

School of Instruction “Boot Camp” 2022-2023

Friday - Sunday August 5 – 7, 2022

Florida Hotel & Conference Center

1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809

Phone: 800-588-4656

***Room Rate: \$119.50 plus tax (Mention VFW School of Instruction),
Complimentary Self-Parking***

Deadline for Reservations – July 11, 2022

Friday August 5, 2022

1:00 PM - Department Chairman’s Meeting (Closed Meeting)

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM - Council of Administration Meeting

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Auxiliary President Training

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM – Roles/Duties of Auxiliary Officers

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM - Trustees Workshop

Saturday August 6, 2022

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Department Program Fair (There will be no Chairmen presentations – meet one-on-one and learn about the Programs)

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM – Leadership Workshop

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM: Secretaries Workshop including MALTA

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM – Treasurers Workshop including MALTA

11:50 AM - Break for Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM - New Department Website

2:00 – 2:30 PM – Program Advisor

Sunday August 7, 2022

8:30 AM – 11:30 AM: - District President’s Meeting (Closed Meeting)

Important: Workshops are open to ALL interested members

SPECIAL NOTICE: ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please check website often for updated information

AMERICANISM

Volume 23

August 2022

Issue 2

“Champion for Veterans” with “Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care”

Respect the Flag **Engage the Community**

We all love to see the red, white and blue flying high on a pole. It reminds us of all the men and women who have made so many sacrifices for our great country. If you go by a business or a house and see a flag flying, stop and thank them.

Present them with a Patriotic Certificate. If you see a tattered/worn flag, ask if you can replace it. If funds do not allow ask them if you can take the flag and retire it properly. Invite them to the retirement ceremony and have them invite their children and/or grandchildren.

Let us teach everyone respect and honor for our flag that so many fought for.



Auxiliary Patriotism

Let's see your original hashtags!!!

Ask a local business to set up a POW/MIA table for the month of September in remembrance of POW/MIA recognition day. Third Friday in September

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day **Last Sunday in September**

- *Organize an honor ceremony
- *Present the mother or family with a small token of appreciation
- *Show them how much we appreciate their sacrifice



Patriot Day is a great day to acknowledge all true patriots!!
Military-Active & Veterans, First Responders and Public Servants

- *Invite them to your post
- *Present them with flags
- *Just a simple Thank you goes a long way+



Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Debra Gates
debragates1@gmail.com

Auxiliary Outreach

July 2022

Volume 23

Issue 2



WHAT'S CONSIDERED AUXILIARY OUTREACH

- Most importantly the project must be approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes **PRIOR** to the project.
- Participation in a Walk-a-Thon – examples, event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc. Walking in the event **DOES NOT COUNT**.
- Working with your local police department – example, child ID kits.
- Working with your local fire department – examples, fire safety and prevention
- Working with EMT's to host CPR training
- Volunteering at an animal shelter – bringing items is not considered outreach.
- Volunteering at local soup kitchen
- Delivering food for Meals on Wheels
- Volunteering at Habitat for Humanity



KEY WORD HERE IS VOLUNTEERING!!!!

Volunteer work that is for the **benefit** of the **Auxiliary** or **Post** is **NOT** considered outreach service. So, cooking for a fundraiser for Post or Auxiliary, “Buddy” Poppy distribution, and church activities for one specific congregation is **NOT** outreach.



National Home for Children & "Buddy"® Poppy



VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

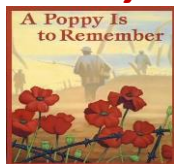
July 2022

Volume 23, Issue 2

Support the **National Home for Children**

Many of us go to Amazon.com for shopping items we cannot find or to compare best pricing of items. You can put your spending dollars to work for free! Consider supporting the National Home with Amazon Smile, which helps raise funds for nonprofits. Shop and give, just select the National Home as your AmazonSmile charity of choice and the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price on eligible purchases.

Now is the time to start planning for using "Buddy"® Poppy's



(Dates to Remember)

- ✓ **Sunday, September 11- Patriots Day**
- ✓ **Friday, September 16 – POW/MIA Day**
- ✓ **Saturday, September 17 –Citizenship Day**
- ✓ **Sunday, September 25 – Gold Star Mother's & Family Day**

Have you heard about S.W.A.P. yet?

Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects

- This is a great way to share information.
- Would you like your Auxiliary to be recognized?
- Send me a quick outline of a successful "Buddy"® Poppy promotion or event, so I can feature your Auxiliary in a monthly program update.

Event Idea's



Veterans Day

- Use a 3x5 card
- Offer for \$1.00
- Print names on the cards for remembrance of a Veteran. *(Cards can be printed with "Remember a Veteran" on them, attach a Poppy also.)*
- Promote a month or 2 ahead.
- Hang or Post in Canteen *(Get permission from Post Commander)*

National & Department Awards:

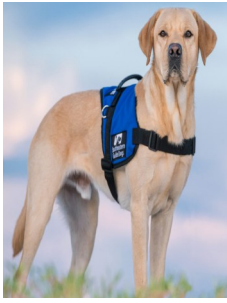
- ✓ Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the "Buddy"® Poppy and National Home for Children impact each other. *(Successful Veterans Day distribution, hosting education for Scouts)*
- ✓ Most outstanding community education about the "Buddy"® Poppy and National Home for Children *(Talk to local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

All entries due by March 31, 2023, now is the time to plan to get your awards!



Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Betty Bailly, Department Chairman
Bann652 @aol.com



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

July 2022 Volume 23, Issue 2

In This Issue >>>

- ◆ What is Southeastern Guide Dogs
- ◆ Plan, Plan, Plan, and Execute
- ◆ Did You Know?
- ◆ Program Awards
- ◆ Program Goal Thermometer



CHAMPION FOR VETERANS

WHAT IS SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS?

- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs transforms lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between people and dogs
- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs is a self sustaining organization. The only fiscal support comes from private donations. No Local, State, or National funding is provided
- ◆ Donations ensure the wellbeing of dogs in their Puppy Academy, puppy raisers' homes, the Canine University, as well as alumni homes
- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs provide life-changing services for veterans with vision loss, veterans with disabilities, and veterans with significant challenges

PLAN, PLAN, PLAN AND EXECUTE:

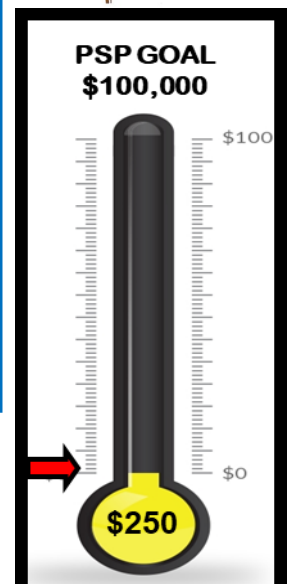
- ◆ Plan inventive ways to conduct fundraisers to support the PSP Southeastern Guide Dogs Special Project
- ◆ Plan how to get your event details approved by your Auxiliary
- ◆ Plan in detail how many volunteers and what support is needed to make your event successful
- ◆ Execute! Remember to take photos of your event and load them on the new VFW Auxiliary Department Website

**Be LOUD! Be PROUD!
REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!**



Did You Know?

- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs provides:
 - * Guide Dogs
 - * Service Dogs
 - * Family Therapy Dogs
 - * Emotional Support Dogs
- ◆ Dogs and Training for students are free of charge
 - * Gold Star Family Dogs



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



Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Bob Kabala, DPSP Chairman
rkabala@tampabay.rr.com

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 2 | JULY 2022



Is Your Auxiliary off to a Healthy Start?

- ❖ Have the previous officers turned over all auxiliary belongings under their control per the Officer's obligation in the Installation of Officers ritual?
- ❖ If you have a new treasurer, have they sent in the 8822-b form to the IRS per the IRS regulations?
- ❖ Has the new President and treasurer been placed on the Auxiliary bank account as co-signers for the account?
 - See Article VIII, Sec 810A, bullet 1
 - Sec. 813A, bullet 1.
- ❖ Has the President turned over a copy of that last audit and the membership status to the Commander?
 - Article VIII, Sec. 810, 3rd bullet
- ❖ Do all officers know and understand the duties and responsibilities of their office?
 - Article VIII lists duties of each officeBuilding on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation has instructions for all officers on all levels.
- ❖ Is the Auxiliary using a method of conducting business that best fits your Auxiliary?
 - Traditional—with or without floor work
 - Contemporary
 - Roundtable

What is Extension?

- ❖ Establishing new Auxiliaries and assisting Auxiliaries that need assistance. Whether a VFW Post is wishing to have an Auxiliary or a member/non-member sees the potential for a new Auxiliary, the steps are the same:
 - The VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority to have an Auxiliary.
 - The organizer is appointed by the Department President.
 - There has to be a minimum of 15 new applicants for the Charter.

For more information see Article II in the National By-Laws.

What is Revitalization?

- ❖ Maintaining existing Auxiliaries is the key to our organization's continued success. Our goal is to nurture/strengthen/revitalize current Auxiliaries by:
 - Utilizing the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit
 - Following the 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary
 - Referring to Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation.

Download these items from the Department website at www.vfwauxfl.org under Programs and Extension & Revitalization.

Are YOU ready to help revitalize Auxiliaries?



Historian and Media Relations Program

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

July 2023

Volume 23, Issue 2

Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care

AWARD FOR AUXILIARIES

- Most Outstanding Historian & Media Relations report.
- Citation to every Auxiliary that submits a Historian & Media Relations report to the Florida Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2023. Criteria and **entry form (required)** available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.
(Citations sent from National Headquarters)



IS IT NEWSWORTHY?

- Buddy Poppy Drive and/or POW/MIA remembrance ceremony.
- Repairing Veterans' homes and/or building wheelchair ramps.
- National President's visit.
- Scholarship winners (Patriotic Art, Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, etc.).
- Events hosted by Auxiliaries at VA facilities.
- Decorating graves for Veteran's Day and Memorial Day.
- Collecting supplies and writing letters to deployed troops.
- Assisting families of deployed troops (Easter, Christmas, Trick or Treat, financial support, etc.).
- Thank a Veteran! Your community appreciates all that you do.

Have one or more photographers taking the photographs and/or videoing the events.

You cannot have too many pictures!

In your Districts, have the photographers coordinate and forward the pictures to the District Historian and the Department Historian/Media Chairman.

HOSPITAL

Volume 23 Issue 2

July 2022

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John F. Kennedy

Program Goals

I. Honors Escort

The opportunity to show our veterans family the respect and dignity that our veterans deserve in death.

II. Women Veterans Health Care

Provide resources and information regarding the Comprehensive Health Care for Women.

III. Valentines for Veterans

Keep our Veterans smiling with Valentine Day cards. Showing our love and respect for our Veterans putting their lives on the line for our freedom

IV. Recruitment, Recognition and Support

Recruit Volunteers show them Support and Give them Recognition.

Let us start this year with a bang and show support by paying your obligations and donations early.

- ◆ **Hospital Pledge-** \$.60 per member as of your June 30th membership obligation goes to help offset the cost of travel and expenses that all our VAVS Reps and their Deputies do to provide care and support to our VA Facilities and Veterans.
- ◆ **Hospital Booster-** \$60.00 contribution goes to a fund where the money is set aside to give to VA hospital VAVS reps to help offset small donations. When Hospitals are receiving small donations, the Department can use this money to help compensate when their balances become low. Allowing them to continue providing Veteran's needs.
- ◆ **Hospital Regular-** These contributions are funds that come from fundraisers you hold throughout the year and dedicated to the Hospital of your Auxiliaries choice when voted on at your meetings.



LEGISLATIVE

Champion For Veterans



Volume 23 Issue 1

Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

July 2022

Let's Celebrate Christmas in July

- ✓ **Have a table set up with the Veterans issue that need to Pass Congress.**

- What a great gift to be able to help our Veterans receive benefits that they deserve.

- ✓ **Have Information about VFW Action Corps and how to join Action Corps.**

- Have a laptop set up and sign guest up right there.
- Have at least 25 members sign up for Action Corps Weekly by December 31, 2022



YOUNG ADULTS

Don't forget to get the youth involved. They can spread the word to family and peers.

Examples:

- ✓ **Do a mock voting so they have a better understanding of the process of passing a bill.**
- ✓ **Have a party for the kids let them decorate a Christmas tree that can be donated to Department Special Project**
- ✓ **Don't forget to use social media to help get in contact with elected leaders.**

**Don't Forget to Hashtag
#vfwauxlegislation**

VFW PRIORITY GOALS

Work with The VFW so that the Priorities are met Remember support bills not people or political parties

- ✓ **Work with other Program Chairmans**
 - Americanism
 - Hospital
 - Veterans & Family Support
- ✓ **Working together can make even Santa happy knowing we are promoting Health, Happiness and Supporting our Veterans**



Hands That Serve Hearts That Care

Membership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

July 2022

Volume 23 Issue 2

Our Membership Ambassador is Jason Estell

His focus is mission possible:
New Recruits

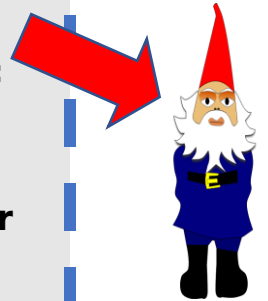
Jason wants us to use social
media as a tool to recruit new
members.

- ❖ Auxiliary 'recruit' videos made by members.
- ❖ Posted on social media, Facebook, Instagram, snap chat, twitter.
- ❖ Download video on YouTube then post.
- ❖ Make them short and informative.
- ❖ Reaching out to our future younger members.
- ❖ Google or ask a friend to help create a video for your auxiliary membership.

**Gnome how to get
new members**

**Plant the seed of
Membership**

**One new member
at a time**



News Flash

**Use Hashtag # on District and Auxiliary
Facebook page posts.**

All events pertaining to Membership.

#vfwauxflmembership

- **Hashtag photos, videos, plus new members stories.**
- **How did they join?**

Membership Programs Goals

- **Invite New Members**
- **Include Current Members**
- **Invest in the Future of the Organization**

**Champion
for
Veterans**

Information on Membership: Department of Florida www.vfwflauxiliary.com

National www.vfwauxiliary.org

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Jeanne F Laurine
Jeannelaurine5@gmail.com

Mentoring for Leadership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

Volume 23 Issue 2



Molly the Mentor Star is back.....

Meet her new
Mentees

Duke, Bentley
& Miller



Find your Mentees- Molly has been following the info her Ambassador has sent out and has gone to her local Auxiliary and found some

Mentees

- Choose an Experienced person that has gone where you want to go, to be your guide
- Pick a Mentor that enjoys people, friendly, and they are easy to talk with!
- Your Mentor should want to Develop and Enrich you for future leadership roles

newer members to help Mentor. After she met them, she sat down with them over a good bone, or coffee and found what are the areas that they are interested in and where their talents lie. Knowing these things can help you guide your Mentees to ways to better serve the Auxiliary and enrich their experience. All the Mentees want to feel needed and appreciated, so treat them with kindness and respect.

Best Buddies...

Molly has teamed up with her Co-Department Chair to be her Auxiliary's Best Buddy this year! What's a Best Buddy you ask- a Best Buddy is someone that loves to meet new people and make friends. This person should regularly attend meetings and not hold an office that has specific seating (such as Chaplain). They can also be your Mentor.

The Best Buddy main role is to greet and sit with all new members when they attend your meetings. They should always be positive and friendly! They may be the first person the new member meets and will set the tone for their experience in our Organization. Molly can't wait till her next Auxiliary meeting so she can welcome all the new members. Hopefully she will need a second buddy to help with all the new members!

PROGRAM GOALS

- * More Student Participation
- * Increase Community Awareness



- * Recipient Recognition
- * Grow the Fund



FALL SCHOLARSHIPS—get ready to kick off your campaign!

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

*Essay

*Essay and Recording

- ◆ First, get your playbook ready!. Use school websites to find Guidance Counselors, Social Studies and English Teachers' email contact information. Develop a contact list so you can email throughout the scholarship process with reminders and encouragement. Send your first email in early August to let them know you will be sending them scholarship information soon. Do the same for local churches, Boy Scout Troops, JROTC ,PTA's, and youth groups. Don't forget to put the word out at your own post! If they don't know, they can't enter!
- ◆ Plan to kick off your game with a school visit . Find out if your local school has a fall career day. Ask to speak during a student assembly. Order early and purchase incentives from the VFW Store like patriotic pencils or rulers to give out during your visit. (www.vfwstore.org) Remember-Entries due by 10/31/22

Continuing Education Scholarship

- Open to all Aux members (*for at least one year*), *their spouses or children*
 - Much 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!

*(Department and National Awards for best promotion of **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarship**)*

Don't forget to help the artists of tomorrow!

Dedicate a fundraiser to the National Fund the Future Program!!

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

Veterans & Family Support

“Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others”

Volume 23

Issue 2

July 2022

Homeless Veterans

Homelessness among veterans in Florida has been effectively cut by almost 70% since 2010. A significant cause for Florida’s substantial decrease in the rate of homelessness among veterans are national initiatives to end veteran homelessness. In Florida, millions of dollars have been invested through VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families grants, as well as HUD VA Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers that provide long-term rental assistance to help homeless veterans with high needs obtain and sustain permanent housing. Florida Point-In-Time (PIT) Counts – 2010 reported 7,794 homeless veterans. The 2019 count reported 2,472 homeless veterans.

Florida’s Homeless Veterans Coordinator can be reached by calling **(727) 575-8136**



VA Website for Homeless Veterans
www.va.gov/homeless/

Florida Department of Children and Families
www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness

Florida Council on Homelessness
www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/council

VISN 8 Homeless Veterans Outreach
www.visn8.va.gov/VISN8/services/homeless/index.asp



Department Awards for Auxiliaries

- Outstanding Performance Award to one Auxiliary in each of the four membership classes for outstanding fundraising activities for National Veterans Service (NVS)
- First, Second & Third Place Award for most outstanding fundraising activities for VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs, Military Assistance Program (MAP), Unmet Needs and VFW’s “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship”
- An Award to the Auxiliary that has the Best Overall project, event or activity that supports veteran, military, and family caregivers.
- An Award to the Auxiliary that has the best overall promotion of Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention

An overwhelming 20 veterans commit suicide every day. The VFW & Auxiliary are working hard to help change how mental health is viewed.

Your Auxiliaries can help by sharing this information:

- **The Veterans Crisis line** connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with the help they need. Call **1-800-273-8255** and Press 1, or Text **838255** to receive confidential support.
- The **Give an Hour Campaign to Change Direction** encourages everyone to pay attention to emotional wellbeing and reminds us of the importance of mental health. www.giveanhour.org/changedirection
- **The Elizabeth Dole Foundation’s Hidden Heros** brings attention to the untold stories of military caregivers and seeks solutions for the challenges and long-term needs they will face. www.hiddenheroes.org
- **Raise Awareness** in your Post & Community by downloading a teardrop from: www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources
Hold a fund raiser for donations where members can donate for a teardrop to be dedicated & displayed.

**VFW Auxiliaries
Making a Difference
Every Day!**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

JULY 2022



HEY KID'S, IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL DAYS!

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

HOST A FUNDRAISING EVENT WITH YOUR YOUTH GROUP AND COLLECT:

- BACKPACKS
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- ART SUPPLIES



GRAVE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

- ✓ FIND A YOUTH GROUP TO WORK WITH.
- ✓ FIND A CEMETERY WITH VETERAN HEADSTONES.
- ✓ OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM THE CEMETERY.
- ✓ RESEARCH HOW TO CLEAN AND BEAUTIFY THE STONES.
- ✓ TAKE BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES FOR YOUR PROJECT.
- ✓ KEEP A LOG OF GRAVESITES BEAUTIFIED DURING YOUR EVENT.
- ✓ RESEARCH HOW TO CLEAN THE HEADSTONES

CRITERIA AVAILABLE AT:
VFWAUXILIARY.ORG/RESOURCES

PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

- Volunteer: Read books to kids
- Donate historical books to: schools, shelters, libraries
- Host a read-a thon
- Award and reward
- Teach kids about American History

GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE!

SINGING CONTEST

FOR GRADES K – 12TH GRADE

SING: "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

YOUR CHOICE:

- A CAPPELLA WITH INSTRUMENTS OR BACKING TRACKS
- ARRANGEMENT OR GENRE OF CHOICE
- CANNOT CHANGE THE WORDS

RULES AND ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE:
VFWAUXILIARY.ORG/RESOURCES

ILLUSTRATING AMERICA PATRIOTIC ART

FOR GRADES K – 8TH GRADE

JUDGED ON:

- PATRIOTIC THEME
- TECHNIQUE

THREE DIVISIONS:

- K- 2ND GRADE
- 3 - 5TH GRADE
- 6 - 8TH GRADE

INVOLVE YOUTH IN EVERY AUXILIARY PROGRAM

WE ARE "HANDS THAT SERVE, HEARTS THAT CARE"

AND LET'S BE A "CHAMPION FOR VETERANS"

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Sandi Hendriks
Department Youth Activities Chairman
sandihendriks@yahoo.com