

VFW Auxiliary

JANUARY 2022

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S
SPECIAL PROJECT:
FUND THE
FUTURE NEWS**

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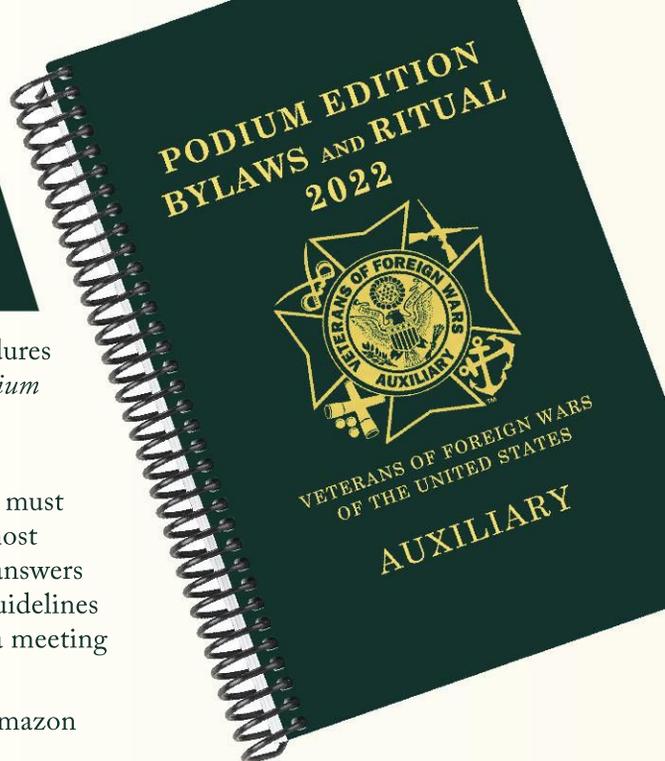
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**COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

**VFW LEGISLATIVE
VICTORIES**

PODIUM EDITION:

BYLAWS AND RITUAL 2022



Quickly reference the VFW Auxiliary's rules and procedures with the most current edition of the *VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition* – available from the VFW Store, vfwstore.org or 1-833-VFW-VETS.

Published annually following National Convention, this must have, go-to reference book contains the organization's most up-to-date rules and regulations. In it you will find the answers to all of your questions, from how to run a meeting to guidelines for Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments. Don't go to a meeting without it!

The e-book version of this publication is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

DATES & DEADLINES

January

- JAN 1 New Year's Day
- JAN 10 Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen (VFW) Department judging complete
- JAN 15 • Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen (VFW) Department winners due at National Headquarters
- Annual Joint Reviews with Chiefs of Voluntary Services for VAVS representatives due at National Headquarters
- JAN 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- JAN 31 See the *2021-2022 National Program Book* for January 31 Membership Award deadlines

February

- FEB 14 Valentine's Day
- FEB 15 Continuing Education Scholarship applications due at National Headquarters
- FEB 21 Presidents Day

For more information on awards, see the *2021-2022 National Program Book* online at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



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As we head into the new year, learn how your efforts helped shaped legislation that improved the lives of veterans, service members and their families and communities.

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Fund the Future: National President Jean Hamil's special project will help more students by growing Auxiliary scholarship funds -Young American Creative Patriotic Art and Continuing Education.



Members in Nevada train on *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*.



BUILDING ON THE VFW AUXILIARY FOUNDATION UPDATES

This resource, released in 2018, includes guidebooks for training that is designed to empower members with knowledge to grow and thrive.

Look for updates to *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* that reflect recent changes to our National Bylaws.

There is a lot of information and many responsibilities within the VFW Auxiliary. *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* helps members understand the organization, and from there, the tools we need to build bigger and better things for veterans, service members and their communities.

Find this PDF at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

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VFW Auxiliary National Organization





“
*Membership
is vital to
our organization!*”

Dear members—

I am truly humbled to be serving our members as your National President. It has been really amazing to meet members across our great nation as we continue to serve with passion for our organization.

We are halfway through our Program Year and I am impressed by the projects Auxiliaries are doing to keep our organization focused on our veterans, service members, their families and communities. Our nation seems to be in a flux while we still navigate some uncertainty, but nonetheless, you gave countless hours and monies helping our members, those we serve and others.

Membership is vital to our organization! Each and every member is a fundamental “piece” of our Auxiliary puzzle. We are all quite different, yet if we continue to work with dedication in our hearts, we will continue to grow as an organization. Our diversity provides the strength we need. We must continue to invite new members to join and work to ensure our current members stay engaged.

On that front, members voted at the 2021 National Convention in August to allow non-citizens to join the Auxiliary, a change to our Bylaws language that is similar to changes also adopted by the VFW. This is wonderful for us because it will allow even more family members of veterans and service members who share the same passion for our mission to join our ranks. Please share this great news.

A big, heartfelt thank you to everyone who has so generously supported our special project, Fund the Future, that is raising funds to provide more Auxiliary scholarships to more students. You are giving the gift of a brighter future to our youth. Read more about this on page 9.

On another note, we learned that Fred Puffenberger announced his retirement from his role as Executive Director of the VFW National Home for Children. Fred, we thank you for the time you spent there and wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Looking ahead to our next National events, we hope to see many of you in sunny Florida for our Celebrating America's Freedom Event and Mid-Year Conference as we continue **Soaring Above & Beyond** in 2022! Throughout your travels, always be kind and courteous to one another and continue to show respect to our VFW and Auxiliary members, as we are one family! This year's theme is about merging the best of our past and present and continuing to guide our organization toward future success.

Loyally yours,

JEAN HAMIL
National President



We're such a dedicated group of individuals all working toward the same goals.

Dear members—

It's a brand-new year, and we have two National events on the Space Coast coming up in just a few weeks. Before you know it, we'll be making preparations to meet again in Kansas City, Missouri for National Convention 2022.

Kicking off another calendar year, many of us begin with resolutions. Think about yours, or what they could be. Could these good intentions and thoughts be applied to your role within the organization?

We're such a dedicated group of individuals all working toward the same goals. What if we could also commit to:

- Coming from a place of treating each other with dignity and patience in person and on social media.
- Focusing on thinking of our VFW as counterparts and teammates in our mission of serving veterans, service members, their families and communities.

It could be a great start to another promising year, even if it's not a magical solution to every problem.

Look for news in this issue about what we have accomplished so far this Program Year as well as new information.

You'll find an update on National President Jean Hamil's special project, Fund the Future. Members really are contributing to a brighter future for our youth with donations that will ultimately award more scholarships to more students. See the latest overview of Auxiliary Community Outreach – what does and does not qualify for this Program, common questions and more. Read about the VFW's legislative victories, the outcome of supporting the VFW's Priority Goals and its Legislative Program. Together with the VFW, we can be a force for positive change on Capitol Hill for veterans and service members.

Looking ahead, double check to make sure your dues have been paid so you may retain all member benefits, including receiving this magazine. If your status is lapsed when we submit our address list to our printing company for the March edition, you will not receive your copy by mail or email.

Here's wishing all members a kind, productive and safe 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Cook'.

AMANDA COOK
Editor-In-Chief

VOLUME 83 NUMBER 4

Editor-In-Chief
Amanda Cook

Contributing Writer
Maria Royer

VFW Auxiliary Magazine

is published six times per year – January, March, May, July, September and November – by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, 406 West 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Editorial Office

Address all communications for publication to The Editor, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, (816) 561-8655, Fax (816) 931-4753. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs must be accompanied by return postage and no responsibility is assumed for safe handling. Poetry submissions are not accepted. Or email info@vfwauxiliary.org.

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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. Be sure to furnish your old address and your Auxiliary number when requesting address change. To ensure accuracy, please clip and enclose your present address as printed on a recent copy of VFW Auxiliary Magazine. 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.

Thank you, staff, for my *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*, especially the July 2021 issue. My U.S. Army Sgt. (retired) passed away in January 2020 and had Honor Guard in February 2020.

I'm actually glad I forgot to take (his) U.S. Flag to VFW Post 2521, Santa Maria, California. I had the Flag in a box in a bedroom here at my son's. My husband and I folded it at our home a few years before Tom Sr. passed away.

Tom and I married in 1964. (He) had been part of Honor Guard mainly in Santa Maria after Tom's retirement from serving in the U.S. Army. Honor Guards as far north as Paso Robles...and east as well, and one time requested in Nevada.

After I retired I was asked to join the Auxiliary and also I could be in Honor Guard.

GWYNETH M. DEBIASE

Lompoc, Calif.

Auxiliary 2521 (Santa Maria)

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

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

Please email your letters to the Editor to info@vfwauxiliary.org, marked "Letter to the Editor," or send them to

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT & MY VETERAN

PATRIOT AND ARTIST

Carole Wallace, Life Member and Treasurer of Auxiliary 9954 in Victoria, Virginia, shared a story about her deceased mother, Marion "Mel" Fetterolf, former Life Member of Auxiliary 9954. Fetterolf knew from an early age that she wanted to be an artist. She graduated from the Philadelphia College of Art and spent her life creating art in numerous mediums, preferring acrylics. Her painting of the Betsy Ross house was selected to hang in the White House in 1976 during President Gerald Ford's bicentennial celebration.

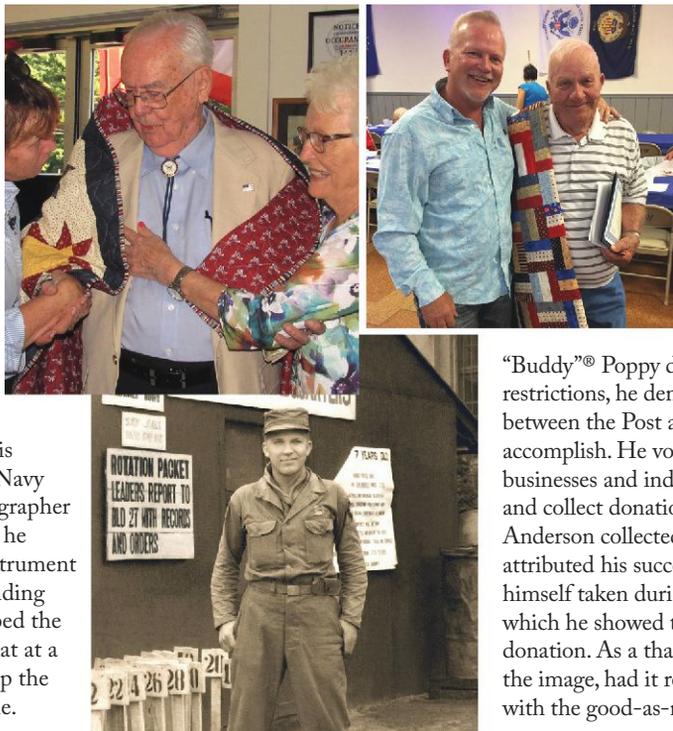


72 YEARS AND COUNTING

Irene Eggeling, Life Member of Auxiliary 5255, Lawrenceville, Georgia, recalls her childhood "surrounded by VFW activities" in Dumont, New Jersey and the larger community of Bergen County, New Jersey. She served in many capacities in her Auxiliary and District in New Jersey, including as President of both.

HONORING A HERO

Doyle Boothroy, member of Post 1994 in Abingdon, Virginia, was honored by his Post, its Auxiliary and the Virginia Highlands Quilts of Valor for his service. Boothroy served in the Navy during World War II as an aerographer aboard the *USS Missouri*, where he witnessed the signing of the Instrument of Surrender by the Japanese, ending World War II. Boothroy described the mood as "solemn" and admits that at a mere 19 years old, he didn't grasp the historical significance at the time.



VETERAN LENDS A HELPING HAND

When Oliver Anderson, Post 3388 in Estherville, Iowa, discovered that the Auxiliary would not be holding their annual

"Buddy"® Poppy drive due to COVID-19 restrictions, he demonstrated what teamwork between the Post and Auxiliary can accomplish. He volunteered to contact local businesses and individuals, pass out poppies and collect donations. In a mere 18 days, Anderson collected more than \$4,600. He attributed his success to a tattered photo of himself taken during his service in Korea which he showed to those he approached for a donation. As a thank you, the Auxiliary copied the image, had it restored and gifted Anderson with the good-as-new copy.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Wallace and her artist mother. A current photo of Eggeling. Eggeling in uniform in the 1950s. Anderson and his son Alan after Anderson was presented a Quilt of Valor. Anderson in Inchon, Korea circa 1952 - the photo that helped raise thousands of dollars. Dawn Kuhn, Department of Virginia Chaplain, and Mary Boothroy, both Life Members of Auxiliary 1994 in Abingdon, present Doyle Boothroy a quilt made by the Virginia Highlands Quilts of Valor. Fetterolf's painting of the Betsy Ross home.

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED IN VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

Show and tell us what you're doing in your communities to support our mission and work our National Programs.

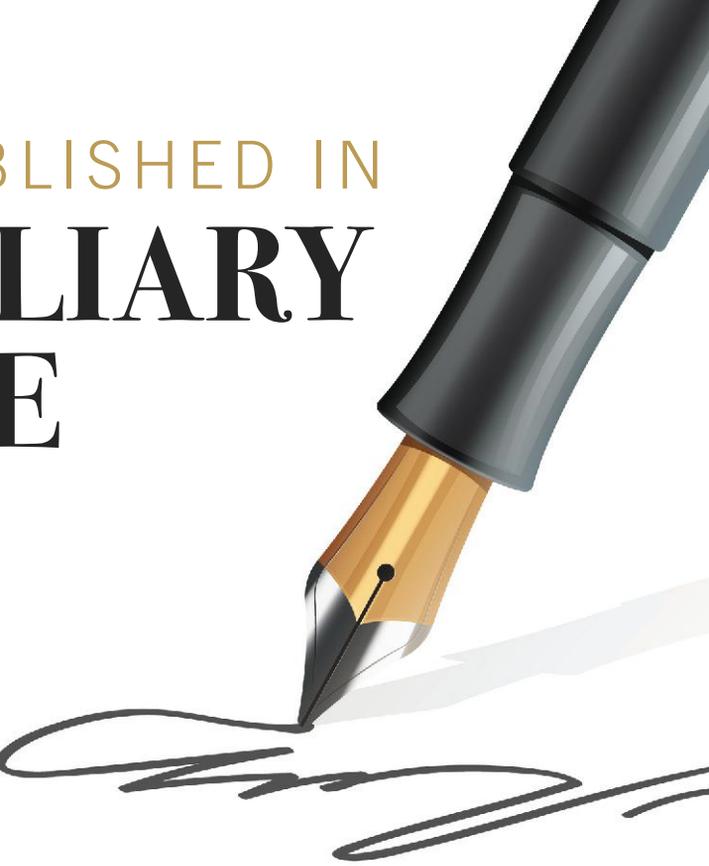
We're always looking for unique story ideas, stand-out members for Member Spotlight, veterans (male or female, living or deceased) for My Veteran articles and historical Auxiliary photos from 2000 or earlier for Our History.

This is *your* magazine. We want to feature you, real Auxiliary members, in action.

Not everything is a perfect fit. Maybe the submission is not timely (a photo of a Christmas party received in April, for example) or original – it's an activity that happens every year. We also don't write stories about very routine business like Officer installations, and we cannot feature milestone birthdays or anniversaries because if we featured one (and there are thousands,) we would have to feature all, to be fair. We also don't publish newspaper articles, creative writing or poetry.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- We have limited space. With only six issues per year, we really hope to shine the spotlight on our members as much and as often as we can while still featuring important news and events.
- Not everything works for the magazine, which is why we also like to frequently share members' news on Facebook, Instagram and in the E-Newsletter.



- Our production schedule is three months in advance of publication. This issue, for example, was completed way back in October. Keep this in mind when you plan to send ideas that could be timely.

Send ideas and pictures* (JPEG attachments, at least 1 MB) directly to info@vfwauxiliary.org or acook@vfwauxiliary.org.

We take your ideas and turn them into stories. We're not relying on you to do the article-writing (we handle that in-house), so don't let that stop you from sharing with us.

*See vfwauxiliary.org, Media, Magazine, then scroll down to Photo Requirements for more details on sending print-quality pictures. Photos grabbed from Facebook have a file size that is much too small for print publications.



FUND THE FUTURE

MEMBERS HELP AWARD MORE SCHOLARSHIPS TO MORE STUDENTS

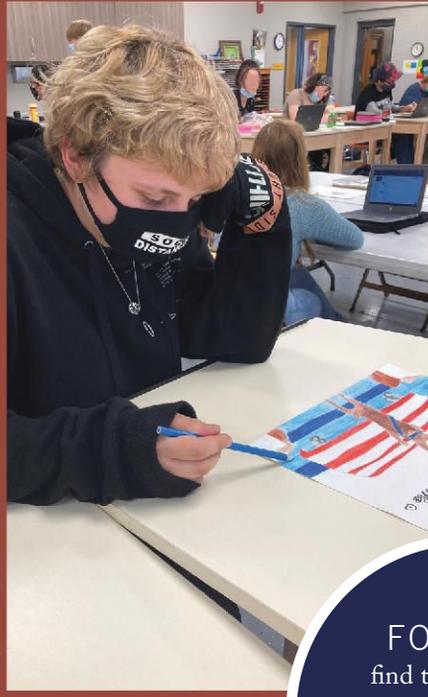
National President Jean Hamil's special project, Fund the Future, has raised more than \$45,000* for the VFW Auxiliary's very own Young American Creative Patriotic Art and Continuing Education scholarship funds halfway through the Program Year!

Fund the Future's goal is to award more scholarships to more students, and with members' generosity, we are doing just that.

Members have donated approximately \$35,000 to the Patriotic Art fund and \$10,000 to the Continuing Education fund.

Patriotic Art donations from the Department of Florida included enough funds to designate another named scholarship for 2022-2023 at the \$1,000 level, which requires a one-time donation of \$25,000. It will be named the Jean Hamil Department of Florida Scholarship.

ABOVE: High school junior Genesis H. of Coachella, California is interviewed by a local news reporter about the artwork she submitted to the Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Auxiliary 3699 in Indio promoted this scholarship contest by displaying student artwork at the Palm Springs Air Museum over Memorial Day weekend, where veterans and other members of the community could view area students' patriotic expressions. They also created a 2022 calendar featuring Patriotic Art they plan to sell to raise money for their scholarship fund.



FOR MORE DETAILS,
find this project's informational flyer and a
donation form at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.
QUESTIONS? Call HQ at
816-561-8655 or email info@vfwauxiliary.org.

YOU CAN SUPPORT FUND THE FUTURE, TOO:

- Donate online in MALTA.
- Send a check by mail with the check earmarked either Patriotic Art or Continuing Education.
- Establish a named Patriotic Art scholarship. Contact National Headquarters if you, your Auxiliary, District or Department is interested. See the table below for funding amounts. Auxiliaries and Posts can team up to raise funds and name scholarships.

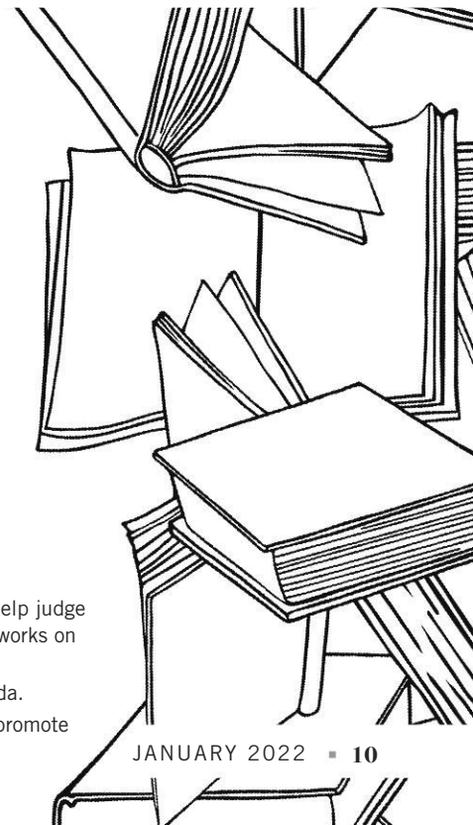
<u>Scholarship Amount</u>	<u>Principle Needed</u>
\$500	\$12,500
\$750	\$18,750
\$1,000	\$25,000
\$1,500	\$37,500
\$2,000	\$50,000
\$2,500	\$62,500

* Amount raised by press time.

FROM LEFT: Auxiliary 8093 (DeBary, Florida) members Bernadette Ayala and Cecelia Bennett help judge a local coloring contest with entries from grade school students. Madison N. of Olney, Illinois works on patriotic art. Photo submitted by Tena Anderson of Auxiliary 4226 in Olney.

TOP: Auxiliary 8093 members donate art supplies to Deltona High School art teachers in Florida.

BELOW: Cynthia Cortner, Brenda Brun and Joann Hatton of Auxiliary 1177 (Leesburg, Virginia) promote Patriotic Art and other Auxiliary contests at the SterlingFest community festival.



2022 VFW AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH: WHAT DOES AND DOES NOT QUALIFY

What is Auxiliary Community Outreach?

Auxiliary Community Outreach is volunteer work performed by an Auxiliary under the direction of another organization, for the benefit of their community or its institutions. It is a donation of time, not in-kind or monetary donations. It's about partnering with other organizations in our communities to help improve where we live.

Auxiliary Community Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as youth, senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes – rural, suburban and urban, small and large.

What's Considered Auxiliary Community Outreach:

- Working walks or runs that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. (Walking or running in the race is not part of Auxiliary Community Outreach; that's participation, not partnering.)
- Working with local police on child ID kits or with EMTs to host CPR Training.
- Working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.

- Working with parks and recreation departments to plant trees, develop non-veteran related community art installations and on adopt-a-park initiatives.
- Helping with a spay and neuter animal clinic.
- Handing out food at soup kitchens/community food centers.

What's Not Considered Auxiliary Community Outreach:

Auxiliary Community Outreach is for projects NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs. Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary is NOT considered Community Outreach. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:

- Repairs to, maintenance or beautification of the Post home.
- Cooking or serving a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser.
- "Buddy"® Poppy distribution.
- VFW or Auxiliary meetings, Conventions, Conferences or schools of instruction.
- Providing an honor guard at a member's funeral.
- Flying the American Flag.
- Conducting Flag retirement programs.
- Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)



Community Outreach Examples:

1. John, an Auxiliary member, mowed his neighbor's lawn out of the goodness of his heart. This is not Auxiliary Community Outreach. John found out his local senior center helps mow lawns for individuals in the community. He brought that up at a meeting. The Auxiliary voted to partner with the senior center. This is Auxiliary Community Outreach.
2. Jane, an Auxiliary member, went to donate blood. She noticed how busy the Red Cross volunteers were. She offered to stay to help them, and they accepted. This is not Auxiliary Community Outreach. However, while she was there, she asked if they could use help in the future. So, when Jane went to her monthly meeting, she told her fellow Auxiliary members about the need for volunteers at the blood drive. Her Auxiliary voted to help at these drives. Now when there is a blood drive Jane and some other members of her Auxiliary are there, wearing Auxiliary attire and helping. This is Auxiliary Community Outreach.

VFW Community Service and VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach

VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach is similar to the VFW Community Service Program. Below is an excerpt from what the VFW communicates to their Posts. We hope this will help you to know what can and cannot be reported under this Program for both the VFW and the Auxiliary.

VFW Community Service

Community Service as defined by the National Community Service Trust Act “encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.” Elsewhere, community service is further defined as “a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions.”

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. subscribes to the above but adds that, for the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and must be performed for an organization outside the VFW and its Auxiliaries and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization.

In addition, efforts performed for the Post or Auxiliary's benefit should not be considered as community service.

A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one's church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: 1) they are not performed for the community at large; 2) they are part of an individual's service to their faith and not to the VFW. The exception to this would be performing the same service for all the churches, etc. in a given community.

Important Auxiliary Additions to VFW Community Service:

1. Wear something that signifies you are a member of the VFW Auxiliary.
2. The project must be voted on during an Auxiliary meeting. (The VFW also requires this in another section of their instructions.)
3. If what you are doing can be reported under another Auxiliary Program, report it under that Program, not under Auxiliary Community Outreach.
4. Auxiliary work* (e.g., Community Outreach, Americanism, Veterans & Family Support, etc.) is to be reported to your local VFW Post Adjutant so it can be added to their report. This will help your Post with eligibility for the National Outstanding Community Service Post Award.
5. Auxiliary Community Outreach volunteer work does not have to be verified by the organization you are partnering with. (This is a VFW requirement only.)

Auxiliaries are responsible for so many good deeds that help our communities. Collectively, all our projects need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

**VFW Community Service encompasses many Auxiliary Programs, not just Auxiliary Community Outreach. Therefore, all that your Auxiliary does is to be reported to the Post Adjutant.*

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q Every year my Auxiliary participates in a walk in our area that raises awareness about suicide prevention. Members walk in the event and donate \$100 to the organization. *Can the number of hours and members who walked in the event count toward Auxiliary Community Outreach?*

A This is a great team-building activity for your Auxiliary, however, walking or running in an event/race may not be reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach. This particular example may be reported under Veterans & Family Support as that's where Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention falls.

Q Members of a local Auxiliary were asked to sit on their county board to help raise money and volunteer to work at a dedication of a memorial that honors veterans. *Since it was not a VFW- or VFW Auxiliary-sponsored event, can this be reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach?*

A No, it cannot be reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach. It's for veterans and the betterment of the community, therefore, it should be reported under Americanism.

Q A VFW Post hosts several events throughout the year at which VFW and Auxiliary members hand out the Thin Blue Line flags in honor of police officers. *Can this be reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach?*

A No, it cannot be reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach as it is not in partnership with another organization. If the Auxiliary partnered with the police department or police foundation to hand out Thin Blue Line flags it would count under Auxiliary Community Outreach.

Q A few of the ways listed to participate in Auxiliary Community Outreach involve youth. *Wouldn't this be reported under the Auxiliary's Youth Activities Program?*

A It depends on the project. For example, if you are putting on a patriotic program at a school with your Auxiliary, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your Auxiliary volunteers with the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts to teach them the Folds of the Flag, that is reported under Americanism and/or Youth Activities. If your Auxiliary partners with the Boys & Girls Club to tutor a group of kids, that is reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach.

Q Our Auxiliary purchases and delivers turkeys for a food pantry every Thanksgiving. *Does this get reported under Auxiliary Community Outreach?*

A No, it does not. Dropping off turkeys for a Thanksgiving meal is not the same as volunteering time in the food pantry organizing food, serving meals, bussing tables, etc.

Q Our Auxiliary partners with another organization to host a sock collection at our local Walmart. *Does this qualify as Auxiliary Community Outreach?*

A It depends. If you stay and man the collection, then yes. If you drop off a collection bin and leave, then no.



We hope this provides clarification on this Program. If you are unsure of whether your project will count toward the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program, contact your Department Chairman with questions.

You can also find this online at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

PAY YOUR DUES

TO CONTINUE RECEIVING
VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE



Effective beginning with the March edition, lapsed members will not receive a copy of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* until they have paid their dues.

This publication is a valuable communications tool filled with news, stories and photos that is mailed to every single member.

However, the National magazine is also considered a member benefit that individuals must be in good standing to receive, as with any other Auxiliary member benefit. Take a moment to log in to MALTA, our membership system, to make sure your dues are paid or contact your Auxiliary Treasurer.

Our mailing list is updated with each new edition, and that data is sent to our publishing house about one month prior to publication. Once dues are current, members will be added back to the magazine mailing list.

For households with multiple members or for those who prefer to read on their tablet, computer or smart phone, consider changing your subscription preference in your MALTA account to E-Magazine.



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VFW AUXILIARY ACRONYMS

AND COMMON TERMINOLOGY

Every organization has its own internal lingo, and the Auxiliary is no different. Below are some terms that members frequently see, along with explanations. For a complete list of common terminology, visit our web site, vfwauxiliary.org, Program & Publicity Resources, Mentoring for Leadership, VFW Auxiliary Acronyms and Common Terminology.

ACH (AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE) – Electronic funds-transfer system that enables electronic transfers of money in the United States. The ACH network acts as a financial hub and helps people and organizations move money from one bank account to another. ACH transactions consist of direct deposits and direct payments, including business to business transactions, government transactions and consumer transactions. (Source: *Investopedia.com*)

AMBASSADOR – The National Ambassadors are appointed annually by the National President. The Ambassadors communicate and promote National Program goals to Department (state) Chairmen and the membership at large.

AUXILIARY – The local unit of the VFW Auxiliary organization; also, the shortened term for all levels of the organization.

BOOKLET OF INSTRUCTIONS – Yellow pages within the *Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual*; a manual of internal policy and procedures for the Auxiliary (all levels).

BYLAWS – The Auxiliary’s rules and procedures. The Bylaws include the purpose of the Auxiliary,

membership criteria, how Delegates are elected, the duties of Officers at all levels of the Organization, information on the Organizational image and the discipline of members, among other topics. Available for purchase from the VFW Store. The *VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition* e-book may be purchased online at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

COE (CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE) – A premier group of Department Presidents who have proven their leadership. This Program replaced the former Outstanding Department President awards and gives every Department President the opportunity to achieve National recognition for their hard work. When a Department President achieves the Circle of Excellence, they remain in the Circle forever.

COA – DEPARTMENT LEVEL (COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION – DEPARTMENT LEVEL)

The Council of Administration approves the Department budget and the audit of the Auditing Committee, proposes and approves expenditures outside Department Standing Rules, Budget and Bylaws, and represents, in all matters, the Department Convention in the interval between its sessions.

The Council of Administration of a Department consists of the Department President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Conductor/Conductress, Guard, Chief of Staff, District Presidents and the four immediate Past Department Presidents. (In Departments without a District, Auxiliary Presidents are on Council.)



DELEGATE – An Auxiliary member elected annually by fellow members to represent their Auxiliary at the District, Department or National Conventions.

DEPARTMENT – The VFW Auxiliary National Organization is organized into 50 Departments, with one representing each of the 50 states. The Department is the liaison between National Headquarters and Auxiliaries, County Councils and Districts and relays information to all levels.

DISTRICT – Geographic area within a Department. Districts are liaisons between Auxiliaries and Departments and relay information to both. The VFW determines District boundaries.

FLOOR WORK – Ritualistic movements performed on the floor during a traditional or contemporary Auxiliary meeting at all levels. Floor work is not done during a roundtable meeting.

NATIONAL DISTRICT COUNCIL – The National District Council comprises of Auxiliary members that are elected by the Department(s) (state(s)) they represent and serve a single two-year term. The 29-member council (plus National Line Officers, the National Secretary-Treasurer, National Chief of Staff and four Past National Presidents) is the ruling body between National Conventions and the Council members are the voice of the members from the Department(s) they represent. The Council functions similarly to a board of directors or a board of trustees.

OFFICIAL VISIT – Official visit by a District President or person assigned by the Department President to an Auxiliary. The District President/person assigned is to ensure that the Offices of the President and Treasurer are bonded, the installation report has been submitted to Department and National Headquarters, and is to review and sign both the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, among other duties. The Department President may assign themselves.

PROGRAM – Outline of resources designed to bring needed services, information and assistance to veterans, active-duty service members and their families, and our communities. The National Organization has 12 Programs: Americanism; Auxiliary Community Outreach; “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home; Chief of Staff & Extension; Historian & Media Relations; Hospital; Legislative; Membership; Mentoring for Leadership; Scholarships; Veterans & Family Support; and Youth Activities.

PROJECT – A task or event within a Program.

RITUAL – Activities unique to the Auxiliary, including how meetings are conducted, Officer installations and special ceremonies, including the member initiation and memorial service.

SOI (SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION) – A training event put on by a Department or District near the start of each Program year.

VAVS (VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE)
The VFW Auxiliary participates in the government-run program Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service. Along with the VFW, the VFW Auxiliary is a charter member of this VHA program, which began in 1946. The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) operates one of the largest volunteer programs in the Federal Government, supplementing staff and resources in all areas of patient care and support. The VFW Auxiliary has been a part of this program since its inception in 1946. The mission of the VAVS is to provide a structured volunteer program under the management of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensated employees in cooperation with community resources to serve veterans and their families with dignity and compassion.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Armed with knowledge and resources, VFW Auxiliary members, in partnership with the VFW, can be a force for positive change on Capitol Hill. As informed advocates, we can take steps to make a difference by working to improve the lives of veterans, service members and their families. The Auxiliary supports the VFW Legislative Program and its VFW Priority Goals, core objectives that are issued every year.



Prior to the formal conclusion of the 116th Congress in January 2021, two important pieces of legislation that included provisions for which the VFW has been advocating for many years became law.

THE FIRST was the *William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021*, which added bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and parkinsonism to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) list of presumptive conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange. VA had refused to add these diseases to the list of conditions presumed to be associated with Agent Orange exposure, necessitating the passage of legislation by Congress.

Toxic exposures during military service are common and have caused invisible, but grave health complications for our nation's service members, past and present. Congress has established streamlined options for certain veterans who suffer from these conditions, such as Gulf War Illness, to receive benefits. However, the current structure for recognizing the health effects of new exposures or adding health conditions to known exposures makes it difficult for veterans to prove that their illnesses are related to military service. Therefore, it is nearly impossible for some veterans who are suffering from these life-threatening conditions to receive benefits. This new law will expand care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange to help ensure they will not do without or needlessly suffer.

THE SECOND crucial bill that was signed into law was the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020*. This landmark veterans' legislation included several VFW-supported bills that covered an array of important issues, most notably of which was the *Deborah Sampson Act*.



Women veterans comprise approximately 10 percent of the veteran population and are the fastest growing cohort within the veteran community. VA has made progress in gender-specific health care for women, but more is needed. This new law is intended to break the cultural barriers impacting women veterans by requiring VA to address privacy concerns and improve access, expand the amount of time new mothers are given to find health care coverage for their newborns, increase staff cultural competency, eliminate harassment and assault, and make other much-needed improvements to women veterans' health care.

Another significant provision in the Isakson-Roe Act was the elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits. The VR&E program provides critical counseling and other adjunct services necessary to enable service-disabled veterans to overcome barriers as they prepare for, find, and maintain gainful employment.

An obstacle to utilizing VR&E has been the 12-year limitation on eligibility. The VFW views VR&E as a critical tool in promoting success for our veterans, but

commonly hears from veterans that they did not apply for the program because they did not think they were eligible due to the 12-year limitation. Service-disabled veterans must have the opportunity to use VR&E services at any point during their employable lives when service-connected disabilities interfere with their employment and when economic changes require them to learn new skills. It is at the forefront of ensuring veterans can remain in the workforce and stay employed in meaningful careers.

Lastly, the Isakson-Roe Act included a provision to change the statutory definition of Vietnam veteran to include individuals who served in the Republic of Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955, to Feb. 27, 1961. Veterans who served prior to February 28, 1961, were ineligible for benefits because of a difference in war era dates recognized by the Department of Defense (DOD) and VA.

DOD has recognized the Vietnam War era as dating from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, while VA has recognized the Vietnam War era as dating from February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975. This discrepancy



has prevented certain veterans from qualifying for benefits such as veterans' pension. This new law will now extend wartime benefits, including pension and health care, to previously excluded Vietnam veterans.

The VFW is proud to have been instrumental in the passage of these important bills. They will continue to be the voice of veterans on Capitol Hill and strongly advocate for the benefits our veterans earned through their dedicated service to a grateful nation. The VFW National Legislative Service testifies regularly before Congress on legislative priority goals and works closely with the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs.



LEARN MORE AT

vfwauxiliary.org, What We Do, Legislative. We also encourage members to take the following steps:

- Sign up for *VFW Action Corps Weekly* and answer the call to take action when the VFW sends out any alerts.
- Read and understand the VFW Priority Goals.
- Contact your legislators about issues impacting veterans and their families.
- Vote in every local, state and national election.

Your involvement
with our advocacy efforts can
make the difference!

FROM TOP: Carolyn Paccio, Department of Pennsylvania Legislative Chairman and Corey Shaw, Auxiliary 6223 (Great Bend) Legislative Chairman promote the Legislative Program.

BELOW: Belinda Cole of Auxiliary 2475 in Glens Falls, New York, shares information about the Legislative Program at a fall Conference, inviting others to learn and get involved.

RIGHT: Shirley Bonds, Legislative Chairman from the Department of Florida, works her Program at a Legislative Program fair.

DUES REMINDER



PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR AUXILIARY DUES:

- An annual continuous member **MUST** have his or her 2022 dues received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by June 30, 2022 to maintain his or her continuous years of membership within the organization. There is not a “reinstate” category for membership.
- If an annual continuous member’s 2022 dues are not received at National Headquarters by June 30, 2022, his or her continuous membership will end. He or she will then have to:
 - **REJOIN** the organization
 - **PROVE** his or her eligibility again
 - **BE READMITTED** by voting members into the local Auxiliary and
 - **START** continuous years over.
- **Again, if an annual continuous member misses even a single year of paying dues on time, continuous years of membership start over at one (1.)**
- This change will also affect an annual continuous member’s eligibility for a Cancer Grant. If he or she does not maintain continuous membership, the member will have to wait one full year before he or she is eligible for a grant. There remains a limit of two grants per lifetime.

DOUBLE-CHECKING YOUR DUES PAYMENT

Members, when you pay your dues by check, be sure that it clears your bank account and look for your membership card to arrive.

If you do not receive your membership card within two to four weeks, follow up with your Auxiliary or Department Treasurer to be sure that your dues were processed.

Members can pay dues to their Auxiliary Treasurer or anytime by logging in to their MALTA account.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



When Martha Lain was installed as 2021-2022 Department of Kentucky President, she accomplished something that no other Auxiliary member can claim.

Lain became the first VFW Auxiliary Department President to have also been a VFW Department Commander.

Lain joined the Auxiliary at 16 years old under the eligibility of her father, Charles E. Brown, who served in the Army during World War II. In 1984, Lain joined the Army, as many of her ancestors had, and states, "I joined because I believed in what the military had done for our great country." But her motivation was two-fold.

"I wanted to prove to myself and my parents that the old saying 'A woman's place is in the home' was not always true."

During her 10 years in the Army, Lain served as a track vehicle repairer, a master driver, received "an expert badge in M16 rifle, M203 grenade launcher, a driver's badge for every piece of equipment from a Jeep to a M1A1 Abrams tank," received many awards and became a section chief over 36 soldiers.

During her time in Korea, her father mailed a VFW application to her, and she joined as a Life Member. Lain is proud to be a dual member, and has served both organizations at Post/Auxiliary, District and Department levels. She is both proud and honored to be a part of the VFW and the Auxiliary, stating that her participation in the organizations "... has made me what I am today."

Note: While dual members have been grandfathered in to the Auxiliary, new members cannot be dual members. Any prospective member who is eligible for VFW membership must join the VFW.

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*...economic class, the Auxiliary accepted members
any income, religious or racial group."*

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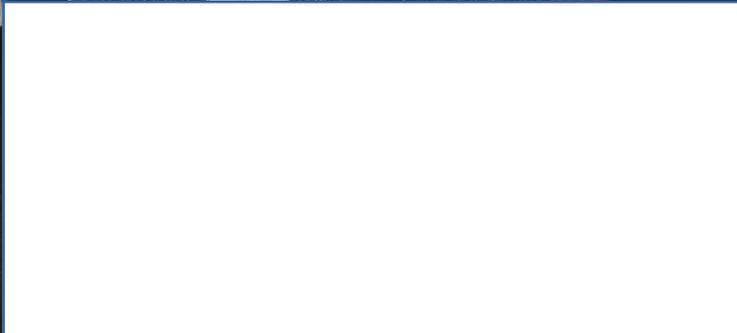
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**AUXILIARY
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2022 Update



**LEGISLATIVE
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