

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



NATIONAL PRESIDENT JANE REAPE VISITS THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA FEBRUARY 4 – 7, 2023

Saturday, February 4th

REVISED TIMES

- There will be an Aisle of Flags ceremony at **6:00PM** to honor our National President at the Ruskin Memorial VFW Post 6287 located at 5120 U.S. Hwy 41 North, Apollo Beach Florida.
- Dinner will follow at **6:30PM**. RSVP to Kelly Barr at kabarr66@msn.com no later than January 22, 2023.
- The attire for the Aisle of Flags and Saturday dinner should be your Blue Auxiliary shirt, black slacks or trousers with black shoes or appropriate patriotic attire.

Sunday, February 5th

- Join National President Jane for dinner starting at 6:00PM at the Riverview Memorial VFW Post 8108 located at 7504 Riverview Drive in Riverview Florida.
- Dinner is limited to 50 attendees, so you **must** email your RSVP for dinner to Anita Webb at spunkey3@gmail.com no later than January 22, 2023.
- Attire for the Sunday dinner will be the National President shirt or appropriate casual auxiliary shirt, blouse, or patriotic attire.

AMERICANISM

Volume 23

January 2023

Issue 8

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



Auxiliary Patriotism



Your Auxiliary can show so much
love this time of year...
Everyone enjoys receiving Valentines
You can distribute to an abundance of locations

- ~Nursing homes
- ~VA Outpatient Clinics
- ~State Veteran Homes
- ~Hospitals



Reports must be to me by
March 31, 2023 for your
submission for
**OUTSTANDING
PATRIOTIC EVENT**

Email:
debragates1@gmail.com

Show your communities your pride and love for all our Veterans!

National Home for Children & "Buddy" ® Poppy



VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January 2023

Volume 23, Issue 8

Has your Auxiliary had your next six-month planning meeting yet?

- Valentine's Day, time to remember to put a Buddy Poppy in those Valentines' cards for Veterans, distribute in Hospital, Nursing Homes, or Post Members.
- Valentine's Day & St. Patrick's Day, plan on making special wreaths for auction and include your Buddy Poppies also.
- Auxiliary Appreciation Day Feb 5th, when thanking your Post for honoring you, include information about the National Home asking them to purchase a Life Membership in appreciation.



S.W.A.P. IDEA

- AUXILIARY 2931-ST, AUGUSTINE, USES THE MONIES COLLECTED FROM SILVER DRILL TO PAY FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR NATIONAL HOME.
- EVERY TIME THEY COLLECT \$50.00 A NAME IS DRAWN AT MEETINGS; THE WINNER RECEIVES A LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO THE NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN.
- A GREAT WAY TO REWARD ATTENDANCE AND SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL HOME BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES.

SEND ME YOUR S.W.A.P. IDEAS, SHARING WITH OTHERS, WE ALL HAVE GREAT IDEAS!

February Dates to Remember

- **Friday, 4th - USO Birthday**
- **Sunday, 5th - Auxiliary Appreciation Day by Post**
- **Week Feb 12th - National Salute to Veteran Patients week**
- **Tuesday, 14th - Valentine's Day**
- **Sunday, 19th - Coast Guard Reserve Birthday**
- **Monday, 20th - Presidents Day**

Lifetime Membership National Home

At this time, a few Auxiliaries that need to purchase a Lifetime Membership, can contact Nancy Archambeau.

NArchambeau@vfnationalhome.org

she will confirm your membership or auxiliary's total members who have life memberships

National & Department Awards: - Make sure you get ready to submit your entry! By 3/31/2023

- ✓ Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the "Buddy" ® Poppy and National Home for Children impact each other. (*Successful Veterans Day distribution, hosting education for Scouts*)
- ✓ Most outstanding community education about the "Buddy" ® Poppy and National Home for Children (*Talk to local clubs or organizations about what Buddy Poppy represents*)

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Betty A. Bailey, Chairman
bann652@aol.com



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

January 2023 Volume 23, Issue 8

In This Issue >>>

- ♦ Teaming for Our Veterans
- ♦ Cut-Off Date for Donations
- ♦ Department Auxiliary Awards
- ♦ Did You Remember to Report
- ♦ What to Do with the Funds I Raise
- ♦ Program Goal Thermometer

CHAMPIONS FOR VETERANS



**Southeastern
GUIDE DOGS**



**LET'S MAKE
FLORIDA
SHINE!**



The VFW Department of Florida Auxiliary is teamed with the Southeastern Guide Dogs Organization for 2022—2023. Your generous donations continue to sustain the Southeastern Guide Dogs mission and gives freedom and hope to the people who need it most...



OUR VETERANS!



CUT-OFF DATE FOR DONATIONS IS: 30 APRIL 2023

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

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

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

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE MONEY I RAISED?

- ♦ Send Funds for the PSP Directly to the Department Treasurer – Linda Burnett
- ♦ Bring Your PSP Funds to the Parade of Checks During the Mid-Winter Conference in January

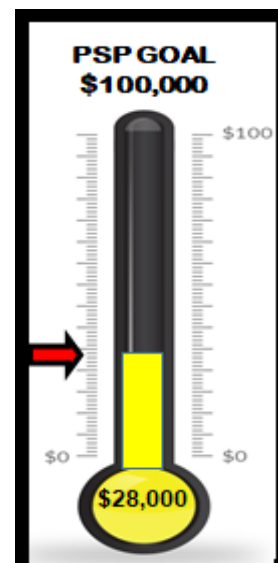
You Will Receive Credit on Your Annual Contribution Sheet

Did You Remember to Report?



Department PSP Chairman—
Bob Kabala rkabala@tampabay.rr.com

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell



EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 6 | January 2023



Meetings And How To Be A Successful Auxiliary



Auxiliary Meetings

Purpose of meetings

- ❖ Conduct the business of the Auxiliary.
- ❖ Plan functions or events that support programs.
- ❖ Inform members of goals, changes, updates.
- ❖ Inspire and motivate members.
- ❖ Engage members in programs.

Tips for successful meetings

- ❖ Remind members of upcoming meeting—through phone calls, social media, email or text.
- ❖ Prepare and distribute an agenda so that everyone is aware of what needs to be covered. An agenda will help keep meetings on schedule. NOTE: an agenda does not prevent items coming up from the members.
- ❖ Use the meeting style that best suits your Auxiliary.
- ❖ Involve the members. Provide members with a task to do. Ask them to participate. Make them feel a part of the Auxiliary.
- ❖ Encourage members to learn about our programs. Show them the resources: The National E-Newsletter, the National Blog, the Department E-Newsletter and program promotions.
- ❖ Set good examples of being positive, kind and respectful AND listening to all views.

Is Your Auxiliary Successful?

- ❖ Have you completed the Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit?
- ❖ Have you use the *Building on VFW Auxiliary Foundations*?
- ❖ Do your officers fulfill their duties?
- ❖ Have you created a New Member packet?
- ❖ Have you set up a Mentoring Program?
- ❖ Have you promoted our programs?
- ❖ Have you read all communications from National and Department?
- ❖ Have you motivated new members?
- ❖ Have you used the National and Department websites?
- ❖ Have you encouraged member participation?
- ❖ Have you obtained the current copy of the Podium Edition of the National Bylaws?
- ❖ Have you reviewed duties and responsibilities of the officers?
- ❖ Do you work as a TEAM?
- ❖ Do you respect all members?
- ❖ Are you kind to all members?

All of these are factors that make a successful Auxiliary.

Leave the Auxiliary in a position for success!

HISTORIAN AND MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAMS

January 2023

Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary

Volume 23, Issue 7

March 2023

If We Don't Tell Our
Story...Who Will?

VFW AUXILIARY SPEAKER'S BUREAU

WHY OUR AUXILIARIES SHOULD DEVELOP A SPEAKER'S BUREAU

- ❖ To let others in our community know what we do as a Veterans' Service Organization.
- ❖ It is the educational part where we educate our own members and the community on the WHO and WHY we are members of the VFW Auxiliary.
- ❖ Forms relationships and partnerships with other organizations, groups, and/or businesses in your community.
- ❖ Recruits new members and volunteers.

FORM YOUR SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The Speaker's Bureau should be composed of one to five members who will educate and inform the public and other groups about the VFW Auxiliary and how we can help them. The members of the Speaker's Bureau should be knowledgeable about the VFW Auxiliary, comfortable speaking in front of groups, passionate about the VFW Auxiliary, and friendly and outgoing.

YOUR SPEAKER'S BUREAU SHOULD CONTACT ESTABLISHED GROUPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Churches and Faith-Based Groups
Military Recruitment Centers, Armories, and Military Bases
Local Schools, Colleges, and Universities
Professional Organizations and Associations

Chambers of Commerce
Local Businesses
Youth Groups
Service-Oriented Groups

WHAT TO DO AFTER YOUR CONTACT LIST HAS BEEN DEVELOPED

- ❖ Mail a letter or send an e-mail with a sample letter that is available for download in the VFW Auxiliary Speaker's Bureau Tool Kit at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.
- ❖ When a date, time, and location has been set, follow up with a telephone call or email to confirm the meeting.
- ❖ Develop Your Presentation.
- ❖ Practice, Practice, Practice Your Presentation.

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Julia Ferrell
Department Historian & Media Chairman
Jamferrell53@gmail.com

Hospital

Volume 23 Issue 7

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January 2023

Hospital and VAVS Programs

Time, Talent and Tithing are resources that the VFW Auxiliary provides to VA facilities across the United States and save the VA Millions of Dollars every year.

How can your Auxiliary help Hospitals both VA and Non-VA Hospitals, Nursing homes, VA Facilities and other facilities where veterans are helped with there daily lives.

Be sure to have enough volunteers to participate in the projects voted on and accepted by the Auxiliary.



Make or purchase items like fidget blankets, quilts, cards and hats or a drive for the community to donate items for Veteran.



Inform all Auxiliary members of the projects you have coming up, even the members that may not make it to the meetings.



Check with facilities to see if they have a extraordinary volunteer and present them with a Hospital pin and certificate of appreciation.



Encouragement is a great way to say **'THANK YOU'** and keep a Volunteer.

2022-2023 Hospital Program



What is a VAVS Program?

This is a program that was created by the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services.

This organization allows direct contact with the Medical Centers Chief of Voluntary Services, to learn the needs for the veterans. Volunteers, have the privilege of interacting with the Veterans and provide aid and comfort. Volunteers are looked at like earthly angels that are here for the Veterans. So contact your VAVS Rep today about volunteer opportunities in your area.



We are coming up on Valentine's Day and it is a time to share the love you have for the men and women who served our country. Get your Valentines ready.



Have you worked on your Honors Escort what a wonderful way to thank the families of the service men and women who served our country.



The VA is growing stronger helping women Veterans everyday. Has your Auxiliary educated female Veterans about VA Health Care system that is available to them today

Reporting

Make sure to report in the reporting website for Department of Florida website for Department Awards

National Awards: Fill the National form and submit is to the Department Hospital Chairmen by March 31, 2023

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Kelly Barr, Department Hospital Chairman
kabarr66@msn.com

LEGISLATIVE

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January 2023

Volume 23, Issue 6

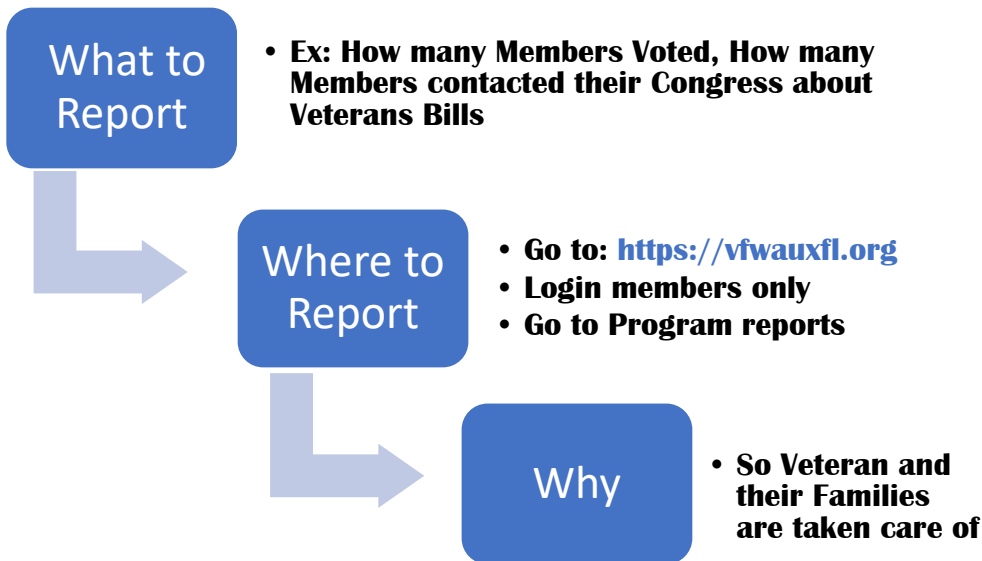
Happy New Year

May the new year bring you Peace, Joy, and Happiness

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns/99333/Respond>

Contact your Legislative Representative to help

Pass H.R. 1361 / H.R. 1836 / H.R. 6411 / S. 2513



ACTION CORPS

- Who is Reporting and Signed up for Action Corps Newsletter.
- How many are reporting?
- WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN Did your members contact their Legislative Representative to help push the latest VFW Priority Goals?

Go to:

<https://vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>



Approved by:
Department President,, Cindy Estell

Margaret Rementer
Department Legislative Chairman
Bashibee4@yahoo.com

Membership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January 2023

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#vfwauxflmembership

Honor your Veteran & Join the VFW Auxiliary

Let's get the word out to our community

Use all tools to communicate

Facebook Pages in your community, Flyers, Newspapers, & Magazines, you can also speak at community clubs about our organization "VFW Auxiliary."

Don't keep it a secret, "ask" everywhere you go, are you eligible to join our VFW Auxiliary? Are we sharing all the Benefits we offer?

RETAINING, RENEWING, GROWING



VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14, 2023

Roses are red, violets are blue

**Give someone the gift of
Membership from you**

**Annual or Lifetime with a box
of chocolate or flowers**

MEMBERSHIP 100+3

Recruit 5 New Members

Receive this pin below from National.

Add your Name & Membership numbers on top of the application to receive credit.



Information on Membership

Department of Florida: vfwauxfl.org

National: vfwauxiliary.org

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Jeanne F Laurine
jeannelaurine5@gmail.com

Mentoring for Leadership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January '2023

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January is National Mentoring Month!

- ◆ **Have you acknowledged the Auxiliary Mentor, or your personal mentor?**
- ◆ **Does your Auxiliary know who your Mentor is or who they can go to for answers to their questions?**
- ◆ **Sorry for the late notice, I just learned it myself! Now we can extend it into February and be nice to all our Mentors everywhere.**

Train the Mentor

WE need to encourage each other to find new things to learn. Usually we can inspire each other to reach farther than we would normally do on our own!

It's a great time to start the discussions on what Office you would like to hold next year?

I hear that most Mentors really like presents, especially edible ones, just sayin...



Why do we need Mentors?

Have you ever thought of how things would be without Mentors in anything??

- ✓ What would things be like if we had to re-learn everything every year?
- ✓ Mentors help us to not make the same repeated mistakes every time. As the sign says it helps us to learn if we are open to the opportunity.
- ✓ They help us grow and make us more successful when we team up with a partner mentor.
- ✓ They are great listeners and can help you understand your challenges. They also can bolster you're your spirits when you need a pick me up.
- ✓ You will have the opportunity to give back and teach your mentor a new skill or trick that they may not have conquered. Maybe they don't know how to hashtag on FB, or how to best use a QR code.

We all have something to share

Three Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

- ◆ Entry must be three dimensional.
- ◆ Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- ◆ Entries may not be larger than 18" in any direction
- ◆ Entries may not weigh more than 5 pounds.
- ◆ Entries may be paper, papier mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, metalwork, etc.
- ◆ Complete contest application and attached to back of entry.
- ◆ Complete typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) and attached to back of entry.
- ◆ Parent or guardian signature required on contest application.
- ◆ If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.

Prizes for participation and promotion of the new 3D scholarship

Continuing Education Scholarship

- ◆ For adult students; applications on website
- ◆ Promote on Facebook, at your meetings, to local colleges, in the newspaper
- ◆ Submission deadline is 2/15/23



Entry Deadline
3/31/23 for both

PATRIOTIC ART SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

- ◆ Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- ◆ Entry must be two dimensional and on canvas or paper
- ◆ Submit canvas entries on a stretcher frame or canvas board. Other entries if matted must be matted white. Do not use color mats.
- ◆ Reinforce the back with heavy paper. Mounted and floating mats may also be used. Do not frame art.
- ◆ Entries may not be smaller than 8" x 10" and not larger than 18" x 24", not including mat larger than 18" in any direction
- ◆ Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, marker or other media okay
- ◆ Complete contest application and attach to back of entry. Parent or guardian signature required.
- ◆ Complete typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) and attach to back of entry.
- ◆ If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, number of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- ◆ Digital art and photography are not accepted.



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

Veterans & Family Support

Volume 23, Issue 8

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January 2023

Don't forget to: Report.... Report.... Report....

Save the Date!

Friday March 24th Veterans Village 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Ocala Municipal Golf Course

3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala, FL

Cost is \$65

Shotgun Start 13:00

Includes: 18 Holes of Golf, Cart, and lunch to be served 11:30 to 12:30 before the tournament



Saturday March 25th Veterans Village 22nd Annual Picnic

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Ticket Donation is \$12:00

Meal is served 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Includes: BBQ Meal, Entertainment, Cornhole Tournament, Bouncy House for Kids, Raffles & More.

Beverages are available

For Sale: Kenny's Famous "Buckets" of Chicken

Plus – Pork Butts to go after 2:30 PM

For more information Call: 352-236-0823

Or Visit the Website: www.vfwveteransvillage.org



Caregiver Support Program (CSP)

- The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.
- The program's mission is to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our Nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services.

For more information go to: www.caregiver.va.gov

2022 Point in Time Homeless Veterans Count Results:

New data shows a 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since 2020 – the biggest drop in more than 5 years!



National Call Center
for Homeless Veterans
877-424-3838
va.gov/homeless

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

"Champion for Veterans"

"Hearts that Serve, Hands that Care"

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VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

January 2023

It's Mardi Gras – let the good times roll!

**Oh, when the kids come marching in, oh, when the kids come marching in,
we want to be in that number, and win the Youth Awards!**



Department Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most outstanding promotion of grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.
 - Special Award to one Auxiliary in each of the (4) membership classes with the most outstanding promotion of grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most outstanding veteran grave beautification activity and/or event by an Auxiliary with youth involvement.
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts a veteran grave beautification activity and/or event with youth involvement.
 - Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four conferences with the most outstanding veteran grave beautification activity and/or event with youth

Plan those award ceremonies at your Post for your youth groups who participated in the Art and Singing contests. Pick 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

- ✓ Plan a Luncheon
- ✓ Banquet Dinner
- ✓ Give them Youth Groups Supporting Veterans Citations
- ✓ Patriotic Youth Awards
- ✓ Monetary Awards
- ✓ Gift Card Awards

Host these awards at your local and district level for your youth contests.

This year Department awards will only be following the National award guidelines.

Valentine's Day, February 14th.

Ask our youth to make Valentines for our Veterans! Take the cards to any VA Clinic, VA Hospital, put in your troop boxes, and/or give to any Veteran, because....

"EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY"

**All entry forms and criteria (required) available at:
www.vfwauxiliary.org/resouces and www.vfwauxfl.org**

DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2023 FOR ALL ENTRY FORMS.

PLEASE MAIL USPS or EMAIL TO:

Sandi Hendriks

311 Waterford Heights, Debary, FL 32713

Call 386-748-1186 with questions.

sandihendriks@yahoo.com

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Sandi Hendriks
Youth Activities Chairman
sandihendriks@yahoo.com