

SUNSHINE

E-NEWS LETTER



August 2024 - ISSUE NO 3

From Team Florida

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



A Few Thoughts from Me to You

Hello members,

Even with all of the promoting that our wonderful Chairman do I thought that I would give you a couple of areas to focus on this week.

With our State of affairs, I do not feel that we can afford to overlook our Programs and what they actually stand for.

After looking at Americanism, there is so much we can do to include the communities we live in and bring focus to Veterans and our organization. Such as presenting American and Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Flags. And remember that Patriotic Citations and Certificates of Recognition or Appreciation are not just for our Volunteers. Recognize the businesses and citizens in your neighborhoods and communities. Then let us all know what you did.

Second there is Auxiliary Community Outreach. It is perhaps one of the hardest Programs for Auxiliaries to grasp and fully understand.

I think one of the easiest ways to understand is to remember this. It is not Community Service. No money, no donations, just your time effort partnership and hard work. What a way to build positive lasting relationships within our communities. So, start Partnering today and have fun. Then if we look at Buddy Poppy National Home everything that is under that program is simply amazing and something that we should all be proud of. Those Veterans, families and children not only need but deserve our support. Do you know how old they are this Year??? Ok as usual I want to leave you with this. I took this directly out of our Ritual Book, and it is the last thing that every President says before closing their meeting. It is something that we should all recognize memorize and practice daily. As leaders, if we take this and lead by example can you just imagine the way your Auxiliary function can grow!

“I would like to remind us all of our purpose as an Auxiliary, which is to serve Veterans and their Families. Let each of us treat one another with respect and kindness at all times.”

“Unity”

“One Family One Voice One Fight”

**That’s us
Team Florida**

Virginia Brehmer
Dept. of FL President



**MAKING OUR VETERANS HAPPY WITH
KINDNESS | COMPASSION | COMFORT**



VAVS



Veterans Administration Volunteer Services

VAVS is affiliated with the *Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary*. We are one of the largest Volunteer Programs in the Federal Government. VAVS Volunteers proudly supplement staff & provide resources in all areas of patient care & support.



**Become a Certified Volunteer or
Occasional Volunteer Today!
Talk with your local VAVS Rep!**



Send your Pictures and Story's for the Sunshine E-Newsletter to: Roger Ingall Shanily.04@gmail.com



In Flanders Fields
BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Monthly Program Focus:

Buddy Poppy / National Home

The Buddy Poppy

Since February 1924 that the VFW has distributed more than 1 billion Buddy Poppy's. Those pretty red flowers are a symbol of remembrance and sacrifice for our soldiers. The donations that the VFW and VFW Auxiliary receive for the flower go to help with the relief of veterans. Whether it be to buy groceries, pay a bill or buy their children Christmas presents. We use that money to take care of the whole veteran and their families. **"Made in the USA"** the Buddy Poppy is made by the disabled and needy veterans in VAs across the USA. Show your support by running a poppy drive put that money in your relief fund and use it support a veteran and/or the family of a veteran in need. Please always remember that we don't sell Buddy Poppies we take donations, or we give them away.



The VFW National Home for Children

The National home for children started in March of 1925. After World War 1 the VFW realized that widows and orphans were in need of care. In the 1920's there were not social programs or services to help widows and children who lost a veteran VFW decided to start a The National Home for Children. The first residents were Mrs. Polletts and her 6 children. They moved in May of 1925. The National home helps widows, and the children of veterans learn new ways to make a living and coping skills to help with the loss of a veteran. Since 1925 the National Home has been expanding and changing with the times. Over the next several months I will talk about the changes that they have occurred at the National Home and what you and your auxiliary can do to help them with the changes.

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

Auxiliary 8189 Donates to Bridges 4 Veterans

On Friday, June 28, some members of the Auxiliary 8189 met with the President of The Bridges 4 Vets, Greg Pelletier. This organization is a shelter for Vets that additionally provides many services and resources from our community. They provide housing until the Vet can obtain their own. The Auxiliary proudly presented them with a check for \$2000, which was part of the proceeds from a very successful Poker Tournament.



Post 7909 and Auxiliary host Flag Day celebration.

A Flag Day celebration was held at Post 7909 Wesconnett in Jacksonville, FL on June 22, 2024. They played Jeopardy using the board shown in the background, and for the categories there were flag description, flag history, flag guidelines, Star Spangled Banner, and Living Presidents. Also pictured are some of the crafts and prizes that were given out. The youths performed a short play called "The Star-Spangled Banner." They finished up the celebration with hot dogs, potato chips, sodas, and chocolate chip cookies.



Betsy Ross and 2 Atlantic Coast Young Marines and a Girl Scout at the Flag Day celebration



Retiring VAVS Rep Honored

District 7, Auxiliary 4864, Citrus Springs gave retiring VAVS Rep Jenny Parks this beautiful quilt and Certificate for her service to Veterans at the VA hospital in Gainesville. This was at the first meeting of year for Marilyn Hunter their new President. The beautiful quilt was made by the Auxiliary Secretary, Pam Bolinda.

Get to know your 24-25 Department Officers

Name: Kathy Wright

Position: Jr. Vice President

Years in the Auxiliary: 18

Home Post: Wesconnett 7909

Home District: 6

Who did you join under: Glenn Wright, husband



What Positions in the Auxiliary have you held? Guard, Conductor, Chaplain, Jr. Vice, Sr. Vice, President, Trustee, Chairman of many programs (Youth, Veterans & Family Support, Legislative, Scholarship, Membership)

What motivates you for the VFW Auxiliary? What motivates me is seeing how our programs help youth, veterans, their families, and the community. For example, we honor veterans in nursing homes with hygiene items, snacks, and parties. They know they are valued and not forgotten. We teach flag education and patriotism to youth. It's something that they might not get anywhere else. All the programs are important!

Do you have any hobbies? Scrapbooking, cooking, and flower gardening

Favorite quote or saying: "Pray, hope, and don't worry." By Padre Pio

Any message you would like to leave for the members? Be the best Auxiliary member that you can be. That will serve our veterans and our membership more than anything else

Know your Department Chairmen:

- Americanism – Carol Franker Qcarol4u@gmail.com
- Auxiliary Outreach – Sandi Hendriks sandihendriks@yahoo.com
- Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home – Kelly Barr buddypoppy2425@gmail.com
- Extension Revitalization & Mentoring – Debbie McCollum Ucfnole21@yahoo.com
- Historian / Media Relations – Jeanne F. Laurine Jeannelaurine5@gmail.com
- Hospital – Karen Heikkila Hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com
- Legislative – Melissa McKeon Melissamckeon@gmail.com
- Membership – Betty Bailey bann652@aol.com
- Scholarships – Ann Batson annbatson@att.net
- Dept. President's Special Project – Pauline Riddle fireballs44@hotmail.com
- Veterans & Family Support – Bob Kabala rkabala@tampabay.rr.com
- Youth Program – Amy DiMauro stavamy@aol.com

Keep up to date with the monthly promotions from your chairmen!

Send your Pictures and Story's for the Sunshine E-Newsletter to: Roger Ingall Shanily.04@gmail.com

2023-2024 National Program Awards

Veterans & Family

Award to one Auxiliary in each Conference that hosts the most outstanding Activity to increase military suicide and mental health: **Holiday Auxiliary 10167**

Veterans & Family Award #2

Presented to One chairman in each Division for best promotion of “supporting Veterans, service members and their families: **Jean Lockwood**

Americanism Award #1

Presented to One chairman in each Division for best promotion that demonstrates VFW Auxiliary ACRONYM’S are more than just letters: **Pauline Riddle**

Auxiliary Outreach

Most outstanding Performance as a Dept. Chairman 1st Place: **Sandi Hendriks**

Historian

Most outstanding Performance as a Dept. Chairman 1st Place: **Karen Heikkila**

Hospital

Most outstanding Performance as a Dept. Chairman 1st Place: **Betty Bailey**

Legislative

Most outstanding Performance as a Dept. Chairman 1st Place: **Jeanne Laurine**

Mentoring for Leadership

Most outstanding Performance as a Dept. Chairman 2nd Place: **Maggie Gilchrist**

2023-2024 Membership Awards

Members who recruited 20 or more members:

- Jeffrey Baxter Auxiliary 2550
- Stoney Lawrentz-Edwards Auxiliary 2550
- Mary Ann Martin Auxiliary 3282
- Donna Wiebe Auxiliary 3282
- Judy Prive Auxiliary 4252
- Deborah Schneider Auxiliary 4256
- Patti Shelley Auxiliary 4300
- Tracy Singh Auxiliary 4781
- Patricia Barnes Auxiliary 4833
- Tashina Zavardino Auxiliary 5405
- Lea Caron Auxiliary 5690
- Corey Johnson Auxiliary 7122
- Leilani Jones Auxiliary 7909
- Jay Ryon Auxiliary 8087
- Shirley Cortese Auxiliary 8696
- Patricia O’Toole Auxiliary 9236
- Nancy Hess Auxiliary 10093
- Janice Corr Auxiliary 10097
- Kimberly Wlodarski Auxiliary 10167
- Susan Kotsubka Auxiliary 10210

Congratulations Everyone!

2024 National Convention Louisville, Kentucky



Dates to Remember for 2024-2025

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • School of Instruction | August 16-18, 2024, | Florida Hotel, Orlando, FL |
| • C.A.F.E. National Home | September 7, 2024 | |
| • Department Fall Conference | October 25-27, 2024, | Florida Hotel, Orlando, FL |
| • Southern Conference | November. 7-9, 2024 | Nashville |
| • Department Mid-Winter Conference | January 24 – 26, 2025 | Westgate Resorts, Orlando |
| • National Mid-Year Conference | February 1 – 6, 2025 | Hideaway at Royalton Riviera, Cancun |
| • Dept. Presidents Homecoming | March 14 – 15 2025 | Crown Plaza – Indialantic Beach |
| • National President's Visit | March 20 – 23, 2025 | |
| • Veterans Village Picnic | March 22, 2025 | |
| • Planning Meeting for Mike Yates | April 5, 2025 | |
| • Dept. Commanders Homecoming | April 12, 2025 | |
| • Department Judging | April 25 – 26, 2025 | |
| • Department Convention | June 12- 15, 2025 | Renaissance Orlando, FL |
| • National Convention | August 9-14, 2025 | Columbus, OH |



Patriotic Days

- Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day) - 3rd Monday in February
- National Vietnam War Veterans Day - March 29th
- Loyalty Day – May 1st
- V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) – May 8th
- Armed Forces Day - 3rd Saturday in May
- Memorial Day – Observed the Last Monday in May
- Flag Day – June 14th
- Independence Day – July 4th
- Patriot Day – September 11th
- Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – September 17th
- POW/MIA Recognition Day 3rd Friday in September
- Gold Star Mother's Day/Family's Day – Last Sunday in September
- Veterans Day – November 11th
- Pearl Harbor Day – December 7th