

SEPTEMBER 2024

VFW Auxiliary

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

2024-2025
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
BRENDA BRYANT

PATRIOTIC ART
CONTEST WINNERS

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA
CONTEST WINNERS



REFERENCE ONLY LATEST BROCHURES & FORMS



The art brochure and its accompanying forms contain important changes that are new this Program Year. It is important to refer to and use only the newest forms and brochures for our scholarships and contests. Look for updated resources for Auxiliary scholarships and contests as well as our new Fact Sheet on our National website, vfwauxiliary.org.

Specifically, find scholarship and contest entry forms, brochures and brochure order forms under the Scholarships & Contests tab on our home page or in MALTA Member Resources. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art brochure and Illustrating America info. sheet contain updates, among them, less restrictions on pieces that are matted. We wanted to make this contest more inclusive and we wanted to decrease the likelihood that we would have to eliminate entries at the National level.

That said, it is very important that students, parents, teachers and members/Chairmen at the local, District and Department level read and follow the contest rules. If an entry does not qualify because it isn't following the rules, you CAN send this back to the student to fix, but only BEFORE it gets sent to National Headquarters for judging.

Also note the change to the maximum dimensions of the two-dimensional entries, and that students must now add their name/grade to the back of Illustrating art entries.

You can also find our new Fact Sheet that details how we contributed to our communities through our National Programs, under the [About Us](#) tab on our home page and in [MALTA](#).

DATES & DEADLINES

September

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

SEPT 2 Labor Day

SEPT 7 Celebrating America's Freedom Event

SEPT 11 Patriot Day

SEPT 17 Constitution Day

SEPT 20 National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day

SEPT 29 Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

October

OCT 14 Columbus Day

OCT 31 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship contest entries due to VFW Post

For more information on awards and deadlines, see the [2024-2025 National Program Book](#).

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



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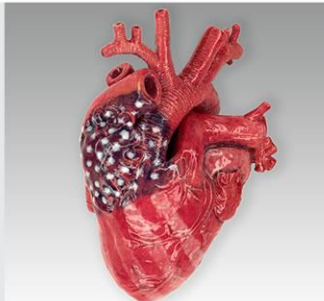
National President Brenda Bryant will lead the Auxiliary with her theme of *From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans*.

17 Young American Creative Patriotic Art & 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Winners

Art was judged at National Headquarters; we displayed art from the top-12 National winners of the two-dimensional contest and the top three of the three-dimensional contest at Convention. See their patriotic expressions.

19 Illustrating America

This art contest showcases the talent of younger students grades K-8.



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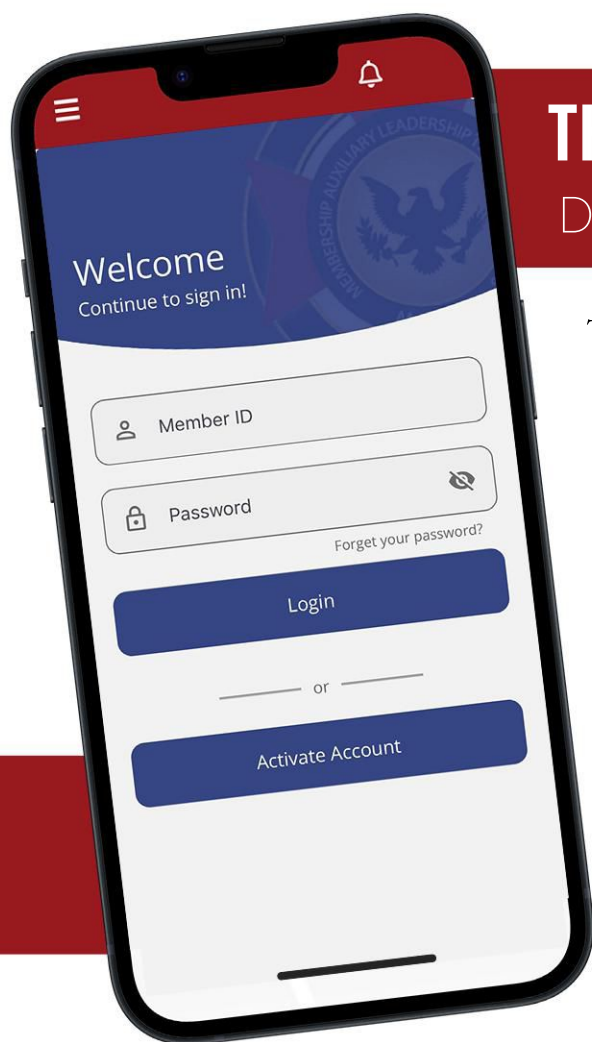
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About the Cover

About the Cover: High school sophomore Ana Bruck's painting of a soldier and his dog was inspired by a friend's photograph. According to Bruck's essay, Lucky saved his soldier's life in Vietnam by giving his own life. Lucky was honored on the K-9 memorial wall of the Michigan War Dog Memorial in South Lyon.



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT: DOWNLOAD THE NEW MALTA APP!

The MALTA mobile app is now LIVE for both Android and iPhone!

You can find the MALTA app on Android phones by searching it for in the app store, but if you have an iPhone or Apple device, you must take an extra step to find it, by going to the link below and downloading from there. This is due to the restrictions Apple puts on apps that are intended for members-only.

MALTA will continue to be available on your computers and tablets, but the phone app will make it easier to keep needed content right in your pocket, including your Membership card.

You can access the app by clicking on or copy/pasting the links below on your mobile device:

Apple URL - <https://apps.apple.com/app/vfw-auxiliary-malta/id6482576653>

Android URL - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vfwauxiliary>

Also find these links on the home page of the National website and in MALTA Member Resources under Miscellaneous.

get SOCIAL



Instagram
[@vfwauxiliaryhq](https://www.instagram.com/vfwauxiliaryhq)



LinkedIn
[VFW Auxiliary](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vfw-auxiliary)



Facebook
[vfwauxiliary](https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxiliary)



Pinterest
[vfwauxiliary](https://www.pinterest.com/vfwauxiliary)



YouTube
[VFW Auxiliary National Organization](https://www.youtube.com/VFW-Auxiliary-National-Organization)





*A smile and a kind
word goes a long
way when talking
to each other.*

Dear members —

Saying thank you does not begin to say enough about how much I appreciate your confidence in allowing me to serve as your National President. I am excited to have the opportunity to visit with each of you and hear all the great accomplishments you are making.

CONGRATULATIONS to all members who have been elected to positions on every level. Your members have faith in you to guide them. My theme is ***From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans.*** Like a big oak tree, we can stand tall and proud if we are working together.

Our special project this year will be Operation Bottom Cover. We have active-duty military personnel and veterans whose wages are so low, they must make a choice of food or diapers for their children. Our goal is to donate diapers to help these families out. There are three ways you can do this: First is to make a gift to the National VFW Auxiliary and earmark the check for Operation Bottom Cover. Or go on MALTA and make your gift there. Second is donate diapers to your local military bases. The last way is finding military families or veterans in your area that are in need and have small children. We are asking that you do not give them a gift card, because then we don't know if they used it for diapers. We want the focus to be on providing diapers and to make this a more personal project. Find out what their needs are and buy the diapers yourself. Then, report your project under Veterans & Family Support so we can track how many diapers and how much money was spent.

There are times that we need to look at our **ROOTS** and remember why we joined the VFW Auxiliary. Was it a veteran that gave you your eligibility or a member that showed you kindness? No matter what the reason, we need to continue **EXTENDING** our hands to those around us. A smile and a kind word goes a long way when talking to each other. I promise to greet each of you with a smile and I hope you will pass it along.

Loyally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Bryant". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

BRENDA BRYANT
National President



*We look forward to
seeing what you do to
support our mission
in 2024-2025.*

Dear members—

In the town where the Louisville Slugger was born, the VFW Auxiliary knocked its 111th National Convention out of the park since our last edition of the magazine. Convention is when we at HQ get to meet in person many of the members we communicate with over phone and email, and we have the opportunity to get to know many more of you as we spend time at the event learning, training, celebrating our accomplishments and planning for the Program Year ahead.

We hope you enjoyed seeing talented students' art in person at our Patriotic Art gallery in the exhibit hall. They are our top National entries from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art and Illustrating America contests. Look for a story about the art beginning on page 11. Now is the time to start promoting these and other Auxiliary scholarships in your communities. Be sure to do so with the latest entry forms, info. sheets and brochures, available on our website and in MALTA Member Resources. It is important that you have the latest resources, as scholarships and contest rules change year to year.

We elected Brenda Bryant of Missouri as VFW Auxiliary National President. Read about her journey to our highest National office on page 9.

We look forward to seeing what you do to support our mission in 2024-2025, whether you're choosing a way to contribute to National President Brenda Bryant's new special project that will benefit veteran and military families struggling to keep up with the cost of basic baby needs or working any of our 11 National Programs. Keep us in mind and send pictures and caption information our way at info@vfwauxiliary.org to be considered for Auxiliaries in Action social media posts.

Next up will be our 12th-annual Celebrating America's Freedom Event at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, a very special community that will soon be celebrating its centennial.

This month is also National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. For us, every day is Veterans Day and we know even one death by suicide is too many. Focus on ways you can promote suicide prevention and share the 988 suicide crisis line emergency number; press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish, 3 for LGBTQ+.

AMANDA COOK

Editor-In-Chief

VOLUME 88 NUMBER 2

Editor-In-Chief

Amanda Cook

Contributing Writers

Nicole Panteleakos &
Skye Melcher

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Change of Address

Forward address changes to: Circulation Department, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Members may also change their own address or email address in MALTA. Or email info@vfwauxiliary.org.

Website

www.vfwauxiliary.org

READER'S VOICE



This is the space for comments regarding your *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*. Mail your submissions to National Headquarters or email them to info@vfwauxiliary.org, marked "Letter to the Editor." We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor should not be interpreted as the opinion of the National Organization.

Read on to see feedback we received from our live coverage of 2024 National Convention via livestream and on social media.

Great job, Carla!

DEVIL'S TOWER VFW POST 4311 | *Wyoming*

Congratulations Madam President! We look forward to a great year!

LORI NETTLES | **AUXILIARY 1585** | *Bellingham, Wash.*

It was a good convention! Happy to attend the 45+ luncheon, 60 years! Seeing friends I haven't seen in few years!

MARSHA MILLER | **AUXILIARY 3418** | *Boonville, Ind.*

Thank you for keeping us updated!

BERNADETTE WANAT BUDNY | **AUXILIARY 3873**
Naperville, Ill.

As a first-time attendee I (found) this Convention amazing, informative and I am so glad I attended.

FRAN NINIVAGGI INSLEE | **AUXILIARY 9592** |
Massapequa Park, N.Y.

Beautiful presentation! Thank you National VFW Auxiliary for doing the livestream. I couldn't be in Louisville this year so I've been able to watch some of it through the livestream.

CAROLINA HOLMES | **AUXILIARY 9662** | *Des Moines, Iowa*

I absolutely love that it's live. I couldn't be there and watching it makes me feel better.

BELINDA COLE | **AUXILIARY 2475** | *Hudson Falls, N.Y.*

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

The editors of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* want to know what you think about features and articles you see (or would like to see) in the magazine.

While we have appreciated receiving all of your feedback about the National magazine going digital, we also look for constructive comments on what you liked, what you didn't and why as well as what you think we could include that we aren't already covering.

This is your page to voice your thoughts!

Email us at info@vfwauxiliary.org with Letter to the Editor in the subject line or send your letters to:

VFW Auxiliary Magazine,
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor,
Kansas City, MO, 64111.

MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT

Tresa Manor

MEMBERS APPLAUD AUXILIARY SISTER WHOSE DEDICATION TO VETERANS NEVER WAVERED, NOT EVEN IN THE FACE OF WORLDWIDE UNCERTAINTY

During a looming pandemic, when the world was becoming more locked down and more isolated, Nurse Navigator Tresa Manor's commitment to hospitalized veterans and her sense of service for America's heroes expanded. The Auxiliary 2908 Life Member honors veterans living in North Carolina State Veterans Home-Salisbury through her work as a care advocate. It is work that fulfills her passion of always providing a caring hand.

"I consider veterans the heroes of this great country. I feel so rewarded in my work with them on a daily basis," Manor said.

After working for years in patient care, a new job as nurse navigator developed that Manor stepped into. In this role, she is the initial point of contact for veterans and their families as they transition from the hospital, nursing home or from their own home to the state's long-term care facility.

"I am empathetic to how hard those transitions can be; therefore, I try to always show compassion and love to these families during this time and especially our veterans for their sacrifice and their ongoing care needs with us," she added.

Manor was excited to step into the role, but never expected to encounter an unforeseen battle in this new position: a pandemic.

"It was my role during this time and moving forward to facilitate...any form of communication between veterans and their loved ones given the inability to coordinate visitation otherwise," she said. "Many of our veterans suffer with dementia and I felt called to ensure that they had every access we could provide to their loved ones, in any form we could make it happen."

Manor spent time on and off in the COVID isolation unit with the veterans placed there.

"They conveyed to me how much closure this provided and how much this meant to their families," Manor continued. "I couldn't imagine being in their shoes, but I knew that I could help in this way, and I wanted to help in any and every way I could."

One of our veterans from World War II who was on the beaches of Normandy told me that the time of COVID was 'horrible' and 'reminded me of the invasion on D-Day.' This was the level of fear, sorrow, and isolation he felt."

Manor wanted to make sure to let veterans know they aren't forgotten by their family and staff.

"This was such a heartbreaking time, to see isolation so close. I considered it a privilege to serve this gap," Manor said.

Manor coordinated with their facility chaplain to conduct memorial services for those veterans who passed while in the home.

"She felt terrible that these veterans had no one to come see them and, in the end, she wanted to remember them," said friend and Auxiliary sister Jenny Allen. "Tresa continues with her memorial services and now has a monthly memorial service for those veterans who passed away during the month. Her compassion for veterans is truly unwavering."

Said Allen, Manor always says that she doesn't have to look for her dream job because she has already found it. While COVID lockdown might be a thing of the past, Manor still goes to work every day with a mission to love, show compassion and to help communicate veteran and family needs.

"I truly feel called to this, and I LOVE my job," Manor said. "I get to go to work every day to love on and serve our

veterans to ensure they enjoy their quality of life in our building...what could be better? This is more than a job to me; it is my mission/ministry in this life." ★ SM



Tresa Manor sits along side one of the veterans she helps.

VFW AUXILIARY MUSEUM:



30 Years

The VFW Auxiliary Museum at National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri was the brainchild of then-incoming National President Juanita Crowe-Durbino, who proposed it to the Council of Administration at National Convention in 1993. Crowe-Durbino said it was “very appropriate to begin such an endeavor in our landmark 80th year.” She was right! Just shy of one year later, Crowe-Durbino was present for the grand opening, joined by four Past National Presidents: Marie Klugow (1964-1965), Marion Watson (1981-1982), Florence Taylor (1982-1983) and Fran Booth (1990-1991). That was 30 years ago.

Members from across the nation made donations to the new museum, including sending in pins, badges, Encampment anniversary plates and even discontinued uniforms to be displayed on mannequins. Other displayed items include a beautiful Snowball Express quilt, past awards, a panel dedicated to the National Home, a panel dedicated to VFW Auxiliary Junior Girls, official trinkets from Statue of Liberty trips, a photo collage of Better World Award recipients, special gifts presented by National Presidents throughout the years and more. Additionally, a Wall of Presidents includes the official photos of each Past National President with their years of service (aside: did you know that five National Presidents served two terms and one served three?) along with framed photos of Past National Secretaries and Secretary-Treasurers.

Helen Harsh, Senior Vice-President under Crowe-Durbino, loved the addition of the official museum to Auxiliary Headquarters so much she made it her National President’s Special Project for the 1994-1995 Program Year, which brought in even more wonderful items for the archives and funds to keep it running. Three decades later, the museum has grown so much it has nearly outgrown its space, but the hope is to renovate it one day.

Tours of the museum are available upon request. Those who visit the museum are both encouraged to sign the guest book and are welcome to take pictures. Unfortunately, we cannot accept unsolicited donations, but we are seeking the following: the Bicentennial Postcard Book, a modern uniform with hat and pins, the *25 Years of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW* book, a wooden rack on which to display a quilt and any potentially rare items from the first 25 years of Auxiliary existence (1914-1939). If you have any of these, please contact us at info@vfwauxiliary.org with the subject line museum. Please do not send any items directly to National Headquarters as we do not have the staff to sort them or space in which to keep them. ★ NP

ABOVE: Then National President Juanita Crowe-Durbino welcomes visitors to the new Auxiliary Museum.

National President

BRENDA BRYANT



Growing up in the small, northeastern Missouri community of Hawk Point, Brenda Bryant knew what heroes looked like. They weren't movie stars or sports icons. They didn't wear capes or jet packs. Heroes wore the uniforms of the U.S. military and served our country to keep everyone safe. In her household of six

siblings, heroes were veterans. "My goal is to always do what I can for veterans," said the VFW Auxiliary's 2024-2025 National President.

"I was only about 6 years old when my neighbor's body was brought back from Vietnam. But the feeling of sadness within our small community is something I will never forget. I live in a community that is proud of our veterans no matter where they served."

Bryant, a 45-year-plus member of Humphrey-Schwerdt Auxiliary 2180 in Warrenton, joined on the eligibility of her U.S. Army veteran father as soon as she could, at age 16.

Both of her parents, Herman and Twila Stuck, instilled a strong foundation of patriotism and a passion for volunteering. Her father helped institute

her hometown's first VFW and her mother later set about establishing an Auxiliary to the Post there.

"From the time I was a small child, my mother helped me understand what our veterans are giving up to keep us free and why we should always appreciate them. I was very young when the VFW started a Post in our community. I helped with the kitchen before we even had an Auxiliary. So when the Auxiliary started up, I wanted to be a part of the work they were doing."

She has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President. On the National level she has served as National District Council Member, Big Ten Conference Chairman for the Membership and Safety Programs twice, National Appeals & Grievances and Bylaws Review & Resolutions Committees, Director of the Voice of Democracy Program and as National Historian.

Bryant's story of serving and honoring veterans began in a place known as a small town with a big heart. Years later, veterans are still in her heart and drive her vision for the 2024-2025 Program Year. Her theme is ***From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans.***

From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans

The roots are our veterans and Auxiliary members of the past — the people who helped shape us into who we are. The trunk of the tree represents our veterans because they are the strong individuals who hold us up and why we work so hard for this organization. The branches signify all the members in this organization, as well as all the branches of the military. Finally, the leaves are all the many Programs we do for our veterans, our families and our communities.

And as the tree branches reach up and out, by working together, we can also reach for the skies. During her year as National President, Bryant's hope is that she can inspire others to advocate for veterans by working with legislators.

"Speak up and tell others outside of our organization about what we are doing and maybe they will join us." Her special project, Operation Bottom Cover, will help military and veteran families who are struggling with the rising cost of diapers for their children. Find more details about how you can support this project in the *2024-2025 National Program Book* and in the July edition of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*.



In her spare time Bryant, who is a retired special education teacher, enjoys crafting, bringing life back to old furniture, learning about the past and interacting with veterans.

She is a Life Member of the VFW National Home and a member of Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA), the Fleet Reserve Auxiliary and the Daniel Boone Area Retired Teachers Program.

She and husband Wayne, a retired Vietnam Navy veteran, met more than 30 years ago, and he has brought his family of five children, 18 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren into her life. ★ AC



PAGE 9: 2024-2025 National President Brenda Bryant. **ABOVE:** A childhood photo of Bryant, back when she was a little girl dreaming of what she would later accomplish. **TOP:** Bryant with husband Wayne Bryant.

YOUNG AMERICAN *creative*
2023-2024 PATRIOTIC ART
CONTEST WINNERS



FIRST PLACE
\$15,000 Scholarship

Department of Michigan

Remembering Lucky 896X

Artist: **ANA BRUCK**

10th Grade

Sponsored by

Sponsored by VFW Auxiliary 3925

SECOND PLACE
\$7,500 Scholarship

Department of Alabama

Invictus

Artist: **ARIEL CHEN**

11th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 6073





THIRD PLACE

\$3,500 Scholarship

Department of Indiana

A Spark

Artist: **ABIGAIL WUESTEFELD**

12th Grade

Sponsored by

Sponsored by Auxiliary 3183

FOURTH PLACE

\$1,500

Sandy Germany Department
of Alabama Scholarship

Department of Tennessee

Heroes

Artist: **SAMUEL PRESTON MORGAN**

12th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 9851



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FIFTH PLACE

\$1,500

Evelyn McCune Department
of Kansas Scholarship

Department of North Carolina

War-Torn

Artist: **JOHN CALEB LEWIS**

12th Grade

Sponsored by
VFW Auxiliary 1142

6

SIXTH PLACE

\$1,000

M. Blanche Child Department of
Kansas Auxiliary No. 1650 Scholarship

Department of Maryland

The Echo of Valor

Artist: **EILIS BURKE**

12th Grade

Sponsored by
VFW Auxiliary 7472



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SEVENTH PLACE

\$1,000

Jean Hamil Department of
Florida Scholarship

Department of Utah

Elwood Carlson

Artist: **ALLI EBERHARD**

12th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 8307



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EIGHTH PLACE

\$500

Department of Florida VFW
Auxiliary Scholarship

Department of Ohio

In Your Honor

Artist: **SAVANNAH SCHAFFER**

9th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 2529

NINTH PLACE

\$500

Betty Morris

Department of Maryland Scholarship

Department of
Missouri

Patriotism Through Generations

Artist: **LAUREN BLACKBURN**

12th Grade

Sponsored by
VFW Auxiliary 4207



TENTH PLACE

\$500

Juanita Crowe-Durbino

Department of Tennessee
Scholarship

Department of Washington

Everlasting Memories

Artist: **YUXI YOU**

12th Grade

Sponsored by
VFW Auxiliary 2995



ELEVENTH PLACE

\$500

Lorraine Frier Department
of North Dakota Scholarship

Department of Illinois

A Moment from Home

Artist: **CORA STRAWN**

12th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 4999



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TWELFTH PLACE

\$500

Department of Wisconsin VFW
Auxiliary Scholarship

Department of Connecticut

War Photo Shoot

Artist: **EMMA CRIBBY**

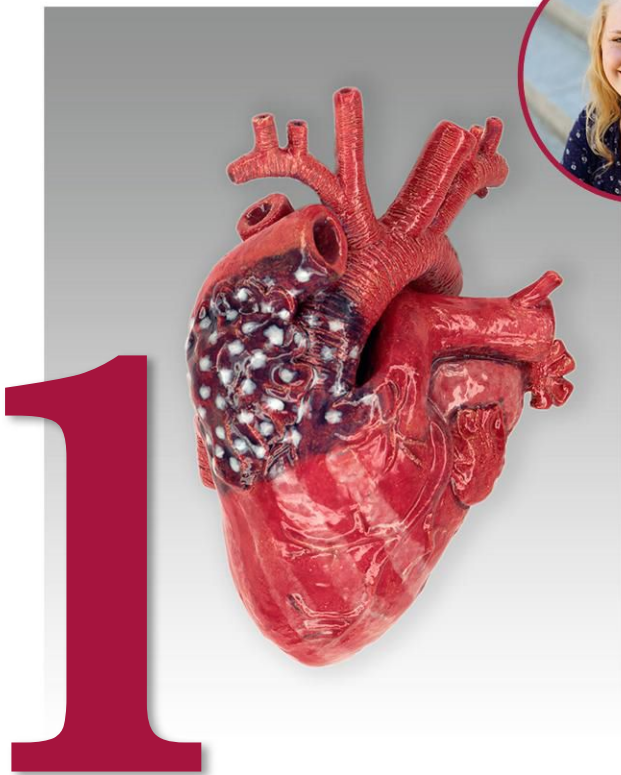
10th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 5446

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3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

\$2,500 Jane Reape Department of
New York Scholarship

ARTIST: GRACE J. SMITH

Department of Washington

The Enduring Heart

11th Grade

Sponsored by
VFW Auxiliary 1474



SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 Scholarship

ARTIST: SAWYER HERRING

Department of Louisiana

Bald Eagle Sculpture

11th Grade

Sponsored by
VFW Auxiliary 7017



THIRD PLACE

\$1,000 Scholarship

ARTIST: IRELAND CORBIN

Department of Montana

In Honor

9th Grade

Sponsored by

VFW Auxiliary 3596



ANNUAL LIFE MEMBER MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 2024 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL HOME EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The VFW National Home's Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held in Eaton Rapids, Michigan at 9:00 a.m. (EDT), on October 26, 2024 in accordance with the VFW National Home Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, Bylaw Article IV, Section 1.

PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to certify the election of two trustees elected by the membership. Elections will take place for open positions in National Home District 7 and National Home District 11 for six-year terms, both ending October 2030.

ELECTION BALLOTS

District 7 includes Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota
District 11 includes Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada

For more information, contact: Lynn Bloomer, Chief of Staff
3573 South Waverly Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 663-7023 or lbloomer@vfwnationalhome.org

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA ART CONTEST

2023-2024 NATIONAL WINNERS

Important Illustrating America Art Contest Update: For the latest contest, we learned that a Department submitted one student's entry form with another student's art for National judging. As a result, National received art without the correct student's entry form and a K-2 entry form without art. Therefore, we will now require that the student's name and grade are written on the back of every art entry. Both students affected will receive awards of commendation for their entries.

GRADES K-2



FIRST PLACE
CAMERON K.
 2nd Grade
 Department of Kansas
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 7397



SECOND PLACE
ABEL T.
 Kindergarten
 Department of Indiana
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 1282

AWARDS OF COMMENDATION



ANGEL S. | Georgia



WESTLIE P. | Georgia

GRADES 3-5



FIRST PLACE
WATSON B.
 4th Grade
 Department of Illinois
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 6504



SECOND PLACE
AUSTIN F.
 3rd Grade
 Department of Arizona
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 7968



THIRD PLACE
REAGAN A.
 5th Grade
 Department of Texas
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 8800

GRADES 6-8



FIRST PLACE
DOROTHY Z.
 7th Grade
 Department of Arizona
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 7968



SECOND PLACE
KATE S.
 6th Grade
 Department of Indiana
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 2714



THIRD PLACE
ASTRID G.
 6th Grade
 Department of Maine
 Sponsored by: Auxiliary 5723

Thank you TO OUR JUDGES

ANITA EASTERWOOD

is a nationally-recognized visual artist based in Kansas City whose work has been featured in "The New York Times." She has a studio at the new Zhou B Art Center in the historic 18th & Vine Jazz District. Find her work [here](#).

MARY WILKENS

of KC Northland Art League, is a painter and spent two decades teaching art to elementary students. A current focus is film. She wrote and produced a short film which screened in five festivals throughout the U.S. She has also worked as an art director on an independent film, still in post production. Find more about KC Northland Art League [here](#).

NINA IRWIN

has worked as a full-time fine artist for more than 30 years. She received her B.A. in studio art from UMKC. She is represented in private and corporate art collections around the world and recently had a solo show at the Evanston Art Center outside of Chicago. As a lifelong student, Nina also completed 30 hours of graduate work in Art History. She works out of her painting and ceramics studio in the historic West Bottoms in Kansas City. You can find more information about Nina at: ninairwin.com, @Ninairwin on Instagram, Nina Irwin on Facebook.

BOB AND LAURA SWEARENGIN

own the Hilliard Gallery in Kansas City, "An elegantly urban and ever changing gallery." The Hilliard Gallery has been voted the best gallery in Kansas City, Best Gallery in the State of Missouri as well as one of the top 25 galleries in the United States by The American Art Awards, and is recently winner of Best Gallery in K.C. by the visitors choice awards to Kansas City. The Gallery also helps with your maintenance of artwork with preservation custom framing. Learn more about their gallery [here](#).

MAREK GLINIECKI

is involved with Roeland Park Arts Advisory Committee. Read about them [here](#).

We'd also like to thank our VFW partner **LYNN W. ROLF III** with VFW Programs.

**WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND
A HUGE THANK YOU
TO ARTISTS WHO
GENEROUSLY DONATED
THEIR TIME AND
EXPERTISE TO HELP US
RECOGNIZE SO MANY
TALENTED STUDENTS
THIS YEAR! LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR JUDGES
FOR YOUNG AMERICAN
CREATIVE PATRIOTIC
ART, 3-DIMENSIONAL
PATRIOTIC ART AND
ILLUSTRATING AMERICA
CONTESTS TO THE LEFT.**

TO LEARN

MORE about VFW Auxiliary scholarships and contests, and to find our Patriotic Art brochure, visit our National website or see Scholarships and [Youth Activities](#) in [MALTA Member Resources](#).

HQ MEMO

We want to hear from you!

What is your Auxiliary doing that is truly changing the lives of veterans, service members, their families and communities for the better? Are you working on something that you haven't heard of another Auxiliary doing?

We're also always looking for Member Spotlight and My Veteran content as well as great vintage photos (2000 and earlier) for Our History. **Note:** See [MALTA Member Resources](#), Miscellaneous for nomination forms for Member/Auxiliary Spotlights and My Veterans. We need submissions accompanied by these forms. That way, we have the information we need to see if we can develop your idea into a story.

If you believe your idea could touch the lives of others and improve our organization, we may want to share it with more than 480,000 of your fellow members in an upcoming issue of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*.

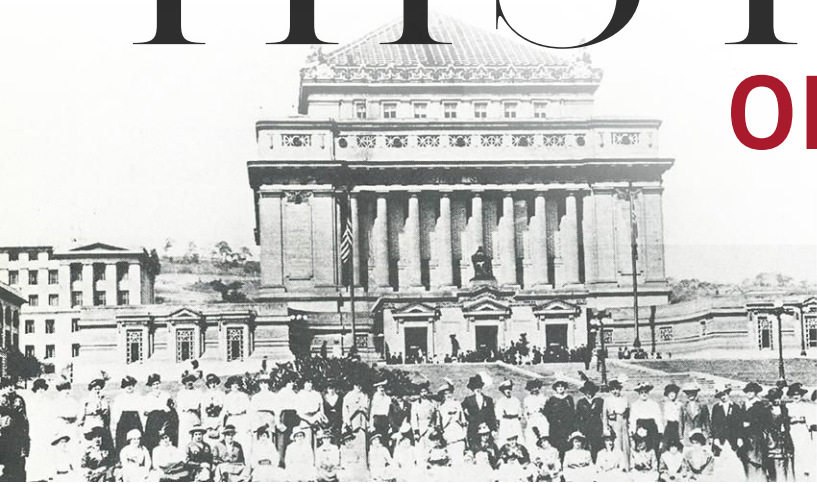
Don't feel like you have to handle the writing; share your thoughts with us and if it is something we can pursue, we'll turn it into a story. Some ideas are best-suited for the magazine, while others work better for our other communications outlets, like Facebook or the E-Newsletter.

Send ideas to info@vfwauxiliary.org with "Magazine idea" in the subject line or address mail to "Letter to the Editor – Magazine Idea" at 406 W. 34th St., 10th Fl., Kansas City, MO 64111.

Please note: We do not publish articles/photos featuring routine business (installations, for example), nor can we print milestone anniversaries or birthdays (with so many members, if we published one, we would have to publish all, and there is not room for this content in our 24-Page publication.) Creative writing and poetry submissions will not be considered.



Our HISTORY OF ELIGIBILITY



Before there was a VFW with a VFW Auxiliary, there were women working hard to help veterans, war widows and their families. These women amped up their efforts when the Spanish-American war began in 1898, and in 1914, as World War I broke out across Europe, the VFW Auxiliary was officially formed.

Six years later, in 1920, after more than eight decades of suffrage, protests and demonstrations in the fight for equality, women in America finally won the right to vote. (This means Auxiliary members had been exercising their right to vote for the next National President for six years before they were able to vote in a United States Presidential election.) That same year, at National Encampment in Washington, D.C., members voted to expand Auxiliary membership eligibility. Up until that point, even though there were many women doing the work of caring for veterans in their families and communities, membership was restricted to the wives of VFW-eligible veterans. The expansion allowed for the inclusion of mothers, sisters and daughters of veterans of foreign service, as well as Army nurses who had served overseas and could join under their own eligibility; women veterans would not be allowed to join the VFW for another 58 years.

1920 was a big year for big decisions at a National level. In addition to the change in membership eligibility, members opted to disband the Board of Trustees and replace them with a National Council of Administration, which was composed of the National President, National Secretary, and five women elected to National Office. Dues were also increased to \$.25, to be paid in two installments (June and December). This was the year the Auxiliary Charter was officially adopted and signed, ending the Auxiliary's six-year trial period and the

year the Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaws were created and implemented. Floor work began at this encampment, though there was no Conductress* or Guard yet; these positions would be added in 1921 and 1924, respectively.

The VFW Auxiliary has seen many changes in the past 104 years since that National Encampment, and even more since its formation in 1914, 110 years ago, but we remain steadfast in our dedication to our veterans, soldiers, their families, the National Home, local youth and our communities through our 11 Programs, countless events, monetary donations, boots-on-the-ground hard work and thousands of hours spent volunteering every year. 🌟 NP

Source: *Celebrate 75 Years: Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW*

Currently, membership is restricted to spouses, parents, siblings, children, stepchildren, grandparents and grandchildren; Army nurses who have served in combat on foreign soil and other veterans who are VFW-eligible must join the VFW, not the Auxiliary, though those women who became dual members prior to the shift from Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW to VFW Auxiliary (which is co-ed) are able to remain dual members as long as membership in the Auxiliary does not lapse; this includes our 2023-2024 National President Carla Martinez, who joined the VFW after serving in the U.S. Navy and joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of her father, Harry Creel. Additionally, VFW Auxiliary members are not permitted to expand membership by a vote at National Convention anymore, as the IRS has determined an Auxiliary to a veterans service organization (VSO) is permitted to maintain their 501(c)(19) non-profit status only if "...its members are veterans, spouses of veterans or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity - i.e. grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationship." (More about this is available on the IRS.gov website.)

*Conductor as of 2023.

Staying motionless for a full five minutes, these Auxiliary founders pose before the Allegheny County Soldiers Memorial in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the first encampment in September 1914. Margaret Armstrong was elected as the first National President of the organization.

NEW



NEW! PURPLE MIST TEXTURED CREPE BLOUSE

- 100% polyester textured crepe
- Open neck with self-fabric tie
- Elastic cuffs
- Side vents
- Auxiliary Emblem embroidered on left chest
- **No additional embroidery available**
- Imported; decorated in the USA

7188 S-3XL \$42.00



NEW

NEW! AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBER COIN Auxiliary emblem on one side. U.S. Flag with Auxiliary slogan on other side. Ceramic. 1 3/4" diameter. Imported. 1947 \$6.00



VFW

VFWSTORE.ORG

NEW

NEW! TEAL LADIES' STRETCH TOP

- Feminine fit
- Elbow-length sleeves
- 94/6 poly/spandex jersey
- Stretch
- Full-button placket
- Pearlized smoke buttons
- Y-shaped neckline
- VFW Auxiliary in white on left chest
- **No additional embroidery available**
- Imported; decorated in the USA

7163 S-3XL \$40.00

NEW



NEW! NAVY-CREAM TOTE Front zippered pocket. Large zippered main compartment with top gusset. Removable interior storage pocket. Pen loop. 600-denier polyester. 26" shoulder straps. 20 x 15 x 7". Imported; decorated in the USA. 1029 \$20.95



NEW

NEW! DEBOSSED BUSINESS CARD HOLDER

Full grain brown leather with interior card slots and an outside window. Hook-and-loop closure with a metal key ring. Gift boxed. 4 1/4 x 3 1/4". Imported. 1087 \$15.00



NEW

NEW! LANYARD Quick-release neck clasp with detachable clip for ID badge or keys. Heavy-duty swivel hook. 21". Imported. 1023 \$5.00