

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

“OUR LABOR OF LOVE”

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2023



WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM GOALS?

- **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS:**
 - REACH OUT AND PARTNER WITH OTHER NON-PROFIT GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND HELP THEM ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOALS.
- **AUXILIARY PARTICIPATION IN OUTREACH:**
 - WE PARTNER AND VOLUNTEER OUR LABOR IN OUR COMMUNITIES

WHAT QUALIFIES FOR THIS PROGRAM?

**PARTNER AND VOLUNTEER YOUR LABOR
WITH THE FOLLOWING NON-PROFIT
GROUPS:**

- ✓ FIRE DEPARTMENT
- ✓ POLICE DEPARTMENT
- ✓ ANIMAL SHELTERS
- ✓ DELIVERING FOOD FOR MEALS ON WHEELS
- ✓ SOUP KITCHENS
- ✓ SCHOOLS
- ✓ CHURCHES
- ✓ COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
- ✓ HELP WITH WALKS THAT BENEFITS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL?

- ✓ FIND A LOCAL GROUP WHO NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE.
- ✓ ASK YOUR AUXILIARY TO HELP.
- ✓ VOTE AT YOUR AUXILIARY MEETING TO APPROVE THE ACTIVITY.
- ✓ FORM THE PARTNERSHIP.
- ✓ REPORT THE DETAILS.
- ✓ HAVE FUN WITH THIS PROGRAM!

**REMEMBER, IF IT'S
REPORTABLE IN ANY
OTHER VFW AUXILIARY
PROGRAM, IT'S NOT
AUXILIARY OUTREACH!**

“STAND UP, SPEAK OUT”

“BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”

Approved By:
2023-2024 Department President
Teresa Bachand

Sandi Hendriks
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
Sandihendriks@yahoo.com



The VFW National Home is almost 100 years, honor an outstanding member who has done so much for your Auxiliary both on and off the scene with a Membership to the VFW National Home.

The VFW Auxiliary National President, Carla Martinez and VFW Commander-in-Chief, Duane Sarmiento have a special joint project for 2023/2024: The VFW national Home Welcome Center Special Renovation Project. This flyer can be found in Malta Member Resources. You can hold fund raisers, start planner now to support our National President and Commander-in-Chief.

When reporting on the "Buddy Poppy" it is important to know that we only count the money going out. We need to know how much your Auxiliary donates to Veterans and the number of Poppies purchased.



Buddy Poppy Display: (Contest)

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the patient of Buddy Poppy. Get ready for Boot Camp and celebrate this special anniversary with a tribute. Create your display with Buddy Poppies in celebration of this moment.

Bring your display to "Boot Camp" in August for judging. Judging will be based on (3) categories.

CATEGORY 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

(a) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW "Buddy" ® Poppy.

(b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

CATEGORY 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets, or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

(a) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the "Buddy" ® Poppy.

(b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

CATEGORY 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

(a) Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.

(b) At least one (1) of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attach

Approved By:
2023-2024 Department President
Teresa Bachand

Scott Riddle
Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman
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Extension & Revitalization Program



A good day from the desk of
Maggie Gilchrist
 This year's 2023-2024 Chief of Staff
 For the Department of Florida



I am here to assist our president, Teresa, and hopefully be of assistance to all our VFW Auxiliary members. This year our President wants all of us to know we all need to "Stand Up and Speak Out" for our Veterans and Members.

We "Speak Out" when we know, Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries:

- Know what makes a healthy Auxiliary.
- Know what the 5 essentials of an Auxiliary are to:
 1. Have at least ten (10) business meetings per year with at least five (5) members in good standing (which constitutes a quorum) for the transaction of business.
 2. Have department and National dues paid for at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
 3. Submit quarterly audits by trustees in accordance with the National Bylaws.
 4. Elect, install and report to National no later than June 30.
 5. Have the offices of President and Treasurer bonded by August 31.

We "Stand Up" when we know:

- The ABCs of the resources available and how to use them:
 1. Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit which includes:
 - A. Healthy Auxiliary Checklist
 - B. Healthy Auxiliary Membership Questionnaire
 - C. Auxiliary Meeting Clinic
 - D. Communications Phone/Text Tree
 - E. Good Job Certificate
 - F. VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide
 2. Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation

Our Program Goals:

- Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries
- Present to Unaffiliated Posts (the idea of an Auxiliary and its benefits)
- Establish New Auxiliaries
- Recognize Red Flags (knowing how to recognize the dangers in our own Auxiliary)

These will be the strengths we will continue to work on to build a stronger organization.

Approved by:
 2023-2024 Department President,
 Teresa Bachand

Maggie Gilchrist
 Chief of Staff
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HISTORIAN &

June 2023



MEDIA RELATIONS

Volume 23 ,Issue 1

ACCESS MALTA

Member Resources

Teach your Auxiliary how to find;

1. The VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide
2. Elevator Speech
3. Website and Social Media information (face book)
4. Print the adult and children photo release forms. (S.N.A.P.) Stop now, ask permission.

MEDIA IS THE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE THAT HELPS CREATE A SUCCESSFUL AUXILIARY Reach out to your newspaper. Find a Local, or Community Reporter, and submit a story with pictures to that person. Include information about yourself, including your title and contact information, and how the Auxiliary is honoring the Veterans through patriotic community service. Face book is a great way to share all the latest News from National and Department.

“STAND UP, SPEAK OUT” about what we do, who we are.

About how important our Veterans, their families, and our communities are to us. About patriotism, the love we have for God and our country.

GETTING STARTED THE RIGHT WAY

- Record your auxiliary’s events in a notebook by date. Be sure to detail the five w’s, who, what, when, where, and why.
- Organize photographs of events in your phone as they are taken. Create albums in your phone of each event with a title and date. Include pictures of any media (flyers, posters, newspaper articles, ect.).
- After an event, clean up your pictures by cropping, straightening, and adjusting the lighting. Delete any pictures that are not flattering.
- You are the record keeper. Your post members are counting on your pictures to tell the story. A story that can be told for years to come.
- Consider presenting your president with a photo album or digital scrap book at the end of the year.

REPORT YOUR ACTIVITIES EVERY MONTH TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN.

Whether your Auxiliary had one, or five events in a month, write a detailed report about what you, as Historian did as part of keeping records. Include your time, miles, and expenses. When you’ve completed a report, TEXT up to 6 pictures that correspond with it, that tell the story, to 386-453-6513. Include the date and subject of your report.

OUR NEW HASHTAG is #historyauxfl.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S THEME

“Stand Up, Speak Out”

Remember, service is more than something we do, it’s who we are.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S THEME

“Banding Together for Veterans”

Approved by:

Department President
Teresa Bachand

Karen Heikkila
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HOSPITAL PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

July 23 Volume 23 Issue 1

Start your year off by contribution to Hospital Pledge- \$.70 per member as of your June 30th membership obligation goes to help offset the cost of travel and expenses that all our VAVS Reps and their Deputies do to provide care and support to our VA Facilities and Veterans.

All Auxiliaries have been successful with Hospital Programs, if you would like to share your success, send along details and they will be put in this newsletter.

We are all *“Banding Together for Veterans”*

Volunteers, Recruitment, Recognition, Support – Start planning your program early, recruit members to identify where you want to focus – Hospital, Nursing Homes, Members needed to make items, collect, deliver, or donate to veterans. Support your volunteers by hosting a luncheon, recognize those who volunteer with a volunteer pin.

Valentines for Veterans – Dollar Tree has hearts that can be painted red and attach a Buddy Poppy to it. Check with local Nursing Home/Assisted Living to see how many veterans in residence, also the Hospital a few days before.

Let's not forget other holidays to touch Veterans with a card, Veterans Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, they will know they are not forgotten.

Help our VAS Representatives-send them cards or a special donations to support Veterans

Women Veterans Health Care – Set aside a special day for Women Veterans and host an informational Women's Veterans Health format. Check out this website, lots of information on programs CenterforWomenVeterans@messages.va.gov, or www.womenshealth.va.gov.

Honors Escort – Reach out to your local VA and non-VA facilities, Nursing Homes/Assisted Living, let them know about Auxiliary Honors Escort to develop a plan that works for your auxiliary. Reach out to the Hospital Pastors to determine if they have a program for Veterans, and explain what our honors program does to honor all Veterans.

Department Year End Dept Special Awards:

1. Award to one Auxiliary

- with the most outstanding initiation of an Honor Escort program, in a hospital or nursing home.
- most creative Valentines to Veterans in a nursing home or assisted living facility.
- hosts the most outstanding educational seminar for education on women's veteran programs.

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LEGISLATIVE

Volume 23

Issue 1

June 2023

Educate yourself on Legislative priorities.

This information will help all VFW Veterans, Auxiliary spouses, and family.

[Vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service](https://vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service).

Join Action Corps Weekly

THIS IS FREE

It's the happening on Capitol Hill



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES



Did you know?

All Auxiliary political involvement must remain neutral.



Subscribe at the National WEBSITE at:

[Vfwauxiliary.org](https://vfwauxiliary.org)

Go to - What do we do - Click On

Get to know and understand our Legislative Program

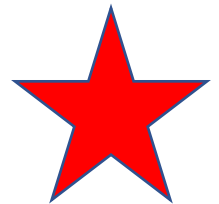
Be An Advocate

Be informed

Be Engaged

Be Advocate Be Engage

- **Budget**
- **Health Care**
- **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs**
- **Education, Employment and Transition Assistance**
- **Military Quality of Life**
- **National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA**



Approved By:
2023-2024 Department President
Teresa Bachand

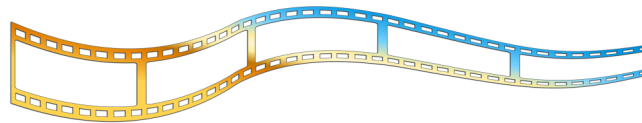
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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

An Auxiliary, like a movie production, you must have your cast and crew to make it work. Membership is the life of an auxiliary, this is your cast and crew. It is what keeps the auxiliary running for years to come in our efforts to serve our veterans needs. Lets make sure this year is fun. Remember these two things:

- ⇒ Everyone wants to have fun when volunteering.
- ⇒ If you are having fun others are having fun and your membership will grow.



Every great movie starts with a script. So do your research and write a script. Don't worry, your cast will don't will add the improv when its needed.



You can find the tools at:

<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org>

Go to Member Recourses and then Membership. There is information On how to engage existing members, orienting new members, order form for supplies and so much more.



You're Invited!

Did you Invite your new and seasoned members to a meeting? How about the ones you haven't seen in a while. Seasoned members that you haven't seen in a while may have forgotten the date and times of meeting this reminds them and makes them feel included. Calling a day or two before a meeting you are letting them know you care and want them come.

Approved By:
2023-2024 Department President
Teresa Bachand

Invest Wisely!!



Auxiliary members are our life blood of this organization.

By signing up new members you are investing in the future of your Auxiliary. New members bring in

fresh ideas young or old. In all business you need to spend money to make money. Investing in new members you are giving them the skills and knowledge to keep this charity thriving.



Ask yourself did you try to include everyone? Even the quite person who sits in the back of the room. Did you try to make everyone feel included? When your event is over did you thank everyone who volunteered? It is so simple that it keeps volunteers coming

back. Member or not. At the end of the meeting did you thank everyone for coming? Were you able have your seasoned members and new members involved?

One question

**ARE YOU A
MEMBER?**



Kelly Barr
Department Membership Chairman
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Hi, I'm Maggie! I'm programming the "**Extension & Revitalization**" Program, along with the "**Mentoring for Leadership**" Program because in many ways they go hand and hand.

My Goal for the Department is **WE** all become a "Mentor" and understand that **WE** are already leaders in many ways! I am hoping to have all members show **WE** can be a more understanding organization. If **WE** just keep learning, be patient, and always be "Humble and Kind" to all our members and our Veterans. I know **WE** together can make this a wonderful year!

Goals+Mentoring+Leadership=Healthy Auxiliaries



Program Goals:

Ensure A Positive Member Experience
Engage In Learning and Training Opportunities
Develop and Empower Members for Leadership Roles

How do we insure a positive Member experience?

First it is about the application...

- Help the potential member with the application. It can be confusing.
- Make sure they understand we are a voting organization and their application needs to be voted on at the next meeting, not when they leave it at the post.
- A bad experience with these first few steps can turn a new member off from getting involved in the meetings

Second it is about a new members

First Meeting...

- Have the Conductress introduce the new member or a member who is coming to a meeting for the first time to the Officers.

- Why? Because when a first-time member walks into that meeting room it can be strange and feel intimidating. Make sure Welcome Packets are sent to new members. Great ideas are on the Auxiliary website.

Contact Senior Members

- Think of how important it is to form committees
- Reminders of upcoming meetings. Do they need a ride or assistance?
- Holidays and Birthday
- Fine out how they are?



"Tell me and I will forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

- Benjamin Franklin

We have a purpose this year! That is to educate all members on the value of an Auxiliary. To show all where and how to use the valuable information available to all members. With resources such as:

• **M.A.L.T.A.** • Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation • Podium edition of the BYLAWS & RITUAL.

Through using these resources for this program, WE will be encouraged to promote the **C.A.R.E.** concept:

C – Catch the member when they first join. **A** – Ask them to participate. **R** – Remember what it felt like to be new. **E** – Engage them in a program that fits them. It is up to all of us to maintain strong relations with our members. As our motto for this year is to work together to "Stand Up and Speak Out" we will be "Banding Together for Veterans".

Approved by:
2023-2024 Department President,
Teresa Bachand

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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

Volume 23 Issue 1

June 2023

Military Sexual Trauma Awareness

Military Sexual Trauma (MST) refers to a service member's experience with sexual assault or sexual harassment including any sexual activity against his/her will. Examples are:

- Forced or coerced sexual encounters
- Sexual contact or activities without your consent including when asleep or intoxicated
- Inappropriate sexual jokes or lewd remarks
- Unwanted physical contact that makes him/her feel uncomfortable
- Repeated sexual advances
- Comments about his/her body or sexual activities

- Offers of something in exchange for sexual favors or punishment for refusal of sexual favors

An estimated 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men have experienced MST. The rate is higher for women as there are so many more men than women in the military. MST can affect veterans of any gender and background and can have a lasting impact on their mental health. What can we do to help?

- Invite speakers to your meetings. Invite VFW members to hear the speaker.
- Distribute information bringing awareness to MST.
- Raise funds to help the VA to help veteran MST survivors.



Fundraising

We will partner this year with the VA Center for Women Veterans. They will be providing material distribution and speakers. Our fundraising will go to the CWV. It will be split evenly between the 7 VA Medical Centers in Florida. Our goal this year is to raise \$84,000.

Ways we can fundraise:

- Donate \$2 / member to Special Projects
- Hold raffles
- Put up bar decorations for donations
- Hold -THON- : walk, bike, rock, dance, bingo, etc
- Special events such as auctions, vendor fairs,
- Hold special dinners such as steak dinner, spaghetti dinners, Valentine dinner, St. Patrick's Dinner, etc.

Send checks to Dept. Treasurer

Veteran Women Health Care

Women veterans are a very diverse population. They vary in age, race, ethnicity, rank and branch of service. They are mothers, professionals and retirees. Only about 44% of women veterans are enrolled in VA Health Care. They are not utilizing their earned benefits.

Women veterans have many of the same needs as men veterans however, they have their own needs. Some of them include:

- Chronic pain
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Mental Health Wellness

- Obesity
- Cardiovascular
- Breast cancer
- Maternity care
- Gynecological care
- Fertility Services

These services are provided by VA Center for Women Veterans (CWV). The CWV serves as an advocate for cultural transformation and raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans.

Approved by:
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Teresa Bachand

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SCHOLARSHIPS

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

June 2023

"STAND UP, SPEAK OUT"

PROGRAM GOALS

STUDENT PARTICIPATION



RECIPIENT RECOGNITION



COMMUNITY AWARENESS



INCREASING THE FUND



Remember the dates

DUE BY OCTOBER 31, 2023

**Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay
(What are the Greatest Attributes of
Our Democracy) Grades 9-12**

**Patriot's Pen Essay Contest
(How Are You Inspired by America?)**

Grades 6-8

WINTER SCHOLARSHIP

CONTINUING EDUCATION

THIS IS OPEN TO ANY AUXILIARY MEMBER OR ANY SPOUSE OR CHILD OF AUXILIARY MEMBER 18 YEARS OR OLDERR

APPLICATIONS TO NATIONAL BY Feb.15 2024

YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST AND 3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST

DEADLINES TO AUXILIARIES MARCH 31, 2024

This contest is for grades 9-12 School Art Teachers need to be contacted as soon as possible and given all information for this contest. And follow up's should be made often.

Approved By:
2023-2024 Department President
Teresa Bachand

Ann Batson
Scholarship Chairman
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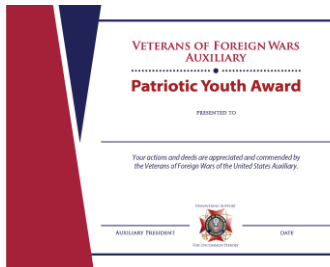
YOUTH

“OUR YOUTH ARE THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY “



PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD

The Patriotic Youth Award is designed to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members and their families.



R.A.P. CARDS

Our youth love to be rewarded when they have done a good deed, such as thanking a veteran, getting good grades, etc. R.A.P. cards are a perfect award for them to receive and an opportunity to explain to them what the “R.A.P.” stands for: RANDOM ACTS OF PATRIOTISM. Go to MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities, to locate a template to print out. This fun and unique way to engage youth and their patriotism.



ILLUSTRATING AMERICA

A way to encourage patriotism in youth is to participate in the Illustrating America Contest. It is open to all students in grades K-8 who are enrolled in public, private or parochial schools or in a home study program in the United States, its territories, and possessions; or who are dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools (foreign exchange students and students 15-years or older are not eligible).

CREATE, SPONSOR AND/OR WORK WITH YOUTH GROUPS

Sponsor and work with youth groups such as: Youth sports teams, Church youth groups, After-school programs, School Clubs, Home-school associations, Youth community service groups, Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils, Service learning and civic departments in high schools and colleges.



PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

Patriotism Through Literacy introduces youth to historical figures and teaches them about events in our nation’s history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. Reading is one of the easiest ways to promote patriotism among our youth.

It is our responsibility to help educate our youth at an early age about our Flag, why we say the Pledge, how our country was formed, and many other historical facts.

GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE & BLUE



This singing contest is open to youth in grades K-12 at the time of local entry and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Entries are judged on vocal ability, mastery of lyrics, originality or interpretation and entertainment value. The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entry forms are in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Approved By:
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Teresa Bachand

Barb Anderson
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Veterans & Family Support

Volume 23

Issue 1

June 2023

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE (NVS) CHALLENGE

Florida Department Fundraiser One Department Auxiliary to WIN \$50

HERE'S HOW TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!!!

- Send NVS Donation to National VFW Earmarked NVS
- REPORT amount & date sent
- **RECEIVE 1 Chance for drawing!**
- Create a fundraiser, have it approved at your regular monthly meeting, & conduct NVS Fundraiser
- Send NVS Donations raised to National VFW Earmarked NVS
- REPORT amount sent & what you DID to Raise the Donation

RECEIVE 2 Chances for drawing

(See Department Program pg. for mailing info)

NVS CHALLENGE Rules:

1. All reports to qualify for chances in the NVS Challenge must be submitted by Dec. 31, 2023, stating amount of donation & date sent
2. One Auxiliary will be drawn randomly from all Auxiliaries submitting report on donations sent to National VFW for NVS
3. Winner will be drawn & announced at Mid-Winter Conference

Spread the word about the National Veterans Service

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME "Banding Together for Veterans"

Approved By:
2023-2024 Department President
Teresa Bachand

PROMOTE MENTAL WELLNESS

Brothers & Sisters, we must change the conversation & stigma surrounding Mental Health. Do you know the 5 Signs & where to look for help & resources? Share the phone numbers. You can make a difference through Caring & Kindness, be a shoulder to lean on or an ear to listen. Purchase the Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin or the VFW Change Direction Shirt with the 5 signs from the VFW Store or create, print, & hand out blue teardrop stickers. Let's start talking, sharing the info & making the difference!!!

Time is now to start the Conversation

Calling All Auxiliaries

To Conduct & Report on ACTIVITIES where you Promote, participate in, Host or Co-host with your VFW Post (including donations sent to VFW National) for our Veterans & Family Program. Parts of our program are:

1. National Veterans Service (NVS)
2. Veterans & Military Support (MAP)
3. Unmet Needs
4. Suicide Prevention & Mental Wellness
5. Disaster Relief
6. Direct Aid given to Veterans, Military & their families
7. Promoting aid & services that assist Women Veterans
8. VFW Veterans Village in Ft. McCoy

Check out your resources on MALTA, in the National Program Book, your Dept. Program Pages, & Monthly Bulletins

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME "Stand Up, Speak Out"

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