



# ***Mid-Winter Conference***

**(All Members Invited)**

**WHEN:** January 20 – 22, 2023

**WHERE:** Westgate Lakes Resort

10000 Turkey Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32819

**For Reservations: 1-877-502-7058 Option 3,1**

**Make sure you tell Reservations state Group Code 66-878**

**Deadline December 29, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.**

Room Rate: \$99.00 plus tax, 2 Bedroom Suite Rate: \$159.00 plus tax

Check in time 4 PM – Check out time 10 AM

Parking is complimentary to all guests.

## **Friday January 20, 2023**

8:45 AM: Floor Practice – 10:00AM Practice Officers March

10:30AM: Dept. Chairmen's Meeting **(closed meeting)**

1:00PM: District Presidents Meeting **(closed meeting)**

2:15 PM: Council Meeting

and

Opening Ceremonies Mid-Winter Conference

## **Saturday, January 21, 2023**

8:30AM: Mid-Winter Conference

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:15 PM-Mid Winter Conference meeting

***Saturday Evening: Celebration of Achievement Banquet***  
***Tickets only available from Department VFW Headquarters***

***More Information to Follow***

**NOTE: THIS IS A TENTATIVE AGENDA – ALL TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**2022-2023**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**  
**VFW AUXILIARY**  
**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**  
**JANUARY 20-22, 2023**  
**AT THE WESTGATE LAKES RESORT**  
**'MARDI GRAS'**

The theme planned for the Department Mid-Winter Conference is Mardi Gras!

Get your creative juices flowing again and come wearing your best Mardi Gras MASK!

Prizes will be awarded on Saturday to the top six (6) *'Most Creative'* Masks.



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**  
**VFW AUXILIARY**  
**INVITES YOU TO**

★ **SAVE THE DATE** ★

**FEBRUARY 4-7, 2023**

**NATIONAL VFW AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**  
**JANE REAPE'S**  
**OFFICIAL VISIT TO FLORIDA**

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*WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS*

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# AMERICANISM

Volume 23

November 2022

Issue 6

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



Please keep reporting on all the  
AWESOME activities you all  
our doing in your communities!  
Community and youth  
involvement is key.



**AuxiliaryPatriotism**

Let's get those Patriotic Community Events planned, executed, and reported!  
**Show your communities your pride and love for all our Veterans!**



## ***NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES***

### **1. Most Outstanding Patriotic Community Event.**

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts a patriotic community event. Criteria and entry form (required) available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2023. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding patriotic community event. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, AZ.

Debra Gates  
[debragates1@gmail.com](mailto:debragates1@gmail.com)



# National Home for Children & "Buddy"® Poppy



VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

November 2022 Volume 23 Issue 6

## National Wreaths Across America – Saturday, December 17, 2022

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

- Before placement, consider adding a Buddy Poppy to your wreaths when placing them on Veterans Graves.
- Adopt a Gold Star Family honor their fallen loved one, with a special wreath with Buddy Poppy's added.
- Purchase your wreaths from your Blue Star Mothers organization.
- Blue Star Mothers of Florida – Rose Marie Preddy, President, 904.651.1919
- [president.fl15@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.fl15@bluestarmothers.us), or [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org), wreaths purchased are \$15.00 each.

Guidelines for use of monies from Buddy Poppy distribution or contributions:  
Refer to By Laws & Rituals –in the yellow section Page 21, Relief Fund.

### ***Remember Pearl Harbor***

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

- May your Holiday Season be filled with Love, Peace, and many Blessings.
- Hope your New Year brings all your heart's desire.
- "All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them"

### Buddy® Poppy Displays Fall Conference Auxiliary winners:

#### Category 1

1<sup>st</sup> #102108, 2<sup>nd</sup> #5277, 3<sup>rd</sup> #4228

#### Category 2

1<sup>st</sup> #10069, 2<sup>nd</sup> #4412, 3<sup>rd</sup> #6827

#### Category 3

1<sup>st</sup> #10167, 2<sup>nd</sup> #9236, 3<sup>rd</sup> #1590

*Thank you everyone who brought their special creations, all of them unique and much appreciated.*



With Holidays approaching remember those veterans who may be suffering with **PTSD** or other life challenges? Encourage them to call the help line at **1.800.313.4200**.

This is a free service provided by the VFW National Home for Children. They have the knowledge and experience to care deeply about Veterans and Families.



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN  
HELP HOPE HONOR



Florida House – National Home

Approved by:  
Department President, Cindy Estell

Betty A. Bailey, Chairman  
[bann652@aol.com](mailto:bann652@aol.com)



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

November 2022, Volume 23, Issue 6

In This Issue >>>

- ♦ New Kid on the Block
- ♦ Donate Today
- ♦ What to Do with the Funds I Raise
- ♦ Did You Remember to Report
- ♦ Program Goal Thermometer

## ***CHAMPIONS FOR VETERANS***



### **I'm the New Kid on the Block!**



*I Barely Know My Tail  
From My Toes...*

**It's only my first day, but in two years time...**

**I'll be ready to change someone's life!**

**Maybe that person is someone you love!**



*Help me reach my destiny, all at NO cost  
to the one who needs me most!*

### **DONATE TODAY!**

**HELP OUR  
VETERANS!**



***Did You Remember  
to Report?***



### **WHAT DO I DO WITH THE FUNDS I RAISE?**

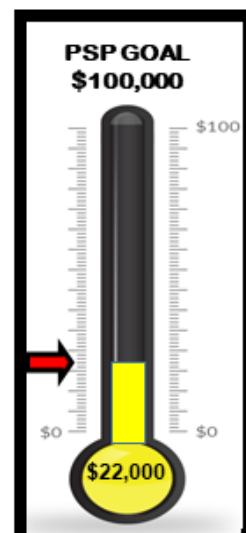
- ♦ Send Funds for the PSP Directly to the Department Treasurer – Linda Burnett
- ♦ Bring Your PSP Funds to the Parade of Checks During the Mid-Winter Conference in January

**You Will Receive Credit on Your Annual Contribution Sheet**



Department PSP Chairman—  
Bob Kabala [rkabala@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rkabala@tampabay.rr.com)

Approved by:  
Department President, Cindy Estell



# EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

VOLUME 23 | ISSUE 5 | November 2022



## New Auxiliaries



### Reasons WHY we need New Auxiliaries?

- ✠ We need to ensure the legacy of our great organization.
- ✠ We need new Auxiliaries to accommodate new members in specific areas, areas where a Post does not have an auxiliary.
- ✠ We need new Auxiliaries to assist Posts that do not have an auxiliary.
- ✠ We need new Auxiliaries to help get the word out to who we are and what we do.



### Where do we start?

- ✠ To start a new Auxiliary a Post must vote to start an Auxiliary.
- ✠ Once approval has been given, we need to get our story out to our community.
- ✠ Let them know who we are and what we do.
- ✠ Let them know the benefits of joining our organization.
- ✠ Let them know how they can be eligible.



### Who can organize an Auxiliary?

- ✠ Any member of the VFW Auxiliary that is approved by Department President.
- ✠ Do you know of a Post that wants an Auxiliary, let the Department President know.

### How many members are needed to start a New Auxiliary?

- ✠ The Charter application must list at least 15 persons eligible for membership.
- ✠ These persons must be a new member or a rejoin member.
- ✠ Transfer members do not count toward the charter application.
- ✠ Remember that at least 10 members must be present in person for the institution of the Auxiliary.



### What happens after institution?

- ✠ The Auxiliary immediately has a meeting where they elect officers and can accept any transfer members.
- ✠ A mentoring committee is appointed to work with the Auxiliary for a year to ensure their success in the future.



**It's time to work with the "Bachelor" Post in your area!**



# HISTORIAN AND MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAMS

Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary

November 2022

Volume 23, Issue 6

*"Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care"*

## Upcoming Event Opportunities for Pictures

- **November 24 - Thanksgiving Day** (At Your Post)
- **November - Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen** (Take pictures of the Post and District Winners and submit to your local newspapers and television stations.)
- **December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day** (Take pictures of special ceremonies held at your Post)
- **December 25 - Christmas Day** (Take pictures of special events held during the holidays.)



## Reasons Why Facebook Can Help Your Auxiliary

1. Facebook can help build your Auxiliary.
2. Facebook can change preconceptions.
3. Facebook can help you find new members.
4. Facebook can keep members informed of upcoming events.
5. Facebook facilitates lead generation.
6. Facebook's keyword search function helps you find people or cont



## Flat Jane

Take '*Flat Jane*' with you to your Post and District meetings and other events. (The holidays are approaching, include 'Flat Jane' in your pictures taken during Holiday events. This is a perfect opportunity to take a picture and post it on your website. Text me at 850-509-6440 if you need the JPG and I will forward it to you.



**Flat Jane**



Approved by:  
Department President, Cindy Estell

Julia Montford Ferrell  
Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman  
[Jamferrell53@gmail.com](mailto:Jamferrell53@gmail.com)



# Legislative

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

November 2022

Volume 23, Issue 6

## MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VISIT YOUR LEGISLATOR.

The most important part of communicating with your legislator is to "Just do it!"

The VFW and VFW Auxiliary have an incredibly strong presence nationwide as a veterans' service organization and every letter, email, phone call, fax, visit, or petition strengthens our voice as we continually fight for services and benefits for our veteran

Be on time and dress appropriately. Be respectful to staff: Staffers often make the decisions as to whom the legislator will meet Focus on the issue. Write down talking points and thank the legislator for serving and ask for their help in addressing your concern.

Send a thank you note for their time.



**Wishing You a Blessed Thanksgiving and Remember those who can't be with us**

### Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S.344)

#### WHAT OUR MILITARY COMMUNITY NEEDS

This bill provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special compensation.

The Latest Blog from National Legislative Ambassador Bobbie Goldman and one of the VFW supported Bills

### National Legislative Ambassador

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/legislative-victory-in-the-senate/>

### Department of Veterans Affairs

<https://floridavets.org/news/veteran-legislation/>

Report Report Report

### VFW Action Corps Weekly Sign Up

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>

Remember to Sign up 25 or more to for Action Corps Weekly Newsletter?

# Membership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

November 2022

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Issue 6



**Santa** wants you  
to give the gift of  
**Membership** for  
Christmas for all  
family & friends  
who are eligible to  
join your VFW  
Auxiliary  
**Annual or Lifetime**



Jason Estell  
National Membership  
Ambassador  
Invite New Members  
Include Current Members  
Invest in the future of the  
Organization.

## Celebrate Membership

- **New Year's 2023** "New Beginning"
- Growing your Auxiliary **membership**
- **Awards** for Membership in January Mid-Winter Conference
- Making all **members** feel included
- **Create** a Video promoting membership
- Using **Media** Community Facebook pages, Newspapers, Magazines, & Flyers
- Just **Ask** "Are you eligible to join our VFW Auxiliary?"
- Always carry an **application** with you.
- **Recruit** "5" new members receive a pin from National *"Hand that Serve, Hearts that Care"*

Information on Membership

State of Florida: [vfwauxfl.org](http://vfwauxfl.org)

National: [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)

# Mentoring for Leadership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

November 2022

Volume 23 Issue 5

## **A TEAM makes everyone successful**

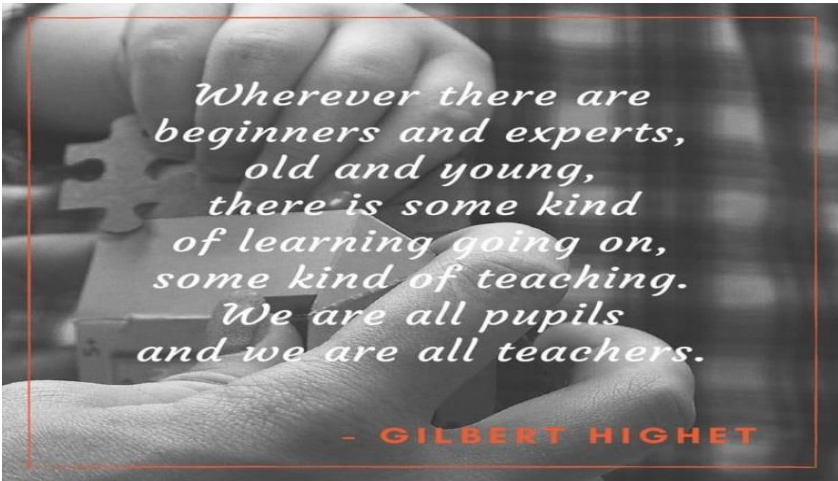
- **T** – Teach someone what you know and are passionate about
- **E** – Everyone deserves to find their joy in our organization
- **A** – Always be on the lookout for the next leader
- **M** – Mentor all of the time since success is best when it's shared

## **District Presidents**

**As your visiting and communicating with your Auxiliaries, please make a list of each Auxiliary's Mentor! A bonus would be to list their Best Buddies also!**

**Please email this list to me so we can track your Mentors. We want to have some award winners come Next June & July**

**Thank you to those that have already sent this into me!**



*Wherever there are  
beginners and experts,  
old and young,  
there is some kind  
of learning going on,  
some kind of teaching.  
We are all pupils  
and we are all teachers.*

**- GILBERT HIGHET**

## **Are you a Mentor, and a Mentee simultaneously?**

*I sure hope so!*

So you have been around the VFW Auxiliary block a couple of times and now find yourself as the Mentor.

- What are you doing to promote your growth in the Auxiliary?
- There is always something new to learn and nobody knows it all, no matter what they tell you.
- Have you deep-dived a different program or one of the new programs?
- Better yet have you teamed up with one of the new members that you are teaching the VFW Auxiliary traditions?
- What you say, but I'm their mentor!?! I'll bet they can teach you to hashtag on Facebook, set up an excel spreadsheet, or explain that Tic Tok is not a clock!

Mentoring is best when it is a 2 way street. One way streets can become a dead end. A dead end becomes a dysfunctional Auxiliary.

**Open your mind and share your knowledge!**

# Veterans & Family Support

Volume 23

Issue 6

November 2022

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



Caregiver  
Support  
855-260-3274



## Mission Holiday: 10 Tips you can share with Caregivers of injured Veterans to help enjoy the Holiday Season.

1. Know you're not alone. Caregiving is behind-the-scenes work and is often undervalued. Pat yourself on the back for being a hidden hero who carries others through the finish line.
2. Notice your own triggers. Recognize your own signs of burnout – know and accept your limits.
3. Simplify. Send e-cards instead of paper cards. Make a simpler dish, or ask others to chip in.
4. Engage in healthy habits. Avoid overeating, drink more water, go for a walk, and avoid taking on anything else – especially if it will hurt you later.
5. Make time for yourself. Light a candle, watch your favorite show, take a stroll outside, or read a book.
6. Communicate your feelings mindfully. Don't hold on to things.
7. Reach out to friends, family, a pastor, or a counselor. Connect with others for help.
8. Realize you're not responsible for everyone else's mood. It's hard enough controlling your own response, let go of things you cannot control.
9. Manage your own expectations. The kids don't need a perfect parent, or every gift on their list – they will be happy with a parent who is present.
10. Practice gratitude. Be thankful you're here. Breath.

## Homeless Veterans Holiday Kits



Your Auxiliary can put together these kits and distribute them to your County's Veterans Service Office, local homeless shelters and keep a few at your Post to distribute as needed. **Kits can include:**

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| • Candy                   | • Soap           |
| • Travel size conditioner | • Pen/pencil     |
| • Travel size shampoo     | • Shaving cream  |
| • Razor                   | • Greeting cards |
| • Toothbrush & paste      | • Deodorant      |



## Things you can do for the holidays!

- Hold a food drive for local food banks.
- Have members bring non-perishable items to the Auxiliary meeting. Give a ticket for each food item. Draw for a donated prize or gift card.
- Have Bingo players bring items and reward them with a free Bingo card.
- Get local youth groups involved with food drives and show thanks to them with certificates of appreciation.
- Check in on veterans and caregivers, ask if they need a ride, any errands run, or help around their house.
- Ask your Auxiliary to vote on purchasing gift cards and give them to needy veterans and their families.



## Veterans & Family Support Reporting FAQ's:

**Q:** Can an Auxiliary member report when they have done something for a veteran family member?

**A:** Helping family members is **not** a reportable project. But, if a family member is designated by the VA as a caregiver and the Auxiliary is helping that family member, it should be reported under the caregiver component of the program.

**Q:** Can an Auxiliary member report helping a veteran from their Post?

**A:** If an Auxiliary member assists a veteran, and there is no family relationship, **yes**, that is reportable.

**Q:** Are sending comfort, cheer, thinking of you and support cards to veterans and their families reportable?

**A: Yes**, these are reportable under Veteran & Family Support.

**Q:** Are providing funeral or graveside services for veteran family members reportable?

**A: Yes**, these are reportable under Veteran & Family Support.

Roger Ingall Veterans & Family Support Chairman

[Shanily.04@gmail.com](mailto:Shanily.04@gmail.com)



# Youth Activities

"Champion for Veterans"

"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"

Volume 23, Issue 6

Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary

November 2022



Kids are never too young to teach Patriotism

## Let's Involve Our Youth in Every Auxiliary Program:

- ✓ Teach them Patriotism and History of our Country
- ✓ Involve and teach them our Legislative process
- ✓ Make cards and send to hospitalized veterans and soldiers
- ✓ Respect for our American Flag
- ✓ Decorate Veterans graves
- ✓ Help pack troop boxes to deployed soldiers

## Grave Beautification Project

- ✓ Perfect time to clean the Veteran Headstones and decorate for Christmas
- ✓ Partner with "Wreaths Across America" and decorate the graves for Veterans



*Go with our youth and help lay the wreaths on our Veterans Graves*

## Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! 2 grade divisions: K-8 and 9 - 12

- ✓ Open to students in K – 12 grade
- ✓ Sing any genre or arrangement
- ✓ A Cappella with instruments or backing track
- ✓ Cannot change the words
- ✓ Deadline to Auxiliary March 31, 2023
- ✓ Resources online [vfwauxfl.org](http://vfwauxfl.org) and [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)

## Illustrating America Art Contest

- ✓ Open to all Students in K- 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- ✓ Draw or paint picture
- ✓ Deadline to Auxiliary March 31, 2023
- ✓ Resources online [vfwauxfl.org](http://vfwauxfl.org) and [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)

## Remember to award our students that assist you with patriotic deeds. We offer:

- ✓ Patriotic Youth Award Certificate
- ✓ Youth Groups supporting our Veterans Citation
- ✓ Rap Coins

***Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas.  
God Bless our veterans and families.***

Sandi Hendriks

Department Youth Activities Chairman

[sandihendriks@yahoo.com](mailto:sandihendriks@yahoo.com)

Approved By:  
Department President, Cindy Estell