

Greetings National Officers, Past National Presidents, Department Presidents and Department Chairmen:

I am excited to be the 2021-2022 National Youth Activities Ambassador! I thank incoming National President Jean Hamil for asking me to be a part of her team. What an opportunity to continue to serve our organization and work together with all of you.

Here is a little info about my life.

I am from the Department of Vermont. I am a Life Member of Robert E. Glidden Auxiliary #758, St. Albans, Vermont. I joined under the eligibility of my father, George Miner, in 1967. My father was in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945 and served in the Asiatic Pacific Theater in WWII. My mother, Edith Miner, was VFW Auxiliary Department President in 1987-1988. It was because of her service that I decided, many years later, to follow in her footsteps.

I come from a family of six kids. Keeping busy and having fun was just natural. Two of my younger sisters and my own daughter were members of the VFW Auxiliary Jr. Girls Unit.

I have served in numerous positions including Auxiliary, District and Department President and was inducted into the National Circle of Excellence via Zoom in July 2020. I continue to serve the organization at the Auxiliary, District and Department level. I am also a Life member of VFW National Home for Children.

I have a daughter, Shannon, who is a Life Member; son-in-law, Michael, and three grandchildren, Aden, Canaan and Mae. I try my best to set a patriotic example for them.

I have a great passion for classic cars and have a 1957 Chevrolet, putting miles on it during our short summer. I am not much of a winter weather person, but I have been known to snowshoe and pre-Covid, I was a regular at Zumba classes. I have worked as a bookkeeper my entire adult life but have also been in the trucking industry for 40 years. I retired from my bookkeeping career of more than 50 years last month and have now downsized my trucking company to a single dump truck.

I look forward to learning something about each Department Chairman, so I request you send a little snippet of your life (an intro) to me.

Loyally,

Sheila Spaulding

2021-2022 National Youth Activities Ambassador

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Youth Activities  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
Promotion #1 | July 2021  
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In the 2021-2022 National Program Book, "Soaring Above & Beyond," you will find the goals for the Youth Activities Program.

- Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
- Patriotic Youth Awards
- Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue
- Patriotism through Literacy
- Illustrating America

During the upcoming year there will be ideas of how to promote and fulfill these goals, not just from me but by sharing what you, as Department Chairmen, have found to be successful. Your ideas are not limited to these goals by any means. Including and recognizing our youth in service to veterans covers a wide area.



Get a jump on promoting **Illustrating America** and **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue** contests this summer. Research the details and rules regarding each contest in the 2021-2022 National Program Book. Flyers and applications can be found at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under Youth Activities.

Each contest has new age divisions and requirements. **Illustrating America** now includes Kindergarten in the first division making the grade divisions K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue** has two grade divisions, K-8 and 9-12, with one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second, and third place in each grade division.



Reading during the summer is an age old tradition. Some may remember having to read a certain amount of books during summer vacation and then reporting on the content or lessons learned from these books. We can look at **Patriotism through Literacy** for the suggested book list for summer reading. This is a win-win for our youth as they will be learning about our nation's history and staying brushed up on their reading skills.

Download the Book Donation Label, in honor of incoming 2021-2022 National President Jean Hamil and donate books to classrooms, libraries or bookmobiles from suggested book list. The label can be found at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) under Youth Activities.

As our country starts to open from the pandemic young people will be able to participate in Auxiliary programs and events again. Let's be an example of patriotism and caring for our veterans and their families by showing these young people how much can be done. Share photos (with permission) of young people in action. We plan on "Soaring Above and Beyond" this year.

Loyally,

Sheila Spaulding  
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