

SUNSHINE E-NEWSLETTER

Extended Edition



July 2025 Issue NO 1

Team Florida

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR VETERANS



FROM THE DESK OF THE INCOMING DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



First, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in this department. We are making significant strides in improving the lives and well-being of our Veterans and their families. As we start this new year, let's continue with smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts, knowing that we are fulfilling our mission. If you take a moment to look and listen to any Veteran you have helped, you may see the gratitude in their eyes or hear it in their voice when you provide them with the answers they need or point them in the right direction for assistance. Our success in Building Bridges for Our Veterans may sometimes feel like a daunting task, but we must not tire in our pursuit of this mission. As the Auxiliary, we will consistently take one small step at a time in this quiet but meaningful process. Progress may not always be loud, but it is always real. Trust in our journey, even when the path may seem unclear.

Challenges will arise but so will victories. Let's continue to push forward with purpose, truly believing in our ability in our quest while Bridging the Gap for Our Veterans as we achieve our goals. Stay true to our vision. Keep showing up, giving your best, and embracing the journey. Amazing things are waiting just around the corner, and I truly believe in our ability to achieve them.

Here's to our Department and all the remarkable things we are destined to accomplish!!!

We are TEAM Florida UNSTOPPABLE in the pursuit of our Veterans.

Michael Yates
Department President

Past Department President Virginia Brehmer 2024-2025 – A Great Year!



Incoming Department President Michael Yates 2025-2026

Looking Forward to a Great Year!





Remembering
Celia "Chickie" Henderson
17 December 1938 to 23 November 2023
Past Member of Rockledge VFW
Post 4534
District 8

Over the years we've had the grace to make great friends within the Department of Florida. This year when asked by my Department President Ginger to assist the guard in her duties by standing watch at the back door or sometimes side door not a second thought was given, it was a resounding sure it will be my pleasure. This past year I was honored to fill the shoes of a good friend Ms. Celia "Chickie" Henderson & even though we both have small shoes, it was an honored duty that she & I had the privilege to be appointed for. My friend Chickie, who held that position for years, always had a kind smile & no matter what issues or life troubles she had you would not know it. She would greet you with a smile & a twinkle in her eye, always eager to help. As the assistant guard you had to be on time, to be courteous, to be understanding, & to greet our members with kindness but firm in your duties by checking at the door for your membership card or conference badge, holding the door closed during opening ceremonies, as the chaplain & flags moved about our meeting floor, & when called upon during elections. We opened the door & closed it as gently as we could so that the noise of the door & the chatter in the hall outside would not disturb the proceedings of our meetings. She was my friend & mentor in these appointed duties. In honor of her this year I carried her picture behind my badge which hung around my neck. Having served in other appointed positions through the years it was my honor to serve as Assistant Guard for 2024-2025 year & to remember my friend & the time, we were together doing what we loved serving our veterans & our auxiliary.

Thanks for your grace & for who you were.

Jean Lockwood

2024-2025 Program Award Winners



2024-2025 Program Award Winners



2024-2025 Program Award Winners



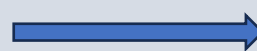
Department Program Award Recipients

**Scan the Orange
QR Code for list of
Program Award
Winners**



Sunshine E. Newsletter Story Submittal

**Scan the Blue QR
Code for story
submittal email.**



School of Instruction



Friday - Sunday August 1 -3, 2025

Florida Hotel & Conference Center

1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809



Phone: 800-588-4656

Room Rate: \$125 .00 plus tax (*Mention VFW School of Instruction*)

Complimentary Self-Parking

Deadline for Reservations - July 11, 2025

Friday August 1, 2025 - Red Shirt Friday

10:00 AM - 11:30 Am - District President's Meeting (Closed Meeting)

11:30 Am - 12:30 PM - Dept. Chairmens Meeting (Closed Meeting)

2:00 PM – Council Meeting

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Treasurers/Trustee Workshop

5 - 7 p.m. Program Fair

Saturday August 2, 2025 - Mike's Shirt

9:00 AM – Secretary Workshop

10:00 AM- President's Leadership Workshop

11:00 AM Program Advisor - Debbie Tilley

Lunch

1:00 PM - Lynn Rolf National Program Director

2:00 PM Question and Answer session (Websites)

3:00 PM - Roger Ingall -Sunshine Newsletter

3:30 PM - Announcements - Debbie Tilley

3:35 P.M. Closing remarks - Dept President Michael Yates

Time TBD Dinner for ALL District Presidents

Important: Workshops are open to ALL interested members

SPECIAL NOTICE: ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Please check website often for updated information

Department Officers 2025 – 2026

President

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Dates to Remember for 2025 – 2026

• <u>School of Instruction</u>	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	July 31 – August 3, 2025
• <u>National Convention</u>	Columbus, Ohio	August 9 – 14, 2025
• <u>Department Fall Conference</u>	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	October 16 – 19, 2025
• <u>Southern Conference</u>	Montgomery, Texas	November 6 – 9, 2025
• <u>National Mid-Year Conference</u>	Cruise – Key West & Bahamas	February 9 – 13, 2026
• <u>Department Mid-Winter Conference</u>	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	February 12 – 15, 2026
• <u>C.A.F.E National Legislative Conference</u>	Washington D.C.	February 28, 2026 March 2-4, 2026
• <u>Dept Commander & Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming</u>	Florida Hotel, Orlando FL	March 14, 2026
• <u>National Presidents Visit (Fri – Mon)</u>	Various	March 20-23, 2026
• <u>National Sr. Vice Conference</u>	TBD	March 19-22, 2026
• <u>Planning Meeting for Kathy Wright (May change)</u>		April 4, 2026
• <u>Veterans Village Picnic</u>	Fort McCoy, Florida	April 11, 2026
• <u>Department Judging</u>		April 29-30, 2026
• <u>National Jr. Vice Conference</u>	TBD	May 14-18, 2026
• <u>Department Convention</u>	Renaissance Orlando, FL	June 11-14, 2026
• <u>National Convention</u>	Reno, Nevada	July 24-30, 2026

Know your Department Chairmen:

- Americanism – Michelle Butler mishbutler@aol.com
- Auxiliary Outreach – Becky Kieffer bkiso2012@gmail.com
- Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home – Jennifer Holland Jenniferholland72@comcast.net
- Extension Revitalization & Mentoring – Sherri Golder sherrigolder@gmail.com
- Historian / Media Relations – Kathy Ingall shanily.05@gmail.com
- Hospital – Viki Stripling wikiplottsdistrict11@yahoo.com
- Legislative – Pamela Monroe Anamcarax2@icloud.com
- Membership & Mentoring – Holly Evans hadams1221@hotmail.com
- Scholarships – Carrie Messer messerca@gmail.com
- Dept. President's Special Project – Kelly Barr Flpresproject2526@gmail.com
- Veterans & Family Support – Ryan Harris ryan.harris.cisa@gmail.com
- Youth Program – Kristy Possert goldenanchorteam@gmail.com
- Program Advisor – Debbie Tilley dktilley@comcast.net

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

2025-2026 Department Chairman Building Bridges for Veterans!



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