

Fall Conference Meeting



Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Florida

Dates: October 21st – 23rd

Location: Florida Hotel - 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL

For reservations call: 407/859-1500

Be sure and mention Veterans of Foreign Wars – Fall Meeting
for room rate of \$119.50 + tax.

Reservation Cut-Off Date: Friday, September, 30 2022 by 5:00
p.m.

Check In: 4:00 p.m. Check out 11:00 a.m.

Complimentary Self-Parking

2022-2023
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VFW AUXILIARY
FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 21 – 22, 2022
AT THE FLORIDA MALL HOTEL
‘CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER’

This year at the Department Fall Conference we will be asking the Districts to partner with their auxiliaries to donate a beautifully and creatively decorated themed Christmas tree (3-4 ft.) or Christmas Wreath (18-24 inch).

During the Department Fall Conference, the decorated Christmas Trees and Wreaths will be on display at the Florida Mall Hotel in the meeting area foyer. Members can purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win their favorite Christmas Tree or Wreath during the Fall Conference, with all proceeds benefiting the Department Presidents Special Project.

District Presidents, get with your Auxiliaries and get those ‘HOLIDAY’ creative minds working to create a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree or Christmas Wreath for Fall Conference.



2022-2023 FALL CONFERENCE BUDDY POPPY CONTEST



The Department is holding its annual Buddy Poppy Contest at the upcoming Fall Conference. Judging will take place on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the Florida Hotel in Orlando.

Categories are as follows:

Category 1— Public Promotion of the Poppy Campaign (window, booth, parade, poster campaign promotions).

Category 2 — Memorial or Inspirational Display (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

Category 3 — Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies (Post Home Display, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc. So, get out the glue, poster boards, hats etc. and let's see your talents at work. Put your heads together and make this a team effort with your auxiliary members.



2022-2023 BUDDY POPPY CONTEST
HELD AT THE FALL CONFERENCE
FLORIDA HOTEL, ORLANDO
OCTOBER 21-23, 2022

Judging will take place on Saturday, October 22nd around 12 p.m.

Tables will be made available for the displays

Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

(Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

Display must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Display

(Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

Display must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy. At least one Poppy 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.)

Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in category 3. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

AMERICANISM

Volume 23

August 2022

Issue 3

"Champion for Veterans with Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"

Flag Retirement Ceremony

While there are many different reasons to hold a flag ceremony, they all share one essential thing – **respect for the flag**. One of the most meaningful ways to show respect for the flag is by participating in a flag retirement ceremony.

This is a perfect way to involve the entire family of Auxiliary and VFW Members.

Invite your community!!

How To Retire A Flag

- * The flag should be folded in its customary manner.
- * It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.
 - * Place the flag on the fire.
 - * The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
- * After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished, and the ashes buried.
- * Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

Start making Veterans Day Celebration plans! Remember... We are here to serve and support our Veterans!!

IT'S FALL IN FLORIDA.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
NOTHING!
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
IT'S STILL 90 DEGREES OUTSIDE.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTORS

Continue to educate our members, communities and youth on the importance of Patriotism



Auxiliary Patriotism

Auxiliary Outreach

August 2022

Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary

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When working Auxiliary Outreach program all you have to do is remember this one word!!!!

S – eek out local groups and organizations

A – sk what your Auxiliary can do to partner with them.

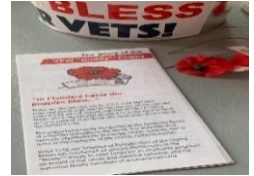
V – ote on your auxiliary floor to accept the challenge to volunteer

E – xecute the partnership

R – ecord the details and report your success.



National Home for Children & Buddy" ® Poppy



VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

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Creating Awareness & Educating Your Community

- Contact a local civic or community group offering to speak to members about Buddy Poppy & National Home
- Groups which to contact: Rotary club, Boy Scout Troops, Chamber of Commerce, women's groups.
- Bring Buddy Poppies and distribute when you speak to groups in your community.
- Use your calendar to schedule a time to speak before a holiday that you plan to distribute Poppies, ask members to stop by and support you.
- Ask your local groups or organizations to support the National Home by donating a lifetime membership.
- Prepare a one-page informational sheet on National Home to distribute, on back copy the application for lifetime membership.

Has your post or auxiliary purchased a National Home Life Membership?

Recognize Volunteers who have done a great job by purchasing a life membership for them.

Consider using Life Membership as a special "Love" gift in memory of lost loved one, for yourself or an auxiliary member.

Only a \$50.00 lifetime member cost



S.W.A.P. - Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects

Auxiliary Post 10972

Bonita Springs created and printed a volume of paper placements which they sold business card size ads to local businesses and included information in the center about the Buddy Poppy & National Home for Children. A great promotion gets a local printer to support the cost by donation or giving ad space, this is a great small profit maker and gets more local businesses supporting and learning about your auxiliary.



Remember Buddy Poppy Distribution:

✓ **Friday, November 11, Veterans Day**

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Betty A. Bailey, Chairman
bann652@aol.com

In This Issue >>>

- ◆ Veterans From Florida
- ◆ Did You Know?
- ◆ Program Awards
- ◆ Program Goal Thermometer



Department President's Special Project **PAWS FOR VETERANS**

CHAMPIONS FOR VETERANS



Veterans From Florida



John Pangborn (USMC) Service Dog 'Ruth' Lakeland, FL

Six years in the USMC with deployments to Yugoslavia Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan affected John's mental health. He was isolating, and night terrors were persistent, so his wife suggested a Service Dog. Now, he is thrilled with his new buddy, "Ruth!" "Any kind of bad thoughts that I may have, day or night, she just knows and brings me happiness."



Steve (USA) Service Dog "Milton" Florida

Steve served in the Army for 22 years, including weighty responsibilities and multiple deployments. Post-traumatic stress kept Steve isolated, rarely leaving the house. Now, he been matched with an easygoing dog named Milton. "It's been a great experience." Steve says Milton is a pretty calm, relaxed, and a quiet dog.



Ed Burton (USN) Guide Dog 'Sully' Bradenton, FL

While Ed served as a Navy diver and an operating engineer mechanic in Vietnam, an unidentified eye infection caused optic nerve damage and vision loss. Ed was able to complete 28 years of service, but his condition worsened. He was hit by a car in 2003 while crossing a street, prompting him to get his first guide dog in 2006. Ed fell instantly in love with Sully, a match that was emotionally and physically ideal! Ed notes, calling this petite yet powerful girl his, "Alfa Romeo sports car."

Did You Know?:

- ◆ It takes two years of intense training to prepare a dog for its "fur"ever home
- ◆ Dogs, training, and maintenance for veterans are free of charge for life
- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs has over 1,200 active dogs in all 50 states

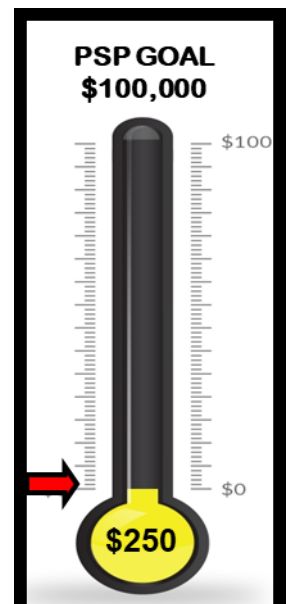
VFW Auxiliaries Who Raise and Donate will Receive the Following Awards:

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

Paw of Courage Award	Up to \$599
Champion Award	\$600-\$999
Best in Show Award	\$1000 or more



**REMEMBER:
REPORT!
REPORT!
REPORT!**



Historian and Media Relations Programs

Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care

August 2022

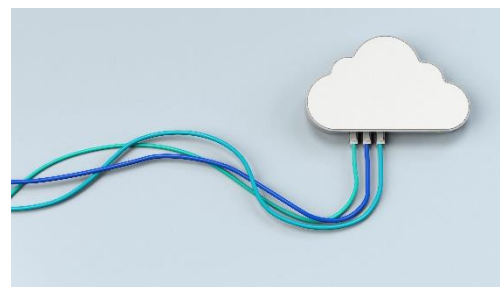
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Best Ways to Store Media

- Don't Rely on Storing Images on Memory Cards.
- Store Your Photos on External Hard Drives.
- Backup Your Photos on the Cloud.
- Save Your Photos as E-mail Attachments.
- Go Old School and Burn Your Photos to CD.
- Print Your Favorite Photos and Put Them on Display.

Tips for Good Media

1. Make a local connection.
2. Know the language - use "words that work."
3. Get to the point. The first sentence or two should answer the key questions of who, what, why, when, and where.
4. Use short, punchy sentences with active verbs.
5. Make sure spelling and grammar are 100 percent correct.
6. Time your distribution.
7. Learn what the reporter needs.
8. Write an interesting subject line.



I-Cloud Storage

Cloud storage is a great option that is a low cost. With no physical storage devices, you do not have to worry about damage, loss, or failure of a device and your storage space can grow with your needs; however, there are some drawbacks to this service. The biggest drawback is the fact that you will need internet access to upload and access your photos.



Julia Montford-Ferrell
Department Historian-Media Relations Chairman
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HOSPITAL

"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"

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VA Women's Health Care

You as an Auxiliary Member of a VFW are now starting to see more women Veterans come into our VFW family. Women veterans are the fastest group of veterans with growing and unique needs. Learn about the resources that the VA has to offer.

- ◆ How do women veterans find out what benefits and services they can receive?
- ◆ How do women veterans access those VA Benefits and services available?
- ◆ What kind of health care is available to them?
- ◆ Does the your local VA or Local VA Clinic offer Women Veteran Services?
- ◆ Did you know that there are educational benefits available?

Find information to have available for the female veterans in your VFW area. Get your post service officer involved and help them find the information they will need. Contact your local VA Women's Clinic for brochures and information.

How do I get this information out to women veterans that are not part of our VFW?

- ◆ Go to community events and pass out information.
- ◆ Talk to your local small case stores and ask to set up outside, this may also run with a membership drive.
- ◆ Be creative by thinking outside of the box.

Women Veterans Recourses

- ◆ For women's health go to <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>
- ◆ For mental health go to <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>
- ◆ For intimate partner violence go to <https://www.socialwork.va.gov>
- ◆ For MST or Military Sexual Trauma go to <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.gov>

Hot Line 1-800-827-1000

Other Ways to Find with Local Veterans

How do I get the names of local veterans in my area? Contact your local organizations for example AMVETS American Veterans, DAV Disabled American Veterans, PVA Paralyzed Veterans of America, The American Legion. Ask if you can come to there organization and talk about what the VA has to offer to Women Veterans. Remember to explain that you are not a VA representative. Talk to your service officer and



Legislative

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

August 2022

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- Check out the National VFW Site for the latest Issues
- Legislative Advocacy for two bills pending in Congress S3003 and H.R.3967
- Sign Up for Action Corps <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>
- Take Action so you can contact your Congress to help Support Veterans

Six areas of concern

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



Let's Get Veterans the Care They Need

Membership

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How is your Auxiliary Membership Growing?

- Do you have a membership chairman?
- Applications always available in a convenient place?
- Are all members receiving credit for bringing in New Members?
- Is your Auxiliary welcoming all new members?
- Handing out new membership packet with information?
- Having all new members being mentored?
- "Never" let your new member sit alone.
- Always make your new members feel welcome.
- Ask questions, learn about their reasons for joining.

"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"



Each Auxiliary who reaches 95% or more by November 30, 2022 will be entered into a drawing.

One Auxiliary in each of the four membership classes will have a chance to Win \$50....

Winner will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference in January 2023

Plant the seed & grow our Membership

As your Auxiliary and District reaches
90% & 100%

In Membership you will receive a special team award.



Information on Membership:

Department of Florida: www.vfwauxfl.org

National: www.vfwauxiliary.org

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Jeanne F Laurine
Department Membership Chairman
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Mentoring for Leadership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

August 2022

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ATTENTION DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

- ❖ Please get with your Auxiliary Presidents and find out who is their Auxiliary Mentor
- ❖ Please compile a list of these Auxiliary mentors and send me an email of the mentors in your District

The great thing about mentoring is it doesn't require fundraisers and totally benefits your members exclusively!

WHO is your Auxiliary mentor?

Each and every Auxiliary should have a Mentor!

Auxiliary Presidents:

All of you should have a Mentor for your Auxiliary. You should select someone that is knowledgeable on current programs and workings within the organization.

Some of your members may have a ton of experience but they may not be following current changes or attending the District or Department meetings.

Your mentor person should be friendly, approachable and willing to help!

As President, you should have a mentor to help you with your year if you are new to the position or to help you reach your next quest in our organization. We all have mentors and they can change as your progress through the organization!

When you select a mentor it should be someone that has served or walked where you want to go!

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Debbie McCollum, Department Chairman
ucfnole21@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

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Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary

August 2022

IT'S COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF— get the ball rolling!



Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

"My Pledge to Our Veterans"

"Why is the Veteran Important?"

Wow! What awesome topics this year! These questions will encourage students to really think about and research veterans, their stories, and their issues.

- ⇒ Order brochures from the VFW store (#4440 and #4420) and get the word out!
- ⇒ An article in the local newspaper will get attention from people outside the schools. Include award information and deadlines to enter (10/31/22). Talk about last year's winners.
- ⇒ Use your contacts to let teachers, counselors and VFW members know the brochures are ready and the topics are hot! Make a date to visit schools and other local organizations.
- ⇒ Ask to hang posters at local businesses

And just a few months from now: Continuing Education Scholarship

- Open to all Aux members (*for at least one year*), their spouses or children
 - Must show financial need (ENTRIES TO NATIONAL BY 2/15/23)

Young American Patriotic Art Contest and Young American 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

- ◆ Specific Guidelines as to design and medium
- ◆ ENTRIES DUE TO YOUR POST BY 3/31/2023!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM GOALS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| * More Student Participation | * Recipient Recognition |
| * Increase Community Awareness | * Grow the Fund |



Our new National President, Jane Reape, has chosen the Young American 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest as her Special Project. Don't forget to plan a fundraiser to help the fund the artists of tomorrow!

"Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others"

Veterans & Family Support

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August 2022

Department Presidents Theme: ***"CHAMPION FOR VETERANS"***

Department Presidents Motto: ***"Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others"***

Department Presidents Special Project: ***'Southeastern Guide Dogs'***

National Presidents Theme: ***"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"***



Some veterans lose vision on the battlefield. Some return home, with unseen scars...nightmares and flashbacks so severe that it feels safer to just never leave the house. Southeastern Guide dogs make a dramatic difference.

SGD is located at:
4210 77th Street East
Palmetto, FL 34221
941.729.5665 (Direct)
800.944.3647 (Toll Free)

For more information go to:
www.guidedogs.org/get-a-dog/dogs-for-veterans/

- Guide dogs lead the way for veterans with vision loss, opening doors for veterans to have independence, building their confidence, and giving them companionship. Their dogs learn over 40 skills, including intelligent disobedience which is refusing a cue because the situation is unsafe.
- Service dogs shift the focus from triggers and trauma to a calm, steady presence of a highly trained dog. Their dogs learn 15 to 20 cues and bring a peace of mind to veterans who are living with PTSD and other disabilities.
- Facility therapy dogs live with staff members and provide therapeutic services to veterans and families being treated in military medical facilities and who work in high stress environments across the nation.
- Emotional support dogs provide comfort to veterans. These gentle dogs ease stress, provide companionship, and offer opportunities for enhanced exercise and the development of daily routines.
- Well-trained Gold Star Family Dogs offer love and companionship to military children & families who have lost a loved one in service to the nation, delivering comfort during the most difficult times.

Dates to Remember:

August:

- 4th – Coast Guards Birthday
- 5th – 6th Auxiliary Boot Camp

September:

- 5th – Labor Day
- 11th – Patriots Day
- 14th – VFW Auxiliary Birthday (9/14/1914)
- 16th – National POW MIA Recognition Day
- 17th – Constitution & Citizenship Day
- 25th Gold Star Mothers/Family's Day
- 29th – VFW Birthday (9/29/1899)

October:

- 10th – Columbus Day
- 13th - Navy Birthday
- 21st – 22nd – VFW & Aux Fall Conference
- 31st - Halloween



November:

- National Caregivers Month
- 8th – Election Day
- 10th – Marine Corp Birthday
- 11th – Veterans Day
- 24th – Thanksgiving Day
- 29th – National Day of Giving

December:

- 7th - Pearl Harbor Day
- 13th - National Guards Birthday
- 17th – Wreaths Across America
- 25th - Christmas

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

Theodore Roosevelt - July 4, 1903

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

"Champion for Veterans" "Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"

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DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VFW AUXILIARY

AUGUST 2022

GRAVE BEAUTIFICATION

- Have you picked a cemetery with Veteran headstones?
- Did you research how to clean the stones?
- Are you working with Youth Groups?
- Are you keeping a log of Veteran headstones cleaned?
- Let's get moving on this important project!
- Remember we "Champion for Veterans!"

By Youth, For Youth

- ✓ Get your youth involved
- ✓ Teach them to help others
- ✓ Fund Raise for others in need
- ✓ Make and send cards

Fundraising ideas:

- ✓ Host a spaghetti dinner
- ✓ Car wash
- ✓ Yard sale
- ✓ Bake sale
- ✓ Arts and craft fair

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA

- ✓ Available for youth grade K – 8
- ✓ Art Contest
- ✓ Public, Private, Homeschooled
- ✓ Youth Groups
- ✓ Church Youth Groups
- ✓ Get Started Today
- ✓ Encourage and teach Patriotism

Make it fun for our youth!

Patriotic Days in September

Teach and Educate our Youth

- ✓ Sept 11 Patriots Day
- ✓ Sept 16 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- ✓ Sept 17 Constitution and Citizenship
- ✓ Sept 25 Gold Star Mother's/Family Day



"GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE!"

- ✓ Available for youth grade K-12
- ✓ National Singing contest
- ✓ Public, Private, Homeschooled
- ✓ Youth Groups
- ✓ Church Groups

Find those kids that like to sing!

Resources available at www.vfwauxiliary.org & www.vfwauxfl.org

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Sandi Hendriks
Department Youth Activities Chairman
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