

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

"Stand Up, Speak Out"
Volume 23-24. Issue 7

"Banding Together for Our Veterans"
December 2023

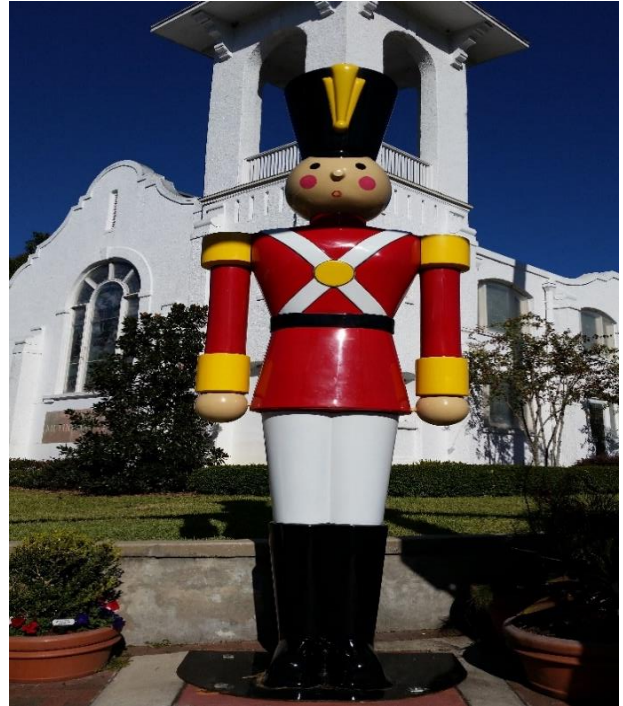
Special award for (1) Auxiliary in each membership group who volunteers the most Auxiliary community hours with another non-profit organization.

"TIS THE SEASON TO BE GIVING"

CAN YOU GIVE OF YOUR TIME AND TALENTS?

WHAT ARE THE REWARDS OF WORKING WITH AUXILIARY OUTREACH IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

1. MEET NEW FRIENDS
2. HELPING OTHERS
3. IMPROVE OR LEARN NEW SKILLS
4. INCREASE YOUR CONFIDENCE
5. PERSONAL GROWTH



- **THE FOCUS OF THIS PROGRAM IS STRICTLY VOLUNTEERING OUR TIME AND TALENTS.**
- **THERE IS NO MONEY OR IN-KIND DONATIONS**
- **THERE IS NO PLANNING THE EVENT BY YOUR AUXILIARY**
- **THERE IS NO SPLITTING YOUR HOURS WITH ANOTHER PROGRAM**
- **EVERYTHING REPORTED IN OUTREACH IS STRICTLY FOR OUR OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Merry Christmas to you!

Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

Sandi Hendriks
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
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Historian Media Relations

December 2023

Volume 2023-2024

Issue 7



‘Tis the season to tell your stories in a kind and beautiful way.

Reclaim our Auxiliary’s history and our Auxiliary’s heritage through videos, photo albums, newspaper, and Media.

Put the spotlight on our pride and the work we do for our Veterans and the community, for generations to come. Show our communities, and our nation everything we do to help better the lives of our service members and their families.

I look forward to seeing your fabulous work.

What a great Christmas gift!



Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

Karen Heikkila
Historian Media Chairman
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HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida December 2023/24 Volume 1 Issue 6

Mid-Year here in January

Here is a quick checklist for you:

- Have you reported all your activities?
- Planned for your special Valentines Day events, cards, visits, volunteers assigned
- Planned another non holiday event for veterans
- Read your goals for 23/24 on Dept and MALTA website



**Wishing Everyone a
Merry Christmas Holiday**

CARDS FOR VETERANS

Our VAVS representatives need your help, can your auxiliary send a donation to support their Christmas visits and send Cards to be distributed to our Veterans, every little bit helps!

Bay Pines – Dorothy Sullivan
Gainesville – Jennie Parks
Miami – Angelina Mathis
Orlando – Karen Heikkila
West Palm Beach – Anne Marie Matozzo

Valentines for Veteran's

- Have you made your valentine cards?
- Planning on delivering any Sweets
- Dropping off donuts or any goodies
- Sending valentines to your VAVS representative to distribute
- Planned your Post Valentine Party

Volunteer Recognition-Give Thanks

- How do you recognize your volunteers, have you planned a quarterly luncheon or midyear luncheon?
- Do you give special certificates for hours or special job done by your volunteers.
- Christmas is coming, how about a special Christmas luncheon, providing a small gift bag with items from the dollar store.
- Giving thanks at your monthly, and district meetings to your special volunteers.
- A special card to appreciate all those who are there when asked to help.
- Just say Thank You with a smile!
- Purchase small items, fill small gift bag, candies, cookies, dollar tree items and an appreciation card.



"It's Nice to be Nice"

Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

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LEGISLATIVE

23-24

Issue 7

December 2023

Merry
Christmas

*Twas the night before Christmas
in American's White House. We
pray for peace that our elected
Leaders would hear our pray.
Protect our Troops everywhere.
Our Veterans, and Families were
represented well, with Legislators
doing their elected job! Banding
together for our Veterans in the
house Of Congress.*

The best gift you could give your Veterans doesn't come wrapped with paper, bows.

It does come working the Priority Goals.

We stand up Speak out Band together for **Veterans rights** who fought for us day and night.

We get informed, our Legislative program become the norm. We Advocate for Veterans reform. We get Engaged like our Veteran's needs Following the **Bills to succeed**.

We find out where are Legislators stands, we call, we write, and we demand. Attend town halls meeting, and be the voice for **Veterans, and Families** across are land.

Now Budget, Disability Assistance, Education, Employment, Transition Assistance, Health Care, Military Quality of life, National Security, Foreign Affairs, POW/MIA comes with no Ribbons, and Bows **Your Gift of Time**, Energy, and helping hand through our **Local, State, Federal** we will, and we can.

Working your Legislative Program

Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

JEANNE LAURINE
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

Volume 23-24 Issue 4

November 2023

Military Sexual Trauma

The same but different

Experiencing Military Sexual Trauma can be different from experiencing other traumas in some ways including sexual trauma in civilian world.

Additional aspects include:

- Having to continue to live and work with the perpetrator and even having to rely on them for essential things like “watching your back”.
- Worrying about damaging the bond of the unit if/when you speak out.
- Living away from family, friends and other support.
- Worrying about being seen as weak or vulnerable.

- Believing that others would not respect you or even blame you.
- Thinking it could hurt your career or ruin chances of promotion.

All these can leave Military Sexual Trauma victims feeling alone.

Recovery is possible through treatment. VA offers free confidential treatment for mental and physical health conditions due to Military Sexual Trauma.

- May be able for VA treatment even if not eligible for for other VA services.
- Do not need a VA service connected disability rating.
- Do not need to have reported the incident when it happened or have documentation that it occurred.

VA believes in MST survivors and stands ready to help in their recovery.

Donations

The goal for donations to Department President's Special Project this year is \$105,000. This donation will be split between the VA hospitals, Bay Pines, James A. Haley, Lake City, Gainesville, Orlando, West Palm Beach and Miami.

Although these facilities are funded through the government, they can use our donations to:

- Support the Women Veterans Programs
- Support outreach initiatives
- Equip women veterans with emergency needs, hygiene products, gift cards for groceries and gas/transportation, back to

school items, and household items.

- Either direct purchases of baby items, car seats, cribs or the purchase of gift cards for the veteran to purchase the items most suitable for their vehicle or life style.

Wooden Flag Raffle

For Dept President's Special Project

\$5 each or \$10 for 3

300 Tickets Available

(Tickets Available at Mid-Winter Conference)

Drawing at June Convention

Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

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Veteran & Family Support

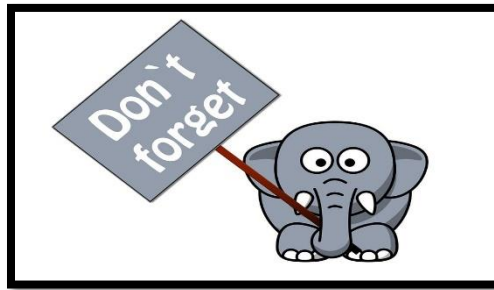
Volume 23 – 24

Issue 6

December 2023

**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays,
&
The Best of Luck in the Coming Year!!!**

December 31st 2023 NVS Challenge Reporting Deadline



Your Aux Could Win \$50

Report Donation you sent VFW National

=1 NVS Challenge Entry

Report Donation & Fundraiser Activity

=2 NVS Challenge Entries

Can You still donate after this DATE...YES !!!

However NVS Challenge Contest is OVER~YOUR DONATIONS still MATTER!!!

"YOU DO THE WORK"

You need to Report REPORT Report! !!!

Reporting started April 16th 2023 & ends April 15th 2024

**Look for ideas at Past Promos, Under Programs, Malta, & National Web,
Look at your History & Research the WEB !!!**



Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Stand Up, Speak Out"
Volume 23-24, Issue 7

"Banding Together for Our Veterans"
December 2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ASSIST OUR YOUTH IN AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

- ✓ Now that school is in session, many students are tasked with selling items to help achieve goals set out for them in groups such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, baseball teams, dance students---so many youth activities that we can help.
- ✓ Did you know that by purchasing just one box of Girl Scout cookies results in a portion of the cost being given back to that scout for camp?
- ✓ So, let's think about the many ways we can help our older youth.



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PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

- Adopting a classroom could also help you get started by helping teachers wanting assistance in their classrooms.
- Ask them if they need help with school supplies, as many teachers spend their dollars for items that are needed.
- The younger elementary youth have reading time and you could volunteer by reading to them a book on patriotism and then donating that book to the teacher classroom or school library.



Approved By:
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Teresa Bachand

Barb Anderson
Youth Activities Chairman
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Educational Bulletin

HOW TO DISPLAY THE POW/MIA FLAG OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES

The POW/MIA flag features a silhouette of a POW before a guard tower and barbed wire in white on a black field. "POW/MIA" appears above the silhouette and the words "You Are Not Forgotten" appear below in white on the black field. This black and white flag stands as a stark reminder of Americans still prisoner, missing or otherwise unaccounted for in Southeast Asia and is now accepted nationally and internationally as the symbol of vigilance and remembrance for all POW and MIA's

For some time, there had been debate over when the POW/MIA flag should be flown, whether daily or on the specific six days noted in federal law. While not addressing the question of posting the flag at the national/federal level, League members at the 32nd Annual Meeting in June 2001, voted overwhelmingly in favor of the following resolution: *"Be it RESOLVED that the National League of POW/MIA Families strongly recommends that state and municipal entities fly the POW/MIA flag daily to demonstrate continuing commitment to the goal of the fullest possible accounting of all personnel not yet returned to American soil. This is where the Auxiliary can help educate the community on the proper education of the POW/MIA Flag."*

DISPLAYING THE POW/MIA FLAG AND THE UNITED STATES FLAG WITH OTHER FLAGS ON THE SAME FLAGSTAFF

When flying the POW/MIA flag on the same flagstaff as the United States flag, the POW/MIA flag should fly immediately below the United States flag.

Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

American Former Prisoners of War

You are considered a Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) if during wartime active service, you were forcibly detained or interned (put in prison) in the line of duty by an enemy government, its agents, or a hostile force.

You are considered a FPOW if you were forcibly detained or interned by a foreign government or its agents or a hostile force during peacetime active service if the circumstances of the internment were comparable to wartime internment. For example: Iran, Somalia, or Kosovo.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-pow.asp>

Many Prisoners of war are unaware of the benefits available to them.

We as the Auxiliary can assist, talking with our Veterans and learning what they have been through, we can learn a lot and help.

The Website listed above has great resources for assistance.

Educate your Auxiliary and or Veterans, let them know there are resources!

Pauline Riddle/Mary Ellen Cash
Americanism/Patriot Instructor
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Buddy Poppy/National Home



Adamson was one of the first group of children who came to live in the Home not long after it was established in 1925. In 1929 Adamson's father, a World War I veteran, passed away, and she and her two siblings were placed in the VFW National Home by her mother, who was unable to care for them. The siblings would live there for the next 12 years.

Adamson was only four years old when she was selected as the 1932 Buddy Poppy Girl. Her memories are scant about the trip to Washington, D.C., to entertain an audience with the President of the United States.

Ninety-five-year-old Adamson visited the VFW National Home on September 23 to take part in Indiana Day alongside VFW and Auxiliaries from her home state.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is coming up and what a great gift, a "Lifetime Membership" to the National Home, to hear many more stories, like the one you just read.

Your donations, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year, help children and families to heal, not only financially, but inside.

TRIBUTE BRICKS Be a part of the National Home's history! A personalized brick is a wonderful way to honor a friend or loved one and leave a lasting mark on the campus of the National Home. Bricks are placed in walkways in front of the community center, health & education building, museum, and World War II monument.

Scott Riddle
Buddy Poppy/National Home
Department Chairman
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Approved By:
Department President
Teresa Bachand

Extension & Revitalization Program

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year
As we approach the holiday season and
the new year, make sure we are
“stepping up & speaking out” for the
commitment and care of our Auxiliary!



Remember:
Santa has your list and is checking it
twice
To make sure your Auxiliary
is healthy and nice!



New Year's Resolutions for your Auxiliary
Don't wait for the ball to drop!
Recruit
Revitalize
Recreate

Approved By:
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Teresa Bachand

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