



Virginia Communications



September
2026



Department President, Kathy Voss

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

THE DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA IS OFF TO A GREAT START! THANK YOU TO ALL AUXILIARIES! 100% SUBMITTED THEIR INSTALLATION REPORTS BY THE DEADLINE AND WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY WITH OTHER OBLIGATIONS!

AUXILIARY TREASURERS:

THIS IS A REMINDER TO ALL TREASURERS TO PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOUR AUXILIARY DUES ARE CORRECT IN MALTA.

DISTRICT /AUXILIARIES BONDS:

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT AND TREASURER MUST BE BONDED BY **AUGUST 31, 2026**. THE BOND CAN BE PAID BY THE TREASURER THROUGH MALTA. IF YOU WISH TO MAIL A CHECK, THE BOND APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE ON MALTA. IF NOT PAID BY **AUGUST 31, 2026**, THE DEPARTMENT MUST SUBMIT FOR SUSPENSION BY THAT DATE TO ALLOW TIME TO MENTOR AND REJUVENATE THE AUXILIARY, PER SEC 814-TRUSTEE, PAGE 89.

DISTRICT DUES:

ACCORDING TO BY-LAWS SECTION 506-DISTRICT DUES:

- DELEGATES ASSEMBLED AS A DISTRICT CONVENTION MAY ASSESS ANNUAL DUES NOT TO EXCEED \$1.00 PER MEMBER, PER AUXILIARY.
- BASED ON THE JUNE 30 MEMBERSHIP OF THE PRECEDING YEAR.
- DUES CANNOT BE ASSESSED PER AUXILIARY ON A FLAT RATE BASIS.
- DUES SHOULD BE REMITTED TO THE DISTRICT TREASURER BY **SEPTEMBER 30** ANNUALLY.

AUXILIARY AUDITS

ACCORDING TO SEC. 814-AUDIT DUE DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST QUARTER-JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH.

AUDIT COMPLETED BY APRIL 30 ANNUALLY.

ACCEPTED AUDIT SENT TO DEPARTMENT TREASURER NO LATER THAN MAY 31, ANNUALLY.

SECOND QUARTER-APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE.

AUDIT COMPLETED BY JULY 31 (BOTH OUTGOING AND INCOMING TREASURER AND TRUSTEES SHOULD BE PRESENT).

ACCEPTED AUDIT SENT TO DEPARTMENT TREASURER NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31, ANNUALLY.

THIRD QUARTER-JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER.

AUDIT COMPLETED BY OCTOBER 31 ANNUALLY.

ACCEPTED AUDIT SENT TO DEPARTMENT TREASURER NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, ANNUALLY.

FOURTH QUARTER-OCTOBER, NOVEMBER DECEMBER.

AUDIT COMPLETED BY JANUARY 31 ANNUALLY.

ACCEPTED AUDIT SENT TO DEPARTMENT TREASURER NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 28, ANNUALLY.

**** REMEMBER BONDS BEING PAID, ATTENDANCE AT DISTRICT MEETINGS AND AUDITS BEING INTO THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER ON TIME, ARE PART OF THE OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY REQUIREMENTS. ****

I ENCOURAGE AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS TO REVIEW THE PROGRAM TRACKING REPORT TO ENSURE YOUR AUXILIARY HAS BEEN GIVEN CREDIT FOR YOUR REPORTS. IF YOU FIND AN ERROR, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE DEPARTMENT PROGRAM CHAIRMAN. WE ARE ONLY HUMAN AND SOMETIMES WE MISS SOMETHING.

THANK YOU ALL FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND YOUR COMMUNITY. TO ALL THE AUXILIARY MEMBERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA...WE ARE HERE FOR YOU. IF ANY OF YOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE, PLEASE REACH OUT. WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY WE CAN. WE ARE JUST A PHONE CALL/EMAIL/TEXT MESSAGE AWAY. IT IS OUR GOAL TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR GOALS.

RESPECTFULLY,

Kathy Voss



District Meetings: 3Q 2026

SECTION 810A – Auxiliary President, Bullett J, Page 72 Podium Edition By-laws & Ritual 2024: **Assure that the President or their representative attend all properly called District Conventions or meetings.**

District

1	Date	8/15/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 3219 122E Mellen Street Hampton, VA 23663
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Cara Buckley</u>
VFW Representative		Mark Maggio

2	Date	8/29/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	9:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 392, 2408 Bowland Pkwy, VA Beach, VA 23454
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Kathy Voss</u>
VFW Representative		Doug Hoffman

3	Date	8/29/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 9808 (Bingo Hall) 7168 Flag Lane Mechanicsville, VA 23111
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Jamie Stewart</u>
VFW Representative		Patrick Lane

4	Date	8/8/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	11:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 8163 7488 Hwy 15N Clarksville, VA 23927
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Susan Dinon</u>
VFW Representative		Charles Bush

5	Date	8/22/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 647 275 VFW Dr./4757 Riverside Dr. Danville, VA 24541
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Susan Dinon</u>
VFW Representative		Todd Taylor

6	Date	8/22/2026
	Lunch	After Meeting
	Meeting	9:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 1841 4902 Roanoke Road Daleville, VA 24083
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Kathy Voss</u>
VFW Representative		Paul Smith

District

7	Date	8/8/2026
	Lunch	After Meeting
	Meeting	Joint Meeting Starts @ 11:15 AM
	Place	VFW Post 9760 425 S. Buckmarsh St. (Route 340), Berryville, VA 22611
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>No Rep</u>
VFW Representative		Doug Hoffman

8	Date	9/19/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 12218 (Great Mane Brewery), 6620 James Madison Hwy, Haymarket, VA 20169
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Kathy Voss</u>
VFW Representative		Randy Coker

9	Date	9/26/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	Registration at 9:00 AM. Meeting at 10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 7726 Grayson, 115 Klondike RD, Independence, VA 24348
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Kathy Voss</u>
VFW Representative		Charles Bush

10	Date	8/15/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 1503 14631 Minnieville Road Dale City, VA 22193
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>No Rep</u>
VFW Representative		Tom Gimble

11	Date	8/29/2026
	Lunch	—
	Meeting	10:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 632 450 Waterman Dr Harrisonburg, VA 22802
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Susan Dinon</u>
VFW Representative		Charles Bush

13	Date	8/15/2026
	Lunch	Lunch will be Served
	Meeting	11:00 AM
	Place	VFW Post 1827 1170 River Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901
<u>Auxiliary Representative</u>		<u>Betty Gimble</u>
VFW Representative		Paul Smith





CHAIRMAN: GAYLE MEADOWS
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AMERICANISM

I am honored to work with Department of Virginia President Kathy Voss and the Department of Virginia Auxiliaries as Americanism Chairman for 2026-2027.

The VFW Auxiliary has promoted Americanism since its founding in 1914, establishing it as one of the foundations of the organization. In 1927, the leaders of America's major veteran organizations, at a conference in Washington DC, defined Americanism as:

"Americanism is an unflinching love of country; Loyalty to its institutions and ideals; Eagerness to defend it against all enemies; Undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity."

As VFW Auxiliary members, we are challenged to show our patriotism not only at our Post and Auxiliary functions, but in our communities. Core objectives for Americanism this year are:

- **Flag Education** ● **Celebrate Patriotic Holidays**
- **Promote Patriotism** ● **POW/MIA Remembrance**

Americanism POP Signs

This year our National Americanism Ambassador, Jessica Gardner, has a goal for Auxiliaries to promote patriotism through the use of POP displays. POP stands for Point-of-Purchase display, a marketing tool used to promote products and inspire people to act. Americanism is our product and by incorporating symbols like the American Flag, bald eagles, the Statue of Liberty, and other patriotic imagery we can use the POP display to promote Americanism. It can be a physical sign or a post on social media. The goal is to catch people's attention within a few seconds because most won't take the time to read a brochure or listen to our pitches. Make them fun. Be creative.



MILITARY BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

MILITARY RESERVE & AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS

US AIR FORCE – SEPTEMBER 18, 1947
US ARMY NATIONAL GUARD – DECEMBER 13, 1636
US NAVY – OCTOBER 13, 1775
US CIVIL AIR PATROL – DECEMBER 1, 1941
US MARINE CORPS – NOVEMBER 10, 1775
US SPACE FORCE – DECEMBER 20, 2019

RED (REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED) SHIRT FRIDAY
– **EVERY FRIDAY**

PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS & RECOGNITION DAYS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2026

V-J (VICTORY IN JAPAN) DAY – SEPTEMBER 2
GOLD STAR MOTHER'S AND FAMILY DAY – SEPT. 27
PATRIOT DAY – SEPTEMBER 11
VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11
POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY – SEPTEMBER 18
PEARL HARBOR DAY – DECEMBER 7

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AMERICANISM AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN AT THE END OF THE YEAR FOR:

- MOST OUTSTANDING FLAG EDUCATION PROMOTION
- MOST OUTSTANDING EVENT FOR PATRIOTIC DAYS OR BRANCH OF SERVICE BIRTHDAYS
- MOST OUTSTANDING POP PROMOTION
- BEST OVERALL AMERICANISM PROMOTION

REMEMBER – REPORT - REPORT - REPORT YOUR POP SIGNS & OTHER ACTIVITIES





CHAIRMAN: JOHANNA HEBERT

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Buddy POPPY

The Buddy® Poppy continues to stand as a powerful symbol of sacrifice, remembrance, and the enduring commitment to honor veterans and those who never returned home. The Program plays a vital role in **educating** communities, supporting **veterans' welfare**, and **preserving the legacy** represented by the Poppy. This year's National Buddy® Poppy Ambassador, Donna Marie King, shared a deeply personal story that reflects the heart of this mission. Her grandfather, a young German immigrant who fought in World War II, used his knowledge of German to listen to enemy movements from nearby foxholes. After returning home, he attended a parade in New York City where a small boy handed out real Buddy® Poppies. He preserved two of them in glass frames as a tribute "to all the men who didn't make it home." Years later, he passed one of those framed poppies to his son, who then passed it to Donna Marie.

National Auxiliary President Donna Mills also expressed the shared purpose that guides our work, stating, **"We joined this terrific organization with a common purpose of honoring and advocating for our veterans. It is our way of thanking them for sacrificing so much for us."** Her message reinforces the importance of our efforts throughout the Department of Virginia as we continue to promote awareness, education, and engagement.

Education remains the foundation of this year's Program. Auxiliaries are encouraged to conduct school visits with proper approval, invite veterans to speak to students, create ageappropriate presentations, and develop interactive learning activities. Children should understand the Buddy® Poppy as clearly as they understand the American Flag, ensuring that future generations recognize its significance. Increasing Buddy® Poppy distribution also strengthens community awareness. Auxiliaries are urged to host distribution tables at community events, partner with local businesses, engage youth groups and volunteers, and share the meaning of the Poppy with every donation received. Creative displays play an important role in telling the story of the Buddy® Poppy and honoring the veterans it represents. Participation in the **VFW Display Contest** is encouraged, with displays incorporating historical elements, veteran stories, and educational components that spark conversation and deepen understanding. Donna Marie King also encourages Auxiliaries to explore new ideas such as Buddy® Poppy trivia nights, community display challenges, and youthfocused activities that expand visibility and strengthen community connection. **Let's be sure to SWAP (Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects) with each other.**

As Department Buddy® Poppy Chairman, I am committed to supporting Auxiliaries across Virginia in promoting, educating, and honoring the legacy of the Buddy® Poppy. Together, we uphold the memory of those who served and ensure future generations understand the significance of this symbol.

Yours in service,
Johanna Hebert





CHAIRMAN: BETTY GIMBLE
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CHIEF OF STAFF/ EXTENSION

THE NEW YEAR HAS STARTED, AND WE ARE OFF TO A GOOD START WITH TWO SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION. I HOPE YOU WERE ABLE TO ATTEND ONE OF THEM.



WE ARE WORKING WITH SEVERAL POSTS ON ORGANIZING A NEW AUXILIARY. WE ARE EXTREMELY EXCITED ABOUT THIS, BUT WE ALSO WANT TO WORK WITH OUR EXISTING AUXILIARIES TO KEEP THEM STRONG AND FLOURISHING. I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE HEARD MANY TIMES THAT THE OLD SAYING “THAT’S THE WAY WE ALWAYS DID IT” SHOULD BE GONE AND FORGOTTEN. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE **ALL MEMBERS KNOW THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO THE AUXILIARY** AND ONE WAY TO DO THIS IS TO MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME AND LISTEN TO THEIR IDEAS. ONE SUGGESTION IS WHEN YOU APPOINT YOUR CHAIRMEN FOR THIS YEAR, ALSO APPOINT A CO-CHAIRMAN SO THEY CAN WORK TOGETHER. BE OPEN TO NEW PROJECTS AND IDEAS, YOU MAY FIND A NEW WAY TO HELP YOUR AUXILIARY.



WE FIND OURSELVES SITTING WITH OUR FRIENDS AT A MEETING, BUT WE SHOULD MAKE A NEW MEMBER FEEL WELCOME. WE SHOULD TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER. SOME MEMBERS MAY HESITATE TO SPEAK UP AT A MEETING, BECAUSE THE SAME PEOPLE DO ALL THE TALKING. **EACH MEMBER SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.**

SOME MEMBERS COMPLAIN BECAUSE THE MEETING TAKES TOO LONG. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE AN AGENDA SO THAT THEY CAN KEEP THE MEETING MOVING. AUXILIARY OFFICERS SHOULD ALSO KNOW THEIR ROLES AND DUTIES BECAUSE THIS WILL ALSO HELP KEEP THE MEETING MOVING.

ONE OF THE BIG COMPLAINTS IS THERE IS A LACK OF RESPECT FOR OTHER MEMBERS AND TOO MUCH GOSSIP. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT THE POST AND OUR VETERANS. REMEMBER IN YOUR OBLIGATION TO THIS AUXILIARY, IT STATES THAT **“YOU WILL NEVER WRONG OR DEFRAUD THIS ORGANIZATION NOR A MEMBER THEREOF”**. BE DIPLOMATIC AND FAIR TO EACH MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION,

IF YOUR AUXILIARY IS STRUGGLING OR NEEDS INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ME.



CHAIRMAN: PAMELA KOTZ

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HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS

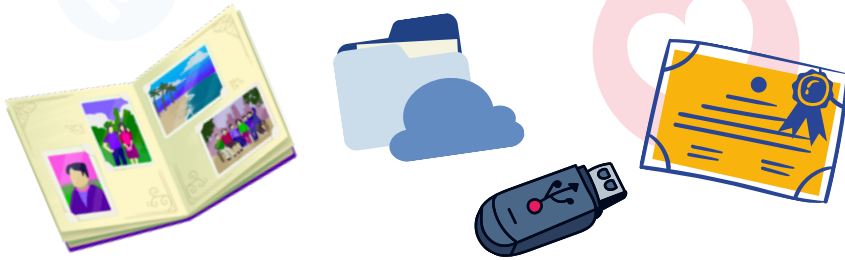
We are off and running for the 2026–2027 year! I know you will all make it as wonderful as you always do.

The Historian & Media Relations Program keeps our Auxiliary's **history** alive. Always include the five W's—who, what, where, when, and why. These questions provide a structured framework for gathering, organizing, and reporting **history** comprehensively, giving factual information the narrative it deserves.

As Auxiliary Historian, you will compile the memories and events of your year in chronological order. Enlist your members to help! You will also promote the events and projects your Auxiliary participates in so the community can see how you support veterans, service members, their families, and communities.

There are many ways to preserve and share your Auxiliary's **history**—photographs, memorabilia, newspaper articles, and videos. Social media opens even more possibilities: digital slideshows, reels, and short videos. Try Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, or TikTok.

Don't forget your Auxiliary's **past history**. Digitize stored certificates, awards, photographs, and more for future generations. As materials accumulate over the years, reliable storage becomes essential. Consider iCloud, Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, flash drives, or external hard drives.



The most important thing to remember: **have fun** and make it interesting! Enjoy sharing your **Auxiliary's story** with others. I look forward to working with you all this year.

Valuable resources available in Malta include:

- The VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide
- Local and National Talking Points
- Adult and Youth Release Photos
- Sample Speeches
- Website and Social Media/ Facebook Info
- Emblem Branding Center Information
- Sample Press Releases
- PowerPoint and Letter Templates
- Photography Tips





CHAIRMAN: DINAH VINER DEVINS DOYLE
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HOSPITAL

Hello Brothers and Sisters! I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying time with friends and family.

Make it a September to Remember!!!

Dates to remember:

- Friday, September 11th – **Patriots Day (9/11 Remembrance)**
- Friday, September 18th – **U.S. Air Force Birthday**
- Friday, September 18th – **National POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- Sunday, September 27th – **Gold Star Mother's and Family Day**
- Tuesday, September 29th – **National VFW Day**



Hospital Program Priorities: This Program Year, our goal is to clearly define our priorities so every member understands where we can make the greatest impact. By focusing on these key areas, we will strengthen our commitment to serving veterans.

• Health Care

- Support exceptional health care that improves veterans' health and well-being.
- Promote programs and services that enhance the comfort, dignity, and quality of life of veterans receiving care.
- Remember the unique needs of women veterans by helping provide personal care items, such as shampoo, conditioner, and nail polish, so they can enjoy hospital beautician services.



• Recreational Programs



- Work directly with patients participating in recreational therapy and ward activities.
- Plan and participate in activities that honor and celebrate veterans on both traditional and non-traditional holidays.
- Create meaningful opportunities for hospitalized veterans to feel connected, appreciated, and engaged throughout the year.

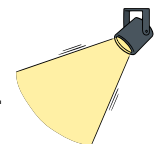


• Volunteering

- Volunteer at VA hospitals in any capacity where assistance is needed.
- Ensure no veteran is forgotten, especially those without family or regular visitors.
- Encourage your Auxiliary to send greeting cards to VA hospitals, particularly for Veterans Day, to remind hospitalized veterans they are remembered and appreciated.
- Work together to brighten a veteran's day through acts of kindness, compassion, and service, helping make their recovery journey a little easier.



*Next month I will be **sharing and highlighting** Auxiliaries Reports that I have received.



Thank you for all that you do. If you need assistance, please contact me.

Scan this QR Code and it will take you to the Hospital Program Information





2026-2027 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

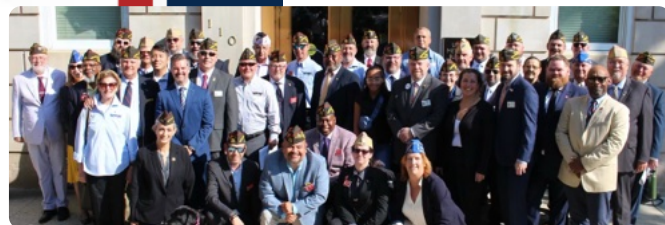
Legislative Chairman: Cara Buckley

Email: cbuckley.aux@vfwva.org Cell: (254)466-5840 PO Box 1592 Prince George VA 23875



QR Code to
VFW Auxiliary Legislative

*Your Voice. Their Future.
Advocacy in Action.*



Advocacy in Action: Protecting Earned Benefits

Today, the VFW is demonstrating exactly why legislative advocacy matters through its response to the proposed **Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237/S. 4744)**. The legislation contains many important provisions supported by the VFW, including the **Major Richard Star Act**, strengthened mental-health protections, and expanded support for surviving families. However, the VFW strongly opposes provisions that would help pay for these programs by reducing future veterans' disability compensation through changes affecting ratings for tinnitus and obstructive sleep apnea.

According to VA estimates cited by the VFW, these changes could reduce disability compensation payments by approximately \$57 billion over ten years and affect as many as 1.5 million veterans. The message behind the VFW's advocacy is simple:

We cannot ask one generation of veterans to pay for the benefits of another. Current disability ratings would remain protected, but future veterans—including those serving our nation today—could receive less compensation for service-connected disabilities under the proposed changes. This is why our advocacy matters. The VFW has called upon members, Auxiliary members, veterans, families, and supporters to **contact Congress and speak out.**

Through **Action Alerts**, emails, telephone calls, and direct engagement with lawmakers, advocates across the country are reminding Congress of its obligation to **Honor the Contract** and protect earned veterans' benefits.



**Auxiliary Members
participated in the
advocacy day on the
hill in July 2026**

Protecting Earned Benefits:

The freedoms we enjoy today were secured through the sacrifices of those who wore our nation's uniform. As members of the VFW Auxiliary, it is our responsibility to ensure that their voices continue to be heard long after the battle has ended.

Now It's Virginia's Turn to Take Action

Together, we can educate our communities, empower our members, and advocate for the issues that matter most. By promoting the VFW National Legislative Priority Goals, participating in Legislative Days, subscribing to Action Corps Weekly, responding to Action Alerts, and engaging with local, state, and federal lawmakers, we become the voice for those who have served.

I challenge every Auxiliary in the Department of Virginia to embrace the Legislative Program this year.

Designate a Legislative Ambassador. Attend a town hall meeting. Host a legislative awareness event. Respond to an Action Alert. Contact your representatives. Most importantly, share the stories of our veterans, service members, military families, and survivors. Behind every bill, every vote, and every policy decision are real people whose lives are affected by the decisions made by our elected officials. Advocacy does not require a title. It requires a voice—and the willingness to use it.

ACTION!

One Voice. One Action. One Difference.

Together, we can ensure that the promises made to America's veterans are promises kept.



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MEMBERSHIP



STRONGER TOGETHER

Every **MEMBER** brings something special



Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone is doing well! This month, I would like to spend a little time talking about something that keeps our **Auxiliary strong** - our members.

Each of us joined for a reason, and every member brings something valuable to our Auxiliary family. Some enjoy volunteering, some love cooking or crafting, and others are wonderful at welcoming new people and bringing everyone together. Whatever our talents may be, there is a place for each of us.

For 102 years, members before us have worked hard to support our veterans and their families. Now it is our turn to continue that **tradition** and make sure the Auxiliary remains **strong** for future generations.

RETAINING members does not have to be complicated. Sometimes it begins with a phone call, an invitation to breakfast, or simply asking someone to help with a project. When members feel included, appreciated, and connected, they are more likely to remain involved.

🔗🔗🔗🔗🔗🔗🔗🔗
This month, reach out to an Auxiliary Member. Share a meal, enjoy some fellowship, and remind our Brothers and Sisters how important they are to our  Auxiliary family.

Together, we can keep our membership **strong** - and have a little **fun** along the way! 

RECRUITER CONTEST | \$100 AWARD

FIRST recruiter with 20 new members by December 31 receives \$100 in January.

RECRUIT | **RETAIN** | **RENEW**





CHAIRMAN: DANA RIVERA
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This month we will be learning about where the National Home is located, who is eligible to live there, and how we can support the home.

As we take a look at how important family is to us all, it isn't always easy for some of our Veteran's families, and widowed families. Located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan the VFW National Home was established in 1925, 101 years ago. It began as a beacon of hope to help widows and orphans find more than a shelter. Initially there were house mothers that cared for orphaned children. It is a place to provide **housing, education, career counseling, childcare, resources and a community of help**. Its mission is to provide **hope, stability and opportunity**. This has happened due to the love of VFW posts, Auxiliaries, Military Order of the Cootie and volunteers.



Due to changing standards, the home now welcomes **grandchildren of Veterans** and two parent families to live on campus. These changes came about as the Board recognized that strengthening the entire family creates the greatest opportunity for lasting success.

Every family must apply for assistance with the National Home. It begins with a **personalized plan** for success where they must set goals to build confidence, stability and independence. They work with a **case manager** to achieve financial, personal and family goals. The children are giving the opportunity to be kids and not be stressed about the instability of their past. The children have the opportunity to raise animals (bees, turtles, pigs and rabbits). They participate in 4H events at the county fair.



Did you know that we have a home there? **The Virginia Home!** You can ask for your donations to be made to the Virginia Home, or other places in the community such as the day care center, education center, gym, store and more. If you donate, send me a report. My goal is that all Auxiliaries will donate to the VFW National Home this year. You can also become a lifetime member of the National Home for \$100.00. This can be done on paper or online. This could be a great gift to an outgoing President of your auxiliary. My Auxiliary donates when we lose a member if they haven't specified a donation request in their obituary.



At our winter conference I ask you to bring your best promotion regarding the National Home. There will be a monetary award, and winners will be forwarded to National for an additional award. I want Virginia to win. More info to come but think about how you can make a display showing what and where the home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the **VFW National Home**.





CHAIRMAN: ROSE HARPER
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SCHOLARSHIP



2026-2027 THEME:

"WHAT A VETERAN TAUGHT ME ABOUT AMERICA"

It is that time of year again, the start of a new program year. It is our goal to help our veterans in any all ways possible. Even though Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen are not an Auxiliary program, it is our job as members of the Auxiliary to do everything we can to help our VFW comrades in promoting and supporting their programs.

Our purpose is to encourage all students to reach their full potential. At the same time, we are increasing our awareness of the VFW and its Auxiliaries in their communities, while supporting our students. These programs will help many students and their families with opportunities that might not otherwise have.



Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen both have a deadline to local VFW Post of October 31, 2026.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



- Open to all students in grades 9 – 12
- Must include both written and audio essay
- Completed application



PATRIOTS PEN



- Open to all students in grades 6 – 8
- Must be 300 – 400-word essay with
- Completed application

Note: Foreign exchange students, students 20 years or older, former winners, or 1st Place Department Winners are not eligible.



Next Deadline will be for Continuing Education which is due on February 15, 2027. It is open to all Auxiliary members and their immediate family. The applicant must be at least 21 years of age, by February 15th and have one full year of membership.



The final 2 programs are Young American Creative Patriotic Art 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional, and they both have Deadline date of March 31, 2027. The artwork with the completed application must be in to the Department Chairman by April 5, 2027, and the first place winners for both is forwarded to National by May 5, 2027. Please remember that pictures must accompany all work in case damage during shipment.



Both programs are open to students in grades 9 – 12. Please note, they DO NOT have to be related to an Auxiliary members. They can also, if related to an Auxiliary members, live in a different state, they can still mail their entry to their relative, if they wish.



Requirement for 2-Dimensional and the 3-Dimensional will follow in future communications. If you need information sooner, you can find all required information in Malta, under Member Resources and then Scholarship.



Remember, if you participate, please Report, Report and Report some more. Even if you do not get any responses, at least you tried, so please Report. That we know that you have tried.

CHAIRMAN: JUDY LUPOLE
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VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

"Serving America's Heroes"

**Building Bridges
One Team-One Fight**

National Unmet Needs Programs



We have a full play list for that extra help, support, and backup. The VFW's National Unmet Needs programs, including both National Military Services and National Veteran Service, should be our first string of players when assisting a veteran and their family. For example, if they are currently in financial distress due to the rising costs of their utilities trying to combat the August heat, call the play "VFW Financial Assistance." If they are deployed, perhaps the best call would be to Adopt-a-Unit. All these programs can be found at <https://www.vfw.org>.



Local Resources

VFW programs are not the only answer. Local resources can include food banks, churches, other nonprofits and even your state's Health and Human Services office. The best resource is always one that is reputable, one that has experience serving veterans and one that offers an appropriate solution for the veteran.

Promotion Ideas



Promotion can be a rack card of resources in your community that are available to veterans and their families. Promotion can be hosting a veteran resource fair where VFW and community services are invited to come and be available to the veteran community. The size of the promotion or the cost of the promotion is not the goal. The goal is to connect resources to veterans and their families in the best way for your community.



SWAP Ideas

Let's "SWAP" (Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects) ideas of thing your Auxiliary and Post may be doing.



"I hope to remind all members about our real heroes this year," says National President Donna Mills. "I can't wait to see the outstanding ways you will support our Veterans, their families and our communities this year." I got this from President Donna's Facebook post. I am also looking forward to seeing what our Auxiliaries do to support our veterans and their families.



Supporting veterans and their families is a year-round sport for the VFW Auxiliary.
In fact, the word "Auxiliary" usually refers to something that provides extra help, support, or backup to something else.





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Hello Brothers and Sisters!! A new school year is beginning! What a wonderful time to reach out to school groups and get them involved in our organization. This year our Ambassador for Youth Activities is Debbie Little and she is from Warrenton, OR.

Here are some important dates to where you can get the youth in your community involved.

- **Sept. 11, 2026 - Patriot Day** - An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- **Sept. 18, 2026 - POW/MIA Recognition Day**
- **Sept. 18, 2006 - Air Force Birthday**
- **Sept. 28, 2026 - Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day.** A Day to honor the families of fallen Service members.

Patriotism Through Literacy



School starts soon if it has not already started. Let us get our youth to participate in: Community Libraries, School Libraries, Classroom Libraries and Home Libraries. Volunteer at your local library. Donate historical fiction to local schools and community libraries or even shelters. Host a read-a-thon at a school. Award prizes for most books read such as stickers, pins, or a book to take home.



R.A.P. CARDS & YOUTH ACTS OF KINDNESS

Recognize Youth Instantly for Random Acts of Patriotism. Use R.A.P. Cards, Certificates, or School Awards to Celebrate Positive Actions. Resources Available in [Malta Member Resources](#).

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA ART CONTEST

Open To Grades K–8 In Public, Private, Parochial, Home-Study, and Overseas U.S.-Affiliated Schools. Judged On Patriotic Themes and Artistic Technique.

Grade Divisions: K–2, 3–5, 6–8

2026–2027 Deadlines:

Dec 15, 2026: Entries Due To Sponsoring Auxiliary.

Jan 15, 2027: Auxiliary Winners Due To Department

Jan 31, 2027: Department Winners Due To National Headquarters



Please make sure you have your reports to me by the 10th of each month.



2026-2027 JOINT SPECIAL PROJECT

OPERATION BRING THEM HOME

Department Chair: Marian Paxton
marianpaxton@gmail.com
843-653-6098

**RETURNING ALL OF OUR HEROES TO
THEIR FAMILIES AND BRINGING
THEM HOME WITH HONOR**

VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

DONNA K. MILLS

& VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

CORY L. GEISLER



The DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) is a Department of Defense agency that works to account for and repatriate U.S. service members who are or were Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA) from past conflicts. Its mission is to provide families and the nation with the most complete record of these missing personnel. The DPAA uses a combination of historical research, recovery operations and forensic science including analyzing DNA to identify remains and **bring them home**.

To support this project, select the "Make a Gift" tab and then **"National President's 2026-2027 Special Project"** in MALTA. Or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked "National President's/Commander-in-Chief's 2026-2027 Special Project." Members may also mail gifts earmarked for the special project to the VFW Foundation.

Members can report this under the **Veterans & Family Support Program**. Also reportable under Veterans & Family Support and integral to DPAA's efforts is what is called a Family Resource Sample (FRS). DNA from surviving family members is key to identifying missing loved ones. It is technology that did not exist when these troops were lost.

Helping this organization means helping families find peace. Your contributions will help fund the DPAA's efforts. To learn more about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil.



SAVE THE DATE

VFW Auxiliary - Department of Virginia 2026-2027

October 17, 2026

Joint Homecoming

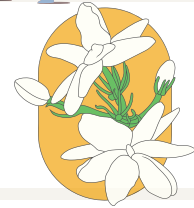
Post 9808 - Mechanicsville, VA



October 22-25, 2026

Southern Conference

Mobile, AL



January 14-17, 2027

VFW and Auxiliary Mid-Winter Conference

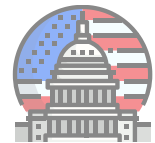
Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, VA



February 27 - March 4, 2027

Legislative Conference

Washington, DC



April 5-7, 2027

VFW Aux National President Donna Mills Visit

Charlottesville, VA



June 10-13, 2027

June Department Convention

Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, VA



July 31 - August 4, 2027

National Convention

Milwaukee, WI



November 4-7, 2027

Southern Conference

Williamsburg, VA



Outstanding Auxiliary Tracking

Auxiliary	Americanism	Buddy Poppy	Historian	Hospital	Legislative	Spec. Pro	Nat. Home	Scholar.	VFS	Youth
District 1										
176										
3219	1			1					1	
Reported	1			1					1	
District 2										
392	1	1		1	1				1	1
2582					1					1
2894	1	1		1	1			1	1	1
3160				1	1				1	
4411										
4809	1	1		1	1			1	1	
Reported	3	3		4	5			2	4	3
District 3										
622										
637	1				1			1		
2239										
4639										
6364										
7167										
8046										
8529										
9501										
9808	1				1		1		1	1
10654										
10657		1								
Reported	2	1			2			1	1	1
District 4										
7059										
7166										
8163										
8759										
9855										
9954										
Reported										
District 5										
647										
7854	1				1				1	
8243										
Reported	1				1				1	
District 6										
776										
1033	1			1	1			1		1
1264										
1841		1								
Reported	1	1		1	1			1		1

Outstanding Auxiliary Cont.

Auxiliary	Americanism	Buddy Poppy	Historian	Hospital	Legislative	Spec. Pro	National Hom	Scholarship	Vets & Fam	Youth
District 7										
621					1					
2447										
8613										
9292										
9660	1								1	
9760										
Reported	1				1				1	
District 8										
3103										
7589	1	1		1	1		1	1	1	1
12202	1	1		1	1				1	1
Reported	2	2		2	2			1	2	2
District 9										
1115										
1184										
4667	1	1		1	1				1	1
7726										
9696										
Reported	1	1		1	1				1	1
District 10										
609				1			1			
1177	1	1		1				1		
1503		1								
3150										
7327	1									
7916										
8469										
9274										
Reported	2	2		2				1		
District 11										
632	1	1								1
3136										
4204										
7814										
8644										
Reported	1	1								1
District 13										
1827									1	
8169										
8947										
10574					1					
Reported					1				1	
Aux 1994					1					