. 16354
814.516.5157 / pamauxdp@gmail.com

Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**.
Retain one (1) copy for your records.

VFW SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Did your Auxiliary promote or conduct (or assist your Post with promoting/conducting) the National Patriot's Pen Contest? Yes _____ No _____
2. Did you Auxiliary promote or conduct (or assist your Post with promoting/conducting) the VFW National Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest? Yes _____ No _____

RECOGNITION

1. Did your Auxiliary host or co-host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in any/all of the Scholarships contests (VOD, Patriot's Pen, Young American Creative Patriotic Art and/or 3-D Patriotic Art?) Yes _____ No _____
2. What was the total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by your Auxiliary to all of your winners in the Scholarships Program: \$ _____
3. What was your best promotion for using the QR code? _____
4. Explain the benefits from establishing the QR code and unique ways it promoted the programs. _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____
Email _____ Email _____
Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jeanna Leydic, Department Chairman
576 Adamson Road, Creekside, PA 15732
724.549.3705/ jeanna5326@gmail.com

What is the first thing that you think of when you think about the VFW Auxiliary? My first thought when I heard of it was the spouses of the military alumni. But we are so much more, and one of our biggest roles is to mentor the youth to become patriotic adults.

Our children are the future of the VFW Auxiliary organization, and it is up to us to keep our children involved and grow our membership for the future. Our children are the future of this organization and **“Together Helping Veterans”** is what we shall do! Here is how we can get them involved with our great organization **“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans.”**

Patriotism through Literacy

I have always known that reading is a huge part in the learning process, and it helps our brain to remember things. This is such a huge thing for our youth and elderly. You can learn so much through reading. If we could read to our youth about America and all the important things this country has accomplished, we could just make them become a tad bit more patriotic and knowledgeable about our great country and military.

Now you ask, how do we do this? If you go to MALTA Member Resources, under Youth Activities we have the Patriotism through Literacy list. It is even divided up by grade levels. Pick a few books from there. Visit your local library and see if they have those books in stock; if not, why not donate them to that library yourself!

These books aren't just to take you on an adventure of some sort, they are to educate our youth about patriotism, the flag, and our great country. You can find these books in bookstores, online and even some are E-Books!!

Books are a great learning key for children to learn about our country and patriotism but also to teach them to love reading, understanding history, and learning how to read and write.

- Host a day of reading. Veterans can come in and read to the children or the children can read to them. Choose a few books from the Patriotism through Literacy list.

- ↳ Take a visit to a VA or nursing home to see if the staff can set up a reading area for the children to read to the veterans or vice versa.
- ↳ Create a read-a-thon, use R.A.P. Cards as a point system.

September 6, 2024, is National Read a Book Day. If possible, host a reading day at your post by hosting Veterans and children. Another big day is Dr. Suess Day which is March 2, 2025. Check with your schools to see if Veterans could go into the classroom to read to the children or have the children read to the Veterans.

SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

As part of the Auxiliary Youth Activities program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage them in any of our Programs, including activities to honor our veterans or assist our service members and their families. Get together with youth groups on Veterans holidays and make the Veterans feel special. Try a holiday that isn't often celebrated. These could include:

- ↳ Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts
- ↳ Church Youth Groups
- ↳ 4-H/FFA clubs
- ↳ School sponsored groups
- ↳ JROTC

Some high school students can use volunteer hours for college applications, some colleges require letters of recommendation. Here's some examples of how we can get these groups involved:

- ↳ Place flags on graves
- ↳ Helping serve meals at an event
- ↳ Invite them to participate in a "Buddy" poppy drive
- ↳ Create birthday cards for the 100th Anniversary of the National Home

PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD

If children are willing and able to help with an event, let them help and engage them while doing so. Always remember to act and be responsible around our youth. Always remember to recognize them after they have helped with a job well done. Youth will always come back if they are recognized and made to feel special after helping with something. There are fillable Patriotic Youth Awards in member resources in MALTA.

R.A.P. Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

Children love to be rewarded and told when they are doing something impressive, even more when it's Patriotic. When a child shows simple Random Acts of Patriotism, recognize them by giving them a card and explain to them why they are getting the card.

Create some sort of rewards points system to encourage them to continue to do Random Acts of Patriotism, or even just random acts of kindness as well. Each card can be worth so many points and the points add up to earn something cool. The more points the better the prize! Prizes can include books, candy, electronics or even money are just a few examples. Get creative with it!

You can find the card templates in MALTA member resources, Youth Activities.

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA ART CONTEST

Open to any student in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline 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 who have applied for permanent residence and intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students and students aged 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 of which they are a previous National Winner.

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

There are National awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each grade division. The 1st, 2nd & 3rd place entry in each grade division will be displayed at the National Convention. Please see the student brochure and entry form in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines for entries:

Participating Auxiliary send to District President - March 31, 2025

District President send to Department Chairman - April 15, 2025

Department Chairman send to National Headquarters - May 5, 2025

Contest Rules:

- Art must be two-dimensional
- Art must be on canvas or paper
- Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker, or other media may be used.
- Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries, if matted, must be matted in white or reinforced with heavy paper.
- The art should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", not including mat

Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted.

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades K - 2

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

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades 3 - 5

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

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS, Grades 6 - 8

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

DEPARTMENT OF PA YOUTH ACTIVITIES CITATIONS

1. Citation to the VFW Auxiliary working with the highest number of Youth
2. Citation to the Auxiliary presenting the most Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans Citations
3. Citation to the Auxiliary with the Best Promotion of Patriotism through Literacy Initiative
4. Citation to the Auxiliary that donated the most books for Patriotism through Literacy Initiative
5. Citation to the Auxiliary with the Best Promotion of the “Illustrating America” Initiative
6. Citations to the Auxiliaries sponsoring the first-place winners in each division of the “Illustrating America” Initiative
7. Citation to the VFW Auxiliaries that hosted an awards ceremony for “Illustrating America” Initiative
8. Citation to the Auxiliaries with the most creative “Patriotism thru Literacy” event
9. Special “**Star**” Award to the Auxiliary with the most Youth Activities initiatives

NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES AWARDS & CITATIONS

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and using the RANDOM ACTS OF PATRIOTISM card (R.A.P.)
Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and uses the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.) Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging.
The Department Youth Activities Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2025 at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total of combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.
Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
2. Citations and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)
The Department Youth Activities Chairman must sign and send a copy of the Department winning entry form to the National Youth Activities Ambassador by April 30, 2025 for judging.
Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Jeanna Leydic, Department Chairman
576 Adamson Road, Creekside, PA 15732
724.549.3705 / jeanna5326@gmail.com

Reporting Period: April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.
Your District President must receive this report by **April 5, 2025**.
Retain (1) copy for your records

Youth Groups

1. Number of youth groups the Auxiliary worked with during the program year. _____
2. Number of youth that the Auxiliary worked with during the current program year. _____
3. Number of Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citations awarded by the Auxiliary this current program year. _____
4. Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Yes _____ No _____
5. 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 that submitted art entries to the Auxiliary for judging. _____
3. Did the Auxiliary host an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants of this contest? Yes _____ No _____
4. Total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by the Auxiliary for this contest.
\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

President _____ Chairperson _____
Phone # _____ Phone # _____
Email _____ Email _____
Auxiliary Name _____ District # _____ Auxiliary # _____

