



UNWAVERING SUPPORT  
FOR UNCOMMON  
HEROES™





# 2016-2017 National Officers



President Colette Bishop (center),  
Senior Vice-President Dee Guillory, (upper left, then counter clockwise),  
Junior Vice-President Sandi Kriebel, Conductress Sandra Onstwedder,  
Chief of Staff Linda Compton, Chaplain Peggy Haake  
and Secretary-Treasurer Jan Owens.





***Unwavering  
Support for  
Uncommon  
Heroes™***

Dear Members,

Wow! It is finally here. I have thought and planned and thought again about what I want for our organization. My ideas will hopefully take us back to the basics: veterans! We need to continue to help them and their families and make their lives better. We, the VFW Auxiliary, can provide this support. That is why this year, I have chosen to use our official tagline as my theme: *Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes™*.

My entire life has been spent working for this organization. My parents were District President and District Commander the year I was born. I have known about the VFW and the Auxiliary all my life and watched the changes that have come about. We need to get back to basics and make the organization work again for our veterans and their families. We need to find out what our veterans and their families need and want from having membership with us. We will need to change the way we do things in our organization, but I am sure we can do it. Our organization needs to be thinking of the entire family of a veteran so that we can serve the whole family, welcome all of them, let them do things their way and help them. We really can be united in this organization.

We have asked that you consider giving \$2 per member to the Cancer Aid & Research Fund, as this allows us to continue to give Cancer Grants to our members as a benefit of their membership. And speaking of benefits, I think many members do not know that our organization provides one of the largest networks of benefits of any organization like ours. Go to [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) under Member Benefits to access the Benefits Hub, which shows you all the benefits we offer plus local deals. This is truly for you, the member! Please go and explore it and use what you learn to recruit new members.

The National Organization is in the process of building a custom-designed membership database program. We started the process by asking the Council of Administration to approve

the expenditure of funds, which will be about \$700,000, a very good price for custom software. We then called on a team of experienced members with different areas of expertise to help us think through what this program needs to do for National Headquarters, Department leadership, Auxiliary leadership and the individual member. The goal is to provide the best tool possible to make the work of the organization easier. Stay tuned for progress updates and a launch date! Have ideas or questions? Let National Headquarters know at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).

We ARE moving into the future. Things will and have to change in order to meet the needs of today's veterans and military families. We are in a time when technology and culture change constantly. We have to keep up with these changes in order to stay relevant. There are more veterans service organizations now than in the entire history of our country. How new VSOs connect with veterans and their families is a new model for serving them. We have so much to offer, and I ask you join me in doing all we can to meet them where they are at and serve them as only we can.

Loyally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Colette Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Colette" and last name "Bishop" clearly legible.

Colette Bishop  
National President

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# Outstanding Performance Awards for Department Chairmen

*The Outstanding Performance Awards are given each year  
to recognize hardworking Departments and Department Chairmen  
who have given that extra amount of effort.*

## **The Outstanding Performance Award:**

\$300 goes to the Department and a keepsake to the Department Chairman in each of the five Program Divisions\*.

## **Second Place Outstanding Performance Award:**

\$200 goes to the Department and a keepsake to the Department Chairman in each Program Division.

## **Third Place Outstanding Performance Award:**

\$100 goes to the Department and a keepsake to the Department Chairman in each Program Division.

## **Programs Judged:**

Americanism  
Chief of Staff  
Hospital  
Legislative

Membership & Leadership  
Scholarships  
Veterans & Family Support  
Youth Activities

## **The Selection**

The Program Ambassadors of each program listed will select the recipients. Chairmen will be judged on quality, creativity and originality of all communications, promotions and events. Any time a Chairman does anything to promote or publicize the program to the members and the community, he/she should send a copy of the item or communication, or a description of the event or presentation to the Program Ambassador.

## **Required to qualify:**

A minimum of 4 mailed and/or emailed promotions to the members in his/her Department.

\*Program Divisions will be announced at the start of the Program Year.



# Americanism

This definition of “Americanism” was originated by the Commanders-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the National Commanders of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans of the World War at a conference held in Washington, D.C., in February 1927:

“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.”

## Patriotic Instructors

The Patriotic Instructor educates members on the proper salute to the U.S. Flag, as well as the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. He or she also takes the time to understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and the Federal Flag Code. He or she helps members to understand the traditions and ceremonies of the organization. The “Understanding Auxiliary Traditions” helpsheet and video are available on the website.

## Flag Education

A large part of showing Americanism and demonstrating the patriotic spirit is respecting and properly caring for the U.S. Flag. Flag etiquette covers everything from proper display of our flag to acceptable conduct around this symbol of our nation.

For more information about flag etiquette, the history of our flag and to read the U.S. Flag Code, visit: [www.vfw.org/community/Flag](http://www.vfw.org/community/Flag).

## Ways to Engage the Community in Respect for the Flag

- **Flag Education in Schools** – Educating our youth about patriotism is an important step on the path to good citizenship. Encourage members

of your Auxiliary to volunteer in schools and educate youth on the importance of respecting our flag. Volunteers can visit individual classrooms or do a presentation at a school assembly. For more resources and to print national anthem and Pledge of Allegiance bookmarks to hand out, visit [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).

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“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.”

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- **Recognition of Outstanding Community Flag Display** –

When a community member or organization takes the care and time to display our “Stars and Stripes,” it reinforces patriotism to the entire community. You may recognize this display of patriotism by presenting a certificate of appreciation from your Auxiliary.

- **Flag Retirement Ceremonies** –

These ceremonies honoring our flag serve as one of the most beautiful forms of respect for our country. This is the perfect way to involve the whole family of Auxiliary and

VFW members. Flag retirement ceremonies can also serve as an event to involve the entire community. For more information on this and other Flag etiquette, go to [www.vfw.org/community/Flag](http://www.vfw.org/community/Flag).

## Promote Patriotism – Celebrating Patriotic Holidays

Patriotic holidays are an opportune time to involve the whole family and bring community attention to your Auxiliary. When fun family events are presented to the community, prospective new members will walk through your door. Patriotic holidays can serve as the perfect way to show that your Auxiliary holds patriotism, and veterans and their families, at the top of its priorities. For more information about patriotic days and ways to celebrate, visit: [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).



### **Loyalty Day – May 1**

On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York's Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day.

### **Memorial Day – May 30 (Traditional)**

Patriotism calls for all citizens to be reminded of the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory and thus their service and sacrifice.

### **Flag Day – June 14**

This day celebrates the official symbol for the United States: our "Stars and Stripes." Flag Day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1777.

### **Independence Day – July 4**

On this day in 1776, our forefathers formed a new nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence.

### **Patriot Day – September 11**

This day is to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America that occurred on this date in 2001.

### **POW/MIA Recognition Day**

POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day, traditionally on the **third Friday in September**, is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

### **Veterans Day – November 11**

This is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans.

### **Pearl Harbor Day – December 7**

This day is in remembrance of the same date in 1941 that Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. military and naval forces in Hawaii.

### **POW/MIA Recognition**

Auxiliary members are passionate about bringing attention to former Prisoners of War and those Missing

in Action by holding ceremonies to both educate their communities and honor these special veterans. One way to honor these veterans and educate youth and the community on this subject is by having a **Missing Man Table Ceremony**. This practice provides a visual demonstration of the significance of POW/MIA Recognition Day. You are encouraged to share this ceremony with youth groups partnering with the Auxiliary.

Find a sample of the ceremony wording and table setup at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).

### **Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award**

The VFW annually recognizes the nation's top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions effectively. Teachers who are prime candidates for this award promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

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For detailed information on Auxiliary traditions, rituals and patriotic ceremonies, reference the **VFW Auxiliary Bylaws and Ritual**.

Patriotic promotion items and educational materials are available at the **VFW Store, 1-800-821-2606**  
**[www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org)**

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### **Examples of Activities from Award-Winning Teachers**

- Field trips to city hall
- Community volunteer projects
- Hosting veterans to discuss their military experiences
- Special projects that foster the development of democratic values and beliefs

### **How the Contest Works**

Based on the nominees submitted, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Posts then submit their winning names to their

District-level judging. From there, the selected winners are forwarded to the Department level. Once they are judged on a Department level, the winners are passed along to VFW National Headquarters for the national contest.

**For more information**, instructions for nomination and nomination forms, visit: [www.vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear).



## **PROGRAM GOALS:**

Flag Education

Promote Patriotism

POW/MIA Recognition

Smart/Maher National Citizenship

Education Teacher Award

*To meet the Americanism Ambassador and  
National Conference Chairmen, and to see the awards, go to Page 21.*



# Chief of Staff/Extension

**C**hiefs of Staff are the main point of contact for the Extension Program, which includes the establishment of new Auxiliaries and the maintenance of current Auxiliaries. They serve as Auxiliary advocates and assistants.

## Establishing New Auxiliaries

Whether a VFW Post decides on its own that it wants a Auxiliary or whether an Auxiliary member or non-member sees the potential for a new one, the steps for creating an Auxiliary are the same.

1. A VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority to have an Auxiliary. (An Auxiliary can never exist on its own without a Post and can never be started without that Post's permission.)
2. The Department President appoints the official organizer of that Auxiliary, and she must be a member of the Auxiliary.
3. A minimum of 15 eligible applicants must be on the application for the Charter (transfers are not eligible).

From there, it's a matter of securing and filling out the proper paperwork provided by Auxiliary National Headquarters. Every Department President, Secretary and Chief of Staff has access to these forms. For more on this topic, see Article II of the National Bylaws.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What is a "bachelor" Post?

**A:** A bachelor Post is a VFW Post that does not currently have an Auxiliary. You can get a list of those Posts without an Auxiliary from the VFW Department Headquarters.

**Q:** What are some reasons a bachelor Post would want to have an Auxiliary?

**A:** VFW Posts that have an Auxiliary frequently have more vibrant events and participation in the programs. Auxiliary members can assist the Post in

many facets, whether by helping spread the word about events and scholarships, or by supporting the Post's "Buddy"® Poppy campaigns. A Post will also have greater family appeal if it has an Auxiliary.

## Maintaining Current Auxiliaries

In 2012, this program launched the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit. Recognizing that Auxiliaries experience common problems, the national organization pulled together a group of resources to assist Auxiliaries in identifying and solving issues that stifle productivity and threaten their existence.

### *The tools available:*

- **RU Healthy Auxiliary Checklist** – This is a simple list of business items that an Auxiliary should meet every year. On this list are the **5 Essentials of an Auxiliary**. See Page 6 for more information.
- **Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaire** – This anonymous survey can help an Auxiliary bring to light issues that members may not talk about in a group setting. Results from the questionnaire might reveal that the meetings are not productive or not at a convenient time for many members. Gathering, listening to and acting on the results of this questionnaire can lead to more participation in every part of the Auxiliary.
- **Auxiliary Meeting Clinic** – This problem/solution format helps you to quickly find ideas to solve issues at meetings, whether it is meeting length, format or lack of interest. It also includes a handy meeting checklist for the President and Secretary to make sure they have everything they might need.
- **Healthy Communication Phone/Text Tree** – Communication is a common issue every Auxiliary faces. Depending on the number of members to reach, it could get even trickier. This phone/text tree helps break down who needs to contact who



to get news out quickly and effectively. While email and mail are helpful tools, the personal touch of a phone call will be appreciated by many.

- **Good Job Certificate** – A key part of any volunteer organization is saying “Thank You.” Use this certificate to thank any member (or non-member) for their help, participation or support of an event or program. Consider presenting a few of these at every meeting.
- **Health Certificate** – Chiefs of Staff can hand this out to Auxiliaries that have shown they are healthy and have the tools above. Reward their efforts to maintain a healthy Auxiliary for the benefit of their Post, their community, and most importantly, for veterans.
- **Mentoring Resources** – Find the VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide online. This guide will help you think about how your Auxiliary can mentor its members.

Department Chiefs of Staff have all these tools available.

## 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary

The national organization requires only 5 things of an Auxiliary:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least 10 business meeting per year. (Sec. 210) Five members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Sec. 212)
2. Dues should be paid on at least 10 members on or before February 1 of the current year. (Sec. 207)
3. Quarterly audits by Trustees must be submitted. (Sec. 814)
4. Officers elected and installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email. (Sec. 804A & 806A)
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31. This form can be found on the Treasurer’s Kit CD.

## Suspensions, Cancellations and Consolidations

Should an Auxiliary be unable to meet the 5 Essentials, it is in danger of losing its Charter. Suspensions are used in certain cases to give Auxiliary members a chance to fulfill their duties and continue with their mission of serving veterans and their families.

Cancellations can only be done by the National President, with or without the recommendation of the Department President.

If a VFW Post closes or consolidates, Auxiliary National Headquarters will be notified. Only after this notification can the process for closing or consolidating begin. Please be sure to wait for direction from National Headquarters before taking any action at all.

Every Auxiliary’s goal should be to meet the 5 Essentials so that the members can begin serving veterans and families in all the unique and wonderful ways they can. Chiefs of Staff are there to help them maintain their Charters and continue to be Healthy Auxiliaries.



### PROGRAM GOALS:

Maintain Current Auxiliaries  
Establish New Auxiliaries

*To meet the Chief of Staff/Extension Ambassador and National Conference Chairmen, and to see the awards, go to Page 23.*



# Hospital

**V**FW Auxiliary members have been volunteering in hospitals and medical facilities since the organization's inception in 1914. The Hospital Program was one of the first nationally adopted programs for the organization.

## Where can we serve?

Members, non-members and youth can volunteer in many different types of facilities under this program.

- Local hospitals
- Veterans' homes
- Nursing homes
- Domiciliaries
- Both VA and non-VA medical centers and clinics

## Who can serve?

- Members
- Non-members
- Youth
- Families

## What can we do?

Volunteer opportunities are different based on the facility where you are volunteering. Some facilities will have a volunteer program in place with specific jobs, events and needs. Many facilities will have varying types of opportunities to suit different ages and abilities. Be sure you follow all the guidelines given by that facility and regularly ask how you can assist them.

## What can we earn?

Members can earn Hospital Volunteer Pins from National Headquarters for their volunteer hours. More information on hours needed and the proper forms to use can be obtained from Department Hospital

Chairmen or on the website. Auxiliary Hospital Chairmen should track total hours (both VA and non-VA) and submit for the pins. Members can also be named an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in their Program Division. Applications are available from the Department Hospital Chairmen.

Non-members can also earn a one-time only volunteer pin for 100 hours. See the Hospital Program Guide for more information or ask the Department Hospital Chairman.

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For more information on being a volunteer, how to handle a Department Hospital Fund and many important topics on this program, go to **[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)** under **Hospital** to find the **Hospital Program Guide**.

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## Recruiting New Volunteers & Recognition

New volunteers are needed every day across the country. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care, and they help create a friendly and caring atmosphere no matter where they volunteer. Here are tips for recruiting and keeping volunteers:

- Monthly signup sheet for regular events
- Emails and phone calls for special events
- Public recognition of current volunteers
- Be specific about what volunteers will be doing, including the time commitment
- Find out how each person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting
- If someone says "no" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!

## Veterans Voices Writing Project

The Veterans Voices Writing Project (VVWP) was founded in 1946, and has long been connected with the VFW Auxiliary. It is a therapeutic writing program that helps veterans express themselves and

**NEW  
NAME!**

communicate in a creative way. Members can become involved with a local VVWP representative and assist veterans in writing, recording or typing. Training and resources are provided. Three times per year, VVWP publishes "Veterans Voices", a magazine that prints a selection of submissions.

To learn more about the program and how to become involved, go to [veteransvoices.org](http://veteransvoices.org), call 816-701-6844 or write to [volunteer@veteransvoices.org](mailto:volunteer@veteransvoices.org).

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"The project's therapeutic writing program is designed to acknowledge military veterans' experiences and build self-esteem through creative expression and possible publication."

- VVWP WEBSITE  
[www.veteransvoices.org](http://www.veteransvoices.org)

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### **"What about VAVS?"**

For more information on the VFW Auxiliary's participation in Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Program, please see that section in the Hospital Program Guide or contact the National Representative at National Headquarters.

### **Veterans and Military Suicide Awareness**

**Veterans Crisis Line**, run by Veterans Affairs, can assist veterans and their families with many issues.

**1-800-273-8255, press 1**  
**[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)**

**Visit the Auxiliary website for a  
complete list of supporting resources:**  
**[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)**



*Look for this icon on our website!*



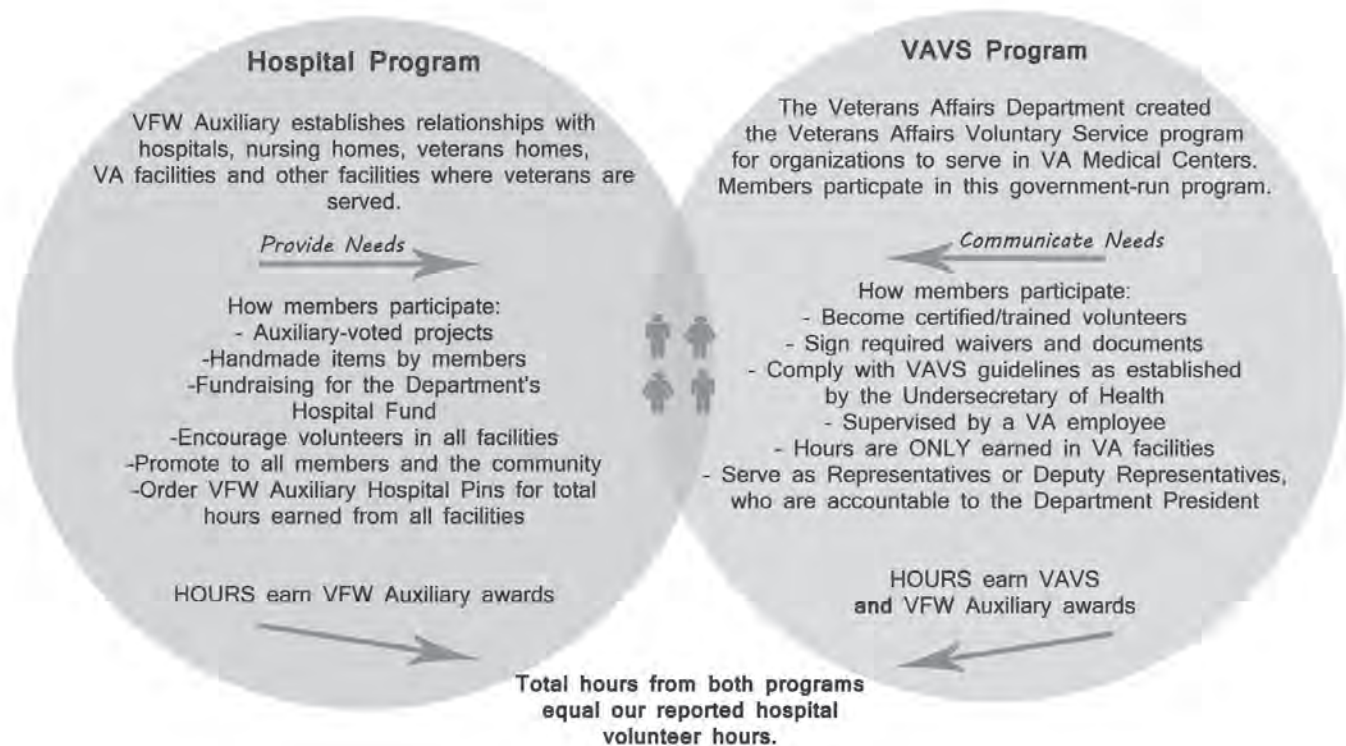
### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

Volunteer Service in Medical Facilities  
Volunteer Recruitment & Recognition  
Veterans Voices Writing Project  
Military Suicide Awareness

*To meet the Hospital Ambassador and  
National Conference Chairmen, and to  
see the awards, go to Page 25.*



The diagram below illustrates how the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program overlaps with and supports the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. The VFW Auxiliary provides volunteers and resources to VA facilities across the country, saving Veterans Affairs more than \$60 million a year in expenses.



*For more information on our Hospital Program and our participation in VAVS, please see the Hospital Program Guide on the website, [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).*

# Legislative

**Y**our efforts combined with nearly 2 million other VFW and Auxiliary members can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day. Join the chorus of voices that will ring in our legislators' ears this year.

**Study the issues** laid out clearly in the *VFW Priority Goals*, a copy of which can be found on the Auxiliary website under Programs, then Legislative tab.

The *Priority Goals* reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans.

They call for much-needed attention to crises such as veteran homelessness and suicide. They request fully funding research on traumatic brain injuries, reducing the claims backlog and fighting veteran unemployment. The goals are grouped under eight areas of concern:

- VA Health Care
- Suicides and Homelessness
- VA Compensation and Benefits
- Seamless Transition
- Education and Employment

- Defense and Homeland Security
- Military Quality of Life
- POW/MIA

These are released early each year by the VFW. Be sure you check for the most recent *Priority Goals*.

## VFW Action Corps – It's Free!

It's free and it's full of news about what's happening on Capitol Hill, with veterans' issues and with our national security. Subscribe at the Auxiliary website, [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) by clicking on Programs, then Legislative under the listed resources. The current issue can be read online at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) at Action Corps.

Contact your legislators: find out who's who. To identify your congressional representatives, visit the VFW website at [www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/](http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/).

## Step by Step

To follow the progress of a bill through the stages of the legislative process, visit [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov), where you may find a specific bill by its number or by a key word or phrase.

## VFW in D.C.

One of the most crucial responsibilities of the Washington office of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to actively lobby Congress and the administration on behalf of veterans. The office monitors all legislation affecting veterans and alerts VFW and Auxiliary members about key legislation under consideration.

By testifying at committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans legislation passed in the 20th century, as well as bills developed in the 21st.

**To contact the D.C. office:**

**Website:** [www.vfw.org/VFWinDC](http://www.vfw.org/VFWinDC)

**Phone:** 202-543-2239

**Mail:** 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.

**Washington, D.C. 20002**



## PROGRAM GOALS:

VFW Priority Goals

VFW Action Corps Weekly

Legislative Involvement

Get Out the Vote

*To meet the Legislative Ambassador and National Conference Chairmen, and to see the awards, go to Page 28.*

# Membership & Leadership

## Circle of Excellence

**W**elcome to the brand new Circle of Excellence under the Membership & Leadership Program! **There is no longer an Outstanding Department President Award. Instead, every Department President will have the opportunity to join the Circle of Excellence.** The criteria are below. The Membership & Leadership Ambassador, with the assistance

of National Headquarters, will be tracking this information. Consider this a checklist for the year of important items and deadlines that must be met. Membership is an important factor and will be encouraged by the Conference Membership Coaches, who will be working with Department Membership Chairmen to achieve the membership portion of the Circle of Excellence criteria.

### Criteria for entering the Circle of Excellence:

#### 1. Growth in Membership:

\_\_\_\_\_ 100% Plus by June 30, 2017, based on June 30, 2016 final membership statistics.

#### 2. Comply with Bylaws/Administrative Follow Through:

\_\_\_\_\_ All Installation Reports received at National Headquarters by July 31 or a recommendation to close sent to National Headquarters by that date.

\_\_\_\_\_ All Auxiliaries must be bonded by September 15 or a recommendation to close sent to National Headquarters by that date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Must have submitted a Council-approved Audit and Budget by October 1, or a request for an extension before that date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Department and Auxiliary Officers (Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers) dues paid by December 31 or a letter/email to relieve any non-paid officers to National Headquarters by that date.

#### 3. Department Communication:

\_\_\_\_\_ The Department **MUST** have an active Facebook page, with at least one monthly post.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Department must communicate with every Auxiliary at least quarterly by one or more of the following ways: email, mail, phone, website, Facebook, General Orders, newsletter, e-newsletter. Please describe your Departments communication methods.

#### 4. Training:

\_\_\_\_\_ The Department **MUST** utilize its National Certified Recruiter Trainer in at least one training session during the year for at least an hour or more. If your Department does not have a NCRT, you can request a training from National Headquarters.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Department **MUST** have at least one school of instruction/training event on programs and organizational knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Department **MUST** utilize the Online Auxiliary Academy videos at least one time at a Department-organized training/school of instruction/meeting/convention/event.

#### 5. Programs Participation:

\_\_\_\_\_ Department President **MUST** submit online Year-End Report. [NOTE: Participation percentage is NOT considered for Circle but we still ask that it is tracked.]

\_\_\_\_\_ What did your Department do to engage every Auxiliary in the work of the organization? List all the reasons for non-participation in programs. [This is to get an idea of why an Auxiliary chooses not to participate in any programs or any one program.]



**T**he VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans, and it has grown nearly every year since its inception. There is only one way to add members: ***ask someone to join***. And once they join, ***ask them to participate***.

### Ask Someone to Join

There are numerous places and times to ask someone if they want to join the VFW Auxiliary. Your approach will look different depending on who your audience is.

In all cases, the potential member should have some knowledge of what the VFW Auxiliary is and what we do before they ever receive an application.

Important tools:

- Fact Sheet, available free from National Headquarters
- Business card with contact information (Order yours from the VFW Store, [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org))
- Know the website, [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

### HAVE A PLAN

Every Department and Auxiliary should have a Membership Plan. This plan should include:

- Contacting current members
- Outreach to former members
- Recruiting events for new members

Before a membership year begins, set your calendar for when you plan to do each of these. Make it as easy as possible for them to renew their dues. Plan at least four recruiting events in your community each year.

### Follow Up!

Most likely, the first time you talk to someone new about the organization, that person will not be ready to commit. It's important to ask for their contact information and then follow up within a week.

### Ask Them to Participate

The key to keeping members is getting them involved. Call or email a new member within a week with the next meeting date and time, or the next possible event or project. Offer to pick him/her up, or invite him/her to get coffee before or after.

Put a team of members in charge of contacting new members or members who haven't been to a meeting recently. These members should be friendly and knowledgeable.

### Ways to Encourage Participation:

- Monthly signup sheet for regular events
- Emails and phone calls for special events
- Public recognition of current volunteers (Consider posters at your VFW Post Home, if permitted, that spotlight member involvement)
- Be specific about what they will be doing, including the time commitment
- Find out how that person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting
- Have another member stay with them for the entire length of the activity or event
- If they say "no" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!

### THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY EVENTS

An adult who still has children in the home will want opportunities to do things with his or her family. If he or she can't bring his or her children and spouse to at least some of the events, he or she will be less likely to join or to continue his or her membership. Be sure that you plan at least one family-friendly event every three months, or once per quarter.

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### **RECRUITING TIP 1**

Let a potential member know:  
“It is an honor to have a veteran  
in your family who makes you  
eligible for the VFW Auxiliary.  
Not everyone can join, and your  
veteran’s service and sacrifice  
can be honored through  
your membership.”

### **RECRUITING TIP 2**

Find out who your Auxiliary  
National Recruiter Trainer is  
and get the training you need  
to grow our organization.

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### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

Recruit New Members  
Retain Current Members  
Grow the Organization

*To meet the Membership & Leadership Ambassador and  
National Conference Coaches, and to see the awards, go to Page 30.*



# Scholarships

Each of our scholarships encourage patriotism, assist students in attaining an education and help students reach their full potential. This increases VFW and Auxiliary recognition while supporting our communities, students and members.

## Continuing Education Scholarship

Open to any Auxiliary member (who has belonged for at least a year), spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 18 years old, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. Application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15:

**Administrator of Programs**

**VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters**

**406 W 34th St., 10th Floor**

**Kansas City, MO 64111**

**Or email it to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)**

\$1,000 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available from Department Scholarships Chairmen or on the website.

## Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 9-12. No digital art will be accepted, and artwork must be on canvas or paper. It will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please see the student brochure at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) for more details on requirements. Students must attend school in the state of the sponsoring Auxiliary.

### Deadlines:

Entries received by local Auxiliary – March 31

Entries received by Department – April 15

Entries received by National Headquarters – May 5

### National Scholarships:

First Place – \$10,000

Second Place – \$5,000

Third Place – \$2,500

Fourth Place – \$1,500

Fifth through Eighth Place – \$500

## GET THE WORD OUT!

The first step is to identify likely individuals with whom you can discuss scholarship opportunities. Here are a few suggestions of groups that might be interested in what you have to say:

- Schools
- Church or youth groups
- Youth-focused organizations
- Home school associations
- Parent-teacher associations
- Youth sports teams

## 2016-2017 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest

### Theme: *My Responsibility To America*

This contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 9-12. Student must be a resident of the state where entered. One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

### Deadlines:

Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, November 1

Completion of Post Judging – November 15

Completion of District Judging – December 6

Completion of Department Judging – January 7

Department Winner to VFW National  
Headquarters – January 15

### National Awards:

First Place – \$30,000 scholarship

Second Place – \$16,000 scholarship

Third Place – \$10,000 scholarship

Fourth through 31st Place – \$7,000 to \$1,500  
scholarship

Remaining Department Winners – \$1,000  
scholarship

All Department winners will enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., where their essays will compete in the final competition.



## 2016-2017 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest

**Theme:** *The America I Believe In*

This contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 6-8. Student must be a resident of the state where entered. One Department winner will be forwarded to National Headquarters.

### Deadlines:

Entries to Post – Midnight, November 1  
Completion of Post Judging – November 15  
Completion of District Judging – December 6  
Completion of Department Judging – January 7  
Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters – January 15

### National Awards:

First Place – \$5,000  
Second Place – \$4,000  
Third Place – \$3,500  
Fourth through 46th Place – \$2,750 to \$500

### TIPS FOR SUBMITTING WINNING APPLICATIONS

Follow ALL scholarship and contest guidelines. It's important!

#### **Consider these tips:**

- Read all guidelines ahead of time.
- Make sure you are eligible before you begin.
- Pay close attention to deadlines.
- Include your contact information in the designated space.
- Answer all the questions.
- Properly display artwork.
- Stay within word count limits.
- Be conscious of proper spelling and grammar.
- Choose good references when requested.
- Follow instructions for following up on your application's status.
- Remember, it's OK to ask questions!

## Scholarship and Contest Resources

Complete list of all contest rules can be found in the following resources:

- VFW website:  
[www.vfw.org/VOD](http://www.vfw.org/VOD)
- VFW Auxiliary website:  
[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)
- Promotions from Program Ambassador
- VFW and Auxiliary brochures (free download on websites or purchase from VFW Store)

### RECOGNITION IS KEY

It is important that scholarship and contest winners receive recognition at every level.

#### **Ways to Recognize Winners:**

- Present a special gift.
- Ask the winner to give a speech or lead the Pledge of Allegiance at an Auxiliary event.
- Host an awards ceremony.
- Contact local media to feature winners in the news.
- Invite winners to participate in a conference.
- Don't forget to recognize the parents!



### PROGRAM GOALS:

Student Participation  
Recipient Recognition  
Community Awareness

*To meet the Scholarships Ambassador and  
National Conference Chairmen, and to see the awards, go to Page 34.*



# Veterans & Family Support

## Spread the Word about National Veterans Service

The VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve – at no cost.

NVS provides a nationwide network of 276 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents.

These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:

- Disability compensation, including compensation for PTSD
- Rehabilitation and education programs, including GI Bill benefits
- Pension and death benefits
- Employment and training programs

NVS also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care, including:

- Hospital care
- Outpatient care
- Specialized health care for female veterans
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation or other environmental hazards

Donate to NVS by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for NVS. Mail check to:

**VFW National Headquarters**  
**Attn: NVS**  
**406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor**  
**Kansas City, MO 64111**

## VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs (Previously known as VFW National Military Services)

Veterans and Military Support contains four programs initiated by the VFW: Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship, Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink™ and the Military Assistance Program (MAP). These programs serve active-duty military and recently discharged military.

### VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship Program

The VFW and Sport Clips are giving the gift of scholarships to our nation's heroes as a way of thanking

them for their dedicated service to our nation. The VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program will award scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. To learn more, go to [www.vfw.org/scholarship/](http://www.vfw.org/scholarship/).

### Unmet Needs Can Help in a Crisis

A soldier is serving on foreign soil, but the rent is due back home. A soldier is driving a tank on alert for IEDs, and the family car needs a new radiator at a cost the family cannot afford. These are the situations

Unmet Needs can address.

Grants of up to \$2,500 payable to a creditor can bridge the gap to make a mortgage or rent payment or to fund home and auto repairs, insurance, utility costs, food and clothing.

### Operation Uplink™

Operation Uplink™ is much appreciated by active-duty military and their spouses and children – a welcome way to stay connected. Free Call Days are

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**"Be the change that you wish to see in the world,"**  
**Mahatma Ghandi said.**

**We can do that.**

**We can bridge the gap between our knowledge of resources and the needs of veterans if we make ourselves aware of what the VFW and Auxiliary can offer to people we might know who desperately need that assistance.**

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scheduled for troops stationed overseas. Unlimited calls home on three days each month are provided via more than 450 Internet cafes.

Plenty of virtual PINs for free call time are also still available for distribution from the VFW. Request them for hospitalized veterans.

### **Military Assistance Program (MAP) Funds Ways to Connect with Troops**

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. It helps them forge and nurture bonds with those units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send-offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers.

Post and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. MAP keeps care packages circulating by covering postage costs.

For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW NMS office at 816-756-3390.

Donations to support these National Military Services programs should be addressed to VFW National Headquarters, with checks made payable to National Military Services.

### **Any Day Can Be a “Buddy”® Poppy Day**

“Buddy”® Poppy distribution has remained strong in the 90 years since its inception. The memorial flowers have raised millions for the welfare of veterans and their dependents.

Pamphlets and “Buddy”® Poppy distribution supplies can be purchased from the VFW Store at

[www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or by calling 1-800-821-2606. See the VFW’s “Buddy”® Poppy Chairman’s Guide for further assistance in setting up a “Buddy”® Poppy Drive, as well as other helpful resources. The guide can be found on the Resources page at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org).

### **Maintaining National Home Commitment**

For more than 90 years, the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has been there for military families and children. One way the Auxiliary supports the National Home is through gifts of 10 cents per member to the Health & Happiness Fund. Send H & H donations earmarked to:

**VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters**  
**Attn: H & H Donations**  
**406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor**  
**Kansas City, MO 64111**

Contributions are critical since the campus and its programs receive no government funding. For more information go to the National Home’s website at [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org).

Even military families not living on campus can receive invaluable assistance through the Military and Veteran Family Helpline, which is staffed by caring professionals who help callers with pressing needs seek solutions in their own communities.

**Military & Veteran Family Helpline**  
**1-800-313-4200**  
**[help@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:help@vfwnationalhome.org)**



### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

VFW National Veterans Service  
VFW Veterans and Military  
Support Programs  
“Buddy”® Poppy  
VFW National Home for Children

### **Pick One: Serve a Veteran**

**Q:** Does my Auxiliary have to participate in everything in this program?

**A:** No. If your Auxiliary serves veterans and their families, then your Auxiliary has participated in this program. These are ideas and ways to serve veterans in your community. Try just picking one.

*To meet the Veterans & Family Support Ambassador and  
National Conference Chairmen, and to see the awards, go to Page 36.*



# Youth Activities

**T**he VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities and veterans. We have a whole new generation of veterans who need the support of family, friends and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad. Today's youth are the future of our nation.

## Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations

Through this national citation, youth groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families.

Recognize a youth group in your community by visiting [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org) and filling out a nomination form. Great traditions and good citizenship start at an early age. Recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become a part of their daily lives.

## YOUTH GROUP EXAMPLES FOR VFW AUXILIARY SPONSORSHIP

- Youth sports teams
- Church youth groups
- After-school programs
- Youth-focused organizations
- School clubs
- Home-school associations
- Youth community service groups
- Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils
- Service learning and civic engagement departments in high schools and colleges

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Visiting and volunteering in VA facilities
- Raising funds for a community veterans memorial
- Marching in patriotic holiday parades
- Volunteering to help veterans and active-duty military and their families with yard work or household repairs
- Sending cards or small gifts to the National Home to support visiting families
- Planning a card- and letter-writing campaign in local schools to send mail to our troops overseas or our veterans in VA facilities
- Organizing assembly, collection and delivery of care packages for troops
- Teaching veterans computer skills

## Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups

Under the Auxiliary Youth Activities Program, an Auxiliary can sponsor a youth group and engage youth in any one of our programs, including activities to honor our veterans or assist our active-duty military and their families.

Take advantage of the service aspects some youth groups require. Many youth-focused organizations require various types of community service or activities to earn merits in their units. College-bound seniors earn school credit for some of these same activities.

Remember that involving youth in service to veterans in conjunction with your Auxiliary can bring new membership to your Auxiliary. When youth and the whole family are included, members feel more invested in your Auxiliary. Sponsorship of a youth group can create a bright future for your Auxiliary, veterans and the community as a whole.



### Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)

See a child thanking a veteran? Witness a youth place their hand on their heart correctly? Give him or her a R.A.P. card and/or coin. The cards can be downloaded for free from the website and printed at home. Go to [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org), then Programs and then click on the Youth Activities tab. The coins can be purchased from the VFW Store at 1-800-821-2606. Try this fun and unique way to engage today's youth and encourage their patriotism.

### INVOLVE YOUTH IN ALL AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Youth play such an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans.

Teach youth about Auxiliary efforts to:

- Respect and take pride in our country
- Serve hospitalized veterans
- Elect leaders who appreciate our military
- Pass legislation that secures benefits for our veterans
- And many other worthy efforts!

### MAKE YOUR AUXILIARY ACCESSIBLE TO TODAY'S YOUTH

It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social media as teaching and information tools have natural collaborative elements allowing our youth to view and comment on each other's activities. They are tweeting on Twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram and "liking" the videos on YouTube. If you don't know what any of this is – **LEARN**.

#### POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn  
YouTube | Pinterest | Instagram  
Get online, and see what's new!

**For helpful tips on maximizing your reach through social media, check out the Publicity Guide at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)**



### PROGRAM GOALS:

Youth Groups Supporting Our  
Veterans National Citations

Sponsoring and Working with  
Youth Groups

Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)

*To meet the Youth Activities  
Support Ambassador and National  
Conference Chairmen, and to  
see the awards, go to Page 39.*



# National Program Ambassadors & Program Awards

# Americanism Ambassador



## **DEB HANES**

Americanism Ambassador  
2925 Ellamarie Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI  
49006-2126

### **What are you most passionate about this program and why?**

I am most passionate about trying to reinvigorate true patriotism in our country. Patriotism should be an everyday thing, not something attached to national tragedies or holidays. Citizens tend to rally around terrible things, such as school shootings, terrorist attacks at home and abroad.

I would like to have people understand that at a sporting event when the National Anthem is played that it is not the time to go to concessions or to have a conversation with the person next to you. If I could make things the way I think they should be, every athlete at every level would stand with their hand over their heart when the anthem is played. They would remove hats, helmets, whatever headgear they might be wearing. Young people idolize athletes. I wish I could start a movement by having athletes exhibit patriotism by honoring the flag so their young fans would emulate them.

### **If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about your program?**

We have the unique opportunity to reach literally millions of people every day. There are many avenues to communicate our mission. First and foremost these days is Facebook.

Facebook can be a powerful tool – good or bad. I would ask them all to be positive. We can do so much to share educational things about patriotism and Americanism. We can inspire and ignite enthusiasm.

However, one wrong post on Facebook can take away months of positive information. So please be careful about what you put on Facebook.

I would also remind them that at any time they post ANYTHING that mentions VFW Auxiliary they are speaking on behalf of every single one of us.

After Facebook, the next most powerful way to reach others is to go outside and meet others in person. Be positive. Consider wearing your membership pin. If we could all get in the habit of wearing our pins, you would start to see other Auxiliary members and know by seeing them that you are part of the larger whole. You will automatically feel a bond with that sister or brother you see on the sidewalk.

Remember, friendship builds membership.

### **What experience do you have in this program?**

I was raised in the VFW. I have been taught patriotism and respect for our flag since I was a toddler. I lived Americanism. I grew up in my grandparents' VFW Post. At the time the majority of members were World War II veterans. There were SO many of them. Respect for our country and our flag were something they lived, and by doing so, we learned almost by osmosis how one shows respect to flag and country.

The depth of my patriotism is actually difficult to verbalize. It is in my bones. We have younger generations that honestly do not understand what patriotism actually means.

### **What are you most excited about for the 2016-2017 program year?**

I think the most exciting thing about this year will be the continued addition of male members. Not only for the increase in membership, but it reminds us we need to teach new members the “why” of what we do. If we are to lead as Ambassadors we need to go right back to square one. New members do not know the first thing about our programs. It is an opportunity to “get back to basics”. If we want them to work beside us, we need to teach them the basics of what it is we do. I think it would be good for all members to start at square one and review why we do what we do.

## Conference Chairmen



### **BIG TEN STATES**

Sandra Uzell  
34106 Chagrin Boulevard  
#4106  
Moreland Hills, OH  
44022-1043



### **EASTERN STATES**

Penelope Trottier  
20 Oakdale Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI  
02860-2512



### **SOUTHERN STATES**

Patricia Kemp  
4700 London Circle  
Orange, TX  
77632-1416



### **WESTERN STATES**

Sue Tartaglione  
533 Calle Conejo  
Fountain, CO  
80817-1601

## Americanism Awards

### **AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:**

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chairman in each Program Division for the best promotion of Flag education both in the Auxiliary and in the community.
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 4.

### **AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:**

**“Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes” Keepsake** to each National Chairman for participation in this program.



# Chief of Staff/Extension Ambassador



**LINDA COMPTON**  
Chief of Staff/  
Extension Ambassador  
P.O. Box 160  
Wayne, OH  
43466-0160

## What is the No. 1 way to connect with your community through the Extension Program?

Publicity about your Auxiliary activities and programs is an excellent way to show your community what we do to support our veterans. In addition, we can demonstrate our participation to help youth with scholarship opportunities and school programs to teach patriotism and flag etiquette in the classroom. Positive visibility in our communities will encourage the recruitment of new members and help us grow our Auxiliaries.

## If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about the Extension Program?

Each of us joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility and service of a veteran who honorably served in a foreign war and was recognized with a service medal or campaign ribbon. That military service makes you eligible to become a member. We must all get involved! We can fulfill the obligation we took when we became a member by mentoring other members. Help members understand our programs, encourage them to become officers, and make them feel needed. Remember those members who can no longer attend the meetings and look for ways to involve them. Ask members to mentor our youth by visiting schools and presenting classroom programs. Encourage members to remember our veterans by visiting hospitals and nursing homes to make their lives a little brighter.

## What are some unique resources that members should be aware of for the Extension Program?

- The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit:
  - R U Healthy Checklist
  - Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaire
  - Auxiliary Meeting Clinic
  - Healthy Communication Phone/Text Tree
  - Good Job Certificates
  - Health Certificates
- Current Podium Edition – Bylaws, *Booklet of Instructions and Ritual*
- Auxiliary Traditions video and handout
- 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary Cards
- Starting a New Auxiliary Cards
- Mentoring Guide
- PowerPoint presentation for Bachelor Posts considering an Auxiliary
- Ambassador bulletins and Conference Chairmen bulletins
- Ambassador blog posts at [vfwauxiliaryprograms.blogspot.com](http://vfwauxiliaryprograms.blogspot.com)
- VFW Auxiliary website

## How can members best support their VFW Post through the Extension Program?

Recruiting new members is a great way to support our VFW Posts. With the newly expanded eligibility requirements for the VFW Auxiliary, there are now at least 12 people who may join on the eligibility of a veteran. We must engage and get involved. Our veterans and their families need us. Our VFW Posts will come alive with our help as we reach out to not only our veterans but the youth and senior citizens in our communities. An increase in the Auxiliary membership provides tremendous support for our national programs and delivers “Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes”™.

# Extension Awards

## AWARDS FOR MEMBERS:

1. ***Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes*** Keepsake to one member in each Department who assists in revitalizing his/her Auxiliary and who uses the Healthy Auxiliary materials. One nomination from each Department Chief of Staff is due by March 31, 2017, to National Headquarters.

## AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:

1. ***Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes*** Citation to one Auxiliary in each Department that best used publicity, i.e. radio/TV/social media, in forming their Auxiliary or revitalizing their Auxiliary. One nomination from each Department Chief of Staff is due by March 31, 2017, to National Headquarters.

## AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS:

1. \$50 to the Department for each new Auxiliary instituted between July 1, 2016, and February 28, 2017, provided transmittal and proper paperwork is received at National Headquarters by March 31, 2017.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chief of Staff in each Program Division based on the promotion of Mentoring in the Auxiliary.
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and the promotion of the Program Goals as listed on page 6.

# Hospital Ambassador



**JANICE HOLM**

Hospital Ambassador  
349 Rainbow Lake Drive  
Brevard, NC  
28712-7721

doing it. From the very simple visiting patients in their rooms to becoming a friend to a nursing home resident, from helping a hospital with directing patients to the various departments within it to making reminder calls for upcoming appointments, from assisting with conducting an event to helping a resident or patient with a craft, from using their God-given talents to utilizing their professional skill sets, and from volunteering at a local hospital, clinic or nursing home to a VA Medical Center. Volunteer opportunities are as diverse as every individual volunteer.

## **What are you most passionate about this program and why?**

This program touches people in the most profound and significant way with an instant sense of self-worth through an act of kindness for another. Mere minutes of our time and attention have an enormous positive effect on the attitude of someone, a stranger to us, who may not be feeling well or possibly feeling forgotten. The spiritual uplifting of another brings brightness to their day that ultimately can affect their healing. That's powerful!

## **What is the No. 1 way to connect with your community through this project?**

The No. 1 way to connect with the community is through networking. Networking with churches, civic organizations, schools, local businesses, and other veteran advocates in your area will accomplish much more, not only in sponsorship of events and activities, but more importantly, in the availability of manpower. A byproduct of partnering on a regular basis with other groups in your community is the opportunity to promote in a wider scope the awareness of the need for more hospital, clinic and nursing home volunteerism.

## **If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about your program?**

I would tell them this program has an effect on both the volunteer and the recipient of their efforts like no other and it's instantaneous. Participating is only as demanding as they want it to be. It's the time they can afford to give to it and the efforts they choose to expend

## **What are some unique resources that members should be aware of for your program?**

Aside from the resources provided in the Hospital Program Guide, website and blogs, the best resource for the Auxiliaries is through their local medical facilities. Every facility has its own unique needs for volunteers and activities that are geared to their patient, resident or client services.

## **How can you involve families through this program?**

The most heartwarming feeling that comes over a patient in a hospital is when an entire family comes to visit them, without any personal family ties to them, and it radiates throughout the entire room. Many families look for opportunities to teach their children what it means to be a good neighbor. You can reach these families through churches, the county board of education and libraries. You can also try to involve families through the Parent Teacher Association. There are many volunteer opportunities that can interest families in volunteering at nursing homes such as holding a picnic in the garden of a nursing home, assisting the residents in maintaining a raised vegetable garden, or if the family is musically inclined have a sing-a-long to engage the residents. There is also the Veterans Voices Writing Project that provides a perfect opportunity for a family to learn about the experiences of a veteran and how it has impacted his/her life bringing an awareness they would not have otherwise learned.

### What experience do you have in this program?

Since I was a teenager, volunteering at a medical facility has been a passion of mine. I volunteered at a local hospital in my neighborhood as a middle schooler for two years and currently at a VA Medical Center in my area for the last 15 years. To give you a quick idea of what I have done, I've visited patients bringing them reading material and/or personal care items; held regular weekly positions calling patients to remind them of an upcoming appointment, doing a variety of office work, and working on special projects; I've assisted with special events at several local nursing homes; and helped with fundraisers for various patient needs in local medical facilities.

### What are you most excited about for the 2016-2017 program year?

I'm most excited this year about having the opportunity to encourage and impassion VFW Auxiliary

members in participating in this most self-satisfying program through volunteerism. It literally takes only a little bit of our time and compassion for others to fulfill. The focus is on what an individual can do and when he or she is available to do so.

### How can members best support their VFW Post through this program?

Probably the best support is to be willing to provide transportation for veterans in the community to their medical appointments. There are a host of reasons why the veteran is unable to drive him/herself and having a pool of willing drivers is a great asset and benefit the Post can offer their comrades. The Post may have a routine event they perform at a veterans' home or hospital such as on Veterans Day or at Christmas time when the Auxiliary can provide assistance. It is easily possible for the Post and Auxiliary to brainstorm and come up with many ways to work together in this program.

## Conference Chairmen



#### **BIG TEN STATES**

Diana Rudeen  
4835 Arlington Street  
Loves Park, IL  
61111-5814



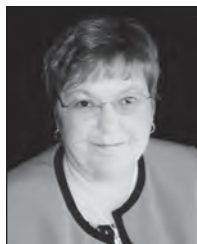
#### **EASTERN STATES**

Paula Pinto  
436 Locust Avenue  
Burlington, NJ  
08016-4510



#### **SOUTHERN STATES**

Virginia Smiley  
4785 Battletown Road  
Brandenburg, KY  
40108-9751



#### **WESTERN STATES**

Jeanie Lowe  
2801 Northwing Drive  
Manhattan, KS  
66502-8623



# Hospital Awards

## AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERS:

1. Charm to each member recruiting one or more volunteers between July 1, 2016, and March 31, 2017.
2. Beginning with 150 hours, a pin or pin/bar to each Auxiliary member reaching hours as stated in the "Hospital Program Guide."
3. A pin to each sponsored non-member volunteer, including youth volunteers, who serves a minimum of 100 hours under Auxiliary sponsorship at any hospital.
4. **"Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes" Keepsake** and signed picture of the National President to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each Program Division. To be presented at the Department Convention.

## AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chairman in each Program Division for the best promotion of **"The Many Faces of the Hospital Volunteer."**
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 8.

## AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:

**"Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes" Keepsake** to each National Chairman for participation in this program.

# Legislative Ambassador



**BETTE JEAN BIEDRZYCKI**

Legislative Ambassador  
625 Magnus Lane  
Coraopolis, PA  
15108-3421

## **What are you most passionate about this program and why?**

Every benefit that a veteran receives starts with legislation. And remember, these benefits weren't provided out of the goodness of Congress' heart. They were fought for by our predecessors and will erode if we don't continue the fight for them.

## **If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about your program?**

Legislative activism is everyone's responsibility. We must become familiar with the issues and the VFW's solutions. We must make sure our elected officials not only understand the issues – most of them do – but they must be provided the solution as well. That is our job in this program.

## **What are some unique resources that members should be aware of for your program?**

The VFW has several resources for legislative activism. First is the Action Corps Weekly. This is a weekly e-newsletter produced by our Washington, D.C., legislative staff. It lets us know what is happening on Capitol Hill each week. It includes congressional hearings, testimony

by VFW staff, and other meetings they have attended. Other resources can be found on the VFW website at <http://www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps/>. The VFW also conducted a series of surveys to gage how veterans like to receive their health care and how the VA health care system is working for them. These are great resources to give to candidates so they can see what veterans really think and we provide recommendations to make the system better. You can find those resources here <http://www.vfw.org/VAWatch/>.

## **How can you involve families through this program?**

Educate them on the issues and get them to participate. They can bring a unique face to an issue. Their life experiences as a spouse or dependent of a service member or veteran can deeply impact elected officials and establish or change how they feel on an issue.

## **What are you most excited about for the 2016-2017 program year?**

It is an election year. Every member of the House, 1/3 of all Senate seats and the President will be elected in November of 2016. We have the ability to affect these elections in two ways: first, we can influence the position candidates hold on issues that affect veterans, military personnel and their families; second, we can vote for the candidate that truly promotes our legislative priorities.

## **How can members best support their VFW Post through this program?**

Educate, Educate, Educate. Then participate. Learn the issues, know where to find the solutions, then tell others what is important to veterans and their families. Attend town hall meetings with the VFW, talk to your elected officials and VOTE!

## Conference Chairmen



**BIG TEN STATES**  
Theresa Calabrese  
5100 S Long Avenue  
Chicago, IL  
60638-1626



**EASTERN STATES**  
Frances Turner  
386 Graham Branch Road  
Seaford, DE  
19973-6239



**SOUTHERN STATES**  
Audrey Smith  
523 S Highland Forest Drive  
Columbia, SC  
29203-1934



**WESTERN STATES**  
Carmelita Jones  
1295 S 5th W  
Rexburg, ID  
83440-5091

## Legislative Awards

### AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chairman in each Program Division for the best promotion of serving veterans and their families through effective legislative advocacy.
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 10.

### AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:

**“Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes” Keepsake** to each National Chairman for participation in this program.

# Membership & Leadership Ambassador



**LEONA MCDERMOTT**  
Membership & Leadership  
Ambassador  
4444 Royal Fern Way  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
33410

## **What are you most passionate about this program and why?**

I am passionate about the ability for us to now bring this program into the 21st century. With the broadening of the eligibility, we truly stand at the “crossroads” to take not only this program but our organization to a place it has never been before. The VFW Auxiliary now provides for eligible relatives of veterans to work together for a common cause regardless of gender. I can think of no better way to honor our veterans than to join an organization whose sole mission is to assist veterans and their families.

I believe we are making great strides in creating and improving the resources available for moving our membership forward and look forward to continuing to develop and implement additional resources, tools and activities to meet the needs of our organization and its members. Membership is the “heartbeat” of our organization. The work that we do ensures that our legacy will live on and that veterans will always be taken care of.

I am passionate about this program because of the possibilities it now brings. I believe that Membership and Leadership go hand in hand. As leaders, we work to grow our organization and strive for excellence in everything that we do. This program will now give every Department an opportunity to achieve excellence and be recognized for their efforts. It is my hope that blending membership and leadership will provide the tools and resources necessary for better program participation by

our Auxiliaries and better means of communications and training of our Auxiliary members by our Departments; while providing every Department President the opportunity to truly be the best that they can be.

## **What is the No. 1 way to connect with your community through this project?**

It is my belief that the No. 1 way to connect with your community is through our actions and through letting communities know what we do. Spread the word about our programs. Involve the community in our programs. Many of us are either involved in or know others who are involved with outside organizations. This is a great way for others to hear about who we are and what we do. In speaking to others, let your passion for what we do and your excitement about what we have accomplished shine through. It is a wonderful way to motivate others to become a part of this great organization.

## **What are you most excited about for the 2016-17 year?**

I am most excited about the enhancement we have made to the Membership Program. I am so proud and humbled to be the “pioneer” Ambassador for a program that not only has vision but one which I know will truly appeal to all of our members regardless of gender. Moving to the Membership & Leadership Program now gives every Department the opportunity to be recognized for their accomplishments. Membership goals tailored to every individual Department and achievable goals will allow every Department to be become a part of the Circle of Excellence. What’s even better, once you become a member of the Circle of Excellence, you will always be a member and will continue to be recognized for years to come for what you and your Department have accomplished.

I am excited that our National Certified Recruiter Trainer program will now become more of an integral part of this program and that I will be working hand-in-hand with Headquarters staff, who will not only be working with the National Certified Recruiter Trainers but will be keeping a pulse on the daily membership numbers and



assisting me through interaction with our Membership Conference Coaches. I know this will be a win-win for everyone! Through collaboration and teamwork, I know this program will be successful and my vision is to see every Department in the Circle of Excellence.

**If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about your program?**

Just one more member matters.....every member has the opportunity to make a difference to our organization. Never before has there been such an opportunity for new members. Now husbands/wives; widowers/widows; fathers/mothers; grandfathers/grandmothers; sons/daughters; brothers/sisters; and grandsons/granddaughters can join under an eligible veteran. Stepchildren of an eligible veteran may join the VFW

Auxiliary as well. While we know we have members who recruit many more than one member, recruiting just one member does matter. In simple terms, if only half of our membership recruited just one member, the organization would have more than 230,000 new members. The possibilities are endless. All it takes is for you to have some knowledge of what the VFW Auxiliary does. The Facts Leaflet, available free from National Headquarters, is a great resource, and then you just need to ask someone to join. If they say "no" don't be discouraged. There will be other opportunities with other potential members. Be sure to tell your story....it is an honor to have a veteran in your family who makes you eligible for this great organization. Not everyone can join and your membership is an opportunity to honor your veteran's service and sacrifice. Stay positive and keep trying. You will succeed and in doing so, you will make a difference!

## Conference Coaches



**BIG TEN STATES**  
Deborah Tweet  
5325 Kings Circle N  
Brooklyn Park, MN  
55443-1606



**EASTERN STATES**  
Elizabeth "Libby"  
DallaTezza  
1751 Keysville Road S  
Keymar, MD  
21757-9427



**SOUTHERN STATES**  
Lois Callahan  
363 E Lawson Road  
Little Rock, AR  
72210-2135



**WESTERN STATES**  
Kim (Mrs. Jim) Harney  
2562 San Ysidro Drive  
Sierra Vista, AZ  
85635-5542

# Membership & Leadership Awards

## MEMBER AWARD

### National Membership Achievement Award –

Each VFW Auxiliary or VFW post member who secures 20 new members (not rejoined) from July 1, 2016, to April 30, 2017, with the official form received at National Headquarters by May 31, 2017, will be honored with a National Membership Achievement Award; which will be presented at the National Convention in 2017. Department Treasurers are not eligible.

### AUXILIARY AWARD:

\$50 to each Auxiliary when they reach 100% Plus by June 30, 2017, based on June 30, 2016, total membership numbers.

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Goals will be individualized for each Department and be given at the start of the 2016-2017 year.

### Quarter 1 by Oct. 31

New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$200

### Quarter 2 by Jan. 31

New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$350

### Quarter 3 by April 30

New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$400

### Quarter 4 by June 30

New/Rejoin-Department Goal = \$500

## CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE DEPARTMENT MONETARY AWARD:

\$1,000 to the Department if they achieve all the criteria for the Circle of Excellence.

## AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. *Unwavering Support Certificate* to the Department Membership Chairman in each Program Division with the best promotion of “Just One More Member Matters.”
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on the criteria on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 12.

## AWARDS FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN

1. “*Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes*” *Keepsake* to each Conference Chairman for participation in this program.

# VFW Auxiliary Member Award

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** Each Auxiliary or VFW Post member who secures 20 new members from July 1, 2016, to April 30, 2017, with the official form received at National Headquarters **no later than May 31, 2017**, will be honored with a National Membership Achievement Award, which will be presented at the National Convention in 2017. Department Treasurers are not eligible.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Aux. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip Code

Recruiter's Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER	AUXILIARY NUMBER	MEMBER NAME	DATE ACCEPTED
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

**Completed form must be received by National Headquarters by May 31, 2017.**

Mail form to:  
VFW Auxiliary  
ATTN: Membership Awards  
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor  
Kansas City MO 64111

# Scholarships Ambassador



**JOYCE BILYEU**  
Scholarships Ambassador  
3301 U Street  
Antelope, CA  
95843-2519

## **What are you most passionate about in this program and why?**

I am most passionate about this program because it will allow me the opportunity to provide information and tools needed for youth to be creative and innovative when seeking funding for continuing education.

One hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of car you drove, how big your house was or how much money you made. What WILL matter is if you made a difference in the life of a child. This program will allow all of us to make a difference not only in a child's life but the lives of their families (in particular for those struggling financially to support their children's educations).

## **What are you most excited about for the 2016-2017 program year?**

One of the things that I am really excited about this year is the opportunity to get the community involved, especially schools. There are so many schools in our country who have very limited resources, and this program is a great opportunity for teachers to incorporate into their yearly curricula. In addition, I'm excited to

promote the Continuing Education Scholarship. This scholarship is a great opportunity for members and their immediate family to apply for additional funding for tuition and/or books for college or training at a vocational/technical school.

## **If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about our program?**

I would tell members in addition to receiving scholarships for their child, this program is a great way to be actively engaged with your child. By encouraging their child to participate in the Voice of Democracy Program, Patriot's Pen Scholarship or the Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest, they will build confidence in their child. When doing this, it will help their child to be more innovative, creative and diverse. Whenever parents participate in their child's education and projects in a positive manner, they are building healthy relationships. They would be creating bonds and fond memories with their child, who in turn will more than likely do the same to their children and so forth.

## **How can members best support their VFW Post through this program?**

One of the best ways that members can support their VFW Post through this program is to be informed on each project and deadlines. Once members are informed, then they need to actively participate with the VFW and assist in any way, especially in getting the information out to others in the organization and throughout their communities. The VFW needs support with this program, and history has shown that the Auxiliary has been very instrumental in making each of the scholarship programs a success.

## Conference Chairmen



**BIG TEN STATES**  
Jean Barton  
8100 Regent Drive  
Lincoln, NE  
68507-3366



**EASTERN STATES**  
Carol Preston  
18 A Old Rte 12  
Thompson, CT  
06277-2708



**SOUTHERN STATES**  
Patricia Leitner  
489 Mountain Ranch Drive  
Fairfield Bay, AR  
72088-3618



**WESTERN STATES**  
Flo Parmelee  
115 Valley Drive  
Helena, MT  
559601-0164

## Scholarships Awards

### AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chairman in each Program Division for the best promotion of the Continuing Education Scholarship.
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 14.

### AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:

**“Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes” Keepsake** to each National Chairman for participation in this program.



# Veterans & Family Support Ambassador



**JEANETTE D. GARCIA**

Veterans & Family Support  
Ambassador  
8308 Waverly Drive NW  
Albuquerque, NM  
87120-3820

## **What experience do you have in this program?**

I served as the Veterans & Family Support Department Chairman for the Department of New Mexico in 2011-2012. I received Outstanding Chairman of the year in Group 2. Through our Auxiliary we have sent care packages overseas for our military and we adopted a Unit. I, as well as my family, and our Auxiliary members, hand our “Buddy”® Poppies during Memorial and Veterans Day. We also place a “Buddy”® Poppy on our POW/MIA ribbons and hand those out during our POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony. I have also participated in fundraising for National Veterans Services during our National President’s visit and within my Auxiliary.

## **What are you most passionate about the program and why?**

I am most passionate about Veterans & Family Support because it promotes the entire family and their hero. Some of us do not realize that the veteran is not the only one affected by the war and the challenges of living day to day. As we think about the whole family, we need to see life through their eyes. What are they dealing with every day, how they cope with PTSD and just getting through an afternoon? I want to be able to help and provide resources that veterans and their families can reach and take advantage of. We have websites and many telephone numbers to organizations that can provide those resources. I want to educate and help families become aware of what is out there for them. Our veterans and their families need our help. This is how we can help them, through Veterans & Family Support.

## **What is the No. 1 way to connect with your community through this project?**

We need to educate our community and promote our programs. In order for them to be able to connect with us as an organization and as individuals, our community needs to understand what we are about and why we are the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. The community may have heard about us, but they may not know in detail all that we can offer to veterans and families and how they can also help. As members of the Auxiliary, there are websites that we can tap into and print information such as brochures fliers, applications, phone numbers that help educate many on our programs. We need to educate through radio spots and newspaper articles that can highlight what we are doing and helping our military. Educate and help our communities become aware of the programs, they in turn will start to get the word out to others.

## **What are some of the unique resources that members should be aware of for your program?**

We care about the well being of our veteran. They have seen so much from the war and they need resources to get them through their days and nights. There is the Veterans Crisis Line, [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net), which veterans and their families can call if they feel that their veteran could be contemplating suicide. There are the VFW’s Veteran & Military Support Programs, such as: Operation Uplink, Unmet Needs, Military Assistance Program with links to the VFW website. There is also the VFW National Home that members can visit to see what the National Home can offer, housing, guidance, and the Helpline, just to name a few. Also find the “Veterans Behind the Poppies” video on our YouTube channel, which tells the story of the poppy. There is so much available to families and so much available that our members can read and information to pass out at fundraisers, Post home dinners, county fairs, “Buddy”® Poppy drives. We just need to take advantage of it.

## **If you could talk to every Auxiliary member at one time, what would you tell them about your program?**

The VFW's Veteran and Military Support Programs are ready to provide immediate assistance to service personnel and families whose lives have been directly affected by America's war on terror.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the nation's active-duty military has been on high alert, and National Guard and reserve units have been mobilized in record numbers. As a result, the families of these men and women often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly expenses, and assistance is required for a variety of everyday needs.

The VFW Veteran and Military Support Programs works when VFW and Auxiliaries at the Post level respond to the increasing needs of comrades and their families. As one of the nation's largest veterans' organization, our commitment to the men and women of our armed forces and their families never wavers. Together, we must act to ensure that no family endures hardships caused by military service. By doing so, we ensure that the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are there to help.

Our veterans put everything on the line to protect our freedom. We may never be able to repay them for their sacrifice, but we can show them just how much

we appreciate all that they've done. Everyone can do something to show veterans know how much we appreciate their service. What will you do?

## **How can you involve families through this program?**

Most of the programs for Veterans & Family Support are for the family. It may not be directly, but it affects them in some way. By providing information on each program, families can see how they can participate and take advantage of those programs that they really need at this time. Invite families to have lunch or dinner at your Post Home. Have presentations on your programs and tell them about the resources that are available to them. Talk about the National Home and the housing that is available, at least they will have this information. If they are having a hard time paying for their utilities or house payment, talk about Unmet Needs. Maybe our veterans would like to go back to school to learn new skills and get a degree so they can better support their family. Direct them to the VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship Program. Set up a table at your local VA facility, and ask if you can be at welcome home and send-off events. You can be there to help the family as they cope with their loved one being gone. There are many ways to help families, we just need to get out there and work with them.

## **Conference Chairmen**



**BIG TEN STATES**  
Millie Lauer  
25895 9th Street W  
Zimmerman, MN  
55398-8797



**EASTERN STATES**  
Bonnie Eichelberger  
7820 Loop Road  
Alexandria, PA  
16611-2408



**SOUTHERN STATES**  
Gailya (Mrs. Charlie)  
Stephenson  
2721 Burtz Drive  
Marietta, GA  
30068-3606



**WESTERN STATES**  
Chrissy Harlan  
2151 W Felicia Place  
Tucson, AZ  
85741-3101

# Veterans & Family Support Awards

## **AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:**

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chairman in each Program Division for the best promotion the sharing the impact of our programs on veterans, the military and their families.
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 16.

## **AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:**

**“Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes” Keepsake** to each National Chairman for participation in this program.

# Youth Activities Ambassador



**MARTINE ARNDT**

Youth Activities  
Ambassador  
445 Palm Springs Way  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80921-2658

## **What are you most passionate about this program and why?**

Our youth are our future. They are a great resource to assist their communities. It is our responsibility to “Involve, Include and Educate” our youth to insure that they become responsible adults and citizens. Our organization has an opportunity to make a real difference in our communities.

## **What is the No. 1 way to connect with your community through this project?**

Participate in local community festivals, fairs, parades and events. Have a booth showing what programs are available for youth in the community. Work with your Post and Auxiliary Chairmen to promote our organization in your community.

## **How can you involve families through this program?**

Always talk to the parents regarding our program. If you would like to give a R.A.P. coin or card, ask the parent if you may talk to their child and explain what you are doing. If you are holding a youth event at your Post home, make sure that the parents and siblings are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

## **What are you most excited about for the 2016-2017 program year?**

With all of the new changes to our organization with expanding our membership to male family members, we are dealing with a fresh slate for our programs and it is extremely exciting to be a part of this change!

## **How can members best support their VFW Post through this program?**

Work together and communicate. Partner with your Post and local police and fire departments to co-sponsor youth safety fairs. The VFW Store has many items that can be used, including Child ID Kits, pamphlets and coloring books on the subjects of home/Internet safety. Have a car seat professional available to check car seat installation, have professionals available to check bicycle and scooter safety, and teach the importance of helmets. Perhaps hold a “helmet drive” at your Post/Auxiliary to give to those youth that need them.

## Conference Chairmen



### **BIG TEN STATES**

Kathy Harding  
207 N 9th Street  
Eddyville, IA  
52553-9664



### **EASTERN STATES**

Jane Reape  
108 Bridge Street  
Carthage, NY  
13619-9593



### **SOUTHERN STATES**

Dorothy Bennett  
517 N Grant Avenue  
Odessa, TX  
79761-5120



### **WESTERN STATES**

Jane Loucks  
924 Siesta Circle  
Billings, MT  
59105-5451

## Youth Activities Awards

### **AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:**

1. Citation to each Department Chairman for participation in this program.
2. ***Unwavering Support Gift Certificate*** to one Department Chairman in each Program Division for the best promotion of recognizing youth accomplishments in the community.
3. Outstanding Performance Award in each Program Division based on criteria listed on Page 1 and for the promotion of the Program Goals on Page 18.

### **AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:**

**“Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes” Keepsake** to each National Chairman for participation in this program.



# Americanism

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of Auxiliaries conducting special programs on patriotic holidays?  
(For example, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, POW/MIA Remembrance Day, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Auxiliaries participating in POW/MIA programs: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of POW/MIA flags presented (at least 2" x 3" or larger): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of American Flags presented (at least 2" x 3" or larger): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of Auxiliaries participating in the Smart/Maher National Citizenship  
Education Teacher Award: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For example, assisting the Post, taking the contest into schools or making a donation.)
6. Number of certificates presented to businesses or citizens in recognition of  
their displaying the U.S., POW/MIA flags or other displays of American pride: \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many Auxiliaries in your Department promoted Americanism through  
any media? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Number of Auxiliaries that conducted patriotic education in their Auxiliary  
and/or community: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Number of education programs conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairman

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

# Chief of Staff

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of Auxiliaries that you used the Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit with: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Auxiliaries that received a Certificate of Good Health: \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did you make Auxiliaries aware of the Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many times was publicity used for revitalizing or forming a VFW Auxiliary? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of Auxiliaries that used the Mentoring resources available to start/continue mentoring in their Auxiliary: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Number of presentations to bachelor Posts about starting an Auxiliary: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chairman

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

# Hospital

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of VFW Auxiliary members volunteering in **ALL** medical VA facilities and non-VA medical facilities:  
Number of Volunteers \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of **NEW** volunteers recruited. Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of Auxiliaries sponsoring/conducting an event or activity in **ALL** facilities, both VA and non-VA: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Total amount spent on all Hospital projects: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of applicants submitted to the Department for the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted Veteran and Military Suicide Awareness: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Number of Auxiliaries that recognized volunteers throughout the year: \_\_\_\_\_
8. How did your Department use publicity and/or media to recruit volunteers and involve the community?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Number of Auxiliaries that participated in "The Many Faces of Hospital Volunteers": \_\_\_\_\_
10. Number of Auxiliaries that presented Hospital Volunteer Pins to members: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Number of Auxiliaries that conducted/participated in volunteer recognition events: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Number of Auxiliaries that participated in the Veterans Voices Writing Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For example, subscribing to the magazine, making a donation or volunteering with the program.)

Signed _____ Department Chairman	Conference _____
Address _____	E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Phone Number ( _____ ) _____

# Legislative

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did your Department promote the VFW Priority Goals?

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---

2. How did your Department encourage members to communicate with legislators on veterans' issues?

---

---

3. How many members subscribed to *Checkpoint* Newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many members signed up for *VFW Action Corps*? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did your Department communicate pending legislation and special legislative alerts?

---

---

---

6. Number of contacts made by members personally to legislators on veterans' issues:

Personal Contacts: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mails: \_\_\_\_\_ Faxes: \_\_\_\_\_

Letters: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Calls: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Number of Auxiliaries that worked to serve veterans and their families through effective legislative advocacy: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Number of members who attended events where they could interact with legislators: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Number of Auxiliaries who promoted Get Out the Vote to their members and community: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairman

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

# Membership & Leadership

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many Auxiliaries planned recruiting events? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Total number of recruiting events for all Auxiliaries: \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many Auxiliaries used the following methods to collect annual dues?  
Phone Calls: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mails: \_\_\_\_\_ Letters/postcards: \_\_\_\_\_  
Face-to-face conversations: \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many Auxiliaries offered incentives to their members for renewing early? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many Auxiliaries sent dues reminders/notices? \_\_\_\_\_
6. If your Department has a National Certified Recruiter Trainer (NCRT), how many training sessions did he/she give at Department events? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many times did your Department send dues notices/reminders during the year? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Did your Department offer any incentives to Auxiliaries for collecting dues early? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, please describe:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Does your Department offer a program for Auxiliaries similar to the Circle of Excellence, such as Outstanding Auxiliary or All American? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, please describe:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed _____ Department Chairman	Conference _____
Address _____	E-Mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Phone Number ( ____ ) _____



# Scholarships

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

1. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the Patriotic Art Contest: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Auxiliaries that submitted an entry: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of students who submitted an entry to the Auxiliaries: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of entries judged on the Department level: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Total dollar amount awarded by \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary level awards: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Department level awards: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

1. Number of Auxiliaries that participated in the Continuing Education Scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For example, distributed applications, publicized/promoted program, etc.)
2. How did your Department publicize/promote the Continuing Education Scholarship?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

1. Number of Auxiliaries that assisted their Posts in conducting the contest: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Auxiliaries that participated without having an entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of members involved \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers of hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

### PATRIOT'S PEN CONTEST

1. Number of Auxiliaries that assisted their Posts in conducting the contest: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Auxiliaries that participated without having an entry: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of members involved \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers of hours volunteered \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Auxiliaries that publicized all these contests within their communities: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Auxiliaries that hosted/co-hosted an awards ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in all these contests: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Department Chairman  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

# Veterans & Family Support

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of Auxiliaries that hosted/co-hosted with VFW fundraising activities for National Veterans Service: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of Auxiliaries that hosted/co-hosted with the VFW fundraising activities for VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For example, Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink, etc.)
3. How many Auxiliaries provided aid to veterans, active-duty military and/or their families? (For example, meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Total value of donations and goods/services provided: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of veterans/military personnel assisted: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of veterans and military personnel served and/or assisted by **ALL ACTIVITIES** under this program: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted and/or made donations to the VFW National Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Donated: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted/used the "Buddy"® Poppy throughout the year: \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many "Buddy"® Poppy drives were held by Auxiliaries with or without the Post? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Number of Auxiliaries that participated in and/or sponsored events or projects for homeless veterans: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For example, Stand Downs, clothing drives, etc.)
9. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted the Military & Veteran Family Helpline from the VFW National Home: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted sharing the impact of our programs on veterans, the military and their families: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Department Chairman  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

# Youth Activities

## 2016-2017 YEAR-END REPORT

SUBMIT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT BY MAY 1, 2017

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Auxiliaries Participating \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of Auxiliaries that participated in and/or publicized Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of youth groups that Auxiliaries worked with work with during the year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated number of youth involved: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted and/or used the Random Acts of Patriotism program? \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of R.A.P. cards distributed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of R.A.P. coins distributed: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Number of youth recognized in communities for their academic, athletic, scouting or other accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Chairman  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_