

"Unity"

1 Family

1 Voice

1 Team



"From Our Roots to Our Branches – Extending Service to Our Veterans"

DPSP – "Freedom Ride" <https://www.freedomride.com/veteransequineassisted/>

Americanism: Patriotic Ways to Support Veterans

It's a great day to be free. Have you thanked a veteran today for fighting for your freedom?

Don't forget to report your hard work in promoting Americanism and Patriotic Holidays!!

UPCOMING PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Patriot Day – September 11 This day is to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America that occurred on this date in 2001.

POW/MIA Recognition Day

More than just letters - Third Friday in September. This day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. Host a community BBQ, let those attend to understand what those letters mean. Hold a POW ceremony. National this is one of the 6 days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

Approved by:
Department President
Virginia Brehmer

In September 2012, President Barack Obama rededicated the last Sunday in September as....

"GOLD STAR MOTHER'S & FAMILY DAY"



SCHOOL'S STARTING:

How's that Flag looking? Now's the time to reach out to your local school, parochial school and even homeschoolers and houses of worship to see if there is a need for their Flag to be replaced!

This could be your "in" to bring up the subject of how we might be able to help them with Flag education or provide them with patriotic materials for instructional use. You know that once those first vital lines of communication are open, the door may stay open for us to get our scholarships and youth contests into the hands of our local youth.

The VFW Store has some awesome age-appropriate material for Americanism instruction!

<https://www.vfwstore.org/>

The Americanism Program:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/americanism/>

Remember – REPORT – REPORT – REPORT!!!!!!!

Department Awards

Award for most outstanding event recognizing a lesser celebrated Patriotic Holiday to one Auxiliary in each Membership group.

National Award

Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about lesser-known Patriotic holidays.

September :

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
9-14 – VFW Auxiliary Birthday
9-17 – Constitution Day
9-18 – US Air Force Birthday
9-29 – VFW Birthday
10-13 – US Navy Birthday



Carol Franker
Americanism Chairperson
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352-400-9016

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

ISSUE 3

“1 Family, 1 Voice, 1 Team”

AUGUST 2024



“UNITY” IN OUR COMMUNITY



HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR PARTNERSHIP YET?

- DID YOU CHECK WITH YOUR TOWN OR CITY ON THEIR BULLETIN BOARD OR LOCAL NEWSPAPER? MAYBE THEY HAVE AN EVENT YOU CAN VOLUNTEER AND PARTNER WITH.
- CHECK TO SEE IF ANY LOCAL ORGANIZATONS ARE SPONSORING A CHARITY RUN? MAYBE FOR CANCER OR HEART DISEASE? OFFER TO PARTNER WITH THEM.
- DID YOU STOP AT YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK OR SOUP KITCHEN CHECK TO SEE IF YOU CAN PARTNER WITH THEM?
- REMEMBER: IT’S ALL ABOUT OUR” LABOR OF LOVE”

REMEMBER WHAT? NO MONEY OR IN-KIND DONATIONS IN THIS PROGRAM. IT’S ALL VOLUNTEERISM.



- ❖ Dept Award for most outstanding photo collage in each of the 5 membership groups created by the VFW Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach partnerships during the current program year.
- ❖ Dept. Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the 5 membership groups who volunteer the most Auxiliary community hours with another organization NOT affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary

Approved by:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer

Sandi Hendriks
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
sandihendriks@yahoo.com

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Issue 3

August 2024

Happy 100th Birthday National Home

Start NOW collecting signed Birthday Cards from your District, Auxiliary, Schools and Community to help wish our VFW National Home a very Happy Birthday.



This is a wonderful way to spread the news about our National Home.

Take literature & Birthday cards with you when you visit a classroom or other Civic Group and ask them to add their special wish. (You collect & Mail)

All cards need to be to the National Home by the 10th of January

3573 S. Waverly Rd. Eaton Rapids, MI. 48827

Educate the public by putting an article in your local newspaper.

Spread the word though your social media

Include the Helpline # 1-800-313-4200

vfnationalhome.org

**Remember to Pay
your Health & Happiness on
MALTA**

.25/member/June 30th membership



Approved by:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer

Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman
Kelly Barr
buddypoppy2425@gmail.com

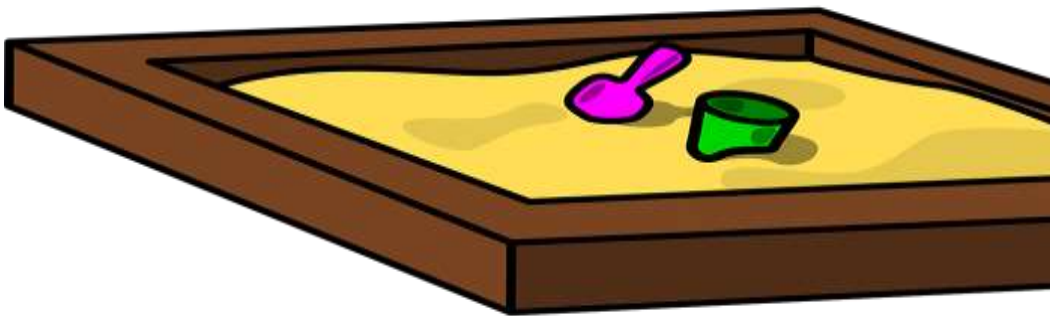
EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING

Volume 3 Aug 2024



Has your
Bond been
paid?

Do all your
programs have
a chairman?



Let's All Play/Work together for our common goals

Here are a few words to incorporate into our Auxiliary events, activities and programs!

Here are the definitions of these words from the *Webster's Dictionary*. Let's diligently try to incorporate these words into our daily actions to better serve our Veterans!

Teamwork: work done by a group acting together so that each member does a part that contributes to the efficiency of the whole

Patience- bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint: not hasty or: steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity

Tolerance-sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own: the act of allowing something :the allowable deviation from a standard

Respect-an act of giving particular attention: high or special regard: the quality or state of being

Benevolence : disposition to do good: an act of kindness: a generous gift

**Practice Daily to treat everyone as
you would want to be treated**

No task is too big when done together by all!

Hiawaiian Proverb

Approved by:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer

Debbie McCollum, Chief of Staff &
Chairman
Ucfnole21@vahoo.com

Historian/Media Relations

Volume 24-25

Issue 2

August 2024

AUGUST

“Boot Camp” School of Instruction

Y’all come and learn about the programs

Get lots of information to take back to your Auxiliaries.

August 16-18. Florida Hotel in Orlando.

‘Program Fair’ Be There

Media

Start a



facebook

PAGE & Use it!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Hashtag #vfwauxflhistorianmediarelations

Vfwauxliary.org

Vfwauxfl.org

For information on all Programs.

The how to!

Questions? Call me

Jeanne 386.956.1913



Gets the information out to your members, and Community

Approved By
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer

Jeanne F Laurine
Historian/Media Relations
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Hospital Program

Volume 2024-2025

August

Issue 3

A Sponsored Volunteer at a V.A. Facility is

Anyone wishing to help your Auxiliary who is not a member. This can be students 14 years and older who may want to accumulate service hours for school or the Scouts. See application on the Department of Florida website under Hospital. Award pins are given by the Auxiliary for 100 hours of volunteering.



SPREAD THE LOVE

HOST AN EVENT AT A V.A.:

Outpatient facility

Domiciliary

CLC (Community Living Center)

Cancer Treatment Center

Inpatient VA Hospital

Nursing Home with Veterans

Homeless Veteran facility

Be creative, have fun, leave our Veterans with a smile.

Please send donated monies to the Department of Florida Treasurer.
Note on your check what facility the donation goes to.

Approved By

Department President
Virginia Brehmer

Karen Heikkila 386-453-6513

Hospital Chairman

hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com

We The Auxiliary Can, Be An Advocate, Be Informed, Be Engaged



DEPARTMENT AWARD

Take a picture with your "**BILL**" doing the following

- An Auxiliary member with I voted sticker
- An Auxiliary member bringing someone to vote
- An Auxiliary member in front of a Town Hall, City Hall, or Capital Building
- Signing up for Action Corps
- An Auxiliary member with a Representative (can be local, state, or federal).

- ✓ Top Auxiliaries in each membership group will get a special trophy
- ✓ Remember to have fun taking these pictures but be respectful
- ✓ Send all 5 pictures to melissamckeon6767@gmail.com along with your Auxiliary #
- ✓ If you didn't get a BILL, you can make one



The Senate has 100 senators. Two senators represent each state and serve a six year term. To find your senator go to www.Senate.gov
Our Current Senators for Florida are, **Senator Rick Scott** and **Senator Marco Rubio**. Research our Senators and see if they are improving the lives of our veterans, service members and their family through legislation. See where they stand on new and pending bills. There is a **GUIDE TO CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATOR** go to MALTA > members resources > Legislative.

Legislative priority goal-

Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DOD, and DOL must:

- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, child care stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance outreach and counseling to veterans eligible for the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.
- Ensure parity of VA and DOD education programs with other federal programs.
- Expand small business, hiring preference, tax incentives, and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.
- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.
- Conduct oversight of VA's Transition Assistance Program to ensure compliance with the law, and require the inclusion of accredited claims representatives.
- Eliminate red tape preventing effective use of education and employment benefits.
- Provide housing relief for surviving spouses.

Approved by:
Department President
Virginia Brehmer



Melissa McKeon
Legislative Chairman
Melissamckeon6767@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP



See you at School of Instruction, share your ideas for membership

How is your Auxiliary Membership Growing?

- Does every member have applications for membership to carry with them?
- Membership Chairman – leads the way but we are all recruiters for new members.
- Do you have contests for the members who bring in new members? Quarterly add those who bring in new members name put in for a drawing for a special gift, or how about a gift of membership for a family member.
- Ask your members, do they have their quick 5-minute talk about reasons to join the Auxiliary.
- Everyone should know the wheel of eligibility
- Hosting membership drives in the community, promoting thru social media, newspapers, magazines, flyers.
- Become involved with your local Veterans organizations.
- Have you included all your family members?

24/25 Membership Pins Awarded when your auxiliary reaching:

80%

90%

100%

100+3%.

Circle of Champion



Think of yourself as a sunflower, many seeds of new memberships, start planting your seeds to bring new members into your auxiliary and watch your memberships grow...

Approved By:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer

Betty Bailey
Membership Chairman
Bann652@aol.com

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SPECIAL PROJECT

August 2024-2025

Issue 3

How do Horses help our Veterans?

An equine assisted therapeutic program for U.S. Veterans offers the opportunity to interact with horses in a way that allows for increasing self-awareness, enhancing coping skills and learning more effective ways to interact and move forward within the community and with friends and loved ones.

Horses offer direct, honest and instant feedback which often allows us to find new ways to understand ourselves and others. In each session, participants will engage in structured activities with their horse which is specifically designed to allow for a gentle and respectful exploration personally and interpersonally.

The program not only utilizes the horse as a “safe” entity, but the program takes place outside of the usual therapy office and rather in a calm, peaceful yet social environment. Over time, the individual’s confidence and ability to trust increases, but the benefits of this equine therapeutic program go further.

I HOLD THE TRIPLE CROWN, AND I CHALLENGE ANY AUXILIARY TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME!

Approved By:
Department President
Virginia Brehmer

How do I Help Our Veterans?

There are many different and fun activities you can do to raise funds for the Department Special Project.

*As Mentioned, June and July Promotions
Collect Shoes*

Potluck Dinners

Horse Races

50/50

(Use your imagination)

Share your amazing ideas with me and I can share your great ideas with others.

Can your Auxiliary win the over all Triple Crown? Only you know that answer!

The Auxiliary that raises the most money for the DPSP, will win the overall

Triple Crown

(Must be at least over \$1600.00, to qualify)



“FREEDOM RIDES”

Pauline Riddle
Department President Special
ProjectFireballs44@hotmail.com



SCHOLARSHIPS



ISSUE 3



August 24/25

**Student Participation • Recipient Recognition • Community Awareness •
Increasing the Fund**

CORRECTION

In my first issue I made an error in the dates for the essay contests I know some of you downloaded the first issue before it could be corrected. Here are the correct dates and I do this because of the importance of these dates.

October 31, essays to post for judging

November 15, to District for judging

December 15 to Department final judging

The VFW Department has asked me to enlist all Districts to get there winners to Department as soon as possible after judging s

o they can accomplish there judging as early as possible.

Again remember the winners are presented at the Mid Winter Conference

Committee chairman should follow up with the schools with reminders of the

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I Want to talk to all of you out there about the schools and their art departments. In my travels I have found out just how bad it is for Art teachers to do justice to there students because of the funding they get. In most cases the art teachers use their own money to buy supplies for there students What I would like to see is all the auxiliaries in the state adopt a school and do a fund raiser to help that school with art supplies. And as a suggestion go talk to the art teacher you want to sponsor and get a list of there needs, and fill that list as best you can.

Remember this is what we do!

Our young essay contestants are really brilliant budding adults in process. And anyone who has ever listened to the essays written will attest to that. Remember the topics this year are

VOD: *“Is America Today our Forefathers Vision?”*

Patriots Pen: *“My Voice in America’s Democracy”*

Approved by:
Department President
Virginia Brehmer

**Ann Batson
Scholarships Chairman
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VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM



August 2024-25, ISSUE 3

FL DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME:

“One Family One Voice! One Team!”



2024
2025

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME:

“From Our Roots to Our Branches...
Extending Service to Our Veterans”

Together, our focus this year is to **Keep Moving For-**

Remember: **REPORT, REPORT, REPORT**

Goal #1- National Veterans Suicide Prevention: IT STARTS WITH YOU!

- ◆ Lives can be **saved** when Veterans have access to the right support **before** a crisis occurs
- ◆ Strengthening **protective factors** is key to Prevention such as having **access** to mental health care
- ◆ *Family and friends* are critical to Suicide Prevention when they **notice a change** in one's behavior



IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN DISTRESS...

DON'T BE AFRAID TO...

E N G A G E

- E** Employ the **K-I-S-S** principle: Keep It Super Simple! Get a conversation started and show genuine care and concern. Focus on their story, their challenges, their fears.
- N** **Note** their demeanor, appearance, and behavior. Be kind in your approach. Be a good listener without being judgmental, condescending or overbearing.
- G** **Get** the person involved in something they like to do. Make time for them. If possible, include them in your activities. Ask them to help at your Post or during Auxiliary activities.
- A** **Always** listen how they feel and what they are thinking. Watch for signs of depression or sadness. Get them to talk about their experiences, both good and bad.
- G** **Get** them professional help, if needed. Be knowledgeable about available suicide prevention programs in your area. Let them know they can **Dial 988 then press 1** at any time.
- E** **Earn** their trust and respect

Approved By:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer



Bob Kabala
Veterans & Family Support Chairman,
rkabala@tampabay.rr.com

YOUTH



Key Points >>>

- AUXILIARY FAMILY FREEDOM FESTIVAL
- F.U. w/ Library & School Volunteer Clearances
- PRESS RELEASE for Illustrating America
- BOOK Veteran/Children READ Event
- HOST A READ-A-THON

Familiarize Yourself with Auxiliary Family Freedom Events located in Member Resources, Under Miscellaneous in MALTA

***Print & Prepare Materials, Such AS: ABOUT/STEPS PDF's & Share in Reports of Committee's @ Monthly Meetings to learn how Holding F.F.F.'s brings in Family's to increase Youth Attendance & Awareness for the Whole Family!**



Program Activities

Engage Youth in Positive Volunteer Experiences!

IMPORTANT to FOLLOW UP with your Local Library & Schools as to the Status of you Volunteer Clearance. County Schools typically respond via e-mail in One Step. Libraries Comptrollers have 4 Basic Steps; 1. Applications, 2. Appt w/ Handbooks, Interview & Overview, 3. Email acceptance with Volunteer Itinerary, 4. Book Event Dates, Please; Attend in Uniform or Auxiliary Shirt, Auxiliary Member Volunteer Sticker, or Printable Lanyard if without Name Tag.

LOCATED in Youth Programs in MALTA, you will find Illustrating America Art Contest Forms. Now is the time to fill out the PRESS RELEASE & Submit to Local News Papers, Magazines!

INCREASE the amount of Member Envolment! Please remember to follow up with any Student Advisory Council Efforts in August and via email, telephone or in-person, introduce yourself to School Guidance Depts,

PLEASE PRINT Contest Info & Entry Pages. Having them readily available for Monthly Meetings, Quick Emails to Schools, as well as, the Sample Voting Sheets for Auxiliary Review, helps

ADVISING that you will be contacting them soon, with more information after Back to School Start Up, settles down and exchange contact info. Ask for the Appropriate Contact to Book a Veteran & Children Reading Event*transfer call

IDEAS & MORE..... Not only are Auxiliaries educating the youth and communities about Patriotism through Literacy, if you combine these activities with the usage of R.A.P. Cards, your Auxiliary may qualify to earn a Department Youth Program Special Award! Consider Hosting a Read-a-Thon, Book a Church Special or Public Library Event where a Veteran reads to Children and or Children read to the Veteran.

Approved by:
Dept. President
Virginia Brehmer

Amy DiMauro
Youth Activities Chairmen
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