

# AUXILIARY

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA

VFWAUXVA.ORG

2025-2026

December



## QR Codes

Program QR Codes are used on just about everything. Members can use it as a talking point to explain about the VFW Auxiliary

*Unity Brings  
Victory*



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**From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring  
Veterans Who Keep Us Free.  
Unity Brings Victory.**

## WEBSITE

Check out the latest updates and reporting forms at: [www.VFWAUXVA.org](http://www.VFWAUXVA.org)



Presidents Message

# UNITY BRINGS VICTORY.

Hello Brothers and Sisters – I hope everyone enjoyed a few days of down time, eating, shopping, resting and do what makes you happy over the Thanksgiving holiday.

We all know it, but someday, it's a bit unreal that we are in December already!

I hope to see many of you in January at Winter Conference! I look forward to seeing what our Program Chairman have lined up for us – maybe a skit, a game, maybe some awards! Our National Representative will be 6<sup>th</sup> District Council Member, Tina Hicks, who represents VA and WV. Maybe she'll even bring a little snow with her – just a little!

## REMINDERS:

By now, all 990's should have been filed and accepted. If your Auxiliary or District has not completed this, please contact Department Treasurer Cathy Graham for assistance.

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Audits should have been completed by 30 NOV and submitted to Cathy Graham.

Per National – Dues of Officers at all levels must be paid by 31 DEC. You may renew in MALTA, or make payment to your Auxiliary or District Treasurer. Upon notification, National will relieve non-paid Officers. Please don't let this happen!

A couple of questions/concerns I received recently:  
Program Reporting Forms are available on the Department website [www.vfwauxva.org](http://www.vfwauxva.org). These are not in MALTA. You can also mail or scan and email your report forms to the Chairman. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them if you have questions.

Department Reps, please be sure to email a copy of your visit form to OA Chairman, Maggie, and Patty to ensure attendance is recorded.  
Lastly, I wish you and your family a blessed and joyful holiday season, in whichever way you celebrate. Remember to check on friends and family – it can be a difficult and sorrowful month for many folks.

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.



# Americanism

Thank you for all the work you do to support our veterans and our organization. I can see from your reports that you are promoting patriotism, teaching others about flag etiquette, and being involved in patriotic community events. I am looking forward to reading reports of your activities on Veterans Day. I have received 25 reports since our last communication. A total of 92 reports has been received from 32 Auxiliaries. District 2 is 100% reported with 28 received.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is coming soon. Plan an event for that day. Involve some young people. It is an opportunity to teach about the day and why it is important.

Ask the young people you know or partner with a school to have students make Christmas Cards for Veterans. Take the cards to veterans in a rehab center, a treatment center, or a VA Hospital near you.

## Chairman

Wandra Early  
212 Three Chopt Road  
Kents Store, VA 23084  
wearly1260@gmail.com  
(804)833-6746



For more information, refer to  
MALTA Member Resources.



## Auxiliary Outreach



This December, volunteer opportunities include helping with food banks and soup kitchens, sorting and distributing toys for programs like Toys for Tots, assisting homeless shelters, and physically participating in gift drives. You can also find local needs through volunteer centers, food banks, shelters, other charities and by directly contacting organizations.

**Qualifying activity:** Any activity that is approved at a regular meeting to assist a community organization with their function. Example: Auxiliary 1234 assisted Joe County food pantry by sorting, packing, and delivering food baskets to needy families. Members are providing their labor for an organization not affiliated with the VFW or Auxiliary.

**Non-Qualifying activity:** Hosting an event for the good of the community, collecting gifts, providing a meal. Example: Auxiliary 2345 held a toy drive for unfortunate children in Sally County. Members donated toys, money, and prepared and served a meal to volunteers. Members provided goods, and monetary donations to the community through their own event. This should be reported as community service.

**Awards for Auxiliaries:** Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that shares the most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event using #AuxiliaryOutreach during the current Program Year. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by Mar. 31, 2026



## Chairman

Beverly Abbott  
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# EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION CHAIRMAN DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF (COS)



**"You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf."**

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

PIP is a Performance Improvement Plan.

- This is the first year that this tool was developed and made available to the Auxiliary. It was created as a way to let an Auxiliary take responsibility for planning the "how," "who" and "when" to resolve problems.
- Taking ownership of a problem, setting goals, and mapping out a timeline results in a problem resolution plan that benefits the Auxiliary.
- More is accomplished when we are able to work things out for ourselves. That's the goal of a PIP – but with a mentor or mediator appointed to provide feedback and support.
- The Department President selects a person or team to aid in the decisions and discussion with the Auxiliary.
- The Auxiliary will be responsible for crafting a plan to become healthy again.
- January 2026 Communications will provide more detailed information on PIP.

Bottom line – our veterans benefit when we work smarter and together as a team which will mirror our Department President's Theme – UNITY BRINGS VICTORY.

**Chairman**  
**Patricia Jurgensen**  
**12781 Chatter Brook Dr**  
**Catharpin, VA. 20143-1032**  
**Email: [pjurgy@aol.com](mailto:pjurgy@aol.com)**  
**Cell: 703-380-3024**



## HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

### EDUCATE YOURSELF

- What can you do with your camera/phone?
- How to position your camera/phone correctly
- When to use the flash or not
- Editing photos
- Adjusting your camera/phone settings so they are best suited for the environment/subject.

### TIPS FOR TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS

- Be aware of surroundings and background – frame your picture.
- Make sure everyone's eyes are open – no closed eyes.
- Avoid angles that include backgrounds with objects that appear to stick out above a person's head.
- Avoid capturing individuals wearing clothing with offensive language.
- Avoid photographing while people are eating.
- Try different angles.
- Ask for advice from others who are good at photography.

AT THE WINTER COUNCIL IN HARRISONBURG, THREE (3) VFW AUXILIARIES WILL BE RECOGNIZED WITH AN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING AND HARD WORK PUBLISHING PICTURES, REELS, ETC. OF THEIR POST EVENTS. THE AWARDS WILL INCLUDE MONETARY PRIZES OF \$50, \$25, AND \$15.

### CAPTURING THE BEST PICTURE

- Keep a few details in mind:
- Think about how you will use the photograph (Facebook, website, newspaper, etc.) Print media require images that are larger files/higher resolution.
- Take more pictures than you think you will need; you never know which will turn out best.
- Photos should be clear and sharp.



**Bettina Lane**  
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# HOSPITAL PROGRAM

## Honoring and Supporting Our Veterans This Holiday Season

Dear Members,

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for your ongoing dedication to supporting our veterans in the hospital. The holidays can be a challenging time for many, especially those who are separated from their loved ones. Your compassion and generosity bring warmth and hope, helping to brighten spirits throughout our hospital community.

## Ways to Support Our Veterans During the Holidays

-There are numerous meaningful ways to show appreciation and support for hospitalized veterans this December:

- Send Holiday Cards: A heartfelt note can bring comfort and joy to a veteran spending the season in the hospital.
- Donate Gifts or Care Packages: Collect items such as toiletries, warm blankets, books, puzzles, or snacks for distribution.
- Volunteer Your Time: Check with your local VA hospital or non-VA hospital for opportunities to assist with holiday events or visit with veterans.
- Support Hospital Staff: Thank and help the dedicated staff who care for our veterans every day.

## Reporting Your Efforts

- As you carry out these wonderful acts of service, please remember to report your activities and contributions. Timely and detailed reporting ensures that all your hard work is recognized and allows us to share best practices with other members. This year, I am pleased to announce that at the Midwinter Conference, a prize of \$50 will be awarded to the Auxiliary with the most creative and effort-driven hospital program. Be sure to highlight your innovative approaches and dedication in your reports for a chance to be recognized!

Let's continue to inspire one another by sharing our successes and striving for excellence in service to our veterans.

Thank you for all that you do, and for your unwavering commitment to those who have served our country. Wishing you and your families a joyful and meaningful holiday season.

**VAVS** - Representatives, please remember to submit your Quarterly information to me as soon as possible.



**Chairman**  
Kristi Corbett  
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Spotsylvania, VA 22553  
540-623-0221  
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## LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

# REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!!

Elections and Thanksgiving are both finally behind! What a busy month we had!

Our work is not over. Virginia had a big turnover this election and now it's up to us to educate our new legislators. Drop them an email or a brief phone call and introduce yourself and let them know you will be sending them information about Veterans concerns.

That's why VFW Action Corp is so important. All the information you need is there along with a link for you to use.

If you haven't joined VFW Action Corp, then please do so. Please push this at your auxiliary meeting and report to me how many members you get signed up. I would love to report to our National Ambassador that Virginia is 100%.

We are our Veterans advocates! We need to campaign to our legislators their causes and concerns. Not just one or two of us but all of us. Our voices joined collectively as one, does make a difference!!

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

I wish you and your family a Blessed Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you at Winter Conference in January.

Until next month,

Liz Wilson  
Legislative Chairman  
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Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
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# Membership Program



NANCY KEARNEY  
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702-250-3787



As we enter the busy holiday season, now is a good time to call and check on members who haven't attended meetings or events in a long time. An Auxiliary wellness check with a thoughtful phone call, or a "thinking of you" card can be so meaningful, especially for those living alone. By remembering current members, we keep our auxiliaries healthy, happy, and growing.

Currently our Department is at 89.95% with renewals, only 926 from being 100%!!! Keep up the great work, we are almost there! Sharing our stories brings helpful ideas to other Auxiliaries. Please continue to send me your success stories and check Communications each month to see if your Auxiliary is in the "Spotlight."

## Friendly Reminders:

- Plan at least two recruiting events each year. Order Fact Sheets and applications for free by contacting VFWAuxiliary.org
- Mid-Winter Conference is around the corner. I hope to see many of you there. Exciting Membership awards will be presented.
- **The following Award Categories** will be drawn at the Conference, and the following requirements are needed to be entered.
- **AWARD #1:** Auxiliaries with one or more NEW Members joined by 12/31/2025.
- **AWARD #2:** Auxiliaries with one or more rejoined lost Members by 12/31/2025
- **AWARD #3:** Auxiliaries with one or more annual members converted to **Life Membership** by 12/31/2025.
- **AWARD #4:** Auxiliaries reaching **OVER 100%** in Membership by 12/31/2025



### This month we recognize: **Auxiliary 9501 District 3**

Recently Auxiliary 9501 held recruiting events at their local Volunteer Fire Department, they encouraged eligible family members to join. What a great idea bringing awareness to our community.

### **Way to Go Auxiliary 9501!**

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

From our home to yours... Happy Holidays!

*Happy Holidays to you and  
your Families!*

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



# PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT



*Special Project Chairman Shema  
Peppers, Department Secretary Jerry  
Miller,  
Director of Culinary Services Larry  
Zilliox and Department President Kelli  
Levitt*

*The retreat's primary goal is to offer  
wounded, ill and injured recovering  
warriors and disabled veterans a chance  
to take a break from their medical  
centers. Providing a respite from the  
physical and emotional challenges they  
may face. A tranquil stay for the  
warriors and their families.*

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**DONATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENT TREASURER, PUT AUXILIARY # IN MEMO OF CHECK.**

**SEND REPORT INTO CHAIRMAN WITH DONATION INFORMATION.**

**REPORT REPORT REPORT  
REMEMBER THIS IS AN OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY REQUIREMENT**



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

# Scholarships

Your Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy should all have been received, judged and winners sent on to District for judging. Please set aside a date in January to recognize and celebrate your winners.

**Please remember that the following deadlines are approaching after the first of the New Year.**

## ➔ 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.
- 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 2 categories is 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 dependent of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas school.
- Foreign education student or national winners of previous Young American Patriotic Art Contest are NOT eligible.

### **Deadline:**

March 31, 2026, to local VFW Auxiliary

Yes, I know that everyone is extremely busy with the approaching Holidays. I want to remind everyone to Remember the reason for the Season. Also, during ALL the hustle and bustle of the Holidays, to PLEASE remember our Veterans. They are the ones who gave of their time and some with their very lives. Without our Veterans and their sacrifices, we would not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving or Christmas.

To All; My husband and I wish the Happiest and Safest of Holidays.

**ROSE HARPER**  
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# VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

**Chairman**

Gayle Meadows

5964 Western Run Rd

Richmond VA 23231

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804-241-4958

The Holiday Season has arrived. As we are getting ready for Christmas with shopping, meal planning and hosting family and friends, let's not forget our Veterans and active-duty military families.

Some suggestions for an Auxiliary or as an individual are:

- Send care packages and/or Christmas cards to a unit on deployment.
- Visit and take meals to a military post near you for those who could not go home for the Holidays.
- Invite a Veteran who may live alone to your Holiday gathering.
- Take a meal to a Veteran or active-duty family near you.
- Deliver a Holiday meal to a Veteran homeless shelter.
- Visit your local VA Hospital or assisted living facility.



During this Holiday Season - Count your blessings and then share your blessings with those in need.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!



## Youth Activities



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*We hope everyone enjoys the holidays with their family and friends!*

As we celebrate this special season, here are a few ways our youth can stay involved and support our veterans and military families:

- **Christmas Crafts with Veterans**  
Children can join veterans at the Post or local community center to make Christmas crafts and decorations.
- **Holiday Stories, Carols & Community Events**  
Share holiday stories, sing carols, and take part in community holiday events. Youth can also volunteer to help assemble holiday care packages for deployed service members.
- **Supporting Military Families**  
Assisting with local programs that provide Christmas meals or gifts. Youth can help with collection, wrapping, and distribution.



Thank you for the amazing Youth Activities reports that are being submitted.

Your continued dedication makes a real difference in the lives of our veterans, service members, and their families.



Chairman:  
Veneé Alicea  
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# 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.

## 2026 Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual

The VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual 2026 is now available in MALTA under Member Resources. Note: The hard copy book will be available in the VFW Store soon

## 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](mailto:vfwauxiliaryva@gmail.com).

## Officer Roster Change Updates

District 6 Treasurer, Lauralyn Sims, 540-725-8675, [Lauralynis@cox.net](mailto:Lauralynis@cox.net)

Secretary Auxiliary 776, Melanie Butler, 540-449-3626, [Melaniedb84@gmail.com](mailto:Melaniedb84@gmail.com)

Secretary Auxiliary 9274, Tara McBride, 571-296-5427, [Tara.c.mcbride@dfsco.com](mailto:Tara.c.mcbride@dfsco.com)

Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

There seems to be some confusion about the Outstanding Auxiliary tracking report. So, we want to take this opportunity to go over in detail how it is populated and reported. Population is the critical component; the information comes to Patty and me from several sources, and we compile it into our spreadsheet.

**Membership:** Pulled directly from Malta a few days before submission to Department for communications. The pull date is noted in top left-hand corner of the report.

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# *Outstanding Auxiliary*

## ***Business Requirements***

**Installation:** Report pulled from Malta and provided to OA Chairmen.

**Bond:** Report pulled from Malta and provided to OA Chairmen.

**District Dues:** District Treasurers Report on whether Auxiliary's have paid District Dues by 9/30/25. All emails need to be sent to both Maggie and Patty.

**Officers Paid Dues:** Report pulled from Malta and provided to OA Chairmen.

**Donations/Tax Filing/Audits:** Listed below are pulled from Department Treasurers Financial Tracker sent out periodically during the month.

- ·VA Medical Donation
- ·H & H Donation
- ·990 N
- ·Audits

**District Meetings:** District Secretaries Reports to OA Chairmen on each Auxiliary attendance at each District meeting. All emails need to be sent to both Maggie and Patty.

**District SOI's:** District Secretaries Report on District SOI attendance of each Auxiliary President, Secretary and Treasurer to the OA Chairmen. All emails need to be sent to both Maggie and Patty.

## ***Program Requirements***

**Program Chairman:** Submit to Department Secretary by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month their tracker form. This is then sent to OA Chairmen Maggie Myers and Patty Baskett for updating the OA tracking.

If Reports are in transit or miss getting logged, they will be on the following months report. If you have sent in your report and do not see it reported within a two-month cycle, reach out the Program Chairman to confirm they have received the report. Always keep a copy of the report for the Auxiliary record until at least you know it is showing reported.



## Clarifications:

Tracking standings for any auxiliaries is only done by these resources for consistency. Any emails sent, calls made, text messages sent from members or officers will not be logged with the OA chairmen for any Auxiliary.

Membership sent into Department for processing is not updated on OA report until it is recognized in Malta. For Membership %'s or Officers paid. Left hand corner of the OA report – Dated for when membership is pulled from Malta and when other items are documented through dates. Again, any questions please direct them to the OA Chairmen.

There was a transitional period for the Presidents Special Project and updates were not sent between the two chairmen. It was added to the OA report as a last-minute decision. Chairman will have the reporting updated by the December report.

If an Auxiliary has any concern about accuracy of the OA report, please send their concerns directly to Maggie and Patty and it will be researched asap, and a response will be issued. Corrections will be made based on updates to OA tracker, Chairman's confirmation of receipt of reports or confirmation of corrections to financial tracker. If there is any need for Department President to weigh in, we will reach out to Kelli at the appropriate times.

Respectfully,

Maggie Myers  
[Magmyer@yahoo.com](mailto:Magmyer@yahoo.com)

Patty Baskett  
[Pbaskett85@yahoo.com](mailto:Pbaskett85@yahoo.com)

## Ways & Means

### WAYS & MEANS FUNDRAISING EVENTS

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**

Winter Conference is the next Ways & Means fundraising event with plenty of items to shop for between sessions!

I will also be accepting any items you may have for donation to be used at our Department Convention. Receiving donated items in advance of events helps me plan for the themed silent auction baskets, price inventory, and hunt for unique items to fill in any gaps! Please reach out if you have any questions.

### 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

<b>Gently Used</b> VFW & Auxiliary Membership Items, new or vintage (Official Look, Hats, Bags, Pins, etc.)	<b>NOT WANTED</b> Worn, stained, or visibly used items.
<b>New or Gently Used</b> Household décor, ladies, and men's accessories. or clothing items, pet items,	Very large, bulky, or heavy items (please contact me for clarifications)
<b>New</b> Vendor surplus or Going-Out-Of-Business items. (ex: Thirty-One, Princess House, Pampered Chef, etc.)	Toiletry liquids or perishable items (ex: Lotion, etc.)
<b>New</b> Silent Auction Basket filler items: snacks, beverages (alcohol or non-alcohol), arts, crafts, collectables, patriotic or military items	Anything Expired
<b>Ideas</b> 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.

# VFW Department of Virginia Auxiliary



Thank you for being a valued part of our Auxiliary family. Your support helps us extend care, compassion, and resources to veterans and their families in need.

**VFW Department of  
Virginia Auxiliary**

[www.vfwauxva.org](http://www.vfwauxva.org)

