

SUNSHINE

E-NEWS LETTER



September 2024 - ISSUE NO 4

From Team Florida

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

It has been a great year so far and we are off to a pretty good start. I want to thank everyone for their attendance and enthusiasm at our SOI this month. It was great to look out and see standing room only and need to have more chairs brought in to accommodate all the folks there. I feel that this is a great time to send a message to every member and officer out there. One of the biggest issues that we all seem to have is communication. So, to each of you I want to say this, Your District Presidents are there for you to use for advice, training and they are your representatives on the Department Floor. They work very hard for you. Please, if at any time you do not feel comfortable going to them with anything that involves your Auxiliary, please contact us. We are all here for you. Remember as leaders and future leaders of this Auxiliary, the job we do is not about us. It is not about power. It is about this organization and the job that we are supposed to be here to do. Our job is to move this organization forward so that we can better take care of our Veterans and their families.

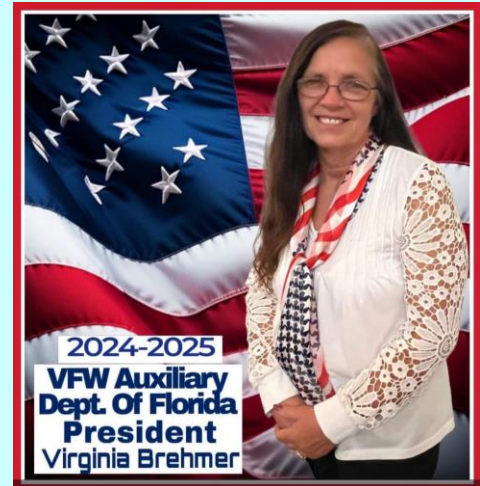
Never at any time should we be asking or wondering about what is in it for us. We should be asking instead, what can we do for you, Our Veterans? What are your concerns big or small? Where and how can we best show our support for you. You fought for us it is now time for us to fight for you.

So, remember to communicate with us and each other. We are 1 Team and that is Team Florida. If we do not know about a problem: Mole hills become mountains that become active volcanos, and with no idea that things are going on we cannot help guide you on your way to a better and more successful future.

***Our Motto is "Unity" and; Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.'* – Mattie Stepanek**

**We Are 1 Family, 1 Voice 1 Team which equals
Teamwork at its finest**

***It's not just about winning or losing, but to learn about teamwork, learn about sportsmanship, learn about discipline. The value of working together for a common goal. Have the emphasis on fundamentals, not just games.'* – Erik Spoelstra**



Western Days



FALL CONFERENCE

Florida Hotel & Conference Center

1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809

October 25 - 26, 2024

Phone: 407-859-1500

Room Rate: \$121.00 plus tax

(Mention Veterans of Foreign Wars Fall Meeting)

Complimentary Self-Parking

CUT OFF DATE - Monday, September 23rd @ 5 p.m.

RED SHIRT FRIDAY

October 25, 2024

1:00 PM District Presidents Meeting (Closed Meeting) (Legends-1st Floor)

2:00 PM Department Chairmens Meeting (Closed Meeting) (Legends-1st Floor)

3:00 PM - Council of Administration Meeting (Legends-1st Floor)



WESTERN (HATS, BOOTS ETC)

Saturday October 26, 2024

8 a.m. Turn the Fountain Pink

8:30 AM Fall Conference Chairmen's Presentations (Legends-1st Floor)

POW/MIA - Black & White

2:45 PM POW/MIA Program with VFW Department of Florida (Legends-1st Floor)



SPECIAL NOTICE: ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Please check website often for updated information

Commander Helping the Auxiliary!



Kathy Danahoo and Kathy Wright prepared a display for the district 6 School of Instruction which will be September 7th. We had some help from Commander Glenn Wright who cut out our leaves and letters.



Some of the winners from the SOI Chairmen's drawings – Hospital & Americanism.



Youth Awards Given

Youth Activities Chairmen, Miss Amy DiMauro ran a contest in the July Promotion and gave the prizes to the District President's to be able to hand deliver to the individual Auxiliaries.

Congratulations Auxiliaries for all your Youth Reporting, in the first quarter! These Auxiliaries have been recognized as Winners of Certificates & Sunflower Prizes at School of Instruction!

District 6, 7909 VFW Auxiliary of Wesconnett Post "Most Youth Activity Hrs Reported" Congratulations!

District 7, 8189 Dumas-Hartison, VFW Auxiliary, 'Most R.A.P. Cards Utilized & Reported' Congratulations!

District 7, 10087 Harry F. Nesbitt Auxiliary 'Most Flag Educations Forms Utilized & Reported' Congratulations!

District 11, 10066 Mary Maurice K Landberg VFW Auxiliary 'Most Illustrating Art Contest Promotions' Congratulations!

Your Dept Youth Activities Chairmen, Miss Amy DiMauro



A new Contest & Criteria can be found in the Sept. Promotion, awarded at Fall Conference!

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

Your 990 forms are due by Nov 15, and a copy sent to Cindy Estell

Don't forget to pay your Health & Happiness, & District Dues!

Mentoring

Have you ever heard of **BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION** guidebook?

It's a DIY manual for all Auxiliary members to grow and learn about our great organization at all levels!

A lot of us love our DIY projects whether it is in the garden, around the house or something else! There is a book that is a fantastic guide to help us navigate through learning our new Auxiliary office or positions. Everyone should get familiar with this tool. Check out the info it has about your new position because we all want to start with a great foundation!

Here are the different informational sections of the book-

- Guidebook 1 – Officers Duties
- Guidebook 2 – Programs & Reporting
- Guidebook 3 – Membership, Recruiting & Extension
- Guidebook 4 – National District Council
- Guidebook 5 – Financial Responsibilities

Here's where you can find this guidebook – vfwauxiliary.org – Malta, Member resources tab, or vfwauxfl.org – Department website resources tab.

Mentoring & Technology!

How many of you have been on Malta and are comfortable navigating around it???

First question- where is Malta? Is it an island in the Bahamas? Not exactly, MALTA is located on the VFW Auxiliary website. You must set up your log in. You will need your Member ID number and then create a password. Some of you are saying **REALLY???** I was helping at an installation this past spring and the new incoming President had no clue what I was talking about when we were talking about getting a copy of her membership card. Mentors- here's my challenge to you.. Teach all your members about MALTA and how to navigate the site.

Did you know you can take a screen shot of your membership card on MALTA and save it to your photos on your phone?

Monthly Program Focus:

Extension Revitalization & Mentoring

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



Debbie McCollum, Chairman & Chief of Staff

Ucfnole21@yahoo.com

Sarasota Sunshine Auxiliary 3233 Hosts Sundae Funday

Auxiliary 3233 held a Sundae Funday event on Sunday, August 4th. Since members had been getting together on Sundays and calling them Sunday Fundays, members decided to use this as a back-to-school supply drive. A flyer was sent out with the date & time and suggested bringing in \$10 worth of school supplies to receive a free ice cream treat... or pay \$10 for the ice cream. All funds received from this event would go towards purchasing additional school supplies.

Unfortunately, the day of the event Tropical Storm Debbie decided to graze our Gulf Coast, but weather held for the event and members brought in several bags of school supplies to help with our Back-To-School drive. The membership voted to share these items between two local Elementary schools, Booker and Wilkinson. They raised over \$75 cash for the event and an additional \$225 from two VFW members allowed Member Sue Berger to go shopping for additional school supplies. Volunteers met and organized all the items and placed in special bags and member Nancy Monti delivered the supplies to the two schools on Tuesday, August 12th.



Dept. of Florida Youth Activities Chairmen Spotlight, @ VFW 4th Annual Car Show of Post 4493

Allyssa, "Ally", Robinson 17, Years of Age, has been amazing the Post & Auxiliary of 4493, Silver Springs Shores/Candler over the years presenting her rabbits, awards, honors and story as she placed at the Florida State Convention Section A, as a Youth Reserve and many more!

Ally has set up at the 4th Annual VFW Car Show at Post 4493, which is Sponsored by Auxiliary Member's Paul and Stacy Baker of Justice League Liquidators.

We need your help to assist our community's youth in achieving their goals...Please Stay Tuned and Watch the Video below to find more info, on how you can support this Amazing Young Lady!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/BU8qJrHnV2mqWbvp/?mibextid=oFDknk>



Get to know your 24-25 Department Officers

Name: Pauline Baker Riddle

Position: Department Guard

Years in the Auxiliary: 12 years

Home Post: East Seminole County Auxiliary 10139

Home District: District 18

Who did you join under: Grandfather WWII Veteran

What Positions in the Auxiliary have you held?

- Guard - Department of Florida
- Junior Vice President - District 18 Department of Florida
- President - East Seminole County Auxiliary (3 Years)
- President - District 18 Department of Florida (3 Years)
- Senior Vice President - District 18 Department of Florida
- Senior Vice President - East Seminole County Auxiliary
- Junior Vice President - District 18 Department of Florida
- Department of Florida Auxiliary Outreach Chairman 2021 - 2022
- Department of Florida Americanism Chairman 2023 – 2024
- Department of Florida Department Special Project 2024 – 2025

What motivates you for the VFW Auxiliary?

Helping others, especially around the holidays, supplying families with dinners and the Angel Tree, giving to others. It's a good feeling knowing that someone will wake up on Christmas morning and have something under the tree, even the smallest can bring the biggest smile to a young child. Knowing a family is happy even if its just for that one day and enjoy the love of Christmas, is a great feeling. Helping our Veterans, especially those who just get home, I've talked to some who feel so confused and don't know what they are entitled to, or even where to go to get help. My Motto: "Voice for our Veterans"

Do you have any hobbies?

Golfing, although not very good at it, enjoy being with friends out there and riding around, you really get to know someone when you're playing golf, especially their angry side, LOL

Boating, playing cards, Darts.

Favorite pastime, really enjoy football season, I'm surprised the neighbors don't call the police during this time of year, with all the yelling that comes from our house, especially from my husband he loves his Bears, and tries to coach them, they never listen to him, so he yells louder, I'm more collage, "Go Buckeyes", they listen to me, well sometimes.

Favorite quote or saying:

If you ask my children, I have many sayings I've said to them over the years

"You never know, unless you try"

"The Strongest Heart is the Heart of a Volunteer"

"Failure is not an option"

I have a few my kids got tired of hearing, LOL

Any message you would like to leave for the members?

Be positive, encourage members to volunteer and participate with the Auxiliary and in the Post, remember we are here for our Veterans and the community. And be polite, especially to our new members, remember, "We are a Volunteer Organization, so don't be too shy to speak up at the meetings, if you have an idea for a fund raiser or to assist our Veterans, raise your hand and be heard. No idea is a bad idea and can be worked as a team to make happen.

We are here as a team, and a good team is the heart of our organization, cause after all.

"A coach can't win a game without a good team behind them"

Thank you,

Pauline B Riddle





2024-2025 School of Instruction




VFw Auxiliary Department of Florida Historian/Media Relations Chairman 2024-2025 Jeanne Laurine
 Capturing History using Assorted Media

 Tell your Story




VFw Auxiliary Department of Florida Buddy Poppy/VFW National home 2024-2025 Chairman Kelly Barr
vfwnationalhome.org
Buddy Poppy Child Layla





There Are MANY WAYS we can bring Kindness, Compassion and Comfort to our Veterans ♥♥♥

♥ Celebrate a National Day during a visit like National Cookie Day, Wig Day, etc.

♥ Make a flag garden for Memorial Day

♥ Bingo Party with Ice Cream

♥ Pass out homemade Valentine's Day Cards

♥ Host an event (Lunch, luau party, painting party, karaoke party, etc.) at your VFW post!

♥ Handout Thank you Cards on Veterans Day

♥ Coordinate a holiday visit (dress up!) and pass out snacks or needed items like socks with rubber grip soles. Ask your VAVS rep for a Needs List at your local VA!

Get **CREATIVE** as we seek to honor and celebrate our Veterans at:



- ✓ VA/non-VA Hospitals
- ✓ VA/non-VA Nursing Homes
- ✓ The Domiciliary
- ✓ Homeless Veteran Shelters
- ✓ VA Clinics
- ✓ Or at your own VFW Post!

Reach out to the VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman, Karen Heikkila, if you have any questions!

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 melissamckeon6767@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!

Who ya' gonna' call ??

If you need a report deleted

If you have officer changes

If you can't get into the Dept. reporting website

If you aren't sure where to report an event/.project

Any General concerns or questions

If you have an issue in your auxiliary or just want to talk

Debbie Tilley – Dept. Secretary

904-460-9345

dktilley@comcast.net



Who ya' gonna' call ??

Membership questions

IRS questions

Contribution questions

Audit questions

Cindy Estell – Dept. Treasurer

727-417-5450

Cestell1954@gmail.com



**VFW Auxiliary
Department
Of Florida
Sunshine
Newsletter
Roger Ingall**

Join us
SUPPORT
VETERANS
and their families

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Vfwauxfl.org

Send information and
photos to Roger
Shanily.04@gmail.com



Share your
Auxiliaries
Story



VFW Auxiliary 4287

**Family Freedom
Festival and
Flea Market**

**FREE
GAMES
&
PRIZES**



Come Meet
Batman and
First Responders!



- Free Bounce House
- Free Cake Walk
- Document shredding
Truck \$10 UNLIMITED!

**Food
for
Purchase**

3500 South Goldenrod Road
• For info, call 407.273.6581

**Oct. 12
8am till 2pm**

**Table
Rental
\$10**