



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary
Department of Virginia**

Communications #2

October 2025



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Department President's Message



Pumpkins - hoodies – firepits! The season is upon us Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters!

With Halloween just around the corner, I cannot wait to see all the fabulous costumes!

We love sharing your upcoming events and pictures on our Facebook page and look forward to seeing all you are doing for Veterans and your communities.

I hope you all have your bell-bottoms and miniskirts ready for the Homecoming Party!! It's going to be such a great evening - and I hope to see you there - gettin' your groove on!!

As we approach the halfway mark of our reporting year, I encourage everyone to remember our responsibilities and upcoming deadlines, especially regarding District dues, Auxiliary audits, required monetary contributions and program reporting.

REMINDER:

It is recommended that Auxiliary Presidents review the program tracking report to verify that their Auxiliary has received credit for submitted reports. If any discrepancies are identified, please contact the Department Program Chairman.

990 Filing:

All 990's must be filed by November 15, 2025. If you are having difficulties, please reach out to Treasurer Cathy, she can assist you.

Chain of Command/Matters of Concern

Using Proper Channels National By-laws (Yellow Pages; Page 15)

1. Those concerns, problems, etc. of an Auxiliary MAY be addressed to the District President who will take their concerns directly to the Department President for consideration. If the concern is in regard to the District President, the Auxiliary may go directly to the Department President.
2. The Department President then decides who should be assigned to handle the concerns of that particular Auxiliary.
3. If the concern warrants it, the Department President may address it to the National President for their consideration.

4. It is the practice of National Headquarters that a Department President have the first opportunity to assist Auxiliaries and members of their department. Therefore, any correspondence received from an individual, Auxiliary or District will be referred to the Department President so that they have the first opportunity to assist or fulfill a request.

The Department Officers and I are available to help each Auxiliary thrive. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Please continue to reach out to those who are ill, struggling or lost.

By Order of:



Kelli Levitt
Department President
VFW Auxiliary, Virginia
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Attested:



Gerald Miller
Department Secretary
VFW Auxiliary, Virginia
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571-236-3605

~ No Act Of Kindness, No Matter How Small, Is Ever Wasted ~
aesop



Items of Interest



Virginia VFW Winter Conference

January 8 - 11, 2026 Winter Council, Hotel Madison Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA: phone 540-564-0200. Room Rates are \$129.00 per night. Cutoff Date is Monday, December 8, 2025, by 5:00 pm. See the enclosed flyer for additional information on the hotel and dinner.

Paper Copies of the Communications

Do you want a paper copy of these Communications? Complete the form included in this set and send that, with remittance of \$30 to Department Treasurer Cathy Graham.

990-N Filing

The form for the Department Treasurer to complete your 990-N is available on the Department Website under Programs/Treasurers Forms, or at the following link: [2025 990-N Filing Permission Form](#)

Roster of Virginia Auxiliaries

The Department Roster of Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers is available in the Members Only section of the Virginia VFW Auxiliary web page under the Auxiliaries in Virginia heading. We are working to improve the web page and keep our more personal information, like home addresses, emails, and telephone numbers off the general public side. Remember, your membership number is your Login, and your last name is the key to your password. If you have any trouble accessing this area, send an email to the Department site at vfwauxiliaryva@gmail.com.

Women in Military Service For America Memorial

This is the effort to include and record all the servicewomen, or woman veterans who have served throughout our history. See the enclosure included in this month's communication for more information.



Americanism Program



Wandra Early
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Thank you to everyone that has reported your events. Please remember when filing your reports to include the number of members taking part and the number of hours devoted to that event.

At the January conference, I will be awarding \$25 to the Auxiliary with the most reports. If there is a tie, a drawing will take place to determine the winner. However, I am letting you know that we have some Auxiliaries that have already turned in four or more reports.

Have you been looking around the town? Is there a business, organization or community member that fly our flag? Their display of our flag promotes patriotism in the community. We can recognize the display of patriotism by presenting a certificate of appreciation from our Auxiliary. Perhaps there is a business whose flag needs replacing. Have you checked your schools to discover they need replacement flags? Have you explained flag etiquette to anyone? Those actions are reportable. More suggestions can be found in MALTA member resources for Americanism/Patriotic Instructor.

The Patriotic Instructors can report their patriotic actions to Americanism Program. It is their responsibility to educate members about the history, symbolism and proper etiquette relating to patriotic symbols of America. Bylaws in our podium book require them to maintain a record of all Patriotic days and initiate programs for proper observance. Discussions about Americanism in our meetings will give Patriotic Instructors the chance to teach the values and traditions of the Auxiliary.

Social Media is an effective way to share how your Auxiliary is promoting patriotism. It is an effective way for you to personally promote patriotism.

Understanding Auxiliary traditions help sheet and video are available in MALTA member resources. Patriotic supplies for Americanism are available in the VFW Store.

Patriotic Days in October

October 7 – Global War and Desert Storm Veterans Day

October 13 – Birthday of the U.S. Navy (1775)

October 26 – Day of the Deployed

October 28 – Birthday of the Statue of Liberty



Auxiliary Outreach Program



Beverly Abbott

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434-792-4497 * desiabbott@comcast.net



Your Auxiliary should be aware of upcoming community and civic events in your area that you can partner with and assist another organization in their event that is ***open to the public***.

Outreach is the process of an organization building relationships with people; the act of extending services, benefits, etc., to a wider section of the population, as in community work

I reached out to the National Ambassador for Auxiliary Outreach regarding some of the reports I have received. **PLEASE read her response to some concerns.** I hope this addresses some of the questions I have had regarding your partnering with other organizations.

“.... if they serve on a committee with the [organization], part of their job would be to work their events. Same goes for helping in your own church. Now if the church were having an event open to the public and needed volunteers to work on the event members of the Auxiliary could do that for Auxiliary Outreach. But just volunteering your time within your own church does not count.

*Members want this to be Community Service, and it is not. We (the Auxiliary) are partnering with another organization to help make their event successful, **it is all about the Outreach.**”*

Sara Manke, National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador 25-26

Some examples:

- Members of a local Auxiliary were asked to *sit on their county board* to help raise money and volunteer to work at a dedication of a memorial that honors veterans. **This is not Auxiliary Outreach** (you are a part of the organization, Americanism)
- Our Auxiliary purchases and delivers turkeys for a food pantry every Thanksgiving. **This is not Auxiliary Outreach**
Auxiliary members volunteer at the local food pantry to help pass out Thanksgiving turkeys to the public. **This is Auxiliary Outreach**
- Auxiliary participates in a walk in our area that raises awareness about suicide prevention. Members walk in the event and donate \$100 to the organization. **This is not Auxiliary Outreach**
The Auxiliary members choose to help with registration for the event and hand out water to the participants. **This is Auxiliary Outreach**

*** I have received a lot of reports that should be reported in Americanism, Veterans & Family Services, Hospital, or Youth Activities. **Auxiliary Outreach reports should not fall into any other Auxiliary program.**

October 4, 2025, Be the Change Day

November 13, 2025, World Kindness Day

October 25, 2025, National Make a Difference Day

November 22, 2025, National Family Volunteer Day



Buddy Poppy/National Home Program



Pamela Kotz
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540-314-2429 * pamelakotz067@gmail.com



"From the shining lighthouse we want to honor the dead by helping the living."

Sandra Jeffries, National Ambassador

Thank you to everyone who is ready to support our veterans by jumping into this program year feet first! The Department of Virginia is always ready to do whatever they can. You are all rock stars!

There are several holidays this month that would provide a perfect opportunity to incorporate the "Buddy" Poppy. They are as follows:

October 13th – Navy Birthday

October 26th – National Day of the Deployed

October 26th – Gold Star Mother's & Family Day

October 27th – Navy Day

Don't wait for a holiday to promote the "Buddy" Poppy. Incorporate it into your other events or plan a "Buddy" Poppy drive. It is always a good time to promote them! Don't forget to send in your reports when you do have an event or drive. Make sure your auxiliary gets credit for their promotions.

Our National Ambassador, Sandra Jeffries, makes a wonderful suggestion. While you are distributing your Poppies, hand out brochures for the VFW National Home and explain that it is one of the Programs supported by their donations. These two programs go hand in hand!

Our National Ambassador also wants our focus this year to be on creating awareness about and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the National Home. Visit the VFW National Home website to learn more: vfnationalhome.org

The eligibility requirements are:

- Actively Serving
- Veteran
- VFW/Auxiliary

Be sure to share the helpline number for the National Home: 1-800-313-4200.

Remember to educate how one can purchase lifetime membership to support the National Home. In addition to the regular lifetime membership, you can upgrade your existing membership or become a new member with the limited time VFW National Home Centennial Membership Program available until December 31, 2025. For more information visit vfnationalhome.org

Feel free to reach out to me if you need anything. I look forward to seeing what you all can accomplish this year! You are all what makes The Department of Virginia so amazing!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~~ Helen Keller

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION CHAIRMAN



Patricia Jurgensen
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The National Ambassador's Theme is - "You Can't Stop the Waves But You Can Learn to Surf."
This year we will understand how this theme corresponds to the goals of the Extension and Revitalization Program.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF EXTENSION

One definition of Extension is "an enlargement in scope or operation."

Another definition is – "An additional period of time given to meet an obligation."

How do these two definitions relate to our mission as an Auxiliary?

It means that we need to grow in our Auxiliaries, grow in our membership, and grow in the scope of our National Programs.

This coming year, we will concentrate on how to increase the number of Auxiliaries in this Department. The VFW Department of Virginia has 122 Posts, and the VFW Department Auxiliary has 65 Auxiliaries.

As such, there are 57 "Unaffiliated Posts" that we can reach out to and explain the benefits of having an Auxiliary.

- Please note that we **no longer** use the term "Bachelor Post." Instead, the correct verbiage is "Unaffiliated Post."

Why the change? Because there are many women in the VFW. As such, the term bachelor is no longer a good description of a VFW Post without an Auxiliary. In fact, the first female, Carol Whitmore was just elected as the new VFW National Commander-in-Chief.

NOW THE CHALLENGE

- Now comes the challenge of how to effectively reach out to such a large number of "Unaffiliated Posts" in Virginia?

One avenue would be to insert an Extension letter in the VFW Department's General Orders. However, such request would need approval. Thanks to Department President Levitt who reached out to the Department Commander, I am pleased that permission has been granted to print such a letter monthly in the General Orders.

UNITY BRINGS VICTORY

The Department President's Theme is "Unity Brings Victory" - so approval to print this letter certainly proves that "Unity Brings Victory" between our two Department leaders, Doug Hoffman and Kelli Levitt.



Historian/Media Relations Program



Bettina Lane
285 Deerfield Place * Mineral, VA * 23117
540-287-1454 * historianvfwauxdeptva@gmail.com



Thank you for all the reports I have already received, and the reports are great with pictures, new articles, etc.

In this month's edition, I want to focus on events that are newsworthy and how and what to submit to your local paper.

How to Share Your Local Auxiliary Story Ideas and Events with Local Media

How Does Your Auxiliary Promote Itself in Your Community?

Newspapers
Radio
TV
Fliers
Facebook /Twitter/Instagram

Before you contact anyone to cover an event your Auxiliary is hosting or participating in, answer the following questions:

Are local people involved? (yes or no)
Is the event happening in the near future - within the next month? (yes or no)
Will non-members be interested in attending or hearing about the event? (yes or no)
Will the event help the local community? (yes or no) If yes, how? (describe)
Is the activity or event unique? (yes or no)
Does the activity or event promote a new idea or concept? (yes or no)

Members and youth who are participating in a "Buddy" ® Poppy Drive or POW/MIA remembrance ceremony.

Scholarship winners such as the winner of the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest
Flag presentations to community groups.
Publicizing what your Auxiliary has done to help natural disaster victims.
National President's Visit.
Repairs on a Veteran's Home/Building a Wheelchair Ramp/etc.
Walks/Runs/Events to raise awareness/funds for Veteran Issues/PTSD.

What's NOT Newsworthy?

Your meetings.
Who was elected to various positions in your Local Auxiliary.
When you are having a spaghetti dinner, Bingo nights, etc.
These are all good Calendar of Events, Local Tidbit items, etc.
NOT Feature Stories.

What is Newsworthy?

Events hosted by an Auxiliary at a VA facility.
Decorating graves for Veterans Day and Memorial Day; participating in Wreaths Across America.
Assisting families of deployed troops (Hosting holiday events, i.e., Christmas parties, Easter Egg hunts, Trick-or-Treat events, offering financial assistance, etc.)
Adopting a Unit through the VFW's Veteran and Military Support Program.
Collecting supplies for deployed troops.
Meeting troops at the airport as they return from deployment and helping them complete their journey home.

Something to Note

While we encourage you to share events/activities that are hosted jointly with the VFW, we are really interested in what your Auxiliary is doing in your community!
While our mission is to support veterans, active-duty military and their families, we are two separate organizations.
This is applicable for the National VFW Auxiliary Magazine and Facebook page as well as other media.



Hospital Program



Kristi Corbett

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540-623-0221 * vfwauxiliary3103@gmail.com



I hope everyone is settling in after the summer and enjoying the fall. As we are now into the swing of the Program Year. I would just remind you to add as much detail to the comments as possible. Whether it is at a VA or non-VA hospital or Nursing home. If the people you are there with, or visiting, are a veteran, a spouse, or an Auxiliary member. These are the details I need to know. If it is something you are going to do in the future, do not mark it on the form yet. I know the form asks all kinds of things but those are more for an end-of-year report. Fill it out only for the event or thing you are reporting. Not every section needs to be filled in every time.

If you use the Google Form to file you can upload pictures and other details. You can find it on the Department website under Programs drop down: [ONLINE GOOGLE Forms](#)

Keep up the excellent work and start your creative juices flowing. At Mid-winter Conference I will be awarding \$50 to the Auxiliary with the most creative and effort driven hospital program. Then at May Department Convention I will award the Auxiliary with the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd most creative events reported to the Hospital Program. Keep in mind using the QR code to promote the Hospital program.

I would love to highlight Auxiliary 1033 in District 6, who submitted an excellent report about their recent trip to the Salem VA hospital to host a lively game of bingo and deliver generous donations. They also brought books to donate to the VA Hospital Library. Their efforts were recognized in a local newspaper article that covered their visit to the VA. Bravo Zulu to the entire team for a job exceptionally well done!





Legislative Program



Elizabeth Wilson
4725 Boxford Rd. * Virginia Beach, VA * 23456
757-473-3456 * lizwilson3456@gmail.com



Hello! Hope you are enjoying this nice cool weather! I'm just hoping the bugs are gone, especially the mosquitoes!

It's that time of year when I start thinking about baking and getting ready for the Holidays!

Enough about the weather! Grab your favorite beverage and let's talk about legislation.

Did you realize that here in Virginia every seat in the General Assembly is up for re-election, from the Governor to each House? That is a lot of changes!

That got me thinking. So, while driving to the store the other day, I noticed new "Vote For" signs along the road, so at the next stop light, I opened my phone, laid it beside me on the seat, brought up a new blank document, used voice to text and added names as I saw them. When I came home, I opened Google, found the three names I had and contacted them! Guess what??? Two of them have responded!! They are supposed to be sending me information about their platforms that I can share with my Auxiliary.

The point of this was to give you another way to "think out of the box." We all need to be informed about the candidates and what they plan to do for our Veterans. Remember, we are equal opportunity so be sure to listen to both sides. Maybe you can work with your Post Legislative Chairman and host a Town Hall Meeting!

Maybe a member cannot get to the polls in November. Why not start a car tree and give them a ride?

Whatever you do, GO VOTE! Let's make sure our voice counts for our Veterans and their Families. Let make sure they know we care.

Then the last thing you need to do is, REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!!

I look forward to seeing those reports and sharing with my National Ambassador what a wonderful job we are doing here in Virginia for our Veterans!

Until next month,



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Nancy Kearney, Chairman
60 Whirlaway Drive Stafford, VA 22556
Email: nankearney.nk@gmail.com
702-250-3787



Way to go Virginia! We are off to a great start with renewing membership and recruiting new members. Currently our Department is at 83.99% Thank you for your continued hard work with membership. Sharing our stories brings helpful ideas to others. Please continue to send me your success stories and check Communications each month to see if your Auxiliary in the "Spotlight"

Here are some helpful tips:

- By now, Renewal letters should be going out to all annual members. Consider offering an incentive to renew early such as, entering in a drawing or discount to convert to Life Membership by a certain date.
- Considering including with new applications the "Auxiliary Membership Interest Form" for new members and current members (found on VFWAUXVA.org [Resource page](#).) Tap into the talent you have right in your own Auxiliary.
- Members love to feel appreciated. Consider creating a calendar page each month "spotlighting" a volunteer of the month. It is a great way to say thank you and keep members active. Check your computer program for free download options.



This month we recognize:
Auxiliary 9660 District 7

Each month Auxiliary 9660 assist with free veterans' meals at a local restaurant, working alongside with the Post Commander, they talk to families and veterans about joining the Post and Auxiliary while increasing membership.

Way to Go Auxiliary 9660!

Thank you to all auxiliaries sharing your successful recruiting stories/events. Keep the stories coming.



"Use the QR Code to access the Virginia Department's membership application form. Remember to return completed applications to the Auxiliary/Recruiter."

PROGRAM GOALS Invite New Members – Include Current Members – Invest in the Future of the Organization



Outstanding Auxiliary



We are underway with our OA Tracking and Reporting. Hoping you all are doing well and getting ready for the holiday season, it has come up so fast!

On pages 23 and 24 of this communication is our two-page layout of everything that has been reported by each Auxiliary. The legend that we indicated last month is in the top left corner on each page. Again, if there is anything you have a question about, feel free to reach out to Patty and Maggie and we will be happy to research and respond to your question.

If you are showing not reported in a program and you only recently sent in your report, please wait until next month, if still showing unreported, reach out to the chairman and follow-up. They can update their report for us, and we can update our tracker.

We have a few more areas that we need assistance from District Officers to get our tracker updated:

- District Dues Paid
- Attendance of President, Secretary and Treasurer at the District SOI's
- District Meeting Attendance

Getting this information to Patty and Maggie is crucial for a timely update to the Tracker. Some meetings and SOI's have occurred later this year, so when they do happen, just send the info in.

Reporting is coming in slowly to the chairman, make every effort to report as soon as you have events, getting them in early ensure you put all details in and include pictures. This gives you the best chance for the program awards!

Achievement Corner

100% Reported now in Installation and Bonds! 5 Auxiliaries have achieved 100% in Membership!

Reminders

11 Auxiliaries with Officers still needing Dues Paid. 19 Auxiliaries still showing as unpaid District Dues.

Thanks again for all you do to support the Veterans and families in Virginia.

Respectfully,

Patty Baskett

Maggie Myers

pbaskett85@yahoo.com

magmyer@yahoo.com



President's Special Project



Shema Peppers
8611 Seays Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22551
540-809-7701 speppers8312@gmail.com

Willing Warriors

501(c)(3), nonprofit organization

Vision: Through a community effort, serve as the Nation's leader in caring for our Willing Warriors and their families.

Mission: Provide cost-free retreat stays and programs that positively impact wounded, ill, and injured service members, disabled Veterans, and their families.

Location: 10613 Waterfall Road
Haymarket, Virginia 20169 - 2126

The Warrior Retreat at Bull Run is a scenic 37-acre property. Perfect for recovering Warriors to relax, bond and enjoy quality time with their families and battle buddies.

Programs Provided:

Warrior Family Stays
Visiting Chef Program
Home Away From Home Dinners.
Morale Injury Counseling.
PTSD Recovery Program
Financial Literacy.
Student Leadership Challenge.
Hope is Spelled 988 + 1 Operation, Save The Number.
Welcome Home: A Podcast For Veterans About Veterans By Veterans



Send Donations to Department Treasurer, put the Auxiliary # in memo of check.

Cathy Graham
9691 Lindenbrook St.
Fairfax, 22031-1132
CG12DC12@OUTLOOK.COM.

Report to: Shema Peppers
8611 Seays Rd. Spotsylvania, VA 22551
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Scholarships Program



ROSE HARPER

14436 Hupp Road * Timberville, VA * 22853

540-421-3333 * Rose.e.harper09@gmail.com



ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

BROTHERS & SISTERS, THE STUDENTS ARE BACK!

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOL FAMILIES THAT THEY HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION ON THE PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND KINDLY REMIND THEM THAT THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING ON OCTOBER 31, 2025.

****PLEASE REMEMBER TO SET A DATE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR WINNERS****

****PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP IS
OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT****

Continuing Education Scholarship

This Auxiliary scholarship is for members and their immediate family (who have been a member for at least 1 year) with financial needs.

- The applicant must be at least 21 years of age by **February 15, 2026**, and answer ALL the questions on the application.
- Submit an essay of at least 300 words or less (describing their goals and how this scholarship will allow them to reach their goals) to National Headquarters by **February 15, 2026**.
- The Scholarships are paid directly to the American College, vocational, technical or trade school of the winner's choice.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

- These two categories are open to high school students in grades 9 – 12.
- Students enrolled in a public, private, parochial, or home school programs in the United States, its territories and possessions or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in an overseas school.
- Foreign education students or national winners of previous Young American Patriotic Art Contest are NOT eligible.

Deadline: March 31, 2026, to local VFW Auxiliary

****ALL APPLICATIONS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTESTS ARE AVAILABLE IN MALTA****

More information is available on the following websites: VFW.org VFWAuxiliary.org VFWAUXVA.org

VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT



Gayle Meadows
5964 Western Run Rd.
Richmond, VA 23231
gmeadows.vfw9808aux@gmail.com
804-241-4958



Greetings – This month we will review ways we can support our Veterans and their families in mental health and suicide prevention.

Each day, an estimated 20 veterans commit suicide. You can help lower this number and make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis by educating yourself and others about the warning signs of suicide. For more information on the warning signs of suicide go to:

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/signs-of-crisis>

The Veterans Crisis Line serves Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them. The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 and is confidential crisis support for Veterans, service members, and their loved ones. Access is free and available 24/7, 365 days a year. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.

Veterans Crisis Line
Dial 988, Then Press 1

Connect with a real person qualified to support Veterans

Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services in Virginia

The Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) Program is a part of the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) services. SOS enhances understanding of suicide prevention and opioid addiction among service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) to build and improve community capacity and services. This program looks to build community support around getting the **right help, right now.**

For more information on the Virginia Veteran and Family Support SOS program, go to:

<https://www.dvs.virginia.gov/benefits-services/veteran-and-family-support/suicide-prevention-and-opioid-addiction-services>

A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!

Youth Activities



Our Department of Virginia, VFW Auxiliary works to teach our nation's Youth the skills to become responsible and dependable adults through serving our country, communities, Veterans, and service members. We engage our youth in positive volunteer experiences and believe every young person can find a place to serve that will improve their lives, as well as the lives they touch.

Become a Reading Buddy

- As summer ends and the school year begins, now is a great time to become a Reading Buddy for our youth. It is important to teach them about our heroes while helping them improve their reading comprehension.
- Auxiliary Members can assist our youth in becoming better readers.
- You can become a Reading Buddy by contacting schools, after-school programs, libraries, and other local youth groups.
- Schedule an auxiliary Reading Buddy event at your post (be sure to obtain proper permission and have the parents in attendance as well).
- Use technology to host a Reading Buddy event through Facebook, FaceTime or Zoom.

Awards for our Youth

RAP Cards – Can be distributed to youth caught in the act of Patriotism. These cards are available in the MALTA Member Resources.



Youth Act of Kindness Certificates

We encourage the recognition of outstanding young individuals who exemplify patriotism by actively supporting veterans, service members, and their families. Highlighting their dedication not only honors their efforts but also fosters a spirit of service and gratitude within our community



Information for the Youth Activities Program can be found at www.vfwauxiliary.com/youthactivities by scanning the QR code below, and it will take you to the Youth Activities Program information on the Auxiliary Website. Please reach out and let me know how I can assist you with any questions. I have enjoyed reading your reports.



Chairman:
Veneé Alicea
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Dumfries, VA 22026
703-599-3139
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Ways & Means

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 drbfwvaux@gmail.com

January's Winter Conference will be the next Ways & Means fundraising event. Please note there is a change from the September Communication clarifying there will NOT be any raffles at the Department Commander and President's Homecoming in October. Instead, those Holiday baskets will be added to the Silent Auction in May 2026.

In the meantime, if you have items to donate for the Winter Conference or Convention, I am happy to accept them anytime! Receiving donated items in advance of events helps me plan for themed baskets, price inventory, and hunt for unique items to fill in any gaps! I travel throughout Virginia extensively, so please do not hesitate to reach out and arrange a time to meet.

WAYS & MEANS FUNDRAISING EVENTS

October 11, 2025 - Department Commander & President's Homecoming - Dale City, VA

~~o 3 raffle baskets - No table sales~~ **NO WAYS & MEANS**

January 8-11, 2026 - Winter Conference - Harrisonburg, VA

○ Table sales and raffles

May 27 - 30, 2026 - Department Convention - Harrisonburg, VA

○ Table sales and silent auction

EVENT & DONATION NOTES

- Veterans, Auxiliary members, and local Virginia crafters! YOU are the Community we want to support! Please contact me directly with referrals to anyone (including yourself) interested in featuring their hand-crafted wares at our Ways & Means table to discuss details and logistics.
- **NEW!** ALL DONORS to Ways & Means throughout 2025-2026 will be entered into a drawing held at the Department Convention to win a \$25 shopping voucher to be used for any Ways & Means sale items! I will have tickets to be filled out when donating an item, so please be sure I know who you are and what you donated.

DONATIONS WELCOME!

WANTED

NOT WANTED

Gently Used VFW & Auxiliary Membership Items, new or vintage (Official Look, Hats, Bags, Pins, etc.)	Worn, stained, or visibly used items.
New or Gently Used Household décor, ladies, and men's accessories, or clothing items, pet items,	Very large, bulky, or heavy items (please contact me for clarifications)
New Vendor surplus or Going-Out-Of-Business items. (ex: Thirty-One, Princess House, Pampered Chef, etc.)	Toiletry liquids or perishable items (ex: Lotion, etc.)
New Silent Auction Basket filler items: snacks, beverages (alcohol or non-alcohol), arts, crafts, collectables, patriotic or military items	Anything Expired
Ideas for items YOU might want to see at our table!	

Please contact me with any questions, clarifications, or to arrange pick up/delivery of donations.

2025-2026 Department Communication

Visit our website
<https://vfwauxva.org>

for:
Updated Financial Tracker
Report Forms
Online Reporting
Updated Events
SOI Resources

I would like to have Department Communication sent
to me by MAIL each month for the 2025-2026 year.

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Zip	
Email:	
Phone #	
Auxiliary	

Send this form and a check for \$30.00.

Payable to VFW Auxiliary of Virginia

Send to:

Catherine M Graham, Department Treasurer
9691 Lindenbrook St
Fairfax, VA 22031-1132
703-319-0845
cg12dc12@outlook.com



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
VFW AUXILIARY**

Winter Council of Administration Meeting
January 8 - 11, 2026
Hotel Madison Shenandoah Conference Center
Harrisonburg Virginia
540-564-0200

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

1:00 PM	3:00 PM	Virginia Veterans Foundation Board Meeting	Madison Boardroom
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2026

10:00 AM	5:00 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf Center Foyer
10:00 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Audit (Treasurer and Audit Team)	Madison Boardroom
12:30 PM	2:30 PM	Microsoft 365 Training	Allegheny A,B &C
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Council Meeting	Allegheny A
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Charitable Gaming Laws & Regs	Allegheny A,B &C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	MOC Meeting and Degree Work	Shenandoah B
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Cornhole Tournament	Shenandoah B

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026

7:30 AM	8:30 PM	PDP Breakfast	Dolley Madison
8:00 AM	2:30 PM	VFW Headquarters Table Open	Conf. Center Foyer
8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Commanders Club Meeting	Shenandoah B
9:30 AM	12:00 PM	VFW Council of Administration Meeting	Shenandoah B
8:00 AM	12:00 PM	Post Benefits Advisor Training	Allegheny A,B &C
9:00 AM	12:30 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business/Program Presentation	Shenandoah A
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	VFW Riders Meeting	Allegheny A,B &C
1:30 PM	3:00 PM	MOCA Meeting	Shenandoah A
1:30 PM	2:30 PM	Membership & Recruiting Workshop	Allegheny A,B&C
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	Women's Veterans Forum	Allegheny A,B &C
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	VOD & PP BANQUET	Shenandoah A & B

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Joint Devotional Service	Shenandoah A
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TEACHER OF THE YEAR, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, AND PATRIOT'S PEN BANQUET TICKETS: \$55.00

Department Hospitality Room – Shenandoah C

(Tentative schedule subject to change)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DECEMBER 18TH

WINTER COUNCIL MEETING

January 8 – 11, 2026

Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center ~ Harrisonburg, Virginia

540-564-0200

\$129.00 Per night

(Hotel Group Rate Deadline is December 8th)

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BANQUET TICKET

\$55.00

**ALL TICKETS MUST BE PRE-PURCHASED. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS
SOLD AT THE WINTER COUNCIL MEETING.**

Dinner Menu

Marinated Pork Loin with Apple Cider Reduction

Served with:

Market Fresh Greens

Roasted Asparagus Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Freshly Bake Bread and Butter

Flourless Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Sauce

Coffee Regular and Decaffeinated Iced Tea Iced Water

RETURN THIS PORTION TO STATE HEADQUARTERS BY **DECEMBER 18, 2025** (NO EXCEPTIONS)

Check, Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard Accepted

Person placing the order (name) _____ Phone: _____

Please fill out completely for each person you are registering including Post number or Auxiliary number:

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Name: _____ Post/Aux: _____

Please charge my card: \$ _____ Name on Card: _____

Please Circle One: Discover American Express MasterCard Visa SIGNATURE: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____

Mail form to: State Headquarters, 403 Lee Jackson Highway, Staunton, VA 24401

You may also e-mail this form to: statehq@vfwva.org or fax it to 1-866-416-0586 if paying by Credit Card only

Pre-paid tickets will not be mailed to you; they will be available for pick up at registration.

Calling all VFW/Aux Women Veterans to Register for the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Register her service for free at womensmemorial.org

Our *Register* is a one-of-a-kind interactive database that records and preserves the names, service information, photographs and memorable experiences of each registered servicewoman.

The screenshot shows a registration form for CPT Jane Elizabeth Markham. On the left is a black and white photograph of her in military uniform. To the right of the photo, the form fields are filled with the following information:

- NAME:** OATES
- BRANCH:** Army WAC 1942-1945
- MEMBER ID:** 58095
- SERVICE:** Army Air WAC
- HIGHEST RANK:** CPT
- WHICH CONFLICTS:** World War II
- AWARDS & DECORATIONS:** Air Medal; Purple Heart; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal
- MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES:** (This section contains a large block of garbled, nonsensical text, likely a placeholder or a result of a scanning error.)

At the bottom of the form, there is a red banner with the text "WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL".

The *Register* records and preserves the history of the powerful women who have defended this country-both past and present.

From the earliest days of the nation, women have been serving alongside men to gain and preserve liberty, but it was difficult to find them in our history books. There was no repository of women's service to the United States. That all changed in April 1987.

Not long after legislation authorized the Women In Military Service For America Memorial and ten years before the Memorial would open to the public in 1997, the *Register* was created. Servicewomen and women veterans were invited to make their military experiences visible by "registering" their service. By completing a simple form with their dates of service, branch of service, awards and decorations, at least one memorable experience, and a picture in uniform, women took their rightful and visible place in history for all time. For the first time in American history, there was a place to learn about the extraordinary servicewomen who defend or have defended our country.

For more than 30 years, the Memorial has been permanently documenting military women's experiences and their impact on American, military and women's history. Visitors are invited to look up servicewomen in the *Register*, learn about their impact on our collective history, and purchase a print of individual profiles as a keepsake.

If you know a servicewoman or woman veteran, please take advantage of the FREE registration to ensure HER story joins hundreds of thousands of individual stories that make up our *Register*.

History is not complete until every military woman's story is told.

Let's get every VFW Woman Registered

For New Additions to the Register:

Register her service for free at
womensmemorial.org

As of	Mid September	Membership as of 9/21/25	Business Section														Reporting											
NR = Not Reported N/A = Not Attended			Install	Bond	Dist.	Officers	990	Donations		Audits		Dist Meet		SOI Training			Amer	Aux Otrch	B. P. NHM	Hist Media	Hosp.	Legis	Memb	Pres Spec Proj	Schlr	VFS	Youth	
Dist	Auxiliary	%			Dues Pd	Unpaid	N	VA Med	HH	1	2	1	2	Pres	Sec	Tres												
	1994	95.12%	X	X	N/A	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	W	Dist.	Dist.												
1	176	72.09%	X	X	Unpaid	Pres		X		X	X	X	X	Dept	Dist.	Dept			1	1								
1	3219	90.38%	X	X	Unpaid	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dept	Dept				1	1	1	1			1		
2	392	94.54%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Dept		1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1		
2	2582	100.00%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				1		1									
2	2894	88.89%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	W	Dept				1				1			1		
2	3160	89.94%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				1				1	1			1	1		
2	4411	67.29%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				1	1										
2	4809	96.63%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	W	Dept		1		1	1	1	1				1		
3	622	75.00%	X	X	X	Pres		X		X	X	X	X	N/A	Dept	NR												
3	637	77.87%	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dept	NR	1								1			
3	2239	67.65%	X	X	Unpaid	X			X	X	X	X	W	Dept	Dept	Dept												
3	4639	69.39%	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	Dist	NR	NR												
3	6364	80.75%	X	X	X	Sec			X	X	X	X	X	N/A	NR	NR												
3	7167	75.47%	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dept	Dept	1									1		
3	8046	76.74%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	Dist	NR	NR												
3	8529	79.01%	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	Dept	NR	NR												
3	9501	50.00%	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	Dept	Dept	Dept		1										
3	9808	86.53%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dept	NR	1		1							1		
3	10654	100.00%	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	Dept	NR	Dept												
3	10657	100.00%	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	Dist	NR	NR												
4	7059	59.38%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist	1						1					
4	7166	96.97%	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	N/A	Dist	Dist												
4	8163	82.76%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	W	Dist	Dist		1	1				1					
4	8759	36.11%	X	X	X	Pres /Sec	X			X	X	X	X	Dist	N/A	N/A												
4	9855	78.13%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	N/A	Dist												
4	9954	94.83%	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist									1			
5	647	53.25%	X	X	Unpaid	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	NR	NR	1		1		1	1				1		
5	7854	86.96%	X	X	Unpaid	Pres				X	X	X	X	Dist	NR	NR												
5	8243	65.52%	X	X	Unpaid	X	X			X	X	X	X	Dist	NR	NR												
6	776	34.78%	X	X	Unpaid	Sec	X		X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist	1						1			1		
6	1033	63.79%	X	X	Unpaid	Tres	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	NR	Dist	Dist	1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		
6	1264	80.81%	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist	1	1	1	1	1				1			
6	1841	94.12%	X	X	Unpaid	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1		

As of	Mid September	Membership as of 9/21/25	Business Section														Reporting											
NR = Not Reported N/A = Not Attended			Install	Bond	Dist.	Officers	990	Donations		Audits		Dist Meet		SOI Training			Amer	Aux Otrch	B. P. NHM	Hist Media	Hosp.	Legis	Memb	Pres Spec Proj	Schlr	VFS	Youth	
Dist	Auxiliary	%			Dues Pd	Unpaid	N	VA Med	HH	1	2	1	2	Pres	Sec	Tres												
7	621	52.83%	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist												
7	2447	70.37%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist												
7	8613	49.53%	X	X	X	Sec	X			X	X	X	X	Dist	N/A	Dist												
7	9292	23.08%	X	X	X	Pres/Sec/Tres		X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	N/A												
7	9660	89.47%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dept	N/A	Dist		1				1		1	1			
7	9760	80.80%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	Dist	N/A												
8	3103	94.00%	X	X	X	Sec		X	X	X	X	X	X	NR	Dept	NR	1		1		1		1					
8	7589	86.67%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dept	NR	NR	1		1	1	1	1			1	1		
8	12202	91.84%	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dept	Dept	1	1	1	1	1	1						
9	1115	90.59%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dept	Dept	1	1	1		1	1	1			1	1	
9	1184	61.29%	X	X	Unpaid	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	Dist.												
9	4667	88.89%	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	Dist.	1		1	1	1	1				1	1	
9	7726	92.31%	X	X	Unpaid	X				X	X	X	X	N/A	Dist.	N/A												
9	9696	62.50%	X	X	Unpaid	X				X	X	X	X	N/A	Dist.	Dist.												
10	609	90.48%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dist.	Dist.	1		1	1	1	1				1		
10	1177	93.33%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dist.	W	1	1			1	1			1	1		
10	1503	95.05%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	Dept	Dist.	Dist.				1		1						
10	3150	97.62%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	W	Dept	Dept	1											
10	7327	89.39%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	N/A	Dist.	Dist.												
10	7916	92.91%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	Dept	Not Appoint	N/A												
10	8469	100.00%	X	X	Unpaid	X				X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	W			1									
10	9274	75.00%	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	Dist.	N/A	N/A												
11	632	67.24%	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	Dist.												
11	3136	64.29%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	Dist.	1		1									
11	4204	83.33%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	W	Dist.	Dist.												
11	7814	90.00%	X	X	X	Sec	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	Dist.												
11	8644	100.00%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist.	Dist.	Dist.												
13	1827	69.64%	X	X	Unpaid	X			X	X	SEP	X	X	Dist	Dist	Dist												
13	8169	93.10%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Dist	W	Dist				1			1					
13	8947	83.64%	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	Dist	Dept	Dept	1		1								1	
13	10574	53.89%	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	Dept	Dist	Dept										1		